

# Non-Public Agency Groundwater User Participation

## ***Statutory Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement***

- ✓ “Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing” (Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)).”
- ✓ A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered” (Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)).
- ✓ “The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater” (Water Code Sec. 10723.2).
  - *Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:*
    - *Agricultural users.*
    - *Domestic well owners.*
  - *Municipal well operators.*
  - *Public water systems.*
  - *Local land use planning agencies.*
  - *Environmental users of groundwater.*
  - *Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.*
  - *The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.*
  - *California Native American Tribes.*
  - *Disadvantaged communities (DAC), including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.*
- ✓ “The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin” (Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)).

## ***Statutory Requirements for Providing Notice to Stakeholders***

- ✓ GSA must establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723.4).
- ✓ A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)).

## ***Statutory Requirements to Stakeholder Involvement in GSP Development***

- ✓ “A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing” (CA Water Code Sec. 10728.4).
  - GSP Notice and Communication (GSP Regulations 354.10)
    - Each GSP must include the notification and communication to interested parties
    - A description of beneficial users...types of parties representing those interests and the nature of consultation.
  - Any person may provide comments to DWR regarding a proposed or adopted GSP. (GSP Regulations 353.8)

### ***Advisory Committee***

- ✓ “The GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan.” (WC Section 10727.8)

### ***Statutory Requirements to Hold Public Hearings***

- ✓ GSAs must hold a public hearing before they
  - Elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)).
  - Adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing (Water Code Sec. 10728.4).
  - Impose or increase a fee (Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)).

Source: Paul Gosselin, Director, Butte County Water and Resource Conservation