

# The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Pauma Valley Groundwater Basin

Public Meeting  
November 10, 2016  
Pauma Valley Community Center

# Meeting Agenda

- **SGMA and the Job of the PV GSA**
  - SGMA Timeline
  - GSA Formation
  - GSA Roles and Responsibilities
  - GSA Structure
  - Required Stakeholder Engagement
- **Decision Making Matters**
- **Feedback from Tribes, Private Pumper and Mutual Water Companies**
- **Draft GSA Values, Design Principles and Key Voices to Include**
- **Next Steps and Next Community Meeting**
- **Comments and Questions**

# SGMA Overview

***Comprehensive statewide legislation that creates a framework for sustainable groundwater management***

- Became law on January 1, 2015
- All medium and high priority basins managed sustainably by 2040 or 2042 depending on overdraft status
- Emphasis on local control with State oversight
- Requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (**GSA**)
- Requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans (**GSP**)

# Legislative Goals

- Set minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management
- Give local agencies tools needed to sustainably manage groundwater
- Increase groundwater storage
- Provide opportunity for local control
- Prevent deterioration of water quality
- Preserve existing water rights

# Sustainability = Preventing Undesirable Results

## *How does SGMA define sustainability?*

Sustainability: Manage groundwater to prevent undesirable results (significant and unreasonable):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface waters

# DWR and State Water Board Roles

- **DWR:**
  - Develop Basin Boundary and GSP regulations
  - Review GSPs, decide on adequacy, implementation
- **State Water Board:**
  - Implement State intervention
  - Reporting
  - Assess fees
  - Designate Probationary Basins
  - Develop Interim Plans, implement those Plans

# “If All Else Fails” - State Intervention

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA(s) and/or adopt and implement a GSP.

- **Data**

- Same data needed by a GSA, but now managed by State
- Higher frequency (monthly minimum reporting)

- **Fees**

- Fees associated with reporting
- Board recovers cost for all intervention-related activities (monitoring plans, well construction, facilitation, technical studies, models)

- **Interim Plans**

- Pumping restrictions are most straight-forward
- State developed physical solutions are unlikely

# SGMA's “First Among Equals”

## *Key Definitions*

- “Any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.” (Water Code § 10721)
- “**Local agency**” means a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.” (Water Code § 10721)



# GSA Formation

- Required formation of GSAs to implement SGMA at the local level
- Any public agencies with water supply / management, and land use authorities are eligible to become GSAs:
  - County, cities, water agencies, CSDs, RDs
  - Private water companies can be invited to join
  - GSA may include one or more public agencies
- May include a **single GSA** or **multiple GSAs** per basin
  - Multiple GSAs must coordinate planning efforts

# GSA Roles and Responsibilities

## **GSA Powers and Authorities** (Water Code § 10725))

*A GSA must prepare a GSP. The GSP will requires the GSA to describe how, at their discretion, it may...*

- Adopt rules, regulations and ordinances
- Conduct groundwater studies / investigations
- Register and monitor wells
- Require reports of groundwater extraction
- Implement capital projects to meet goals
- Assess fees to cover management costs

# GSA Structure

- One or more GSAs must be formed per basin / subbasin
- A GSA may be formed by a single eligible agency, or by legal agreement between two or more eligible agencies.
- Two or more GSAs must prepare a Coordination Agreement (a legal agreement) between them. (Water Code § 10721, 10727)(b)(3), etc.)
- County represents / manages all groundwater conditions outside another managed area (Water Code § 10724)

# Required Stakeholder Engagement

*Interested parties must be included in SGMA planning:*

- All Groundwater Users
- Holders of Overlying Rights (agriculture and domestic)
- Municipal Well Operators and Public Water Systems
- Tribes
- County
- Planning Departments / Land Use
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged Communities
- Business
- Federal Government
- Environmental Uses
- Surface Water Users (*if connection between surface and ground water*)

# GSA Formation Timeline

## OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2016

- Prepare 90-Day plan
- Complete stakeholder assessment report
- Prepare Work plan
- Develop outreach & engagement plan



WE ARE HERE

## NOVEMBER - JANUARY 2016/17

- Develop GSA formation proposal
- Vet proposal with boards and public
- Refine proposals
- Begin developing legal agreements

## DECEMBER-APRIL 2016/7

- Reach consensus on GSA proposal
- Complete legal agreements (Unless JPA, JPA efforts continue)

## APRIL-JUNE 2017

- Public notice and hearing
- 30 days to notify DWR after deciding to form GSA
- State deadline for GSA formation June 30, 2017
- Continue JPA development

## JULY 2017-CONCLUSION

- Complete JPA

# Pauma Valley GSA

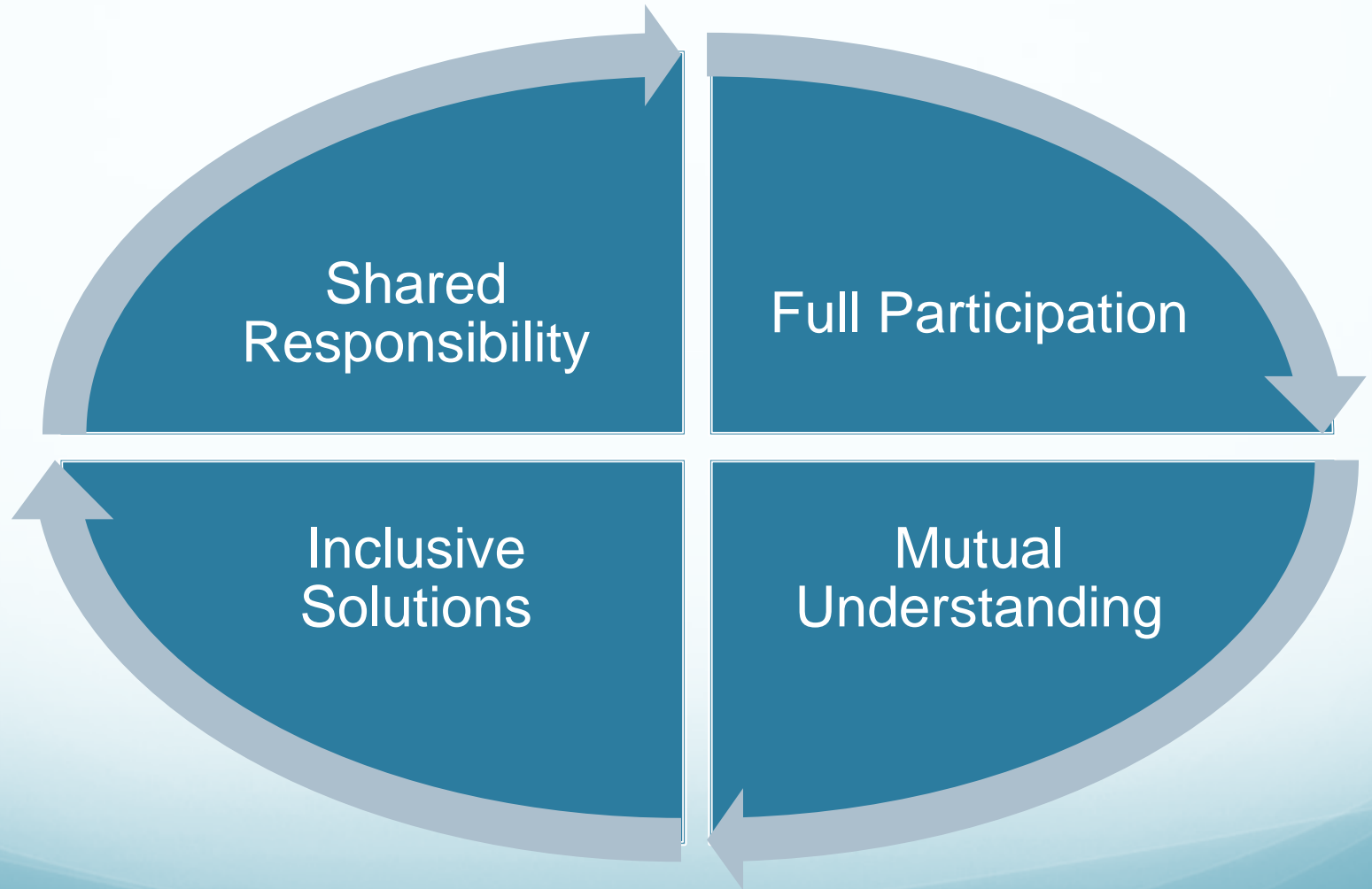
## “Work Group”

- **Yuima Municipal Water District** –Ron Watkins, Board Member
- **Pauma Municipal Water District** – Warren Lyall, Board President
- **Mootamai Municipal Water District** – Lori Johnson, Appointed Representative
- **Valley Center Municipal Water District** – Gary Arant, General Manager
- **County of San Diego** – Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist
- **Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District** – Jesse Hutchings, Board President
- **Pauma Valley Community Services District** – Charles Mathews, Board President

# Decision Making Matters!

- Special Interest Advocacy vs Collaborative Dialogue
- Positions vs Interests
- Simple Majority Rule vs Sufficient Agreement for Success

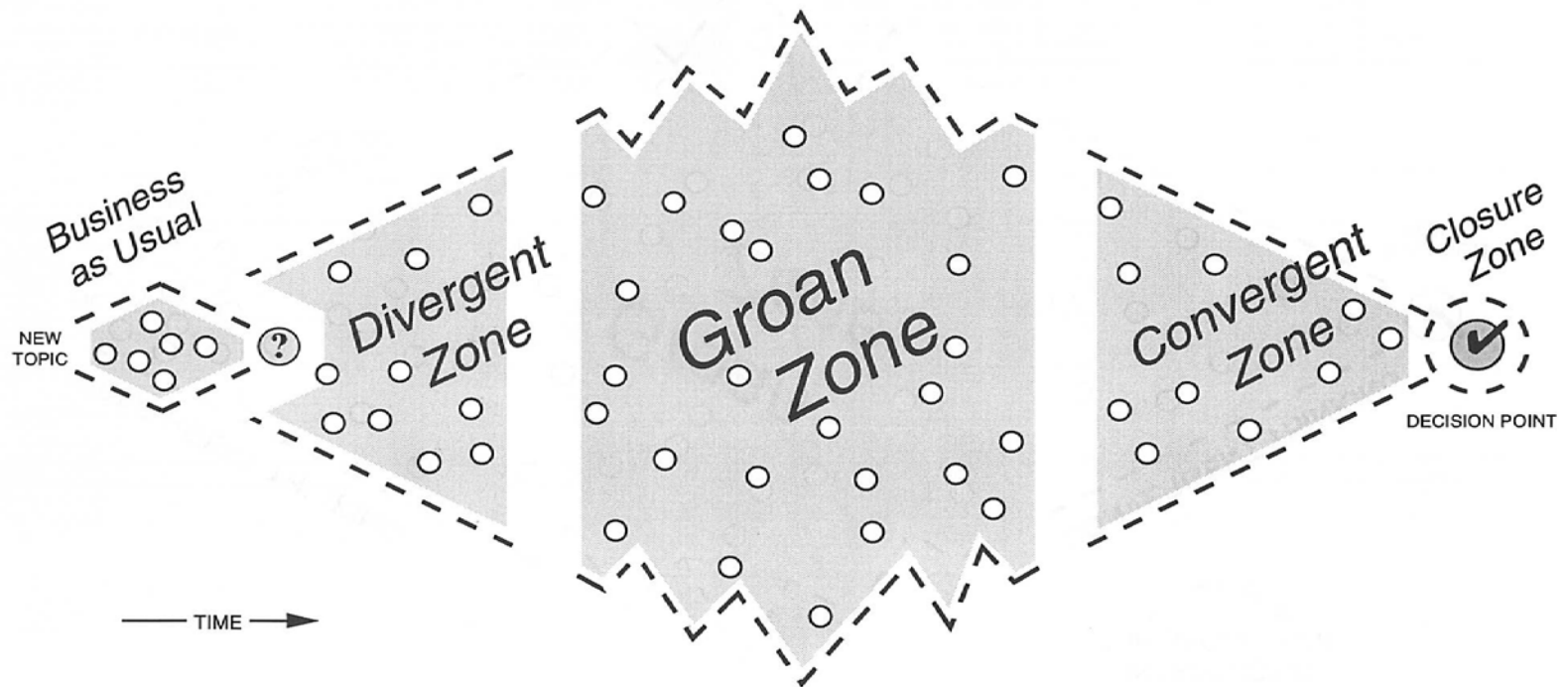
# The Values of Collaboration





## DYNAMICS OF GROUP DECISION-MAKING

THE DIAMOND OF  
PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING



# Stakeholder Feedback: Round II

- Tribes
- Private Pumpers & Mutual Water Companies

# **The Tribes' Point of View About SGMA and the PV GSA**

# Mutual Water Companies and Private Pumpers on SGMA & PVGB GSA

- Strong desire to avoid State-control of groundwater
- Most assume that water cutbacks will be necessary and cost of water will increase
- Concern exists that past history of water conflicts and/or current context of power struggles will impede SGMA, risk local control
- Diverse private pumper and mutual water company types and interests need to be represented on GSA
- Pumpers and mutuals wish to have a voice in who represents them in GSA deliberations and discussion.

## Feedback Continued...

### **Fair Approach to GSA Formation is Essential:**

- Balance GSA participation *and* ensure equity of voice that is reflective of water use in the Valley
- Share associated cost responsibilities, while recognizing different financial realities of GSA participants
- Impose water restrictions in a fair and compassionate way

# Questions from Stakeholders

- Will conservation measures be taken before mandating groundwater restrictions?
- How will a water emergency be defined or determined? What is the basis for evaluating serious impacts? What will trigger corrective action?
- If cutbacks are necessary, how will the GSA:
  - 1) ensure that everyone receives the same treatment? or
  - 2) ensure fairness, taking into consideration the differing degrees of impact/consequence?

# Questions from Stakeholders

- What voice will growers have in the process?
- How will usage be determined? Will meters have to be installed? At whose expense?
- Who controls when cutbacks will be lifted?
- Who decides when fees can be reduced, as conditions change?
- Will there be exceptions to the cutbacks for: a) specific crops or b) specific locations given special needs/ cases or c) hardship?

# Pauma Valley GSA: A Work in Progress



# Proposed GSA Values

- Fair
- Inclusive
- Capable
- Legal
- Shared Commitment
- Adaptive/Responsive
- Cost Conscious
- Good stewards of the natural resources (work for efficient, non-wasting practices)
- Seeks only to implement the requirements of SGMA

# Proposed GSA Design Principles

- Fair – proportionally balanced
- Avoids redundancy in representation
- Pumpers and Mutuals voices are heard
- Tribes' needs are incorporated and voices heard
- The broader community/ non-water managers needs are incorporated
- Members assume shared: a) risk, b) resources and c) responsibilities, considering capacity.
- Members must be capable of being held accountable to do the job (JPA Acceptable)
- High stakes decisions have support of JPA signatories

# Key Voices to Include in GSA

- Municipal Water Districts
- Mutual Water Companies
- Private Pumpers (Inside and outside imported water supply)
- Community Service District(s)
- Environment/Conservation Voices (RCD)
- Tribes
- The County

# Upcoming Meetings and Tasks

- GSA work group meetings
  - A GSA structure responsive to community feedback & SGMA
  - Legal Agreement needed to form GSA
- Community Meeting Jan. 12, 2016

# Questions/Discussion

Thank you for coming and for your continued interest in the Valley's efforts to comply with SGMA and position ourselves to sustainably manage our ground water!