Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

October 13, 2015
Jim Bennett, County of San Diego
Existing County Role in Groundwater Management

100% Groundwater Dependent
Population: <50,000
Area: ~2,750 Sq. Miles
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

Three Bills:

- SB 1168 (Pavley)
- SB 1319 (Pavley)
- AB 1739 (Dickinson)

Intent: “to strengthen local groundwater management and monitoring of local groundwater basins most critical to the state’s water needs.”
Legislative Context

Why Now?

- Three (Now Four) Years of Drought
- Diminished Surface Water Supplies
- Increased Groundwater Pumping
- Increasing Groundwater Impacts
- Subsidence Concerns
Who is Affected?

- Groundwater Extractors in High or Medium Priority Basins
- Existing Groundwater Management Agencies
- Local Land Use Agencies
Basin Prioritization
Sustainable Groundwater Management in San Diego County

Basin prioritization:
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

- Santa Margarita Valley (adjudicated, exempt)
- San Luis Rey Valley
- San Pasqual Valley
- San Diego River Valley
- Borrego Valley
# Required Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td>Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31, 2020</td>
<td>Completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans Critically Overdrafted Basins</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31, 2022</td>
<td>Completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans All Other Basins</td>
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<td>20-Year Implementation Period</td>
<td>Implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans</td>
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Following above time frames ensures local agencies from state intervention
What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?

Manage groundwater to prevent “undesirable results” (significant & unreasonable standard):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality / contaminant plume migration
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface water
Sustainable Management Tools

New Authorities to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies:

• Register/Meter Groundwater Wells
• Measure Extractions and Water Levels
• Require Extraction/Water Level Reports
• Set Well Extraction Limitations
• Assess Fees
Borrego Valley

Figure 1
August 2015
Borrego Valley – Groundwater Overdraft
Sustainable Groundwater Management in San Diego County

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- Borrego Valley
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Internet Resources

- Department of Water Resources:  
  http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/

- Association of California Water Agencies  
  http://www.acwa.com/content/groundwater/groundwater-sustainability