
TECHNICAL PRESENTATION #1: GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN BASICS

CASTAC BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4 SEPTEMBER 2018

OUTLINE

- Overview of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) process to date
- Action Item: Initial Notification to Prepare a GSP

1. OVERVIEW OF THE GSA AND GSP PROCESS TO DATE

THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

- California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - Signed into law September 2014; amended in September 2015
 - Effective as of January 2015; amendments effective January 2016
- First comprehensive framework for groundwater management in California
- Preserves local control of groundwater in each basin
- Establishes locally-centralized groundwater management and accountability
- More info at <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/>

CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER BASINS

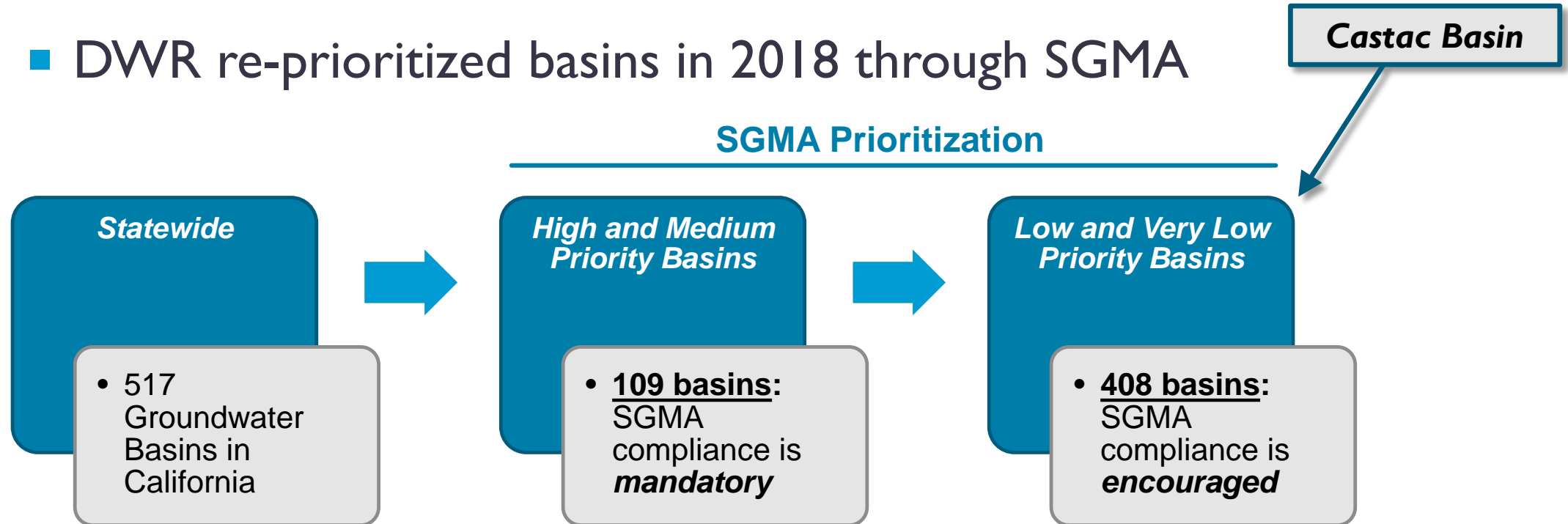


- 517 Groundwater basins are designated in California
- 80% of the public live within these groundwater basins
- 30% - 46% of state's water supply is from groundwater
- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) ranks groundwater basin priority by considering eight main factors:

1. Population	5. Irrigated Acreage
2. Projected Growth	6. Groundwater Reliance
3. Public Supply Wells	7. Groundwater Impacts
4. Total Supply Wells	8. Habitat / Other

DWR GROUNDWATER BASIN PRIORITIZATION

- Groundwater basins were initially ranked in 2014
- DWR re-prioritized basins in 2018 through SGMA



- Castac Basin GSA is proactively complying with SGMA

KEY SGMA ELEMENTS

- Basins are to be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
 - Comprised by one or more local public agencies that have “*water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin*”
- GSAs must develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by 2020 (if classed as in critical overdraft) or 2022, if they are ranked high or medium priority
- All basins must achieve “sustainability” within 20 years of GSP adoption

CASTAC BASIN GSA FORMATION TIMELINE

2016: GSA formation talks began between Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD), Lebec County Water District (LCWD), Kern County, and Interested Parties⁽¹⁾

Oct 13, 2017: Public Hearing in support of GSA formation

March 20, 2018: Joint Powers Agreement signed between TCWD, LCWD, and Kern County

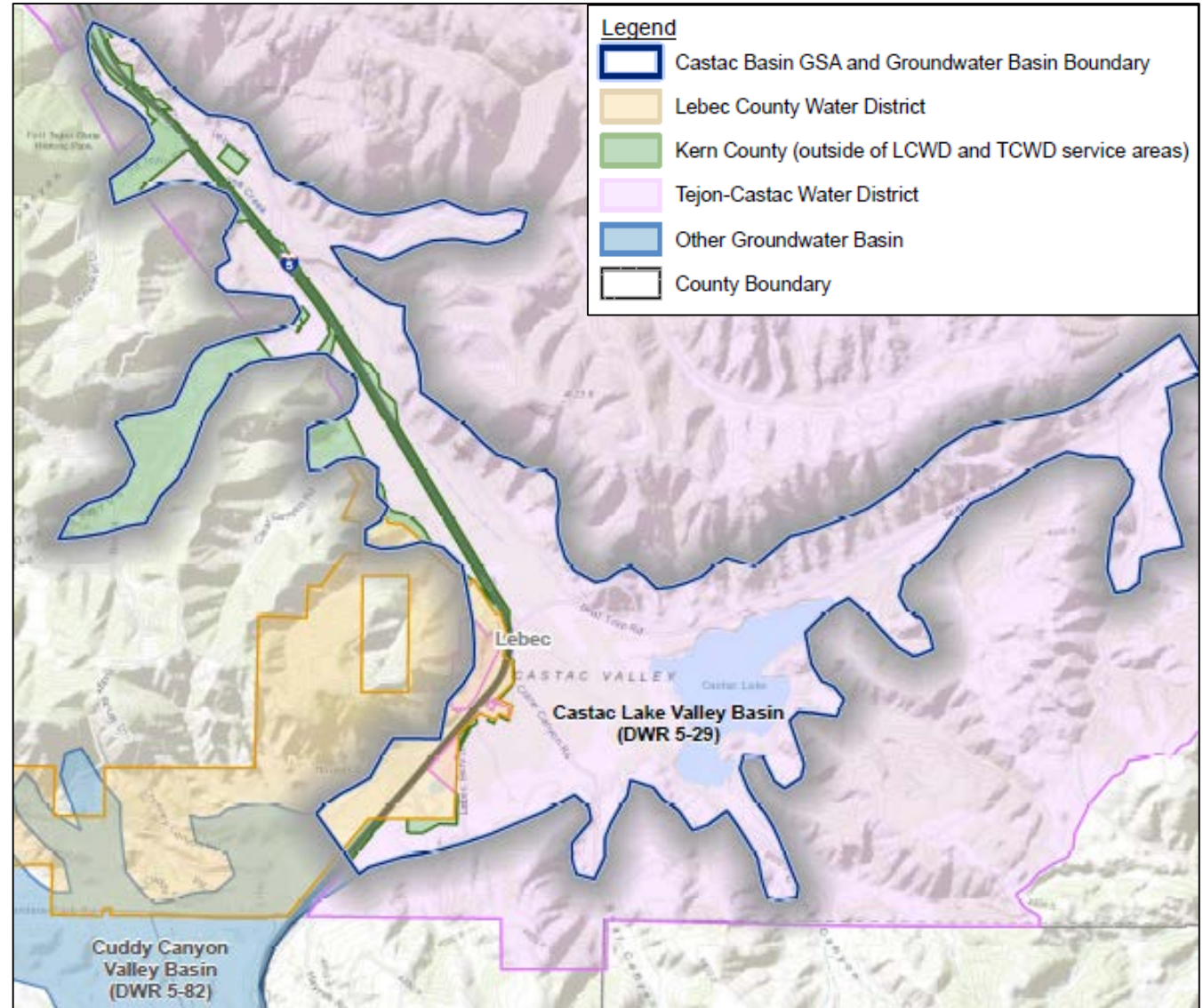
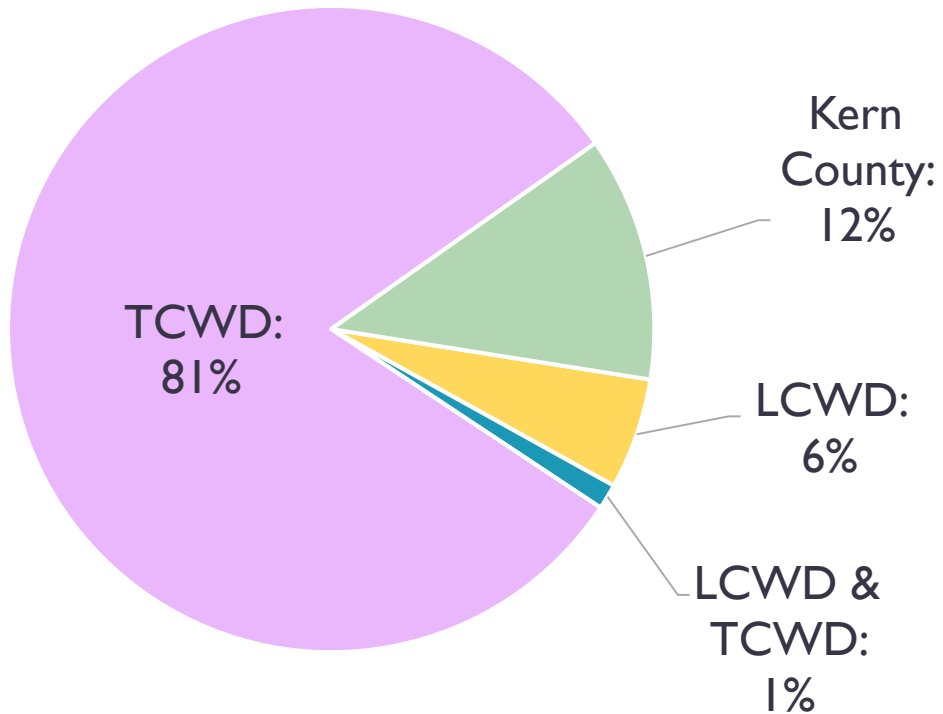
April 26, 2018: Castac Basin GSA formed

July 25, 2018: Castac Basin GSA becomes eligible to be an exclusive GSA for the Castac Basin

(1) Interested Parties per California Water Code §10723.2.

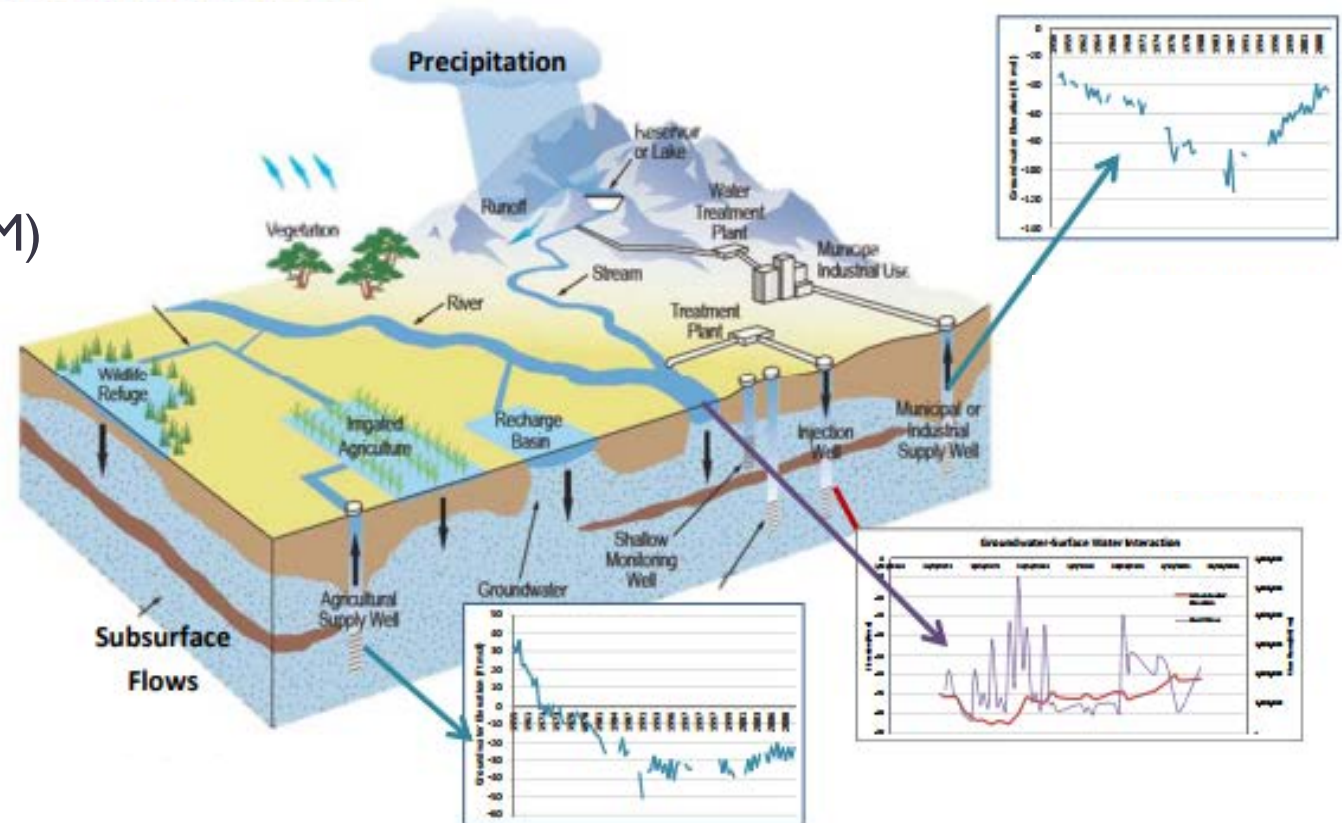
JOINT GSA FORMED IN APRIL 2018

Service Areas in the Castac Basin



KEY SGMA REQUIREMENTS FOR A GSP

- Data Management System
- Basin Setting Description
 - Groundwater Conditions Assessment
 - Hydrogeological Conceptual Model (HCM)
 - Water Budget
- Management Areas (as needed)
- Sustainability Criteria
- Monitoring Network
- Projects & Management Actions



* 23-CCR Sections 354.16-20;

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm

CASTAC GSA'S APPROACH TO THE GSP

- A single, coordinated plan consistent with GSP regulations (23-CCR §350-358.4)
- An open, transparent, and technically sound process
- Active stakeholder engagement, through
 - Public GSA Board Meetings
 - The GSA website: (<https://www.castacgsa.org>)
 - Stakeholder Surveys
 - Data Requests
 - Public Workshops

4 September 2018 – Fact Sheet #1

Fact Sheet #1
Castac Basin's Next Step in Complying with SGMA:
Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

What is SGMA?
Groundwater provides approximately one-third of the drinking water in California; it is a natural resource that sustains vital current and future needs. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) established California's framework for managing groundwater resources. SGMA provides a process for landowners, water users, and agencies to work together to determine the best way to achieve sustainability within each groundwater basin.

The SGMA states:
"The people of the state have a primary interest in the protection, management and reasonable beneficial use of the water resources of the state, both surface and underground, and that the integrated management of the state's water resources is essential to meeting its water management goals."

California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) divides the state into 517 groundwater basins, with each assigned a priority ranking of high, medium, low, or very low, based on components identified in the California Water Code. The Castac Lake Valley Groundwater Basin (Castac Basin) is designated as a very low priority basin. The Legislature "authorizes and encourages" basins designated as very low priority to be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) pursuant to SGMA. The Castac Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Castac Basin GSA) was formed in 2018 with the objective to monitor and assess groundwater conditions on a voluntary basis, and to proactively develop a GSP for the Castac Basin.

What are the key SGMA elements?

- Basins must be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - ✓ The Castac Basin GSA, formed in April 2018, is made up of three agencies, including Lebec County Water District (LCWD), Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD), and Kern County
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies must develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans
 - Castac Basin's GSP is planned for submittal to DWR by January 2020.
- Basins must achieve clearly-defined sustainability criteria within 20 years of GSP adoption
 - Performance assessment: The GSP will be updated and reviewed every five years

Castac Basin SGMA Timeline

The timeline shows key milestones from 2018 to 2040. Key events include: GSA Formation (April 2018), First GSA Board Meeting (Sept 2018), Anticipated GSP Submittal (Jan 2020), and DWR Evaluation of GSP Expected (Jan 2022). The timeline also indicates that the GSP will be updated and reviewed every five years (2025, 2030, 2035, 2040) with annual monitoring and reporting.

Key Compliance Elements

Implementation

Governance (GSA)	Technical Implementation (GSP)	Stakeholder Engagement	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSA members, are LCWD, TCWD, and Kern County• LCWD and TCWD have voting membership on the GSA Board• 26 April 2018 - DWR posted official public notice of GSA formation• 4 September 2018 - First GSA Board Meeting• Ongoing quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compilation of existing data and reports into a database• Collection and integration of new data, as needed• Analysis of basin conditions and water budget• Development of sustainability criteria and management actions• GSP preparation and submittal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan• Stakeholder survey & data request• Landowner outreach• Meetings, workshops, and online resources (https://www.castacgsa.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TCWD is the sole funding agency• LCWD and Kern County provide in kind support

GSP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Task	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Task 1 - Foundational Efforts to Support GSP Development	Active	Active	Completed	Completed	Completed
Task 2 - Basin Characterization and Analysis	Completed	Active	Active	Completed	Completed
Task 3 - Develop Sustainable Management Criteria	Completed	Completed	Active	Active	Completed
Task 4 - GSP Preparation and Submittal	Completed	Completed	Completed	Active	Active

2. ACTION ITEM: INITIAL NOTIFICATION TO PREPARE A GSP

INITIAL NOTIFICATION TO PREPARE A GSP

*“Prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a **written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan.**”⁽¹⁾*

- Draft Initial Notification Letter to be considered for approval.
- Available on the GSA website (<https://www.castacgsa.org>).
- Describes
 - GSA formation
 - How the public can be involved in GSP development
 - Details of GSA Board Meetings (open to the public)

⁽¹⁾ California Water Code §10727.8(a)

NEXT STEPS

- Submit Initial Notification for GSP Preparation to DWR
- Prepare Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan (SCEP)
- Distribute Public Water Systems data request letters
- Develop foundational GSP elements

QUESTIONS?

You can send questions or comments using the website:

<https://www.castacgsa.org/contact-us>

Or contact us directly:

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