

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Implementation Update
December 19, 2023



Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

TOPICS

A photograph of a large pipe discharging water into a body of water. The pipe is white and has a large opening at the end, with water gushing out and splashing. The pipe is surrounded by rocks and reeds. In the background, there is a paved path and some trees. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a water treatment or discharge point.

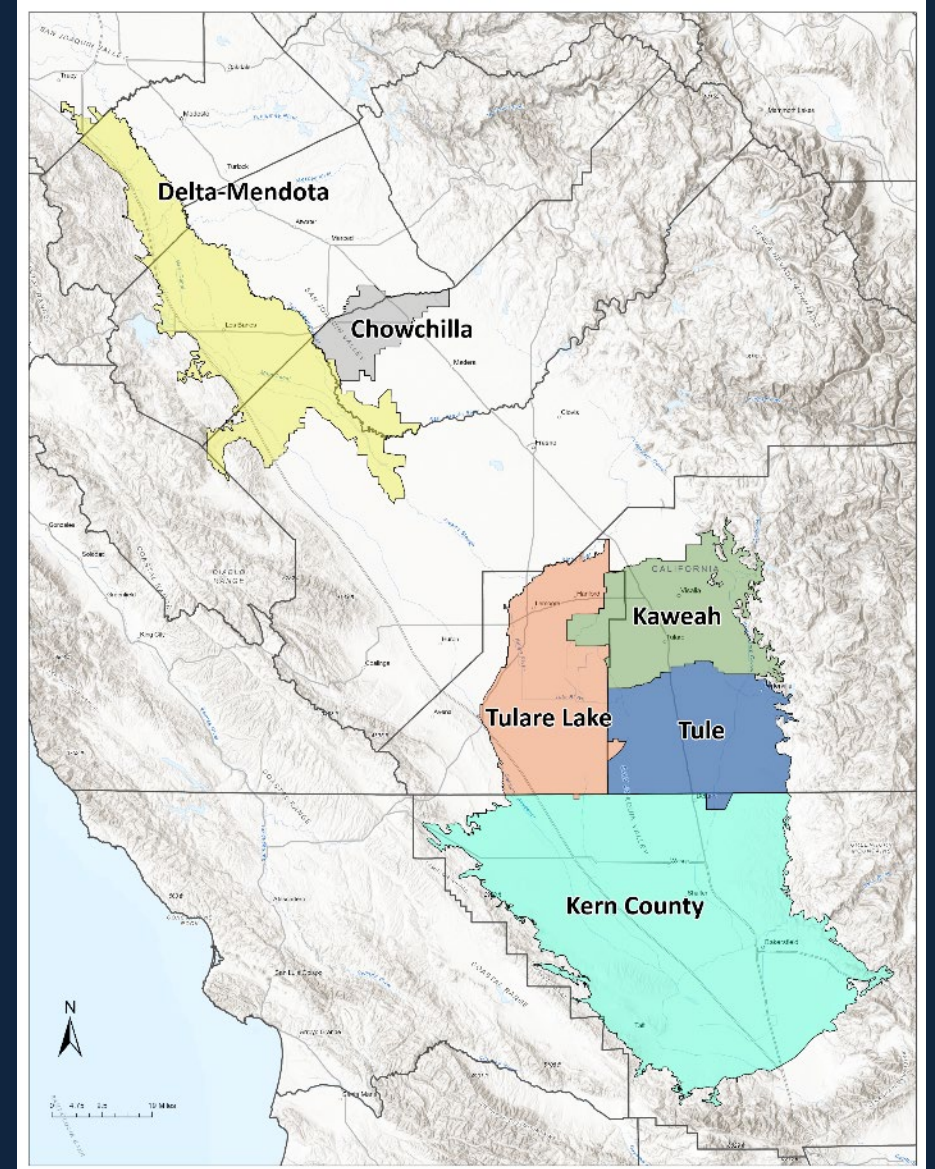
- 1. State intervention - status**
- 2. Updated schedule**
- 3. Basins still under review**
- 4. Steps to exit state intervention**

DWR Determinations

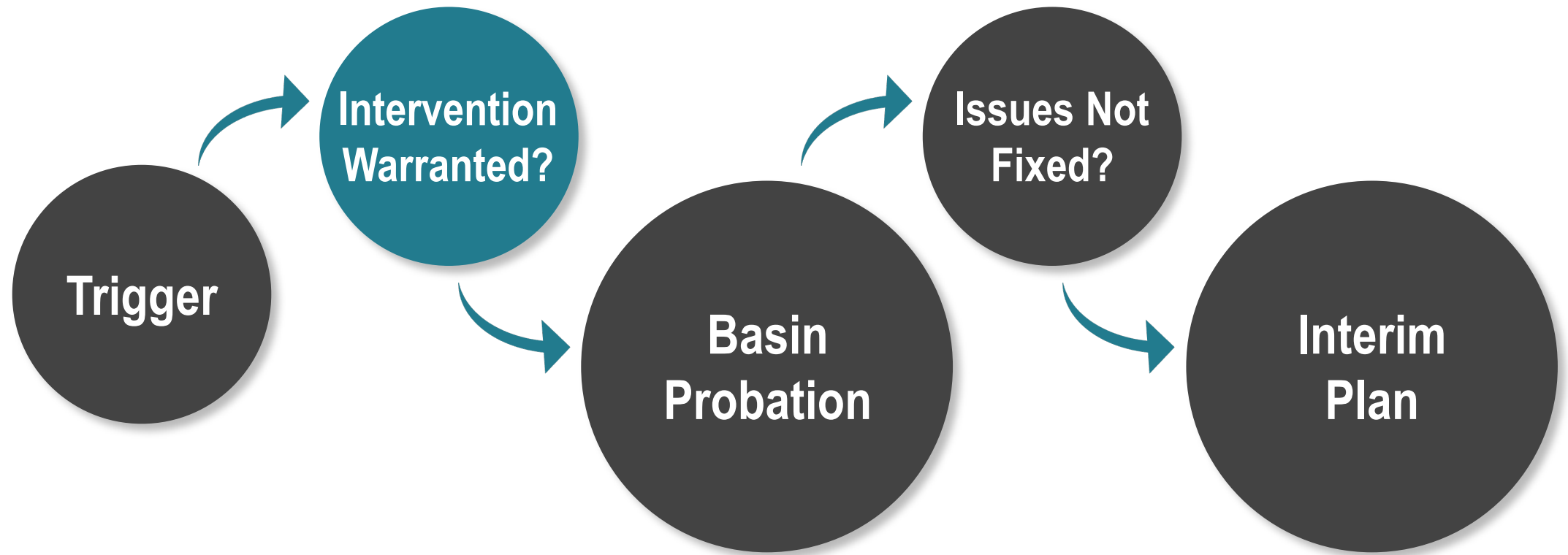
Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Basins with Inadequate Plans:

1. Delta-Mendota Subbasin
2. Chowchilla Subbasin
3. Kaweah Subbasin
4. Tulare Lake Subbasin
5. Tule Subbasin
6. Kern County Subbasin



State Intervention



Tulare Lake: Schedule

2023-2024

Oct 12, '23



**Release draft
deficiencies**
Notice to cities
and counties

Oct 13, '23



**Notice to all
known
pumpers**

Nov 3 & 8, '23



**Stakeholder
meetings**

Dec 11, '23



**Public
comment
period ends**

Mar '24



**Release final
deficiencies**
Issue draft
resolution

Apr 16, '24



Hearing
Potential
probationary
designation

Proposed Schedule for Holding Probationary Hearings

Tulare Lake	Apr 16, 2024
Tule	Sep 2024
Kaweah	Nov 2024
Kern County	Jan 2025
Delta-Mendota	1st quarter 2025
Chowchilla	2nd quarter 2025***

*** if needed, pending State Water Board determination on updated plan submitted May 5, 2023

Tule: Potential Schedule

2024

March



Release draft deficiencies
Notice to cities and counties

March



Notice to all known pumpers

April



Stakeholder meetings

May



Public comment period ends

August



Release final deficiencies
Issue draft resolution

September



Hearing
Potential probationary designation

How to engage with the Board



- **Public comment period & staff workshops**
- **Consultations at the request of California Native American Tribes**
- **Discussions, by request**
- **Hearing**

Fees Subject to Change

- Existing fees based on 2017 assumptions
- Staff to reevaluate fees and report back to Board

**Base
Annual Filing
Fee**
(per well)

\$ 300

+

**Volumetric
Rate**
(per acre-foot)

Probation
\$ 40

+

**Late
Report Fee**
(per month)

25 %

Other basins: Incomplete Plans



- Madera: DWR's determination anticipated soon
 - Other six: Revised plans due by April 2024
- DWR may decide late 2024 or early 2025
- Some of these could be declared *inadequate* by late 2024/early 2025 *or sooner*

Initial Review in Progress



- DWR decisions required by Jan 2024 for 16 basins

Any incompletes: revised plans due around July 2024

- Decisions due later for 4 basins

- Some of these could be declared *inadequate* by spring 2025

STEPS to Exit State Intervention

STEP 1: GSA(s) revise plan

STEP 2: Board staff review submitted plan(s) – timelines

STEP 3: Board decides

Side note: “Good Actor” exemptions

STEPS to Exit State Intervention

- **STEP 1: GSA(s) revise plan**

Identify for each deficiency: 1. Issue noted in previous GSP 2. New content in revision 3. Explanation on how the changes address the deficiency

STEPS to Exit State Intervention

- **STEP 2: Board staff review submitted plan(s) - timelines**

Plan for **three months** for one plan, likely one additional month for each additional plan

If inadequate time is provided before a hearing, staff will only be able to perform a **cursory review (if any)**

- If any substantial deficiencies appear unresolved, staff will recommend **continuing with the hearing**
- If all deficiencies appear resolved, staff will recommend a delay so staff can complete **comprehensive review and incorporate public feedback**

Submittal of new or revised plans does not guarantee cancellation or delay of a hearing

STEPS to Exit State Intervention

- **STEP 3: Board decides**

If plan is fixed: hearing could be either (1) cancelled or (2) kept so staff can publicly recommend ending state intervention; any probationary basin determination will be rescinded

If plan is *not* fixed: Any scheduled hearings will be held; probationary basin requirements will remain in place

STEPS to Exit State Intervention

- Side note: “Good Actor” exemption from probationary status:

To qualify for this exemption, any area must have a GSA that “demonstrates compliance with the sustainability goal” for the subbasin. This means:

- Area is covered by a GSA
- Area has a GSP that meets the requirements of SGMA

BOARD RESOURCES

- FAQs for GSAs
- FAQs for Pumpers
- Soon: more guidance on submitting revised plans

The collage features several digital resources:

- Basin and Groundwater Sustainability Act:** A search interface with a search bar and a map of California showing various water basins.
- SGMA Groundwater Quality Visualization Tool:** A dashboard with a 'Selected Basin' dropdown, 'Overview' and 'Basin Trend by Constituent' buttons, and a 'Reset' button. It includes a note: 'To begin, you must filter data by selecting the left menu icon. For information on how to use this tool select the ⓘ for more info.'
- Wells Data with Detections greater than the Comparable Concentration Value:** A dashboard with tabs for 'Well Count', 'Percentages', and 'Table'. It shows 'Impacted Well Locations' and 'Impacted Wells by Constituent'.
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:** A document titled 'Sustainable Groundwater Management Act' with the subtitle 'Frequently Asked Questions'. It includes the California Water Boards logo and the following text:

Groundwater, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and State Intervention

What is groundwater?

Groundwater is water found beneath the Earth's surface. When rain falls to the ground, some of it flows along the surface in streams and rivers; some of it is used by plants; some of it evaporates and returns to the air; and some of it sinks into the ground and becomes groundwater. Groundwater makes up a significant portion of the Earth's fresh water.

Groundwater exists in - and slowly moves through - *aquifers*. Aquifers are made of layers of gravel, sand, sandstone, fractured rock, or other types of sediment. Large amounts of water can accumulate in aquifers. One or more aquifers can make up a

State Water Resources Control Board SGMA Program

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