

**Summary of East Bay Plain Basin SGMA Implementation Information Session
(held on January 11, 2016)**

DRAFT

Objective:

To discuss the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 including formation of governing bodies (Groundwater Sustainability Agency(s)) by Jun 2017 and establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by Jan 2022

EBMUD Presentations:

EBMUD staff presented the background information and current groundwater management activities in East Bay Plan basin and stakeholder landscape (see attached).

DWR Presentations:

SGMA

Hong Lin of DWR presented the SGMA implementation process emphasizing the formation of GSAs and resources available to assist the local stakeholders (see attached).

Interactive tools

Bill Brewster of DWR followed with another presentation covering how the interactive tools on the SGMA website have been improved and the types of data available to all users through the link - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/> .

He discussed GSA formation interactive map through the link - http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_map.cfm and Basin Boundary Modification process through the link - http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin_boundaries.cfm

Following to the presentation, DWR staff answered questions from the participants.

- Ken Minn asked if the SWRCB were to become the “backstop” agency (that is if no local GSA were defined), what the cost would be. Hong replied that the SWRCB will require all GW users to report pumping by 12/15/17. There would be fees to cover state staff, management costs and service fees, though not necessarily a “penalty”. They are working on a fee structure. It is expected to be expensive.
- Michelle Myers, ACWD, asked what would be covered in the fees. Hong responded that fees would include research and staff time.
- Alex Ameri asked the timeline for adjustments to the data already filed. Bill Brewster responded by the end of March, 2016.

- TF noted that the Boards of each agency would have to adopt resolutions about the formation of the GSA, implying that the timeline was shorter than the actual DWR deadline, given time for approval by each Board.
- Michelle Myers asked when the Draft Strategic Plan will be final, pointing out that her agency had provided comments on it. Hong responded that it would be by mid-2016.
- Ryan Smith, City of Richmond, asked what it meant to “coordinate” between agencies in case of boundary overlap. Hong replied that the agencies must work to avoid overlapping boundaries within a GW basin or comply with additional regulations. There is a 90 day window to resolve overlaps, with a goal to determine “exclusive” GSAs for each basin or portion thereof. The DWR will review for completeness of coverage of basin.
- Alex Ameri, City of Hayward, asked for clarification on when the clock for DWR review of GSA begins. The response was after the application is deemed complete, there will be a 90 day period for public comment. If no comment, the GSA will be deemed “exclusive”.

Roundtable discussion

The general topic put out for discussion was “Where does each agency stand in regards to its interests in SGMA?”. Each agency represented at the table replied in turn.

- Richard Sykes, Director of Water and Natural Resources Department stated that for EBMUD, Ground water is not the main supply. Rather EBMUD relies on Mokelumne and Sacramento River supplies. EBMUD does not have any wells contributing to our general water supply, although Bayside is capable of up to 1MGD after we inject surface water into the aquifer. There are approximately 5000 known wells in the EBMUD service area, though not many are active. We do not know if or when or how they will fit into our water supply in the future. EBMUD also is working on groundwater banking projects with San Joaquin County, where there are lots of entities vying to be the GSA. EBMUD is open to being the GSA for the East Bay Plain.
- Ryan Hernandez of Contra Costa Water Agency (CCWA), stated that his agency overlies 3 ground water basins; Tracy, Livermore and part of the East Bay Plain. CCWA represents the County in water planning and they are distinct from CCWD. They are a small agency and want to cooperate with others. They are interested in working with other stakeholder agencies to make sure that they are participants in the groundwater basins, but are not interested in being the default GSA.
- Dale Smith, City of Oakland, noted that the SGMA process was new to him. His main concern is subsidence within the City of Oakland. KM said that subsidence

would be considered in development of the GSP. There are no known issues of subsidence in Oakland per DWR.

- Alex Ameri, City of Hayward, stated that he was looking forward to working with EBMUD in the development of the GSP.
- Erin Smith, City of Alameda, also stated that her agency was looking forward to working with EBMUD through a MOU.
- Ryan Smith, City of Richmond stated that Richmond would be work with EBMUD and assist as needed.
- Kwablah Attiogbe, Alameda County Public Works, stated that the Alameda County would like to designate EBMUD to be the GSA and work collaboratively with EBMUD.
- Steven Inn of ACWD stated that their agency has been in the groundwater business for 101 years. They are determining whether they want to look at the “alternative” or “regular” development of the GSP. They are here to coordinate with other stakeholders regarding their northern service area which overlies the East Bay Plain Basin. They are working on a description of the boundary.
- Karineh Samkian, City of San Pablo, stated that San Pablo is new to the whole SGMA program, and wants to work with the group.

Further Open Discussion:

Richard acknowledges it is better that EBMUD as the major water supplier in the basin take the leadership role by working with the stakeholders to form a GSA.

KM reiterated that if EBMUD and other agencies are to participate in a joint GSA, they will need to work together over the next 10 months, noting necessary time to form JPAs and to work with the various Boards of Directors.

KM suggested reconvening the meeting in 60 days. EBMUD’s goal is to find a way to develop the GSA which is acceptable to all stakeholders, and believes that avoiding SWRCB intervention would be best for all parties.

Erin Smith of Alameda asked City’s role. Ken Minn answered as a stakeholder, City will participate in basin management activities such as a member of steering committee. Bill Brewster pointed out that not every GSA will have all the resources necessary to do the work required, for example in data collection. It will have to be a team effort from all stakeholders.

Richard pointed out that all stakeholder agencies will have to develop and sign an MOU with EBMUD to figure out how to manage the GSA prior to EBMUD submitting GSA

application. Karineh Samkian of City of San Pablo commented that San Pablo is open to JPA as well but it will study the options first.

Hong Lin commented that if EBMUD becomes the GSA, The Cities and County would have to be on board because they are the local land-use agencies, and should be involved under EBMUD's GSA lead, per the regulations. Both Land Use and Water management must be coordinated in GSP.

James Yoo reminded the group that the County of Alameda has ground water authority.

Ken Minn commented that all are still waiting on the guidelines, BMPs and regulations to get better understanding details on how to go forward with the GSA formation process.

Tom Francis commented that EBMUD will involve Hayward and ACWD because they are other water purveyors on East Bay Plain.

Next Steps and Action Items:

- The next meeting will be scheduled in approximately 60 days
- Each entity is to review the SGMA program and develop individual standing to share with the group.
- A more concrete position would be required from each agency regarding their involvement in GSA by the next meeting

Attachments:

1. DWR's Presentation
2. EBMUD's Presentation
3. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Frequently Asked Questions