

**San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Stakeholder
Advisory Committee Meeting
Notice & Agenda
June 12, 2019 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
- Board Room
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA
(760) 845-2577**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment – Public comments can also be made as part of the discussion of the agenda items.**
- 3. Items for Discussion – Information Only:**
 - A. Overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act* (p. 2)**
 - B. Overview of the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin* (p. 5)**
 - C. Review of Governance and Consultant Selection Process* (p. 8)**
- 4. Adjournment**

Information included in Agenda Packet

(1) Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Stakeholder Advisory Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency office located at 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA - during regular business hours. (2) Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Agency's office, located at 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Web site, accessible at: www.sgpwa.com and at the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin website at: www.sgpqsas.org. (3) Any person with a disability who requires accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should telephone the Agency (951 845-2577) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation.

SAN GORGONIO PASS SUBBASIN

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

June 12, 2019

WHY ARE WE HERE?

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014(SGMA)
- Requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for critical and high and medium priority groundwater basins around the state
- San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin has three GSA's, working together as one group (GSP Working Group)
- Implementation of SGMA requires transparency; Stakeholder Advisory Group was formed to ensure this

WHAT IS SGMA?

- This law is intended to regulate the use of groundwater in California
- Only groundwater regulation prior to SGMA was in adjudicated basins
- This comes 100 years after surface water was regulated by the state
- Its purpose is to make groundwater basins "sustainable", which is defined by six metrics
- Most large basins in southern California are already adjudicated so SGMA does not have as much impact here
- Greatest impact is in San Joaquin Valley where most basins have been in overdraft for decades

WHAT IS SGMA'S FOCUS?

- SGMA incentivizes local entities to make their own groundwater basins sustainable, as opposed to forcing it on them
- Requires local entities to work together as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) to develop one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP's)
- GSP's are due by either 2020 or 2022, depending on the basin (for us it is 2022)
- GSP's must make basins sustainable within 20 years (by 2042)
- If local entities fail, State Water Resources Control Board takes over regulation of the basin

DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABLE—UNDESIRABLE RESULTS (SIGNIFICANT AND UNREASONABLE)

- Lowering of groundwater levels
- Seawater intrusion
- Reduction of storage
- Degraded quality
- Land subsidence
- Surface water depletion

WHAT IS SGMA'S TIMETABLE?

- The GSP Working Group has been meeting for over three years to formulate a plan for the subbasin
- GSP Working group applied for and received two \$1 million grants
- GSP Subbasin is a medium priority basin
- GSP must be drafted, reviewed, and completed by January 31, 2022
- High priority basins around the state are well ahead of us in their progress
- We have recently selected the consultant who will produce the GSP; work will begin this summer

WHAT DOES A GSP LOOK LIKE?

- Water budget
- Hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM)
- Data management system
- Monitoring network
- Sustainable management criteria
- Projects and management actions
- Stakeholder outreach

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE FAIL?

- If DWR does not approve the final GSP, or if one is not produced, SCMA provides that the State Water Resources Control Board will take over management of the basin until such time as a GSP is approved
- SWRCB is a regulatory agency that thinks like a regulatory agency
- SWRCB is not accountable to local interests (voters) or the legislature
- Failure is not an option

ROLE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

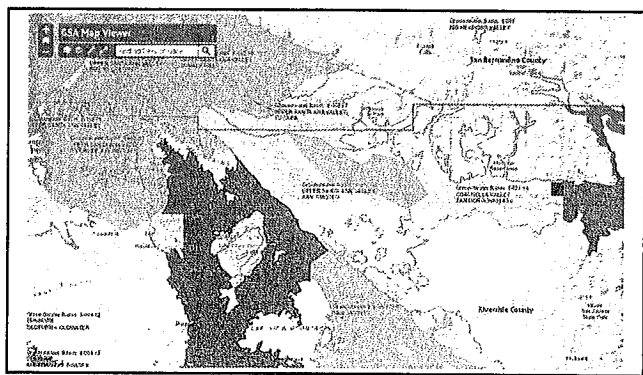
- Attend Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings
- Provide input to the process and reaction to draft results
- Represent interests of the basin and its stakeholders
- Should represent diverse interests (cities, counties, developers, environmental groups, business groups, labor groups, etc.)

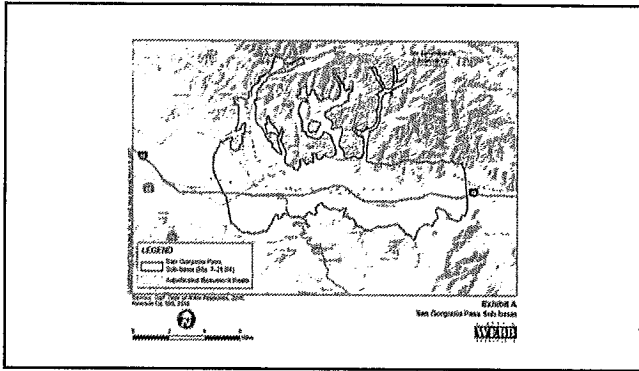
WHAT IS THE SAN GORGONIO PASS SUBBASIN?

Why is it important?

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEFINES GROUNDWATER BASINS FOR SGMA

- Bulletin 118—public document
- Updated every five years
- State is divided into a number of large basins, each with some sub-basins
- Main Coachella Basin or Indio Basin underlies the Palm Springs area and is a huge groundwater basin
- The San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin is a subunit of the Main Coachella Basin. Groundwater flows from the SGP Subbasin to the Main Coachella Basin
- Locally, we view the SGP Subbasin as several smaller basins, but SGMA requires us to use DWR's boundaries





WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE SUBBASIN?

- Climate is semi-arid to arid
- Very little rainfall but in some years a good snowpack
- Characterized by heavy faulting, so geology is complicated
- About 8,000 acre-feet per year are withdrawn from the subbasin
- Less than 40,000 people live in the subbasin—most in Banning
- Groundwater levels in the subbasin are decreasing, but this could be natural
- There are plans to construct several thousand new homes in the subbasin over the next few years

COMPLICATING FACTORS

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians reservation is in the middle of the subbasin
 - Tribal lands are exempt from SGMA
 - No groundwater data available from the tribal lands at this time
- A computer model of the subbasin has been developed but has not been calibrated
 - Model will be needed to test sustainability criteria
- Large data gap (no wells in eastern portion of subbasin)
 - Grant received to drill three new monitoring wells—two are complete
 - Paucity of data makes model calibration more difficult

**POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR
SUSTAINABILITY (IF NEEDED)**

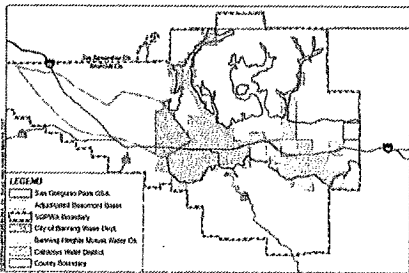
- Use less water (more conservation efforts)
- Import supplemental water from the State Water Project (requires new infrastructure)
- Capture more stormwater/snowpack

GOVERNANCE

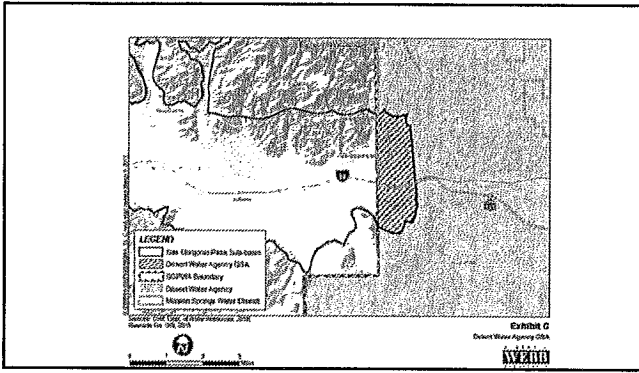
How do we make this work?

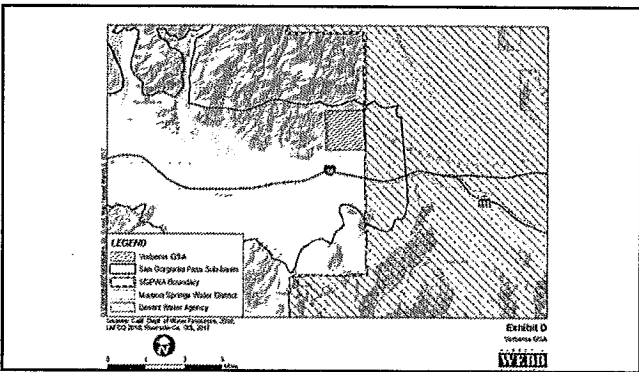
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES (GSA'S)

- SCMA empowers local governments to form GSA's
- A single basin could have one GSA or multiple GSA's
- GSA's are responsible for producing CSP's—one or more for a subbasin
- GSA's may consist of water agencies, cities, counties—governmental bodies
- Mutual water companies may join if invited
- Tribes may join if desired but are not required to do so
- GSA's can be tricky because basin boundaries do not respect political boundaries



Source: City of San Diego, 2017. SCMA GSA Portals of Data Basin





SUBBASIN GSA'S

- The Subbasin has three GSA's
 - Desert Water Agency GSA (DWA)
 - Verbenia GSA (MSWD and SGPWA)
 - San Geronimo Pass GSA (Banning, Banning Heights, SGPWA, CWD)
- The GSA's have committed to work together to produce a single GSP
- The GSA's call themselves the GSP Working Group
- The GSA Working Group web site is www.sgpgrsas.org

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- The CSA's have created this Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the following reasons:
 - SGMA compliance
 - To produce a better product (GSP) that reflects the subbasin stakeholders
 - To ensure that the needs of all the stakeholders are met
- Meetings will be held at various major milestones
- These could include:
 - Completion of Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
 - Completion of model calibration
 - Development of potential management actions
 - Production of draft GSP
- Website will be updated as progress is made

KEY TOPIC TODAY—CONSULTANT SELECTION

- GSP Working Group carefully developed a Request for Proposals over a period of several months
- It was sent out to eleven firms and posted on the web site
- Six proposals were received
 - Three from firms with GSP experience
 - Three from firms without GSP experience
- The CSP Working Group interviewed the three who had experience
- Two were deemed capable of doing the work

FINAL CONSULTANT SELECTION

- Finalists were
 - Woodard & Curran
 - Provost & Pritchard
- Woodard & Curran knows the subbasin—wrote Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and worked with CSA members to do so
- Woodard & Curran developed the model of the subbasin
- Woodard & Curran is working on a number of GSP's in critically overdrafted subbasins

FINAL SELECTION, CONTINUED

- Provost & Pritchard has also worked on a number of GSP's for critically overdrafted basins
- Provost & Pritchard is not as familiar with the subbasin
- Provost & Pritchard has done work for the Agency in the past and is a known quantity to the Agency
- Provost & Pritchard's proposal was for \$200,000 less than Woodard & Curran, and offered 1000 more hours of work
- Provost & Pritchard offered more "bang for the buck"
- Final selection—Provost & Pritchard

GRANT FUNDING

- Agency has received a grant for \$1 million to develop the GSP
- Woodard & Curran's proposal was for \$1.2 million
- Provost & Pritchard's proposal was for just under \$1 million
- Unless there are a number of cost overruns or change orders, the SCMA grant will cover the entire cost of the GSP
- This is good news for the region and the GSA's
- SCPWA Board still needs to award a contract to Provost & Pritchard—scheduled for Monday, June 17
