

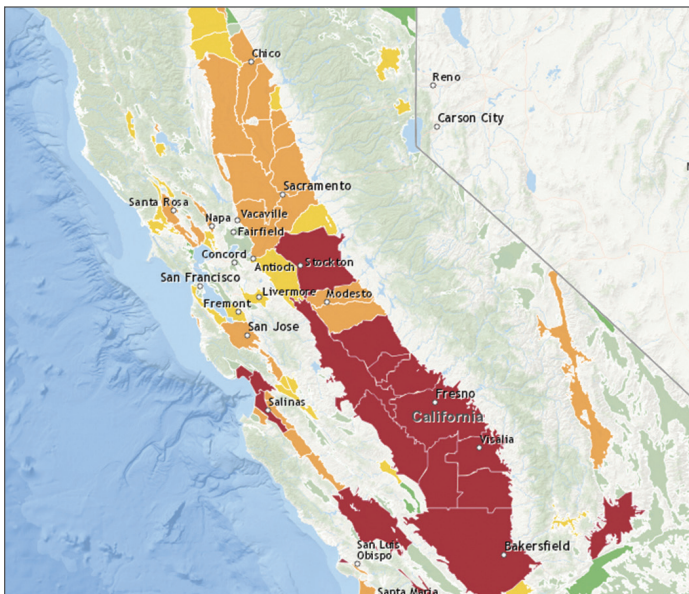
STAYING UP ON SGMA

HOW TO ENGAGE



What is SGMA?

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) required creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to allow for local control in managing and achieving groundwater sustainability. These newly formed GSAs are in the process of developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), which are detailed roadmaps explaining how the GSAs will reach long-term sustainability in their respective groundwater basins. **These plans can have major implications for future agricultural water availability.** GSAs in “high and medium priority” basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft are already developing their GSPs, which must be finished by January 31, 2020.



The majority of California Central Valley counties are classified as “high and medium priority” basins, with South Valley counties in “critically overdrafted basins” (dark red). Source: Department of Water Resources SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard

Should I get involved in my local GSA?

Do you pump groundwater to irrigate (or plan to in the future)? If so, the time is now for you to engage in the GSA/s where your orchards are located. Your involvement ensures that your water needs are considered and you can plan appropriately for the future. With GSPs currently in development, decisions are being made now that will determine how much groundwater you can pump and how much it will cost in the future.

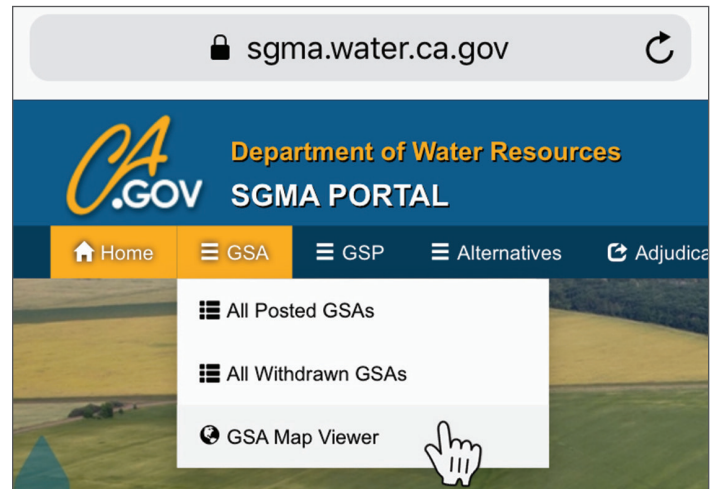
The good news is that these decisions are being made locally, providing growers an opportunity to be part of the conversation. Early involvement in your GSA gives you a better chance to influence the development of your local Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

How do I find my GSA?

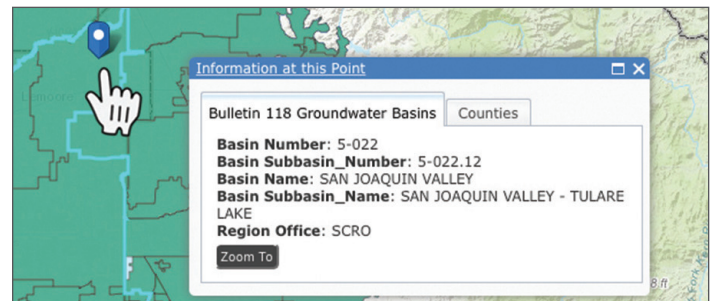
Find your GSA at <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal>. Select the “GSA Map Viewer” beneath the GSA tab and enter your address in the search bar on the new screen. If you are interested in determining your GSA for multiple properties, be sure to enter each address separately.

Click on the blue pinpoint to reveal information about your GSA, including a point of contact name, email address and more details.

You can also contact the Department of Water Resources Regional Coordinator assigned to your GSA for additional help at: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>



Find your GSA by clicking on the GSA Map Viewer.



Click on the blue pinpoint for information about your GSA.

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Where do I start?

Reach out to your GSA point of contact, ask him or her to send you the GSA meeting schedule and attend your next local GSA meeting. Also, ask how you can sign up to receive future meeting notices, updates and news via email.

What questions should I ask at my GSA meetings?

Understanding your GSA's procedures, challenges and opportunities for achieving groundwater sustainability is key to effective engagement. Here are some questions you should seek answers to as you participate in your GSA.

- How are decisions made by the GSA?
- What is the makeup of the board? Is there adequate agriculture/almond industry representation?
- Is my groundwater basin in balance?
- How will potential pumping limits be distributed across users in the basin?
- How will funds be raised to pay for operation of the GSA?
- Are opportunities for recharge and new surface water clearly identified and maximized?
- Is there a system in place, or will one be developed, for basin users to trade water? How will it work?

For more details about SGMA, visit the California Department of Water Resources website at www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management. Growers can also contact ABC's Jesse Roseman, senior specialist of environmental affairs, at jroseman@almondboard.com or 209-343-3285.

For information about maximizing water use efficiency in your orchard, visit the Almond Board of California's website at www.Almonds.com/Irrigation to download a copy of the Almond Irrigation Improvement Continuum. Growers can also contact ABC's Spencer Cooper, senior manager of irrigation and water efficiency, at scooper@almondboard.com or (209) 604-3727. Cooper's one-on-one in-orchard irrigation consultation is free of charge and available to any California almond grower.



Almond Board of California
1150 9th St., Suite 1500
Modesto, CA 95354 USA
T: 209.549.8262