

Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Draft Regulations

Via e-mail to: sgmps@water.ca.gov

Subject: Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Public Comment

California Department of Water Resources
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DATE GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
REGULATION COMMENT
RECEIVED BY DWR
03/24/2016

Re: Comments on SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Draft Emergency Regulations

I submitted a comment during the online webinar on March 24, 2016. I would like to expand on that comment.

The largest part of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Salinas Valley sub-basin, 3-04.06) is a “white area” where there is no agency with jurisdiction. Our recent water district formation election failed, as did the Proposition 218 vote for funding for management of the groundwater basin (either by the water district or by the County Flood Control District). Since there is no funding for basin management, the County may either decline to manage the basin or will make a weak attempt at doing so. The County will either leave management to the State or will become a GSA or entity within the GSA to cover the unincorporated portion of the basin. If the County becomes the GSA (or a party to the GSA), they may take the entire three year period (2017 to 2020) to prepare an inadequate GSP.

A key item that is missing in the draft regulations is a process for ensuring that GSP development takes place in a timely manner. We need some assurance that the GSP is moving forward in a meaningful way.

Please add a section to the regulations to require regular interim status reports to DWR by the GSA. Please consider an annual report by the GSA for each year from 2017 through 2020/2022. This addition is needed to meet the legislative requirements that groundwater basins be sustainably managed.

Keep in mind that our basin is in severe decline and water quality is degrading as we drill deeper into poorer quality water. We had a stakeholder’s group that met for four years and developed a number of solutions. We need to begin implementing those solutions as soon as possible. Waiting another four years for planning proper management before we begin implementing solutions is not a good option.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Personal Information Redacted

rural basin resident, former Chair of Paso Basin Advisory Committee, elected director of non-formed Paso Robles Basin Water District