

LEADING THE (RE)CHARGE


ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SGMA

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CLEAN WATER **ACTION** | CLEAN WATER **FUND**

NIGO GROUNDWATER COLLABORATIVE

- Local, regional and state environmental groups
 - Environmental Justice organizations
 - Good Government organizations
 - Tribes
 - Academia
 - Community groups
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GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES - GOVERNANCE

- ▶ Stakeholders not given a direct decision-making or advisory role
- ▶ “Groundwater sustainability agency” means one or more **local agencies** that implement the provisions of this part...
- ▶ “Local agency” means a **local public agency** that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.

**WHY IS STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT ESSENTIAL?**

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GMA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the ***active involvement*** of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin”

Public hearing requirements at multiple junctures – GSA formation, plan adoption or amendment, establishment of fees

SGMA REQUIREMENTS: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all **beneficial uses and users** of groundwater
- ▶ “A list of **interested parties** [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered”
- ▶ “The groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the **manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan**”
- ▶ “Any federally recognized Indian tribe... may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan ... **A participating tribe shall be eligible to participate fully** in planning, financing, and management under this part ”

“UNDESIRABLE RESULTS” WHO DECIDES?

significant and unreasonable....

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

WHO ARE BENEFICIAL USERS?

holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

- ▶ Agricultural users.
- ▶ Domestic well owners.

Municipal well operators.

Public water systems.

Local land use planning agencies.

Environmental users of groundwater

WHO ARE BENEFICIAL USERS?

Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

The federal government

California Native American tribes.

Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

Entities that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT OVER 98%
OF CALIFORNIANS USING A PUBLIC WATER
SUPPLY RECEIVE SAFE DRINKING WATER
THAT MEETS ALL HEALTH STANDARDS”

Communities that Rely Upon a Contaminated Source for Drinking Water”

State Water Board 2013

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SMALL WATER SYSTEMS


7500 water systems in CA

3000 community water systems (residential water supplies)

2300 community systems with < 1000 connections

About 400 schools have their own water system (non-transient, non-community)

CALIFORNIANS NOT SERVED BY A PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

- ▶ Less 5-14 connections – state small systems
 - ▶ 1-4 connections – private wells
 - ▶ USGS Estimate - 2.5 million people not connected to a public water system
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HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the **right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water** adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

All relevant state agencies...shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria..."



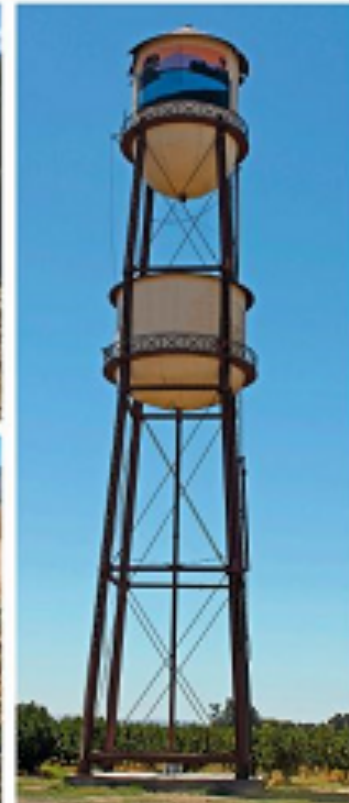
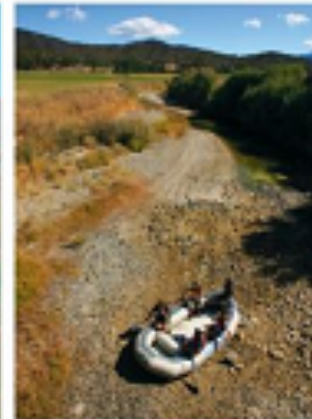
White paper on Stakeholder Engagement – best practices, case studies

Community Water Center
Urban Water Fund
Coalition of Concerned Scientists



Collaborating for Success:

*Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable
Groundwater Management Act Implementation*



ENEFITS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ 1) Improve outcomes
 - ▶ 2) Optimize resources
 - ▶ 3) Build broad support and reduce conflict
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WATER
FORUM

► Sacramento Water Forum

- Based on successful stakeholder litigation over American River flows
- Has developed successful groundwater plans in 2 basins

ROADMAP FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder identification and Analysis
 - Outreach and Communication
 - Data Collection/Management and information sharing
 - Decision-making and recommendations
 - Adaptive management
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SONOMA COUNTY



TRIBAL OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION



VENTURA COUNTY




TANISLAUS COUNTY



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Develop a communications plan to guide and measure outreach efforts.
 - ✓ Give stakeholders a role in decision-making
 - ✓ Engage the public and stakeholders on their terms
 - ✓ Renew your efforts on a regular basis
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HANK YOU!

For more information, contact:

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