SGMA IMPLEMENTATION

The SGMA Top 5 List

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In the beginning....

- Even Texas regulated groundwater
- California regulated surface water since 1914
- Management of surface and groundwater separate
- Groundwater management was occurring
- Adjudications
- Groundwater overused in droughts
- Desire by Legislature to address
- Process
SGMA Implementation- Top 5 List

1. Governance
2. Limited Resources
3. Demand Management
4. SGMA in Relationship to other Laws
5. Surface/Groundwater Connectivity
Governance/Formation

- Fringe areas
- State Board gearing up for enforcement
- Agreement amongst stakeholders
Limited Resources/Expertise

- Consultants
- Funding for GSA and Projects
- Compressed timeline for critically overdrafted basins
Demand Management

• Overdraft
• Reduced pumping
• Not ability to impact existing water rights
• Groundwater recharge as a beneficial use?
SGMA in Relationship to other Laws

- Nuclear option
- Streamlined adjudication legislation
- State Water Resources Control Board Authority
- Water Quality
Surface/Groundwater Connectivity

• The elephant in the room
• CA water rights view on groundwater and surface water
• Current law
• Does SGMA expand current law?
• Likely to be one of the most litigated SGMA issues
Thank you!