

SGMA IMPLEMENTATION

The SGMA Top 5 List

Stefanie Morris



Best Best & Krieger



Company/BestBestKrieger



@BBKlaw



BEST BEST & KRIEGER 
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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



www.BBKlaw.com

© 2018 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

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



www.BBKlaw.com

© 2018 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

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



www.BBKlaw.com

© 2018 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

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



www.BBKlaw.com

© 2018 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

QUESTIONS?



www.BBKlaw.com
© 2018 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP



Thank you!



Best Best & Krieger



Company/BestBestKrieger



@BBKlaw



BEST BEST & KRIEGER 
ATTORNEYS AT LAW