

Owens Lake Groundwater Development Program

UPDATES ON RELATED WORK

SASTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT AND OLGDP

SGMA Implications for the Owens Lake Groundwater Development Project

Owens Lake Groundwater Working
Group

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photo: C. Howard



Introduction

SGMA: State Groundwater Management Act

LTWA: Inyo/Los Angeles Long Term Water Agreement

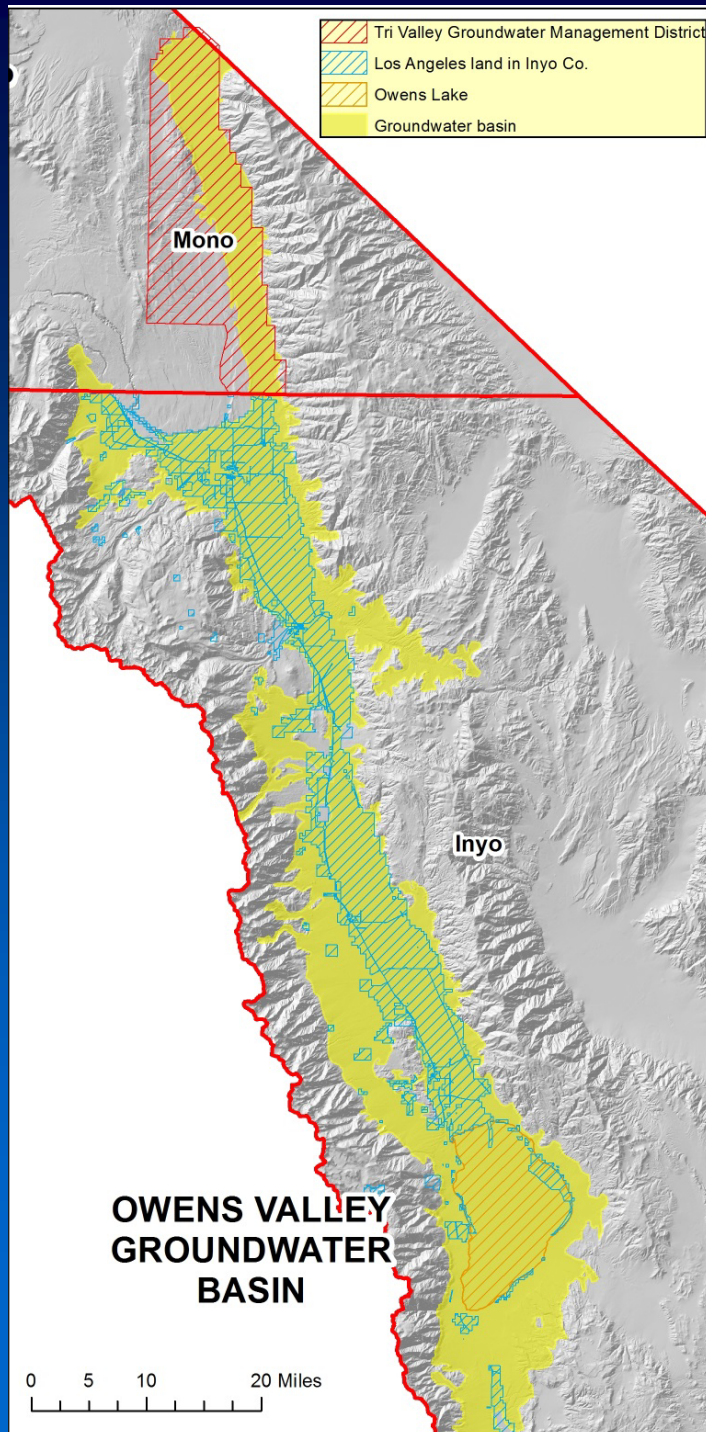
GSA and GSP: Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Plan

OVGA: Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

DWR: Department of Water Resources

GDE: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem

SGMA and LTWA



“ (a) ...this part (SGMA) does not apply to the following adjudicated areas...

“ (c) Any groundwater basin or portion of a groundwater basin in Inyo County managed pursuant to the terms of(Inyo County Case no. 12908) shall be treated as an adjudicated area...”
(CWC §10720.8)

Water Agreement and Owens Lake pumping subject of Inyo/LA dispute resolution set aside in February 2012





SGMA and Owens Lake Groundwater

State agencies are required to “*..consider the policies of [SGMA], and any groundwater sustainability plans adopted pursuant to [SGMA], when revising or adopting policies, regulations, or criteria, or when issuing orders or determinations, where pertinent*” (CWC §10720.9)

“*..a state or local agency that extracts groundwater shall be subject to a fee imposed under [SGMA] to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity*” (CWC §10726.8(d))

SGMA “*...does not authorize a local agency to impose any requirement on the state or any agency, department, or officer of the state. State agencies and departments shall work cooperatively with a local agency on a voluntary basis*” (CWC §10726.8(d))



SGMA and Owens Lake Groundwater



Unless managed pursuant to LTWA, Owens Lake pumping PROBABLY is subject to regulation by a GSP, and

the California State Lands Commission could make compliance with an adopted GSP part of their lease requirements



OVGA Powers

- Conduct investigations, prepare rules and regulations, propose or update fees, monitor compliance and enforcement.
- Require registration of groundwater extraction facilities.
- Require installation of meters at well owners expense and annual reporting.
- Require reporting of surface water diverted to underground storage.
- Acquire property, water, or water rights; provide a program for fallowing agricultural land; recycle water.
- Impose spacing requirements on new wells.
- Regulate, limit, or suspend groundwater extraction; authorize transfers of extraction allocations; establish rules for carry over of unused allocations.
- Impose fees to fund preparation, adoption, and amendment of a GSP; administration and operations; acquisitions; supply, treatment, production, or distribution of water.



GSP and Owens Lake Groundwater

GSP prepared by OVGA must avoid certain undesirable results

Sustainability Indicator	Needed for Owens Valley GSP?
Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Yes
Reduction of Groundwater Storage	Yes
Seawater Intrusion	No
Degraded Water Quality	Yes
Land Subsidence	Yes
Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (GDE)	Yes



OVGA JPA Provisions

Management Areas

“...the GSP may provide for discrete areas with the GSA boundary in which the GSP is implemented and managed by at least one Member....”

- Designation based on hydrological conditions
- A management area can have requirements specific to the area
- Costs borne by Members responsible for the management area

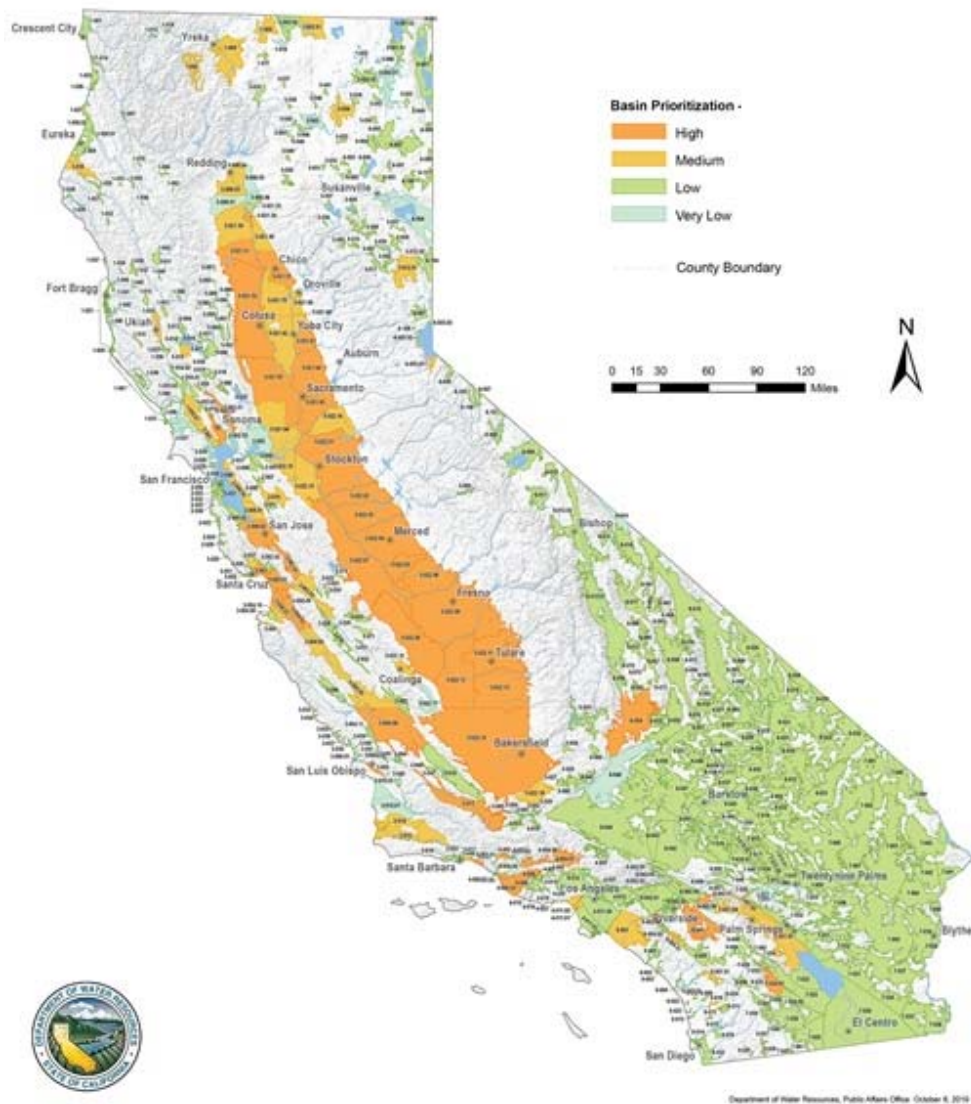
Advisory Committees

“The Board of Directors may from time to time establish advisory committees for the purpose of making recommendations”

- Duties and term specified by OVGA Board
- Subject to Brown Act



OVGA Current Status



Basin Prioritization

DWR has proposed to classify Owens Valley Basin as Low Priority

Low priority basins are not required to establish a GSA or implement a GSP

Several Members, including Inyo Co., desire to remain in the OVGA regardless of basin status and directed staff to proceed with GSP

OVGA's JPA and GSA status remains valid with a smaller Board, but the GSP only enforced within the Members' jurisdiction

