

# Update on OVGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Preparation

Owens Lake Groundwater Working Group

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OVGA



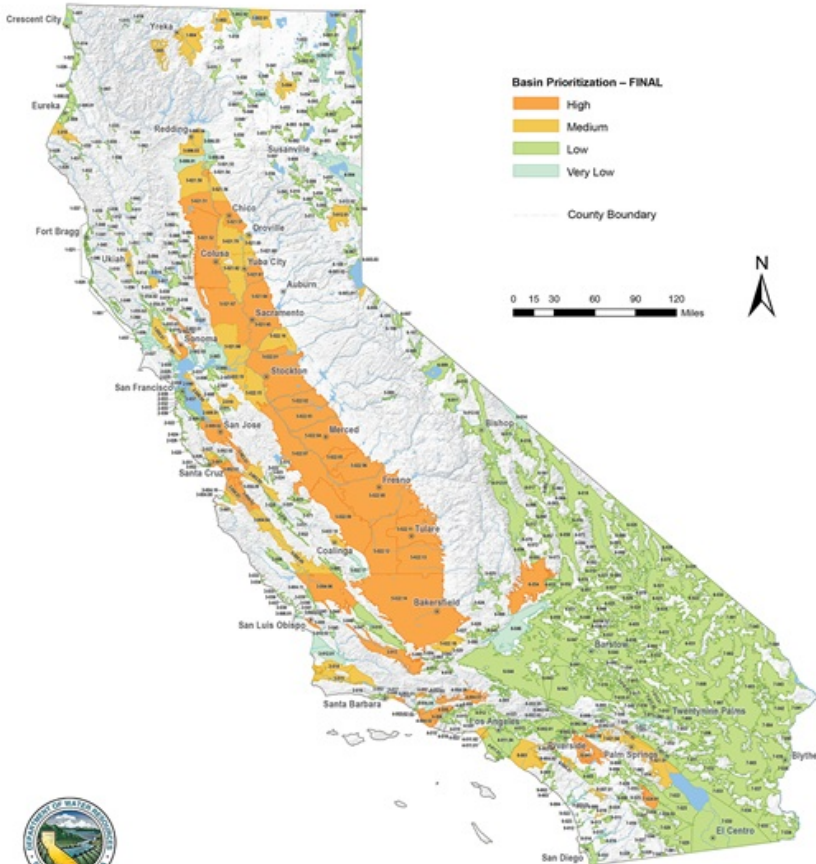
# OVGA Current Status

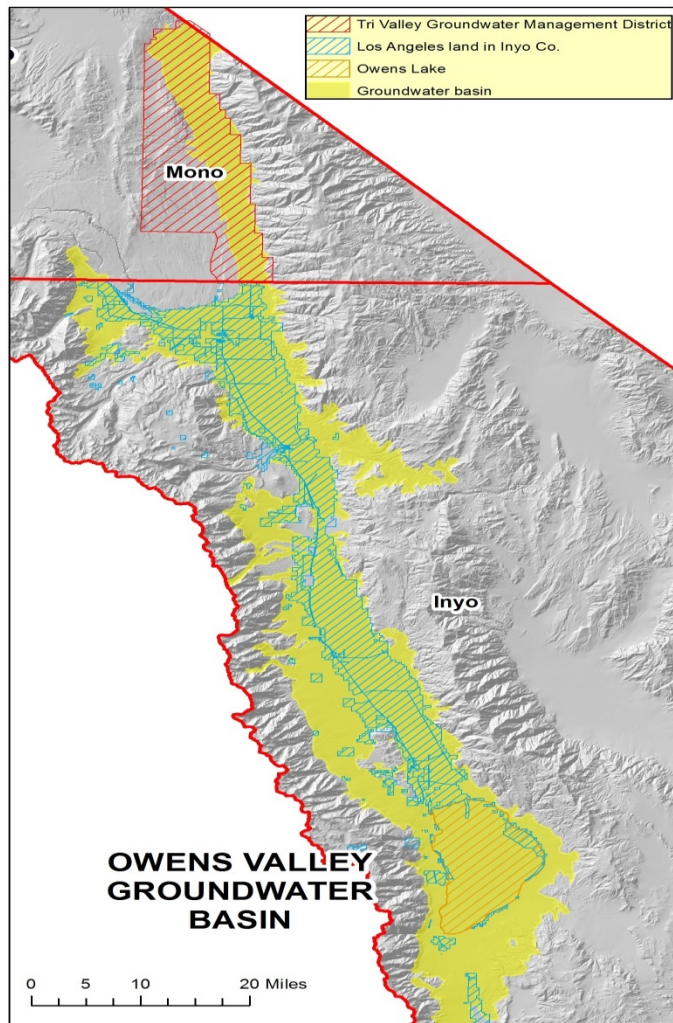
## Basin Prioritization

DWR reclassified Owens Valley Basin as Low Priority

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

Staff directed to proceed with developing the GSP





## 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

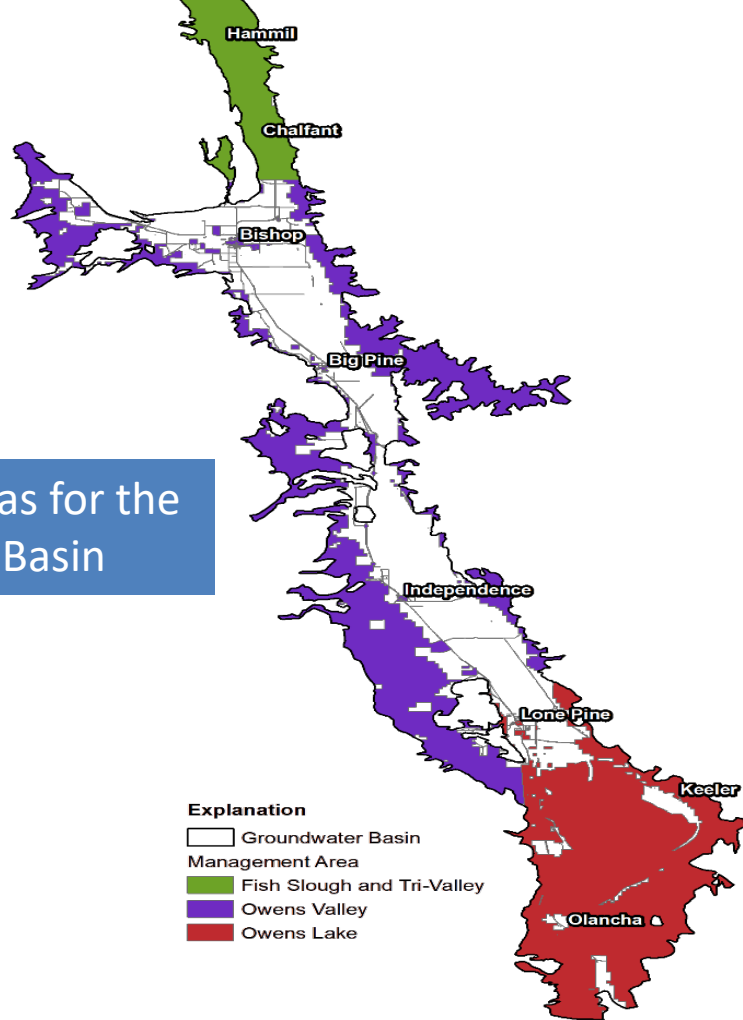


Unless managed pursuant to LTWA, Owens Lake pumping could be subject to regulation by a GSP

The CSLC could make compliance with an adopted GSP part of their lease requirements







OVGA is proceeding assuming the GSP will apply to Owens Lake

# Proposed Management Areas for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin



# GSP and Owens Lake Groundwater



Sustainability Indicator	Needed for Owens Lake MA?
 Lowering GW Levels	Yes
 Reduction of Storage	Yes
 Seawater Intrusion	No <b>X</b>
 Degraded Quality	Yes, but....
 Land Subsidence	Yes
 Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (GDE)	Yes

## Establishing SMC, Step 1: Undesirable Results

**Sustainable groundwater management** - is the absence of **undesirable results**. SGMA does not set specific numbers for the indicators.

**Undesirable results** occur when **significant and unreasonable effects** for any sustainability indicators are caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin.

**Significant and Unreasonable** – defined by OVGA. Local control is inherent to SGMA.

It is critical that OVGA obtains public input on these definitions to consider while preparing the GSP



### Two Main Parts of SMC

**Minimum Threshold** – a quantitative value for each SMC that defines undesirable results. Set by OVGA but cannot be an arbitrary number.

**Measurable Objective** – specified quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of groundwater conditions. **Included in the GSP to document if the basin is sustainable.** Set by OVGA but must comply with SGMA.



# Proposed SMC, Owens Lake Management Area

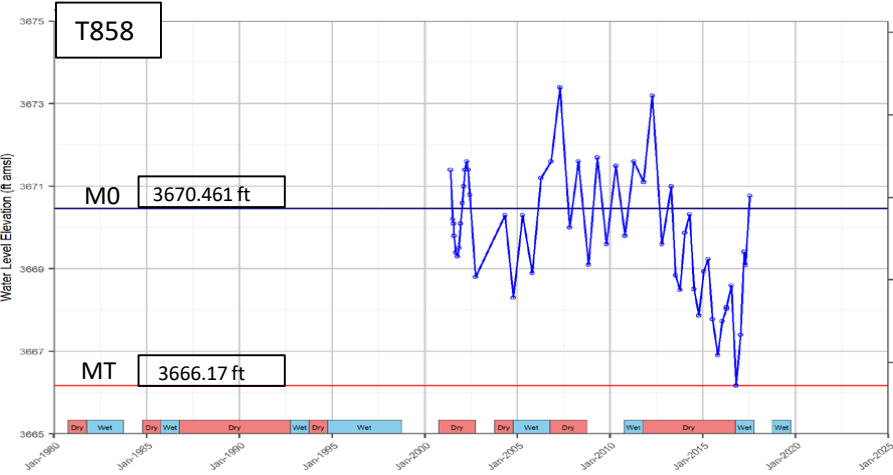
Indicator	Undesirable Results	Metric	Minimum Threshold	Measureable Objective
GW elevation	Increased pumping costs, drying out of shallow domestic wells,  loss of existing monitoring wells	GW elevation	Lowest GW elevation during period of record (usually 2012-2016 drought)  -OR-  Lowest GW elevation available since 2000	Average GW elevation from WY 2001-2010  -OR-  Average GW elevation for most recent 10 years
GW Storage Reduction	Decreased ability to maintain status quo pumping during extended drought periods	GW elevation	Same	Same



# Proposed SMC, Owens Lake Management Area

Indicator	Undesirable Results	Metric	Minimum Threshold	Measureable Objective
SW Depletion	Reduction of groundwater discharged to the surface resulting in impacts to GDEs	GW elevation	Reduction of groundwater flow gradient toward springs below an <u>acceptable</u> percentage of the baseline gradient	Baseline period groundwater flow gradient towards springs
Land Subsidence	Damage to conveyance infrastructure  General infrastructure damage	InSar	0.3 ft of subsidence within a single year or over 5 years	Average GW elevation from WY 2001-2010 -OR- Average GW elevation for most recent 10 years AND 0 ft of subsidence

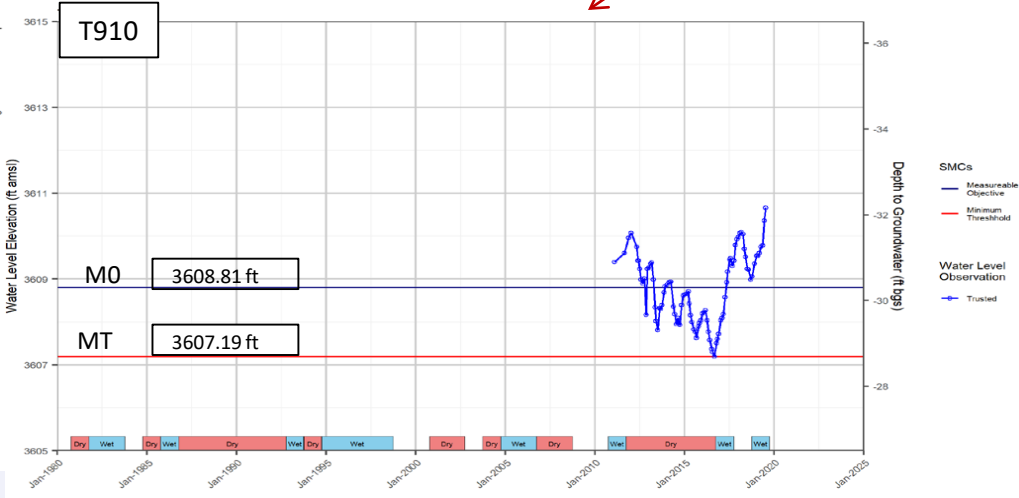
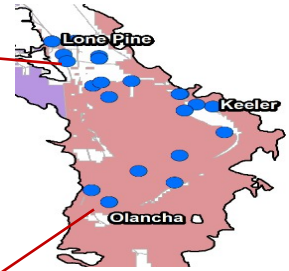
# Example GW elev. SMC, Owens Lake MA



Depth to Groundwater (ft. bgs)

SMCs  
 — Measurable Objective  
 — Minimum Threshold

Water Level Observation  
 — Trusted



# Closing



- Questions?
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