

# SGA Governance

What Authority Is Needed to  
Successfully Implement SGA and SGMA  
Objectives?

# Initial SGA Authority

- SGA Formed Pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code)
- Formed by the City of Citrus Heights, the City of Folsom, the City of Sacramento, and the County of Sacramento
- JEPAs allow agencies, by agreement, to jointly exercise any power held in common by the agencies
- Common powers held by each of the four signatories are “police” powers and provide that a “county or city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws” (California Constitution, art. XI, § 7)

# SGA Objectives

- maintain the long-term sustainable yield of the North Area Basin
- manage the use of groundwater in the North Area Basin and facilitate implementation of an appropriate conjunctive use program
- coordinate efforts to devise and implement strategies to safeguard groundwater quality
- work collaboratively with other entities, to promote coordination of policies and activities throughout the region  
(Rule 200.1 §1.01(b).)

# Authority of SGA

any and all powers commonly held by the parties  
hereto necessary or appropriate to regulate  
groundwater within the boundaries of the Authority

(Rule 200.1 §3.07(a).)

# Express Limitations of SGA Authority

- SGA shall be prohibited from funding any capital construction projects (Rule 200.1 §3.08(b).)
- SGA shall be prohibited from restricting or otherwise limiting the extraction of groundwater within the boundaries of SGA except by means of economic incentives and disincentives (Rule 200.1 §3.08(a).)

# Unique Provisions of SGA Authority

- SGA may regulate groundwater for purposes of water quality (Rules 200.1 §1.01(b)(3), 200.1 §3.07(a)(1))
- SGA has well permitting authority (Rule 200.1 §3.08(b)(8))

# SGA Authority Pursuant to SGMA

- authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) to “perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this part” (Water Code §10725.2(a))
- authorizes the exercise of any of the statutory powers provided by SGMA **in addition to**, and not as a limitation on, any existing authority (Water Code §10725(a))

## SGMA enacted to:

- provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins
- enhance local management of groundwater
- establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management
- provide the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater
- avoid or minimize subsidence
- improve data collection and understanding about groundwater
- increase groundwater storage and remove impediments to recharge
- manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental
- provide a more efficient and cost-effective groundwater adjudication process (Water Code §10720.1.)



# Similarities

- General Powers
  - SGA
    - **any and all powers necessary or appropriate to regulate groundwater** within the boundaries of the Authority (Rule 200.1 §3.07(a))
  - SGMA
    - **any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this part** (Water Code §10725.2(a))

# Differences

- Powers
  - SGA
    - SGA shall be **prohibited from restricting or otherwise limiting the extraction of groundwater** within the boundaries of SGA except by means of economic incentives and disincentives (Rule 200.1 §3.08(a).)
  - SGMA
    - Control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting, or suspending extractions from individual groundwater wells or extractions from groundwater wells in the aggregate, construction of new groundwater wells, enlargement of existing groundwater wells, or reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells, or otherwise establishing groundwater extraction allocations. (WC 10726.4(a)(2).)