SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Agenda Item 4: SGA Staffing Plan Discussion
SGA formed to implement the Water Forum Groundwater Management Element. Joint Powers Agreement sites:

• maintain the long-term sustainable yield of the North Area Basin
• ...facilitate implementation of an appropriate conjunctive use program by water purveyors
• ...devise and implement strategies to safeguard groundwater quality
• work collaboratively with other entities...to promote coordination of policies and activities throughout the region
SGA is staffed through agreement with Regional Water Authority (RWA)

- 2.3 permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) staff for SGA since 2003
- Used a 0.5 FTE Retired Annuitant in 2013 and 2014
- Used another 0.5 FTE Retired Annuitant in 2020 and 2021

- FY20/21 planned expenses ($1.3M)
  - $603K staffing (includes funding for part-time Retired Annuitant)
  - $73K office
  - $114K admin consulting
  - $60K technical consulting
  - $470K Groundwater Sustainability Plan development consulting
SGA has maintained a progressive groundwater management program

- Groundwater Management Plan
- Basin Management Reports
- Data Collection
  - Biennial until 2009, requested all water quality and monthly pumping
  - Since 2015, only water quality where have exceedances and monthly pumping
  - Database only updated through 2006
  - Currently maintain data in spreadsheets
SGA has maintained a progressive groundwater management program

• Monitoring
  • Maintained monitoring wells since 2005
  • Became CASGEM entity in 2012

• Water Quantity
  • Completed Water Accounting Framework in 2010 and tracked since 2012

• Water Quality
  • Regional Contamination Issues Committee started in 2004
  • Regional vulnerability study (completed 2011)
  • PCE study (completed 2016)
Groundwater management is not without cost, but it has created financial benefits

• DWR grants have required that groundwater-related projects are subject to an approved groundwater management plan
  • Hard to pin down exact number, but grants likely in excess of $20 million
• Since 2012 DWR grants have required CASGEM compliance
• SGA direct grants in excess of $2 million
  • 2003 Data Management System
  • 2004 Monitoring Wells
  • 2005 Groundwater Model Update
  • 2007 Regional Groundwater Vulnerability Study
  • 2012 PCE Study
  • 2018 SGMA GSP Grant
Implementing SGMA (No Longer Voluntary)

After GSP adoption:

• Facilitate GSAs as plan manager

• Continued engagement with, and tracking of, “other beneficial users” of groundwater
  • Domestic, ag, commercial, small systems
  • Environment, surface water
  • New wells, deepening of existing wells

• Monitor and evaluate Management Objectives and Minimum Thresholds
  • Water levels
  • TDS and Nitrates analysis

• Other contamination issues
Implementing SGMA (continued)

After GSP adoption:

• Maintain a data management system
• Monitor and evaluate Management Objectives and Minimum Thresholds
• Annual report due April 1
  • Groundwater elevation data
  • Groundwater extraction data
  • Surface water used or available for groundwater recharge
  • Total water use
  • Change in groundwater storage
Implementing SGMA (continued)

After GSP adoption:

• Fill any identified or potential data gaps
  • Monitoring well spacing
  • Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and surface water depletion
• Implement projects and management actions
  • Conjunctive Use (Water Bank)
  • Water Accounting Framework
• Five-year updates to GSP
Current and Potential Staffing

**Current Staffing**
- 0.5 FTE Executive Director
- 0.5 FTE Finance and Administrative Services Manager
- 0.5 FTE Executive Assistant
- 0.2 FTE Project Research Assistant
- 0.1 FTE Regulatory/Legislative Manager
- 0.5 FTE Manager of Technical Services
- **0.5 FTE Retired Annuitant**
- 2.8 FTE Staff (1.5 Administrative Staff/1.3 Technical Staff)

**Potential Staffing**
- 0.5 FTE Executive Director
- 0.5 FTE Finance and Administrative Services Manager
- 0.5 FTE Executive Assistant
- 0.2 FTE Project Research Assistant
- 0.1 FTE Regulatory/Legislative Manager
- 0.5 FTE Manager of Technical Services
- **1.0 FTE Associate Project Manager**
- 3.3 FTE Staff (1.5 Administrative Staff/1.8 Technical Staff)
Reasoning for Permanent Staffing

• Existing plus additional workload under SGMA justifies the need
• Staff believes there is a full-time and permanent need for a full-time position. As a public agency, it is not appropriate to use a Temporary Retired Annuitant or a Consultant in this role
• Local knowledge and expertise results in more efficient and effective management of the SGA area into the future
Questions

Discussion