# SCV-GSA Authorities Regarding County Approvals for Groundwater Extraction Wells and Considerations to Incorporate Available Authorities under Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

SCV GSA Board Meeting
January 13, 2025
Item No. 4.3

# DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. SGMA and Creation of the SCV-GSA
2. Board Adoption of the GSP (January 2022)
3. DWR Approval of the GSP (January 2024)
4. Drought Executive Orders Created additional responsibilities for GSAs
   - SCV GSA prepared procedures to perform consistency findings for Executive Order N-3-23
   - September 2024 Executive Order N-3-24 terminated conditions of Executive Order N-3-23
   - SCV GSA no longer had authority under Ex O to review proposed extraction well permits
5. SGMA allows GSAs to have broad authorities.
6. Should your Board of Directors seek authority over well permits *a process to gain authorities is necessary.*



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# SGMA AND CREATION OF THE SCV-GSA (1/2)

- SGMA Created by State Legislature to address statewide concerns about aquifer overdraft, land subsidence, and to help assure long term sustainability of groundwater resources.
- SB 1168 and 1319
- AB 1739
- SGMA Became Effective January 1, 2015
  - GSPs for Basins Subject to Critical Conditions of Overdraft due to DWR January 2020
  - GSPs for High and Medium Priority Basins due to DWR January 2022

- DWR identified our local basin as high priority.
  - Use of imported water, and water quality concerns



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# SGMA AND CREATION OF THE SCV-GSA (2/2)

- Local Public Process
- SCV GSA Created May 24, 2017, via a Memorandum of Understanding
  - CLWA and Water Retailers
  - County Waterworks District No. 36
  - City of Santa Clarita
  - County of Los Angeles

  Recognition more formal governance would be needed.

- September 2018, a Joint Powers Agreement was completed
  - Reflected creation of SCV Water, Voting, Budget, Member Agency Contributions, Staffing, Administrative Services



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# BOARD ADOPTION OF THE GSP (JANUARY 2022) AND DWR APPROVAL (JANUARY 2024)

- Public process for GSP Development and Board Adoption included:
  - Many Workshops
  - Use of Stakeholder Advisory Committee

- GSP Adopted January 2022 and Submitted to DWR

- DWR approved the GSP in January 2024



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# DROUGHT EXECUTIVE ORDERS CREATED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GSAS

- Vast majority of GSAs adopted their GSPs by 2023, but the Governor determined more direct GSA action regarding approval of wells was needed.
  - SCV GSA prepared procedures to perform consistency findings for Executive Order N-3-23

- SCV GSA followed its procedures for several wells
  - One domestic well verified
  - One de-minimis public water supply well reviewed (Paint Ball Park) and conditions set
  - One public water supply well reviewed (Los Angeles County-Pitches Detention Center) and conditions set
  - One replacement well reviewed (Curtis Sand and Gravel)

# DROUGHT EXECUTIVE ORDERS CREATED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GSAS

- In 2024 however, key provisions of the Executive Order regarding GSA Authorities with well permits were terminated.
  - Executive Order N-3-24 terminated conditions of Executive Order N-3-23
  - SCV GSA no longer had authority under Ex O to review proposed extraction well permits
- The SCV GSA Board of Directors had questions about GSA authority regarding new wells or modifications to wells



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# SGMA ALLOWS GSAS TO HAVE BROAD AUTHORITY

- **Broad grant of authority:**
  - A GSA may exercise any of the powers described in SGMA if the GSA submits a GSP. (Does that mean the GSP must provide for exercise of the power?)
  - GSA may do any act necessary or proper to carry out SGMA's purposes
  - Rules and regulations

- **Regulation of groundwater extraction**
  - Set extraction allocations
  - Minimize well interference
  - Regulate construction of new wells
  - But: May not issue permits except as authorized by a county
  - May request the county to forward permit requests to GSA

- **Public processes for GSAs to incorporate authority**
  - Exact form of public processes not specified in SGMA



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# IF ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING WELL APPROVALS ARE SOUGHT, WE HAVE APPROACHES

**A Public Process to identify the need for GSA authorities and how such authorities would be used is recommended**

**(Preferred)-Cooperative agreement with County of Los Angeles and County of Ventura**

- Approach expected to be similar* with past approach used with Emergency Ordinance
- County Well Ordinance can be adopted setting GSA Authorities in County's well permit process.

**If a cooperative agreement is not reached with the County, or Counties**

- May adopt regulations
- GSA can amend its GSP to impose standards and procedures
- Document how actions promote the purposes of SGMA



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# Questions?

SCV
GSA