



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT?

In 2014, the State of California (State) enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to support the sustainable management of groundwater resources. SGMA requires the formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater basins and subbasins and to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to help ensure long-term groundwater sustainability. SGMA recognizes local oversight may lead to better outcomes by aligning groundwater management with regional goals, hydrogeologic conditions, and community needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) GSP sets minimum thresholds for each of the following sustainability indicators:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction in groundwater storage
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Depletion of interconnected surface water

DOES SGMA RESTRICT GROUNDWATER PUMPING?

SGMA allows the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to intervene if sustainability indicators drop below established minimum thresholds. In such cases, the SWRCB may impose pumping fees (currently \$300 per well and \$40 per acre-foot of groundwater pumped) on top of any existing GSA fees and may also set pumping limits. (See Table 1 for an example of SWRCB pumping fees for a 40-acre farm.) These State-imposed fees are expected to rise over time. The State uses all revenue from these fees to fund State intervention activities, not local projects that help slow the decline of groundwater resources. State intervention typically focuses on reducing groundwater demand to achieve sustainability.

COST OF STATE INTERVENTION FOR A 40-ACRE FARM

CROP TYPE	1 YEAR	5 YEARS
 ALMOND	40 acres x 3.8 af/ac x \$40/af + \$300 = \$6,380	\$31,900 (plus meter)
 TOMATO	40 acres x 2 af/ac x \$40/af + \$300 = \$3,500	\$17,500 (plus meter)
 SUNFLOWER	40 acres x 0.75 af/ac x \$40/af + \$300 = \$1,500	\$7,500 (plus meter)



YOLO SGMA GOVERNANCE

Local agencies with authority over groundwater formed 26 GSAs after passage of SGMA. These GSAs formed the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) in 2017, a joint powers agency responsible for developing and implementing the GSP on behalf of the 26 GSAs.

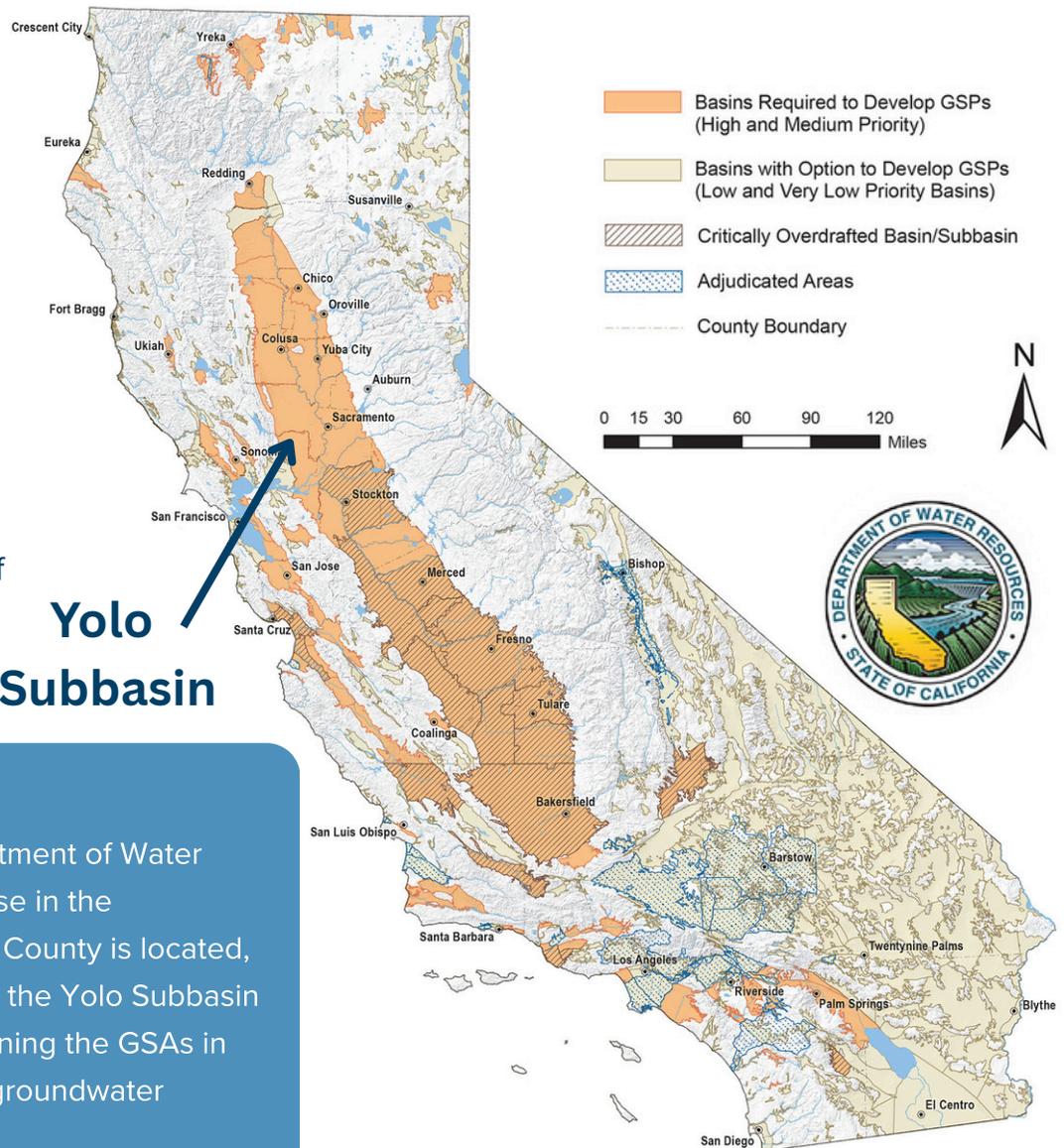
YOLO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER AGENCY ACTIONS



CALIFORNIA'S GROUNDWATER BASINS

These 94 basins, in combination with adjudicated areas which have existing governance and oversight in place, account for 98 percent of the pumping (20 million acre-feet), 83 percent of the population (25 million Californians), and 88 percent of all irrigated acres (6.7 million acres) within the state's groundwater basins.

Yolo Subbasin



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), 34% of water use in the Sacramento Valley, in which Yolo County is located, is groundwater. DWR categorized the Yolo Subbasin as “a high priority” subbasin, meaning the GSAs in the Yolo Subbasin must achieve groundwater sustainability by 2042.