Groundwater Caucus Workshop
Contemporary Groundwater Issues Council Update

April 27, 2012

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Groundwater Resources Association of California
Goal:
- Input to GRA’s programming (board, committees) to identify needs and opportunities to network, communicate, and address important groundwater issues
- Provide an annual venue for executive networking and brainstorming “outside-of-the-box” on critical groundwater issues
Council Composition

- 32 distinguished executives and leaders
- Range of disciplines and backgrounds
- Local, state, national & international levels
  - Regulatory agencies
  - Research and academic institutions
  - NGOs
  - Water agencies
  - Law and policy
  - Consultants
2011 Workshop – Results

6 Key Issues - Group Discussions

1. Data management
2. Conjunctive use/ IRWM
3. Water quality impacts, including in areas with disadvantaged communities
4. Managed aquifer recharge, including recycled water
5. Economics (value of water) and also regulatory consistency
6. Contaminant cleanup & water resources management
2011 Biennial GW Conference & GRA Annual Meeting

- Groundwater Recharge
  - Andrew Fisher (UC Santa Cruz)
- Groundwater Monitoring
  - Mary Scruggs (DWR)
- Groundwater Management
  - Rob Swartz (SGA/RWA); Tim Quinn (ACWA); Gina Bartlett (CCP)
- Nitrate in Groundwater
  - Pamela Creedon (RWQCB)
- Groundwater Remediation
  - Stewart Black (DTSC)
2012: Council Involvement

2012 Compounds of Emerging Concern
February 2012 GRA Symposium
- Andrew Eaton (MWH)
- Tom Johnson (ARCADIS)
- Bruce Macler (USEPA)

Salt and Nitrate in Groundwater: Finding Solutions for a Widespread Problem
June 13 and 14, 2012 - Fresno
GRA in collaboration with CV-SALTS Initiative and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Pamela Creedon (RWQCB)
- Karl Longley (RWQCB)
2012: GRA Committee Activities

Legislative Committee
• Continue pursuit of data improvement and transparency through legislation
  • SB 1146 Well log public availability 2011-2012
  • AB 591 Hydraulic Fracturing – protecting groundwater
  • GAMA-CASGEM web portal integration
• Annual Legislative Symposium
  • Raising the Bar on Groundwater Management
  • Improving data transparency
• Legislative Briefings and Meetings
  • GW101
  • Provide focused materials and information as needed
2012: GRA Committee Activities

Events Committee

• GRACasts (Series)
  • Wells - well info, abandoned wells, data transparency
  • Groundwater Recharge – mapping, characterization, cases
• Planning – Groundwater Data
• Fracking Symposium – July 24th Long Beach
• Managing Wells In California – Aug. 28-29 Sacto
2013: GRA Committee Activities

Events Committee

• *Early Planning - Groundwater Management Series*
  • Managed Aquifer Recharge
  • Collaboration as a Tool
  • Monitoring and Data Integration
  • Groundwater Management Plan Preparation and Program Implementation
2013: California Groundwater Management Book Update

- Update Content
- Web-Based
- Need Sponsors
Council March 28, 2012 Workshop: Key Topics for Group Discussions

- **Data**
  - Steve Phillips (USGS): Data Challenges
  - Debbie Davis (Gov. Office Planning & Research): Data Policy

- **Groundwater Management**
  - Development of BMPs
  - ACWA Framework Actions

- **Managed Aquifer Recharge**
  - Development of Statewide ASR Permit
  - DWR/ACWA Statewide Inventory on MAR

- **Water Quality Impacts**
  - Thomas Harter (UCD): SBX2_1 – Nitrate Study

- **Value of Water**
Council March 28, 2012 Workshop: Key Topics for Group Discussions

And Connections to California Water Plan Update 2013

- **Groundwater Caucus**
  - Tim Parker (Parker Groundwater), Caucus Co-Chair: Overview

- **Water Plan Global Vision Process**
  - Dan McManus (DWR): Overview
Data

- Learn from advanced data practices in other fields/states
- Interagency data-sharing agreements**
- Adopt USGS web data-type portal approach
- Create authority/funding for state agency data integration**
- Create State Interagency & Public Advisory Task Force**
  - Flexible framework for data collection & management standards
  - Data links and integration through web portal semantic translator
- Provide online (web) access to basic data
  - For example, well logs consistent well identifiers, (accurate) location data, local water use data)
- Means to link GW data to subsurface system details

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Data Priorities (Preliminary)

- Adopt USGS web data-type portal
- Create authority/funding for state agency data integration**
- Provide online (web) access to basin data
  - For example, well logs consistent well identifiers, (accurate) location data, local water use data
- Interagency data-sharing agreement
- Learn from advanced data practices in other fields/states

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Groundwater Management

- Continued groundwater communication & education efforts
- Adopt USGS web data-type portal approach
- BMPs & development of guidelines to establish new ones
- Added incentives for creating GMPs**
- Incentives to improve agency coordination on water resources**
  - GMPs, basin planning, IRWMPs, & land use
- Maintain Mandated Interagency Coordination of AB 599 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001
  - Increase coordination among agencies that collect GW information as a priority
- Improved coordination between state & local agencies
- Streamline permitting & regulatory agency involvement in groundwater project planning & project implementation - examples

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Groundwater Management Priorities (Preliminary)

- Incentives to improve agency coordination on water resources**
  - GMPs, basin planning, IRWMPs, & land use

- Continued groundwater communication & education efforts

- Streamline permitting & regulatory agency involvement in groundwater project planning & project implementation - examples

- Improved coordination between state & local agencies

** Consider Policy or Legislation
**Water Quality Impacts**

- Educate & provide consistent message to public on relative risks of different constituents
- Develop partnerships: water districts & regulatory agencies
- Inclusion of public health agencies in differentiating between detection & consequence
- Inclusion of cost-benefit analyses in assessment of treatment options
- Facility reoperation that links GW storage with WQ concerns
- Reframe how GW recharge occurs on agricultural landscapes
- Create multidisciplinary technical committees to complement monitoring programs
- Site-specific agriculture pilot projects to evaluate BMPs and proxy measures for contaminants/non-point source discharges
- Enhance methods & tools that link evaluation of Quality & Quantity
- Integrate large programs in silos that deal with overlapping issues
Water Quality Impacts Priorities (Preliminary)

- Partnerships: water districts & regulatory agencies
- Educate & provide consistent message to public on relative risks of different constituents
- Enhance methods & tools that link evaluation of Quality & Quantity
Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

- Adopt statewide groundwater recharge goals**
- Consistent message on MAR benefits
- Remove characterization of source water (drinking water) as “waste” & recharge as “land disposal”**
- Incentivize pilot/demonstration/full-scale groundwater recharge projects
- Remove restrictions/disincentives on use; create recharge incentives
- Clarify rights to storage space, credit for recharge, & adjacent landowner pumping**
- Integrate different agency mandates regarding MAR**
- Designate aquifer recharge as a beneficial use**
- Incentivize agency coordination around GWMPs, basin planning, IRWMPs, & land use**

**Consider Policy or Legislation
Managed Aquifer Recharge Priorities (Preliminary)

- Adopt statewide groundwater recharge goals**
- Remove restrictions/disincentives; create recharge incentives
- Designation of aquifer recharge as a beneficial use**
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- Incentives for agency coordination around GWMPs, basin planning, IRWMPs, & land use**

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Value of Water

• Consistent message to regulatory community and water purveyors about supply benefits of stormwater
• Education of the public about the true costs & value of water
• Recognition of the water-energy nexus**
• Alignment of state policies around establishing the value of water**
• Integrated resource management efforts that highlight the value of water
• Statewide designation of high value priority uses of water**

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Value of Water Priorities (Preliminary)

- Education of the public about the true costs & value of water
- Integrated resource management efforts that highlight the value of water
- State designation of high value priority uses of water**

** Consider Policy or Legislation
Thank You and Questions