

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014
As Amended Through 2016*

CALIFORNIA WATER CODE, DIVISION 6, PART 2.74

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 10720 This part shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.”
- 10720.1 In enacting this part, it is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the following:
- (a) To provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins.
 - (b) To enhance local management of groundwater consistent with rights to use or store groundwater and Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution. It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve the security of water rights in the state to the greatest extent possible consistent with the sustainable management of groundwater.
 - (c) To establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management.
 - (d) To provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater.
 - (e) To avoid or minimize subsidence.
 - (f) To improve data collection and understanding about groundwater.
 - (g) To increase groundwater storage and remove impediments to recharge.
 - (h) To manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies to the greatest extent feasible, while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary to ensure that local agencies manage groundwater in a sustainable manner.
 - (i) To provide a more efficient and cost-effective groundwater adjudication process that protects water rights, ensures due process, prevents unnecessary delay, and furthers the objectives of this part.¹
- 10720.3 (a) This part applies to all groundwater basins in the state.

* This document incorporates amendments adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor through 2016, which take effect on January 1, 2017. Changes from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as originally adopted in 2014 are shown in redline or the footnotes, while proposed changes that were not ultimately adopted by the Legislature are summarized in the footnotes.

¹ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 2, p. 3.

- (b) To the extent authorized under federal or tribal law, this part applies to an Indian tribe and to the federal government, including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Defense.
- (c) The federal government or any federally recognized Indian tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan under this part through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. A participating tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part, including eligibility for grants and technical assistance, if any exercise of regulatory authority, enforcement, or imposition and collection of fees is pursuant to the tribe's independent authority and not pursuant to authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency under this part.
- (d) In an adjudication of rights to the use of groundwater, and in the management of a groundwater basin or subbasin by a groundwater sustainability agency or by the board, federally reserved water rights to groundwater shall be respected in full. In case of conflict between federal and state law in that adjudication or management, federal law shall prevail. The voluntary or involuntary participation of a holder of rights in that adjudication or management shall not subject that holder to state law regarding other proceedings or matters not authorized by federal law. This subdivision is declaratory of existing law.

10720.5 (a) Groundwater management pursuant to this part shall be consistent with Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution. Nothing in this part modifies rights or priorities to use or store groundwater consistent with Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution, except that in basins designated medium- or high-priority basins by the department, no extraction of groundwater between January 1, 2015, and the date of adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to this part or the approval by the department of an alternative submitted pursuant to Section 10733.6,² whichever is sooner, may be used as evidence of, or to establish or defend against, any claim of prescription.

(b) Nothing in this part, or in any groundwater management plan adopted pursuant to this part, determines or alters surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law or any provision of law that determines or grants surface water rights.

(c) Water rights may be determined in an adjudication action pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 10 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.³

10720.7 (a) (1) By January 31, 2020, all basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the department that have been designated in Bulletin 118, as it⁴

² Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 2, p. 4.

³ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 3, p. 3.

⁴ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 3, p. 4.

may be updated or revised on or before January 1, 2017, as basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to this part.

(2) By January 31, 2022,⁵ all basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the department that are not subject to paragraph (1) shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to this part.

(b) The Legislature encourages and authorizes basins designated as low- and very low priority basins by the department to be managed under groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to this part. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) does not apply to a basin designated as a low- or very low priority basin.

10720.8

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (e), this part does not apply to the following adjudicated areas or a local agency that conforms to the requirements of an adjudication of water rights for one of the following adjudicated areas:⁶

- (1) Beaumont Basin.
- (2) Brite Basin.
- (3) Central Basin.
- (4) Chino Basin.
- (5) Cucamonga Basin.
- (6) Cummings Basin.
- (7) Goleta Basin.
- (8) Lytle Basin.
- (9) Main San Gabriel Basin.
- (10) Mojave Basin Area.
- (11) Puente Basin.
- (12) Raymond Basin.
- (13) Rialto-Colton Basin.
- (14) Riverside Basin.
- (15) San Bernardino Basin Area.
- (16) San Jacinto Basin.
- (17) Santa Margarita River Watershed.
- (18) Santa Maria Valley Basin.
- (19) Santa Paula Basin.
- (20) Scott River Stream System.
- (21) Seaside Basin.
- (22) Six Basins.
- (23) Tehachapi Basin.
- (24) Upper Los Angeles River Area.

⁵ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to January 31, 2023. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 2, p. 3.

⁶ Assembly Bill 938 (Rodriguez) (2015), as amended, would have allowed a watermaster or local agency administering an adjudicated basin to elect that the basin be subject to SGMA, following a court hearing process. Assembly Bill 938 (Rodriguez) (March 9, 2016), § 1, pp. 4-5.

- (25) Warren Valley Basin.
- (26) West Coast Basin.

- (b) The Antelope Valley basin at issue in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases (Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding Number 4408) shall be treated as an adjudicated basin pursuant to this section if the superior court issues a final judgment, order, or decree.
- (c) Any groundwater basin or portion of a groundwater basin in Inyo County managed pursuant to the terms of the stipulated judgment in City of Los Angeles v. Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, et al. (Inyo County Case No. 12908) shall be treated as an adjudicated area pursuant to this section.
- (d) The Los Osos Groundwater Basin at issue in Los Osos Community Service District v. Southern California Water Company [Golden State Water Company] et al. (San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Case No. CV 040126) shall be treated as an adjudicated basin pursuant to this section if the superior court issues a final judgment, order, or decree.
- (e) If an adjudication action has determined the rights to extract groundwater for only a portion of a basin, subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (d) apply only within the area for which the adjudication action has determined those rights.
- (f) The watermaster or a local agency within a basin identified in subdivision (a) shall do all of the following:
 - (1) By April 1, 2016, submit to the department a copy of a governing final judgment, or other judicial order or decree, and any amendments entered before April 1, 2016.
 - (2) Within 90 days of entry by a court, submit to the department a copy of any amendment made and entered by the court to the governing final judgment or other judicial order or decree on or after April 1, 2016.
 - (3) By April 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, submit to the department a report containing the following information to the extent available for the portion of the basin subject to the adjudication:
 - (A) Groundwater elevation data unless otherwise submitted pursuant to Section 10932.
 - (B) Annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year.
 - (C) Surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use.
 - (D) Total water use.
 - (E) Change in groundwater storage.

(F) The annual report submitted to the court.

10720.9 All relevant state agencies, including, but not limited to, the board, the regional water quality control boards, the department, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall consider the policies of this part, and any groundwater sustainability plans adopted pursuant to this part, when revising or adopting policies, regulations, or criteria, or when issuing orders or determinations, where pertinent.

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

10721 Unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions govern the construction of this part:

- (a) “Adjudication action” means an action filed in the superior or federal district court to determine the rights to extract groundwater from a basin or store water within a basin, including, but not limited to, actions to quiet title respecting rights to extract or store groundwater or an action brought to impose a physical solution on a basin.
- (b) “Basin” means a groundwater basin or subbasin identified and defined in Bulletin 118 or as modified pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10722).
- (c) “Bulletin 118” means the department’s report entitled “California’s Groundwater: Bulletin 118” updated in 2003, as it may be subsequently updated or revised in accordance with Section 12924.
- (d) “Coordination agreement” means a legal agreement adopted between two or more groundwater sustainability agencies that provides the basis for coordinating multiple agencies or groundwater sustainability plans within a basin pursuant to this part.
- (e) “De minimis extractor” means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year.
- (f) “Governing body” means the legislative body of a groundwater sustainability agency.
- (g) “Groundwater” means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels.
- (h) “Groundwater extraction facility” means a device or method for extracting groundwater from within a basin.
- (i) “Groundwater recharge” means the augmentation of groundwater, by natural or artificial means.
- (j) “Groundwater sustainability agency” means one or more local agencies that implement the provisions of this part. For purposes of imposing fees pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 10730) or taking action to enforce a

groundwater sustainability plan, “groundwater sustainability agency” also means each local agency comprising the groundwater sustainability agency if the plan authorizes separate agency action.

- (k) “Groundwater sustainability plan” or “plan” means a plan of a groundwater sustainability agency proposed or adopted pursuant to this part.
- (l) “Groundwater sustainability program” means a coordinated and ongoing activity undertaken to benefit a basin, pursuant to a groundwater sustainability plan.
- (m) “In-lieu use” means the use of surface water by persons that could otherwise extract groundwater in order to leave groundwater in the basin.⁷
- (n) “Local agency” means a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.
- (o) “Operator” means a person operating a groundwater extraction facility. The owner of a groundwater extraction facility shall be conclusively presumed to be the operator unless a satisfactory showing is made to the governing body of the groundwater sustainability agency that the groundwater extraction facility actually is operated by some other person.
- (p) “Owner” means a person owning a groundwater extraction facility or an interest in a groundwater extraction facility other than a lien to secure the payment of a debt or other obligation.
- (q) “Personal information” has the same meaning as defined in Section 1798.3 of the Civil Code.
- (r) “Planning and implementation horizon” means a 50-year time period over which a groundwater sustainability agency determines that plans and measures will be implemented in a basin to ensure that the basin is operated within its sustainable yield.
- (s) “Public water system” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (t) “Recharge area” means the area that supplies water to an aquifer in a groundwater basin.
- (u) “Sustainability goal” means the existence and implementation of one or more groundwater sustainability plans that achieve sustainable groundwater management by identifying and causing the implementation of measures targeted to ensure that the applicable basin is operated within its sustainable yield.

⁷ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 2, p. 4. Addition of subdivision (m) caused the relettering of subsequent subdivisions.

- (v) “Sustainable groundwater management” means the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.
- (w) “Sustainable yield” means the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.
- (x) “Undesirable result” means one or more of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin:
 - (1) Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if extractions and recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.
 - (2) Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage.
 - (3) Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion.
 - (4) Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies.
 - (5) Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses.
 - (6) Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.⁸
- (y) “Water budget” means an accounting of the total groundwater and surface water entering and leaving a basin including the changes in the amount of water stored.
- (z) “Watermaster” means a watermaster appointed by a court or pursuant to other law.
- (aa) “Water year” means the period from October 1 through the following September 30, inclusive.

⁸ Assembly Bill 1242 (Gray) (2015), as proposed, would have required the State Water Resources Control Board to consider any groundwater sustainability plan or alternative adopted or approved pursuant to the SGMA, when adopting or approving a water quality control for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including any data regarding the impacts of groundwater use on surface waters. Assembly Bill 1242 (Gray) (September 1, 2015), § 3, pp. 5-6.

- (ab) “Wellhead protection area” means the surface and subsurface area surrounding a water well or well field that supplies a public water system through which contaminants are reasonably likely to migrate toward the water well or well field.

CHAPTER 3. BASIN BOUNDARIES

10722 Unless other basin boundaries are established pursuant to this chapter, a basin’s boundaries shall be as identified in Bulletin 118.

10722.2 (a) A local agency or an entity directed by the court in an adjudication action to file the request⁹ may request that the department revise the boundaries of a basin, including the establishment of new subbasins. A local agency’s request shall be supported by the following information:

- (1) Information demonstrating that the proposed adjusted basin can be the subject of sustainable groundwater management.
- (2) Technical information regarding the boundaries of, and conditions in, the proposed adjusted basin.
- (3) Information demonstrating that the entity proposing the basin boundary adjustment consulted with interested local agencies and public water systems in the affected basins before filing the proposal with the department.
- (4) Other information the department deems necessary to justify revision of the basin’s boundary.

(b) By January 1, 2016, the department shall adopt regulations regarding the information required to comply with subdivision (a), including the methodology and criteria to be used to evaluate the proposed revision. The department shall adopt the regulations, including any amendments thereto, authorized by this section as emergency regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The adoption of these regulations is an emergency and shall be considered by the Office of Administrative Law as necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, or general welfare. Notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act, emergency regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this section shall not be subject to review by the Office of Administrative Law and shall remain in effect until revised by the department.

(c) Methodology and criteria established pursuant to subdivision (b) shall address all of the following:

- (1) How to assess the likelihood that the proposed basin can be sustainably managed.

⁹ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 4, p. 3.

(2) How to assess whether the proposed basin would limit the sustainable management of adjacent basins.

(3) How to assess whether there is a history of sustainable management of groundwater levels in the proposed basin.

(d) Prior to adopting ~~and finalizing~~¹⁰ the regulations pursuant to subdivision (b),¹¹ the department shall conduct three public meetings to consider public comments. The department shall publish the draft regulations on its Internet Web site at least 30 days before the public meetings. One meeting shall be conducted at a location in northern California, one meeting shall be conducted at a location in the central valley of California, and one meeting shall be conducted at a location in southern California.

(e) The department shall provide a copy of its draft revision of a basin's boundaries to the California Water Commission. The California Water Commission shall hear and comment on the draft revision within 60 days after the department provides the draft revision to the commission.

10722.4 (a) Pursuant to Section 10933, for the purposes of this part the department shall categorize each basin as one of the following priorities:

(1) High priority.

(2) Medium priority.

(3) Low priority.

(4) Very low priority.

(b) The initial priority for each basin shall be established by the department pursuant to Section 10933 no later than January 31, 2015.

(c) Any time the department updates Bulletin 118 boundaries pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 12924, the department shall reassess the prioritization pursuant to Section 10933.

(d) If the department changes priorities pursuant to Section 10933 to elevate a basin from a low- or very low priority basin to a medium- or high-priority basin after January 31, 2015, the agency formation and planning deadlines of this part shall be extended as follows:

(1) A local agency, or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin, shall have two years from the date of reprioritization to either establish a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 10723) or two years to satisfy the requirements of Section 10733.6.

¹⁰ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 4, p. 5.

¹¹ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 4, p. 5.

(2) A groundwater sustainability agency shall have five years from the date of reprioritization to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7, except that if the reprioritization occurs before January 31, 2017, a groundwater sustainability agency subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7 shall have until January 31, 2022.¹²

CHAPTER 4. ESTABLISHING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES¹³

- 10723 (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may decide to become¹⁴ a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.
- (b) Before deciding to become¹⁵ a groundwater sustainability agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the basin.
- (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the following agencies created by statute to manage groundwater shall be deemed the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory boundaries with powers to comply with this part:
- (A) Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7.
 - (B) Alameda County Water District.
 - (C) Desert Water Agency.
 - (D) Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency.
 - (E) Honey Lake Valley Groundwater Management District.
 - (F) Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency¹⁶
 - (G) Long Valley Groundwater Management District.
 - (H) Mendocino City Community Services District.
 - (I) Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District.
 - (J) Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.
 - (K) North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency¹⁷

¹² Amended by Assembly Bill 939 (Salas), Stats.2015, Ch. 667, § 1.5, pp. 2-3, and Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 5, pp. 5-6. Subdivision (d) formerly provided:

Any time the department changes the basin priorities pursuant to Section 10933, if a basin is elevated to a medium- or high-priority basin after January 31, 2015, a local agency shall have two years from the date of reprioritization to either establish a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 10723) and five years from the date of reprioritization to adopt a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 10727) or two years to satisfy the requirements of Section 10733.6.

¹³ Senate Bill 487 (Nielsen) (2015), as proposed, would have added a new Section 10724.1 to Chapter 4, which would have clarified that the formation of a groundwater sustainability agency is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Senate Bill 487 (Nielsen) (February 26, 2015), § 1, p. 2.

¹⁴ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing “elect to be.”

¹⁵ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing “electing to be.”

¹⁶ Added by Senate Bill 37 (Vidak), Stats.2016, Ch. 391, § 2.5, p. 9.

¹⁷ Added by Senate Bill 564 (Cannella), Stats.2016, Ch. 392, § 2.5, p. 10.

- (L) Ojai Groundwater Management Agency.
- (M) Orange County Water District.
- (N) Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.
- (O) Santa Clara Valley Water District.
- (P) Sierra Valley Groundwater Management¹⁸ District.
- (Q) Willow Creek Groundwater Management Agency.

(2) An agency identified in this subdivision may ~~elect to~~¹⁹ opt out of being the exclusive groundwater management agency within its statutory boundaries by sending a notice to the department, which shall be posted on the department's Internet Web site within 15 days of receipt.²⁰ If an agency identified in paragraph (1) opts²¹ out of being the exclusive groundwater management agency, any other local agency or combination of local agencies operating within the statutory boundaries of the agency that has opted²² out may notify the department pursuant to Section 10723.8²³ of its decision²⁴ to be the groundwater sustainability agency.

(3) A local agency listed in paragraph (1) may comply with this part by meeting the requirements of Section 10733.6 or opting²⁵ to become a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to this section. A local agency with authority to implement a basin-specific management plan pursuant to its principal act shall not exercise any authorities granted in this part in a manner inconsistent with any prohibitions or limitations in its principal act unless the governing board of the local agency makes a finding that the agency is unable to sustainably manage the basin without the prohibited authority.

(d) The decision of a local agency or combination of agencies to become a groundwater sustainability agency shall take effect as provided in Section 10723.8.²⁶

10723.2 The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

¹⁸ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "Water."

¹⁹ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6.

²⁰ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "pursuant to Section 10733.3."

²¹ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "elects to opt."

²² Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "elected to opt."

²³ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "subdivision (d)."

²⁴ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "election."

²⁵ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 6, replacing "electing."

²⁶ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 6, p. 7. Subdivision (d) formerly provided:

A local agency or combination of local agencies that elects to be the groundwater sustainability agency shall submit a notice of intent to the department, which shall be posted pursuant to Section 10733.3. The notice of intent shall include a description of the proposed boundaries of the basin or portion of the basin that the local agency or combination of local agencies intends to manage pursuant to this part.

- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
 - (1) Agricultural users.
 - (2) Domestic well owners.
- (b) Municipal well operators.
- (c) Public water systems.
- (d) Local land use planning agencies.
- (e) Environmental users of groundwater.
- (f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.
- (g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.
- (h) California Native American tribes.
- (i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.
- (j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

10723.4 The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. Any person may request, in writing, to be placed on the list of interested persons.

10723.6 (a) A combination of local agencies may form a groundwater sustainability agency by using any of the following methods:

- (1) A joint powers agreement.
- (2) A memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement.

(b) A water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company²⁷ may participate in a groundwater sustainability agency through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement. The authority provided by this subdivision does not confer any additional powers to a nongovernmental entity.²⁸

²⁷ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 7, p. 7.

²⁸ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 7, p. 7, replacing “if the local agencies approve.”

- 10723.8. (a) Within 30 days of deciding to become or form²⁹ a groundwater sustainability agency, the local agency or combination of local agencies³⁰ shall inform the department of its decision³¹ and its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management. The notification shall include the following information, as applicable:
- (1) The service area boundaries, the boundaries of the basin or portion of³² the basin the agency intends to manage pursuant to this part,³³ and the other ~~groundwater sustainability~~³⁴ agencies managing or proposing to manage³⁵ within the basin.
 - (2) A copy of the resolution forming the new agency.
 - (3) A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the local agency.
 - (4) A list of interested parties developed pursuant to Section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the groundwater sustainability agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.
- (b) The department shall post all complete notices received under this section on its Internet Web site within 15 days of receipt.³⁶
- (c) The decision to become a groundwater sustainability agency shall take effect 90 days after the department posts notice under subdivision (b) if no other local agency submits a notification under subdivision (a) of its intent to undertake groundwater management in all or a portion of the same area. If another notification is filed within the 90-day period, the decision shall not take effect unless the other notification is withdrawn or modified to eliminate any overlap in the areas proposed to be managed. The local agencies shall seek to reach agreement to allow prompt designation of a groundwater sustainability agency. If agreement is reached involving a material change from the information in the

²⁹ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7, replacing "electing to be or forming."

³⁰ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7, replacing "groundwater sustainability agency."

³¹ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7, replacing "election or formation."

³² Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7.

³³ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7, replacing "is managing."

³⁴ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7.

³⁵ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7, replacing "operating."

³⁶ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 7. Subdivision (b) formerly provided:

Except as provided in subdivision (d), 90 days following the posting of the notice pursuant to this section, the groundwater sustainability agency shall be presumed the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency within the area of the basin the agency is managing as described in the notice, provided that no other notice was submitted.

posted notice, a new notification shall be submitted under subdivision (a) and the department shall post notice under subdivision (b).³⁷

(d) Except as provided in subdivisions (e) and (f), after the decision to be a groundwater sustainability agency takes effect, the groundwater sustainability agency shall be presumed to be the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency within the area of the basin within the service area of the local agency that the local agency is managing as described in the notice.³⁸

(e) A groundwater sustainability agency may withdraw from managing a basin by notifying the department in writing of its intent to withdraw.

(f) This section does not preclude the board from taking an action pursuant to Section 10735.6.

~~(e) The department shall post all notices received under this section in accordance with Section 10733.3.~~³⁹

10724

(a) In the event that there is an area within a high- or medium-priority⁴⁰ basin that is not within the management area of a groundwater sustainability agency, the county within which that unmanaged area lies will be presumed to be the groundwater sustainability agency for that area.

(b) A county described in subdivision (a) shall provide notification to the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 unless the county notifies the department that it will not be the groundwater sustainability agency for the area. Extractions of groundwater made on or after July 1, 2017,⁴¹ in that area shall be subject to reporting in accordance with Part 5.2 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2 if the county does either of the following:

(1) Notifies the department that it will not be the groundwater sustainability agency for an area.

(2) Fails to provide notification to the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 for an area on or before June 30, 2017.

CHAPTER 5. POWERS AND AUTHORITIES

10725

(a) A groundwater sustainability agency may exercise any of the powers described in this chapter in implementing this part, in addition to, and not as a limitation on, any existing authority, if the groundwater sustainability agency adopts and

³⁷ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, pp. 7-8. Addition of this new subdivision (c) caused the relettering of subsequent subdivisions.

³⁸ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 8. Addition of this new subdivision (d) caused the relettering of subsequent subdivisions.

³⁹ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 8, p. 8.

⁴⁰ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 9, p. 8.

⁴¹ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to July 1, 2018. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 3, p. 3.

submits to the department a groundwater sustainability plan or prescribed alternative documentation in accordance with Section 10733.6.

(b) A groundwater sustainability agency has and may use the powers in this chapter to provide the maximum degree of local control and flexibility consistent with the sustainability goals of this part.

10725.2 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency may perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this part.

(b) A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of this part, in compliance with any procedural requirements applicable to the adoption of a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution by the groundwater sustainability agency.

(c) In addition to any other applicable procedural requirements, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide notice of the proposed adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan on its Internet Web site and provide for electronic notice to any person who requests electronic notification.

10725.4 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency may conduct an investigation for the purposes of this part, including, but not limited to, investigations for the following:

(1) To determine the need for groundwater management.

(2) To prepare and adopt a groundwater sustainability plan and implementing rules and regulations.

(3) To propose and update fees.

(4) To monitor compliance and enforcement.

(b) An investigation may include surface waters and surface water rights as well as groundwater and groundwater rights.

(c) In connection with an investigation, a groundwater sustainability agency may inspect the property or facilities of a person or entity to ascertain whether the purposes of this part are being met and compliance with this part. The local agency may conduct an inspection pursuant to this section upon obtaining any necessary consent or obtaining an inspection warrant pursuant to the procedure set forth in Title 13 (commencing with Section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

10725.6 A groundwater sustainability agency may require registration of a groundwater extraction facility within the management area of the groundwater sustainability agency.

10725.8 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency may require through its groundwater sustainability plan that the use of every groundwater extraction facility within

the management area of the groundwater sustainability agency be measured by a water-measuring device satisfactory to the groundwater sustainability agency.

- (b) All costs associated with the purchase and installation of the water-measuring device shall be borne by the owner or operator of each groundwater extraction facility. The water measuring devices shall be installed by the groundwater sustainability agency or, at the groundwater sustainability agency's option, by the owner or operator of the groundwater extraction facility. Water-measuring devices shall be calibrated on a reasonable schedule as may be determined by the groundwater sustainability agency.
- (c) A groundwater sustainability agency may require, through its groundwater sustainability plan, that the owner or operator of a groundwater extraction facility within the groundwater sustainability agency file an annual statement with the groundwater sustainability agency setting forth the total extraction in acre-feet of groundwater from the facility during the previous water year.
- (d) In addition to the measurement of groundwater extractions pursuant to subdivision (a), a groundwater sustainability agency may use any other reasonable method to determine groundwater extraction.
- (e) This section does not apply to de minimis extractors.⁴²

10726 An entity within the area of a groundwater sustainability plan shall report the diversion of surface water to underground storage to the groundwater sustainability agency for the relevant portion of the basin.

10726.2 A groundwater sustainability agency may do the following:

- (a) Acquire by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of this part.
- (b) Appropriate and acquire surface water or groundwater and surface water or groundwater rights, import surface water or groundwater into the agency, and conserve and store within or outside the agency that water for any purpose necessary or proper to carry out the provisions of this part, including, but not limited to, the spreading, storing, retaining, or percolating into the soil of the waters for subsequent use or in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section 10727.2. As part of this authority, the agency shall not alter another person's or agency's existing groundwater conjunctive use or storage program except upon a finding that the conjunctive use or storage program interferes with implementation of the agency's groundwater sustainability plan.

⁴² Similar powers were awarded to Semitropic Water Storage District to allow that district to begin implementation of the Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Protection Project, in Assembly Bill 453 (Salas), Stats.2016, Ch. 439, § 1, pp. 1-3, codified at Water Code §§ 44200-44208.

- (c) Provide for a program of voluntary fallowing of agricultural lands or validate an existing program.
- (d) Perform any acts necessary or proper to enable the agency to purchase, transfer, deliver, or exchange water or water rights of any type with any person that may be necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of this part, including, but not limited to, providing surface water in exchange for a groundwater extractor's agreement to reduce or cease groundwater extractions. The agency shall not deliver retail water supplies within the service area of a public water system without either the consent of that system or authority under the agency's existing authorities.
- (e) Transport, reclaim, purify, desalinate, treat, or otherwise manage and control polluted water, wastewater, or other waters for subsequent use in a manner that is necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this part.
- (f) Commence, maintain, intervene in, defend, compromise, and assume the cost and expenses of any and all actions and proceedings.

10726.4

- (a) A groundwater sustainability agency shall have the following additional authority and may regulate groundwater extraction using that authority:
 - (1) To impose spacing requirements on new groundwater well construction to minimize well interference and impose reasonable operating regulations on existing groundwater wells to minimize well interference, including requiring extractors to operate on a rotation basis.
 - (2) To 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,⁴³ enlargement of existing groundwater wells, or reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells, or otherwise establishing groundwater extraction allocations. Those actions shall be consistent with the applicable elements of the city or county general plan, unless there is insufficient sustainable yield in the basin to serve a land use designated in the city or county general plan. A limitation on extractions by a groundwater sustainability agency shall not be construed to be a final determination of rights to extract groundwater from the basin or any portion of the basin.
 - (3) To authorize temporary and permanent transfers of groundwater extraction allocations within the agency's boundaries, if the total quantity of groundwater extracted in any water year is consistent with the provisions of

⁴³ Senate Bill 1317 (Wolk) (2016) proposed to require cities and counties to establish a program for the issuance of permits for new groundwater wells in any high- or medium priority basin. The law would have allowed the city or county to issue a well permit only if the applicant could demonstrate, based on substantial evidence, that extraction of groundwater from the well would not contribute to or create an undesirable result, as defined in Section 10721(x). In addition, a city or county would be prohibited from issuing a permit in a probationary basin, or a basin designated as subject to critical conditions of overdraft. Senate Bill 1317 (Wolk) (Amended June 20, 2016), § 1, pp. 4-5.

the groundwater sustainability plan. The transfer is subject to applicable city and county ordinances.

(4) To establish accounting rules to allow unused groundwater extraction allocations issued by the agency to be carried over from one year to another and voluntarily transferred, if the total quantity of groundwater extracted in any five-year period is consistent with the provisions of the groundwater sustainability plan.

(b) This section does not authorize a groundwater sustainability agency to issue permits for the construction, modification, or abandonment of groundwater wells, except as authorized by a county with authority to issue those permits. A groundwater sustainability agency may request of the county, and the county shall consider, that the county forward permit requests for the construction of new groundwater wells, the enlarging of existing groundwater wells, and the reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the groundwater sustainability agency before permit approval.

10726.5 In addition to any other authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency by this part or other law, a groundwater sustainability agency may enter into written agreements and funding with a private party to assist in, or facilitate the implementation of, a groundwater sustainability plan or any elements of the plan.⁴⁴

10726.6 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency that adopts a groundwater sustainability plan may file an action to determine the validity of the plan pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 860) of Title 10 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure no sooner than 180 days following the adoption of the plan.

(b) Subject to Sections 394 and 397 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the venue for an action pursuant to this section shall be the county in which the principal office of the groundwater management agency is located.

(c) Any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the ordinance or resolution imposing a new, or increasing an existing, fee imposed pursuant to Section 10730, 10730.2, or 10730.4 shall be commenced within 180 days following the adoption of the ordinance or resolution.

(d) Any person may pay a fee imposed pursuant to Section 10730, 10730.2, or 10730.4 under protest and bring an action against the governing body in the superior court to recover any money that the governing body refuses to refund. Payments made and actions brought under this section shall be made and brought in the manner provided for the payment of taxes under protest and actions for refund of that payment in Article 2 (commencing with Section 5140) of Chapter 5 of Part 9 of Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as applicable.

⁴⁴ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 3, p. 5.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this section, actions by a groundwater sustainability agency are subject to judicial review pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

10726.8

(a) This part is in addition to, and not a limitation on, the authority granted to a local agency under any other law. The local agency may use the local agency's authority under any other law to apply and enforce any requirements of this part, including, but not limited to, the collection of fees.

(b) Nothing in this part shall be construed as authorizing a local agency to make a binding determination of the water rights of any person or entity, or to impose fees or regulatory requirements on activities outside the boundaries of the local agency.⁴⁵

(c) Nothing in this part is a limitation on the authority of the board, the department, or the State Department of Public Health.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 6103 of the Government Code, a state or local agency that extracts groundwater shall be subject to a fee imposed under this part to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (d), this part does not authorize a local agency to impose any requirement on the state or any agency, department, or officer of the state. State agencies and departments shall work cooperatively with a local agency on a voluntary basis.

(f) Nothing in this chapter or a groundwater sustainability plan shall be interpreted as superseding the land use authority of cities and counties, including the city or county general plan, within the overlying basin.

10726.9

A groundwater sustainability plan shall take into account the most recent planning assumptions stated in local general plans of jurisdictions overlying the basin.

CHAPTER 6. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

10727

(a) A groundwater sustainability plan shall be developed and implemented for each medium- or high-priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency to meet the sustainability goal established pursuant to this part. The groundwater sustainability plan may incorporate, extend, or be based on a plan adopted pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750).

(b) A groundwater sustainability plan may be any of the following:

(1) A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by one groundwater sustainability agency.

(2) A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by multiple groundwater sustainability agencies.

⁴⁵ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 10, p. 8.

- (3) Subject to Section 10727.6, multiple plans implemented by multiple groundwater sustainability agencies and coordinated pursuant to a single coordination agreement that covers the entire basin.

10727.2 A groundwater sustainability plan shall include all of the following:

- (a) A description of the physical setting and characteristics of the aquifer system underlying the basin that includes the following:
 - (1) Historical data, to the extent available.
 - (2) Groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence, and groundwater-surface water interaction.
 - (3) A general discussion of historical and projected water demands and supplies.
 - (4) A map that details the area of the basin and the boundaries of the groundwater sustainability agencies that overlie the basin that have or are developing groundwater sustainability plans.
 - (5) A map identifying existing and potential recharge areas for the basin. The map or maps shall identify the existing recharge areas that substantially contribute to the replenishment of the groundwater basin. The map or maps shall be provided to the appropriate local planning agencies after adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan.
- (b)
 - (1) Measurable objectives, as well as interim milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of the implementation of the plan.
 - (2) A description of how the plan helps meet each objective and how each objective is intended to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin for long-term beneficial uses of groundwater.
 - (3)
 - (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), at the request of the groundwater sustainability agency, the department may grant an extension of up to 5 years beyond the 20-year sustainability timeframe upon a showing of good cause. The department may grant a second extension of up to five years upon a showing of good cause if the groundwater sustainability agency has begun implementation of the work plan described in clause (iii) of subparagraph (B).
 - (B) The department may grant an extension pursuant to this paragraph if the groundwater sustainability agency does all of the following:
 - (i) Demonstrates a need for an extension.
 - (ii) Has made progress toward meeting the sustainability goal as demonstrated by its progress at achieving the milestones identified in its groundwater sustainability plan.

- (iii) Adopts a feasible work plan for meeting the sustainability goal during the extension period.
- (4) The plan may, but is not required to, address undesirable results that occurred before, and have not been corrected by, January 1, 2015. Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, a groundwater sustainability agency has discretion as to whether to set measurable objectives and the timeframes for achieving any objectives for undesirable results that occurred before, and have not been corrected by, January 1, 2015.
- (c) A planning and implementation horizon.
- (d) Components relating to the following, as applicable to the basin:
 - (1) The monitoring and management of groundwater levels within the basin.
 - (2) The monitoring and management of groundwater quality, groundwater quality degradation, inelastic land surface subsidence, and changes in surface flow and surface water quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin.
 - (3) Mitigation of overdraft.
 - (4) How recharge areas identified in the plan substantially contribute to the replenishment of the basin.
 - (5) A description of surface water supply used or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use.
- (e) A summary of the type of monitoring sites, type of measurements, and the frequency of monitoring for each location monitoring groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence, streamflow, precipitation, evaporation, and tidal influence. The plan shall include a summary of monitoring information such as well depth, screened intervals, and aquifer zones monitored, and a summary of the type of well relied on for the information, including public, irrigation, domestic, industrial, and monitoring wells.
- (f) Monitoring protocols that are designed to detect changes in groundwater levels, groundwater quality, inelastic surface subsidence for basins for which subsidence has been identified as a potential problem, and flow and quality of surface water that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin. The monitoring protocols shall be designed to generate information that promotes efficient and effective groundwater management.
- (g) A description of the consideration given to the applicable county and city general plans and a description of the various adopted water resources-related plans and programs within the basin and an assessment of how the groundwater sustainability plan may affect those plans.

10727.4 In addition to the requirements of Section 10727.2, a groundwater sustainability plan shall include, where appropriate and in collaboration with the appropriate local agencies, all of the following:

- (a) Control of saline water intrusion.
- (b) Wellhead protection areas and recharge areas.
- (c) Migration of contaminated groundwater.
- (d) A well abandonment and well destruction program.
- (e) Replenishment of groundwater extractions.
- (f) Activities implementing, opportunities for, and removing impediments to, conjunctive use or underground storage.
- (g) Well construction policies.
- (h) Measures addressing groundwater contamination cleanup, groundwater⁴⁶ recharge, in-lieu use,⁴⁷ diversions to storage, conservation, water recycling, conveyance, and extraction projects.
- (i) Efficient water management practices, as defined in Section 10902, for the delivery of water and water conservation methods to improve the efficiency of water use.
- (j) Efforts to develop relationships with state and federal regulatory agencies.
- (k) Processes to review land use plans and efforts to coordinate with land use planning agencies to assess activities that potentially create risks to groundwater quality or quantity.
- (l) Impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems.

10727.6 Groundwater sustainability agencies intending to develop and implement multiple groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 10727 shall coordinate with other agencies preparing a groundwater sustainability plan within the basin to ensure that the plans utilize the same data and methodologies for the following assumptions in developing the plan:

- (a) Groundwater elevation data.
- (b) Groundwater extraction data.
- (c) Surface water supply.
- (d) Total water use.

⁴⁶ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 4, p. 5.

⁴⁷ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 4, p. 5.

(e) Change in groundwater storage.

(f) Water budget.

(g) Sustainable yield.

10727.8 (a) Prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county located within the geographic area to be covered by the plan. The groundwater sustainability agency may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. If the geographic area to be covered by the plan includes a public water system regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the commission.⁴⁸

(b) For purposes of this section, interested parties include entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

10728 On the April 1 following the adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan and annually thereafter, a groundwater sustainability agency shall submit a report to the department containing the following information about the basin managed in the groundwater sustainability plan:

(a) Groundwater elevation data.

(b) Annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year.

(c) Surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use.

(d) Total water use.

(e) Change in groundwater storage.

10728.2 A groundwater sustainability agency shall periodically evaluate its groundwater sustainability plan, assess changing conditions in the basin that may warrant modification of the plan or management objectives, and may adjust components in

⁴⁸ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 5, p. 6.

the plan. An evaluation of the plan shall focus on determining whether the actions under the plan are meeting the plan's management objectives and whether those objectives are meeting the sustainability goal in the basin.

10728.4 A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. The groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude an agency and a city or county from otherwise consulting or commenting regarding the adoption or amendment of a plan.

10728.6 Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code does not apply to the preparation and adoption of plans pursuant to this chapter. Nothing in this part shall be interpreted as exempting from Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code a project that would implement actions taken pursuant to a plan adopted pursuant to this chapter.^{49, 50}

CHAPTER 7. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- 10729
- (a) The department or a groundwater sustainability agency may provide technical assistance to entities that extract or use groundwater to promote water conservation and protect groundwater resources.
 - (b) The department may provide technical assistance to any groundwater sustainability agency in response to that agency's request for assistance in the development and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan. The department shall use its best efforts to provide the requested assistance.
 - (c) The department shall prepare and publish a report by December 31, 2016, on its Internet Web site that presents the department's best estimate, based on available information, of water available for replenishment of groundwater in the state.
 - (d)(1) By January 1, 2017, the department shall publish on its Internet Web site best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater.

⁴⁹ Assembly Bill 455 (Bigelow) (2015), as introduced, would have limited challenges to a project to implement actions taken pursuant to a groundwater sustainability plan. The bill would have required the Judicial Council to adopt a rule of court to establish procedures to resolve any challenge to a project, including any potential appeals, within 270 days of certification of the record of proceedings for the project. The bill would have also prohibited a court from issuing a stay or injunction against a project, unless its continued construction or operation presented an imminent threat to public health and safety, or the project site contained unforeseen important historical, archaeological or ecological values that would be materially, permanently and adversely affected by the project. Assembly Bill 455 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), §§ 1-2, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁰ Senate Bill 487 (Nielsen) (2015), as proposed, would have exempted from CEQA a project that implements a groundwater sustainability plan, except to the extent that implementation required the construction or installation of a new facility. Senate Bill 487 (Nielsen) (February 26, 2015), § 2, pp. 2-3.

- (2) The department shall develop the best management practices through a public process involving one public meeting conducted at a location in northern California, one public meeting conducted at a location in the San Joaquin Valley, one public meeting conducted at a location in southern California, and one public meeting of the California Water Commission.

10729.2 With the exception of regulations required by Sections 10722.2 and 10733.2, a guideline, criterion, bulletin, or other technical or procedural analysis or guidance prepared by the department as required by this part is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).⁵¹

CHAPTER 8. FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

- 10730 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency may impose fees, including, but not limited to, permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including, but not limited to, preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration, including a prudent reserve. A groundwater sustainability agency shall not impose a fee pursuant to this subdivision on a de minimis extractor unless the agency has regulated the users pursuant to this part.
- (b) (1) Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting, at which oral or written presentations may be made as part of the meeting.
- (2) Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall include a general explanation of the matter to be considered and a statement that the data required by this section is available. The notice shall be provided by publication pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code, by posting notice on the Internet Web site of the groundwater sustainability agency, and by mail to any interested party who files a written request with the agency for mailed notice of the meeting on new or increased fees. A written request for mailed notices shall be valid for one year from the date that the request is made and may be renewed by making a written request on or before April 1 of each year.
- (3) At least 20⁵² days prior to the meeting, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public data upon which the proposed fee is based.
- (c) Any action by a groundwater sustainability agency to impose or increase a fee shall be taken only by ordinance or resolution.

⁵¹ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 11, p. 9.

⁵² Amended by Assembly Bill 939 (Salas), Stats.2015, Ch. 667, § 2, p. 3, replacing "10" days.

(d) (1) As an alternative method for the collection of fees imposed pursuant to this section, a groundwater sustainability agency may adopt a resolution requesting collection of the fees in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes.

(2) A resolution described in paragraph (1) shall be adopted and furnished to the county auditor-controller and board of supervisors on or before August 1 of each year that the alternative collection of the fees is being requested. The resolution shall include a list of parcels and the amount to be collected for each parcel.

(e) The power granted by this section is in addition to any powers a groundwater sustainability agency has under any other law.

10730.1 A groundwater sustainability agency, before imposing or increasing a fee pursuant to Section 10730 or 10730.2 relating to a groundwater basin that includes a water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, shall notify the Public Utilities Commission.⁵³

10730.2 (a) A groundwater sustainability agency that adopts a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to this part may impose fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund costs of groundwater management, including, but not limited to, the costs of the following:

(1) Administration, operation, and maintenance, including a prudent reserve.

(2) Acquisition of lands or other property, facilities, and services.

(3) Supply, production, treatment, or distribution of water.

(4) Other activities necessary or convenient to implement the plan.

(b) Until a groundwater sustainability plan is adopted pursuant to this part, a local agency may impose fees in accordance with the procedures provided in this section for the purposes of Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) as long as a groundwater management plan adopted before January 1, 2015, is in effect ~~for the basin.~~⁵⁴

(c) Fees imposed pursuant to this section shall be adopted in accordance with subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

(d) Fees imposed pursuant to this section may include fixed fees and fees charged on a volumetric basis, including, but not limited to, fees that increase based on the quantity of groundwater produced annually, the year in which the production of groundwater commenced from a groundwater extraction facility, and impacts to the basin.

⁵³ Added by Assembly Bill 2874 (Gaines), Stats.2016, Ch. 139, § 1, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 12, p. 9.

- (e) The power granted by this section is in addition to any powers a groundwater sustainability agency has under any other law.
- 10730.4 A groundwater sustainability agency may fund activities pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) and may impose fees pursuant to Section 10730.2 to fund activities undertaken by the agency pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750).
- 10730.6 (a) A groundwater fee levied pursuant to this chapter shall be due and payable to the groundwater sustainability agency by each owner or operator on a day established by the groundwater sustainability agency.
- (b) If an owner or operator knowingly fails to pay a groundwater fee within 30 days of it becoming due, the owner or operator shall be liable to the groundwater sustainability agency for interest at the rate of 1 percent per month on the delinquent amount of the groundwater fee and a 10-percent penalty.
- (c) The groundwater sustainability agency may bring a suit in the court having jurisdiction against any owner or operator of a groundwater extraction facility within the area covered by the plan for the collection of any delinquent groundwater fees, interest, or penalties imposed under this chapter. If the groundwater sustainability agency seeks an attachment against the property of any named defendant in the suit, the groundwater sustainability agency shall not be required to furnish a bond or other undertaking as provided in Title 6.5 (commencing with Section 481.010) of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- (d) In the alternative to bringing a suit pursuant to subdivision (c), a groundwater sustainability agency may collect any delinquent groundwater charge and any civil penalties and interest on the delinquent groundwater charge pursuant to the laws applicable to the local agency or, if a joint powers authority, to the entity designated pursuant to Section 6509 of the Government Code. The collection shall be in the same manner as it would be applicable to the collection of delinquent assessments, water charges, or tolls.
- (e) As an additional remedy, a groundwater sustainability agency, after a public hearing, may order an owner or operator to cease extraction of groundwater until all delinquent fees are paid. The groundwater sustainability agency shall give notice to the owner or operator by certified mail not less than 15 days in advance of the public hearing.
- (f) The remedies specified in this section for collecting and enforcing fees are cumulative and may be pursued alternatively or may be used consecutively as determined by the governing body.
- 10730.8 (a) Nothing in this chapter shall affect or interfere with the authority of a groundwater sustainability agency to levy and collect taxes, assessments, charges, and tolls as otherwise provided by law.
- (b) Personal information included in a report or record pursuant to this chapter has the same protection from disclosure as is provided for information concerning

utility customers of local agencies pursuant to Section 6254.16 of the Government Code.

- 10731
- (a) Following an investigation pursuant to Section 10725.4, the governing body may make a determination fixing the amount of groundwater production from the groundwater extraction facility at an amount not to exceed the maximum production capacity of the facility for purposes of levying a groundwater charge. If a water-measuring device is permanently attached to the groundwater extraction facility, the record of production as disclosed by the water-measuring device shall be presumed to be accurate unless the contrary is established by the groundwater sustainability agency after investigation.
 - (b) After the governing body makes a determination fixing the amount of groundwater production pursuant to subdivision (a), a written notice of the determination shall be mailed to the owner or operator of the groundwater extraction facility at the address as shown by the groundwater sustainability agency's records. A determination made by the governing body shall be conclusive on the owner or operator and the groundwater charges, based on the determination together with any interest and penalties, shall be payable immediately unless within 20 days after the mailing of the notice the owner or operator files with the governing body a written protest setting forth the ground for protesting the amount of production or the groundwater charges, interest, and penalties. If a protest is filed pursuant to this subdivision, the governing body shall hold a hearing to determine the total amount of the groundwater production and the groundwater charges, interest, and penalties. Notice of the hearing shall be mailed to each protestant at least 20 days before the date fixed for the hearing. Notice of the determination of the governing body hearing shall be mailed to each protestant. The owner or operator shall have 20 days from the date of mailing of the determination to pay the groundwater charges, interest, and penalties determined by the governing body.

CHAPTER 9. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ENFORCEMENT POWERS

- 10732
- (a) (1) A person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract under a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted pursuant to Section 10725.2, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per acre-foot extracted in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract. Liability under this subdivision is in addition to any liability imposed under paragraph (2) and any fee imposed for the extraction.
 - (2) A person who violates any rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted pursuant to Section 10725.2 shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to comply within 30 days after the local agency has notified the person of the violation.
 - (b) (1) A groundwater sustainability agency may bring an action in the superior court to determine whether a violation occurred and to impose a civil penalty described in subdivision (a).

(2) A groundwater sustainability agency may administratively impose a civil penalty described in subdivision (a) after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

(3) In determining the amount of the penalty, the superior court or the groundwater sustainability agency shall take into consideration all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature and persistence of the violation, the extent of the harm caused by the violation, the length of time over which the violation occurs, and any corrective action taken by the violator.

(c) A penalty imposed pursuant to this section shall be paid to the groundwater sustainability agency and shall be expended solely for purposes of this part.

(d) Penalties imposed pursuant to this section are in addition to any civil penalty or criminal fine under any other law.

10732.2

If a groundwater sustainability agency finds that a state entity is not working cooperatively regarding implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency may file notice with the board regarding its finding. The board shall notice proceedings to investigate the finding of the groundwater sustainability agency. If the board determines that the failure of the state entity to work cooperatively regarding implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan compromises the ability of the groundwater sustainability agency to implement the plan in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal, the board may direct the state entity to cooperate in the implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan unless the state entity indicates its authority for not complying with a groundwater sustainability plan in the same manner as subdivision (f) of Section 10735.8.⁵⁵

CHAPTER 10. STATE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

10733

(a) The department shall periodically review the groundwater sustainability plans developed by groundwater sustainability agencies pursuant to this part to evaluate whether a plan conforms with Sections 10727.2 and 10727.4 and is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin covered by the groundwater sustainability plan.

(b) If a groundwater sustainability agency develops multiple groundwater sustainability plans for a basin, the department shall evaluate whether the plans conform with Sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6 and are together likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin covered by the groundwater sustainability plans.

(c) The department shall evaluate whether a groundwater sustainability plan adversely affects the ability of an adjacent basin to implement their groundwater sustainability plan or impedes achievement of sustainability goals in an adjacent basin.

⁵⁵ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 6, p. 6.

- 10733.2 (a) (1) By June 1, 2016, the department shall adopt regulations for evaluating groundwater sustainability plans, the implementation of groundwater sustainability plans, and coordination agreements pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) The regulations shall identify the necessary plan components specified in Sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6 and other information that will assist local agencies in developing and implementing groundwater sustainability plans and coordination agreements.
- (b) (1) The department may update the regulations, including to incorporate the best management practices identified pursuant to Section 10729.
- (2) The regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall identify appropriate methodologies and assumptions for baseline conditions concerning hydrology, water demand, regulatory restrictions that affect the availability of surface water, and unreliability of, or reductions in, surface water deliveries to the agency or water users in the basin, and the impact of those conditions on achieving sustainability. The baseline for measuring unreliability and reductions shall include the historic average reliability and deliveries of surface water to the agency or water users in the basin.
- (c) By June 1, 2016, the department shall adopt regulations for evaluating alternatives submitted pursuant to Section 10733.6.
- (d) The department shall adopt the regulations, including any amendments thereto, authorized by this section as emergency regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The adoption of these regulations is an emergency and shall be considered by the Office of Administrative Law as necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, or general welfare. Notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act, emergency regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this section shall not be subject to review by the Office of Administrative Law and shall remain in effect until revised by the department.
- (e) Before adopting ~~and finalizing~~⁵⁶ the regulations pursuant to this section,⁵⁷ the department shall conduct three public meetings to consider public comments. The department shall publish the draft regulations on its Internet Web site at least 30 days before the public meetings. One meeting shall be conducted at a location in northern California, one meeting shall be conducted at a location in the central valley of California, and one meeting shall be conducted at a location in southern California.
- 10733.3 ~~The department shall post all notices it receives pursuant to Section 10723 or 10723.8 on its Internet Web site within 15 days of receipt.~~⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 13, p. 10.

⁵⁷ Added by Deleted by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 13, p. 10.

⁵⁸ Repealed by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 14, p. 10.

- 10733.4
- (a) Upon adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan, a groundwater sustainability agency shall submit the groundwater sustainability plan to the department for review pursuant to this chapter.
 - (b) If groundwater sustainability agencies develop multiple groundwater sustainability plans for a basin, the submission required by subdivision (a) shall not occur until the entire basin is covered by groundwater sustainability plans. When the entire basin is covered by groundwater sustainability plans, the groundwater sustainability agencies shall jointly submit to the department all of the following:
 - (1) The groundwater sustainability plans.
 - (2) An explanation of how the groundwater sustainability plans implemented together satisfy Sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6 for the entire basin.
 - (3) A copy of the coordination agreement between the groundwater sustainability agencies to ensure the coordinated implementation of the groundwater sustainability plans for the entire basin.
 - (c) Upon receipt of a groundwater sustainability plan, the department shall post the plan on the department's Internet Web site and provide 60 days for persons to submit comments to the department about the plan.
 - (d) The department shall evaluate the groundwater sustainability plan within two years of its submission by a groundwater sustainability agency and issue an assessment of the plan. The assessment may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified by the department.
 - (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a groundwater sustainability agency from implementing a groundwater sustainability plan prior to evaluation and assessment of the groundwater sustainability plan by the department.⁵⁹
- 10733.6
- (a) If a local agency believes that an alternative described in subdivision (b) satisfies the objectives of this part, the local agency may submit the alternative to the department for evaluation and assessment of whether the alternative satisfies the objectives of this part for the basin.
 - (b) An alternative is any of the following:
 - (1) A plan developed pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) or other law authorizing groundwater management.
 - (2) Management pursuant to an adjudication action.
 - (3) An analysis of basin conditions that demonstrates that the basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years. The submission of an alternative described by this paragraph shall include a

⁵⁹ Added by Assembly Bill 617 (Perea), Stats.2015, Ch. 666, § 7, p. 7.

report prepared by a registered professional engineer or geologist who is licensed by the state and submitted under that engineer's or geologist's seal.

- (c) A local agency shall submit an alternative pursuant to this section no later than January 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter.
- (d) The assessment required by subdivision (a) shall include an assessment of whether the alternative is within a basin that is in compliance with Part 2.11 (commencing with Section 10920). If the alternative is within a basin that is not in compliance with Part 2.11 (commencing with Section 10920), the department shall find the alternative does not satisfy the objectives of this part.

10733.8 At least every five years after initial submission of a plan pursuant to Section 10733.4, the department shall review any available groundwater sustainability plan or alternative submitted in accordance with Section 10733.6, and the implementation of the corresponding groundwater sustainability program for consistency with this part, including achieving the sustainability goal. The department shall issue an assessment for each basin for which a plan or alternative has been submitted in accordance with this chapter, with an emphasis on assessing progress in achieving the sustainability goal within the basin. The assessment may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified by the department.

CHAPTER 11. STATE INTERVENTION

10735 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Condition of long-term overdraft" means the condition of a groundwater basin where the average annual amount of water extracted for a long-term period, generally 10 years or more, exceeds the long-term average annual supply of water to the basin, plus any temporary surplus. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a condition of long-term overdraft if extractions and recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.
- (b) "Person" means any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, limited liability company, or public agency, including any city, county, city and county, district, joint powers authority, state, or any agency or department of those entities. "Person" includes, to the extent authorized by federal or tribal law and subject to the limitations described in subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 10720.3, the United States, a department, agency or instrumentality of the federal government, an Indian tribe, an authorized Indian tribal organization, or interstate body.
- (c) "Probationary basin" means a basin for which the board has issued a determination under Section 10735.2.
- (d) "Significant depletions of interconnected surface waters" means reductions in flow or levels of surface water that is hydrologically connected to the basin such

that the reduced surface water flow or levels have a significant and unreasonable adverse impact on beneficial uses of the surface water.

10735.2 (a) The board, after notice and a public hearing, may designate a high- or medium-priority⁶⁰ basin as a probationary basin, if the board finds one or more of the following applies to the basin:

(1) After June 30, 2017,⁶¹ none of the following have occurred:

(A) A local agency has decided to become⁶² a groundwater sustainability agency that intends to develop a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

(B) A collection of local agencies has formed a groundwater sustainability agency or prepared agreements to develop one or more groundwater sustainability plans that will collectively serve as a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

(C) A local agency has submitted an alternative that has been approved or is pending approval pursuant to Section 10733.6. If the department disapproves an alternative pursuant to Section 10733.6, the board shall not act under this paragraph until at least 180 days after the department disapproved the alternative.

(2) The basin is subject to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7, and after January 31, 2020, none of the following have occurred:

(A) A groundwater sustainability agency has adopted a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

(B) A collection of local agencies has adopted groundwater sustainability plans that collectively serve as a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

(C) The department has approved an alternative pursuant to Section 10733.6.

(3) The basin is subject to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7 and after January 31, 2020, the department, in consultation with the board, determines that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the groundwater sustainability program is not being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.

(4) The basin is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7, and after January 31, 2022,⁶³ none of the following have occurred:

⁶⁰ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 15, p. 10.

⁶¹ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to June 30, 2018. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 4, p. 4.

⁶² Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 15, p. 10, replacing “elected to be.”

- (A) A groundwater sustainability agency has adopted a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.
 - (B) A collection of local agencies has adopted groundwater sustainability plans that collectively serve as a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.
 - (C) The department has approved an alternative pursuant to Section 10733.6.
- (5) The basin is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7, and either of the following have occurred:
- (A) After January 31, 2022,⁶⁴ both of the following have occurred:
 - (i) The department, in consultation with the board, determines that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the groundwater sustainability plan is not being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.
 - (ii) The board determines that the basin is in a condition of long-term overdraft.
 - (B) After January 31, 2025,⁶⁵ both of the following have occurred:
 - (i) The department, in consultation with the board, determines that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the groundwater sustainability plan is not being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.
 - (ii) The board determines that the basin is in a condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters.
- (b) In making the findings associated with paragraph (3) or (5) of subdivision (a), the department and board may rely on periodic assessments the department has prepared pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 10733). The board may request that the department conduct additional assessments utilizing the regulations developed pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 10733) and make determinations pursuant to this section. The board shall post on its Internet Web site and provide at least 30 days for the public to comment on any determinations provided by the department pursuant to this subdivision.

⁶³ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to January 31, 2023. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 4, p. 5.

⁶⁴ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to January 31, 2023. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 4, p. 5.

⁶⁵ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to January 31, 2026. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 4, p. 5.

- (c) (1) The determination may exclude a class or category of extractions from the requirement for reporting pursuant to Part 5.2 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2 if those extractions are subject to a local plan or program that adequately manages groundwater within the portion of the basin to which that plan or program applies, or if those extractions are likely to have a minimal impact on basin withdrawals.
- (2) The determination may require reporting of a class or category of extractions that would otherwise be exempt from reporting pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 5202 if those extractions are likely to have a substantial impact on basin withdrawals or requiring reporting of those extractions is reasonably necessary to obtain information for purposes of this chapter.
- (3) The determination may establish requirements for information required to be included in reports of groundwater extraction, for installation of measuring devices, or for use of a methodology, measuring device, or both, pursuant to Part 5.2 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2.
- (4) The determination may modify the water year or reporting date for a report of groundwater extraction pursuant to Section 5202.
- (d) If the board finds that litigation challenging the formation of a groundwater sustainability agency prevented its formation before July 1, 2017,⁶⁶ pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) or prevented a groundwater sustainability program from being implemented in a manner likely to achieve the sustainability goal pursuant to paragraph (2),⁶⁷ (3), (4), or (5) of subdivision (a), the board shall not designate a basin as a probationary basin for a period of time equal to the delay caused by the litigation.
- (e) The board shall exclude from probationary status any portion of a basin for which a groundwater sustainability agency demonstrates compliance with the sustainability goal.

10735.4

- (a) If the board designates a basin as a probationary basin pursuant to paragraph (1), ~~or (2)~~ or (4)⁶⁸ of subdivision (a) of Section 10735.2, a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency shall have 180 days to remedy the deficiency. The board may appoint a mediator or other facilitator, after consultation with affected local agencies, to assist in resolving disputes, and identifying and implementing actions that will remedy the deficiency.
- (b) After the 180-day period provided by subdivision (a), the board may provide additional time to remedy the deficiency if it finds that a local agency is making substantial progress toward remedying the deficiency.

⁶⁶ Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (2015), as proposed, would have extended this date by one year to July 1, 2018. Assembly Bill 454 (Bigelow) (February 23, 2015), § 4, p. 6.

⁶⁷ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 15, p. 12.

⁶⁸ Amended by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 16, p. 12.

(c) The board may develop an interim plan pursuant to Section 10735.8 for the probationary basin at the end of the period provided by subdivision (a) or any extension provided pursuant to subdivision (b), if the board, in consultation with the department, determines that a local agency has not remedied the deficiency that resulted in designating the basin as a probationary basin.

10735.6 (a) If the board designates a basin as a probationary basin pursuant to paragraph (3) or (5)⁶⁹ of subdivision (a) of Section 10735.2, the board shall identify the specific deficiencies and identify potential actions to address the deficiencies. The board may request the department to provide local agencies, within 90 days of the designation of a probationary basin, with technical recommendations to remedy the deficiencies.

(b) The board may develop an interim plan pursuant to Section 10735.8 for the probationary basin one year after the designation of the basin pursuant to paragraph (3) or (5)⁷⁰ of subdivision (a) of Section 10735.2, if the board, in consultation with the department, determines that a local agency has not remedied the deficiency that resulted in designating the basin a probationary basin.

10735.8 (a) The board, after notice and a public hearing, may adopt an interim plan for a probationary basin.

(b) The interim plan shall include all of the following:

(1) Identification of the actions that are necessary to correct a condition of long-term overdraft or a condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters, including recommendations for appropriate action by any person.

(2) A time schedule for the actions to be taken.

(3) A description of the monitoring to be undertaken to determine effectiveness of the plan.

(c) The interim plan may include the following:

(1) Restrictions on groundwater extraction.

(2) A physical solution.

(3) Principles and guidelines for the administration of rights to surface waters that are connected to the basin.

(d) Except as provided in subdivision (e), the interim plan shall be consistent with water right priorities, subject to Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution.

⁶⁹ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 17, p. 13.

⁷⁰ Added by Senate Bill 13 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 255, § 17, p. 13.

- (e) The board shall include in its interim plan a groundwater sustainability plan, or any element of a plan, that the board finds complies with the sustainability goal for that portion of the basin or would help meet the sustainability goal for the basin. Where, in the judgment of the board, an adjudication action can be relied on as part of the interim plan, either throughout the basin or in an area within the basin, the board may rely on, or incorporate elements of, that adjudication into the interim plan adopted by the board.
- (f) In carrying out activities that may affect the probationary basin, state entities shall comply with an interim plan adopted by the board pursuant to this section unless otherwise directed or authorized by statute and the state entity shall indicate to the board in writing the authority for not complying with the interim plan.
- (g) (1) After the board adopts an interim plan under this section, the board shall determine if a groundwater sustainability plan or an adjudication action is adequate to eliminate the condition of long-term overdraft or condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters, upon petition of either of the following:
 - (A) A groundwater sustainability agency that has adopted a groundwater sustainability plan for the probationary basin or a portion thereof.
 - (B) A person authorized to file the petition by a judicial order or decree entered in an adjudication action in the probationary basin.
- (2) The board shall act on a petition filed pursuant to paragraph (1) within 90 days after the petition is complete. If the board, in consultation with the department, determines that the groundwater sustainability plan or adjudication action is adequate, the board shall rescind the interim plan adopted by the board for the probationary basin, except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4).
- (3) Upon request of the petitioner, the board may amend an interim plan adopted under this section to eliminate portions of the interim plan, while allowing other portions of the interim plan to continue in effect.
- (4) The board may decline to rescind an interim plan adopted pursuant to this section if the board determines that the petitioner has not provided adequate assurances that the groundwater sustainability plan or judicial order or decree will be implemented.
- (5) This subdivision is not a limitation on the authority of the board to stay its proceedings under this section or to rescind or amend an interim plan adopted pursuant to this section based on the progress made by a groundwater sustainability agency or in an adjudication action, even if the board cannot make a determination of adequacy in accordance with paragraph (1).

- (h) Before January 1, 2025, the state board shall not establish an interim plan under this section to remedy a condition where the groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters.
- (i) The board's authority to adopt an interim plan under this Section does not alter the law establishing water rights priorities or any other authority of the board.

10736

- (a) The board shall adopt or amend a determination or interim plan under Section 10735.2 or 10735.8 in accordance with procedures for quasi-legislative action.
- (b) The board shall provide notice of a hearing described in subdivision (a) of Section 10735.2 or subdivision (a) of Section 10735.8 as follows:
 - (1) At least 90 days before the hearing, the board shall publish notice of the hearing on its Internet Web site.
 - (2) At least 90 days before the hearing, the board shall notify the department and each city, county, or city and county in which any part of the basin is situated.
 - (3) (A) For the purposes of this paragraph, the terms "board-designated local area" and "local agency" have the same meaning as defined in Section 5009.
 - (B) At least 60 days before the hearing, the board shall mail or send by electronic mail notice to all persons known to the board who extract or who propose to extract water from the basin, or who have made written or electronic mail requests to the board for special notice of hearing pursuant to this part. If any portion of the basin is within a board-designated local area, the records made available to the board by the local agency in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 5009 shall include the names and addresses of persons and entities known to the local agency who extract water from the basin, and the board shall mail or send by electronic mail notice to those persons.
- (c) The board shall provide notice of proceedings to amend or repeal a determination or plan under Section 10735.2 or 10735.8 as appropriate to the proceedings, taking into account the nature of the proposed revision and the person likely to be affected.
- (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to any action authorized pursuant to Section 10735.2 or 10735.8.
 - (2) The board may adopt a regulation in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code setting procedures for adopting a determination or plan.
 - (3) The board may adopt a regulation applying or interpreting this part pursuant to Section 1530 if the board determines that the emergency

regulation is reasonably necessary for the allocation, administration, or collection of fees authorized pursuant to Section 1529.5.

- 10736.2 Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code does not apply to any action or failure to act by the board under this chapter, other than the adoption or amendment of an interim plan pursuant to Section 10735.8.
- 10736.4 The extraction or use of water extracted in violation of an interim plan under this part shall not be relied upon as a basis for establishing the extraction or use of water to support a claim in an action or proceeding for determination of water rights.
- 10736.6 (a) The board may order a person that extracts or uses water from a basin that is subject to an investigation or proceeding under this chapter to prepare and submit to the board any technical or monitoring program reports related to that person's or entity's extraction or use of water as the board may specify. The costs incurred by the person in the preparation of those reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefit to be obtained from the report. If the preparation of individual reports would result in a duplication of effort, or if the reports are necessary to evaluate the cumulative effect of several diversions or uses of water, the board may order any person subject to this subdivision to pay a reasonable share of the cost of preparing reports.
- (b) (1) An order issued pursuant to this section shall be served by personal service or registered mail on the party to submit technical or monitoring program reports or to pay a share of the costs of preparing reports. Unless the board issues the order after a hearing, the order shall inform the party of the right to request a hearing within 30 days after the party has been served. If the party does not request a hearing within that 30-day period, the order shall take effect as issued. If the party requests a hearing within that 30-day period, the board may adopt a decision and order after conducting a hearing.
- (2) In lieu of adopting an order directed at named persons in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (1), the board may adopt a regulation applicable to a category or class of persons in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (c) Upon application of a person or upon its own motion, the board may review and revise an order issued or regulation adopted pursuant to this section in accordance with the procedures set forth in subdivision (b).
- (d) In conducting an investigation or proceeding pursuant to this part, the board may inspect the property or facilities of a person to ascertain whether the purposes of this part are being met and to ascertain compliance with this part. The board may obtain an inspection warrant pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 13 (commencing with Section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the purposes of an inspection pursuant to this subdivision.

CHAPTER 12. DETERMINATION OF RIGHTS TO GROUNDWATER

- 10737 Except as provided in this chapter, an adjudication action to determine rights to groundwater in a basin shall be conducted in accordance with the Code of Civil Procedure, including pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 10 of Part 2 of that code.⁷¹
- 10737.2 In an adjudication action for a basin required to have a groundwater sustainability plan under this part, the court shall manage the proceedings in a manner that minimizes interference with the timely completion and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan, avoids redundancy and unnecessary costs in the development of technical information and a physical solution, and is consistent with the attainment of sustainable groundwater management within the timeframes established by this part.⁷²
- 10737.4 (a) Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) shall not apply to a judgment approved by the court pursuant to Section 850 of the Code of Civil Procedure if both of the following apply:
- (1) A local agency or a party directed by the court to file the submission submits the judgment to the department for evaluation and assessment pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 10733.6.
 - (2) The department determines that the judgment satisfies the objectives of this part for the basin.
- (b) A party or group of parties proposing a stipulated judgment pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 850 of the Code of Civil Procedure may submit the proposed stipulated judgment to the department for evaluation and assessment pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 10733.6.
- (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of Section 10733.6, a judgment or proposed stipulated judgment pursuant to this section may be submitted to the department after January 1, 2017.
- (d) A determination of the department on a submission pursuant to this section is subject to judicial review pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Venue shall be in the court with jurisdiction over the adjudication action and the case shall be coordinated with the adjudication action.⁷³
- 10737.6 If the department determines that a judgment satisfies the objectives of this part in accordance with paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 10737.4, the department shall submit to the court the assessments and any recommended corrective actions that the department issues pursuant to Section 10733.8. The court, after notice and, if necessary, an evidentiary hearing, shall determine whether

⁷¹ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 5, p. 4.

⁷² Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 5, p. 5.

⁷³ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 5, p. 5.

to amend the judgment pursuant to Section 852 of the Code of Civil Procedure to adopt the department's recommended corrective actions.⁷⁴

10737.8 In addition to making any findings required by subdivision (a) of Section 850 of the Code of Civil Procedure or any other law, the court shall not approve entry of judgment in an adjudication action for a basin required to have a groundwater sustainability plan under this part unless the court finds that the judgment will not substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the board, or the department to comply with this part and to achieve sustainable groundwater management.⁷⁵

OTHER PROVISIONS⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 5, p. 5.

⁷⁵ Added by Senate Bill 226 (Pavley), Stats.2015, Ch. 676, § 5, p. 5.

⁷⁶ Assembly Bill 1243 (Gray) (2015), as proposed, would have created a new Chapter 12, entitled Groundwater Recharge, containing a new Section 10738, which would have established a Groundwater Recharge Grant Fund to hold monies appropriated by the Legislature to provide grants to local governments for groundwater recharge infrastructure projects. Assembly Bill 1243 (Gray) (February 27, 2015), § 3, p. 4.