

Sophie Treder

From: Mathis, Dane@DWR
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 2:41 PM
To: 'choward@co.slo.ca.us'
Subject: FW: Critically Overdrafted Basins

Hello Courtney-

As we discussed in our recent phone conversation, I am following up with information regarding the draft determination of critically overdrafted basins.

Draft Critically Overdrafted Basins Information July 2015

- Pursuant to SGMA, DWR is required to identify basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft. [Water Code 12924].
- By January 31, 2020, all B118 basins designated as high- or medium-priority and subject to critical conditions of overdraft shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans. [Water Code 10720.7. (a) (1)].
- In 1980, DWR worked with local agencies to identify basins of critically overdrafted groundwater basins. DWR does not have information to suggest the basins are no longer critically overdrafted.
- Groundwater conditions have significantly worsened in some areas in the 35 years since the 1980 list was compiled. Data is limited to conduct a detailed analysis to identify other basins in critical conditions of overdraft.
- DWR has compiled a draft list of COD basins:
 - Basins named in B118 1980 remain on the draft list.
 - DWR has identified additional basins that show obvious and significant undesirable results from chronic pumping of the aquifer – including seawater intrusion, subsidence, groundwater depletion, and chronic drop in groundwater levels for conditions that occurred or evident outside of drought conditions.
- DWR relied upon DWR studies, various published reports and documents (including USGS and reports from local agencies such as GWMPs) to identify additional critically overdrafted basins.
- As a courtesy DWR is contacting the local agencies and counties in the critically overdrafted basins prior to releasing the draft list to the public.
- DWR will present the draft list to the California Water Commission (CWC) at the August 19 meeting and will release the list to the public after the meeting.

- DWR will hold a public meeting in late August to release the draft results, explain the process, and solicit public comment. (The date has not been set yet.)
- There will be a 30 day public comment period after release to the public. DWR will evaluate comments and data and make any needed revisions and plan to release final list around mid-October.
- To support agencies that need to meet the 2020 deadline to submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, DWR will work with local agencies to provide technical assistance, facilitation services, and financial assistance to help local agencies meet the requirements of SGMA.
- DWR is currently providing facilitation services. This will help potential GSAs within basins to work together and begin development of the governance structure and formation of GSAs.
- DWR is working on making Proposition 1 competitive grant funding available for local agencies, federally recognized tribes, certain state tribes, non-profit organization, public utilities, and mutual water companies. A total of \$100 million from Proposition 1 is available for Sustainable Groundwater Planning. It is anticipated that one of the grant program priorities will be basins identified as critically overdrafted.

The FY 2015-16 budget appropriated an initial amount of \$ 60 million Proposition 1, Chapter 10 funds to support groundwater planning efforts. Of this amount, \$48.75 million will be available for grants to local agencies for groundwater sustainability governance and planning. \$10 million will be available for counties with stressed groundwater basins to update or develop ordinances and plans that protect basins and their beneficial users and help facilitate basin wide sustainable groundwater management. The \$10 million for counties with stressed groundwater basins will be made available through an expedited solicitation. Guidelines are currently being developed. DWR will provide more details on those efforts as they become available.

If your agency does not agree that the identified basin(s) is critically overdrafted, there is opportunity to challenge DWR's draft determinations and provide compelling data and information that demonstrates otherwise. Please submit this information in the next couple of weeks so DWR can review it and evaluate if reconsidering the draft determination is warranted. Ideally, it would be best to have the opportunity to evaluate the information a week or more before the CWC meeting on August 19. Otherwise, DWR will accept data and information until the close of the public comment period. Please send any related information directly to me.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Dane

Dane Mathis

Senior Engineering Geologist
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
South Central Region Office
3374 E Shields Ave
Fresno, CA 93726
ph 559.230.3354