Water: Policy and Politics

Richard Waycott, ABC (Moderator)
Lester Snow, California Water Foundation
Dorene D’Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board
David Orth, Kings River Conservation District
Barry Bedwell, California Fresh Fruit Assoc.
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Almond Board of California • December 10, 2014
2014: Year of Water

- Historic Drought
- Governor’s Water Action Plan
- Historic Groundwater Legislation
- Passage of Proposition 1
Reservoir Conditions

Current Reservoir Conditions

- Shasta Reservoir: 23% | 59%
- Lake Oroville: 25% | 59%
- Folsom Lake: 26% | 59%
- Pine Flat Reservoir: 17% | 52%
- San Luis Reservoir: 24% | 45%
- New Melones Reservoir: 21% | 38%
- Don Pedro Reservoir: 37% | 57%
- Upper Pocket Reservoir: 7% | 17%
- Pine Flat Reservoir: 17% | 32%
- Pyramid Lake: 93% | 100%
Drought Forecast

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Released November 20, 2014

KEY:
- Drought persists or intensifies
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely

Author: Rich Tinker, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events — such as individual storms — cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications — such as crops — that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity).
For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor.
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period although drought will remain. The Green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none)
Groundwater in Context

- 40% of supply in an average year; 60% in dry
- Critical part of integrated management
- Flexible source for storage and use
Groundwater in Context

- Several decades of increasing use
  - Reduction in surface supplies
  - Hardening of demand
- Increasing landowner conflicts
Problems With Overdraft

- Subsidence threatens infrastructure
- Reduced water for species
- Reduced surface supplies
- Increased drilling/pumping costs
- Increased costs for taxpayers, business, farmers
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- Fundamental change in groundwater management
- Sustainability Goal (20 years with 5 year milestones)
- Local Empowerment
  - Local authorities to manage groundwater
  - Local agency formation (Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, GSAs)
  - Local plans (Groundwater Sustainability Plans, GSPs)
  - “Exempts” adjudicated basins
- State Role
  - Assistance (financial and technical)
  - Plan Review
  - Back-Stop
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2017</td>
<td>Formation of GSAs</td>
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Taking these actions shields local managers from state intervention
### The “Backstop” State Board Intervention

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In all triggering events, interventions is the result of a failure by the locals to create a GSA and adopt and implement a GSP.
CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization

Prioritized groundwater basins are depicted from the Final Report. Prioritization results published on June 10, 2016 on the CASGEM website and graphically represented using the DWA Bulletin 119 basin boundaries. Adjusted Basins and Hydrologic Region Boundaries obtained from DWA.
Jurisdiction Formation
2015 Issues and Opportunities

- Drought Conditions
- SGMA Implementation
- Bond Implementation
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Dorene D’Adamo
State Water Resources Control Board
Beyond Drought: California Water Action Plan & Sustainable Groundwater Management

The Almond Conference
December 10, 2014
Sacramento Convention Center

DeeDee D'Adamo, Board Member
State Water Resources Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov
Big Year for California Water

- Administration Outlines California Water Action Plan
- Prop 1- Water Bond
- Groundwater Legislation Passed and Signed by the Governor
Extended 3 Year Drought
Emergency Response
The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

- Requires sustainable groundwater management
- Promotes local control
Key Principles:

- Groundwater best managed at the local/regional level
- Groundwater needs to be managed sustainably
- Local agencies should have necessary authority & tools
- State assistance and oversight – intervention only when needed
The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

- Requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans in high- and medium-priority basins
- Authorizes management tools for local agencies
- Creates state “backstop”
- Defines time frame for accomplishing goals
New Local Management Tools

- Requires creation of “Groundwater Sustainability Agencies”

- Empowers GSAs to:
  - Register groundwater wells
  - Measure extractions
  - Require reports
  - Manage extractions
  - Assess fees

- Exempts preparation of local groundwater sustainability plans from CEQA

- Establishes “sustainability goal” over time to guide management
## Time Frame for Success

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These actions shield local managers from state intervention
## “Backstop”- State Board Intervention

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**In all triggering events, intervention is the result of a failure by the locals to create a GSA and adopt and implement a GSP.**
Undesirable Results:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft during a drought, if a basin is otherwise managed); **AND**
- Significant and unreasonable:
  - reductions in groundwater storage
  - seawater intrusion
  - degradation of water quality
  - land subsidence
  - surface water depletions adversely impacting beneficial uses
California Water Action Plan

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE
Increase Regional Self-Reliance & Integrated Water Management
Expand Water Storage Capacity & Improve Groundwater Management
Thank you

SERIOUS DROUGHT
HELP SAVE WATER

20% REDUCTION
in water use look like?

INSTALL AERATORS ON BATHROOM FAUCETS
saves
1.2 GALLONS
per person/day

WASH ONLY FULL LOADS OF CLOTHES
saves
15-45 GALLONS
per load

TURN OFF WATER WHEN BRUSHING TEETH OR SHAVING
saves
10 GALLONS
per person/day

TAKE FIVE MINUTE SHOWERS INSTEAD OF 10 MINUTE SHOWERS
saves
12.5 GALLONS
with a water efficient showerhead

FILL THE BATHTUB HALFWAY OR LESS

INSTALL A WATER-EFFICIENT SHOWER HEAD

uses 196 gallons of water per day. Here are some easy ways to reduce water use. Find the right combination for you to reduce by 20% or 38 gallons a day.

Sweep, don’t spray... Californians Don’t Waste.
Sustainable Groundwater and Surface Storage

David Orth,
Kings River Conservation District
Groundwater Legislation – Key Objectives

• Local Management
• Groundwater Sustainability Plans
• Land Use Coordination
• Link Groundwater Sustainability to Surface Water Enhancement
• State Technical Support
• State Oversight/Intervention
• Respect Surface Water and Private Property Rights
Groundwater Legislation - Issues and Challenges

• Lack of a Common Understanding
• Engage Stakeholders in Organization and Planning
• Align Basin Boundaries with “Reality”
  – Impact of neighboring Basin activity
• DWR Rulemaking to clarify terms, processes, etc.
• Groundwater Sustainability Agency Creation
  – Role of water agencies
  – Role of counties
• Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development
  – Data collection
• Reasonable Timelines???
• Litigation Threat???
Next Steps

- Local Outreach and Communication
  - Clear understanding of the Act
  - GSA formation – 6/30/17
  - GSP development – 1/31/2020 (and later)
  - GSP implementation – Sustainability within 20 years

- Rulemaking and Regulations

- 2015 Legislation ??
  - Technical cleanup
  - Expedited adjudication
California Surface Storage

• Surface reservoir storage capacity 42 million acre feet
  – Federal has 11 million acre feet of storage capacity (Central Valley Project) – delivers about 7 MAF/year
  – State has 5.8 million acre feet of storage capacity (State Water Project) – delivers about 2.3 MAF/year
  – Local – (i.e. Pine Flat, Terminus, Success, Isabella)

• Average annual runoff approximately 71 million acre feet (DWR 1998)
Future Storage

- State and Federal Projects (collectively add about 4.5 MAF to total storage capacity)
  - Shasta Dam and Reservoir Enlargement
  - Sites Reservoir (North-of-the-Delta Offstream storage)
  - Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion
  - Temperance Flat Reservoir (upper San Joaquin River Basin),

- Regional surface and groundwater storage projects

- More than 27 million acre feet of new surface and groundwater storage projects are being considered statewide

- How much can we afford to capture?
California Groundwater Facts

• 431 groundwater basins delineated
  – 24 basins subdivided into 108 subbasins giving a total of 515 distinct groundwater systems

• 850 million to 1.3 billion acre feet of groundwater storage (DWR 1994)
  – Approximately 149 to 450 million acre feet is estimated to be useable

• About 250 million acre feet of groundwater storage capacity is available statewide
  – 170 million acre feet of that 250 is in the Central Valley

• Annual groundwater extractions average about 16.5 million acre feet
  – 39% of state’s total water supply

• Overdraft between 1 and 2 million acre feet annually (DWR 2003)
Groundwater Storage - Maximize Recharge

• More surface storage to control peak flows
• More dedicated recharge basins
• Expand Conveyance Capacity
• On-farm flood water utilization
Barry Bedwell, California Fresh Fruit Association
Water: Policy and Politics
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Sacramento Convention Center
Barry Bedwell, President
California Fresh Fruit Association

THE ALMOND CONFERENCE
Background of the Association

- Origins dating back to 1921; Growers & Shippers Protective League and Table Grape Growers & Shippers Association
- Voluntary, non-profit representing about 85%, by volume, fresh permanent crops with the exception of avocados and citrus
- Membership ranges from Coachella Valley to Lake County
- Primary public policy advocate in Sacramento & DC
- Different from mandatory commissions
- Changed name to California Fresh Fruit Association in Aug 2014 formally California Grape and Tree Fruit League
The Lack of Water and What Has Changed Since Landmark Drought of 1977

- In 1977 there were 22 Million Californians, today 38 Million [+16,000,000 an increase of 72%]
- In 1977 our per capita income was $8,500, today $42,500 [+34,000 an increase of 400%]
- In 1977 gross farm revenue was $9.6 Billion, today $45 Billion [$35,400,000,000 an increase of 368%]
- Since 1977 a multitude of government regulatory and policy decisions have placed a raft of “priority environmental uses” ahead of historic human needs and have reduced the average water supply for CVP South of Delta Ag Service Contractors from 90% reliability to 40% reliability.
Environmental Edicts Impacting Water Supply

- 1978 State Water Resources Control Board Dec 1485
- 1991 ESA Winter Run Salmon Temperature Control
- 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act
- 1994 ESA Delta Smelt Biological Opinion
- 1995 Water Quality Control Plan re Clean Water Act
- 1997 Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan
- 2000 Trinity River Restoration Plan
- 2008 Delta Smelt Biological Opinion v2
- 2009 Salmon Biological Opinion
How 50% of the Available Water Goes to Environmental Purposes

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Chronology of Federal Legislation

- February 5, 2014 House passes HR 3964 Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act authored by Congressman Valadao (CA 21)
- May 22, 2014 Senate passes S 2198 Emergency Drought Relief Act authored by Senator Feinstein
- November post election negotiations to reconcile bills make impressive progress
- Environmentalists and their elected representatives say that Senator Feinstein crafting “secret water deal”; editorials follow
Chronology of Federal Legislation

- November 20, 2014 Senator Feinstein announces that “we will be unable to present an agreed-upon proposal before Congress adjourns this year”; says that she will introduce bill in January under regular order
- On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, Congressman Valadao (CA-21), with the support of Congressman Costa (CA-16) and California House Republicans, introduce water legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives aimed at providing short-term relief
Take Away Messages

- The prospect for meaningful relief via Federal legislation has been materially diminished.
- On the positive side, the key relationship between Senator Feinstein and Congressman Nunes is improving.
- Representatives Valadao, Denham, Costa and McCarthy continue to provide critical support for the issue.
- The chances to “change” or “amend” the ESA are slim; “update” may be a more appropriate term.
- State regulation through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is a key challenge to the future.
- The conjunctive use of water must be fully understood and promoted by production agriculture.
- The almond community should understand the target on their back and be prepared to respond in a positive manner.
Thank You for Your Time and Attention