

Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation



Board Meeting
July 24, 2018

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- 1) January 1, 2015: State law enacted, emphasizing local management of groundwater resources**
- 2) Local agencies form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).**
- 3) The GSAs: Manage groundwater in “a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.”**
- 4) The GSPs: Implement programs / projects to achieve sustainability by 2042.**
- 5) October 19, 2016: MWD Board directed staff to initiate GSA formation**



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- 1) As a medium priority basin, the Mountecito Groundwater Basin is required to be managed under SGMA. (If the District doesn't implement SGMA, it will be done by the State Water Resources Control Board)
- 2) The medium priority designation provides for potential technical and financial assistance
- 3) Steps to Implementation:



Sustainability by 2042



Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation

- 1) A local agency responsible for developing and implementing a GSP to meet the sustainability goals of the basin
- 2) Per CWC Section 10721, Eligible local agencies for a GSA must have:
 - a) water supply authority;
 - b) water management authority; and/or
 - c) land use authority
- 3) A single agency or a combination of eligible local agencies can form a GSA
 - a) Eligible parties are the Montecito Water District and the County of Santa Barbara
- 4) The purpose of the GSA is to lead the process to assess the Basin and create a locally developed and implemented sustainability plan in conjunction with Basin stakeholders



Required Actions for GSA Formation

- 1) Board Action to Become a GSA**
 - a) Public hearing at which a resolution declaring the intent to become a GSA is adopted
 - b) Today's hearing and board action satisfy requirements

- 2) Consideration of interests of stakeholders and beneficial users**
 - a) Community Engagement is an integral and ongoing part of the process
 - b) Public Meetings
 - Workshops: Mar. 2, 2017 and Nov. 16, 2017
 - Consistent Board and Committee Meetings
 - c) SGMA email list
 - d) MOUs with City of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Valley Water District

- 3) Compilation and Submittal of Required Documentation to DWR**
 - a) Required within 30 days of Board Action



Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

1. Plan must include technical information including:
 - a) Usable storage
 - b) Safe yield
 - c) Water use and recharge
 - d) Connectivity of storage units
 - e) Basin margin conditions
 - f) Sea water intrusion

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

2) GSP will address the following:

- a) Historical and projected water demand and supply reliability
- b) Location of, and extraction allocation for, wells
- c) Projects and management actions to enhance and ensure the longevity of the Basin resources
 - Identification of potential recharge areas of the Basin (Required by SGMA Section 10727.2)
- d) Measureable objectives and milestones toward sustainability
- e) A monitoring and management plan

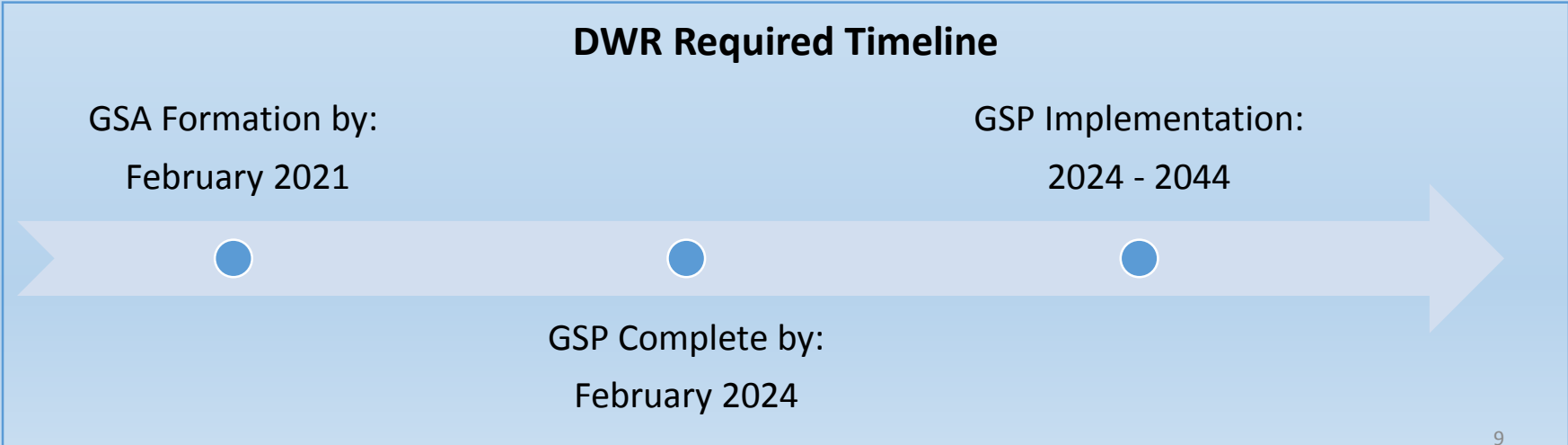
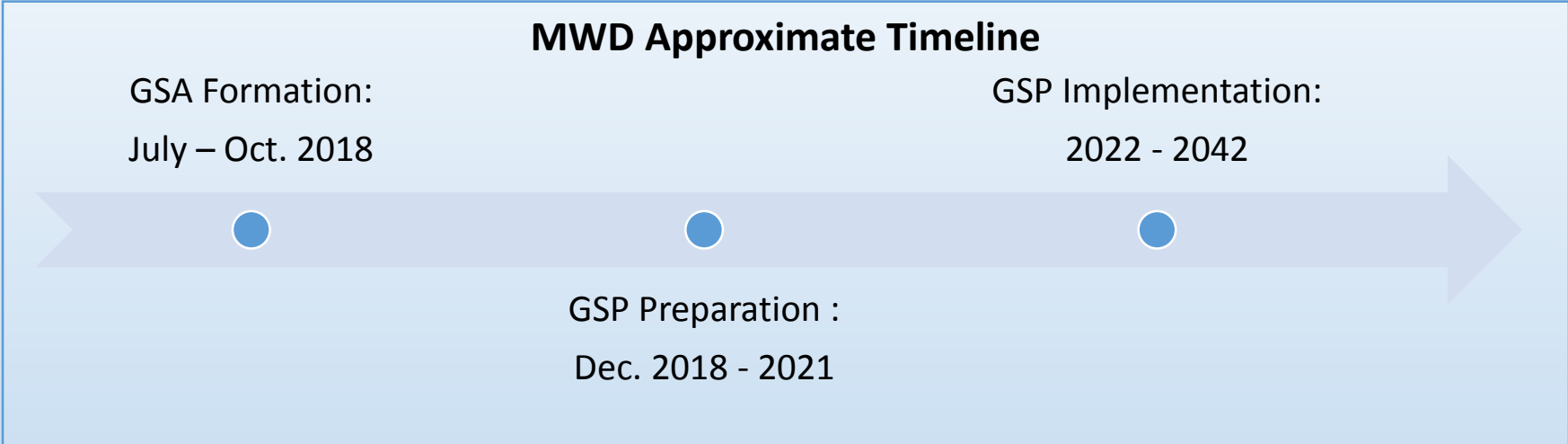
Why is Groundwater Sustainability important for MWD?

- a) Groundwater is a critical part of the water supply portfolio.**
- b) Groundwater is a critical part of drought and emergency water supply.**
- c) Groundwater is the only local reliable water supply**

GSA / GSP

- 1) Preserves local control of groundwater**
- 2) Respects overlying and other proprietary rights to groundwater.**
- 3) Supports acquisition of vetted technical information and data.**
- 4) Provides tools for more effective groundwater management.**
- 5) Implements programs and projects for water resources' stewardship.**

SGMA Implementation Timeline



SGMA Next Steps

- 1) GSA Application Submittal – Approximate Date: August 1, 2018**
- 2) Preparation of GSA bylaws**
- 3) Prepare work plan for GSP**
- 4) Pursue grant funding opportunities for SGMA related activities**
 - a) Prop 68 (passed in June 2018) - \$390 million**
 - b) November Water Bond - \$675 million**