



Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

Memo To:	Wayne Zipser, Chairman	Date:	3/20/2015
From:	Walt Ward	Time:	7:56 AM
Subject:	Groundwater Governance Structure		

MEMORANDIUM

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) calls for the creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) that are provided the legislative authority (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014) to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP's) for the various groundwater subbasins over which the designated GSA has authority.

The water stakeholders in Stanislaus County have been exploring the various options related to the formation of such designated GSA's and have considered a number of governance structures. These include the following options:

- (1) An integrated subbasin approach;
- (2) An integrated subbasin approach, with an overarching Coordinating Committee;
- (3) An integrated, combined subbasin approach;
- (4) A single, County-wide model, and
- (5) A Tri-County structure.

The model that has resonated with most stakeholders is Option 2 above, as expressed by the Technical Advisory Committee and further explored at the County Water Summit held on January 16, 2015 and at the workshop held on February 5, 2015 entitled "Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: *Local Governance Approaches and Considerations*."

At this time a sub-committee of the Technical Advisory Committee is preparing a white paper that fully develops the role, function, authority and composition of the Coordinating Committee for further consideration by the WAC and the County Board of Supervisors.

Staff is asking for the WAC to formally take a position of support to move forward with Option 2 and the further development of the concept of a Regional Groundwater Coordinating Committee.