



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

SUPPLEMENTAL GLOSSARY*

ENGLISH

- **Abandoned Well** – A well whose use has been permanently discontinued or which is in a state of such disrepair that no water can be produced.
- **Adjudication** – A determination of water rights for a stream or groundwater basin, or parts of those waters. In the context of an adjudicated groundwater basin, landowners or other parties have turned to the courts to settle disputes over how much groundwater can be extracted by each party to the decision.
- **Basin Prioritization** – is the classification of groundwater basins based on a variety of factors identified in statute, such as population and the number of water wells in a basin (see Water Code § 10933).
- **Best Management Practice** – means a practice, or combination of practices, that are designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management and have been determined to be technologically and economically effective, practicable, and based on best available science.
- **Bulletin 118** – is California’s official publication on the occurrence and nature of groundwater statewide.
- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** – a law that requires that state and local agencies disclose and evaluate the significant environmental impacts of proposed projects and adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts.
- **Climate Action Plans** – a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the specific activities that an agency will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Drinking Water Standards** – State and federal regulations regarding drinking water quality delivered by public water systems to customers.
- **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** – a state-mandated written summary of the positive and negative effects on the environment caused by the construction and operation of a project.

*Self-Help Enterprises developed a glossary available in English and Spanish to make groundwater management terms easier to understand, helping to build the capacity of community members to participate in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation process. This glossary adds some additional terms. Download Self-Help Enterprise’s glossary here: <https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/community-development/community-engagement-and-planning/sgma/>



- **Groundwater Management Plan** – a written plan that sets out a comprehensive approach to the planning, design, implementation, and operation of on-site groundwater management techniques to meet the requirements imposed on the development.
- **Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model** – a non-numerical model of the physical setting, characteristics, and processes that govern groundwater occurrence within a basin, and represents a local agency’s understanding of the geology and hydrology of the basin that support the geologic assumptions used in developing mathematical models, such as those that allow for quantification of the water budget.
- **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)** – a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives.
- **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)** – An agreement entered into by two or more public agencies that allows them to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. JPA is defined in California Government Code Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500).
- **Measurable Objective** — means a specific, quantifiable goal for the maintenance or improvement of specified groundwater conditions that have been included in an adopted Plan to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin.
- **Minimum Threshold** – means a numeric value for each sustainability indicator used to define undesirable results.
- **Public Water System** – A system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.
- **Seawater Intrusion:** the movement of seawater into freshwater aquifers due to natural processes or human activities.
- **Surface Water Depletion** – water from collected precipitation runoff, ponds, lakes, surface watercourses, and reservoirs is used at a rate that is detrimental to ecological functions or other identified uses and threatens sustained availability of surface water.
- **Sustainable Yield** – is 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.
- **Total dissolved solids (TDS)** – a method of measuring water quality.