



Association  
of California  
Water Agencies  
*Since 1910*  
Leadership • Advocacy  
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# Achieving Groundwater Sustainability

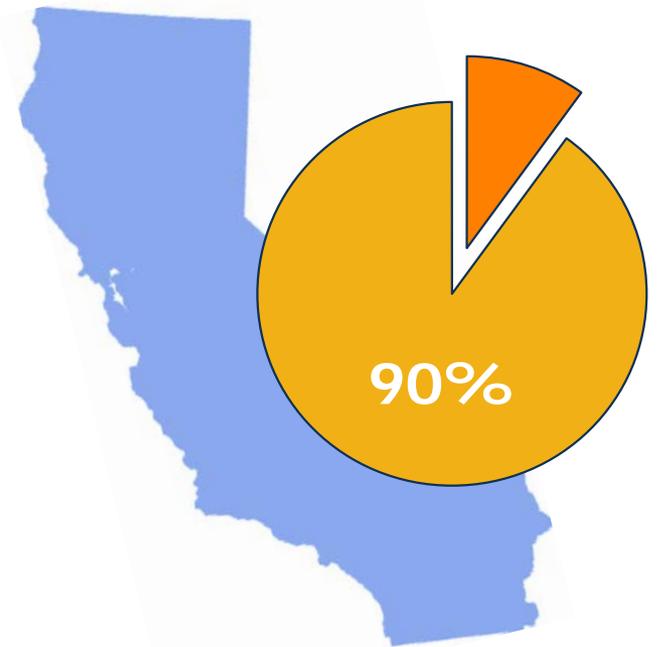
## California Water Commission

June 18, 2014 • David Bolland,  
ACWA Senior Regulatory Advocate

# About ACWA

## Who We Represent . . .

- + 430 public water agencies responsible for 90% of the state's distributed water
- + Members provide water for the public, for agriculture and for business



# California Water in 2014

## Acute Drought Crisis



## Chronic System Failure



2014 is clearly a year of crisis and opportunity!

# Groundwater Crisis

- + Unprecedented strain on groundwater today
- + Groundwater declines becoming unsustainable in some areas
- + Local subsidence, degraded water quality a concern
- + Implications for other users, key infrastructure



# ACWA's Recent Groundwater Work

- + The groundwater crisis has been decades in the making; it will be with us long after the drought ends
- + March 2009 Groundwater Management Policy Principles adopted by ACWA Board
- + April 2011 Groundwater Framework adopted by ACWA Board



# ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Task Force

- + ACWA Board-Level Task Force created November 2013
- + Core Values
  - Respect property rights
  - Protect local control
  - Promote sustainable outcomes
  - Take bold action



# ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Policy Objectives

- ✓ Enhance local management
- ✓ Establish mandatory minimum Groundwater Management Plan requirements and increased authorities
- ✓ Avoid or minimize subsidence
- ✓ Assess groundwater connection to surface waters
- ✓ Improve data availability
- ✓ Increase groundwater storage



# ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Policy Objectives

- ✓ Remove impediments to recharge
- ✓ Do no harm
- ✓ Reassess surface water reallocations
- ✓ Provide state financial and technical assistance
- ✓ Provide a “backstop”



# Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions

## 1. Adopt State Definition of Sustainable Groundwater Management

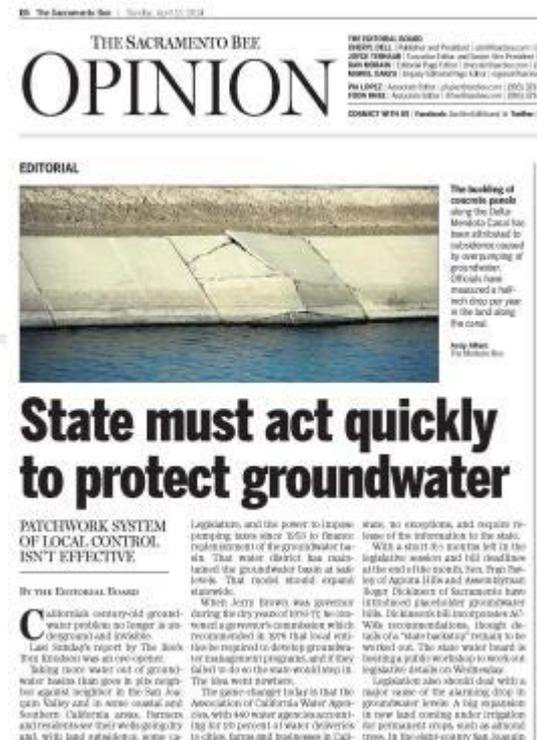
*"Sustainable groundwater management" is the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing unacceptable related environmental, economic or social consequences through the development, implementation and updating of plans and programs based on the best available science, monitoring, forecasting and use of technological resources.*

# Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions

2. **Prioritize Unmanaged Basins or Subbasins**
3. **Adopt Uniform Minimum Requirements for Groundwater Management Plans and Implementation**
4. **Develop Best Management Practices**
5. **Enhance Local and Regional Agency Authority**
6. **Ensure Adequate Funding**
7. **Provide for State Backstop Authority When Local Action Has Not Occurred or Has Been Insufficient**
8. **Remove Impediments to Water Supply Reliability**

# ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Recommendations

- + ACWA position = “Game Changer”
- + Historic legislation possible this year
- + Bills in progress
  - + AB 1739 (Dickinson)
  - + SB 1168 (Pavley)
  - + Administration proposal



“The game-changer today is that the Association of California Water Agencies ...put forward a set of recommendations...”  
**Sacramento Bee editorial – April 13, 2014**

# Contact & More Information

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