

RELATED CALIFORNIA WATER CODE REQUIREMENTS

California Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.74

§10721. Definitions

(d) "Coordination agreement" means a legal agreement adopted between two or more groundwater sustainability agencies that provides the basis for coordinating multiple agencies or groundwater sustainability plans within a basin pursuant to this part.

§10723.4. Maintenance of Interested Persons List

The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. Any person may request, in writing, to be placed on the list of interested persons.

§10727.

(b) A groundwater sustainability plan may be any of the following:

- (1) A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by one groundwater sustainability agency.*
- (2) A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by multiple groundwater sustainability agencies.*
- (3) Subject to Section 10727.6, multiple plans implemented by multiple groundwater sustainability agencies and coordinated pursuant to a single coordination agreement that covers the entire basin.*

§10727.8.

(a) Prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county located within the geographic area to be covered by the plan. The groundwater sustainability agency may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. If the geographic area to be covered by the plan includes a public water system regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the commission.

(b) For purposes of this section, interested parties include entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

§10733.4. State Evaluation and Assessment

(a) Upon adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan, a groundwater sustainability agency shall submit the groundwater sustainability plan to the department for review pursuant to this chapter.

(b) If groundwater sustainability agencies develop multiple groundwater sustainability plans for a basin, the submission required by subdivision (a) shall not occur until the entire basin is covered by groundwater sustainability plans. When the entire basin is covered by groundwater sustainability plans, the groundwater sustainability agencies shall jointly submit to the department all of the following:

Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

- (1) The groundwater sustainability plans.*
 - (2) An explanation of how the groundwater sustainability plans implemented together satisfy Sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6 for the entire basin.*
 - (3) A copy of the coordination agreement between the groundwater sustainability agencies to ensure the coordinated implementation of the groundwater sustainability plans for the entire basin.*
- (c) Upon receipt of a groundwater sustainability plan, the department shall post the plan on the department's Internet Web site and provide 60 days for persons to submit comments to the department about the plan.*
- (d) The department shall evaluate the groundwater sustainability plan within two years of its submission by a groundwater sustainability agency and issue an assessment of the plan. The assessment may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified by the department.*
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a groundwater sustainability agency from implementing a groundwater sustainability plan prior to evaluation and assessment of the groundwater sustainability plan by the department.*

RELATED GSP REGULATIONS

California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2.

§ 351. Definitions

- (a) "Agency" refers to a groundwater sustainability agency as defined in the Act.*
- (p) "Interested parties" refers to persons and entities on the list of interested persons established by the Agency pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.4.*
- (x) "Plan" refers to a groundwater sustainability plan as defined in the Act.*
- (z) "Plan manager" is an employee or authorized representative of an Agency, or Agencies, appointed through a coordination agreement or other agreement, who has been delegated management authority for submitting the Plan and serving as the point of contact between the Agency and the Department.*

§ 353.6. Initial Notification

- (a) Each Agency shall notify the Department, in writing, prior to initiating development of a Plan. The notification shall provide general information about the Agency's process for developing the Plan, including the manner in which interested parties may contact the Agency and participate in the development and implementation of the Plan. The Agency shall make the information publicly available by posting relevant information on the Agency's website.*
- (b) The Department shall post the initial notification required by this Section, including Agency contact information, on the Department's website within 20 days of receipt.*
- (c) Upon request, prior to adoption of a Plan, the Department shall provide assistance to an Agency regarding the elements of a Plan required by the Act and this Subchapter, however, the Agency is solely responsible for the development, adoption, and implementation of a Plan that satisfies the requirements of the Act and this Subchapter.*

§ 357.4. Coordination Agreements

- (a) Agencies intending to develop and implement multiple Plans pursuant to Water Code Section 10727(b)(3) shall enter into a coordination agreement to ensure that the Plans are developed and implemented utilizing the same data and methodologies, and that elements of the Plans necessary to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin are based upon consistent interpretations of the basin setting.*
- (b) Coordination agreements shall describe the following:*
- (1) A point of contact with the Department.*

Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

(2) The responsibilities of each Agency for meeting the terms of the agreement, the procedures for the timely exchange of information between Agencies, and procedures for resolving conflicts between Agencies.

(3) How the Agencies have used the same data and methodologies for assumptions described in Water Code Section 10727.6 to prepare coordinated Plans, including the following:

(A) Groundwater elevation data, supported by the quality, frequency, and spatial distribution of data in the monitoring network and the monitoring objectives as described in Subarticle 4 of Article 5.

(B) A coordinated water budget for the basin, as described in Section 354.18, including groundwater extraction data, surface water supply, total water use, and change in groundwater in storage.

(C) Sustainable yield for the basin, supported by a description of the undesirable results for the basin, and an explanation of how the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives defined by each Plan relate to those undesirable results, based on information described in the basin setting.

(c) The coordination agreement shall explain how the Plans implemented together, satisfy the requirements of the Act and are in substantial compliance with this Subchapter

(d) The coordination agreement shall describe a process for submitting all Plans, Plan amendments, supporting information, all monitoring data and other pertinent information, along with annual reports and periodic evaluations.

(e) The coordination agreement shall describe a coordinated data management system for the basin, as described in Section 352.6.

(f) Coordination agreements shall identify adjudicated areas within the basin, and any local agencies that have adopted an Alternative that has been accepted by the Department. If an Agency forms in a basin managed by an Alternative, the Agency shall evaluate the agreement with the Alternative prepared pursuant to Section 358.2 and determine whether it satisfies the requirements of this Section.

(g) The coordination agreement shall be submitted to the Department together with the Plans for the basin and, if approved, shall become part of the Plan for each participating Agency.

(h) The Department shall evaluate a coordination agreement for compliance with the procedural and technical requirements of this Section, to ensure that the agreement is binding on all parties, and that provisions of the agreement are sufficient to address any disputes between or among parties to the agreement.

(i) Coordination agreements shall be reviewed as part of the five-year assessment, revised as necessary, dated, and signed by all parties.

