

# LAFCO and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

**Where do  
LAFCO's fit?**



# SGMA and LAFCOs

- SGMA is a game-changer for groundwater.
- Effects on LAFCO's and jurisdictions
  - Annexations to jurisdictions to apply SGMA
  - Basin and jurisdictional boundaries not the same
  - Outside User Agreements-56133
  - LAFCO is being legislatively circumvented
- LAFCO's forming new Districts
  - More inquiries about forming water district's
  - Forming a District to manage groundwater



# SGMA and LAFCOs

- Instant polling: Your LAFCO's role with SGMA:
  - no involvement
  - some involvement
  - pretty involved
- What could LAFCO's role be?



2014

San Luis Obispo  
Local Agency Formation  
Commission SLO LAFCO

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[www.slolafco.com](http://www.slolafco.com)

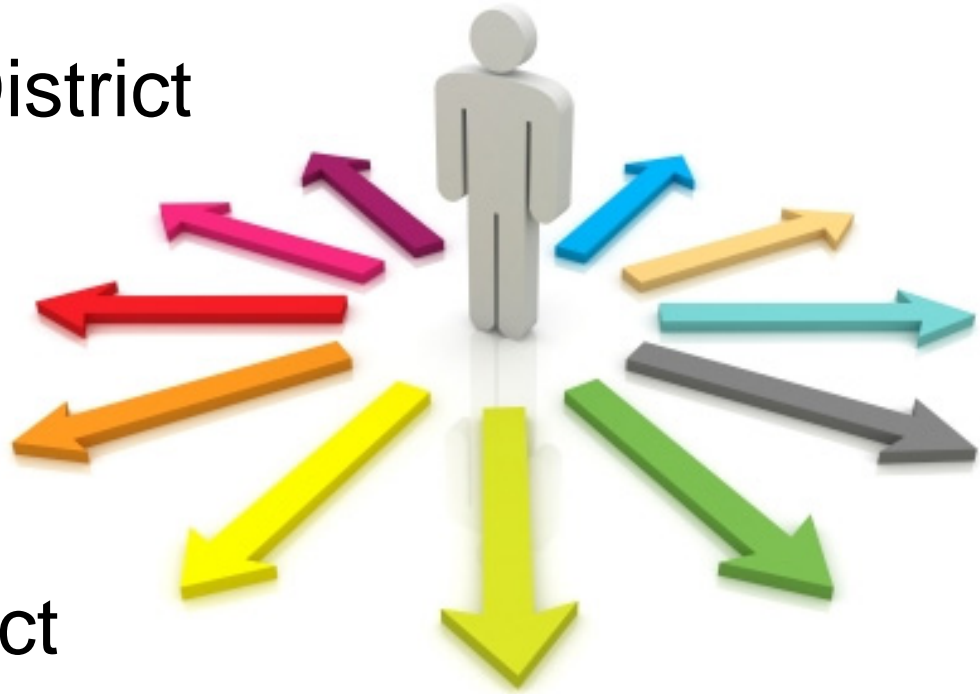
**Provide Information**

# **GOVERNANCE OPTIONS FOR MANAGING A GROUNDWATER BASIN**

# Possible Districts

## Districts

- Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Water Conservation District
- County Service Area
- Irrigation District
- County Water District
- California Water District
- Water Replenishment District



# Water Status Report

Summary of LAFCO process:

- **Initiation:** Voters, Landowners, Agencies
- **Application:** Plan for Services, Studies
- **Commission Action:** Public hearing Process
- **Protest Hearing Process:** Not Always
- **Election:** RV or landowners, formation, Directors, Funding



# Water Status Report

## County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- **Governing Body: County Board of Supervisors-By Divisions**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent of buy, sell, & transport water. Responsible for Groundwater Management Plan.**
- **Formation: Formed years ago-Zones of Benefit established by the Board of Supervisors-Normally no LAFCO process involved.**

# Water Status Report

## County Service Area

- **Governing Body: County Board of Supervisors**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent of buy, sell, & transport water for variety of purposes**
- **Formation: Resolution of the BOS or a City Council, or by petition of 10% of the registered voters. LAFCO process to form a new CSA or activate a power.**



# Water Status Report

## County Water District

- **Governing Body: Five Member Board of Directors-By Popular Vote of Registered Voters-Initial Board could be appointed by the Board of Supervisors**
- **Functions: Broad authority with regard to water services including managing groundwater, storage and conservation.**
- **Formation: Initiated by 10% of the registered voters. LAFCO process**

# Water Status Report

## Water Conservation District

- **Governing Body: Three, Five, Seven Member Board of Directors elected by registered voters - by Divisions**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent of conserve, store, & spread water-Levy and collect a groundwater charge for the pumping of water**
- **Formation: Formed by the registered voters in the District. LAFCO process for formation**

# Water Status Report

## Irrigation District

- **Governing Body: Three or Five Member Board of Directors-At Large or by Divisions**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent to supply water for beneficial use. Often used for agriculture.**
- **Formation: petition by majority of the property owners whom also own a majority of value of the land or by 500 petitioners/registered voters**

# Water Status Report

## California Water District

- **Governing Body: Five Member Board of Directors-  
Landowner Voters - At Large**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent to acquire, plan,  
construct for distribution of water for irrigation,  
domestic, industrial, and municipal purposes**
- **Formation: Petition by holders of title to a majority in  
area of land (acreage). Vote of landowners on an  
acreage basis 1 vote per acre. LAFCO formation  
process.**

# Water Status Report

## Water Replenishment District

- **Governing Body: Five Members & One Director By Divisions and registered voters in the area**
- **Functions: Broad authority with intent to buy, sell, exchange, & distribute water. Spread, sink inject water into the ground. Deliver water to reduce groundwater use**
- **Formation: Petition by 10 percent of the number of the voters residing in the area. Subject to the LAFCO formation process**

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**Form Districts**

# **FORMATION GUIDE - PASO ROBLES BASIN WATER DISTRICT**

# Study Session: Draft Formation Guide

- What's in the Guide?

1. Summary:

2. Formation Process:

1. Resolution of Application

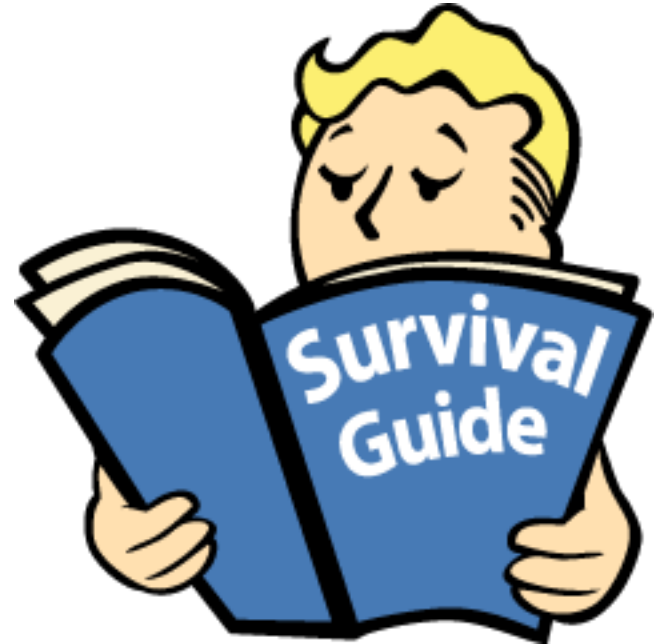
2. Petition Process

3. Plan for Services

4. Funding Sources/ Mechanisms

5. Powers and Functions

6. LAFCO Consideration



# Study Session

## Draft Formation Guide

- What's in the Guide?
  3. Special Legislation – AB 2453
  4. Election-Voting
- Attachment A: Powers and Functions
- Attachment B: Guidelines for Public Comment
- Attachment C: Pavley/Dickinson-ACWA



# SGMA and LAFCOs

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- LAFCOs can assist in forming GSAs
- Facilitate discussions
- Provide information about governance
- Here is an example of how that might work out in



# SGMA and LAFCOs

- **How do LAFCOs fit?**
  - Groundwater management is important:
    - ➔ Identify governance and boundary issues
    - ➔ Look for practical solutions
    - ➔ Help with GSA formation
    - ➔ Carefully consider legislation
    - ➔ Continue to evaluate LAFCO's role



# SGMA

## Scenario

Mostly Growers – **Blue** – 40K acres

- 16,000 acres irrigators
- LAFCo Hearing is coming

JD District – **Green** – 140K acres

- 11,000 acres irrigators
- LAFCO formed the District

County Flood Control-**Lg. Blue**- 320K

