

Communication and Engagement Plan

Overview of C&E Plan Guidance from DWR

Introduction

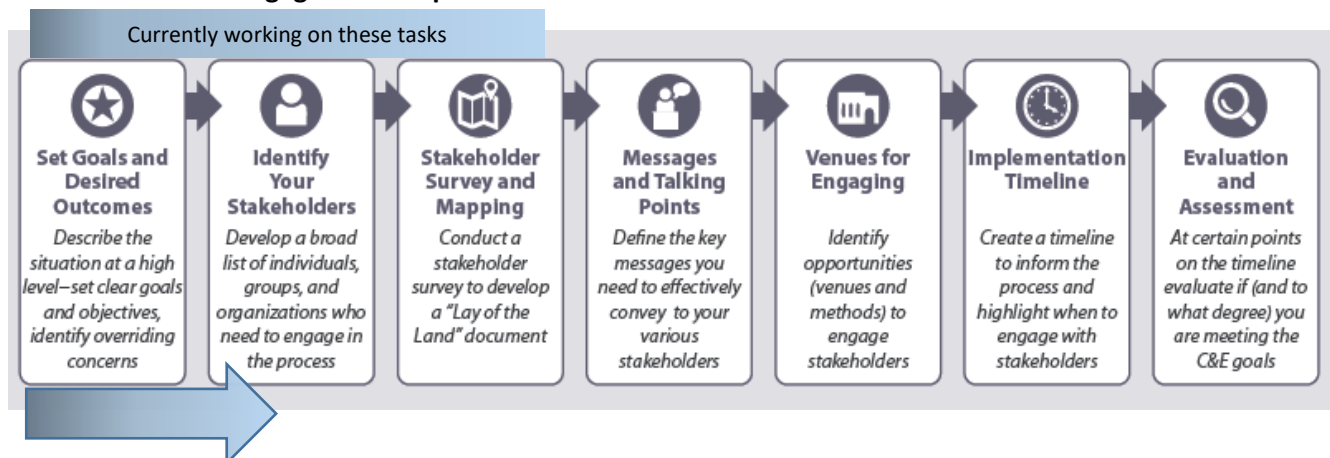
Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), sustainable groundwater management must consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. As a result, groundwater planning and management needs to consider effects to stakeholder groups in or around the groundwater basin with overlapping interests. These interests include, but are not limited to, holders of overlying groundwater rights (including agriculture users and domestic well owners), public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental users, surface water users, state and federal government, California Native American tribes, and disadvantaged communities (Water Code 10723.2).

State regulations also require the development of documentation (a communication engagement plan) of opportunities for public engagement and active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin. Expertise of local stakeholders may increase the chance that the best available information and best available science is being applied to make groundwater management decisions.

Objectives

- Provide clear descriptions of the decision-making process
- Provide opportunities for community engagement and input
- Encourage active involvement of stakeholders from diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds
- Include a method of progress reporting regarding groundwater sustainability, groundwater conditions and projects, and management actions taken

Communication & Engagement Steps



Groundwater Stakeholder Engagement Chart

Category of Interest	Examples of Stakeholder Groups	Engagement purpose
General Public	Citizens groups Community leaders	Inform to improve public awareness of sustainable groundwater management
Land Use	Municipalities (City, County planning departments) Regional land use agencies	Consult and involve to ensure land use policies support groundwater mgmt. goals
Private users	Private pumpers Domestic users Schools and colleges Hospitals	Inform and involve to avoid negative impacts to these users
Urban/ Agriculture users	Municipal/Community water suppliers Resource conservation districts Ag/Wine industry groups Farmers/Farm Bureaus	Collaborate to ensure sustainable management of groundwater
Industrial users	Commercial and industrial self-suppliers	Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users
Environmental and Ecosystem	Environmental groups State and Federal agencies (Fish and Wildlife) Wetland managers	Inform and involve to sustain a vital ecosystem
Economic Development	Chambers of commerce Business groups/associations Elected officials (Board of Supervisors, City Council members) State Assembly members and State Senators	Inform and involve to support a stable economy
Human right to water	Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) Small community systems Environmental Justice Groups	Inform and involve to provide a safe and secure groundwater supplies to DACs
Tribes	Tribal Governments and Elders	Inform, involve and consult with tribal government
Federal, State and local lands	Bureau of Land Management State Parks Regional Parks Land Trust	Inform, involve and collaborate to ensure basin sustainability
Integrated Water Management	Regional water management groups (IRWM regions) Flood District Recycled water providers	Inform, involve and collaborate to improve regional sustainability

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