





Local vs. State Control: Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

If the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency is unable to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) due to a lack of funding, the State *will* intervene.

SGMA requires GSA's to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that outlines the path to achieve sustainability by 2040.

Date	State Intervention Triggers
After Jan 2020	1. No GSP has been adopted <i>or</i> 2. DWR and SWRCB finds GSP or its implementation inadequate
After Jan 2025	DWR and SWRCB find GSP inadequate or not implemented in a manner likely to achieve sustainability goal; SWRCB finds significant depletions of surface waters

Implementation of SGMA via...		
	McMullin Area GSA	State Intervention
	Approval of fees and assessments in the hands of landowners	Impose fees without holding an election
	Considers supply-side solutions first, like groundwater recharge	More likely to use demand-side solutions, like restrict groundwater pumping
	Focused on local needs, local solutions, and local success	Removed from the local community and its specific needs
	GSA Board committed to public transparency and stakeholder engagement	State Board works and meets in Sacramento

Implementation by the local McMullin Area GSA is the least cost option that carries the most benefits for the local community.

Implementation by the State Water Resources Control Board is many times more costly to landowners, and the cost carries restrictions without providing local benefits.

SGMA is an unfunded law passed by the State of CA in 2014. The McMullin Area GSA holds authority to implement the law, but if unable to due to lack of funding, the State will intervene.

In the case of State Intervention, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) would impose a fee structure on groundwater pumpers many times more costly than the fee proposed by the McMullin Area GSA. **Below are comparisons of the McMullin Area GSA fees at \$19 per acre versus the State fees.**

