



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Frequently Asked Questions on Public Commenting on Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will post groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to its website¹ within 20 days of receiving the plan.

Once a plan is posted, it will be open to public comment. The minimum period for public comment is 60 days², but DWR has decided to open the comment period for 75 days. While DWR will not respond to public comments directly, it will consider those comments during its evaluation of the plans.

Here are a few frequently asked questions and answers about the public comment process. More information about GSPs can be found at DWR's GSP web page.³ If you have additional questions you can contact the SGMA team at sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Who can comment on a GSP?

Anyone can submit a public comment on a GSP.

How can I comment on a GSP?

Visit <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/all>. Find the GSP you're interested in and click the blue comment button under the *Action* column and then click *Add Comment*. Fill in the information on the Comment Submission form and click *Submit*. The Comment Submission form includes the ability to upload additional files if desired (e.g., Adobe PDF documents). Note that a SGMA Portal account is not required to submit public comments.

When does the public comment period start?

Each plan will have a slightly different public comment window. The public comment period is initiated once the plan is posted to DWR's website. DWR's SGMA Portal

¹ <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/all>

² SGMA requires a public comment period of 60 days and DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations further clarify that the public comment period will be "no less than 60 days" after that GSP has been accepted by DWR for evaluation. Refer to 23 CCR § 353.8(b).

³ <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans>

website is updated in real time and provides information about when the public comment period for each GSP closes.

Can public comments be submitted after the close of the comment period?

Public comments can be submitted at any time via the SGMA Portal and will be posted publicly. While DWR staff will make every effort to review and consider any comments received, DWR is only required to consider those comments received during the official 75-day public comment period.

Where can public comments on a GSP be viewed?

All submitted public comments can be viewed on the SGMA Portal. When viewing the list of submitted GSPs, comments can be viewed by clicking on the *Comment* button for a particular GSP under the *Action* column.

Will GSAs receive notice when public comments are sent to DWR?

Yes, notification emails will be sent to the designated Plan Manager when a public comment on a GSP is submitted on the SGMA Portal. For basins with multiple GSPs, both the Plan Manager and the Point of Contact will receive the notification.

What will GSAs do with public comments submitted to DWR?

There is no statutory or regulatory requirement for how GSAs handle public comments submitted to DWR on their adopted GSPs. As such, GSAs have discretion regarding what to do with those public comments. For example, they may choose to respond directly to the comments by loading a response to the SGMA Portal. Alternatively, they may choose to respond in annual reports or future updates to their GSP.