



THE BOND BUYER'S

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC FINANCE
CONFERENCE

California Groundwater Legislation

The Problem

- Historically, groundwater has not been regulated in California
- Viewed as property right
- Groundwater legislation has been politically poisonous since State's founding

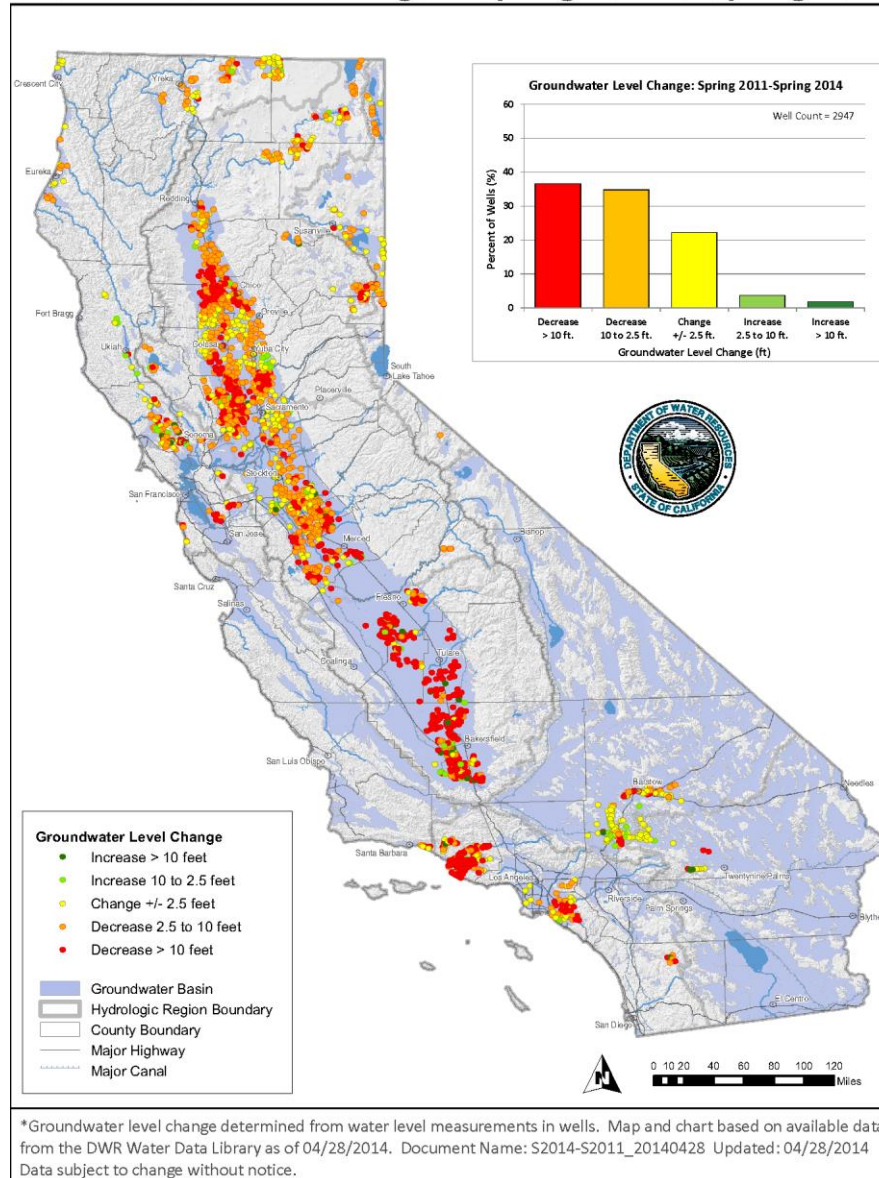
“This falls under the category of: Never let a crisis go to waste.”

--Assemblyman Roger Dickinson

The Problem

- Groundwater reserves used to buffer drought effects
- Offset as much as 75% of water lost from surface sources
- No statewide rules on how much water can be taken from the ground

Groundwater Level Change* - Spring 2011 to Spring 2014



The Solution

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- SB 1168 (Pavley)
- AB 1739 (Dickinson)
- SB 1319 (Pavley)

“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.” --Gov. Jerry Brown

SB 1168

- Requires local agencies to create groundwater sustainability plans (high or medium priority basins)
- Authorizes formation of groundwater sustainability agencies
- Broad authority to regulate groundwater use given to sustainability agencies

AB 1739

- Establishes when the State can intervene if local agencies do not do their job
- DWR to publish best management practices for sustainable management of groundwater
- Groundwater sustainability plans must be considered in general plans

SB 1319

- Seeks to allay certain concerns of farmers
- Basins where groundwater extraction threatens depletion of surface waters can be designated as “probationary”