



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

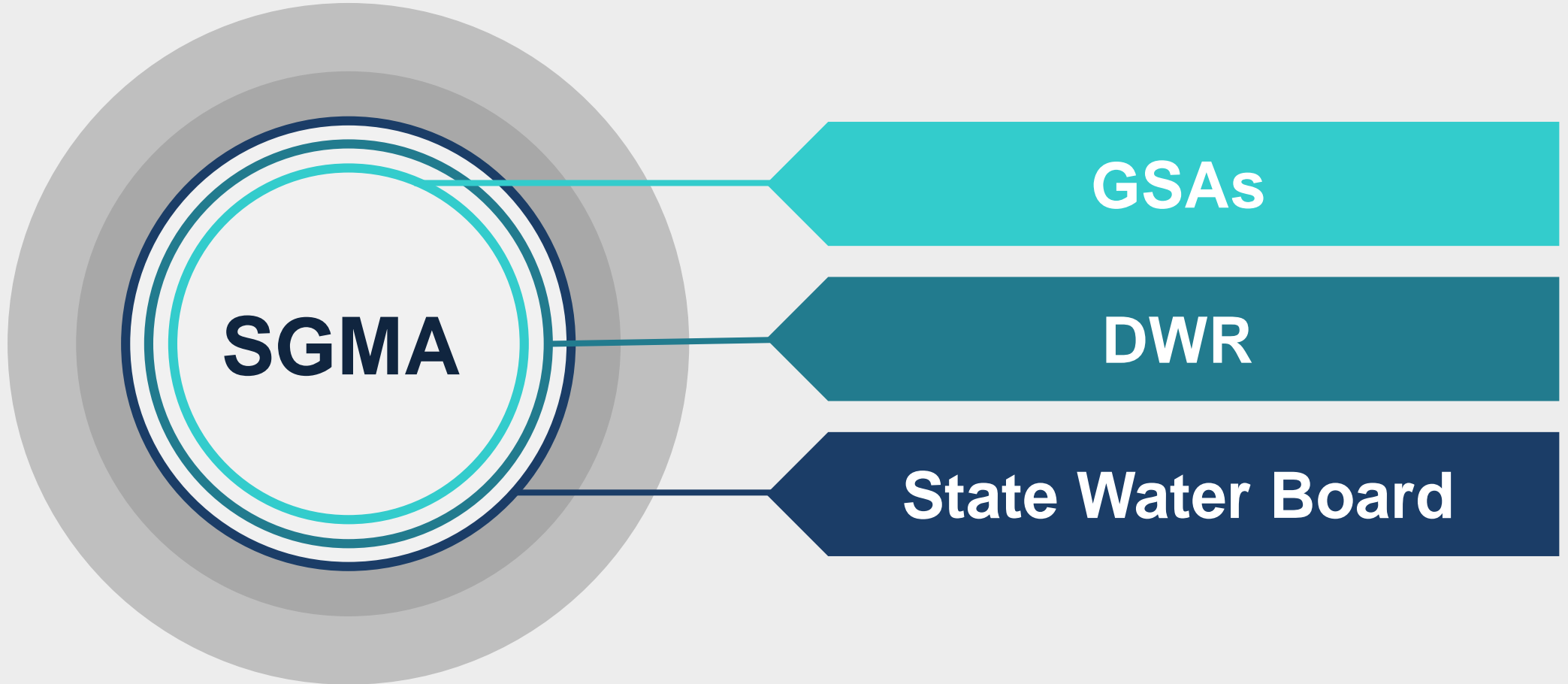


May 14, 2019

Groundwater Management
Program

“ Groundwater **management**
in California is best
accomplished **locally.** ”

Former Governor Jerry Brown

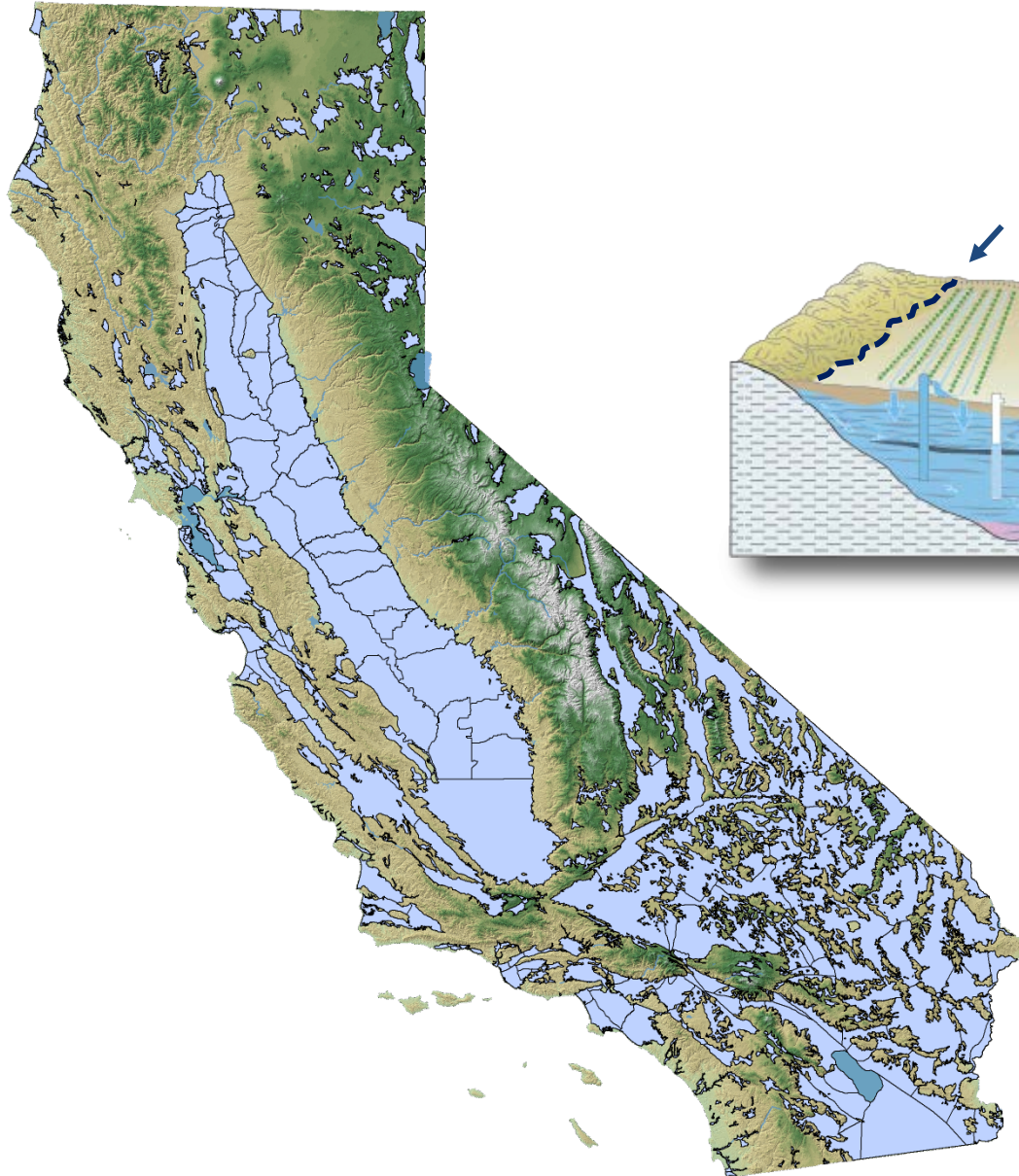


GSA

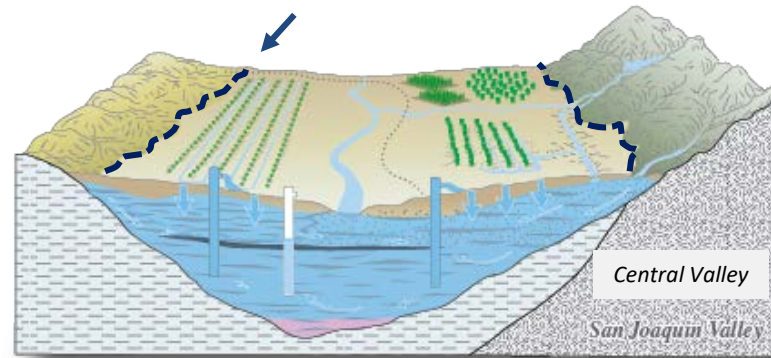
DWR

State Water Board

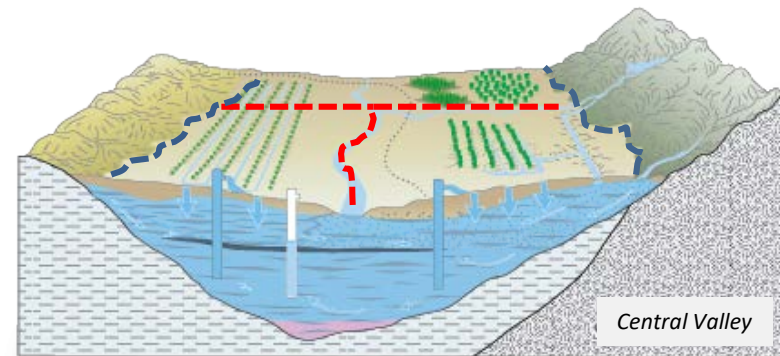
Groundwater in SGMA



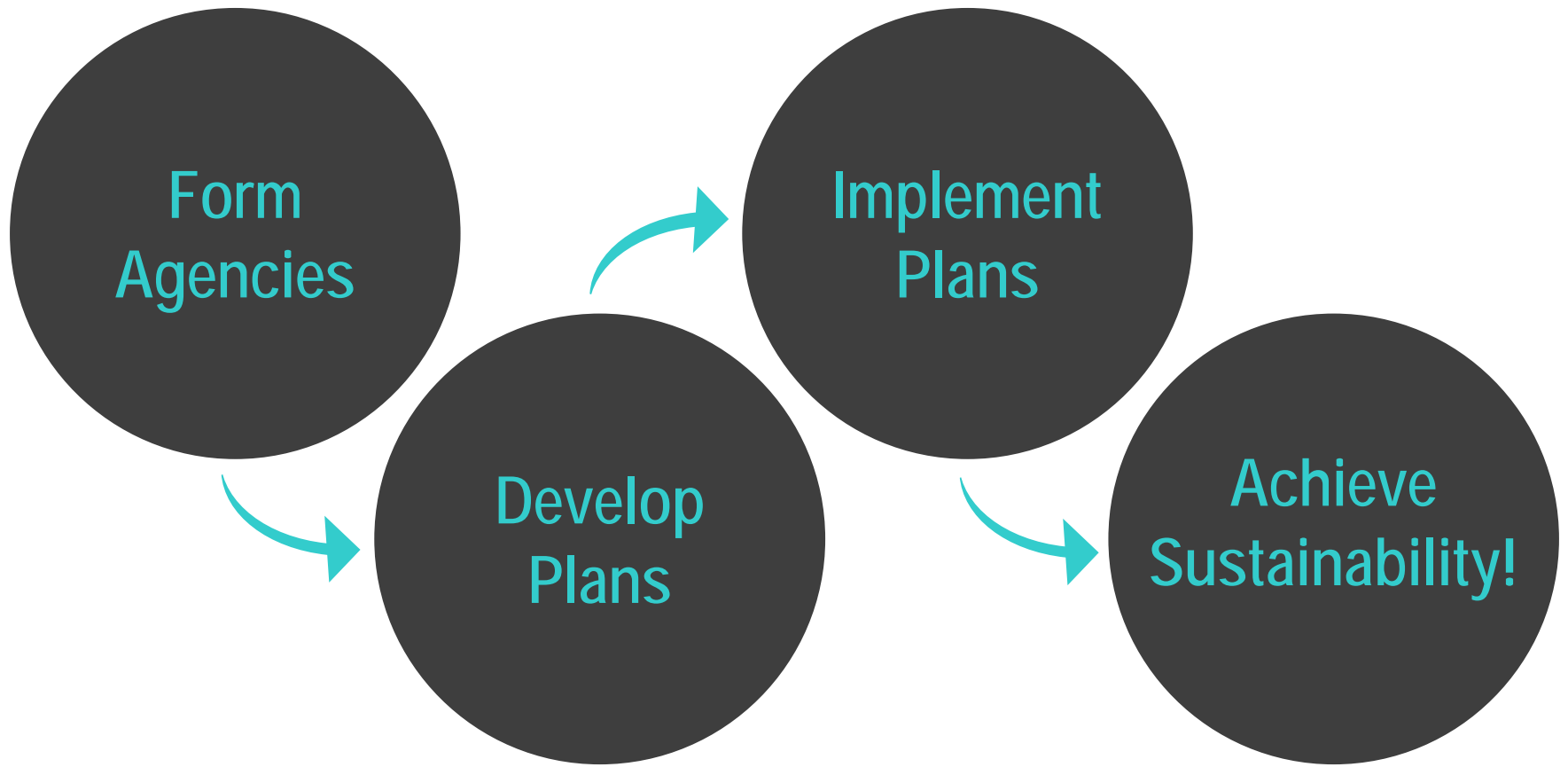
Basin



Subbasin



SGMA



Form
Agencies

Develop
Plans

Implement
Plans

Achieve
Sustainability!

What is Sustainability?

Basin operated within its sustainable yield and not experiencing undesirable results:



Lowering
GW Levels



Storage
Reduction



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface
Depletion

Significant and unreasonable...

...caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin.

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Surface
Depletion

“Depletions of **interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.”**

“Surface water that is hydraulically connected **at any point** by a continuous saturated zone to the underlying aquifer and the overlying surface water is not completely depleted.”

Cal. Code Regs. tit. 23 § 351(o)

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Key GSP Requirements



Groundwater Conditions Assessment

Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

Water Budget

Sustainable Management Criteria

Management Actions & Projects

Monitoring Network

Demonstrate **UNDERSTANDING**

- Describe current & historical groundwater conditions
- Identify and characterize interconnected surface water systems
- Estimate quantity and timing of depletions
- Identify GDEs
- Estimate groundwater & surface water budgets



Key GSP Requirements



Groundwater Conditions Assessment

Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

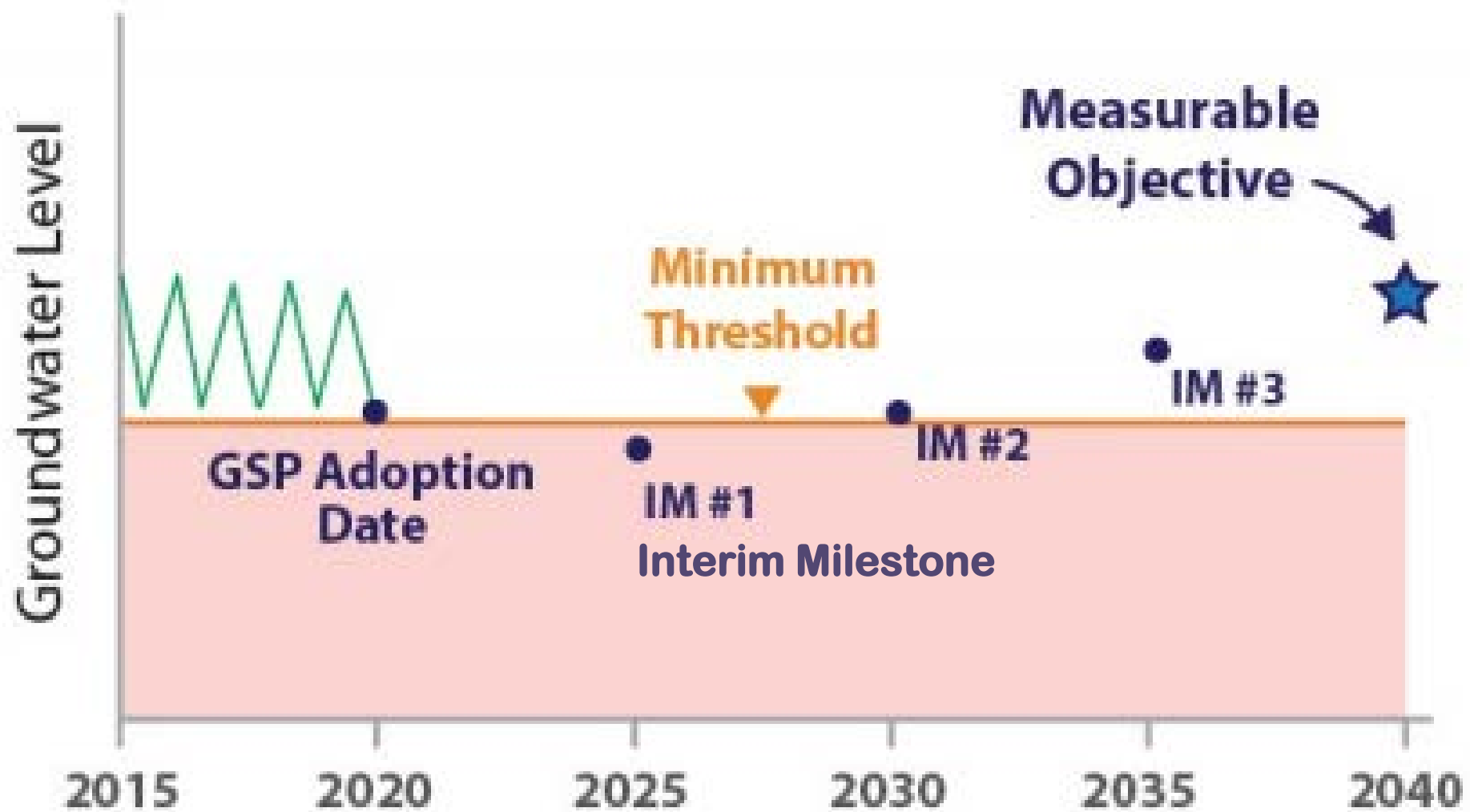
Water Budget

Sustainable Management Criteria

Management Actions & Projects

Monitoring Network

Sustainable Management Criteria



Minimum Threshold

Rate or volume of surface water depletions caused by groundwater use:

- Location
- Quantity
- Timing

Groundwater elevation may be used as a proxy indicator



“ Where a local groundwater sustainability agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, **the state needs to protect the resource** until...a local groundwater sustainability agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin. ”

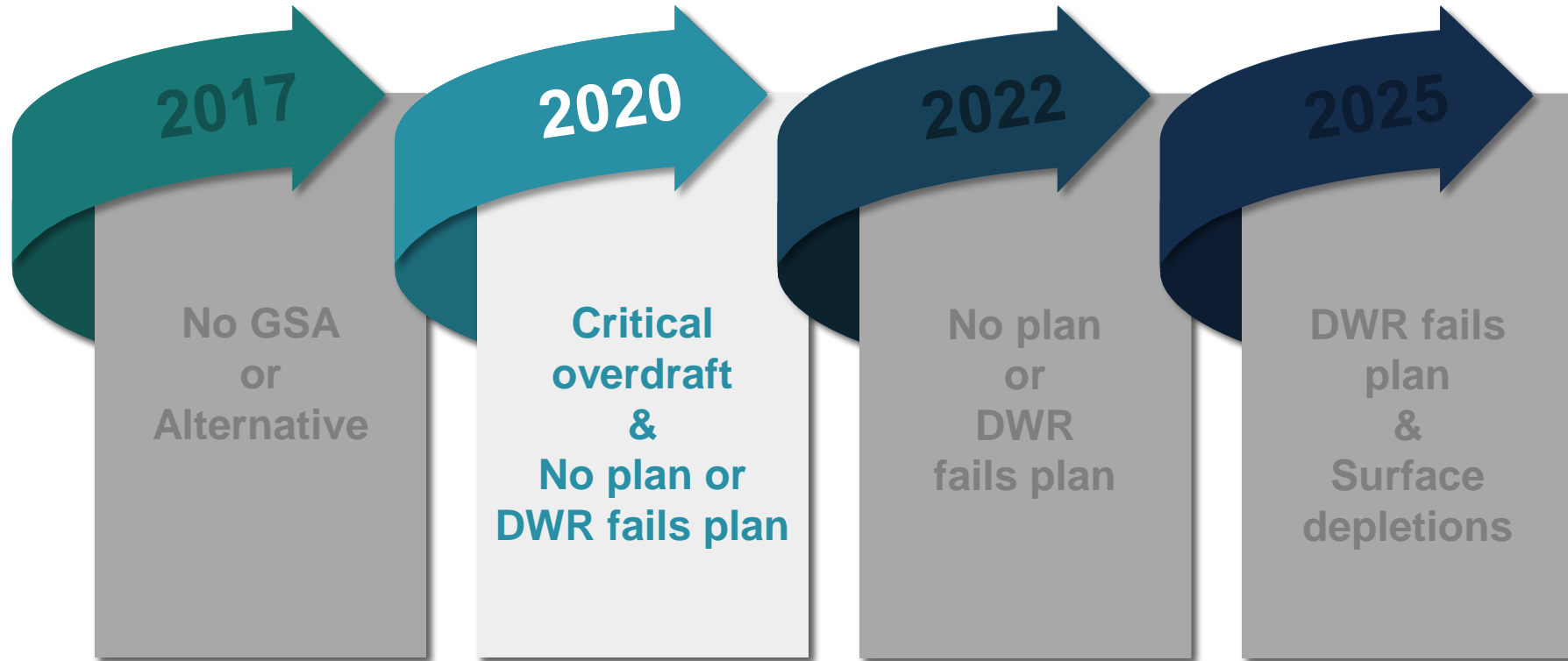
California Legislature

Board Backstop Basics

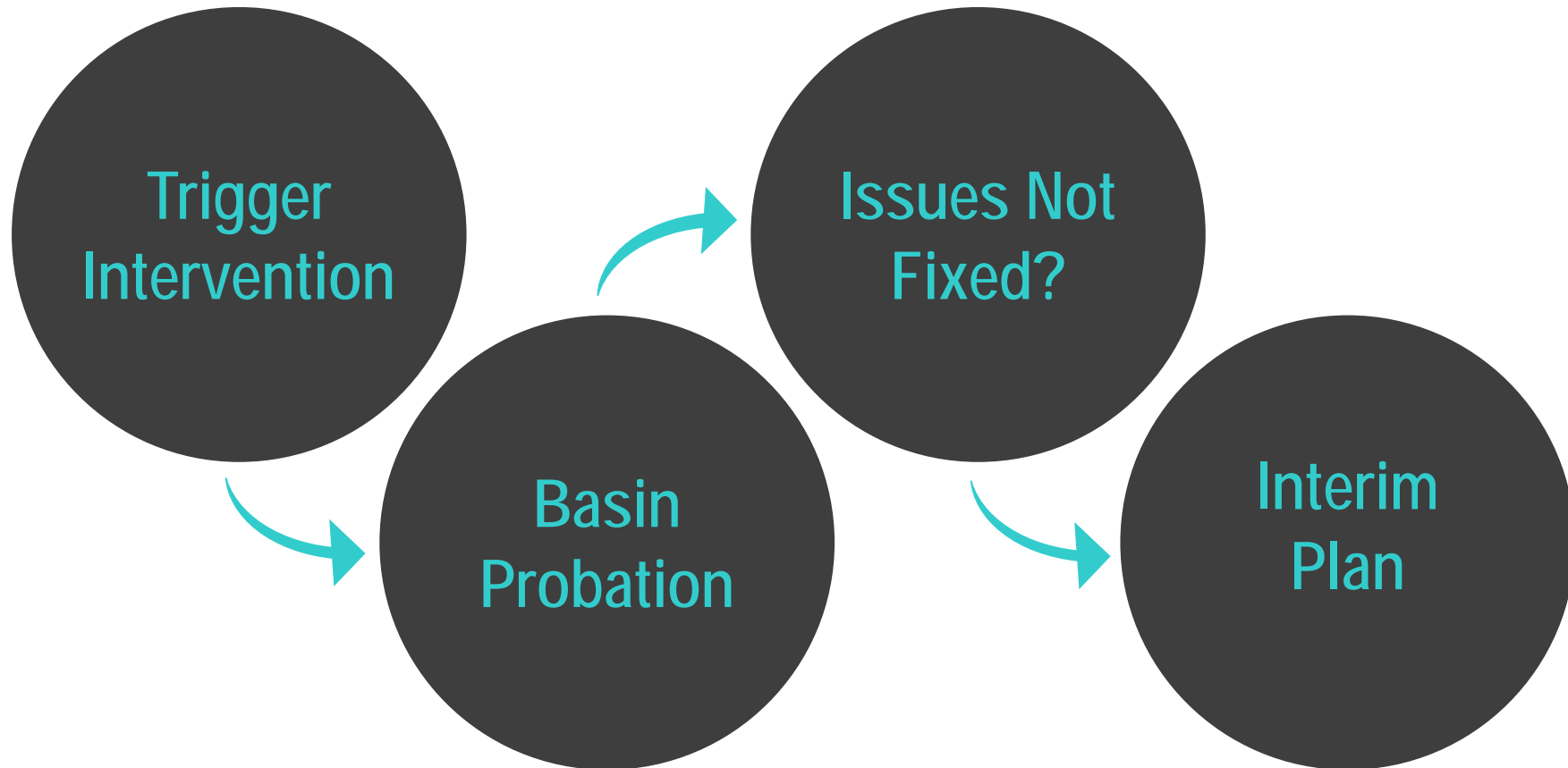
- 1 Board only steps in when local efforts fail.
- 2 Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
- 3 Backstop is triggered by SGMA deadlines.



TRIGGERING the BACKSTOP



Backstop



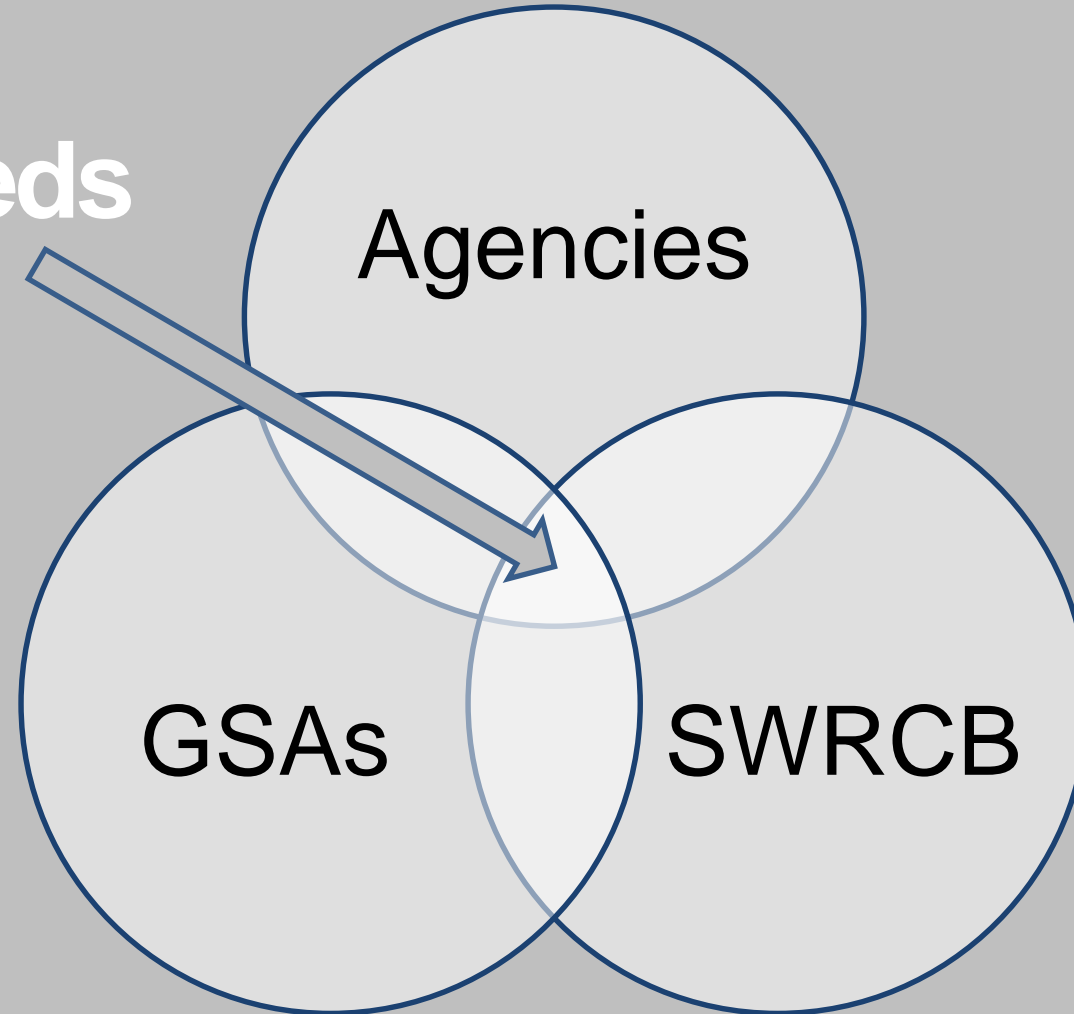
Significant Depletions of Interconnected Surface Waters

The illustration shows a cross-section of the ground. On the left, a small pond contains two fish. On the right, a well with a bucket is shown. A thick blue vertical bar represents the water level in the well, which is significantly lower than the surface water level in the pond, indicating depletion. The background is light blue with two white clouds.

Reductions in flow or levels of surface water that is hydrologically connected to the basin such that the reduced surface water flow or levels have a significant and unreasonable adverse impact on **beneficial uses of the surface water**

Roles *versus* Outcomes

Instream needs



SGMA provides forum for coordination

“ Groundwater **management**
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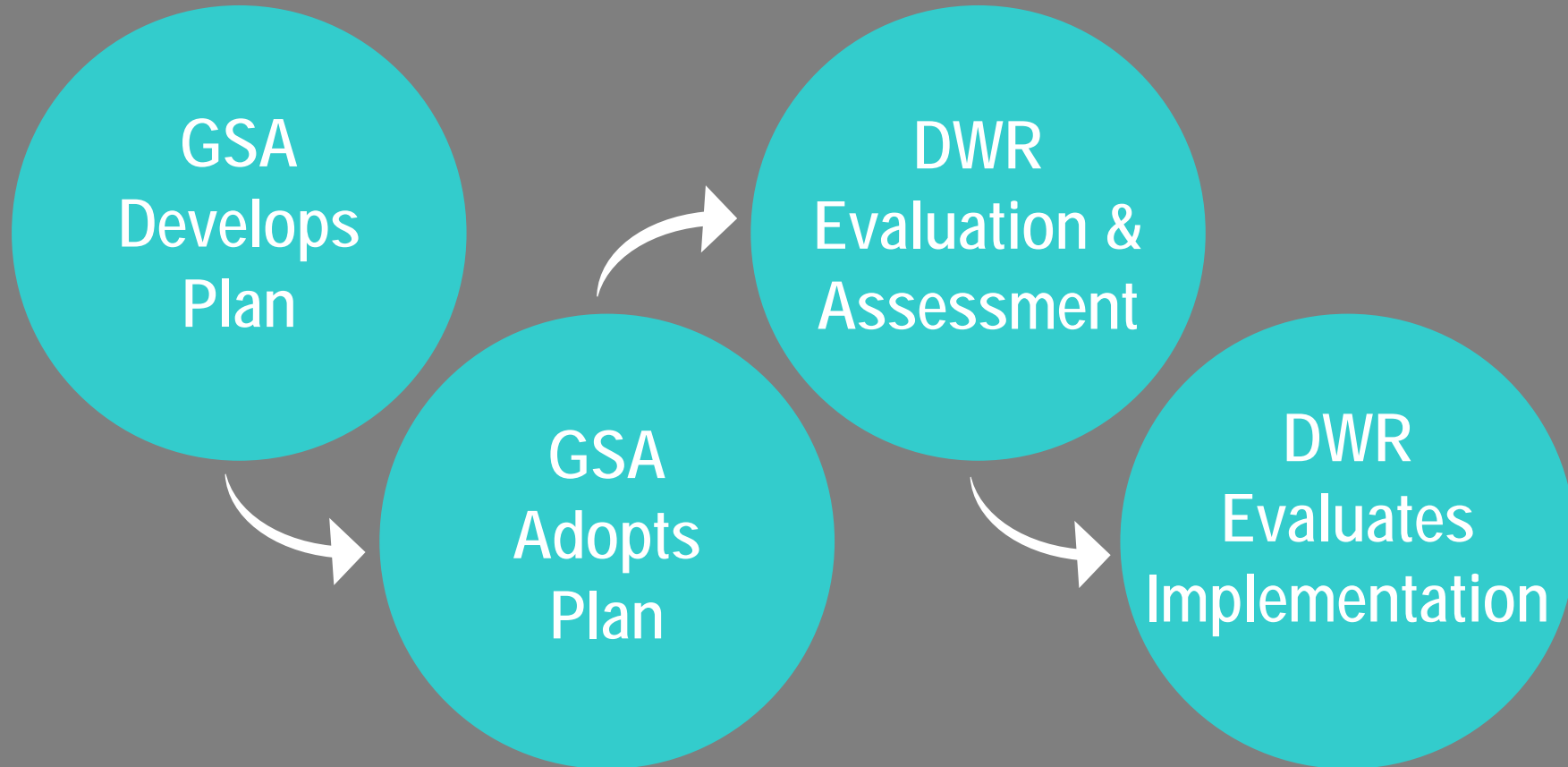
Former Governor Jerry Brown

Natalie Stork
Sam Boland-Brien
SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov
(916) 322-6508

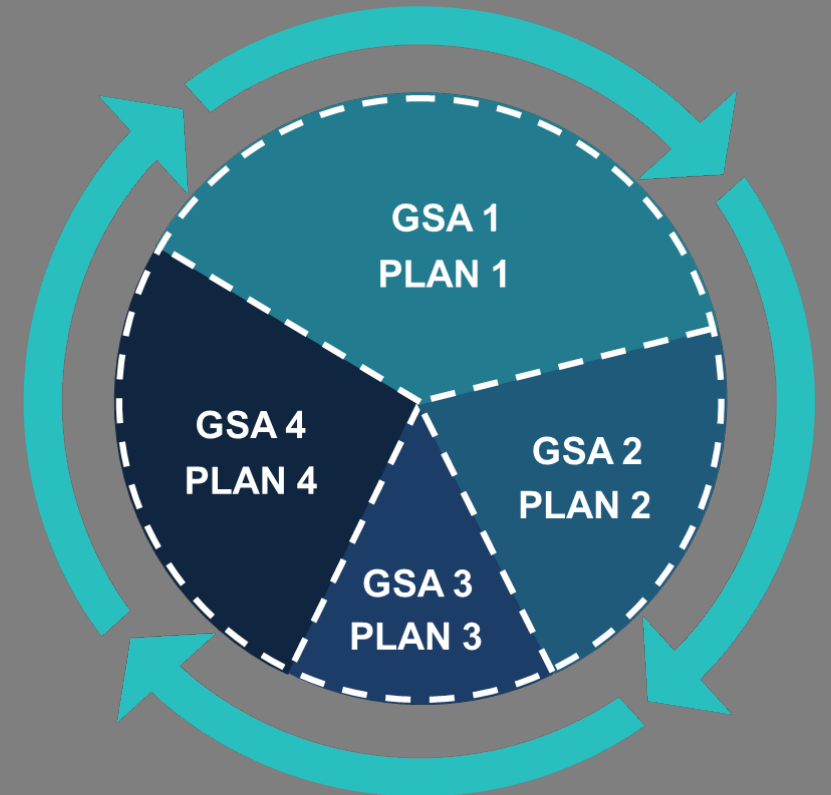
Groundwater
Management
Program
www.waterboards.ca.gov/gmp

Appendix

GSP Review Process



AVOIDING *the* BACKSTOP



“

The **interim plan** may include the following:

- a) Restrictions on groundwater extraction.
- b) A physical solution.
- c) Principles and guidelines for the **administration of rights to surface waters that are connected to the basin.**

”

SGMA Section 10735.8 (c)

“ Except as provided in subdivision (e) [when incorporating elements of an existing GSP], the **interim plan shall be consistent with water right priorities....** ”

SGMA Section 10735.8 (d)

Probationary groundwater BASIN



State Water Board makes decisions for locals



Board gathers data



May require meters



Opportunity to fix issues



Extraction **REPORTS**

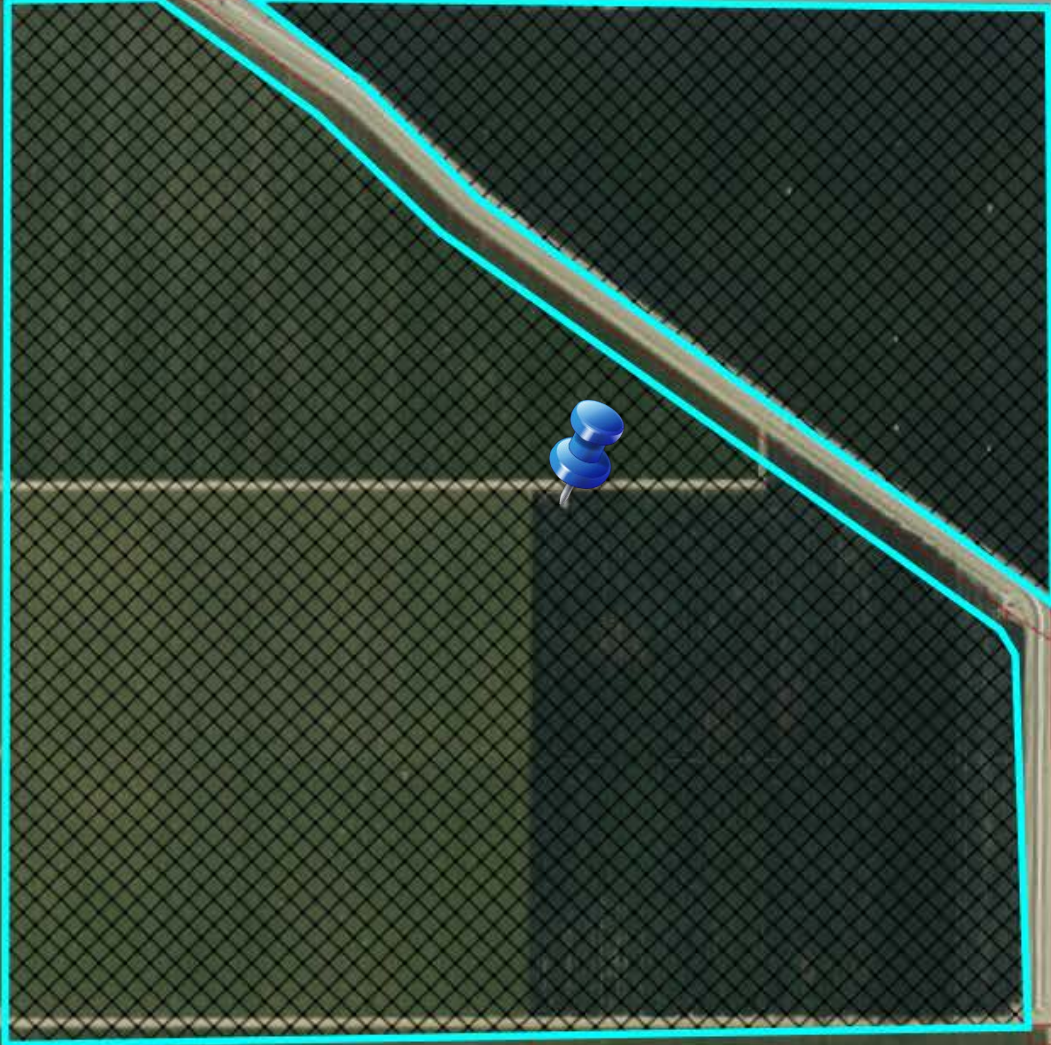
Reports are submitted annually.

Reports require...

- well location & capacity
- monthly extraction volumes
- place & purpose of use

Reports must be filed electronically.

Information on extraction reports is available at www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/reporting.shtml.



Report Well Location and Parcel(s) of Use

- Step 1: Select the "Add Well" button, then select the location on the map.

Complete! _____

- Step 2: Select the "Add Parcel(s) of Use" button, then select the parcel(s) on the map.

[Submit](#)

Board INVESTIGATIONS

Board works with individual pumpers

Examination of water rights

Informational orders

Data transparency

Well registration

Fees



Reporting Process



FEEs: Pumpers who have to report

**Base
Filing Fee**
(per well)

\$300

+

**Volumetric
Rate**
(per acre-foot)

Unmanaged
\$25

Probation
\$40*

Interim Plan
\$55*

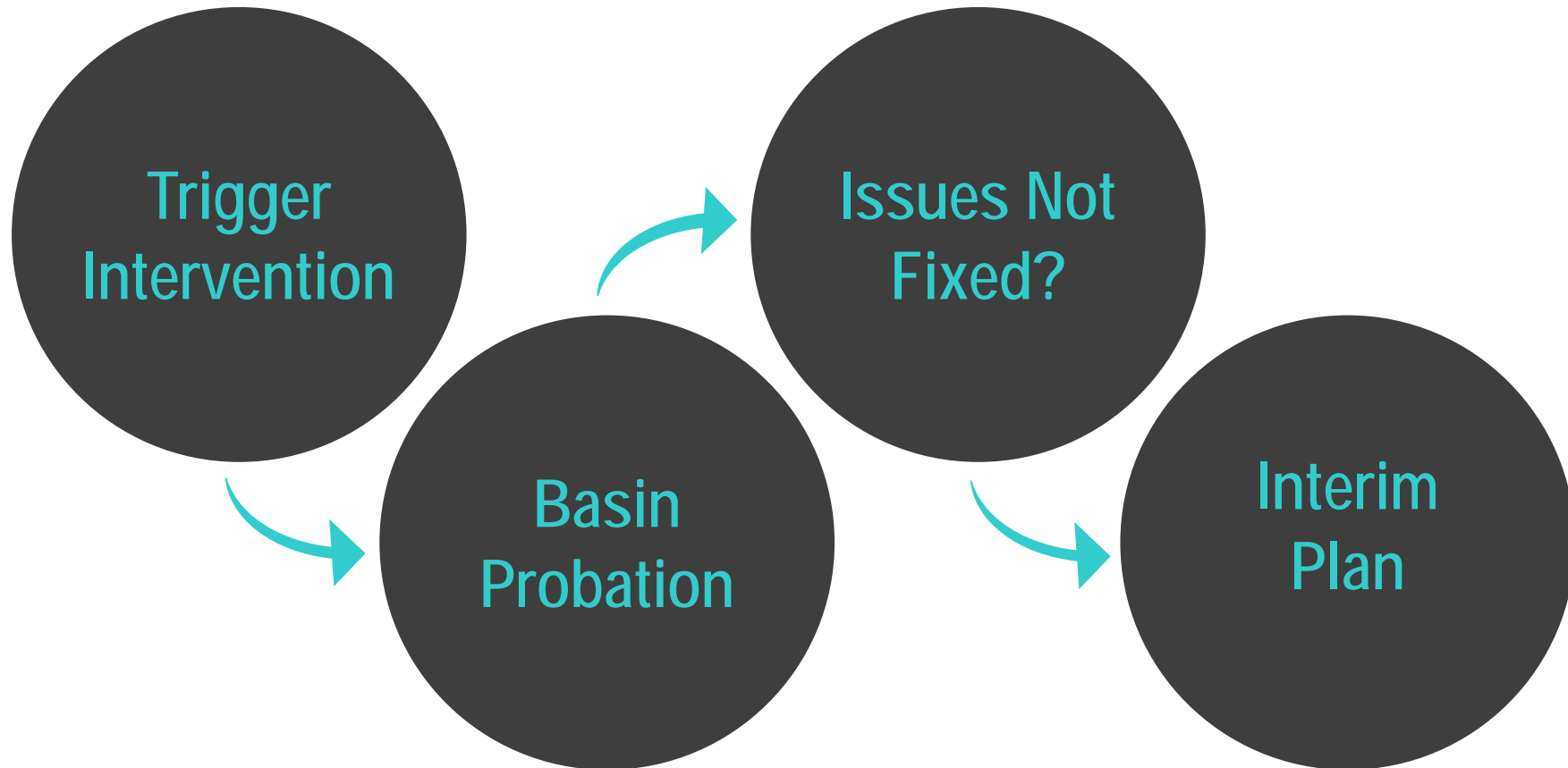
+

**Late
Fee**
(per month)

25%

*special studies extra

Backstop





Physical Solutions

Increase supply

Storm water capture

Develop local supply

Water imports

Desalination

Demand Management

Decrease demand

Reduce groundwater^{*}
use

***most likely
corrective action**