

The  
Freshwater Trust®

Mission: To protect and restore America's freshwater

Vision: To create a future where clean, abundant freshwater resources support our environment, economy and society

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency Support and Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) poses significant challenges for the expedited establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and the development of effective Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) or alternative compliance plans.

The Freshwater Trust has experience working with eligible agencies, counties, and the California Department of Water Resources to support GSA development. We partner with the respective technical and administrative staff to streamline the governance process and to meet the schedule for implementation.



### Minimize Cost and Streamline Management

The Freshwater Trust has considerable expertise and experience in the management of complex water resource and regulatory compliance programs. We provide not only the administrative capacity and a common point of organization and management to maintain GSAs, but also the water budget development, use scenario, expert analysis, and other support services needed to implement GSPs.

Currently, we are supporting GSA formation in Solano, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. These partnerships are unique opportunities to demonstrate how local SGMA-eligible agencies can effectively organize into GSAs to:

- **improve local capacity for management** of groundwater resources
- establish a **technically robust infrastructure** to meet the law's requirements, and
- **create a streamlined model GSP** to achieve sustainable yield in a basin.

*The AB-1739 groundwater management laws (SGMA) allows a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and a monitoring and implementation program to manage groundwater use. GSAs are authorized to collect fees to manage the program, and are required to develop a reporting process to the state describing its progress towards or maintaining sustainability.*

## Approach to Groundwater Management

Our **StreamBank® toolkit** provides the technical framework to develop the elements of the GSP and build the foundation for future GSA management activities.

StreamBank allows TFT and GSAs to:

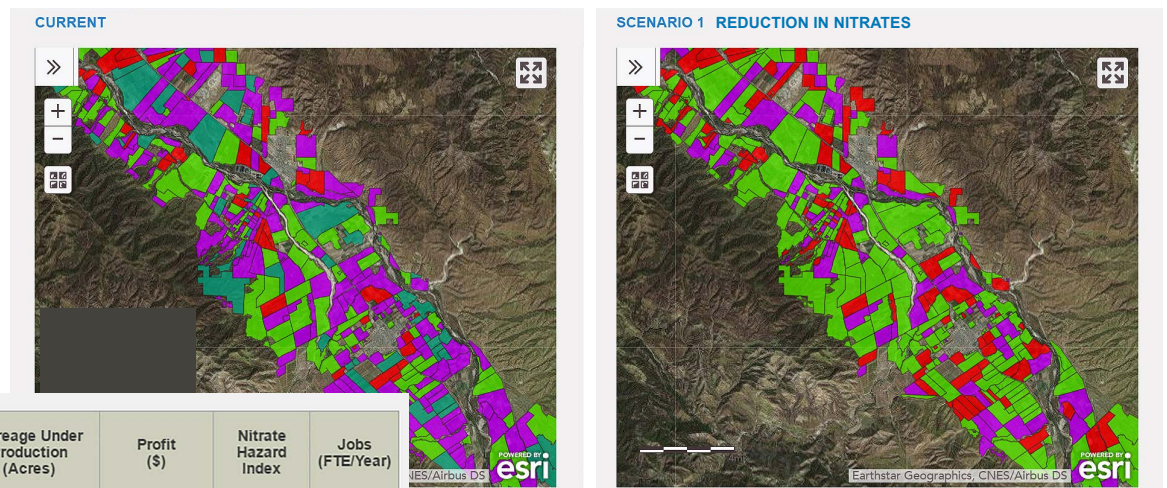
- Streamline compliance through simplified sustainability metric and plan development
- Apply state-of-the-art modeling and data analysis tools that are transparent and scientifically sound
- Identify existing agricultural best management practices that reflect local interests and ensure sustainability
- Foster cooperative land/water management, policy development, and communication
- Establish efficient and cost-effective organizational management by aggregating multiple eligible agencies under one functional program
- Manage overhead to achieve and maintain minimized participation costs

## Sustainability Experience

The Freshwater Trust brings unique skills to the documentation, planning, meeting participation, plan development, and long-term implementation of sustainable water management programs.

In particular, we have extensive experience in identifying and modeling **quantifiable metrics** for sustainability, working with agricultural landowners to implement efficient best management practices, including:

- Land management program for nutrient reductions, Laguna de Santa Rosa, California
- Instream flow leasing program for temperature and habitat benefits, Catherine Creek, Oregon
- Riparian revegetation programs for temperature compliance, McKenzie and Rogue Rivers, Oregon
- Irrigation upgrade program for sediment reduction and temperature compliance, Middle Snake River, ID
- Livestock management program for phosphorus reductions, Klamath River, OR



	Agricultural Water Use (Acre-Feet/Year)	Acreage Under Production (Acres)	Profit (\$)	Nitrate Hazard Index	Jobs (FTE/Year)
Current	345,881	159,623	1,177,198,417	7.94	25,077
Scenario 1	250,031	127,697	1,414,351,475	6.22	26,536
<b>Change</b>	<b>-95,850</b>	<b>-31,926</b>	<b>+237,153,058</b>	<b>-1.72</b>	<b>+1,459</b>

*By comparing current and desired use conditions in a basin, StreamBank can assist producers in building an objective, sustainable groundwater allocation plan that reflects the economic, environmental and social concerns of multiple stakeholders.*

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