



**AB 321**  
**ASSEMBLYMAN DEVON MATHIS**  
**Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Inclusionary Act**

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:**

This bill will require a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to solicit the participation of farmers, ranchers, and other qualified professionals during the development and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan.

**PROBLEM & NEED FOR BILL:**

**Background on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:**

Existing law, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires that all groundwater basins that are designated as subject to critical conditions of overdraft be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan. This law authorizes any local agency overlying a basin to become a GSA for that basin. The law requires the GSA seek participation by citizen groups within the basin region during the development of a groundwater sustainability plan; however, existing law does not require the GSA to actively seek the participation of farmers, ranchers, and other qualified professionals during this process.

**Problems created by the lack of outreach:**

Groundwater basins are large, encompassing hundreds, if not thousands, of acres of land. These basins are home to a diverse array of inhabitants; however, in most cases farmers and ranchers are the most prevalent. These individuals actively participate in the life of groundwater basins, and understand the importance they play in the lives of the region. However, the voices of these basin residents are often ignored, especially during the development of the groundwater sustainability plan. Instead of discounting the requests and knowledge of farmers and ranchers during the development and implementation of a groundwater plan, GSAs should more actively strive to involve all residents of the basin.

**Need for this Bill:**

AB 321 is a simple measure designed at ensuring that all individuals affected by a GSA plan are able and encouraged to participate in its formation and implementation. Too often the voices and knowledge of families and industries are ignored in efforts to streamline the formation of a groundwater plan. This cannot be allowed to continue. Rather, GSAs should draw upon the local knowledge in order to form a plan which benefits the basin and its residents.

**SUPPORT**

None on file

**OPPOSITION**

Association of California Water Agencies

**Co-Authors**

Asm. Cristina Garcia  
Sen. Tom Berryhill

**For More Information**

Contact: Justin Turner  
Phone: (916) 319-2026  
Email: [Justin.Turner@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Justin.Turner@asm.ca.gov)