

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Meeting

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda – October 15, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting
Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Agenda for October 15 at 9:00 AM

Board of Directors			
Attending	Agency	Board Member	Alternate
	City of Beverly Hills	Robert Welch	Vince Damasse
	City of Culver City	Sean Singletary	
	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Jesus Gonzalez, Vice Chair	John Huynh
	County of Los Angeles	Gina Natoli	
	City of Santa Monica	Sunny Wang, Chair	Christopher Dishlip

In addition to attending meetings in person, meetings may be viewed via Zoom. Please note that virtual attendance via Zoom is offered as a courtesy and that technical difficulties shall not require that a meeting be postponed. Instructions for attending meetings in person and virtually are provided below.

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

Santa Monica City Hall East, Room 219
1685 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

Parking Instructions

Please note that the entrance to City Hall East is located on Olympic Boulevard next to (west from) the Public Safety Building at 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA, 90401. Parking for City Hall East is located at Civic Center Parking Structure located at 333 Civic Center Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401, across Olympic Blvd from City Hall East. Information and parking rates can be found online at:

<https://www.santamonica.gov/places/parking-lots/civic-center-parking-structure>

Instructions for In-Person Public Participation

If a member of the public is interested in speaking during the public comment portion of the Board meeting, please submit a speaking request via email to Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting and specify “in-person participation”. Your name, the agenda item number, agenda item title, and comment summary must be included in the email, or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak in advance on an agenda item. All public comment outside of the Public Forum must be germane to the specific agenda item you have indicated.

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda – October 15, 2025

If you wish to comment on an item and have not submitted a public comment request prior to today's meeting, please do so now by filling out a public comment card request. Comment requests cards are available at the back of the room. On the request form, please include your name, comment summary and the agenda item number and title or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. Once you have filled out the request, you may submit it to the Secretary of the Board before the item is called. Public comment cards submitted after the start of the public comment period for the identified agenda item will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak on an agenda item.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

Register in advance for this meeting by either clicking the link below or scanning the QR code:

- <http://bit.ly/3Hmxzeo>



Scan me

A dark blue, handwritten-style underline that starts below the 'Scan me' text and extends horizontally to the right.

Instructions for Virtual Public Participation

As a courtesy, the public is invited to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom. In order to have the opportunity to speak during the public comment portion of the Board meeting, please submit a speaking request via email to Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting and specify "virtual participation".

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda – October 15, 2025

Your name, the agenda item number, agenda item title, and comment summary must be included in the email, or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak on an agenda item. All public comment outside of the Public Forum must be germane to the specific agenda item you have indicated.

Instructions for using ZOOM to Speak

After joining the meeting, please make sure you have audio and microphone capabilities enabled on your device. You may follow the prompts on the video version of ZOOM to test your speaker and microphone.

When your name has been called in the meeting, you will be invited to unmute, and you will unmute yourself and be able to speak for up to 3 minutes. When the time allotted to you has expired, you will be muted again.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

To submit a written public comment on agenda items, please email Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov with your comment and specify “written public comment only.” Please include your name, the agenda item number and agenda item title in the email. Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

BASIC GSA MEETING RULES

Public Comment

Members of the public have up to 3 minutes to speak on each item. In the interest of allowing enough time to cover the business on the agenda, please be advised that the Chair of the Board has the discretion to reduce the time limits for each speaker or the public comment period for each agenda item. When speaking, please state your name clearly for the record before beginning your remarks.

Materials handed in during the meeting will be uploaded to the website in a timely fashion after the meeting.

Rules of Conduct

The Board will only entertain comments that are civil. Anyone who makes derogatory comments or targets individuals, will be asked to sit down and given a warning by the Chair of the Board. The individual will be asked to leave by the Chair of the Board if they continue with disruptive conduct per SB 1100. No warning is required if the individual is using force or threatening to use force against someone.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**
- 4. Disclosure of ex parte communications for board members**
- 5. Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the July 16, 2025, Special Meeting
- 6. Public Forum**

*This portion of the agenda may be utilized by any member of the public to address and ask questions of the Board of Directors on any matter **not on the agenda** within the jurisdiction of the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Depending upon the subject matter, the Board of Directors may be unable to respond at this time, or until the specific item is placed on the agenda at a future Board meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.*

- 7. Informational Items**
 - A. Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin
 - B. Update on coordination with Los Angeles County on well permits and potential basin impacts
 - C. Status update on seawater intrusion monitoring well
 - D. Update on GSP Implementation Tasks
 - i. Board commitments
 - ii. Data Gaps
 - iii. DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
 - E. First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 - i. Background
 - ii. Information to be included
 - iii. Timeline
 - F. Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
- 8. Action Items**
 - A. Election of Vice Chairperson
- 9. Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting**
- 10. Adjournment**

5A

Approval of Minutes from the July 16, 2025 Meeting

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting, July 16, 2025

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting
July 16 at 9:00 AM

Board of Directors			
Attending	Agency	Board Member	Alternate
	City of Beverly Hills	Robert Welch	Vince Damasse
	City of Culver City	Sean Singletary	
	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Jesus Gonzalez	John Huynh, Vice Chair
	County of Los Angeles	Gina Natoli	
	City of Santa Monica	Sunny Wang, Chair	Christopher Dishlip

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Wang.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Director Welch, City of Beverly Hills

Director Singletary, City of Culver City

Director Natoli, County of Los Angeles

Vice Chair Huynh, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Chair Wang, City of Santa Monica

Quorum was determined

4. Disclosure of ex parte communications for board members

There was no ex parte communication to disclose.

5. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2025, Meeting

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting, July 16, 2025

The Board had no comments or revisions to the minutes. There was a **motion** made by **Director Natoli** to **approve the meeting minutes**. The motion was **seconded** by **Vice Chair Huynh**. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Forum

The board received public comments from Patricia McPherson and Margot Griswold.

7. Informational Items

A. Letters Submitted to DWR on the GSP Annual Reports

Dr. Weinberger provided an overview and timeline of four (4) Annual Reports that DWR has received from the GSA to date. She also discussed the letters received by DWR from commenters on the Santa Monica Basin GSA's most recent submittals of 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports. She indicated that in total, 5 letters of comment were received (for 2024 and 2025). These 5 comment letters are posted on DWR's public portal and are also on the GSA website as part of the board packet. She summarized the general comments that the letters stated. Dr. Weinberger conveyed that all 5 comment letters received would be included in an appendix to the 1st Periodic Evaluation of the GSP which is due to DWR in January of 2027. The Periodic Evaluation will be discussed in greater detail at the next quarterly meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Weinberger explained that DWR provided a letter to City of Santa Monica on Friday, July 11, 2025. This letter was similar to previous letters received by the City from DWR on the Annual Reports and the GSA's compliance with SGMA and read into the record "that that no further information or action is required at this time." Furthermore, Dr. Weinberger went on to read another section of the letter in the third (3rd) paragraph, specifically, "Following review of the 2024 annual report, the Department has determined that the GSP continues to be implemented in a manner consistent with achieving the Subbasin's sustainability goal, as described in the GSP. The Department reached this conclusion, based on a review of information in the annual report, any public comments submitted to the Department regarding this annual report and other relevant information regarding the subbasin conditions available to the Department." Dr. Weinberger also stated that the letter is signed by Paul Gosselin who is the Deputy Director for Sustainable Groundwater Management for DWR.

Chair Wang asked a clarifying question to ensure his understanding that DWR considered all the public comments that were attached to board packet, and they determined that the GSA is the complying with all regulations and managing the basin sustainably. Dr. Weinberger affirmed this understanding.

Public Comment on 7.A

The board received public comments from Patricia McPherson and Margot Griswold.

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting, July 16, 2025

B. Present criteria for basin boundary modification request evaluation (continued from April 16, 2025, meeting)

Dr. Weinberger provided a synopsis of the discussion related to basin boundary modifications that was had at the April meeting. Specifically, she summarized that basin boundary modifications had been conducted contemporaneously to GSA formations a number of years ago and she specified DWR had implemented a formal process at that time. She restated that DWR indicated that they had received queries from other GSAs and were looking at the possibility of opening a new round of basin modification requests, but did not currently have a timeline to do so. At the previous meeting, the GSA had requested additional information with regard to the types of basin boundary modifications. Dr. Weinberger summarized the types of basin boundary modifications, the process that DWR embarked on previously allowing either jurisdictional or scientific modifications as well as criteria used to make those determinations. The board asked questions related to the location and jurisdiction of any potential area that would be the subject of a future basin boundary modification request. These questions were answered by Dr. Weinberger.

Public Comment on 7.B

The board received public comments from Patricia McPherson and Margot Griswold.

C. Update on implementation cost sharing framework (continued from April 16, 2025, meeting)

Dr. Weinberger shared the following for the administrative cost share: 1) the GSA has signed agreements on implementation cost sharing from both the city of Culver City and the city of Beverly Hills; 2) the city of Santa Monica's agreement is awaiting signature by the new city manager; 3) both the County of Los Angeles and LADWP are waiting to agendize the administrative cost sharing agreement on their respective Board calendars and they expect signatures later in the year.

Discussion on the implementation cost share is still ongoing as there needs to be resolution on whether those costs would be borne by the pumpers in the basin, which requires metering data in order to determine the proportionate cost shares and setting up a framework.

Direction was provided to GSA staff to prepare estimated usages of pumper and it was also requested that Dudek and the GSA Secretary, Dr. Gold, begin reaching out to other agencies and pumpers on the basin to initiate conversations about rates/costs and usage. There was also a question on the legal authority that the GSA has to enforce pumping costs, which was directed to the attorneys who represent each GSA member agency.

Public Comment on 7.C

The board received public comment from Patricia McPherson.

D. Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

There were no updates to share.

Public Comment on 7.D

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting, July 16, 2025

No public comments were received.

8. Action Items

A. Consider rescission of New or Replacement Groundwater Production Well Form and Well Installation Verification Procedures

Dr. Weinberger provided background on the item, which is that 2 years ago the GSA Board approved a well verification procedure along with a “New or Replacement” groundwater production well form that applicants would be required to fill out to request a consistency review for new groundwater production wells that would be drilled in the subbasin. This action was undertaken pursuant to an Executive Order and in 2024, the Governor issued another Executive Order, N-3-24 that rescinded two (2) previous executive orders. At the October 2024 Board meeting, the GSA Board requested a review of the well verification procedures in light of EO N-3-24. As the GSA’s well verification procedures specifically cited, EO N-3-24, in February of 2025, the GSA Board directed additional discussion to occur between Member agency attorneys.

Ms. Cola confirmed that the attorneys did meet and discuss this matter and that the recommendation from the attorneys is to consider rescission of a New or Replacement Groundwater Production Well Form because the executive order is no longer in effect, and the form is obsolete.

Public Comment on 8.A

No public comments were received.

There was a **motion** made by Chair Wang to rescind the well verification procedures and form and also to direct staff to return with an alternative so there would be an opportunity to remain involved with LA County on the number of well permits and potential impacts on the basin. The motion was **seconded** by Director Natoli. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting

Director Natoli requested the following items to be agendized: 1) an update/summary of items in the GSP that the Board has committed to and need to be undertaken/addressed; 2) what the GSA has done to fill data gaps; 3) what DWR has requested the GSA provide/do; and 4) possible timeline for implementation of items 1-3. Chair Wang requested a status update on the seawater intrusion well and monitoring wells.

Public Comment on 9

The board received public comment from Margot Griswold.

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Special Meeting, July 16, 2025

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM.

DRAFT

6

Public Comment

7A

Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin

7A

Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin

- The GSA secretary has not been notified of any well permit applications within the Santa Monica Subbasin since the July 16, 2025 meeting.

7B

Update on Coordination with Los Angeles County on Well Permits and Potential Basin Impacts

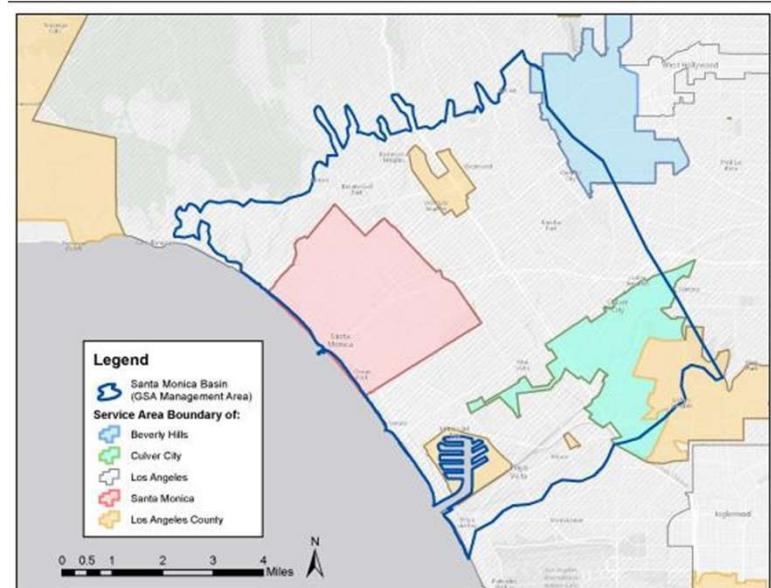
7C

Status Update on Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well

7C

Status Update on Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well

- The City of Santa Monica met with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on September 26.
- Initial plan is to drill to ~1000 ft below land surface with up to 6 well completions in the single drill hole.
- Looking for a coastal location close to USGS seismic lines so that the data gathered can ground truth the seismic data and provide information on a broader area of the basin
- Plan to meet to visit potential well sites during high tides at the end of the year
- Potential start to drilling in 2 years. Project completion anticipated in a 2.5 to 4 year period.



7D

Update on GSP Implementation Tasks

7D

Update on GSP Implementation Tasks: Board Commitments

- General Requirements for GSP Implementation

- Understanding Basin Conditions
 - Annual Reports
 - Periodic GSP Evaluation
 - Filling Data Gaps / Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions

- Board Actions

- Request and receive updates on GSP implementation tasks
 - Review GSA governance structure (revisions to bylaws, ad-hoc subcommittee formation, cost sharing agreements)
 - Approve measures to fill data gaps (Groundwater Extraction Ordinance template, coordination with County of Los Angeles, coordination with USGS)

7D

Update on GSP Implementation Tasks: Filling Data Gaps

- Current efforts underway to:
 - Meter groundwater extractions in the subbasin via approval of the Groundwater Extraction Ordinance template
 - Work collaboratively with the County of Los Angeles to understand all new well permit applications in the subbasin – well type, extraction potential, notification of the GSA
 - Install a nested monitoring well at the coast USGS to monitor for potential seawater intrusion
 - Part of a larger program intended to expand the overall monitoring network in the subbasin over time

Update on GSP Implementation Tasks: DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (Part 1)

- In the approval letter for the Santa Monica Subbasin GSP, DWR included 6 recommended corrective actions:
 1. Provide additional information and clarification for the Subbasin's hydrogeologic conceptual model
 2. Investigate and identify where seawater intrusion is occurring the Subbasin:
 - a. including maps and cross-sections of the seawater intrusion front for each principal aquifer
 - b. Establish enough monitoring locations along the coast of the Subbasin and measure salinity as often as necessary to understand the extent and rate of seawater intrusion conditions
 3. Provide additional information on the sustainable management criteria:
 - a. Process to identify loss of 50% of municipal pumping is significant and unreasonable and relationship to water levels at the representative monitoring points
 - b. Revise the sustainable management criteria to be based on seasonal low groundwater levels
 - c. Explain how the GSP developed minimum thresholds that are protective of the beneficial uses in the Subbasin
 - d. Evaluate how minimum threshold groundwater levels will not interfere with other sustainability indicators

Update on GSP Implementation Tasks: DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (Part 2)

- In the approval letter for the Santa Monica Subbasin GSP, DWR included 6 recommended corrective actions (continued):
 4. Provide additional information on the sustainable management criterion for seawater intrusion:
 - a. Revise the definition of undesirable results to include all beneficial uses and users
 - b. Evaluate the potential impacts of seawater intrusion to other beneficial uses and users in the Subbasin
 - c. Develop the minimum threshold for seawater intrusion based on a chloride concentration isocontour map
 5. Identify constituents of concern for the Subbasin and establish monitoring networks, and sustainable management criteria for degradation of water quality
 6. Establish sustainable management criteria for land subsidence for the Subbasin
- These corrective actions are being addressed currently, or will be addressed in the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP, which is due to DWR in January 2027

7E

First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

7E

GSP Implementation is a Continuous Process



7E GSP Reporting Requirements



Annual Reports – Track progress

Document current groundwater conditions, data gathering and monitoring efforts, water year comparisons, and GSP implementation progress (due by April 1 each year)



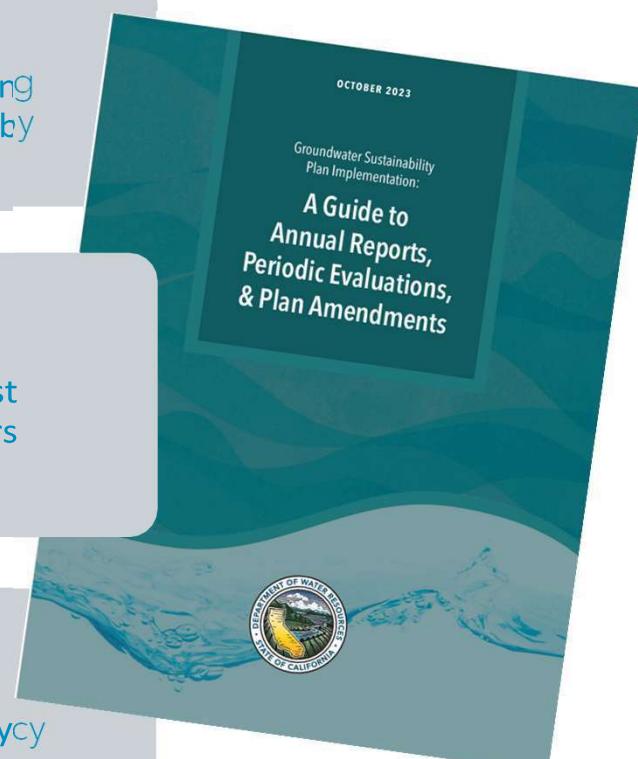
Periodic Evaluation – Evaluate Implementation:

Evaluation and written assessment of the approved GSP to occur at least every five years and when a Plan is amended (due no later than five years after initial GSP submittal)



Plan Amendment –Adaptive Management Tool:

A revised GSP that formalizes changes to the GSP. Undergoes the Plan adoption process and submission to the Department for review (an agency may amend their GSP at any time; a Periodic Evaluation is required with every Plan Amendment)



Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Technical Components

- Executive Summary
- New Information Collected
- Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria
- Status of Projects and Management Actions
- Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use
 - *Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model*
 - *Groundwater Conditions*
 - *Water Use Changes and Associated Water Budget*
 - *Model Updates*
- DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
- Monitoring Networks



7E

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Administrative Components

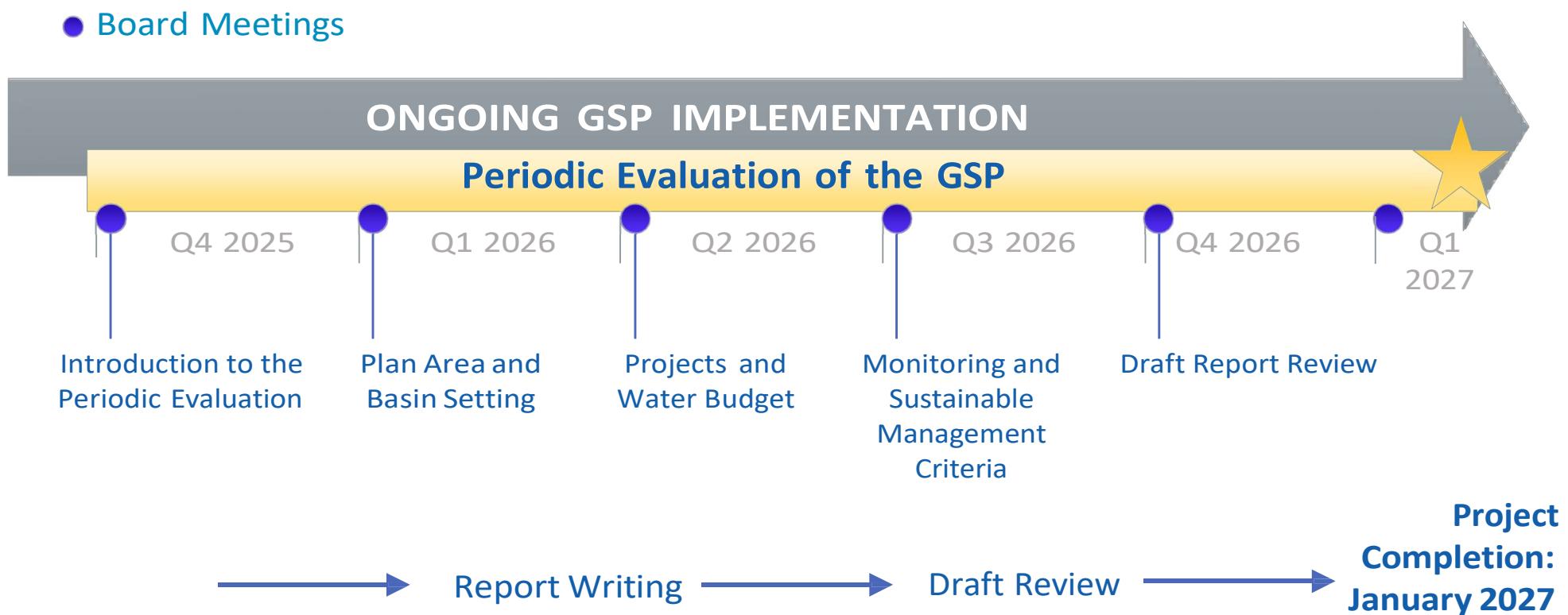
- GSA Authorities And Enforcement Actions
- Outreach, Engagement, And Coordination With Other Agencies
 - *Outreach and Engagement*
 - *Responsibilities of GSA Boards*
 - *Coordination with Other Agencies*
- Other Information
 - *Consideration of Adjacent Basins*
 - *Challenges not Previously Discussed*
- Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to Plan Elements



When to Amend a Plan?

- Elements of the GSP that may warrant a Plan Amendment if significant or material changes were made to:
 - Management of the basin, sustainable management criteria, sustainability goal, addition or removal of management areas, or wholesale modifications to the representative monitoring sites network.
 - Projects and management actions that could affect the projected water budget, sustainable yield, or achievement of measurable objectives, or impact the ability to mitigate overdraft.
 - Administrative management of the basin, including addition or removal of GSAs, or the addition or removal of a GSP from a basin, etc.
- At the discretion of the Board
- Plan Amendments do not have to occur on the same timeline as the Periodic Evaluation, but must be accompanied by a Periodic Evaluation

7E Timeline



7F

Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

8A

Election of Vice- Chairperson

8A

Election of Vice-Chairperson

- Sunny Wang, City of Santa Monica, is the current Chairperson
- John Huynh, LADWP, is the current Vice-Chairperson
- The bylaws state that at the final meeting of each year the current Vice-Chair shall become the Chair, and the Board shall elect a new Vice-Chair
- The order of rotation through the vice-chair position is:
 - 1) Culver City
 - 2) LADWP
 - 3) Beverly Hills
 - 4) Santa Monica
 - 5) County of Los Angeles

9

Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting