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Subject: RE: Agenda Item 2.5 – AB 1413 (Papan): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Groundwater Adjudication
Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025 5:20:00 PM

Good evening,

I hope you had a good day , please see comment letter received.

Thank you & have a great evening,



Eva Gonzales, Senior Secretary – Confidential
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
1441 Schilling Place, North Building, Salinas, CA 93901
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From: Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 4:58 PM
To: Clerks <clerk@svbgsa.org>
Cc: Piret Harmon <harmonp@svbgsa.org>; ClerkoftheBoard <cob@countyofmonterey.gov>; MC Water <OfficeAssistantII@countyofmonterey.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 2.5 – AB 1413 (Papan): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Groundwater Adjudication

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Please distribute to the board. Thank you.

Re: Agenda Item 2.5 – AB 1413 (Papan): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Groundwater Adjudication

Date: June 12, 2025

Chair and Board Members,

I recommend the Board table this item until the specific amendment language referenced by the opposition coalition is made public. At present, no redlines or text changes have been provided in the agenda packet or made available for public review. Without this information, it is not possible to meaningfully evaluate what changes are being proposed or how they might alter the bill's legal or practical effects.

SGMA-related legislation deserves the same level of transparency applied to agency

documents—side-by-side comparisons, tracked changes, and clarity of intent. Until that’s available, advancing a position—especially one of opposition—would be premature.

If the Board proceeds with a decision today, I would encourage support for AB 1413.

Key reasons include:

Legal and Institutional Merits of Supporting AB 1413

- **Preserves Validated GSPs:**

AB 1413 gives legal standing to GSPs that were not timely challenged. SVBGSA’s adopted plans would benefit directly, reinforcing their use in adjudication without reopening sustainable yield determinations.

- **Streamlines Litigation:**

The bill consolidates GSP-related claims into adjudications and requires threshold resolution of sustainable yield. This avoids fragmented challenges and promotes efficiency in legal proceedings.

- **Affirms Local Authority:**

Courts retain jurisdiction over water rights, but cannot override GSP yield estimates unless the plan is first found invalid. This reinforces SGMA’s framework and preserves the agency’s role as basin manager.

- **Limits Uncertainty:**

The bill reduces the risk of prolonged or duplicative litigation over core technical components already reviewed by DWR, helping the GSA implement plans with greater confidence.

Conclusion

Tabling the item remains the most prudent course unless amendment language is made available. But if a vote is taken, the legal and operational benefits to the GSA weigh in favor of supporting AB 1413.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bill Lipe

Salinas, 93908