



BMP Development Framework

The purpose of this Best Management Practices (BMP) Development Framework (Framework) is to outline DWR's approach and timing for developing and updating BMPs as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program (SGMP). The Framework describes how interested parties, advisory groups, local agencies, and basin stakeholders can participate in the development of BMPs, and presents the schedule for developing the initial set of BMPs.

Role of BMPs in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

BMPs are intended to provide clarification, guidance, and examples to help GSAs develop the essential elements of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). BMPs may be in the form of case studies of other groundwater management efforts, standards, or other DWR guidance or reference reports. Two types of BMPs are envisioned:

1. Certain BMPs that are identified in the Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Alternatives (Emergency Regulations) provide standards that must be incorporated into GSPs.
2. BMPs that are not specifically identified in the Emergency Regulations and provide suggestions and guidance on how GSAs might develop certain GSP components.

While the use of BMPs is mentioned in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Act), the Act itself does not provide direction on the scope or content of the BMPs. The Emergency Regulations, adopted in May 2016, identify certain GSP components that rely on BMPs, but the Emergency Regulations do not identify a comprehensive list of BMPs. The list of potential BMPs is therefore open-ended. BMPs can cover a wide range of subjects for which additional guidance would support the development of comprehensive GSPs. DWR will organize BMPs in relation to the Emergency Regulations.

BMP Webpage

DWR has established a BMP Webpage at <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/bmps.cfm> where BMPs will be posted and accessible during the development process. The intent is to have BMPs continuously accessible to interested parties as they are developed and refined over time. Also, this format will allow transparent interaction between interested parties moving forward.

Multi-Step Approach to Develop BMPs

The Act requires BMPs be developed by January 1, 2017. To meet this deadline, DWR will adopt a phased approach to identify and develop BMPs. This phased approach balances the need to provide some guidance on a wide variety of subjects, while simultaneously providing in-depth guidance on the most important subjects as identified through public and stakeholder input. The general approach for developing BMPs is shown on Figure 1, and entails two phases.

“Best management practice” refers to a practice, or combination of practices, that are designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management and have been determined to be technologically and economically effective, practicable, and based on best available science.

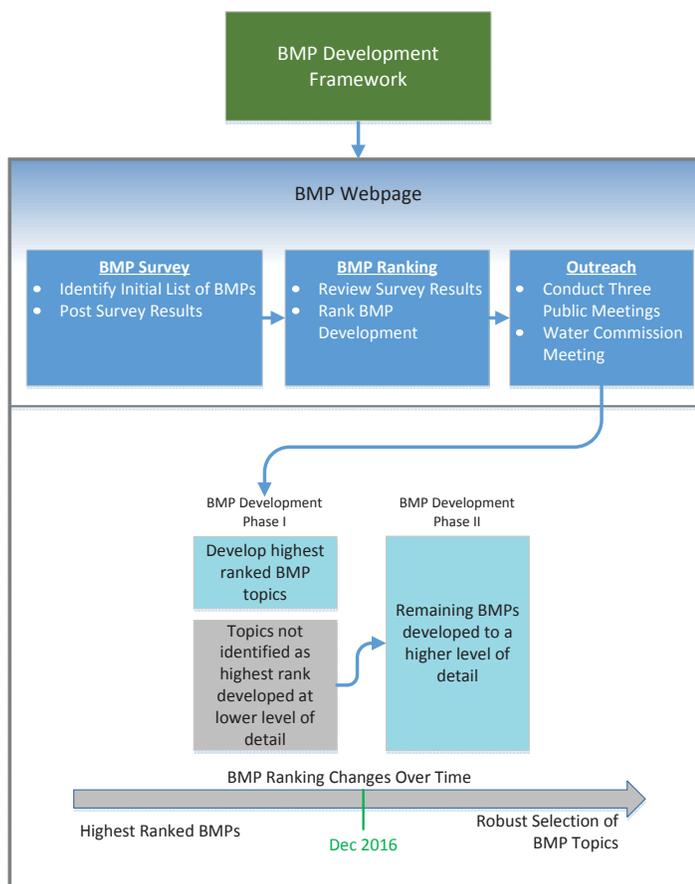
Phase I: Completed by January 1, 2017

- Identify BMP subjects from public outreach and survey responses
- Rank BMP importance based on survey responses and DWR discretion
- Develop preliminary BMPs for all high and medium ranked subjects
- Develop in-depth BMPs for high ranked subjects
- Develop general information for medium ranked subjects

Phase II: Completed after January 1, 2017 (based on funding availability)

- Develop in-depth BMPs for medium priority subjects
- Develop preliminary BMPs for remaining subjects
- Identify additional BMP subjects as necessary

Figure 1. BMP Development Framework



BMP Survey and Development Schedule

DWR will post a BMP Survey on the BMP Webpage in mid-July. Responses to the survey completed by July 31, 2016 will be used by DWR to establish the initial BMP development order. The Survey will propose a number of potential BMPs that respondents can rank, and will ask if there are additional BMPs that respondents would like addressed. The Survey will require respondents to identify their name and affiliation to avoid ballot box stuffing.

BMP Public Meetings

Three public meetings on BMP development progress will be conducted in the early fall in northern California, the San Joaquin Valley, and southern California. In addition, there will be a public meeting at a California Water Commission meeting.



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