

The sub-committee believes that the intent of LC 431 is to provide a highly technical end product to be used by knowledgeable water professionals for the benefit of state agencies, counties, local units of government, and developers in water resource decision-making processes. LC 431 projects should be conducted on a smaller scale and at an accelerated pace compared to the current Ground Water Assessment Program.

The major identified questions asked of the investigation program involve water quantity, water quality, ground-surface water interaction, and the location of water. A hydrogeologic model developed by the program should help the state and counties better allocate, measure and monitor water withdrawals.

The projects should provide information that is useful to a wide variety of interests such as adjudicators, agriculture, and the development community. Additionally, the projects should attempt to answer questions such as the effect of exempt wells in closed basins, and contribute to more informed permitting.

It was suggested that the legislation include a process and scope section, similar to the corresponding section of the assessment program statute.

A rough outline of two tiers of criteria for selection of project areas was developed:

Tier One:

- Subdivision approvals
- New wells within the past 20 years
- Closed basins
- Population density
- Usability
- Information known
- System complexity

Tier Two:

- Flood to sprinkler conversion
- Controlled gw area (or proposed)
- County growth plan with high density area
- Contentious, litigious
- Water quality (natural vs. human impacts)
- Industry
- Highly valued ecological water system (i.e. commissioned stream, Murphy rights)

Additional Considerations:

- Mitigation water availability
- Basin fill vs. bedrock

*Ground Water Assessment Program Steering Committee
Ground Water Investigation Program (LC 431) Criteria Sub-Committee
November 24, 2008 criteria development meeting notes
Amy Bamber, MDA, November 28, 2008*

At our next full Steering Committee meeting, we will go through the criteria and receive feedback from the entire Steering Committee. All Steering Committee members should determine if they are comfortable with their role in the statute, and be prepared to educate their respective agencies/workplaces on the investigation program.