Webinar: GSA Role in Recharge

May 8, 2026

Grant Funded Projects

$5.5M
Funding End Date:
January 2027

- Data Gap Identification and Data Improvement & Periodic Evaluation — **January Completion**
- ✓ Demand Reduction Strategies
- ✓ Lindo Channel Recharge Feasibility
- ✓ Long-Term Fee Study
- ✓ Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility — **June Completion**
- ✓ Inter-basin Coordination Analysis and Modeling
- Outreach Program
- Grant Administration — **January Completion**

https://www.vinagsa.org/sustainable-groundwater-management-grant-funded-projects

Legal Implications of Recharge Analysis

- Task in the grant
- Completion date = December 31, 2026

- Grant Deliverables:
    1. Legal Implications of Recharge Analysis Summary
    2. Adopted Policy or Ordinance for recharge projects, if necessary

GSA Role and Limitations

- GSA has the duty to set SMC (MT, MO, avoid UR)
- GSA has the authority to limit the extraction of groundwater
- GSA has the authority to develop projects
- GSA has no authority to determine water rights
- GSA has no authority or jurisdiction over surface water
- GSA has no authority to restrict storage in aquifer

PRACTICAL RESULT: GSA only has the authority to regulate recharge projects when they extract groundwater or cause MT exceedances.

Range of Regulatory Options

1 GSA Projects	Control all aspects of Recharge – acquisition of surface water, application, storage, extraction
2 Non-GSA Projects (Agreement)	Develop terms to which a recharger will agree (supply, location, quantity, timing, leave behind, reporting)
3 Non-GSA Projects (Rule Adoption)	Establish rules for recharge and enforce when broken
4 Non-GSA Projects (Allocation System)	Develop system for accounting, management, and reporting run by GSA

Challenges of Options 1 and 4

Option 1: Not set up to have staff, resources, and liability of recharge project as the GSA.

- Apply for water rights, begin to go down the road of a water supplier

Option 4: Takes a lot of time, must have continued access to significant and reliable data, and has significant risk in enforcement.

- Need information related to all pumping, must be able to allocate water based on principles of adjudication, goes way beyond recharge.

Options 2 and 3: Establishing Recharge Rules

- Both options have similar considerations, just the mechanism is different
- Components that may be in an agreement or an ordinance:
- Accounting (who keeps track, no credits, existing storage, in lieu)
- Monitoring and reporting (who reports to who, any approval, disputes)
- Leave behind (identify the purpose, which should drive amount)
- Timing constraints (cap on extractions, cap on period of storage)
- Location (location of recharge, location of extraction)
- GSP compliance (meeting SMC, meeting PMA)
- Indemnification (GSA is not guaranteeing stored surface water is safe)