

# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation Kickoff



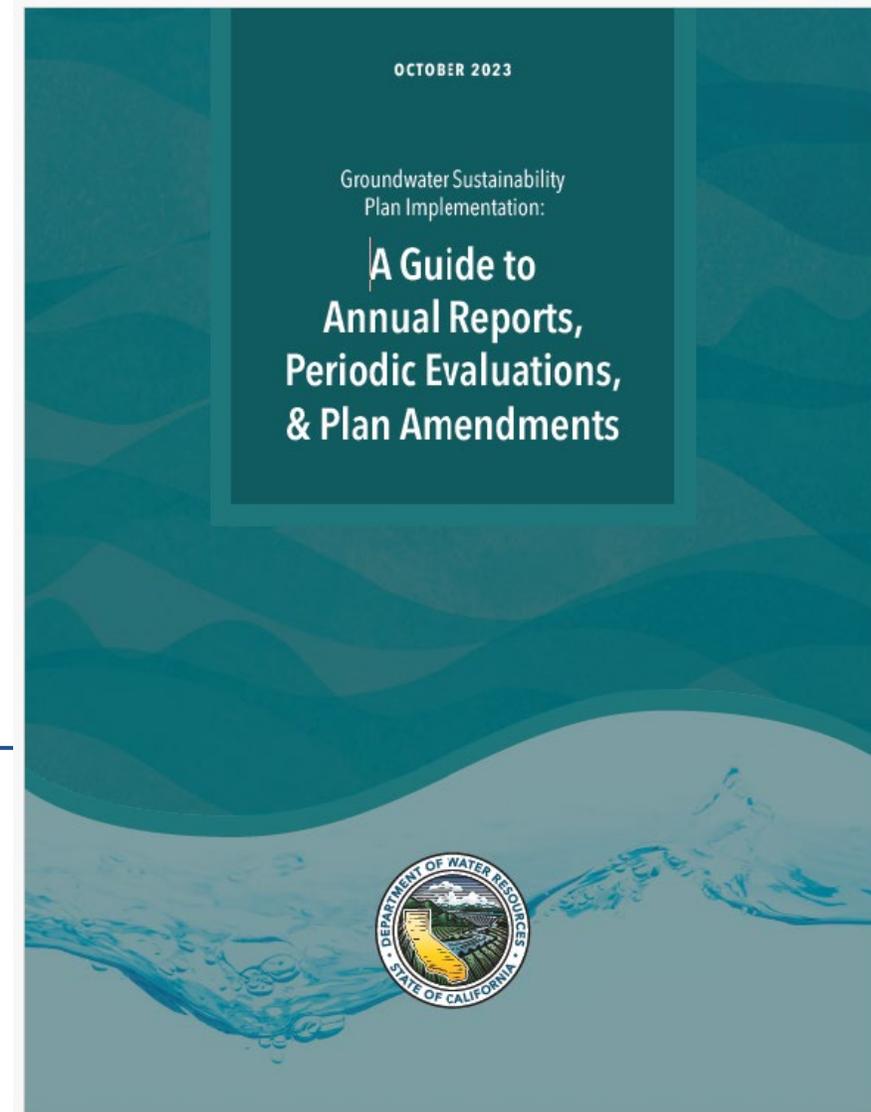
SMGWA Board Meeting  
August 28, 2025

# Presentation Overview

- Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment
- Department of Water Resources' Recommended Corrective Actions
- Preliminary Schedule
- Questions/Comments

# Periodic Evaluation & Plan Amendment

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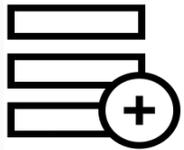
# Periodic Evaluation Overview



Address Recommended  
Corrective Actions (RCA)



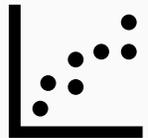
Status of Projects and  
Management Actions



New information collected



Review of Monitoring  
Network



Groundwater Conditions  
Relative to Sustainable  
Management Criteria (SMC)



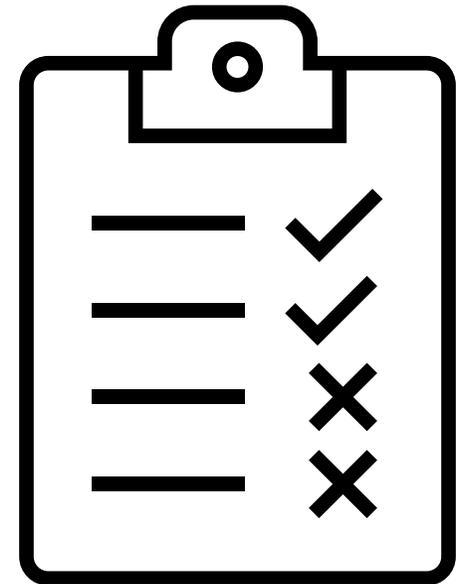
Updates on Groundwater  
Sustainability Plan (GSP)  
Management, Outreach, etc.



Need to Amend the GSP?

# What Warrants a Plan Amendment?

- Changes to SMC or sustainability goal
- Significant changes to monitoring network
- Changes to planned Projects and Management Actions that could change ability to meet sustainability goal
- Modifications to administrative management of basin, including changes in Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)



# Amendment Overview

- Amendment is a revised GSP
  - Clean and tracked change revisions submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Regulatory requirements:
  - Outreach and engagement, including notification to list of interested persons
  - Public notice period
  - Board adoption
- Periodic Evaluation describes amendments and rationale

3-027 SANTA MARGARITA



Base Information

| DATE SUBMITTED | DATE POSTED | END OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD DATE |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01/03/2022     | 01/14/2022  | 03/30/2022                        |

GSP INITIAL NOTIFICATION(S)  
[Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency GSA \(Exclusive\)](#)

PLAN MANAGER  
David McNair (Scotts Valley Water District)  
Scotts Valley  
2 Civic Center Drive  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066  
18316001902  
dmcnair@svwd.org

LIST OF GSA(S) THAT COLLECTIVELY PREPARED THE GSP  
[Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency GSA \(Exclusive\)](#)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE PLANNED ADOPTION OF THE GSP<br>Notice Date: 07/20/2021<br><a href="#">Notification County 2021-7-20.pdf (98.4kB)</a> | NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING<br>Public Hearing Date: 11/17/2021<br><a href="#">GSP Public Hearing Legal Notice Sentinel 2021-11-12.pdf (110.8kB)</a> |
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California Department of Water Resources | County of Santa Clara, County of Santa C...

# Recommended Corrective Actions

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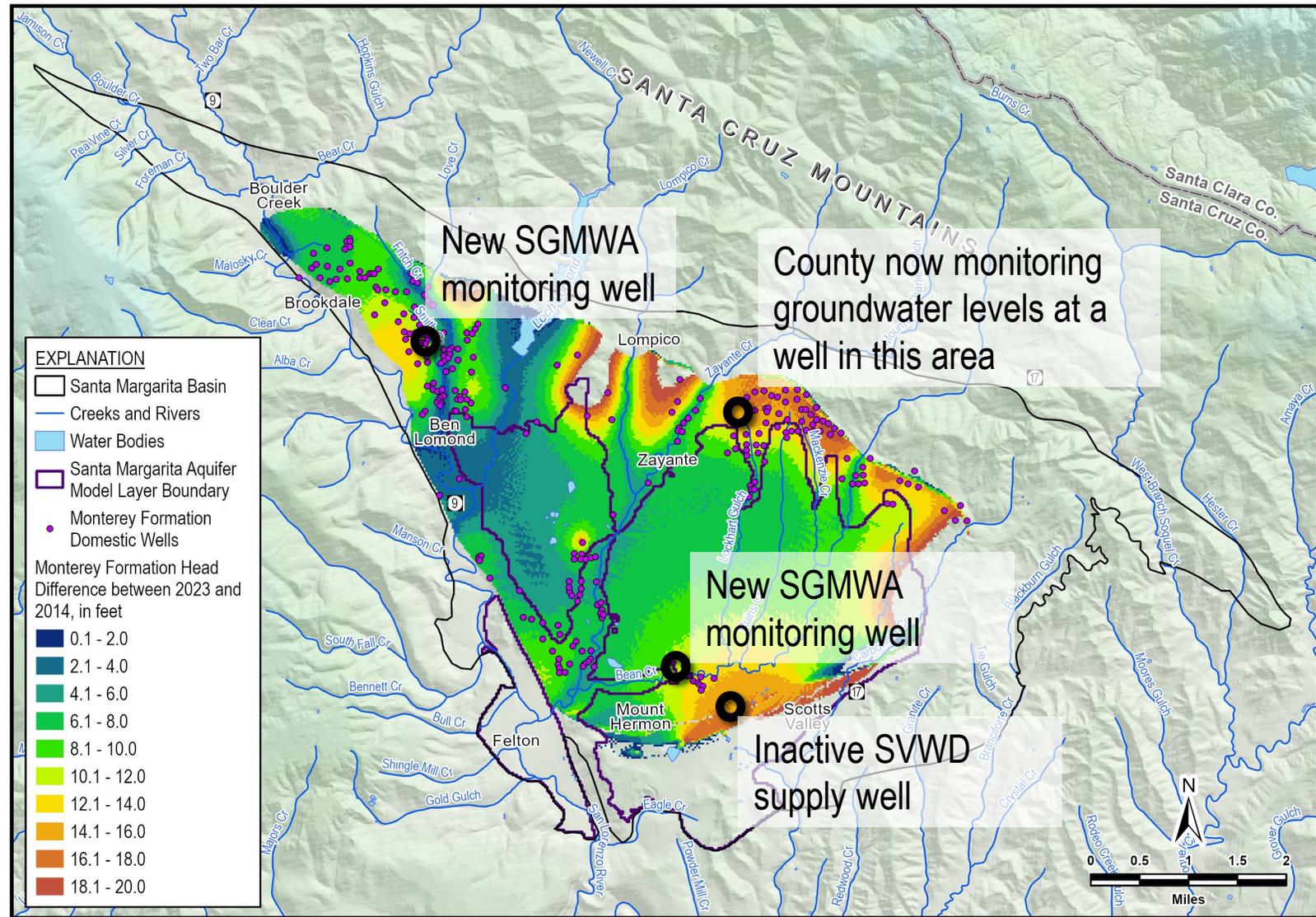
# Recommended Corrective Actions Summary - WY 2025 Annual Report

| RCA Number and Topic   | DWR Recommended Corrective Action   | GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>1 – Evaluate impacts to beneficial uses and users and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) in Monterey Formation</b> | Evaluate beneficial use and users of the Monterey Formation and consider how changes in groundwater levels in the Monterey Formation may affect domestic well users and GDEs. | Review locations and extent of beneficial users in the Monterey Formation relative to groundwater level minimum threshold and measurable objectives |

# Addressing RCA #1

- Evaluate susceptibility of supply wells and groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Monterey Formation to potential future lowering of groundwater levels
  - Not a principal aquifer
  - Little to no historical monitoring
  - Not many communities or GDEs that rely on aquifer
  - Opportunity to interface with County's Drought Contingency Plan

Monterey Formation modeled head increase and domestic wells 2014-2024



# Recommended Corrective Actions Summary - WY 2025 Annual Report

| RCA Number and Topic  | DWR Recommended Corrective Action  | GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>2 – Revise undesirable results definition for chronic lowering of groundwater levels</b> | Revise undesirable results definition to remove the drought year condition <u>or</u><br>Discuss how extractions and recharge will be managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods within the SMC for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. | Likely to simply remove the caveat for drought year as SMC were developed assuming long-term hydrology, which includes drought periods |

# Recommended Corrective Actions Summary - WY 2025 Annual Report

| RCA Number and Topic                                   | DWR Recommended Corrective Action  | GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>3 – Revise SMC for degraded groundwater quality</b> | <p>Revise SMC for degraded groundwater quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Revise the definition of undesirable results so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater extraction, whether the GSA has implemented pumping regulations or not, are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Basin.</li> <li>B. Revise the sustainable management criteria for degraded water quality to include undesirable results for constituents of concern in the basin identified in the GSP.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Likely to remove the caveat that the exceedances be related to GSA activities.</li> <li>B. Need to discuss with DWR as identified constituents of concern were included.</li> </ul> |

# Recommended Corrective Actions Summary - WY 2025 Annual Report

| RCA Number and Topic  | DWR Recommended Corrective Action  | GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>4 – Evaluate interconnected surface water sustainable management criteria</b></p> | <p>Address the following items by the first periodic evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Revise SMC to remove undesirable results exemption in drought years.</li> <li>B. Consider utilizing the interconnected surface water guidance as appropriate when issued by DWR to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.</li> <li>C. Fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.</li> <li>D. Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping-induced surface-water depletion within the GSA’s area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Likely to remove exemption.</li> <li>B. Still waiting for DWR guidance. Currently believe Basin model sufficient for this purpose.</li> <li>C. Gaps filled - establish sustainable management criteria for applicable new wells installed in 2023.</li> <li>D. This was a generic DWR comment – will document how the Basin is doing this.</li> </ul> |

# Preliminary Schedule

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| Initial Schedule:<br>Recommended Corrective Actions,<br>Periodic Evaluation,<br>WY2025 Annual Report,<br>GSP Amendment (If Necessary) | 2025 |      |     |      |     |     |     | 2026 |     |     |     |     |      |      | 2027 |      |     |     |     |                                      |
|---|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|
|   | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug  | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan                                  |
| Address Recommended Corrective Actions  |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |     |     | SGMA Portal Upload by<br>Jan 3, 2027 |
| Prepare Periodic Evaluation   |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |     |     |                                      |
| WY2025 Annual Report  |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |     |     |                                      |
| Prepare Amended GSP (If Necessary)  |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |     |     |                                      |
| Board Meetings  |      |      | ◆   |      | ◆   |     |     |      | ◆   |     |     | ◆   |      |      | ◆    |      | ◆   |     |     |                                      |

## Board Meetings / Milestones

- August 25, 2025: Kickoff for PE and GSP Amendment\*
  - October 23, 2025: Update on PE Progress and Potential Areas for Modification
  - February 26, 2026: Board to Review Annual Report, Receive Update on PE Progress and Provide Direction on Whether GSP Amendment Needed
  - May 28, 2026: Update on Draft PE & GSP Amendment\*
  - July 24, 2026: Board Draft PE and GSP Amendment\* Posted to Website and City/County Notice (90-days required by SGMA)
  - August 27, 2026: Board/Public Comment on Draft PE and GSP Amendment\*
  - October 22, 2026: Draft Final PE and GSP Amendment\*
  - January 3, 2027 PE and GSP Amendment Due\*
- \* If Necessary

# Questions



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