



Periodic Evaluation Update

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

October 23, 2025

Agenda Item 4.2

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

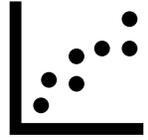
a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County



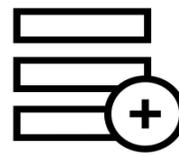
**MONTGOMERY
& ASSOCIATES**

Water Resource Consultants

Periodic Evaluation Overview



Groundwater Conditions
Relative to Sustainable
Management Criteria (SMC)



New information
collected



Status of Projects and
Management Actions



Review of Monitoring
Network



Groundwater Sustainability
Plan (GSP) Implementation,
Outreach, etc.



Address Recommended
Corrective Actions (RCA)



Need to Amend the GSP?

Excerpts from DWR SMC Best Management Practice (November 2017)

UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

All undesirable results will be based on minimum thresholds exceedances. Undesirable results will be defined by minimum threshold exceedances at a single monitoring site, multiple monitoring sites, a portion of a basin, a management area, or an entire basin. Exceeding a minimum threshold at a single monitoring site is not necessarily an undesirable result, but it could signal the need for modifying one or more management actions, or implementing a project to benefit an area before the issue becomes more widespread throughout the basin.

MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

A minimum threshold is the quantitative value that represents the groundwater conditions at a representative monitoring site that, when exceeded individually or in combination with minimum thresholds at other monitoring sites, may cause an undesirable result(s) in the basin.

Recommended Corrective Action #2

3.4.2.2 Numerical Description of Undesirable Results

Specific groundwater level conditions that constitute undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater levels occur if the groundwater elevation in any RMP falls below the minimum threshold in 2 or more consecutive non-drought years. If an RMP groundwater elevation below its minimum threshold is caused by emergency operational issues or extended droughts, it is not considered an undesirable result.

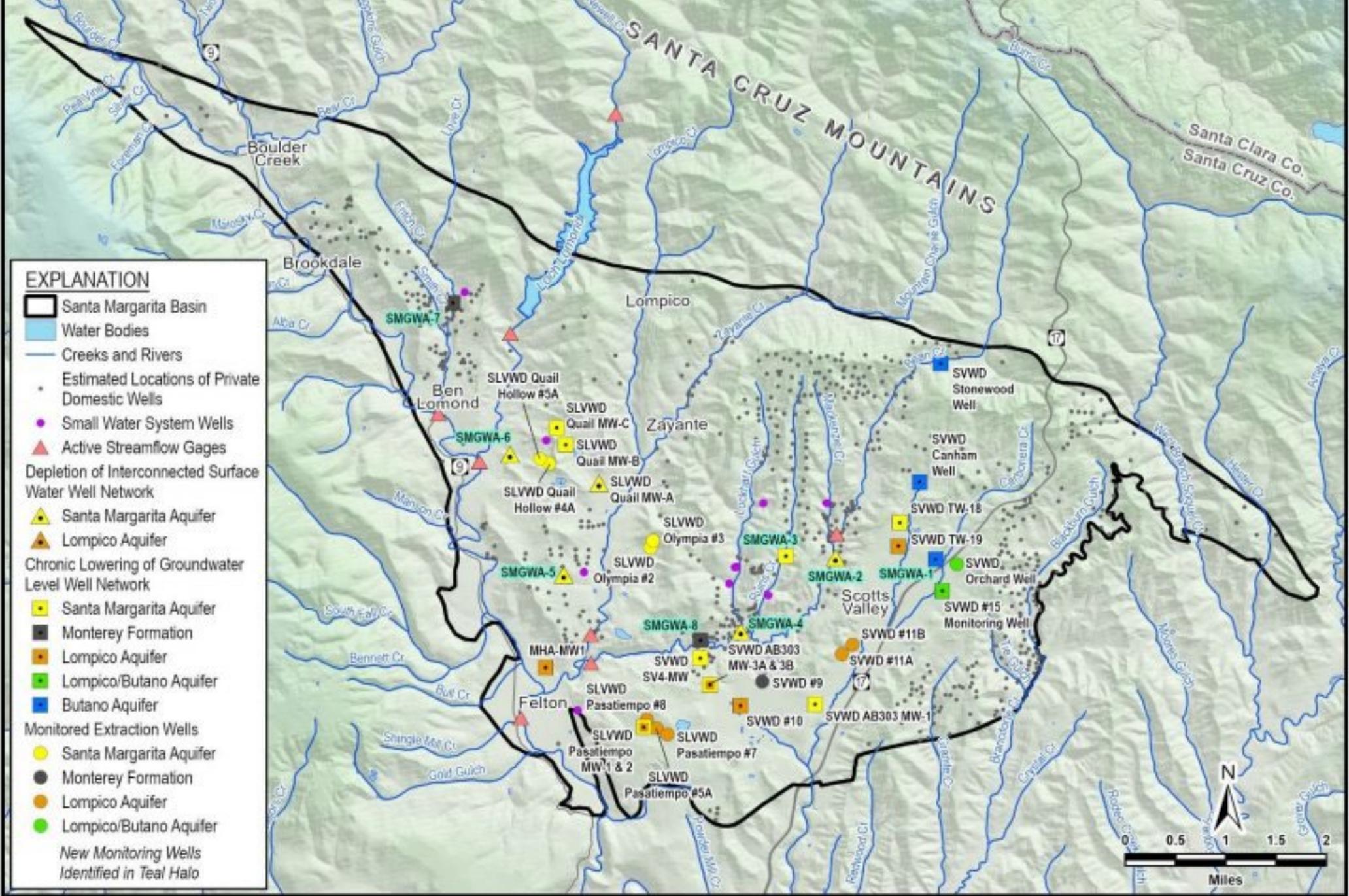
DWR Recommended Corrective Action #2	GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action
<p>Revise undesirable results definition to remove the drought year condition</p> <p><u>or</u></p> <p>Discuss how extractions and recharge will be managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater 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.</p>	<p>Likely to remove the caveat for drought year as SMC were developed assuming long-term hydrology, which includes drought periods</p>

Table 7. Groundwater Elevations Compared to Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2020-2024

Aquifer	Well Name	Minimum Threshold	Annual Minimum Groundwater Elevation (feet amsl)						
			Interim Milestone #1 (2027)	Measurable Objective	WY2020*	WY2021*	WY2022	WY2023	WY2024
Water Year Type					Dry	Critically Dry	Normal	Wet	Normal
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Quail MW-B	449	472	472	462.4	455.8	451.8	451.0	458.4
	SLVWD Olympia #3	302	307	307	351.4	335.9	330.1	327.3	354.5
	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-2	498	514	514	519.6	512.7	516.3	516.2	528.1
	SVWD TW-18	462	471	471	471.8	471.8	470.9	470.4	470.1
Monterey	SVWD #9	301	340	358	346.7	351.0	354.0	356.0	360.6
Lompico	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-1	334	339	372	346.6	340.4	335.4	337.0	343.9
	SVWD #10	286	302	322	317.9	330.3	338.1	338.7	337.2
	SVWD #11A	288	299	317	310.4	308.0	312.6	320.2	324.7
	SVWD TW-19	314	357	376	373.1	370.4	370.0	378.4	378.1
Lompico/Butano	SVWD #15 Monitoring Well	291	310	333	302.8	307.1	307.9	306.5	307.2
Butano	SVWD Stonewood Well	836	844	844	848.3	845.0	845.8	847.6	847.7
	SVWD Canham Well	427	447	467	442.0	441.7	441.2	440.7	441.0

* Damage to SLVWD surface water intakes caused by the August 2020 CZU Wildfire caused groundwater extraction to increase and groundwater levels to decline in some areas of the Basin.
amsl – above mean sea level

Minimum threshold not met
Minimum threshold met but 2027 interim milestone and measurable objective not met
Minimum threshold and 2027 interim milestone met, but measurable objective not met
Measurable objective met



Recommended Corrective Action #3

3.6.1 Significant and Unreasonable Degraded Water Quality

Significant and unreasonable water quality conditions occur if projects or management actions in support of SGMA degrade groundwater quality such that it leads to diminished supply, adverse impacts on beneficial uses or undue financial burden for mitigating such negative impacts.

DWR Recommended Corrective Action #3	GSA Initial Approach for Addressing Recommended Corrective Action
<p>Revise SMC for degraded groundwater quality:</p> <p>A. Revise the definition of undesirable results so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater extraction, <u>whether the GSA has implemented pumping regulations or not</u>, are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Basin.</p> <p>B. Revise the SMC for degraded water quality to include undesirable results for constituents of concern in the basin identified in the GSP.</p>	<p>A. Remove the caveat that the exceedances be related to GSA activities.</p> <p>B. Need to discuss with DWR as identified constituents of concern were included.</p>

Table 9. Groundwater Quality Compared to Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2024

Aquifer	Well Name	Concentration milligrams per Liter (mg/L)										
		TDS	Chloride	Iron	Manganese	Arsenic	Nitrate as Nitrogen	Methyl-tert-butyl- ether	Chlorobenzene	Trichloroethylene	Tetrachloroethylene	1,2-Dichloroethylene
Minimum Threshold		1,000	250	0.3	0.05	0.01	5	0.013	0.07	0.005	0.005	0.07
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Quail Hollow #5A	120	5.8	ND	ND	0.0026	3.4	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SLVWD Olympia #3	690	8.3	0.32	0.140	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Monterey	SVWD Well #9	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Lompico	SLVWD Pasatiempo #7	140	7.6	0.36	0.060	0.0018	0.40	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #10A	320	35	1.40	0.170	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11A	540	28	0.31	0.110	ND	ND	ND	0.0011	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11B	330	21	0.64	0.070	0.0085	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lompico / Butano	SVWD Orchard Well	510	58	ND	0.0027	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Minimum threshold not met
 Minimum threshold met, but measurable objective not met (see Appendix D for MO)
 Minimum threshold and measurable objective met, or analyte not detected (ND)
 NS – not sampled because well was not actively pumped for water supply

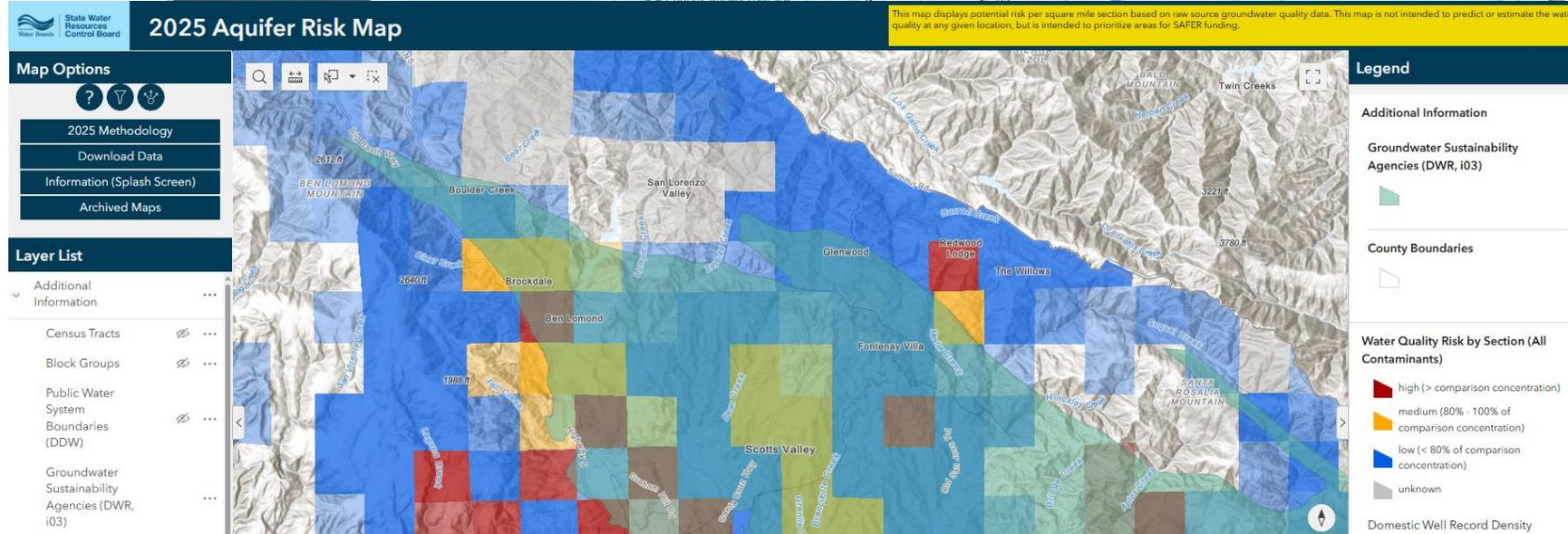
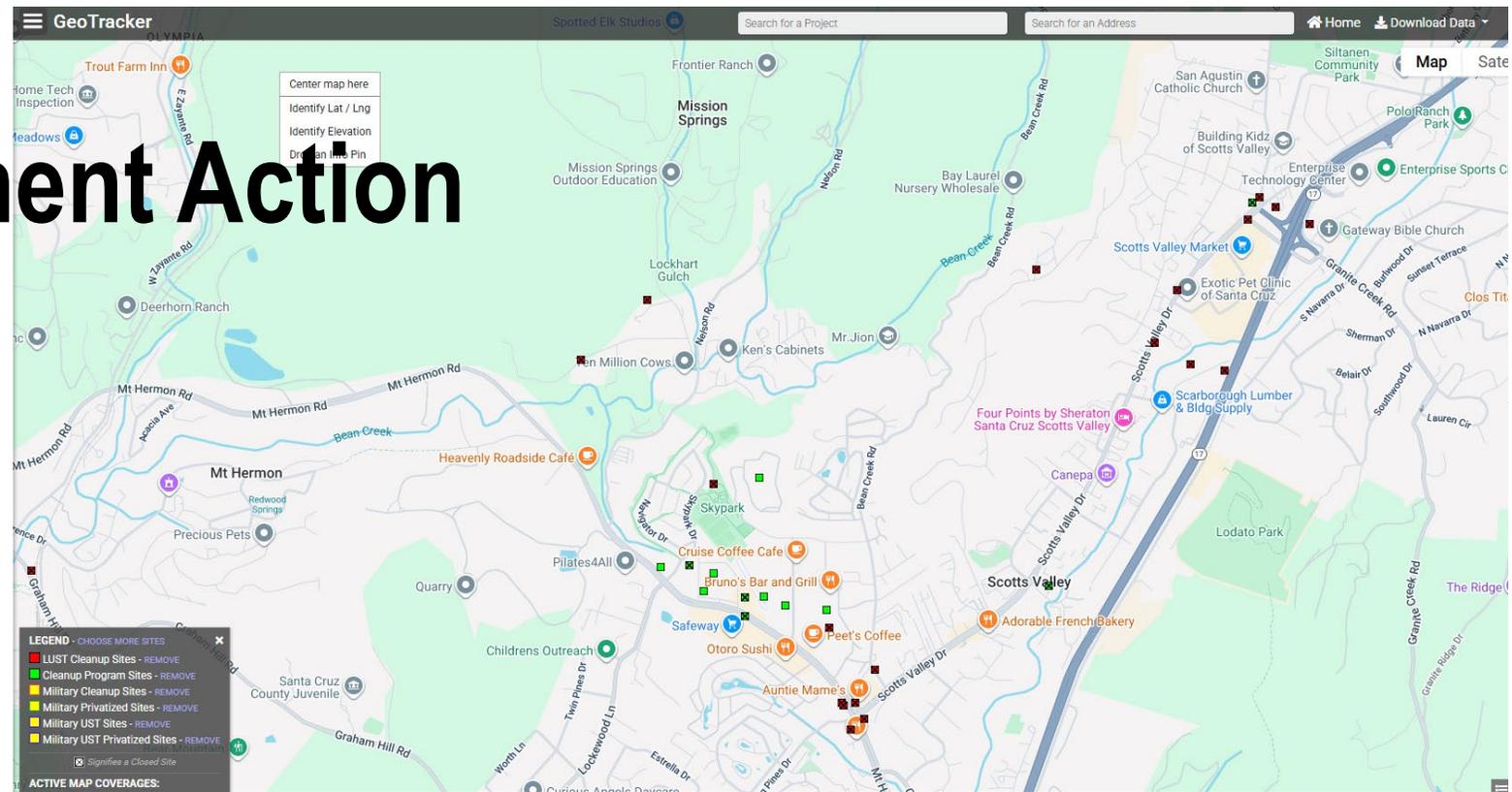
Table 10. Groundwater Quality Compared to Iron and Manganese Measurable Objectives, WY2024

Aquifer	Well Name	Iron Concentration (mg/L)		Manganese Concentration (mg/L)	
		Measurable Objective	WY2024 Maximum	Measurable Objective	WY2024 Maximum
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Olympia #3	0.502	0.32	0.157	0.14
Lompico	SLVWD Pasatiempo #7	0.539	0.36	0.099	0.06
	SVWD #10A	1.51	1.40	0.099	0.17
	SVWD #11A	0.459	0.31	0.112	0.11
	SVWD #11B	0.826	0.64	0.077	0.070

Measurable objective not met
 Measurable objective met

Potential Management Action

1. Annual review of state-maintained sites
2. Annual coordination meeting with County Environmental Cleanup Program staff



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

Board Meetings / Milestones

- Feb 26, 2026:** Board to Receive Update on PE Progress and Make Final Determination on Need for GSP Amendment
- May 28, 2026:** Update on Draft PE & GSP Amendment
- Jul 24, 2026:** Board Draft PE and GSP Amendment Posted to Website and City/County Notice (90-days required by SGMA)
- Aug 27, 2026:** Board/Public Comment on Draft PE and GSP Amendment
- Oct 22, 2026:** Draft Final PE and GSP Amendment
- Jan 3, 2027:** PE and GSP Amendment Due

Questions/Discussion

