



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

## Napa County: Update on Local Implementation

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), historic legislation enacted by Governor Brown in September 2014, provided a new structure for sustainable management of California's groundwater basins. On January 1, 2015 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) began implementing the Act, including the development of new regulations to guide local groundwater sustainability efforts.

SGMA established a sustainability goal for groundwater basins throughout the state, prioritized basins, established a timeline for implementation, and provided for new Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA). It also required the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), or Alternatives that are equivalent to them, to ensure that basins are operated within their sustainable yield.

Where basins have ongoing successful groundwater management programs, a local agency may elect to submit an Alternative that demonstrates that the groundwater basin is being sustainably managed. Napa County was well suited to meet the requirements for an Alternative due to its on-going groundwater sustainability program, which includes: an ongoing and evolving groundwater monitoring network and program, annual groundwater conditions reporting, an Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptualization and Characterization of Conditions Report (2013), development of new groundwater/surface water monitoring facilities along the Napa River, and a long-term public education and outreach program through the Watershed Information & Conservation Council (WICC/2002). As a result, Napa County began work to implement SGMA upon direction from the Board of Supervisors at their March 3, 2015 meeting.

The County and its groundwater consultant are currently completing work to meet the requirements of SGMA, which will be in the form of a Basin Analysis Report (one of the Alternatives defined in the Act). This report, *Napa Valley Groundwater Sustainability - Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin*, will provide an extensive analysis of the basin that demonstrates it has operated within its sustainable yield for a period of 10 years or more and that it is being managed consistent with the goal of SGMA and DWR regulations for Alternatives to GSPs. For medium and high priority groundwater basins/subbasins, a Basin Analysis Report or other Alternative must be submitted to DWR by January 1, 2017. The Napa Valley Subbasin is the only basin in the County with a medium priority ranking by DWR that is subject to SGMA at this time.

The draft Basin Analysis Report will be completed in the fall of 2016 and presented at meetings/workshops of the Napa County WICC for public comment. The first WICC meeting/workshop is planned for Thursday, September 22, 2016 with a second meeting planned for Thursday, November 3, 2016. It will also be available on the WICC website prior to the meeting at: <http://www.napawatersheds.org/groundwater>. The Board of Supervisors will consider approval of the Basin Analysis Report at their December 6, 2016 meeting to allow for submittal to DWR prior to the January 1, 2017 deadline. Upon approval by DWR, annual groundwater conditions reports and five-year updates of the Basin Analysis Report are required to ensure continued sustainability of the basin.



Napa County Groundwater:  
[www.countyofnapa.org/groundwater/](http://www.countyofnapa.org/groundwater/)  
Watershed Information and Conservation Council Groundwater:  
[www.napawatersheds.org/groundwater](http://www.napawatersheds.org/groundwater)



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