



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service



Update: October 18, 2016

## Implementation Update: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Napa 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 Alternative under the Act). The 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 Department of Water Resources (DWR) regulations for Alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans (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 completed draft of the Basin Analysis Report will be presented at a Watershed Information & Conservation Council (WICC) meeting/workshop for public comment on **Thursday, November 3, 2016**. The draft Report will be available on the WICC website prior to the meeting and can be downloaded at: <http://www.napawatersheds.org/groundwater>.

The Board of Supervisors will consider approval of the Basin Analysis Report at a **Special Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, December 13, 2016** to allow for submittal to DWR prior to the January 1, 2017 SGMA deadline. Upon review and 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.

---

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.

In basins that have ongoing successful groundwater management programs, a local agency may elect to submit a Basin Analysis Report Alternative that demonstrates that the groundwater basin is being sustainably managed. With direction from the **Board of Supervisors on March 3, 2015**, Napa County began work to implement SGMA through development of a Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin. Napa County was well suited to meet the requirements for this Alternative due to its 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 of Napa County.