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SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Have a checkup for your HVAC system every 2 years to make sure it is running efficiently. Be sure to clean the filter monthly during times of peak usage; a dirty filter can significantly reduce the efficiency of your HVAC. Savings: Reduce your energy bill by \$100 per year or more!
[U.S. Green Building Council](#)

The [California Department of Water](#) (DWR) regulations that will guide local groundwater sustainability agency management and regulation of California's groundwater basins as outlined in the historic [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA) enacted by Governor Brown in 2014, were recently approved by the [California Water Commission](#) and emergency regulations went into effect last month.

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, 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 is well suited to meet the alternative GSP requirements, due to its ongoing groundwater sustainability monitoring program, updated Hydrogeologic Conditions Report (2013), annual groundwater conditions reporting, and public outreach program through the Watershed Information & Conservation Council (WICC). As a result, Napa County began development of an alternative GSP based on direction from the Board of Supervisors at their March 3, 2015 meeting.

The county and its groundwater consultant are currently completing work on the alternative GSP requirements for the Napa Valley Subbasin, which will be in the form of a Basin Analysis Report (BAR). This report will provide an analysis of the basin that demonstrates it has operated within its sustainable yield for a period of 10 years and that it is being managed consistent with SGMA requirements and DWR regulations for Alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans. For medium and high-priority groundwater basins/subbasins, alternative GSPs 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.

The draft Basin Analysis Report will be completed in fall 2016 and presented at a meeting of the Napa County Watershed Information and Conservation Council (WICC) for public comment. It will also be available on the WICC website prior to the meeting. The Board of Supervisors will consider approval of the Basin Analysis Report in December for submittal to DWR by the January 1, 2017, deadline. Upon approval by DWR, annual conditions reports and five-year updates are required to ensure continued sustainability of the basin. [Click here for more information on tools](#)

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