



Board of Directors

Susan Boswell  
Emma Chow  
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Alfredo Pedroza  
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Kimberly Richard  
Scott Sedgley  
Pamela Smithers

Alternates

Mariam Aboudamous  
Jeffrey Durham  
Doris Gentry  
Ryan Gregory  
Mary Koberstein  
Irais Lopez-Ortega  
Brent Randol

Staff

Patrick Lowe,  
Secretary  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Mgr.,  
Public Works

Jeff Sharp,  
Principal Planner,  
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Napa, CA  
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## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, July 26, 2018, 3:00 p.m.

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A  
First Floor, Willow Conference Room, Napa CA 94558

--- Note Meeting Location ---

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (Chair)
2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES** – May 24, 2018 Special Meeting (Chair) (2 min)
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – In this time period, anyone may comment to the Council regarding any subject over which the Council has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a **three-minute presentation**. No action will be taken by the Council as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)
4. **UPDATES AND REPORTS**
  - a) Introduction of Lucas Patzek, new Resource Conservation District (RCD) Executive Director and update on WICC/RCD partnership (Staff/Lucas Patzek) (5 min)
  - b) Report on WICC 2017-18 fiscal year accomplishments: A high-level overview of WICC supported projects and events (Staff/Lucas Patzek) (15 min)
  - c) Report on WICC website statistics and update on new site launch (Staff) (10 min)
  - d) Update on Napa County's Groundwater Sustainability Program, including: 2017 Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report highlights/ key findings, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin Reprioritization process, recent research on Earthquakes and Groundwater, status of DWR review of Napa County's Basin Analysis Report (alternative/equivalent Groundwater Sustainability Plan), and other program activities (Staff/Vicki Kretsinger Grabert and Nick Watterson, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers) (45 min)

(cont.)

5. **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:**  
Presentation and discussion on California State Park’s Ritchey Creek Fish Passage Project and other State Park projects in Napa County (Christina Freeman, Environmental Scientist, California State Parks) (25 min)
6. **INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
Exchange of informational announcements and events (Staff/Council/Public) (5 min)
7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**  
Discussion of possible items for future agendas (Staff/Council) (2 min)
8. **NEXT MEETING:**  
Next scheduled meeting: **September 27, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.**  
2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A  
First Floor, Conference Room, Napa CA 94558
9. **ADJOURNMENT (Chair)**

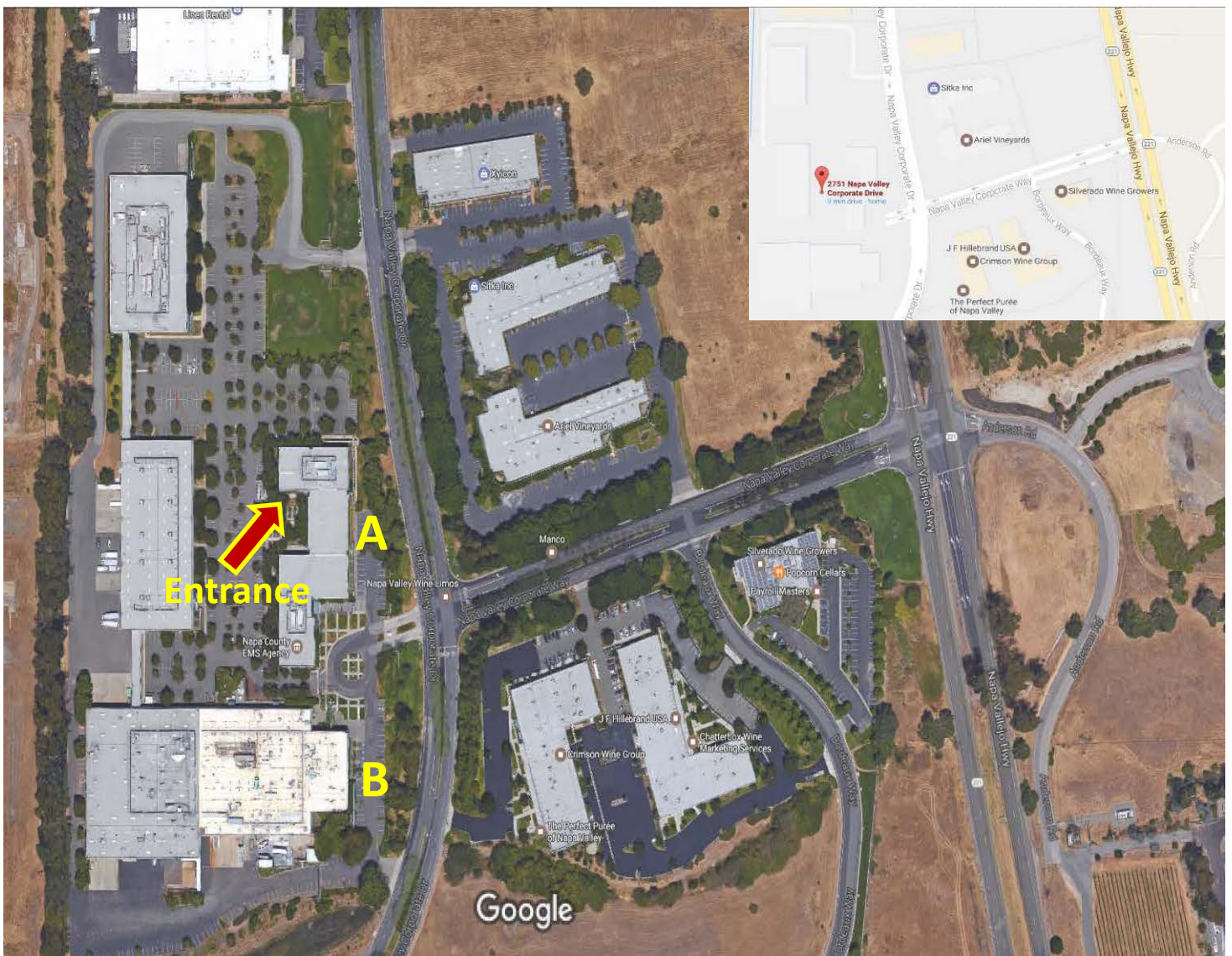
**Note:** If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559-2623.



## Meeting Location Map

The meeting room is located on the first floor in the southwest corner of Building A (see arrow)

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A, First Floor, Conference Rooms, Napa CA 94558





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**-- ACTION MINUTES --**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

**City of American Canyon Council Chambers  
4381 Broadway Suite 201, American Canyon CA 94599**

*--- Note Special Meeting Time and Location ---*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Chair)**

Members Present: *Emma Chow, Barry Christian, Tosha Comendant, Diane Dillon, Geoff Ellsworth, David Graves, Kenneth Leary, Alfredo Pedroza, Bill Pramuk, Kimberly Richard, Scott Sedgley, Pamela Smithers*

Members excused: *Susan Boswell, Marita Dorenbecher, Jason Lauritsen*

Members absent: *Jeri Gill, Gary Kraus*

Staff present: *Patrick Lowe; Jeff Sharp*

**2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES – March 22, 2017 Regular Meeting (Chair) (2 min)**

*Approved*

<i>SB</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>
<i>E</i>			<i>A</i>		<i>E</i>			<i>E</i>						

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT –** In this time period, anyone may comment to the Council regarding any subject over which the Council has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a **three-minute presentation**. No action will be taken by the Council as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)

*No comments provided.*

**4. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

a) Report on May Watershed Awareness Month events and activities (Staff) (2 min)

*Mr. Sharp provide a report on the numerous Watershed Awareness Month activities and events. Over 40 events were posted to the WICC website in the month of May.*

b) Update on Napa County Groundwater Program activities (Staff) (5 min)

*Mr. Lowe provided an update to the Council on program activities, including draft groundwater basin reprioritization underway by the Department to Water Resources (DWR). A handout on the reprioritization process, including background was provided to the Council.*

(cont.)

*Mr. Lowe pointed out that in the reprioritization report by DWR mentioned that the Napa Valley groundwater basin levels were stable. An interactive map of the basins along with DWR's report is available on DWR's website. Mr. Lowe overviewed the prioritization points for the Napa Valley basin. DWR has contacted the County to receive input and discuss the draft methodologies used in the reprioritization. Follow up meetings with DWR are being scheduled. Public comments on the reprioritization are welcome and can be submitted on DWR's website. An update on the reprioritization process will be provided to the WICC at their July meeting.*

- c) Update on 2018 Fisheries Monitoring in the Napa River Watershed (Jonathan Koehler, Napa County Resource Conservation District) (15 min)

*Mr. Koehler provided the Council with an update and presentation on the RCD's fisheries monitoring program (which is focused on smolt salmonid fisheries) and data from the operation of the RCD's rotary-screw fish trap (RST). The RST samples the fish population without harming the fish. The trap has been operated for ten years in the spring. The trap is located 2/3 down the watershed (above the tidal area) and 'misses' about 1/3 of the salmon rearing habitat in the watershed (numbers of the catch serve as relative numbers of fish populations year to year). Overall efforts to improve and protect fisheries habitat should, over time, be reflected in greater numbers of salmon smolts (more fish). PIT tagging is also done to track steelhead in the watershed. Two adults from 2016 were logged as returning the watershed in 2017– the first data of this kind for the watershed. The RST is still in operation this season, at least for a few more weeks. A final report of the annual monitoring will be out in late summer. It was a big year for steelhead after 5yrs of drought. Chinook numbers were very similar to prior years and relatively high. There is also a very high catch of native compared to non-native species. These are all good signs.*

- d) Update on LAFCO Countywide Water and Wastewater Municipal Service Review (Brendon Freeman, Local Agency Formation Commission) (10 min)

*Mr. Freeman, Executive Officer of LAFCO, provided an overview of LAFCO's Municipal Service Review (MSR) project, including background, intent and timeline. Mr. Freeman noted that the goal of the review is to determine the optimal water and wastewater service arrangement for future generations. The project is in its initial phase. A request for proposals (RFP) is currently being developed by a core focus group. Future public workshops will be held to guide the review. A draft RFP is expected to be presented to the LAFCO Board on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Qualifying consulting firms will be interviewed in July and a contract awarded in August. Stakeholder workshop will occur in the first half of 2019. A draft MSR is expected sometime in second half of 2019.*

- e) Update on MCE's Green Energy in Napa County (Alexandra McGee, MCE) (10 min)

*Ms. McGee provided a presentation, covering the background on MCE's (Marin Clean Energy's) mission and operations, along with an update on MCE's green energy program in Napa County. Ms. McGee reviewed the electrical energy choices available to Napa County residents and the costs associated with each. Program participation (opt in/out) rates were presented. Green (renewable) energy usage is part of the County's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and climate change adaptation strategy. Several charts were presented to demonstrate GHG emission avoidance through enrollment in the MCE program. Program partners in Napa County include PG&E, BayREN, BAAQMD, Gasser Foundation, and Napa Valley Community Housing. Assisting with the funding and installation of solar projects and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Napa County is also an area of MCE involvement.*

5. **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- a) Presentation and discussion on Projects in and around American Canyon – A review of community and open space projects in American Canyon from the hilltops of Newell Preserve to Wetlands Edge (Creighton Wright, American Canyon Parks and Recreation Department; Janelle Sellick, American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation; Barry Christian - Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District) (20 min)

*Ms. Shelan Zuhdi, project coordinator (for Creighton Wright) provided the Council with some handouts and a summary of various projects planned and/or underway in and around the city of American Canyon, including: Newell Open Space Preserve – native vegetation planting and management, creek-side and valley trail construction, upslope trail and road sediment reduction, improving ADA access; Clark Ranch – Napa River Bay Trail connection, wetlands edge trails, Clark Ranch Master Plan Phase 1, meadow bay trail work, and local recreational and educational programming.*

*Ms. Janelle Sellick introduced herself and provided the Council with an overview the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation and its role within the community. The Foundation supports the community and the promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities through fundraising, events and partnerships.*

*Barry Christian (for NCRPOD) provided the Council with an overview of the trails and open space available to the west (wetlands/river trails) and east (Newell Preserve trails) of American Canyon. Mr. Christian spoke of the connections (opportunities) these trail systems offer and the challenges they face. The Parks District recently purchase property atop Suscol Ridge with the intent to develop a means to hike from Hwy 12 north to the city of Napa along the ridgeline. Work is underway at Newell Preserve to repair eroding roads, enhance the native vegetation and protect red-legged frog habitat.*

- b) Presentation and discussion on Ecological Monitoring and Recovery on Land Trust Preserves Impacted by the North Bay Fires - With Emphasis on Fire-Adapted Native Plant Communities (Mike Palladini, Land Trust of Napa County) (20 min)

*Mr. Palladini, Stewardship Program Manager, provided the Council with a presentation that highlighted post fire monitoring and vegetation recovery of various Land Trust preserves/properties. The 2017 October fires impacted 3,400 acres under Land Trust management. After immediate post-fire activities to control erosion and assess destroyed infrastructure, efforts focused on the ecological impacts of the fires, with a focus on the native plant communities. Photo-point monitoring and wildlife cameras were utilized (including drone flights), alongside vegetation plots and transects, to track regrowth and the presence/absence of fire obligate and/or sensitive species. The end result will be revised botanical assessments for the impacted lands. In general, fire adapted and obligate (dependent) species and rare taxa benefited from the fires.*

- c) Presentation and discussion on Rutherford to Oak Knoll: Napa River and Tributary Restoration – an overview of progress and plans, including restoration in Bear Creek/Bale Slough watersheds (Michael Gordon, Napa County Flood Control District) (20 min)

*Mr. Gordon provide the Council with an update on the Rutherford to Oak Knoll river restoration project(s) and the current status of work in the Oakville to Oak Knoll reach. Mr. Gordon highlighted the continuity of the main-stem river projects with the Bear Creek/Bale Slough tributary restoration plans. Project objective include restoring the physical condition of the channel and banks to improve habitat recovery and the reduction of stream bank erosion. Mr. Gordon presented pre and post restoration imagery along with images that showed how the project areas held up to winter storms/flooding. A recent study was completed to guide the Bear Creek/Bale Slough project. The study included landowner outreach, habitat surveys (stream and steelhead), vegetation mapping, and a catalog of possible restoration site. The next steps in the project is completion of designs/plans, creation of a community facilities district (to support local match for grants, monitoring and long-term maintenance) and procurement of additional funding for construction costs.*

**6. RANKING OF STUDENT-CREATED WATER CONSERVATION VIDEOS**

View and rank student-created Water Conservation Videos – 2018 Theme: *Tell the story of water as it journeys from its source to you, how waste can occur along that journey, and why it’s important to conserve once it reaches you.* Winning video(s) will be used in public service announcements throughout Napa County (Pat Costello, City of Napa Water Division) (15 min)

*Mr. Costello provided some background to the Council on the video contest, including contest guidelines and scoring rubric. Mr. Costello played five short videos, all created and submitted by local high school students. Each Council member was provided a scoring sheet upon which to rank their favorite videos 1-5. Mr. Costello collected the scoring cards and informed the Council that the winning video team will have their video played in the Century Cinema during summer previews and will receive four free movie passes to the theater. The top three videos will also be posted to the WICC website.*

**7. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Exchange of informational announcements and events (Staff/Council/Public) (5 min)  
*Launch of the new WICC website is planned for July, just before the next Council meeting.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Discussion of possible items for future agendas (Staff/Council) (2 min)  
*Update on groundwater basin reprioritization by the Department of Water Resources.  
 Discuss possible 2:00pm meeting start-time.*

**9. NEXT MEETING:**

Next scheduled meeting: **July 26, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Location TBA

**10. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)**

*Motion and approval to adjourn.*

<i>SB</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>
<i>E</i>					<i>E</i>			<i>E</i>						

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**Voting Key**

If not unanimous, votes will be tallied (N = No; A = Abstained, E = Excused) using the following Board Member abbreviations: SB = Susan Boswell; EC = Emma Chow; BC=Barry Christian; TC = Tosha Comendant; DD = Diane Dillon; MD = Marita Dorenbecher; GE = Geoff Ellsworth; JG = Jeri Gill; DG=David Graves; GK = Gary Kraus; JL = Jason Lauritsen; KL = Kenneth Leary; AP = Alfredo Pedroza; BP=Bill Pramuk; KR=Kimberly Richard; SS = Scott Sedgley; PS = Pamela Smithers; Alternates: MA = Mariam Aboundamous, JD = Jeffrey Durham, DG2 Doris Gentry, RG = Ryan Gregory, ILO = Irais Lopez-Ortega, BR=Brent Randol.

**Example Key:**

<i>SB</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>JG</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>GK</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>
	<i>N</i>				<i>A</i>		<i>A</i>								<i>E</i>	

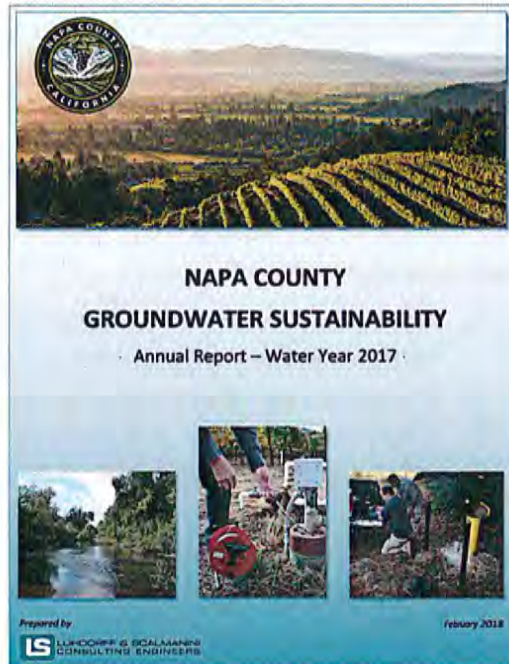
## REPORT SUMMARY: NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT – WATER YEAR 2017

The 2017 Annual Report provides the latest information on efforts underway since 2008 by Napa County and others to implement groundwater management actions to better understand groundwater conditions, establish monitoring to track conditions, conduct education and outreach, and develop programs to assess and maintain groundwater sustainability. These efforts have included:

- Adoption of 2008 General Plan Goals & Policies
- New groundwater resources studies began in 2009
- Created Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee to lead implementation and outreach (2011-2014)
- Provide ongoing community outreach through the Watershed Information & Conservation Council

The Annual Report meets the reporting requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the Napa Valley Subbasin, which underlies much of the Napa Valley Floor. It provides an update on recommended SGMA implementation actions in Napa County's Basin Analysis Report (LSCE, 2016) that was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) (see Section 7) and presents groundwater conditions (see Section 5) and water use updates for the Napa Valley Subbasin (see Section 6).

The Annual Report includes recommendations currently being implemented to maintain or improve groundwater conditions to ensure overall water resources sustainability in the Napa Valley Subbasin (see Section 8).



### Key findings from the Annual Report include:

- Groundwater level trends in the alluvial aquifer system of the Napa Valley Subbasin are stable in most wells with long-term groundwater level records (see Sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2).
- Many monitored wells experienced increased groundwater levels in 2017, consistent with very wet water year conditions.
- Groundwater levels recorded in 2017 were above the minimum thresholds established as SGMA sustainability criteria (see Section 5.1.3).
- Overall, the depth to groundwater in the alluvial aquifer of the Subbasin is quite shallow, ranging between 2.5 and 21.2 feet in spring 2017.
- While agricultural land use, especially vineyards, have covered much of the Napa Valley Floor for decades, water requirements for agriculture in the Subbasin (predominantly vineyards) are significantly lower than agricultural commodities grown elsewhere in California.
- Due to the high recharge potential of the Subbasin in most years and relatively low water requirements for agriculture, the Subbasin remains full relative to its storage capacity.
- Cumulative changes in groundwater storage, the difference between annual inflows and outflows to the groundwater system, show a net increase of 13,702 acre-feet from water years 1988 to 2017 (see Section 5.1.4).



- Groundwater use in the Subbasin in water years 2016 and 2017 was 17,039 acre-feet and 15,831 acre-feet, respectively (see Section 6.1.4). These volumes are below the sustainable yield range of 17,000 to 20,000 acre-feet per year identified in the Basin Analysis Report (LSCE, 2016). **These and other findings on groundwater conditions and trends (see Section 5) demonstrate that the Napa Valley Subbasin has continued to be managed sustainably through 2017.**
- The majority of the Milliken-Sarco-Tuluca (MST) Subarea is not part of a groundwater basin as mapped by DWR, though it is a groundwater subarea for local planning purposes. Groundwater level declines observed as early as the 1960s-1970s have stabilized since about 2009 (see Section 5.2). Within the MST Subarea, groundwater level responses differ indicating that localized conditions, whether geologic or anthropogenic, are likely the primary influence on groundwater conditions.

**Some additional key findings from the Northeast Napa Area Special Groundwater Study and Management Area include:**

- Geologic faulting in the model area influences the overall behavior of water levels east of the Napa River. Concealed faults may affect water levels in deeper wells in the Petra Drive area.
- The high density of wells in the Petra Drive area are associated with mutual well interference and local drawdown effects. However, these lowered water levels are not as significant as the regional influence of the eastern boundary and movement of groundwater towards the MST.
- Over the 28-year study period, climate effects have a much greater influence on stream leakage than pumping. Climate-driven variables account for 87 to 92% of the effect on groundwater discharge to Napa River, while pumping contributes to 8 to 13% of the effect on groundwater discharge to the River.
- Annual stream leakage fluxes (in and out of the surface water) were very similar even with no pumping occurring showing minimal stream impacts due to pumping.

**SGMA sustainable groundwater management activities underway or completed in 2017 include:**

- Completion of the Northeast Napa Area Special Groundwater Study.
- Designation of the Northeast Napa Management Area as an Amendment (LSCE, 2018) to the 2016 Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin (LSCE, 2016) (Sec 355.10 CCR,DWR,GSP).
- Preparation and application of revised conditions of approval requiring additional monitoring and reporting of groundwater conditions and water use for discretionary projects.
- Providing tools and training to Napa County well owners to support monitoring and awareness of groundwater conditions in wells that they own.
- Development of datasets to support the expansion of the groundwater flow model developed for the Northeast Napa Management Area to the entire Napa Valley Subbasin.
- Collaborations and project development to improve best available water use data.
- Ongoing coordination with other local and regional water management and planning programs.

**For additional information:** <https://www.napawatersheds.org/documents/view/9230>

## **Update on Draft 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization**

*This summary reflects the following developments that have occurred since the prior summary was distributed on May 23, 2018:*

- 1. On June 19, Napa County staff and LSCE staff met with DWR to review the draft prioritization process and results for the Napa Valley Subbasin and Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin.*
- 2. On June 26, Napa County staff attended the basin prioritization public meeting organized by DWR in Healdsburg.*
- 3. In late June, DWR began to provide supporting data to facilitate public review and comment.*
- 4. In late June, DWR extended the public comment period deadline from July 18 to August 20.*
- 5. Napa County staff have discussed the draft prioritizations with representatives from water agencies, counties, and cities that manage water resources in portions of Solano and Sonoma Counties that have service areas that include portions of the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin and Sonoma Valley Subbasin.*

### **What it Means for Napa County**

On May 18, 2018, DWR released a draft 2018 Basin Prioritization of groundwater basins as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). In accordance with SGMA, Napa County's Groundwater Sustainability Program is fully in compliance with SGMA requirements. After an initial review of the draft Basin Prioritization, the following are some important takeaways:

- DWR noted that the groundwater levels for the Napa Valley Subbasin are stable
- No changes are required to the County's SGMA efforts for the Napa Valley Subbasin as a result of a proposed change in priority, as high/medium basins both have the same requirements which are fulfilled by the *Napa Valley Groundwater Sustainability, A Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin* (i.e. BAR) submitted to DWR in December 2016 and the *Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report-Water Year 2017* submitted to DWR in March 2018
- The Napa Valley Subbasin BAR is still under review by DWR at this time

Additional information on DWR's draft 2018 Basin Prioritization process is provided below, followed by a summary of the proposed changes, current actions, and next steps.

### **Background**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) groundwater basin prioritization classifies California's 517 basins and subbasins into priorities based on components identified in the California Water Code. The priority of basins and subbasins then determines whether California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provisions apply in any given basin.

In 2014, DWR prioritized groundwater basins through its CASGEM Program, which classified basins as high, medium, low, or very low based on the consideration of factors in legislation enacted in California's 2009 Comprehensive Water package. Some of these factors include population, population growth, number of wells, irrigated acreage in the basin (including irrigation using various water sources), and reliance on groundwater as a source of supply.

Following adoption of SGMA and Basin Boundary Modification regulations, in January 2015 DWR adopted the 2014 CASGEM Basin Prioritization as the initial prioritization under SGMA. Under this initial

prioritization, the Napa Valley Subbasin was categorized as a medium priority and subject to SGMA; all other basins and subbasins in Napa County were a very low priority and not subject to SGMA. In the fall of 2016, DWR completed the final groundwater basin boundaries, which incorporated numerous statewide jurisdictional and scientific modifications, as well as addressing requested boundary modifications. DWR published Bulletin 118 – Interim Update 2016 on December 22, 2016.

SGMA requires a reassessment of the prioritization anytime DWR updates Bulletin 118 basin boundaries. As a result, following the release of the 2016 Basin Boundary Modifications, DWR began the 2018 SGMA prioritization of California’s 517 groundwater basins.

### **DWR Draft Basin Prioritization**

On May 18, 2018, DWR released a draft updated prioritization of groundwater basins as required by SGMA. The newly released draft prioritization identifies 109 basins as high- and medium-priority, which includes 14 basins newly ranked as high- or medium-priority, and 38 basins previously ranked as high or medium-priority are now ranked as low or very-low priority. Under the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations, low- or very low-priority basins are not subject to SGMA.

DWR held a public webinar May 30 to present the draft results, followed by statewide public meetings at the end of June. DWR will be taking public comments on the draft results, including additional data or information that is consistent with statewide datasets identified in the Basin Prioritization Process and Results Document. The 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization is scheduled to be finalized by fall 2018 after a public comment period that runs through August 20, 2018.

On June 19, Napa County staff and LSCE staff met with DWR, and staff from Solano County, City of Vallejo, and Solano County Water Agency to review the draft prioritization process and results. **At that meeting and other public meetings, DWR staff clarified that the basin prioritization process is not a determination of whether groundwater basins are being managed sustainably. Instead, it is a way for DWR to determine the importance of groundwater in individual basins and whether they should be subject to the requirements of the SGMA. DWR noted that a high priority basin could still currently be a sustainably managed basin.** DWR also expressed their commitment to adhering to the California Water Code requirements for basin prioritization, and their interest in receiving updated or more accurate data from the public to inform the final prioritization scores.

When the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization is finalized, basins newly subject to SGMA must form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within two years and develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) within five years, or submit an Alternative Plan (GSP equivalent) within two years.

For more information, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, or to submit a comment, see DWR’s website: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>

### **Groundwater Basins in Napa County**

After an initial review of the draft DWR 2018 Basin Prioritization, the following summarizes the proposed changes, current actions, and next steps.

#### **Napa Valley Subbasin**

- DWR proposed the subbasin priority move from a medium to high priority (from 20.8 priority points in 2014 to 24 priority points in the 2018 draft prioritization) Medium=15-21 High= >21

- Based on changes to methods used to determine priority ranking/criteria, new and/or updated data/sources of information, and consideration of updated SGMA provisions (includes local habitat and streamflows)
- In the draft basin priority score, DWR indicated a potential issue with salt water intrusion, but this appears to be based on older reference material (i.e., a 1995 USGS report which relies on a 1975 DWR report; more up-to-date information is not cited by DWR as part of the draft prioritization)
- In the draft basin priority score, DWR assigned three impact points, out of five possible impact points, for water quality degradation. However, the method used to arrive at the score does not distinguish between naturally-occurring substances and those that are a response to human activities. The method used by DWR also does not consider whether concentrations of a given water quality constituent have increased over time, as an indication of changes due to groundwater use and groundwater management in the basin.
- DWR also noted that the groundwater levels are stable
- DWR's prioritization process assigns one "impact point" to a basin that has vegetation, wetlands, and spring habitats in the basin; similarly, an impact point is assigned to a basin that has a perennial or permanent stream in or adjacent to the basin. For these reasons, this Subbasin received two impact points; however, it received "0" priority points due to lack of potential for adverse impact to habitat and streamflow (because DWR reports "No Declining GW Levels")
- Staff and our groundwater consultant LSCE are reviewing the proposed draft, meeting with DWR, and preparing a comment letter
- No changes are required to the County's SGMA efforts at this time, as high/medium basins both have the same requirements which are fulfilled by the *Napa Valley Groundwater Sustainability, A Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin* (i.e., the BAR) submitted to DWR in December 2016 and also the *Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report - Water Year 2017* submitted to DWR in March 2018
- DWR has not completed review of the Napa Valley Subbasin BAR
- **Based on Napa County's review of the supporting information provided by DWR to date, the draft prioritization score of 24 priority points should be revised to 22 priority points, which would remain within the High Priority classification range.**

#### **Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin**

- DWR proposed the subbasin priority move from a very low to medium priority (in 2014 this subbasin received a "0" score, although it had 9 priority points. In the 2018 draft prioritization, it received 15 priority points) Low=8-14 Medium=15-21
- Based on changes to methods used to determine priority ranking/criteria, new and/or updated data/sources of information, consideration of updated SGMA provisions (includes local habitat and streamflows)

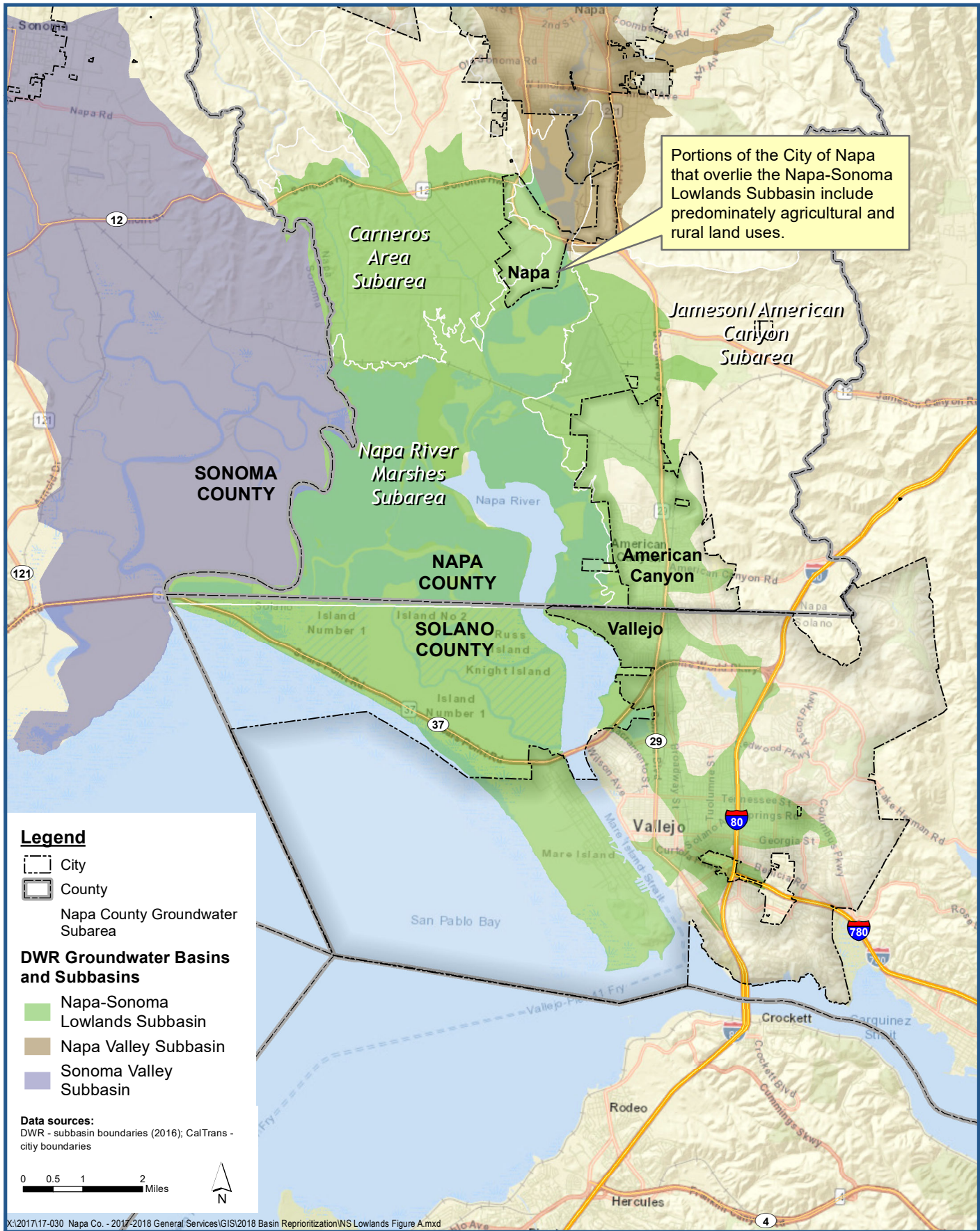
- DWR indicated a potential issue with salt water intrusion, but this appears to be based on older reference material (i.e., a 1995 USGS report which relies on a 1975 DWR report; more up-to-date information is not cited by DWR as part of the draft prioritization)
- In the draft basin priority score, DWR assigned four impact points, out of five possible impact points, for water quality degradation. However, the method used to arrive at the score does not distinguish between naturally-occurring substances and those that are a response to human activities. The method used by DWR also does not consider whether concentrations of a given water quality constituent have increased over time, as an indication of changes due to groundwater use and groundwater management in the basin.
- The draft basin prioritization considers the density of public supply wells in the Subbasin, but assigns equal weight to all public supply wells without regard to population served. The dataset used for the draft prioritization also includes wells that are not located in the Subbasin.
- DWR intends to provide additional information regarding the calculated rate of groundwater use (i.e., groundwater reliance). To date, the information provided by DWR indicates rates of groundwater use that are greater than other published estimates and do not account for recycled water use in the Subbasin.
- DWR's prioritization process assigns one "impact point" to a basin that has vegetation, wetlands, and spring habitats in the basin; similarly, an impact point is assigned to a basin that has a perennial or permanent stream in or adjacent to the basin. This Subbasin received two impact points for these reasons; however, it received "0" priority points due to lack of potential for adverse impact to habitat and streamflow (because DWR reports "No Declining GW Levels")
- Staff and our groundwater consultant LSCE are reviewing the proposed draft, meeting with DWR, and preparing a comment letter
- If the 2018 Basin Prioritization is revised to a low priority based upon information/data provided to DWR, then nothing additional is required for SGMA, but expanded monitoring under the Groundwater Sustainability Program would be desired
- If the Subbasin is designated as a medium priority, then SGMA would require a Basin Analysis Report or that a GSA be formed and a GSP prepared. If a GSA is formed, participants may include Napa County, Solano County, City of Napa, American Canyon, Vallejo, water agencies/districts and others (see attached Napa Sonoma Lowlands map).
- **Based on Napa County's review of the supporting information provided by DWR to date, the draft prioritization score of 15 priority points should be revised to 11.5 priority points, which would reduce the basin classification from Medium (draft) to Low (final prioritization).**

#### **Berryessa Valley Basin and Pope Valley Basin**

No proposed changes for these two basins; both remain designated as Very Low Priority by DWR.

### **Summary/Next Steps**

- Staff and LSCE complete comment letter to DWR re: proposed Basin Prioritization changes
- DWR Public Comment period now closes on August 20, 2018
- Respond to any DWR questions/comments or requests for additional information
- DWR to finalize Basin Prioritizations by mid November 2018 (final date pending)
- Provide update to the Board of Supervisors re: status/next steps (late 2018/early 2019)



X:\2017\17-030 Napa Co. - 2017-2018 General Services\GIS\2018 Basin Reprioritization\NS Lowlands Figure A.mxd

## 2018 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Basin Prioritization

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is basin prioritization?**

Prioritization is the classification of groundwater basins based on a variety of factors identified in statute, such as population and the number of water wells in a basin (*see* Water Code § 10933). DWR was first directed to prioritize basins as part of the Groundwater Monitoring legislation adopted in 2009, to establish the order in which DWR would evaluate basins to determine whether monitoring provided sufficient information to demonstrate seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations, as required by that law. DWR created the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program in response to the Groundwater Monitoring legislation, and released the CASGEM prioritization of basins in 2014. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which became effective in 2015, required DWR to prioritize basins for purposes of SGMA shortly after the law took effect (*see* Water Code § 10722.4). DWR adopted the 2014 CASGEM prioritization as the initial SGMA prioritization in 2015.

#### **Why are basins being reprioritized?**

SGMA requires DWR to reassess groundwater basin prioritization any time it updates Bulletin 118 boundaries. Publication of Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2016 triggered the need to reassess the 2015 SGMA Basin Prioritization. DWR's reassessment indicated a need to prioritize basins whose SGMA compliance status was uncertain as a result of the basin boundary modifications, as well as the need to reprioritize based on the presence of new and enhanced information, and the consideration of factors specifically relevant to SGMA.

#### **What process was used to prioritize the groundwater basins/subbasins?**

DWR used the same process for the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization as was used for the 2014 CASGEM Basin Prioritization. A description of the prioritization process can be found in the following documents:

[2014 CASGEM Basin Prioritization Process and Results Document](#)

[2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization Process and Results Document](#)



**If the same process was used, why did the prioritization of some basins change?**

Although DWR used the same process to prioritize basins for the 2014 CASGEM Basin Prioritization and the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization, the use of different data or other factors specific to SGMA resulted in changes to the prioritization of about 10% of basins. Changes were most likely to occur in the following situations: (1) Where boundary modifications resulted in a significant realignment of population, groundwater use, or other factors that were critical in determining CASGEM Basin Prioritization; (2) Where new or improved data established different use or reliance of groundwater than had been identified in the CASGEM Basin Prioritization; and (3) Where other information, determined to be relevant to DWR for the purposes of SGMA, was included in the prioritization. SGMA relies on the prioritization components in Water Code § 10933 (as amended by SGMA), but requires DWR to prioritize basins for the purposes of SGMA (see Water Code § 10722.4). Those purposes are different from the purposes of CASGEM, and led to the use of additional factors, as discussed in the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization Process and Results Document.

**\* How are adjudicated areas addressed under SGMA? What requirements are there for adjudicated areas under SGMA?**

Water Code §10720.8 identifies adjudicated areas in SGMA, which have an existing defined entity administering the adjudication. Under SGMA, adjudicated portions of basins are exempt from developing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) and forming a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA). However, the entities administering the adjudications are subject to submitting annual reports to DWR by April 1 each year. SGMA requires that annual reports include the following information for the portion of the basin subject to adjudication:

- a) Groundwater elevation data unless submitted pursuant to Water Code §10932.
- b) Annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year.
- c) Surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use.
- d) Total water use.
- e) Change in groundwater storage.
- f) The annual report submitted to the court.

**\* What are groundwater related water transfers and why are they a factor considered in the 2018 Basin Prioritization?**

Groundwater related water transfers include groundwater substitution transfers and out-of-basin groundwater transfers. Groundwater substitution transfers make surface water available for transfer by reducing surface water diversions and replacing that water with groundwater pumping.

DWR considered groundwater related transfers as part of the 2018 Basin Prioritization because transfers result in groundwater being directly or indirectly exported from a basin. Programs in basins that resulted in direct or indirect groundwater exports were considered relevant in the 2018 Basin Prioritization. DWR recognizes water transfers as a water management tool to enhance flexibility in the allocation and use of water in California. These transfers may be useful for meeting critical needs during drought periods. However, groundwater related transfers must be carried out in a responsible manner to be sure there are no adverse impacts on groundwater levels, depletion of interconnected surface water, land subsidence, other water users, or the environment.

**How does basin prioritization impact a basin or subbasin with regards to SGMA compliance and implementation?**

SGMA applies to all groundwater basins identified by DWR's Bulletin 118. SGMA requires that all high- and medium-priority basins be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative. SGMA encourages and authorizes, but does not require, low- and very low- priority basins to be managed under a GSP (see Water Code § 10720.7).

**How can I find the ranking for my groundwater basin?**

Check the interactive Web map application, available on the DWR 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization webpage at the following link:

<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bp2018-dashboard>

**Can I see how the ranking was determined for my basin?**

Yes. The [2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization Process and Results Document](#) identifies the datasets used in the evaluation and summarizes details on the process used to prioritize the basins. Download the document at the following link:

[https://www.water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization/Files/CA\\_GW-Basin-Prioritization\\_07-10-14.pdf](https://www.water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization/Files/CA_GW-Basin-Prioritization_07-10-14.pdf)

**How can the public submit comments about the proposed basin prioritization?**

DWR will accept public comments for 60 days following the release of draft results. DWR will conduct public meetings in June 2018 on the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization process after the draft release. The final 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization will consider input received during the public comment period.

For more information regarding how to comment, visit the website at the following link:

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>

**\* What is the significance and practical effect of a change in basin prioritization?**

DWR prioritizes groundwater basins based on factors such as population, irrigated acreage, and the number of wells (see Water Code §10933). Most factors are neutral as to groundwater management, focusing simply on the importance of groundwater in a basin. As a result, a sustainably managed basin may be designated as high-priority based on which of these factors are present. Changes in status from the 2014 CASGEM prioritization generally reflects changed conditions or new information about existing conditions. Changes in status are not meant as a comment on changes to groundwater management in that basin.

Although SGMA applies to all basins in California, only high- and medium-priority basins are required to adopt a GSP or submit an alternative. Low- and very low-priority basins may adopt these plans, but are not required to. A low- or very low-priority basin reclassified as high- or medium-priority will be required to adopt a GSP or submit an alternative. A high- or medium-priority basin reclassified as low- or very low-priority will no longer be required to adopt a GSP or submit an alternative. SGMA does not treat low-priority basins differently than very low-priority basins. SGMA does not treat high-priority basins differently than medium-priority basins. For this reason, a change from medium- to high-priority does not affect requirements under SGMA.

**Now that a basin is ranked as high- or medium- priority, is there a new deadline to form a GSA and submit a GSP or Alternative Plan?**

Basins previously ranked as low- or very low priority that are now prioritized as high- or medium-priority are subject to SGMA and have additional time to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and develop and implement GSPs or to submit an Alternative (see Water Code § 10722.4(d)). If a basin is reprioritized from low or very low to high- or medium-priority, the following deadlines apply:

- Two years from Final Basin Prioritization to form a GSA
- Two years from Final Basin Prioritization to submit an Alternative Plan
- Five years from Final Basin Prioritization to develop a GSP

Visit DWR's SGMA Website for more information at

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>.

**What are the SGMA requirements for basins newly ranked as low- or very low- priority?**

Basins previously prioritized as high or medium that are now low- or very low- priority are not subject to SGMA. Although basins designated as low- or very low- priority are not subject to SGMA, local agencies are encouraged to form GSAs and develop GSPs, update existing groundwater management plans, and coordinate with others to develop a new groundwater management plan in accordance with [Water Code Section 10750 et seq.](#)

**What tools are available to help meet the requirements of SGMA now that the basin is designated as a high- or medium- priority basin?**

DWR provides a variety of services and support to GSAs including Facilitation Support, Technical Support Services, Communication and Engagement, and Financial Assistance.

***Basin Points of Contact***

DWR has designated Basin Points of Contacts (POCs) to assist local agencies as GSPs are developed and implemented. Once the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization is finalized, POCs will be identified for those new high- and medium-priority basins. For more information, please contact your DWR regional office representatives identified below:

**Northern Region:** Bill Ehorn, [Bill.Ehorn@water.ca.gov](mailto:Bill.Ehorn@water.ca.gov), (530) 528-7403

**North Central Region:** Bill Brewster, [Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov](mailto:Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov), (916) 376-9657

**South Central Region:** Dane Mathis, [Dane.Mathis@water.ca.gov](mailto:Dane.Mathis@water.ca.gov), (559) 230-3354

**Southern Region:** Tim Ross, [Timothy.Ross@water.ca.gov](mailto:Timothy.Ross@water.ca.gov), (818) 549-2345

***Resources***

DWR has developed a suite of data, tools, guidance documents, and references to assist in the development and implementation of GSPs. Throughout the SGMA implementation horizon, DWR will continue to develop relevant and useful tools with open access to necessary data and scientific information, in addition to providing access to Basin Points of Contacts. Available resources include:

- [Technical Support Services](#)
  - Monitoring Well Installation
  - Groundwater Level Monitoring Training

- Borehole Video Logging
- Other Field Activities
- [Facilitation Support Services](#)
  - Identification and engagement of interested parties
  - Meeting facilitation
  - Interest-based negotiation/consensus building
  - Public outreach facilitation
- [Communication and Engagement](#)
  - DWR Region Office Contacts
  - Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit
- [Financial Assistance](#)
  - Groundwater
  - Integrated Regional Water Management
  - Water Quality or Drinking Water
  - Water Supply or Management
  - Water Use Efficiency
- [Data, Modeling and Tools](#)
  - SGMA Portal
  - SGMA Data Viewer
  - DWR Land Use Viewer
  - Climate Change data and modeling
  - Best Management Practices & Guidance Documents

#### **What funding is available to help meet the requirements of SGMA?**

DWR offers a variety of services and assistance to support GSA development of GSPs. DWR is funding Technical Support Services and Facilitation Support Services to aid GSAs that includes meeting facilitation, field activities, modeling and mapping.

In addition to the technical and facilitation support, DWR offers several Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant programs. IRWM Grant programs fund planning, implementation, and disadvantaged community involvement. At this time, there are no additional Proposition 1 funds remaining for the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant program; however, DWR may administer another round of solicitation should any new funds become available. Information on the Proposition 1 grant funding available through the program is available at <https://www.water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>. There are additional grant programs with open solicitations available that may be applicable – more information is available on our website at: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans>.

The State Water Resources Control Board also has Proposition 1 funding available through the Groundwater Grant Program and the Technical Assistance Funding Program available at the following links:

#### **Groundwater Grant Program:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1/groundwater\\_sustainability.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.shtml)

**Technical Assistance Funding Program:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1/tech\\_asst\\_funding.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.shtml)

**For a GSA or local agency that was just awarded Proposition 1 grant funding for GSP development, but the basin is now low- or very low- priority, is the basin still eligible for the grant award?**

Yes, GSAs or local agencies who received grants from the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program have the option to use the funding to proceed with development and adoption of a GSP and the project scope defined in the grant agreement or to return the funding to DWR.

**If a GSA or local agency is receiving technical or facilitation support services from DWR, but the basin is now designated as low- to very low- priority, is the basin still eligible for these services?**

Yes, basins receiving these services will still be eligible as it relates to development of their GSP. However, with regards to the SGMA implementation timeline and deadlines, planning priority will be given to high- and medium-priority basins that are subject to SGMA.

**Is the CASGEM legislation still in effect?**

Yes. DWR created the CASGEM Program in response to the 2009 Groundwater Monitoring law. That law is still in effect and basins must remain CASGEM compliant to assure full eligibility for water grants or loans awarded or administered by the State (see Water Code § 10933.7). In the future, groundwater monitoring reported by a GSA will be accepted in lieu of CASGEM reports if those reports provide sufficient information to satisfy the requirements of the Groundwater Monitoring law. Currently, CASGEM compliance is required of any local agency that submits an alternative in lieu of a GSP (see [Water Code § 10733.6](#))).

**What are the implications of basin prioritization to the CASGEM program? How can DWR engage monitoring within the low- to very low- basins?**

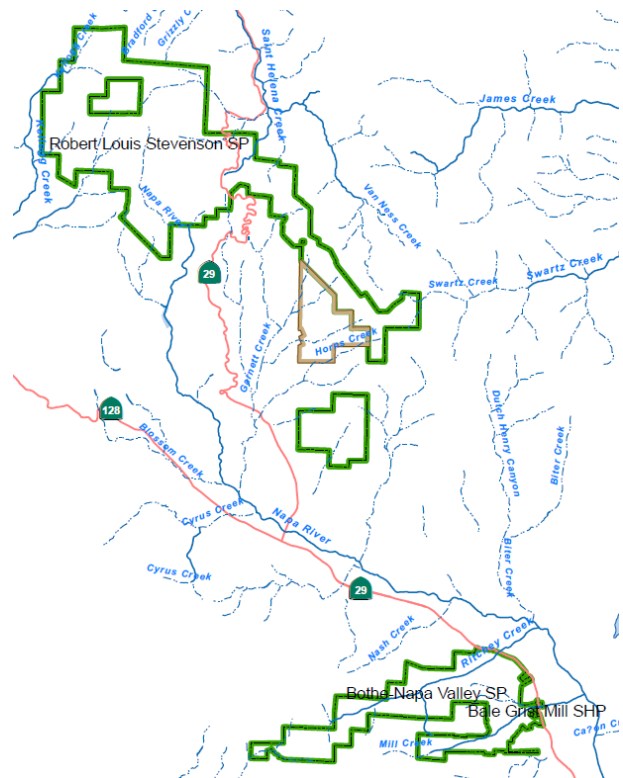
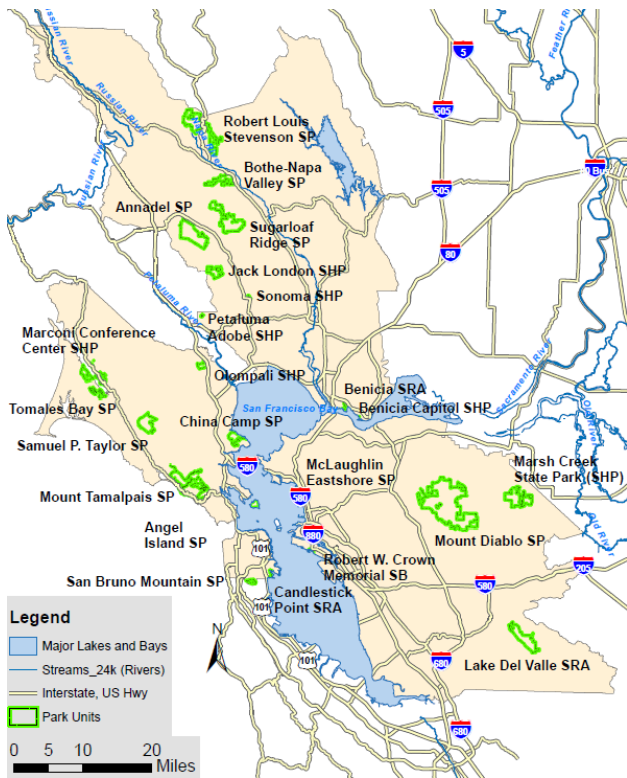
The 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization applies to the CASGEM Program. Although basins designated as low- and very low- priority are not subject to SGMA, not participating in CASGEM may result in ineligibility for a State water grant or loans in those basins. DWR staff can provide guidance and technical assistance to agencies in low and very low- priority basins seeking to participate in the CASGEM Program.

**How will the 2018 basin prioritization be affected by the 2018 basin boundary modifications?**

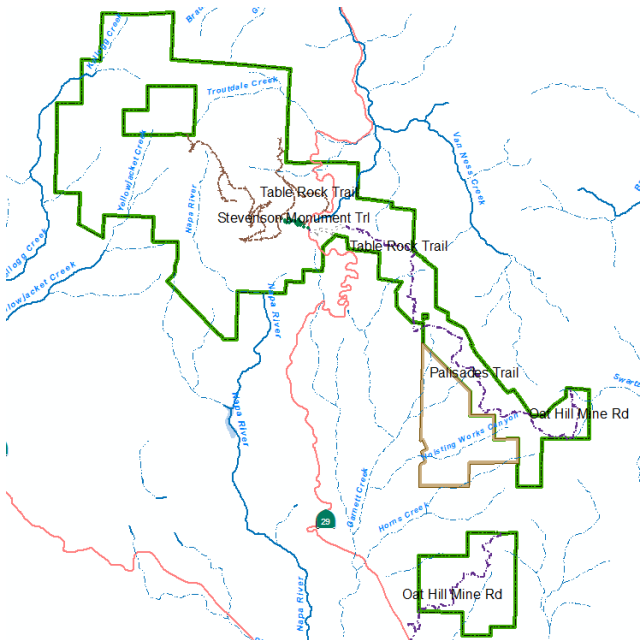
The submission period for 2018 basin boundary modification requests is open until June 30, 2018, and the final basin boundary modifications are anticipated in Fall/Winter 2018. SGMA requires that DWR reassess basin prioritization following basin boundary modifications (see Water Code § 10722.4(c)). As a result, if any basin modifications are made in response to the 2018 requests, those modifications may require changes to the 2018 SGMA Basin Prioritization results. DWR anticipates that only basins that are modified will require reassessment.

Bay Area District, Natural Resource Program, State Parks within Napa County

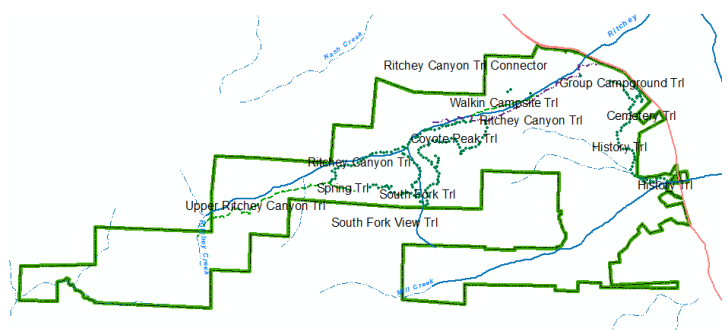
Bay Area District



Robert Louis Stevenson



Bothe Napa Valley State Park



Our Mission: To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Natural Resource Ongoing Program and Special Funded Projects

*Native community protection through:*

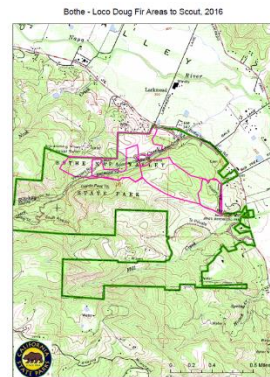
- Invasive species control
- Forestry and succession management
- Rare, listed and endangered species population assessments and habitat protection/enhancement
- Continuous native community monitoring, assessment and project prioritization
- Defensive planning for natural resource protection

*Habitat restoration activities:*

- Restoring lost communities (oak woodland, wetlands)
- Improving hydrologic function and habitat quality (stream impediment/fish passage barrier removals, landform restoration, aquatic feature protections)
- Forest health improvement and protection
- Special status species habitat improvements (non-native species removal, Population assessments and collaborations/planning)

*Support of acquisition of new science:*

- Scientific Collection permits
- Collaborations with resource agencies, other public land managers, species experts, scientific forums
- Support for citizen science and public outreach to engage community members



*Bay Area District, Natural Resource Program, State Parks within Napa County*



Rainbow Trout and Sculpin (Rischbieter, 2017)



Northern spotted owl (Bunnell, 2015)



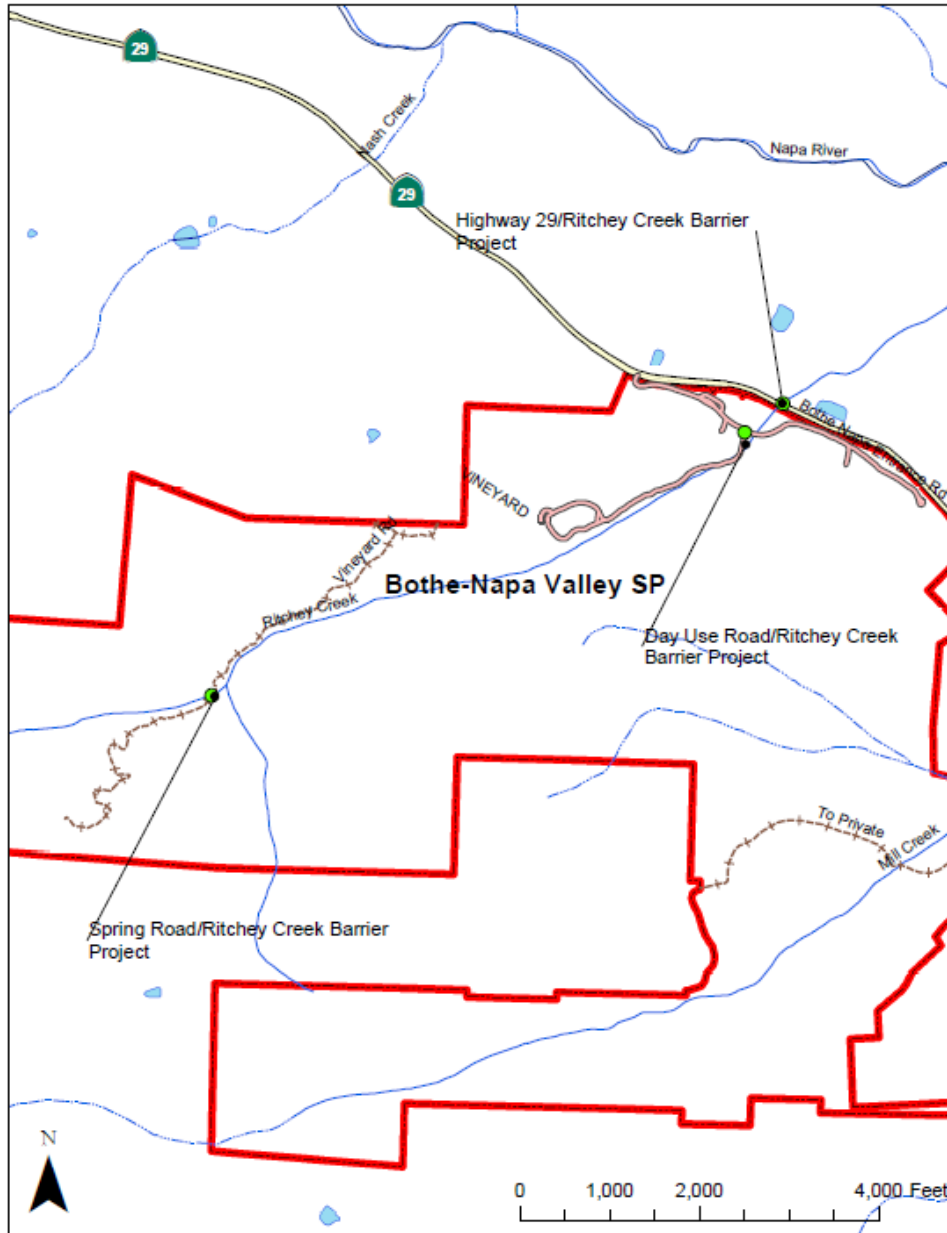
Foothill yellow-legged frog (Shafer, 2008)



Clara Hunt's milk vetch (John Game)



Figure 1. Fish Passage Barrier Project Locations, Ritchey Creek





Day Use Road and Ritchey Creek Barrier (Funding approved April 2018)



Spring Road and Ritchey Creek Barrier (going to construction August 2018)



Highway 29 and Ritchey Creek Barrier (funded April 2018, off State Parks landbase)

QUESTIONS?

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