



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

# Our Groundwater Resources in Napa County

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

### Implementation Update

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting  
December 13, 2016

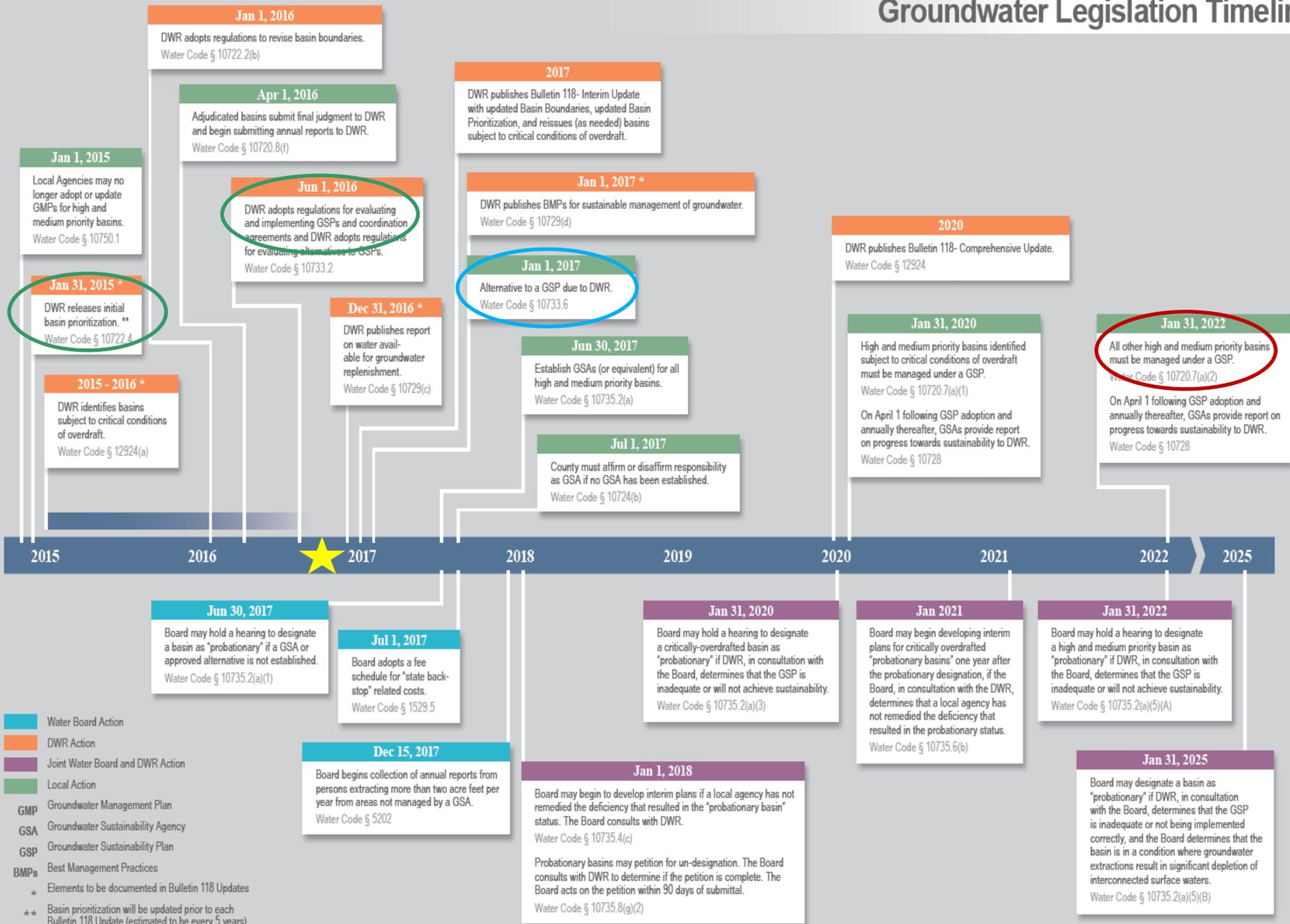


# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

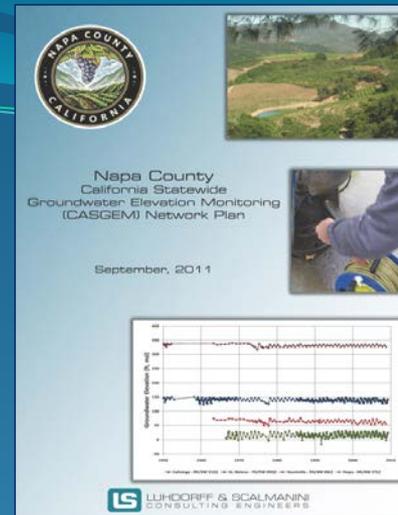


- Signed into law Sept. 16, 2014 by Governor Brown
  - Three-bill package that collectively creates a new structure for sustainable management of California's groundwater basins. (Senate Bill (SB) 1168, Assembly Bill (AB) 1739, and SB 1319)
- Represents a significant change in State's history of water management, providing framework and authority at the Local and State level to advance groundwater management planning.
- A central feature of the Act is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.
- Establishes a **definition** of sustainable groundwater management, provides local agency authority, **prioritizes basins** with the greatest need, and sets a **timeline** for implementation.

# Groundwater Legislation Timeline



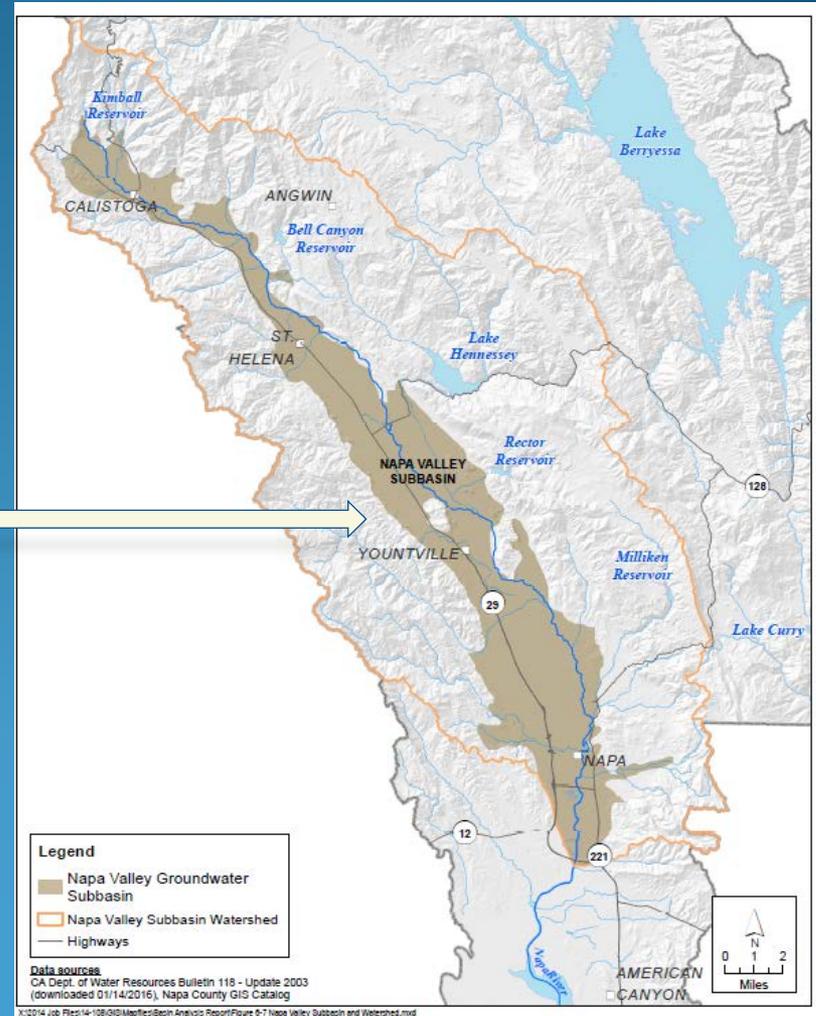
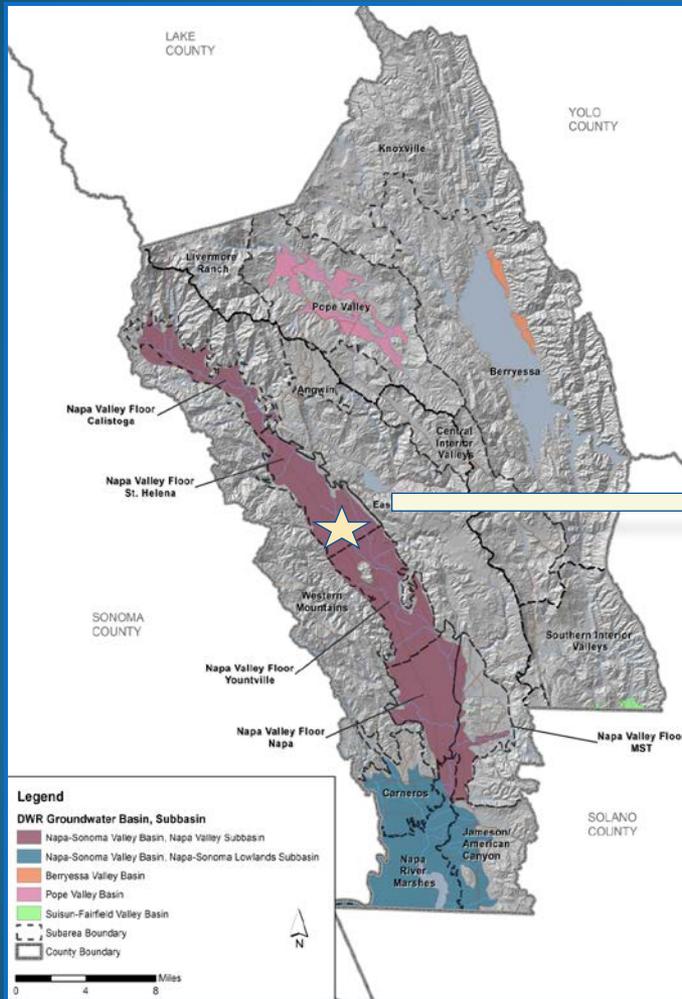
# Groundwater Basin Prioritization



- Department of Water Resources (DWR) established groundwater basin priorities
- Only high and medium priority basins are subject to the SGMA requirements at this time
- DWR determined that the current CASGEM basin prioritizations are sufficient for this purpose
- Under CASGEM, the Napa Valley subbasin is designated as a medium priority

# Napa County Groundwater Basins/ Sub-Basins (DWR)

# Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin



# Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

- SGMA promotes coordinated management of groundwater basins and allows a local agency (or combination) to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
  - A “local agency” is defined as “a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.”
  - The Act provides for a broad range of new authorities and responsibilities, including the ability to assess fees to cover the cost of the program
  - Local agencies in high- and medium-priority groundwater basins have until June 30, 2017 to form a GSA.
- Counties are presumed to be the GSA for basins or portions not otherwise covered by another GSA, and must notify DWR
- A GSA is not required where it is demonstrated to DWR that the basin is being managed sustainably, as defined by SGMA

# Groundwater Sustainability Plans

- In high- and medium-priority basins, the local agency must develop a GSP or Alternative provided by SGMA
  - Each basin must be covered by a single plan developed by one or more agencies, or by multiple/coordinated plans
- The local agency must adopt a GSP and submit to DWR by:
  - (1) January 31, 2020, for all high or medium priority basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft, or
  - (2) January 31, 2022, for all other high and medium priority basins (Napa Valley subbasin) unless the local agency establishes it is otherwise being sustainably managed, or the basin is adjudicated.
  - Low and very low priority basins are encouraged to adopt GSPs, but they are not required to do so.
- The California Water Commission approved the draft Regulations for GSPs and Alternatives May 18, 2016; then adopted by the Office of Administrative Law and became effective August 15, 2016.



# Groundwater Sustainability: Basin Analysis Report-Alternative

- A local agency or GSA may elect to submit an Alternative that demonstrates the basin is being managed sustainably
  - On March 3, 2015 the Board of Supervisors carefully considered SGMA implementation and directed staff to pursue the Alternative option, which would allow us to act sooner rather than later and was cost effective.
  - The Alternative is a Basin Analysis Report that demonstrates the basin has operated within its sustainable yield for a period of at least 10 years
  - It must be consistent with and balance the intent of the Act (SGMA) with the functionally equivalent elements of a GSP
- A local agency or GSA must submit an Alternative to DWR for review by January 1, 2017 and every five years thereafter.
- Groundwater basins that are being managed sustainably are not required to create a GSA or develop a GSP.

# Land Use Planning



- SGMA is intended to strengthen the connection between land use planning and water management throughout California.
- Amends Planning and Zoning Law to require increased coordination between land use planning agencies and groundwater sustainability/local agencies.
- Requires local planning agencies to review/consider a GSP/GMP/Interim Plan/Alternative prior to adopting a substantial amendment to the General Plan.

# The State's Role

## Department of Water Resources (DWR)

### Evaluation and Assessment

Review GSPs/Alt-Plans for compliance with the legislation

### Technical Assistance

Provide local agencies with assistance for implementation, including:

- Adopt regulations for GSPs/Alt Plans : June 1, 2016
- Publish report estimating water availability by Dec. 31, 2016
- Development of GW Sustainability BMPs by Jan. 1, 2017

### Financial Assistance

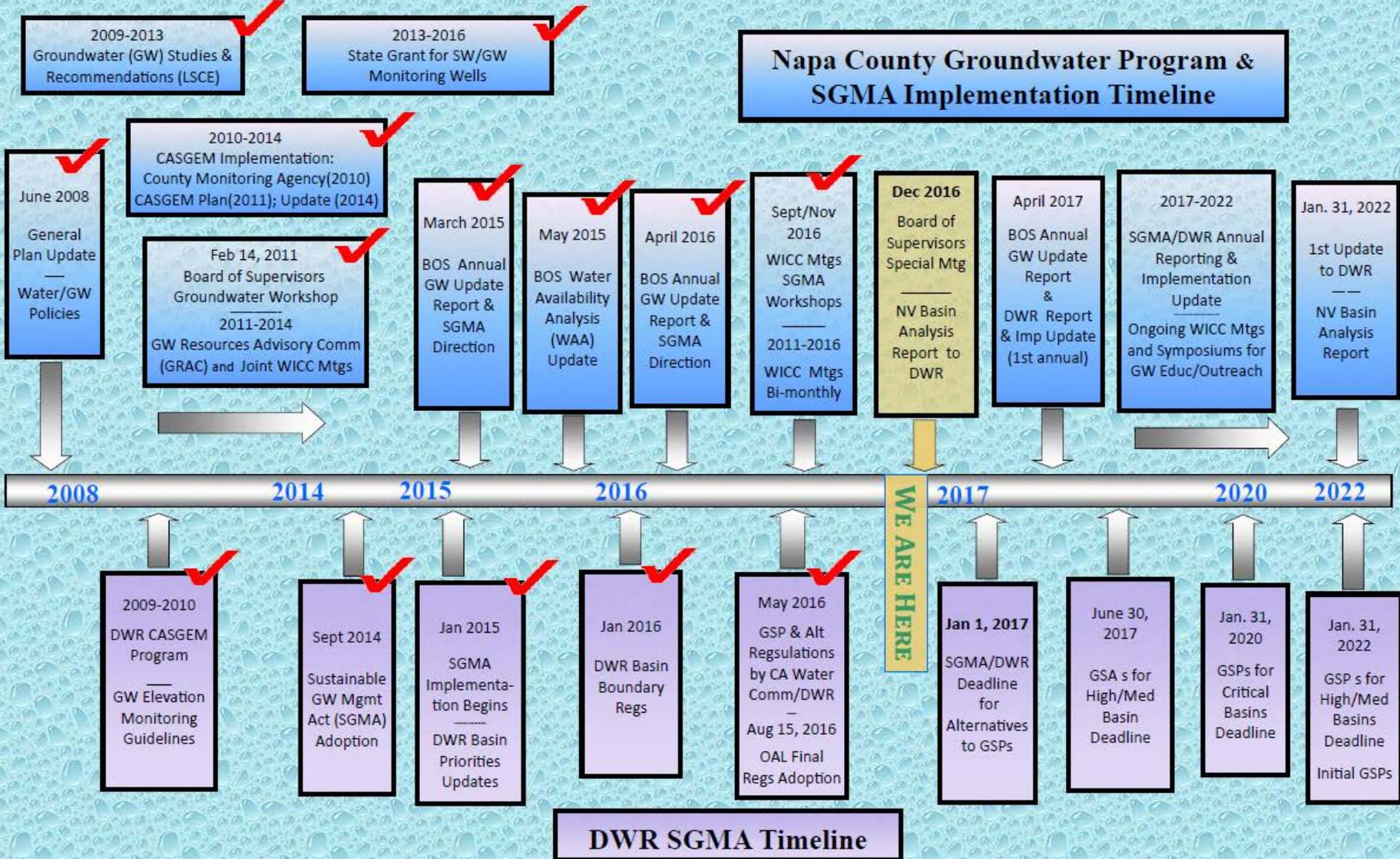
Grant funding to be used for development and implementation of GSPs and projects.

# The State's Role:

## State Water Resources Control Board

- Will act as the backstop agency and intervene for those groundwater basins where:
  - A GSP or Alternative is not developed/adopted for the basin
  - The local agency or GSA does not implement the Plan
  - A GSA was not formed for the basin
- May designate a basin as probationary if not in compliance
- Local agency would have 6 months to one year to remedy
- If not, SWRCB may prepare an interim plan and assess fees to recover costs in administering basin oversight

# Napa County Groundwater Program & SGMA Implementation Timeline



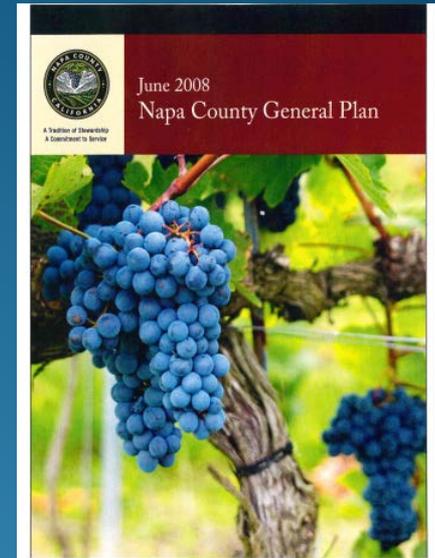
# Groundwater Sustainability

Napa County General Plan and Groundwater Sustainability Objectives provide foundation

## General Plan Update (June 2008):

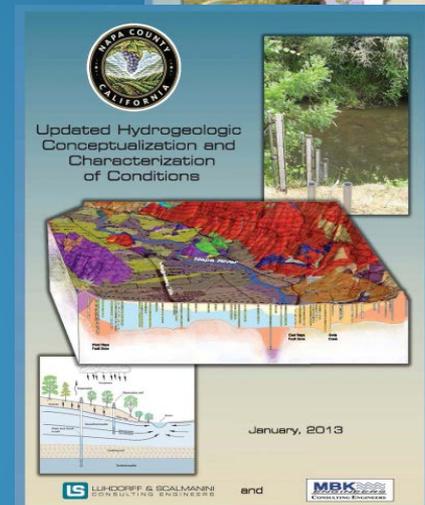
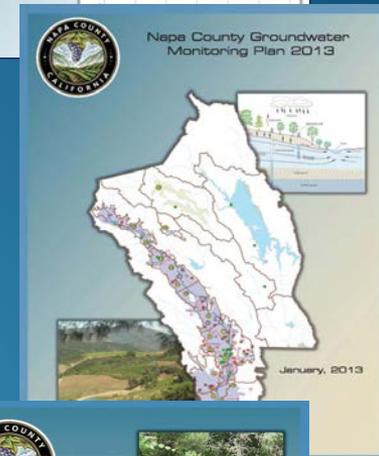
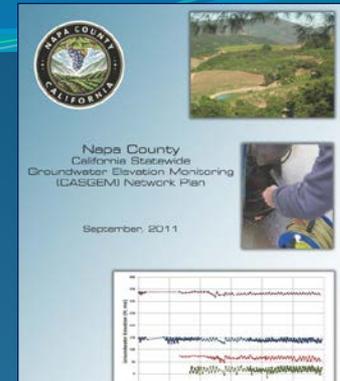
### Water Resources Goals

- **Goal - CON-12:** Collect information about status of Surface and Groundwater resources for improved forecasting of supplies and effective management
  - **Action Item - CON WR-4:** Implement a countywide watershed monitoring program to assess health of County's watersheds
  - **Action Item - CON WR-8:** Monitor Surface and Groundwater interrelationships using County-owned wells and stream and precipitation gauges, data from private property owners on a voluntary basis, data via conditions of land-use approvals, data from DWR and other agencies/organizations



# Working to Improve Our Understanding of Groundwater

- Request for Proposals/Contract (2009)
  - Comprehensive Groundwater Resources/ Monitoring Evaluation and Recommendations (LSCE)
- BOS Groundwater Workshop (Feb. 2011)
  - Report on GW Conditions/Monitoring Recommendations
  - Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)
- Groundwater Monitoring Plan (Jan 2013) and CASGEM Plan (Sept 2011/2014)
  - Plan addressing Long-term Monitoring Needs
- Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptualization & Characterization of Conditions (Jan 2013)
  - Report Addressing GW Data Gaps





# Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Objectives 2014



## Groundwater Sustainability *(definition)*

*Groundwater sustainability depends on the development and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained indefinitely without causing unacceptable economic, environmental, or social consequences, while protecting economic, environmental, and social benefits.*

- As such, groundwater sustainability is both a goal and a process.
- Groundwater sustainability is a shared responsibility of everyone that lives and works in the County.

*Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)*



# Sustainability: .....from Plans to Actions



- Expanded Monitoring Program and Annual Reporting to ensure long-term sustainability (General Plan goal)
- Updated County's Water Availability Analysis (WAA) and Groundwater Ordinance.
- Extended Recycled Water to the MST and Carneros
- Expanded Water Conservation Program Efforts
- Groundwater Outreach & Education (WICC & RCD)

# Education & Outreach



- WICC Meetings
  - Hosting Public Meetings/Forums
- Participation in Community Events
  - Earthday, River Fest, and others
- WICC Watershed Symposiums
- Public Workshops
  - Updates and New DIY monitoring tools

*“Determine your Well-being”*



# Next Steps:



- **Groundwater Sustainability – Basin Analysis Report**
  - Submittal to State-DWR by January 1, 2017
  - Include DWR-Alternative Elements Guide to show GSP consistency
  - DWR Review: 60 day comment period; followed by review/action
- **Annual GW Monitoring Report/CASGEM Update** (April 2017)
  - Address DWR requirements and GW Monitoring Plan priorities
- **DWR Proposed Groundwater BMPs/Others** (2017)
  - WICC Review of new groundwater BMPs/other items from DWR
- **Groundwater Model Update** (2017-2019)
  - Pursue grant funding for groundwater model update
- **Groundwater Sustainability Program** – (2018-2022)
  - Begin review/update of Basin Analysis Report for next DWR submittal

# For Additional Information on Groundwater and SGMA:

- Napa County:  
<http://www.countyofnapa.org/groundwater/>  
<http://www.napawatersheds.org/groundwater/>
- State: <http://groundwater.ca.gov>
- DWR: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/>
- SWRCB:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/gmp/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/)





Thank You...