



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

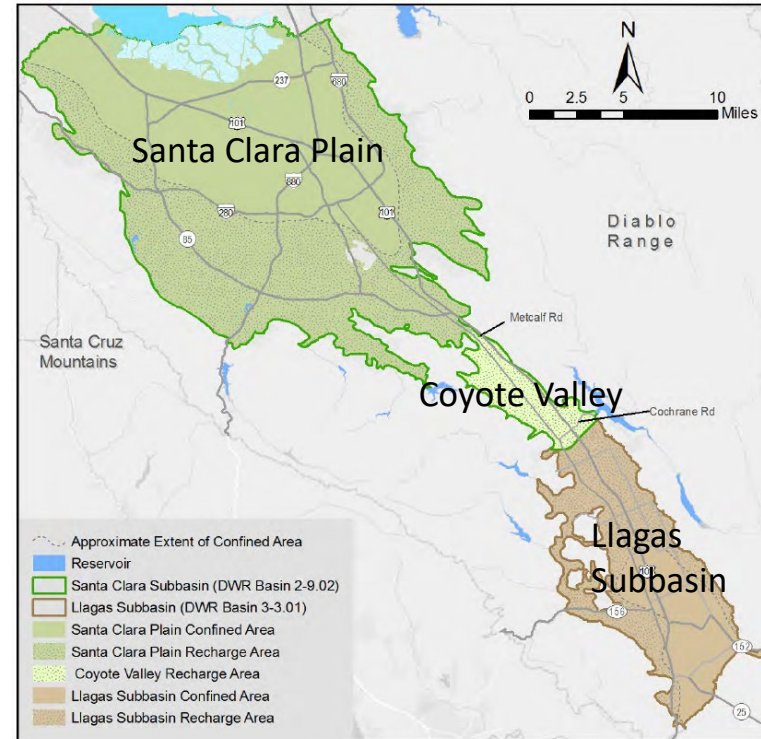
Presented by: Groundwater Management Unit

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee June 8, 2026

GSA Responsibilities

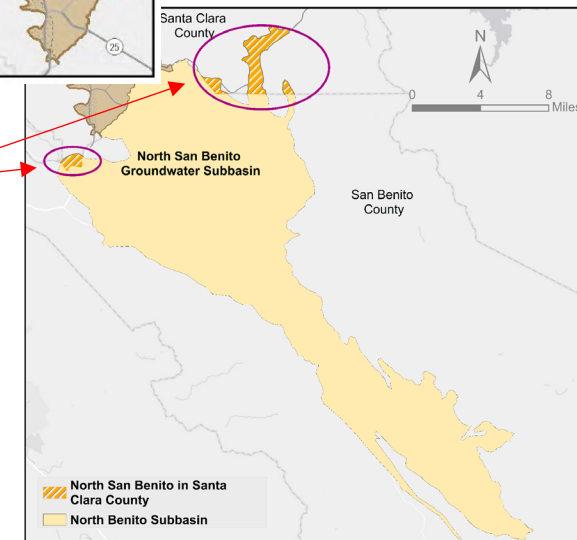
- Valley Water is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):
 - Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - North San Benito Subbasin in Santa Clara County
- Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - April 1: Annual Water Year (WY) Report
 - December 17, 2026: Periodic evaluation of DWR approved Alternative Plan
- North San Benito Subbasin
 - January 12, 2027: Periodic evaluation of DWR approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - Led by San Benito County Water District

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins:



North San Benito Subbasin:

small areas in
Santa Clara County



Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

Annual Water Year Report

- 2025 WY Report (October 1, 2024 – September 31, 2025)
- Submitted to DWR on March 26, 2026
- Continued healthy and sustainable groundwater
- Available on Valley Water and DWR SGMA websites

March
2026

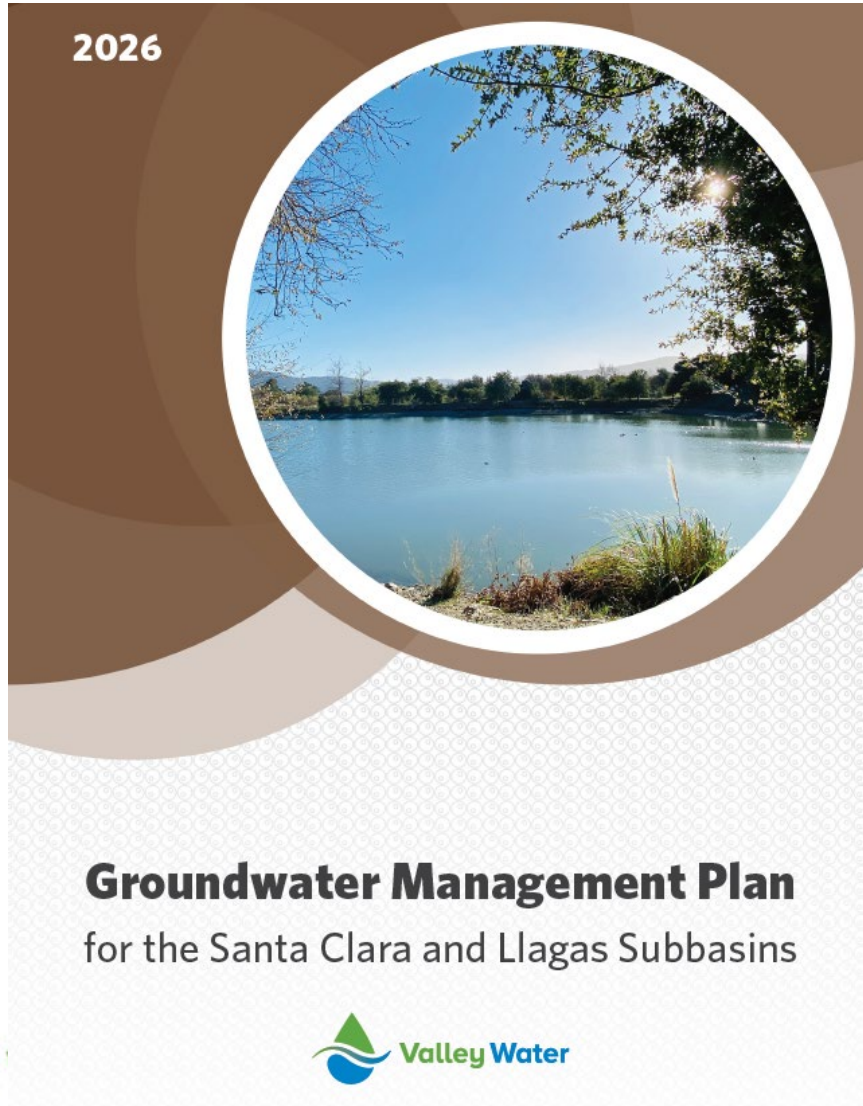


Water Year 2025 Groundwater Report

for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins



Periodic Evaluation of Alternative Plan



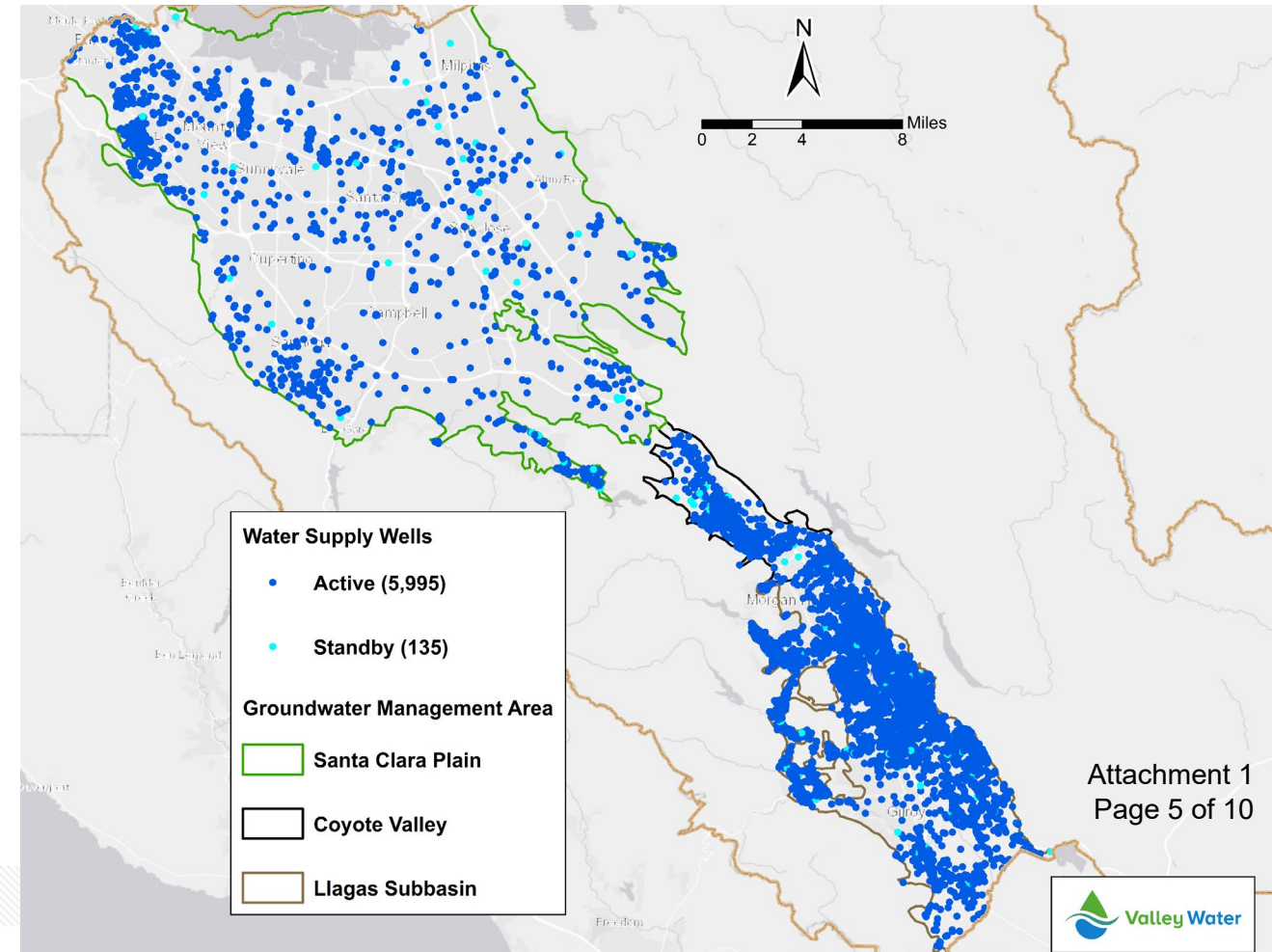
- 2026 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) (2015 – 2024)
 - Draft nearing completion
 - Starting internal review process
 - New and updated technical studies
- **On schedule to meet December 17, 2026 deadline**

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

Evaluation of Dry Supply Wells during Drought

- 53,000 wells drilled in Santa Clara County, mostly monitoring wells
- 6,130 water supply wells in the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins:
 - 4,191 domestic wells
 - 1,108 municipal and industrial (M&I) wells
 - 831 agricultural wells

6,130 Water Supply Wells

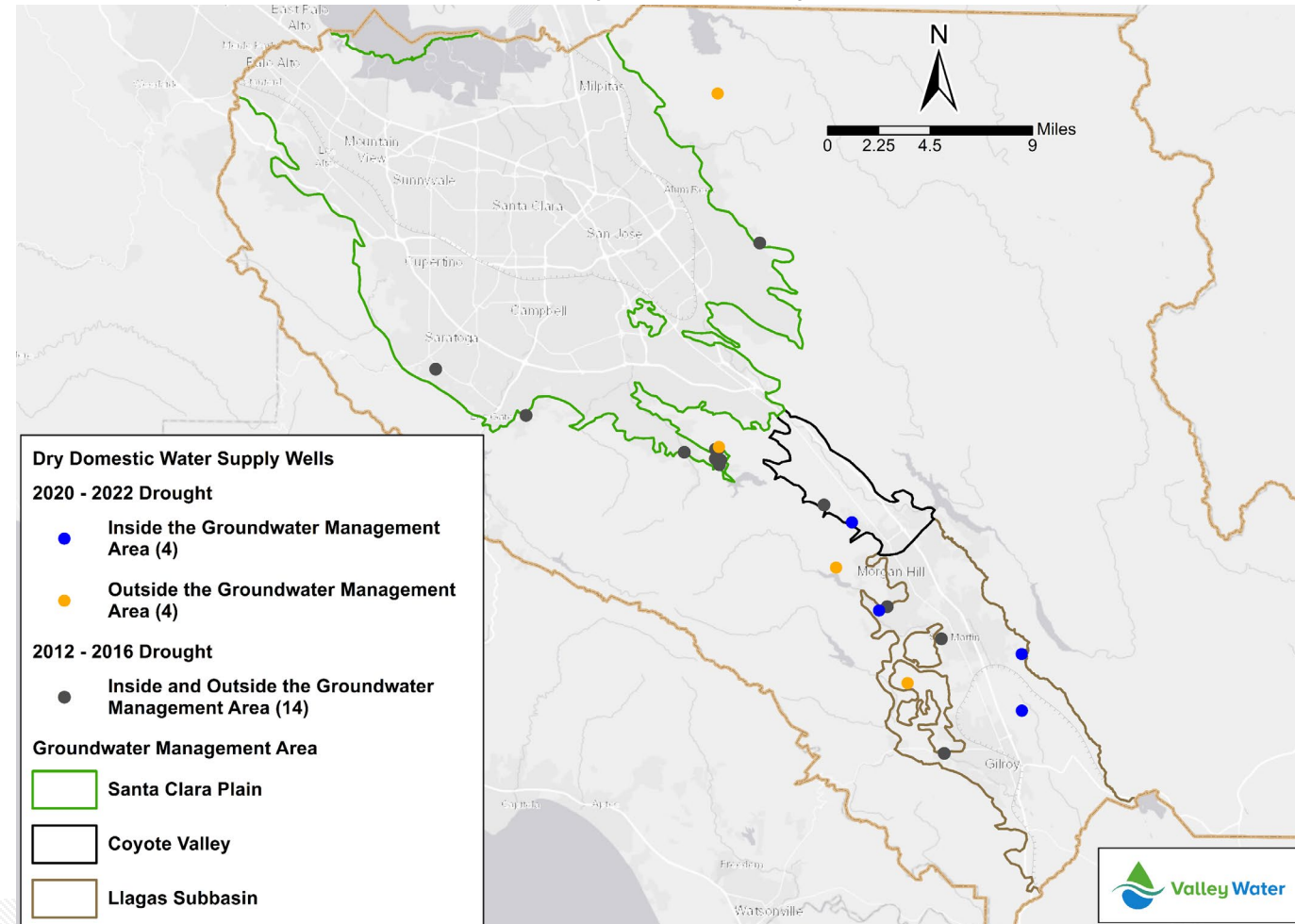


Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

Reported Dry Wells during Recent Drought

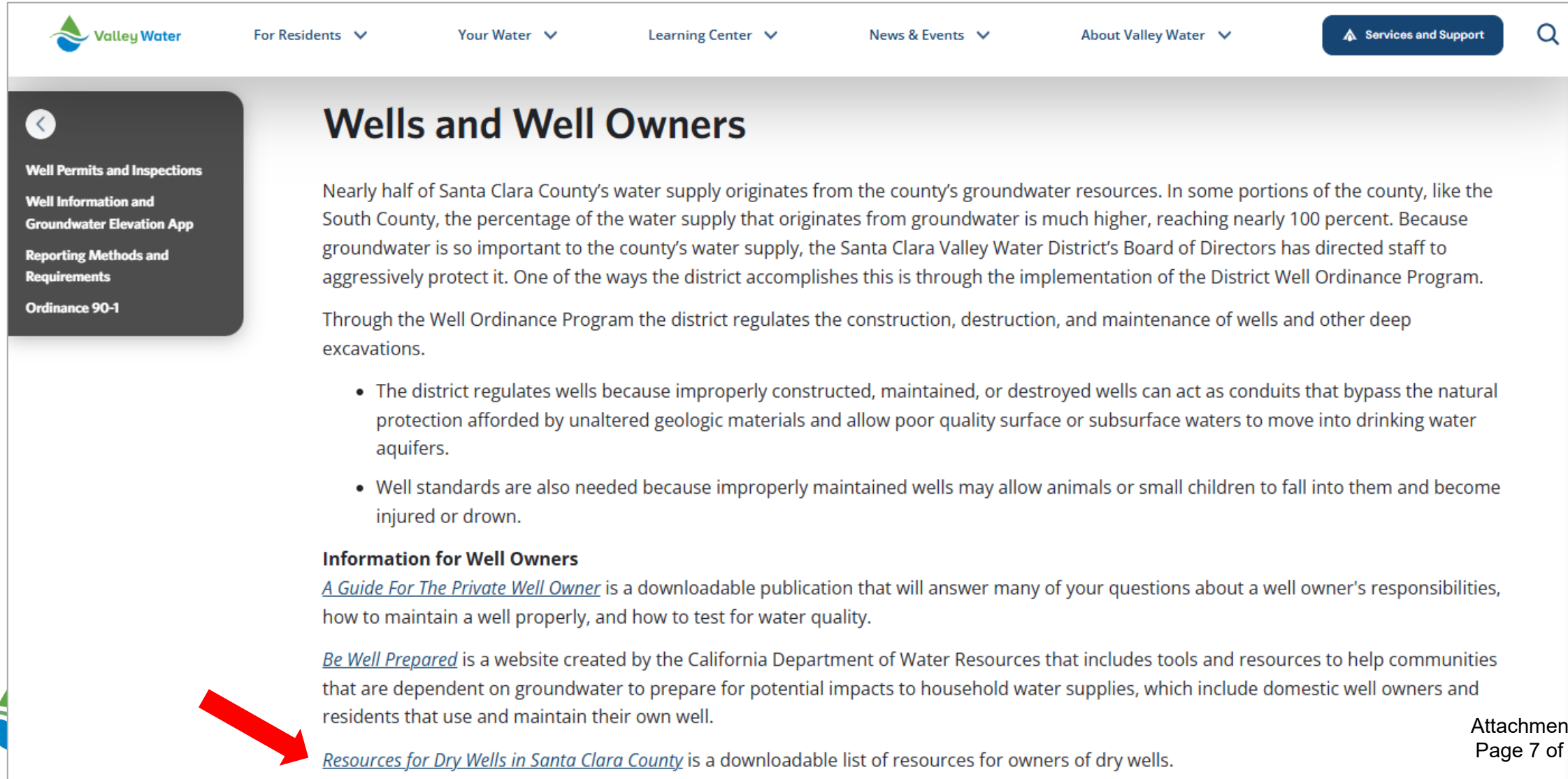
- Dry wells during 2020–2022 drought:
 - 9 domestic wells; No agricultural or M&I wells
 - Only 4 wells inside the subbasins:
0.07% (4 of 6,130) of the supply wells
 - Similar spatial pattern as 2012–2016 drought:
where natural geology has lower groundwater storage and wells more vulnerable
- Valley Water’s management practices maintain sustainable groundwater, even during drought

Reported Dry Wells



Resources for Well Owners

<https://www.valleywater.org/contractors/doing-businesses-with-the-district/wells-well-owners>



Valley Water

For Residents ▾ Your Water ▾ Learning Center ▾ News & Events ▾ About Valley Water ▾ Services and Support 🔍

Wells and Well Owners

Nearly half of Santa Clara County's water supply originates from the county's groundwater resources. In some portions of the county, like the South County, the percentage of the water supply that originates from groundwater is much higher, reaching nearly 100 percent. Because groundwater is so important to the county's water supply, the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Board of Directors has directed staff to aggressively protect it. One of the ways the district accomplishes this is through the implementation of the District Well Ordinance Program.

Through the Well Ordinance Program the district regulates the construction, destruction, and maintenance of wells and other deep excavations.

- The district regulates wells because improperly constructed, maintained, or destroyed wells can act as conduits that bypass the natural protection afforded by unaltered geologic materials and allow poor quality surface or subsurface waters to move into drinking water aquifers.
- Well standards are also needed because improperly maintained wells may allow animals or small children to fall into them and become injured or drown.

Information for Well Owners

[A Guide For The Private Well Owner](#) is a downloadable publication that will answer many of your questions about a well owner's responsibilities, how to maintain a well properly, and how to test for water quality.

[Be Well Prepared](#) is a website created by the California Department of Water Resources that includes tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies, which include domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their own well.

[Resources for Dry Wells in Santa Clara County](#) is a downloadable list of resources for owners of dry wells.

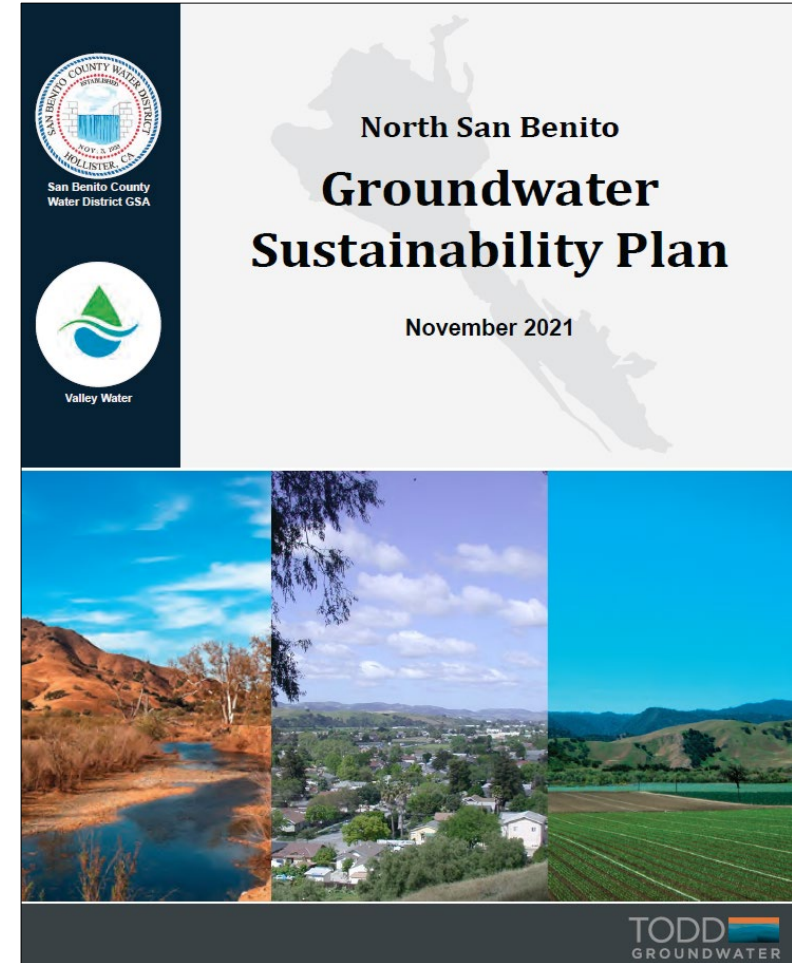
Well Permits and Inspections
Well Information and Groundwater Elevation App
Reporting Methods and Requirements
Ordinance 90-1

Community Outreach and Expected Schedule

- **Late July:** Public meeting
- **August to October:** 60-day public review of draft 2026 GWMP
- **Board meeting early November:** Public hearing to adopt updated Plan
- **December 17, 2026:** Plan submission deadline to DWR

Periodic Evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

- Valley Water serving on Technical Advisory Committee
 - Meetings: January 13 and March 26, 2026
 - 2026 GSP Periodic Evaluation
 - Project and management actions
 - Water quality monitoring network and sustainable management criteria
 - Board of Directors Meeting and Resolution
 - October/November timeframe
- **January 12, 2027:** Deadline to submit to DWR





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection