



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

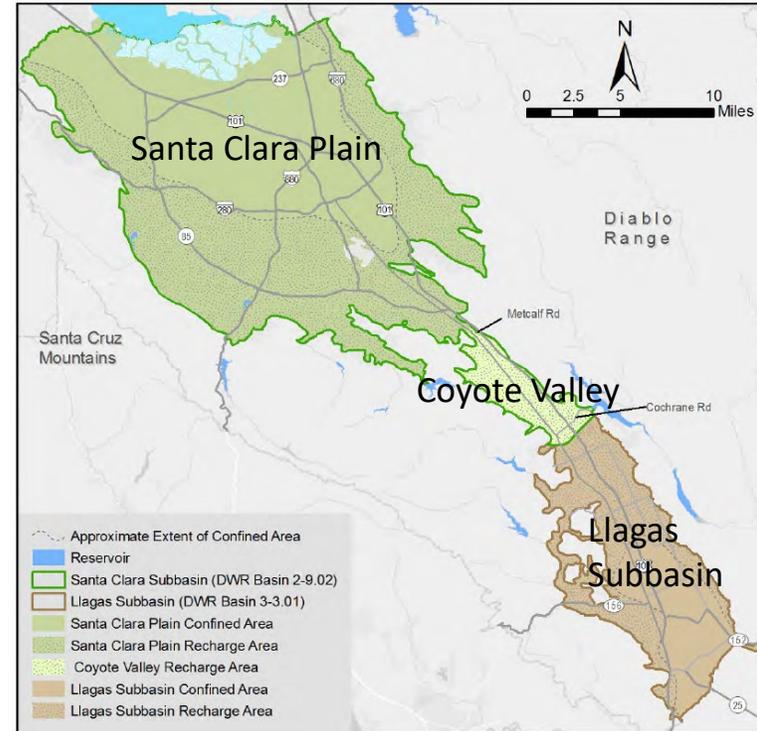
Presented by: Scott Elkins, Groundwater Management Unit

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee February 23, 2026

GSA Responsibilities

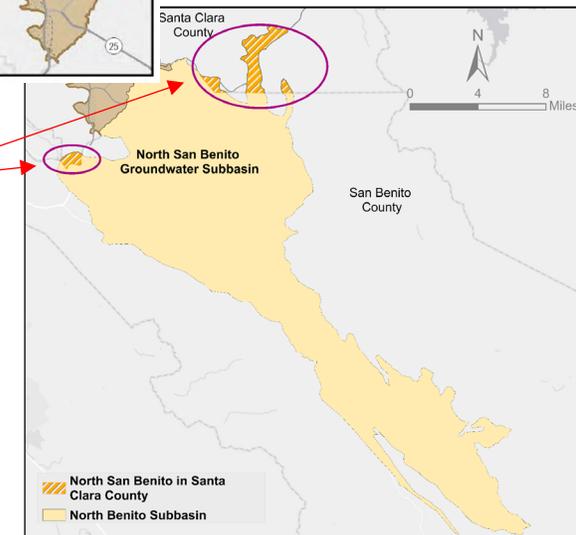
- Valley Water is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):
 - Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - North San Benito Subbasin in Santa Clara County
- Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - Periodic evaluation of DWR approved Alternative Plan – due December 17, 2026
 - Annual Water Year (WY) Report – due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

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins:



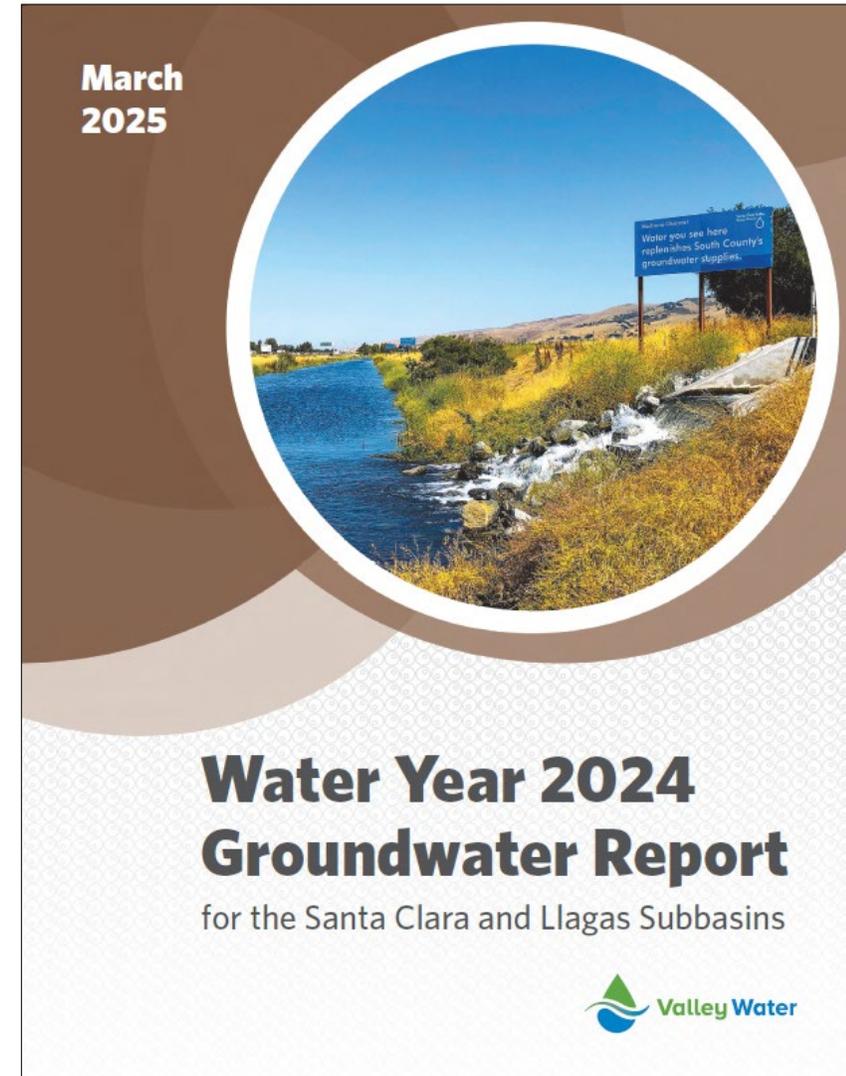
North San Benito Subbasin:

small areas in Santa Clara County



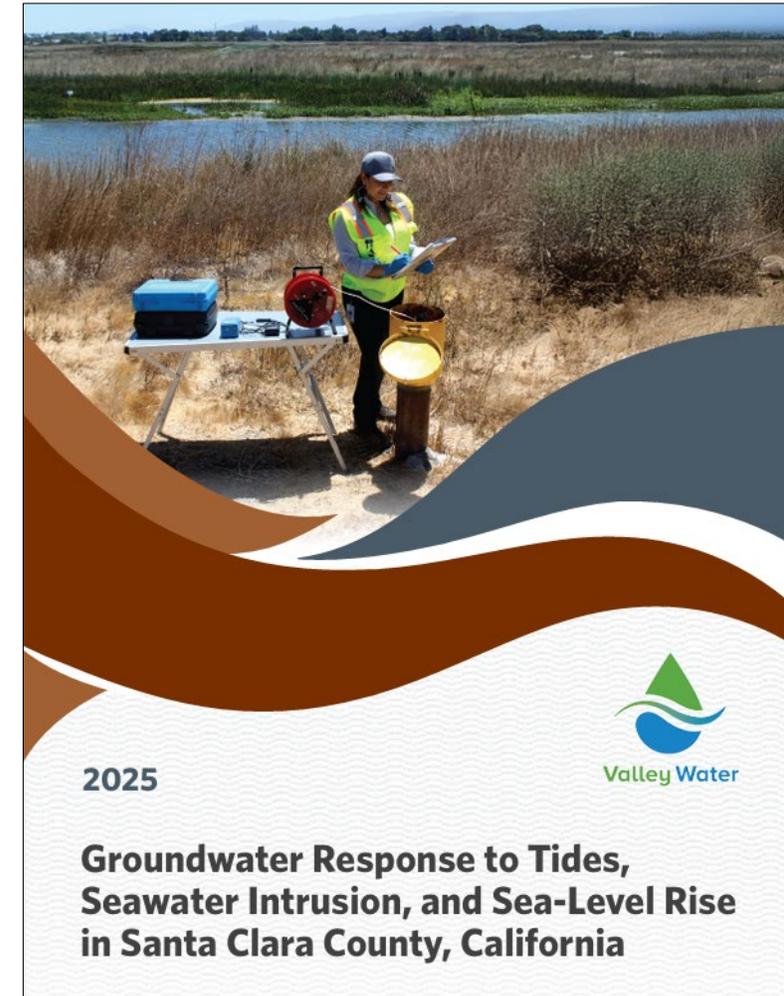
Progress: Annual Water Year Report

- 2025 WY Report (October 1, 2024 – September 31, 2025)
 - Annual snapshot of groundwater:
 - Use and recharge
 - Levels
 - Quality
 - Land subsidence
 - Status of outcome measures
 - Continued healthy groundwater supply and good quality
 - On-schedule to meet regulatory deadline – April 1, 2026
 - Available on Valley Water and DWR SGMA websites



Progress: Periodic Evaluation of Alternative Plan

- 2026 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) (2015 – 2024)
 - Update to the 2021 GWMP (2010 – 2019)
 - Address DWR recommended actions
 - Explain how inter-basin items have been coordinated
 - Ensure monitoring network details are consistent with DWR's SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module
 - New and updated technical studies
 - Example: 2025 groundwater rise and emergence study
 - On-schedule to meet regulatory deadline – December 17, 2026



Community Outreach

- Engage interested parties via:
 - Email, website, social media updates
 - Board Committee updates
 - Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
 - Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
 - Public meeting(s) – late summer/fall 2026
 - Outreach with free domestic well testing program



Domestic well sampling



**Water
Year 2024
Groundwater
Quality Summary**

Did you know that groundwater is an essential local water resource, providing about half of the water used in Santa Clara County and nearly all water used in South County? Valley Water is committed to protecting your water supplies and ensuring they are sustainable into the future.

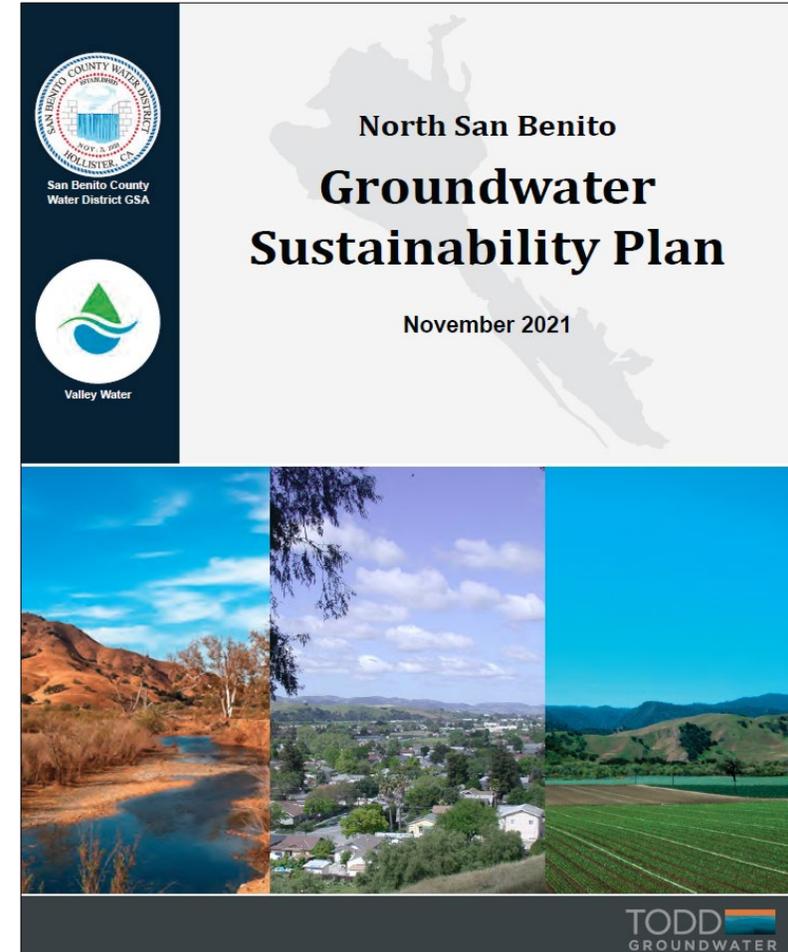
This report summarizes groundwater testing in Water Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024), which indicates generally high water quality.

Expected Schedule

- **September – October 2026:** 60-day public review period
 - Public notice via newspaper, email, website, and social media
- **November 2026:** Tentative schedule for public hearing to adopt the updated plan
- **December 17, 2026:** Deadline to submit to DWR

Periodic Evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

- Valley Water & San Benito County Water District
 - GSAs responsibilities for GSP development and periodic evaluation
 - San Benito County Water District
 - Lead on GSP update, outreach, and implementation
 - Valley Water
 - Support and serve on Technical Advisory Committee
 - Inform local interested parties
- **January 12, 2027:** Deadline to submit to DWR



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