



2021 Groundwater Management Plan

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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Key elements of State law enacted in 2015:

- Empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (**GSAs**) and provides authorities to manage groundwater
- Agencies must adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (**GSPs**) or **Alternatives** and reach sustainability within twenty years (2040 or 2042).
- Focus on local control, but provides for State assistance and if needed, State intervention.

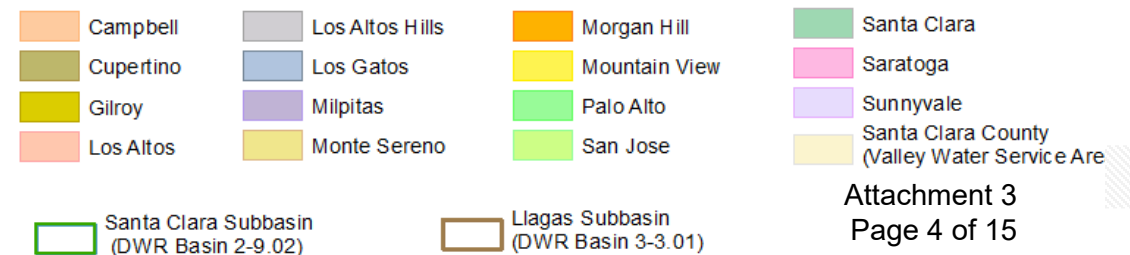
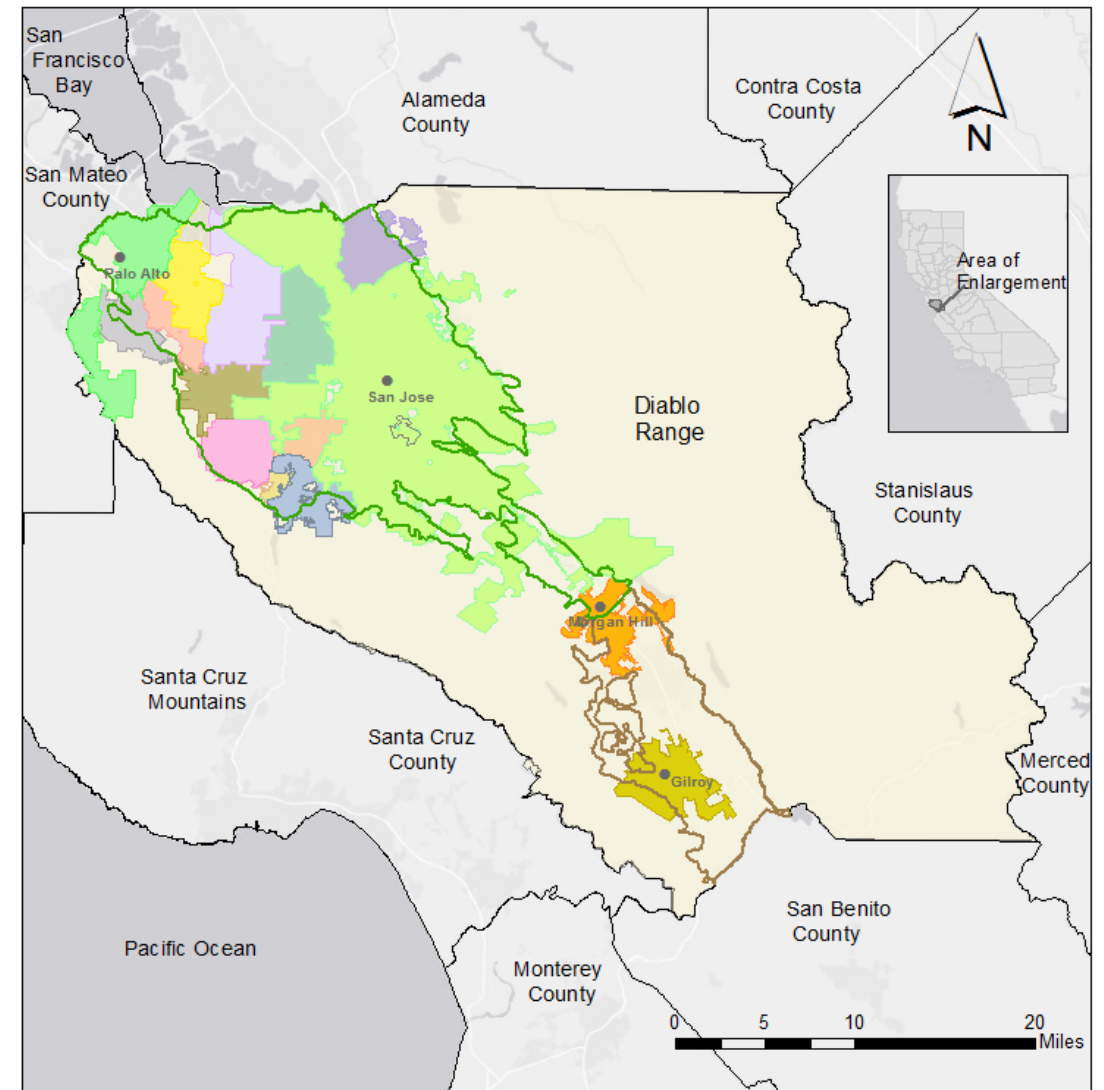
Local SGMA Compliance

- Valley Water is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins
- 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) approved by DWR as Alternative
- Five-year update due January 1, 2022



Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

- Span nearly 400 square miles
- Provide about 40% of water used countywide
- Serve over 90% of South County water needs



What's in the GWMP?

Detailed information on basins and Valley Water's groundwater management framework:

- Authorities, partners, stakeholders
- Basin setting, conditions, and monitoring
- Water supplies, demands, and groundwater budget
- Sustainability goals, strategies, and metrics
- Programs & potential actions for continued sustainability

Effective Groundwater Management

Long-term groundwater balance due to:

- Managed aquifer recharge
- Treated water, water conservation, recycled & purified water

Sustainability supported by:

- Extensive monitoring
- Effective metrics and planning
- Groundwater quality protection
- Coordination with others



Notable Updates in the 2021 GWMP

- New and modified outcome measures
- Groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Climate change impacts
- SGMA authorities (fixed fees and pumping regulation)
- Seawater intrusion

2021



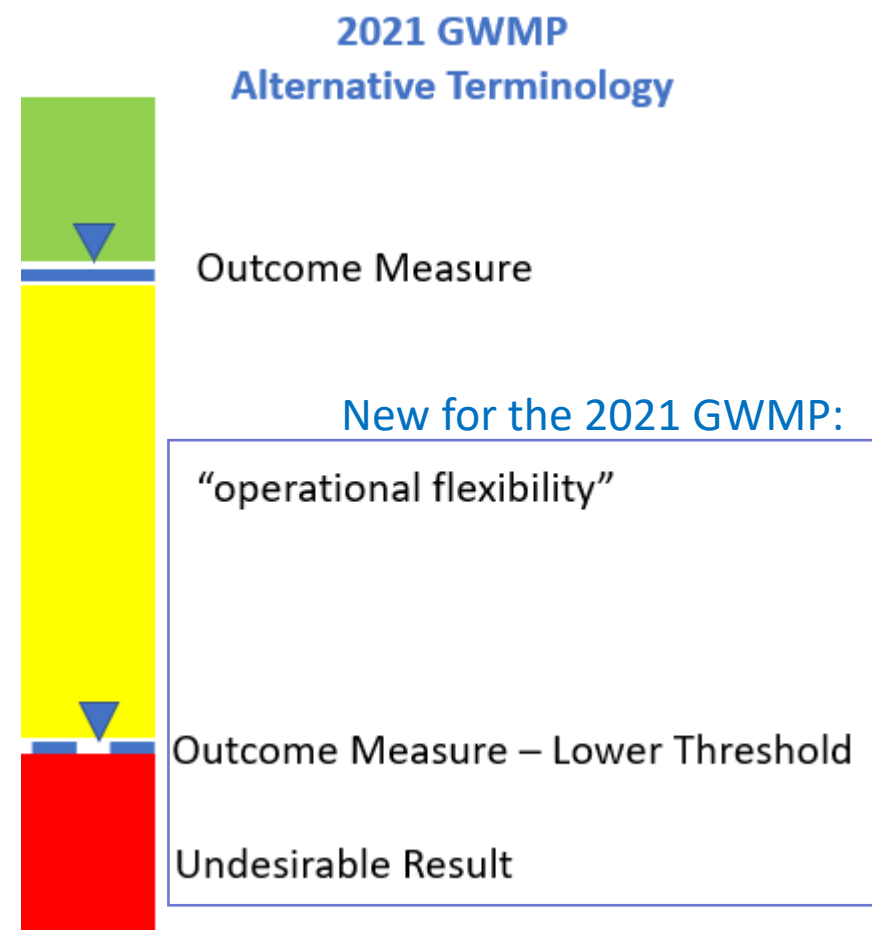
Groundwater Management Plan
for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

valleywater.org

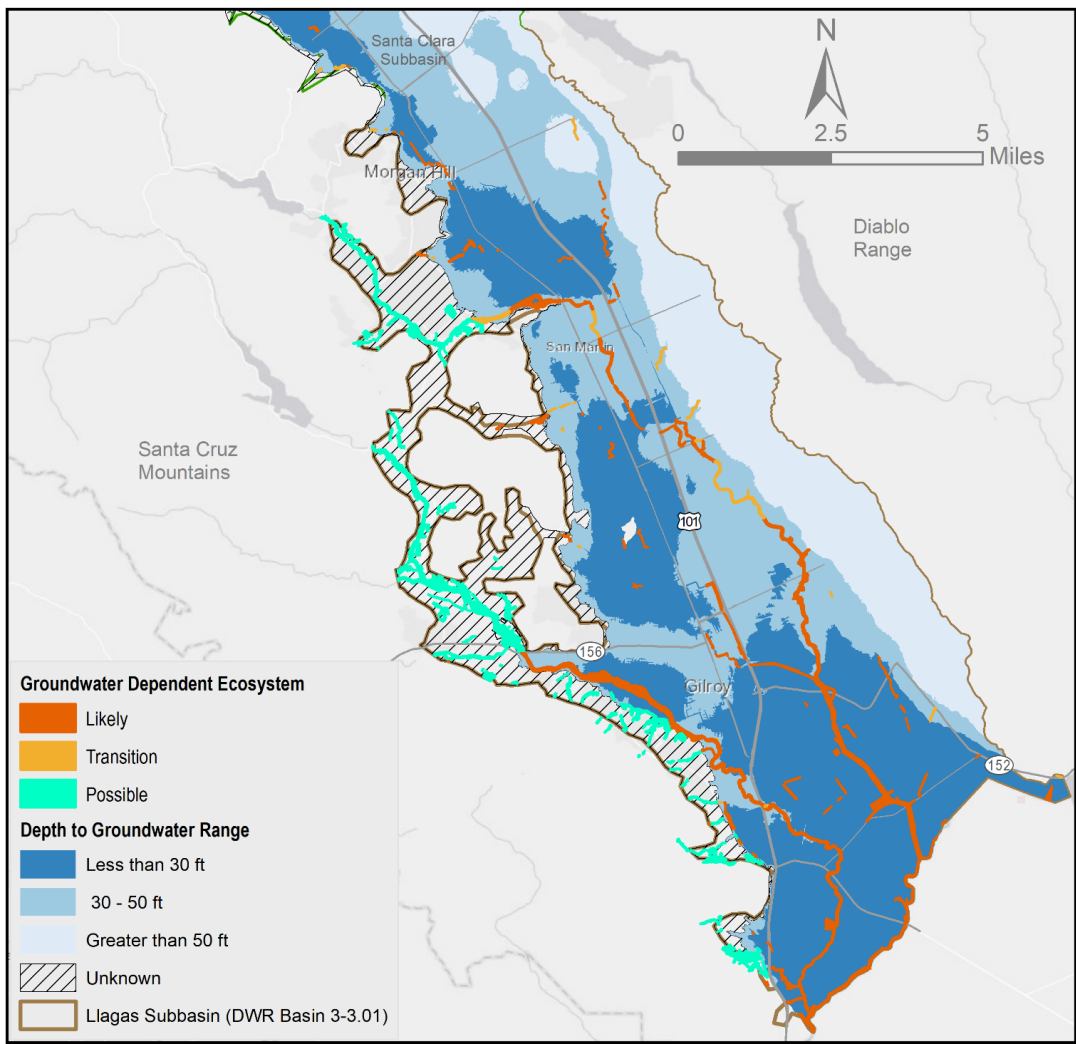
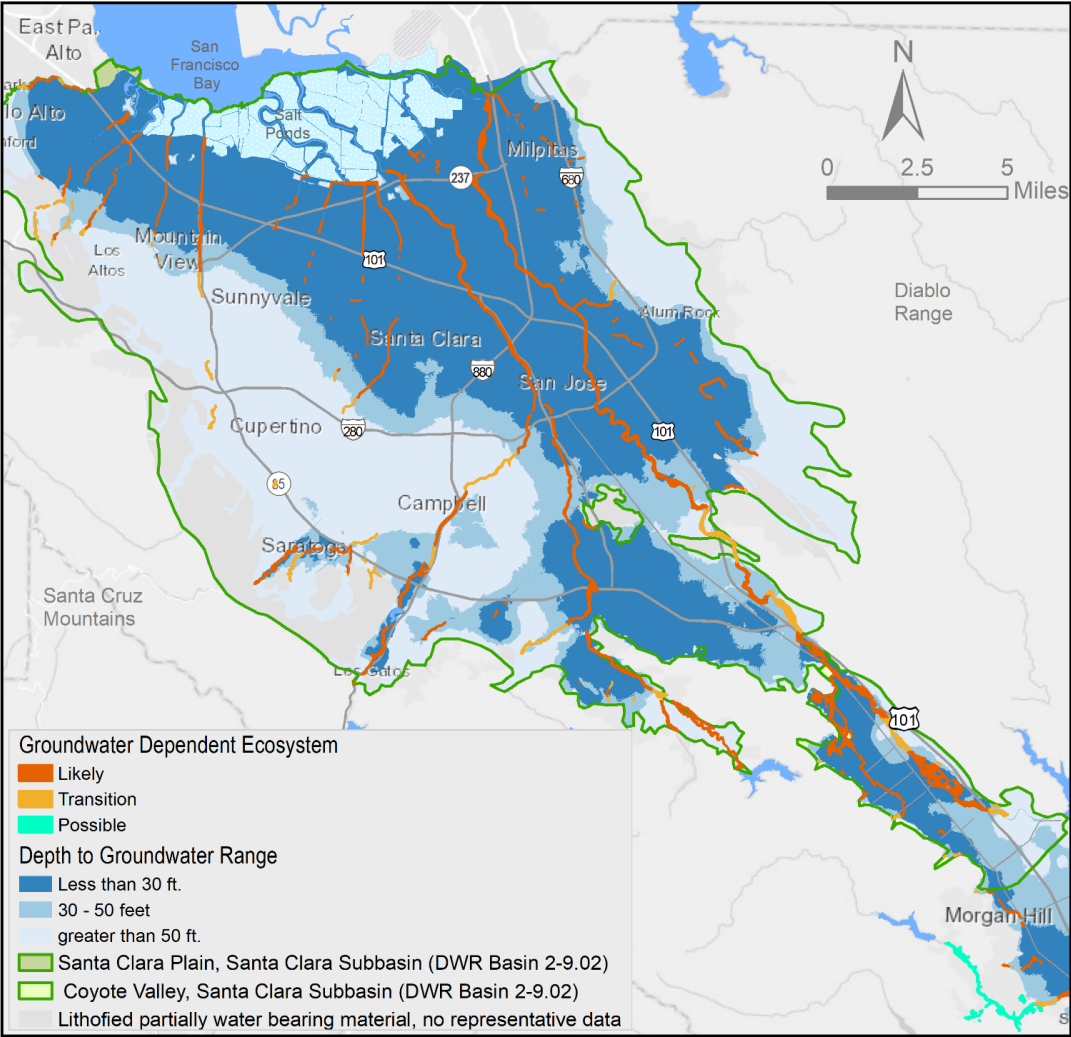
New and Modified Outcome Measures

- Modified outcome measures
- New measure for seawater intrusion*
- New lower thresholds representing undesirable results for:
 - groundwater storage
 - groundwater quality
 - subsidence*
 - seawater intrusion*

*Relevant for Santa Clara Subbasin only



Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Identified



Climate Change Impacts to Groundwater Budget

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- Slight increases in natural recharge projected
- Projected changes to imported water and local reservoirs will be included in 2026 GWMP



Credit: kwest/Shutterstock.com

Evaluation of New SGMA Authorities

- Pumping regulation
 - If ever needed, follow process in Board Resolution 18-04
 - If no viable alternative exists
- Fixed fee component of charges
 - Generally opposed by retailers
 - Board opted not to implement
 - Remains a potential future option

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 18- 04

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PROCESS TO REGULATE
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ACT, IF NEEDED

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Act (California Water Code Appendix, Chapter 60) provides the District with broad groundwater management authority, including the authority to protect, spread, store, retain, and cause water to percolate in the soil within Santa Clara County; and

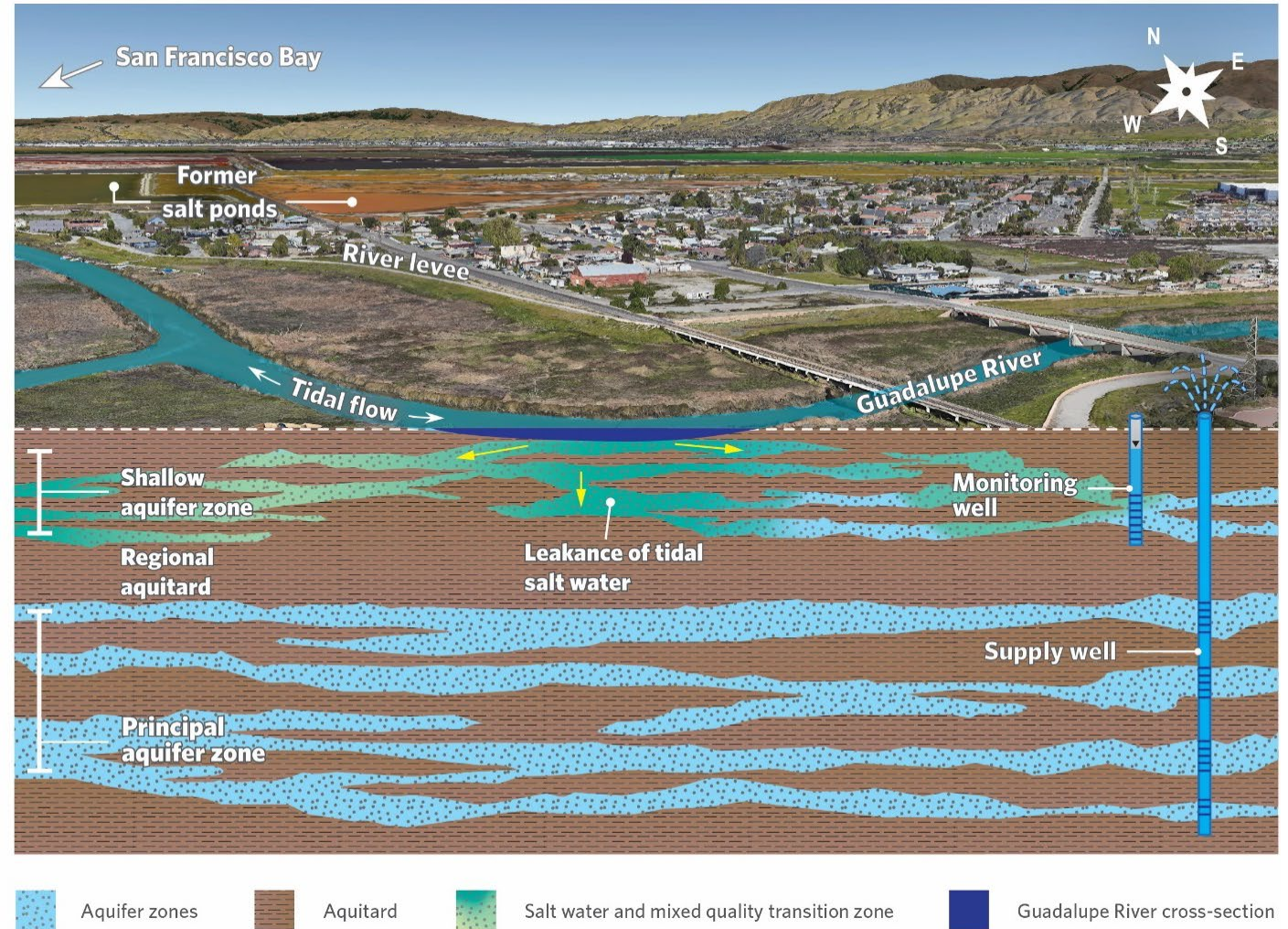
WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10720.1 states that, in enacting SGMA, the intent of the legislature is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater consistent with rights to use or store groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater, and to achieve other listed intents; and

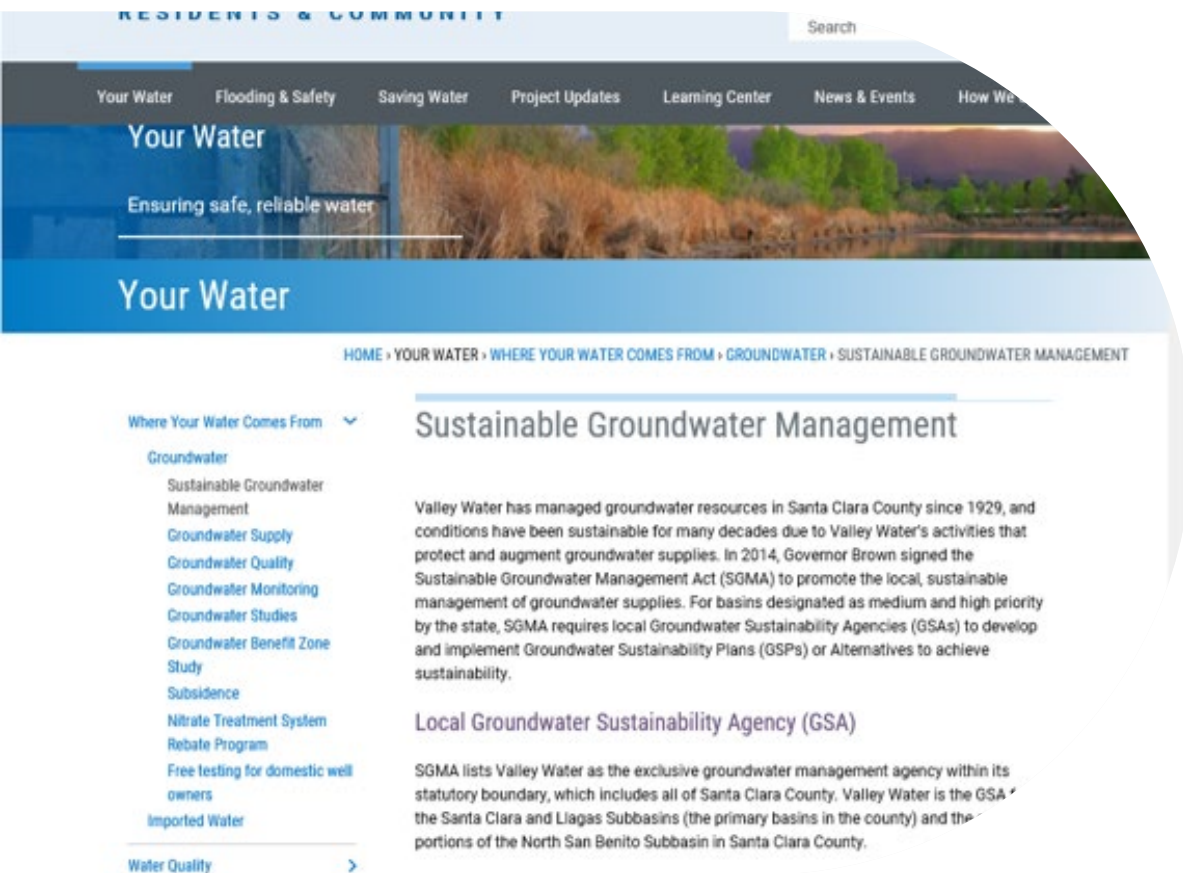
WHEREAS, on May 24, 2016, the District Board of Directors adopted Resolution 16-51 on the Decision to Become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins; and

Seawater Intrusion (Santa Clara Subbasin)

- Some shallow aquifer impacts, primarily from leakage through tidal creeks
- Principal aquifer largely protected by geology
- Need to maintain gradient toward Bay



Stakeholder Engagement

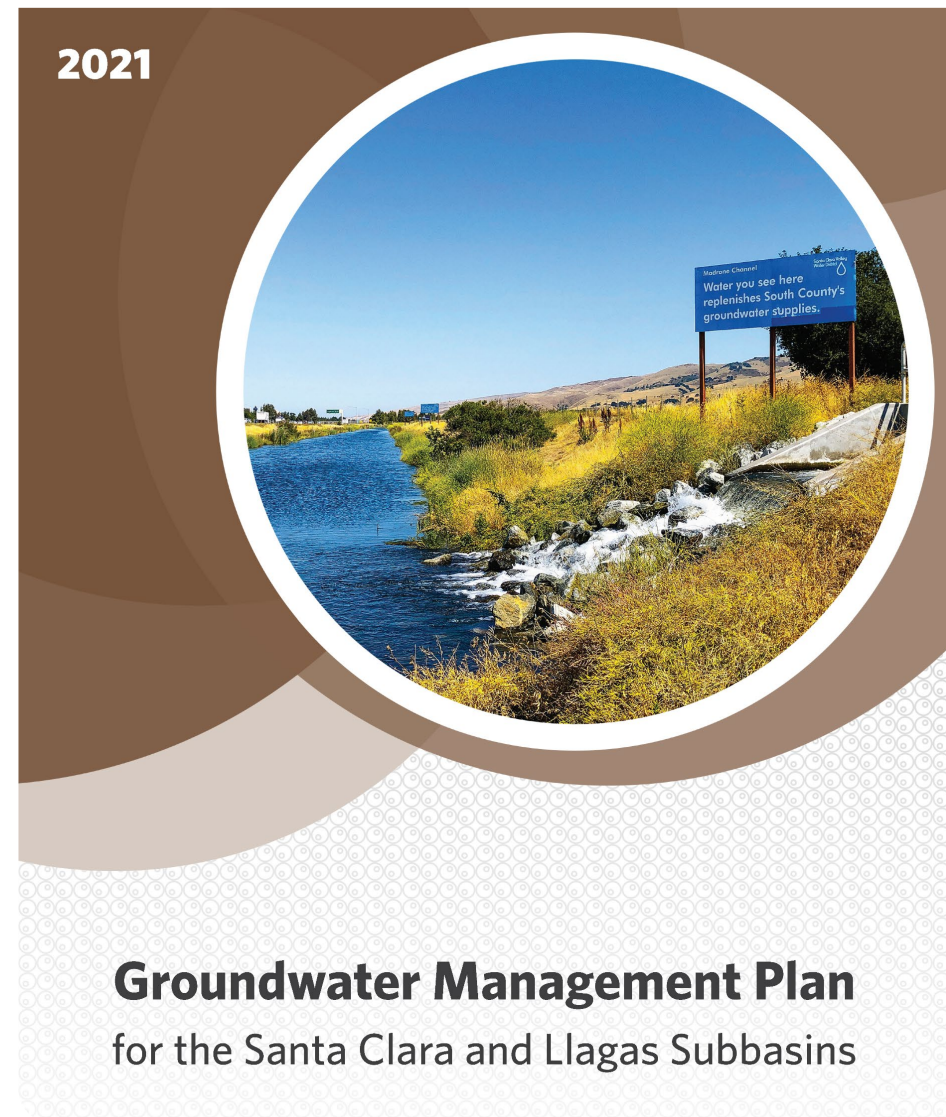


- Regular updates to the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee, water retailers, and interested stakeholders
- Virtual public meeting
- Draft plan posted to website October 8, 2021

Draft 2021 GWMP available at: <https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater>

Recommendation

Adopt the 2021 Groundwater Management Plan after considering public comments.



Questions?



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