Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Sonoma County

Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency
“Building Livable Communities”
25th Annual Yosemite Conference for Local Elected Officials
March 10-13, 2016, Yosemite National Park
SCWA provides Wholesale Water Supply

Serving approximately 600,000 residents in Sonoma & Marin counties

**Main Water Sources**
- Lake Mendocino
- Lake Sonoma
- Russian River

**Water Contractors**
- Santa Rosa
- Petaluma
- Sonoma
- Cotati
- Rohnert Park
- Town of Windsor
- North Marin Water District
- Valley of the Moon Water District
- Marin Municipal Water District
What is happening in Sonoma County?

- Stakeholder assessment conducted
- Basin Advisory Panels providing input
- Formation of Countywide Staff Working Group of GSA-eligible agencies
  - Developed GSA governance principles
  - Created outreach plan, website, monthly newsletter
  - Public workshops held in November/December
- Formation of County/Water Agency Ad Hoc
  - Providing policy guidance, educating board members and elected officials
  - Supervisors/Directors Susan Gorin & David Rabbitt
Sonoma County Water Agency
Transmission System - Connecting Surface & Groundwater
Alexander Valley Study completed 2006
Santa Rosa Plain Study completed 2014. Groundwater management plan since 2014
Sonoma Valley Study completed 2006. Groundwater management plan since 2007
Petaluma Valley Study initiated Sept 2014

Groundwater Plays Important Role in Building Resiliency

Overarching Goal: Proactive Management of Surface Water & Groundwater Resources to Promote Reliability for All Users
Please Note: Groundwater Basin and Management Program Area boundaries are approximate. This map is for illustration purposes only.
SGMA Steps to Groundwater Sustainability

Step one
Form Groundwater Sustainability Agency
June 30, 2017

Step two
Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan
January 31, 2022

Step three
Achieve Sustainability 20 years after adoption of plan *

* DWR may grant up to two, five-year extensions on implementation upon showing of good cause and progress
Ongoing Challenges and Representation

- We are strong supporters of SGMA and want to make sure:
  - All groundwater users are fairly represented;
  - All users are participating;
  - All interests are represented in a fair and equitable process.
Ongoing Challenges and Representation

- SGMA is complicated!

- Draft regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans provide insight into law’s complexity and reach.

- Land use and water interests don’t speak the same language.
Questions?

Resources can be found at:
www.sonomacountygroundwater.org

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