

## Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee

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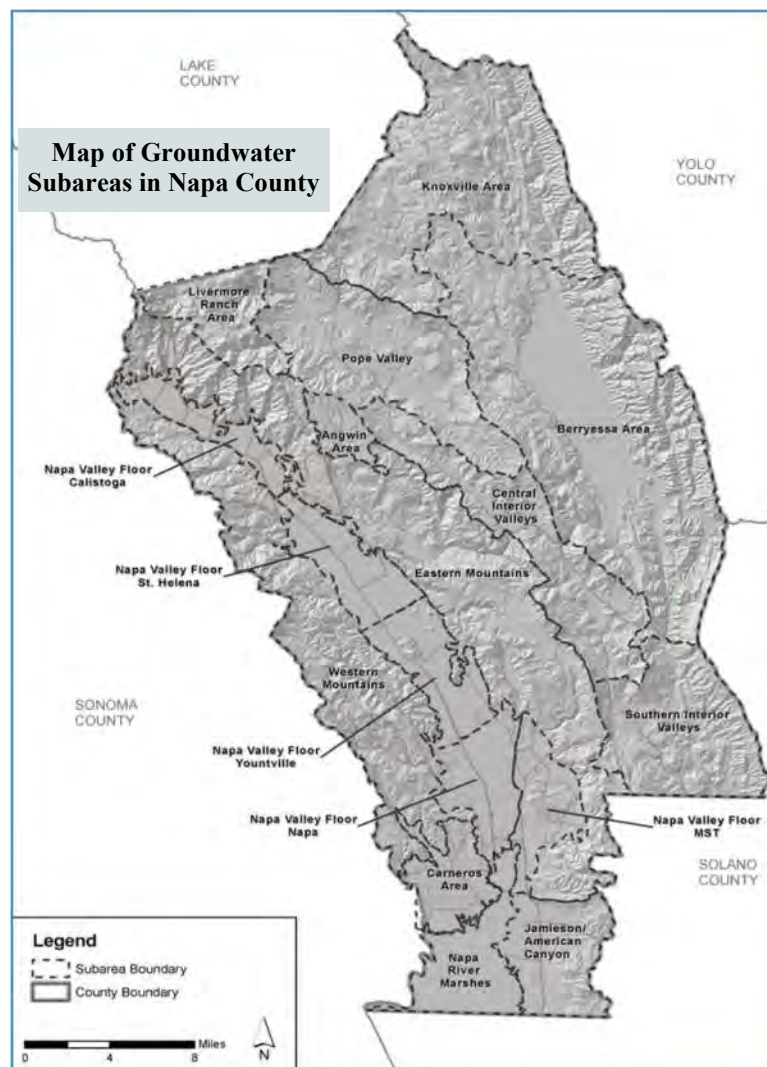
Dale Withers



## Who We Are

The GRAC members were appointed by the Napa County Board of Supervisors to assist County staff and technical consultants with recommendations regarding (a) synthesis of existing information and identification of critical data needs; (b) development and implementation of an ongoing non-regulatory groundwater monitoring program; (c) development of revised well pump test protocols and related revisions to the County's ground-

water ordinance; (d) conceptualization of hydrogeologic conditions in various areas of the County and an assessment of groundwater resources as data becomes available; (e) development of groundwater sustainability objectives that can be achieved through voluntary means and incentives; and (f) building community support for these activities and next steps. The GRAC works collaboratively to fulfill its charge.



## GRAC Meetings

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the Napa County Agriculture Commissioner's Office/UC Cooperative Extension located at 1710 Soscol Avenue, Suite 3, Napa, CA.

### GRAC Contact Information

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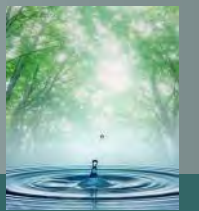
The County thanks the California Department of Water Resources for its support and funding of the GRAC meeting facilitator.



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# Our Groundwater Resources in Napa County

## Monitoring for Sustainability



## Groundwater and Its Importance in Napa County

Groundwater is water below ground and contained in formations known as aquifers, which supply significant quantities of water to wells and springs. **Groundwater is a vital source of water supply in Napa County.** Many residents, businesses and agriculturalists rely on groundwater, as do native fish, wildlife and natural habitats. These water demands make it essential that we:

- Preserve the quality and availability of local and imported water supplies;
- Sustain groundwater supplies and meet water needs during drought conditions;
- Anticipate and avoid potential environmental effects due to groundwater use; and
- Anticipate and avoid potential changes in long-term groundwater availability and quality.

## What we know

Napa County and other public agencies have been monitoring groundwater resources since the mid 1900s. Based on studies by the County's consultants, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) and MBK Engineers, the County continues to:

- Expand voluntary groundwater monitoring in key locations to provide better data and fill data gaps.
- Develop better groundwater data collection procedures.
- Report on annual groundwater conditions and trends.
- Estimate the rates of aquifer replenishment and study groundwater and surface water interaction.

### Groundwater Subareas:

To help better our understanding of groundwater conditions within Napa County, seventeen groundwater sub-areas have been designated, five of which are located on the floor of the Napa Valley (see map/back cover).

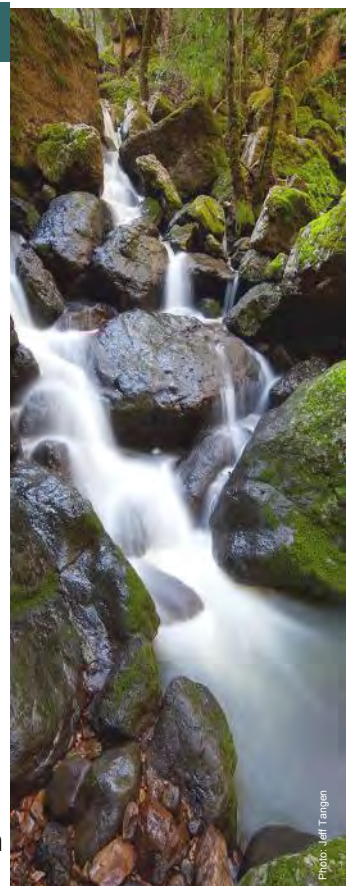
### Groundwater Levels:

Based on studies by the County's consultants LSCE\* and MBK Engineers, groundwater levels along the floor of the Napa Valley sub-area have shown stable long-term trends and a shallow depth to

groundwater level (10-30 feet). The northern Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) subarea showed declining levels in the 1960-70s, but has stabilized over the last 30 years. The central MST sub-area exhibits general long-term declines, with increasing declines since 1990. The southern MST subarea is historically stable with shallow groundwater depth.

### Groundwater Quality:

Less data is available for groundwater quality; however, overall quality is good except in select areas in the most northern and southern parts of the County.



## What Are We Trying to Learn?

- How does groundwater move through our aquifer system?
- What is the overall status of the groundwater aquifers within the County?
- What are the amounts of loss and replenishment to creeks, rivers and aquifers?

<http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac/>



# Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

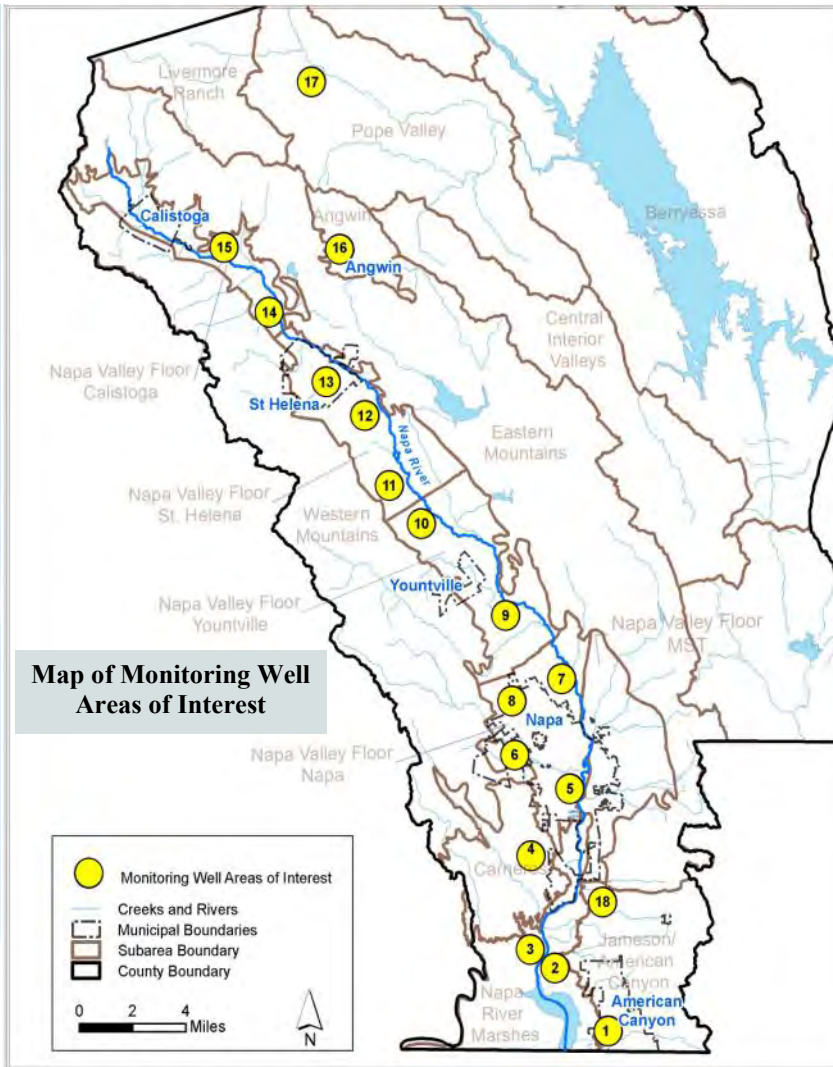
## Overview

The **Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program** measures groundwater elevation twice per year (spring and fall). These measurements improve the understanding of groundwater for the owner and the County. A comprehensive network of privately owned volunteer wells, along with publicly owned wells, provide a greater understanding of Napa County aquifers. The program will be strengthened by expanding the voluntary well network to areas where data is lacking or nonexistent.

## What Participation Means for Well Owners

Well owners who decide to participate in the voluntary groundwater level monitoring program will:

- Receive accurate groundwater level readings twice per year (*spring and fall*);
- See seasonal and long-term groundwater level trends for their well;
- Receive water quality data for their well (*if testing is agreed to and conducted*); and
- Receive notification if anyone submits a public records request for information.



## Answers to Questions

### Where is additional groundwater level data needed?

Priority water level monitoring Areas of Interest (AOI) have been determined (see map at left).

### Will someone curtail my use if I participate?

No. The Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program is a non-regulatory, voluntary program that measures the depth to groundwater (level only). Groundwater use is not being measured or monitored as part of this program.

### Will my well information be kept confidential?

Napa County will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of a well owner's information. However, such information could be accessed through a public records request. In such a case the County will notify the well owner.

### How long is the voluntary groundwater level monitoring program going to last?

The monitoring program will last as long as funding is available. An individual well owner may leave the program at anytime.

### Who is eligible to participate?

If your well is within a priority subarea and well construction information is available, your well may be eligible to participate in the program.

### How will the collected information be used?

The information will be used to monitor and track groundwater levels to help the County understand relationships between surface water and groundwater, maintain a centralized data management system, and improve the accuracy and reliability of relevant water resource models.

### Where can I find additional information?

For more information about the Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program, and a glossary of terminology, please visit the GRAC website: [www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac](http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac).



Groundwater level monitoring by property owner

Groundwater well

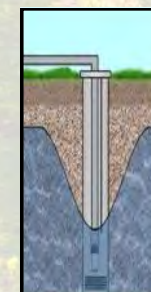


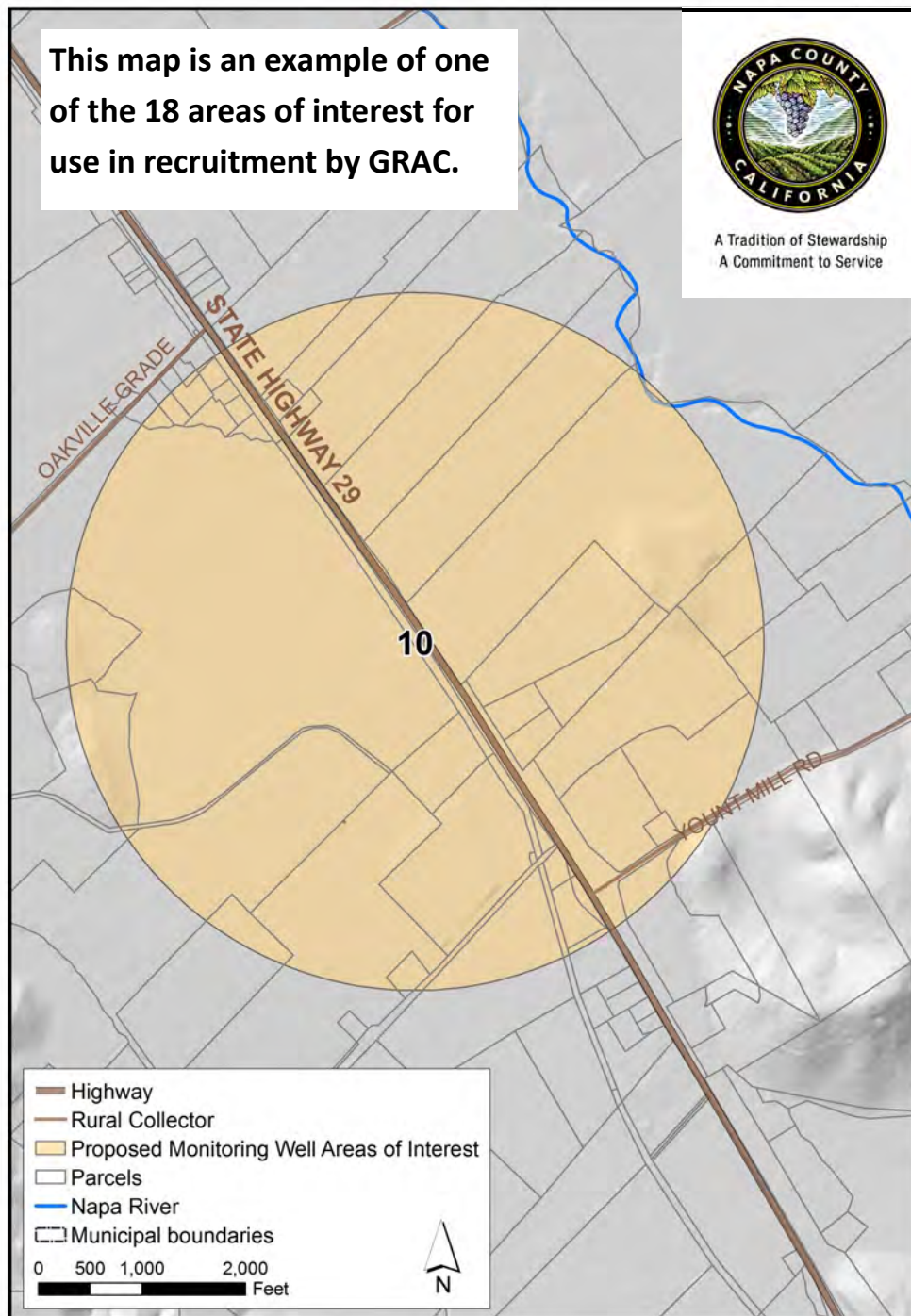
Photo: Jeff Tangen



This map is an example of one of the 18 areas of interest for use in recruitment by GRAC.



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# Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

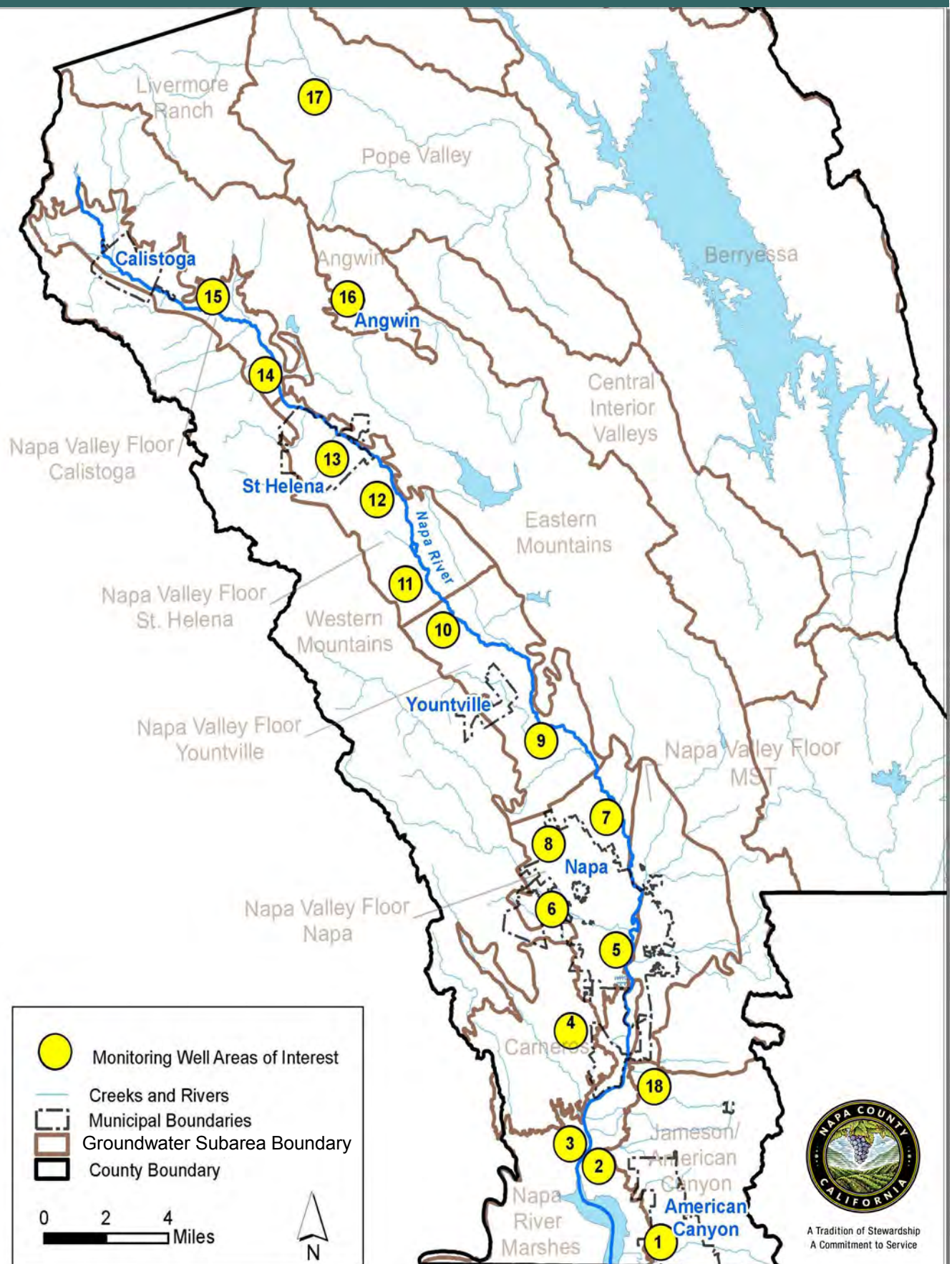
## Groundwater Monitoring Areas of Interest

The Napa County Groundwater Monitoring Plan, recommends 18 Areas of Interest (AOI) for additional groundwater monitoring to better understand groundwater resources in Napa County. The AOIs are located in nine of the County sub-areas. In each of the AOIs, at least one well is desired for both groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring.

Napa County is currently looking for volunteer wells to monitor groundwater elevations in the area between Oakville Grade and Yount Mill Road, near Highway 29.

The beige circle on the map indicate an area with wells that are potential candidates for the voluntary groundwater level monitoring program. Minimum criteria for a well selected for inclusion in the monitoring program include a driller's report that shows the depth and screened interval(s) of the well, access at the wellhead that accommodates equipment for measuring water levels, and a location near the wellhead for the collection of groundwater quality samples (or owner's permission to install a valve/tap).

# Monitoring Well Areas of Interest







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# Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

## Frequently Asked Questions for Well Owners

### **What is the Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program and why is it important?**

The Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program provides the opportunity to measure the depth to groundwater in wells throughout the County twice per year. Monitoring groundwater elevation helps assess the overall status of Napa County aquifers. The expanding network of privately owned volunteer wells augments County data from publicly monitored wells.

### **What is required to participate?**

Participating well owners must sign an agreement allowing (1) the release of depth-to-groundwater data and (2) access to the property, allowing Napa County Department of Public Works or its contractor to access the well to measure the groundwater elevations twice per year.

### **Who collects the well measurements and how often are measurements taken?**

Groundwater measurements are taken by the Napa County Department of Public Works or its contractor. Measurements generally take place twice per year in the spring and fall.

### **How will the collected information be used?**

The information will be used to monitor and track groundwater levels, understand the relationship between surface water and groundwater, maintain a central database of monitoring results, and improve the accuracy and reliability of relevant water resource models.

### **What does participation mean to well owners?**

Volunteers will (1) receive accurate groundwater level readings twice per year (spring and fall), (2) be able to see seasonal and long-term groundwater level trends of their well, (3) receive water quality data if testing is agreed to and conducted, and (4) gain improved understanding of our groundwater resources countywide.

### **Will the County measure how much water I use?**

No. The amount of groundwater used is not measured. The only measurement taken is the depth to groundwater in the well (water level). If water quality testing is available and agreed to, a sample of well water will be collected and sent to an independent testing laboratory for analysis.

### **Will someone try to curtail my groundwater use if I participate in the program?**

No. The Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program is a non-regulatory, volunteer program that only measures the groundwater elevation/level (and quality if testing is available and agreed to) in volunteer wells. Groundwater use is not being measured or monitored as part of this program.

### **Is well level data confidential?**

The County will make every effort to keep data confidential; however, the County cannot guarantee that data provided will be kept confidential if a public records request is filed (California Water Code §13751, §13752 prohibits distributing well completion reports to anyone but the landowner, his or her designee, or a government agency without the owner's permission). If information is requested through a County public records request, the County will notify the well owner.

<http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac/>



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# Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

## Data Management and Disclosure

There are three voluntary groundwater programs offered; each having different levels of data management and disclosure. Well owners participating in Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program may opt to participate in one or more of the programs offered. The County will make every effort to keep the data it collects confidential.

The County, however, cannot guarantee that all data provided will be kept confidential if a Public Records Act request is filed. California Water Code §13751, §13752 prohibits distributing Well Completion Reports to anyone but the landowner, his or her designee, or a government agency without the owner's permission. If information is requested through a Public Records Act request, the County will notify the well owner.

### 1) Napa County Program

- Groundwater level measurements are collected twice a year (spring and fall) and reported to the well owner.
- Well construction details, well location, reference and ground surface elevations and water elevation data will be kept confidential as permitted by law and will not be made available to the public (see disclosure statement above). The water elevation data collected will be used internally by the County to gain a better understanding of general groundwater level conditions across the County's groundwater basins.
- Groundwater quality testing (if applicable) is conducted twice a year (spring and fall) and reported to the well owner.

### 2) California Water Data Library

- Groundwater level measurements are collected twice a year (spring and fall) and reported to the well owner.
- Well location information (coordinates); the well type (e.g., domestic, monitoring, irrigation, etc.); reference and ground surface elevation; water elevation data and historical water level measurements will be made available to the public via websites (State and/or County) or through other means. This data is currently available on the California Water Data Library website (<http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>) for many of the County's monitoring wells.
- All information provided to the Water Data Library should be assumed to be available to the public.

### 3) California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program

- Groundwater level measurements are collected twice a year (spring and fall) and reported to the well owner.
- Well construction detail (including completion type, total depth, construction data, screen intervals [if available], whether or not a well completion report available [y/n], report # [if available], well location, reference and ground surface elevations, and water elevation data) will be made available to the public via websites (State and/or County) or through other means. Data is available on the CASGEM website at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>.
- All information provided to CASGEM should be assumed to be available to the public.

<http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac/>

## Data Management and Disclosure Procedures

	Monitoring Activity	Low Level of Disclosure	Intermediate Level of Disclosure	High Level of Disclosure	Groundwater Quality Testing	Data Confidentiality
<b>Program Elements</b>	<p>Groundwater level measurements collected twice annually in April and October and reported to the well owner.</p> <p>For those sites that also measure water quality, samples will be taken concurrent with water level measurements.</p>	Well construction detail, location, ground surface elevation, and water elevation data NOT made available to the public. Data collected will be used internally by the County to understand general groundwater level fluctuations across the larger basin.	<p>Well location information, well type (e.g., domestic, monitoring, irrigation, etc.), ground surface elevation, water elevation and historical water level measurements made available to the public via internet websites (State and/or County) or through other means. Data currently available on the DWR Water Data Library (WDL) website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/">http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/</a></p>	<p>Well construction detail, completion type, total depth, construction data, screen intervals (if available), whether or not a well completion report is available (y/n), report # (if available), well location, ground surface elevation, and water elevation data are made available to the public via websites (State and/or County) or through other means. Data currently available:</p> <p><a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/">http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/</a></p>	Groundwater quality testing (if applicable) conducted twice annually in April and October and reported to the well owner.	The County will make every effort to keep the data confidential; however, the County cannot guarantee that data provided can be kept confidential if a public records request is filed. The California Water Code §13751, §13752 prohibits distributing well completion reports to anyone but the landowner, his or her designee, or a government agency without the owner's permission. If information is requested through a County public records request, the County will notify the well owner.
Napa County Program	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
CA Water Data Library	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>
CA Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>