

Groundwater Sustainability Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

The Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency has developed these frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in the Napa Valley Subbasin. These FAQs will provide working answers to common questions, some of which may be revised over time as new information becomes available.

Questions

SGMA & Napa Valley Subbasin

What is the purpose of SGMA?

Why is the Napa Valley Subbasin a High Priority subbasin?

Is the MST Area part of the Napa Valley Subbasin?

What is the status of the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin in DWR's SGMA process?

What is the status of the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) Area in DWR's SGMA process?

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

What authority does a GSA have?

What does a GSA do?

What is the legislative timeline for SGMA Implementation?

Napa County GSPAC

What is the GSPAC and what is its role?

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

What is a GSP?

What are required elements of a GSP?

What rationale did the Department of Water Resources (DWR) give for rejecting the Alternative Plan?

How is this process different from the Alternative Plan that was rejected by DWR?

What are undesirable results?

What are the six sustainability indicators in the language of the SGMA?

What is the timeline for GSP submittal and implementation?

How can the public and stakeholders provide input to the GSP development process?

How can the public and stakeholders review draft GSP sections during the GSP development process?

Domestic Wells

Are you going to put meters on wells?

Do domestic well users have to comply with SGMA?

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Funding

How will the GSA fund implementation activities?

Groundwater Conditions

Is groundwater quality currently being monitored?

Is there a link between groundwater and surface water, and if so, how will it be managed?

What is a water budget?

What is irrigation system efficiency and what factors affect the efficiency?

Are groundwater levels in the MST Area stable or in decline?

To what extent will the Napa Valley Subbasin address the MST Area?

What is the current status of the Napa River for impairment under the Clean Water Act?

How does groundwater pumping affect streams, the Napa River, and fish?

How are you addressing the connection between surface water and groundwater?

Can the County monitor my well as part of this process?

How is climate change taken into account in considering and planning for groundwater sustainability?

SGMA and Projects

How will SGMA projects be evaluated for environmental impacts?

Stakeholder Participation in SGMA Implementation

How can I participate?

How are you reaching out to stakeholders who are not typically engaged (e.g., disadvantaged communities, Spanish speakers, tribes)?