

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
FOR THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD  
AT 10:00 A.M., MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

### Remote participation available via ZOOM

Pursuant to AB361, Directors may participate in this meeting via teleconference.  
The public can only participate via teleconference. There will be no public meeting location.

---

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-6833  
And/or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

**“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID: 848 5241 1021 - Meeting Passcode: 419566**

- You do NOT need to create a ZOOM account or login with email for meeting participation.
- If your device does not have a microphone or speakers, you can call in for audio with the phone number and Meeting ID listed above to listen and participate.
- In the interest of clear reception and efficient administration of the meeting, all persons participating remotely are respectfully requested to mute their line after logging or dialing-in and remain muted at all times unless speaking.

**Video/Teleconference Meeting During Coronavirus (COVID-19) State of Emergency:** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be available via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health and authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) (State Assembly Bill 361).

**Important Notice Regarding Public Participation in Video/Teleconference Meeting:** Those who wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, or who otherwise are making a presentation to the GSA Committee, may participate in the meeting using the remote access referenced above. **Those wishing to submit written comments instead, please submit any and all comments and materials to the GSA via electronic mail at [bbuelow@sywcd.com](mailto:bbuelow@sywcd.com).** All submittals of written comments must be received by the GSA no later than **Thursday, May 19, 2022**, and should indicate **“May 23, 2022 GSA Meeting”** in the subject line. To the extent practicable, public comments and materials received in advance pursuant to this timeframe will be read into the public record during the meeting. Public comments and materials not read into the record will become part of the post-meeting materials available to the public and posted on the SGMA website.

**AGENDA ON NEXT PAGE**

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
FOR THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

**AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
- IV. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee's jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public item.) *Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under Agenda Item "CMA GSA Committee requests and comments" for items to be included on the next Agenda.*
- V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of February 28 and March 21, 2022
- VI. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List
- VII. Update on Executive Order N-7-22
- VIII. Update on Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Well Metering Program
- IX. Update on future governance/JPA/interim cost sharing and long-term funding for CMA expenses
- X. Update on change of GSA Financial Institution
- XI. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting, Monday, August 22, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.
- XII. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XIII. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and <https://www.santaynezwater.org> in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 28, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution CMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 1/3/2022).

CMA GSA Committee Directors Present: Art Hibbits, John Sanchez (Acting Alternate), Ed Andrisek (late arrival)

CMA GSA Alternate Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh and Matt Young

Others Present: Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), and Anita Regmi (DWR)

#### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

CMA GSA Vice Chair Art Hibbits called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. One CMA GSA Director and one Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum plus one CMA GSA Alternate Director was also present.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez attended the meeting from Agenda Item I through the end of Item XII. GSA Director Ed Andrisek joined the meeting and assumed the role as GSA Director at the end of Agenda Item XII, when GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez left the meeting. GSA Vice-Chair Art Hibbits fulfilled the roll of Chair for the entire meeting.

#### **II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001**

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution CMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on January 3, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. Discussion followed.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Discuss and consider appointment of CMA GSA Chair and Vice-Chair**

This item was deferred to later in the meeting due to the late arrival of GSA Director Ed Andrisek. This item was discussed after Item XII.

The GSA Directors discussed assignment of Chair and Vice-Chair. GSA Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to continue with Ed Andrisek as Chair and Art Hibbits as Vice-Chair. GSA Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 15, 2021, and January 3, 2022**

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on November 15, 2021, and January 3, 2022, were presented for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021, amended to correct a typo in item VIII, changing EMA to CMA, and approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, as presented. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VII. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2021.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the Warrant List for October, November, and December 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1039-1047) totaling \$50,022.34, as presented. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VIII. Review and consider approval of calendar of Regular GSA meetings for 2022 and location of Regular and Special Meetings**

Mr. Buelow presented a list of Regular GSA meetings for the 2022 calendar year. He reported that the CMA GSA regularly meets on Monday morning of the fourth week in the second month of each quarter (February, May, August, and November) but the date in November could be difficult due to the Thanksgiving holiday. So, the November Regular meeting is proposed to be held one week earlier on November 14, 2022. There was no discussion.

**IX. Consider approval of printing costs for public copies of the CMA GSP**

Mr. Buelow reported the cost estimate to provide a color hard copy of the GSP which was submitted to DWR in January 2022 to the local public library (Buellton Public Library) is approximately \$500. Alternatively, at no-cost, a digital version can be shared with the public library and be available to the public at the library.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to provide only a digital version of the GSP to the library, not a printed copy. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**X. Receive update from CMA CAG Meeting of February 3, 2022**

Mr. Larry Lahr presented a Memorandum dated February 3, 2022, which he prepared on behalf of the CMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG), summarizing the CMA CAG Workshop and Q & A on Future Governance held on February 3, 2022. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**XI. Receive cost update and presentation from Stetson on the First Annual Report for the CMA**

Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, reported that the CMA GSP was submitted to DWR in January and showed those present how to access and comment on the GSP through the DWR website.

He presented a summary of the Draft CMA First Annual Report for Water Year 2021, dated February 28, 2022. The presentation provided an overview of the GSP chapters, Annual Report sections, and a schedule of tasks for the remainder of Water Year 2022. The scope of the Annual Report covers Water Year 2021, summarizing data collected October 2020 through September 2021. It describes the GSAs progress towards implementing the GSP and sustainability. It also complies with the SGMA statute to provide groundwater elevation data, annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year, surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use, total water use, and change in groundwater storage. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**XII. Update and discussion on future governance, JPA, future projects, and funding for CMA expenses**

Mr. Buelow reported that staff and attorneys from all eight basin-wide member agencies recently participated in a meeting to discuss future governance that resulted in some good agreement on key ideals. There was agreement that decisions on implementing the GSPs should remain at the individual GSA level while, to the extent possible, utilize economies of scale for cost savings. County Counsel agreed to take the ideas discussed by the group and craft a future governance model for consideration and further discussion. The group agreed that the attorneys of the member agencies should meet separately to discuss legal details including migrating the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) structure that created the GSA to now form each GSA as an entity through a JPA and with possibly an umbrella JPA linking the three GSA entities together. More meetings of the groups are expected with intent to report back to the committees on the progress at a future meeting.

Mr. Buelow provided an update on implementation projects in the Central Management Area. He reported that staff began the process with the USGS for water level monitoring. No action was taken.

GSA Director Ed Andrisek joined the meeting and assumed role as GSA Director.

**XIII. Review possible change of GSA Financial Institution**

Mr. Buelow informed the GSA Committee that CMA GSA banking account may be moved to a new bank. As the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District) owns the banking account for benefit of the CMA GSA at Mechanics Bank and the Parent District Board of Directors will be considering changing all of their owned accounts from Mechanics Bank to Five Star Bank at its upcoming March 9, 2022 meeting. There was no discussion. No action was taken.

**XIV. Consider Special CMA GSA Meeting Monday, March 21, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.**

Mr. Buelow reported that a CMA GSA Special Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, for the GSA Committee to review the final Annual Report and consider acceptance of and submittal to DWR.

**XV. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting, Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular CMA GSA meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., either in person at the Buellton City Council Chambers or via remote participation. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**XVI. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

There were no requests or comments.

**XVII. Adjournment**

GSA Director Ed Andrisek adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

---

Art Hibbits, Vice-Chairman

---

William J. Buelow, Secretary

DRAFT

## MEETING MINUTES

### Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin March 21, 2022

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution CMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 2/28/2022).

CMA GSA Committee Directors Present: Art Hibbits, John Sanchez (Acting Alternate), and Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, and Kevin Walsh

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Doug Circle, Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers) and Sharyne Merritt

#### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Vice Chair Art Hibbits called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. One GSA Director and one GSA Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum plus one non-voting GSA Acting Alternate Director also present.

Mr. Buelow welcomed and introduced Ms. Marliez Diaz, a new staff member with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency who was hired to assist with SGMA matters in the County.

#### II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution CMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on February 28, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. Discussion followed.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Receive Draft First Annual Report for the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (CMA AR)**

Mr. Buelow explained the Annual Report requirement of the SGMA statute. Then, Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, presented a brief summary of the Draft CMA First Annual Report for Water Year 2021, dated February 28, 2022. The scope of the Annual Report covers Water Year 2021, summarizes data collected through September 2021, and describes progress towards implementing the GSP. Discussion followed.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to accept the First Annual Report, as presented or with non-substantive corrections, and submit the report to DWR. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Discuss and consider requesting staff to develop well registration and metering program for CMA**

Mr. Buelow introduced the GSP implementation tasks of well registration and metering or alternative measurement programs. He emphasized the importance of consistency in technical meter and installation requirements across all three GSAs within the Basin and provide a clear, smooth transition with costs defrayed. He advised that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District) has a well registration program and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency staff offered to review the measure and meter requirements in California, and with approval from the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, developed the Well Monitoring Assistance Program (WMAAP) providing funding to offset up to \$500 of the equipment cost of qualifying water meters.

Discussion followed. GSA Alternate Director Meighan Diethofer suggested staff complete a cost/benefit analysis of different meter types to determine the minimum cost for good information. Ms. Diaz explained the County of Santa Barbara meter rebate program and the eligibility rules including that the GSA must encourage or require metering. Discussion followed.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION directing staff to develop a well registration and metering program for the Central Management Area GSA. Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VII. Update and discussion on future governance**

Mr. Buelow reported that staff and attorneys in all three management areas from all eight basin-wide member agencies have participated together in a few meetings, attorneys from all eight member agencies have met separately and each GSA staff and attorney groups have also met together to discuss future governance. He reported that member agency staff together with respective legal counsel are working on a draft Joint Powers Agreement, concepts on interim cost sharing and comparison of costs for different future governance model options. The future governance model options take into consideration direction and suggestions received from the GSA Committee and CAGs including to keep away from top-heavy organization, keep costs low for the constituents, consider where costs can be shared among the three GSAs while maintain local control of implementation of the GSPs. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**VIII. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting, Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular CMA GSA meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., either in person at the Buellton City Council Chambers or via Zoom. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**IX. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

Mr. Buelow announced there is a press release regarding the Santa Ynez Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plans Approved written and submitted by County staff that was published in the March 15, 2022 edition of the Santa Ynez Star.

GSA Director Art Hibbits requested staff compile data on how many meters will be needed for each of the three management areas and the approximate cost for all meters. Discussion followed.

**X. Adjournment**

GSA Vice Chair Art Hibbits adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

---

Art Hibbits, Vice-Chairman

---

William J. Buelow, Secretary

SYRWCD CMA  
BALANCE SHEET  
MARCH 31, 2022

Assets

Current Assets

Mechanics Bank #5472	\$41,834.18	
Other Current Assets	1,000.00	
	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets		42,834.18
		-----
TOTAL Assets		\$42,834.18
		=====

Liabilities AND Equity

TOTAL Liabilities		-----
		.00

Net Position

Retained Earnings	148,763.63	
Retained Earnings-Current Year	(105,929.45)	
	-----	
TOTAL Net Position		42,834.18
		-----
TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity		\$42,834.18
		=====

SYRWCD CMA  
INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR THE 9 PERIODS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

	QUARTER TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Revenue:				
Revenue				
Operating Assessments	\$17,200.00	100.0 %	42,400.00	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	17,200.00	100.0	42,400.00	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	17,200.00	100.0	42,400.00	100.0
Gross Profit	17,200.00	100.0	42,400.00	100.0
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses				
Outside Staff Support	150.00	.9	450.00	1.1
Public Relations	31.54	.2	400.27	.9
TOTAL Operating Expenses	181.54	1.1	850.27	2.0
Consultants				
Stakeholder Engagement	458.50	2.7	7,633.50	18.0
GSP - DMS	59.00	.3	59.00	.1
GSP - HCM	.00	.0	2,089.50	4.9
GSP - Water Budget, GW Models	59.00	.3	5,321.75	12.6
GSP - Monitor/Measure	.00	.0	3,406.25	8.0
GSP - Sustainable Mgt Criteria	.00	.0	8,995.50	21.2
GSP - Projects/Mgt Actions	.00	.0	13,015.25	30.7
GSP - GSP Doc	30,407.32	176.8	71,390.43	168.4
GSP-AEM Survey	.00	.0	32,324.50	76.2
Annual Report	3,243.50	18.9	3,243.50	7.6
TOTAL Consultants	34,227.32	199.0	147,479.18	347.8
TOTAL Expenses	34,408.86	200.1	148,329.45	349.8
Net Income from Operations	(17,208.86)	(100.1)	(105,929.45)	(249.8)
Earnings before Income Tax	(17,208.86)	(100.1)	(105,929.45)	(249.8)
Net Income (Loss)	\$(17,208.86)	(100.1)%	(105,929.45)	(249.8)

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE  
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

**JANUARY 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1048	01/04/22	Santa Barbara News Press	Legal Notice of January 3, 2022 Public Hearing on GSP (12/17 & 12/24/21 publications) (1/3 of total paid per GSA)	\$ 31.54
1049	01/04/22	Stetson Engineers	November 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2)	\$ 12,838.85
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 12,870.39</b>

**FEBRUARY 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1050	02/08/22	Stetson Engineers	December 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & Annual Report)	\$ 13,423.97
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 13,423.97</b>

**MARCH 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1051	03/09/22	Stetson Engineers	January 2022 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & Annual Report)	\$ 7,964.50
1052	03/09/22	Valley Bookkeeping	2022 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2022)	\$ 150.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 8,114.50</b>

**TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 34,408.86**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

**WHEREAS** on April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all the counties of California, due to extreme and expanding drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS** climate change continues to intensify the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a third consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in continuing drought in all parts of the State; and

**WHEREAS** the 21st century to date has been characterized by record warmth and predominantly dry conditions, and the 2021 meteorological summer in California and the rest of the western United States was the hottest on record; and

**WHEREAS** since my October 19, 2021 Proclamation, early rains in October and December 2021 gave way to the driest January and February in recorded history for the watersheds that provide much of California's water supply; and

**WHEREAS** the ongoing drought will have significant, immediate impacts on communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

**WHEREAS** the two largest reservoirs of the Central Valley Project, which supplies water to farms and communities in the Central Valley and the Santa Clara Valley and provides critical cold-water habitat for salmon and other anadromous fish, have water storage levels that are approximately 1.1 million acre-feet below last year's low levels on this date; and

**WHEREAS** the record-breaking dry period in January and February and the absence of significant rains in March have required the Department of Water Resources to reduce anticipated deliveries from the State Water Project to 5 percent of requested supplies; and

**WHEREAS** delivery of water by bottle or truck is necessary to protect human safety and public health in those places where water supplies are disrupted; and

**WHEREAS** groundwater use accounts for 41 percent of the State's total water supply on an average annual basis but as much as 58 percent in a critically dry year, and approximately 85 percent of public water systems rely on groundwater as their primary supply; and

**WHEREAS** coordination between local entities that approve permits for new groundwater wells and local groundwater sustainability agencies is important to achieving sustainable levels of groundwater in critically overdrafted basins; and

**WHEREAS** the duration of the drought, especially following a multiyear drought that abated only five years ago, underscores the need for California to redouble near-, medium-, and long-term efforts to adapt its water management and delivery systems to a changing climate, shifting precipitation patterns, and water scarcity; and

**WHEREAS** the most consequential, immediate action Californians can take to extend available supplies is to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels by implementing the commonsense measures identified in operative paragraph 1 of Executive Order N-10-21 (July 8, 2021); and

**WHEREAS** to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, and under Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The orders and provisions contained in my April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021 Proclamations remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations and herein. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and accelerate implementation where feasible.
2. To help the State achieve its conservation goals and ensure sufficient water for essential indoor and outdoor use, I call on all Californians to strive to limit summertime water use and to use water more efficiently indoors and out. The statewide Save Our Water conservation campaign at [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com) provides simple ways for Californians to reduce water use in their everyday lives. Furthermore, I encourage Californians to understand and track the amount of water they use and measure their progress toward their conservation goals.
3. By May 25, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall consider adopting emergency regulations that include all of the following:
  - a. A requirement that each urban water supplier, as defined in section 10617 of the Water Code, shall submit to the Department of Water Resources a preliminary annual water supply and demand assessment consistent with section 10632.1 of the Water Code no later than June 1, 2022, and submit a final annual water

supply and demand assessment to the Department of Water Resources no later than the deadline set by section 10632.1 of the Water Code;

- b. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, the shortage response actions adopted under section 10632 of the Water Code for a shortage level of up to twenty percent (Level 2), by a date to be set by the Water Board; and
- c. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has not submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, shortage response actions established by the Water Board, which shall take into consideration model actions that the Department of Water Resources shall develop for urban water supplier water shortage contingency planning for Level 2, by a date to be set by the Water Board.

To further conserve water and improve drought resiliency if the drought lasts beyond this year, I encourage urban water suppliers to conserve more than required by the emergency regulations described in this paragraph and to voluntarily activate more stringent local requirements based on a shortage level of up to thirty percent (Level 3).

- 4. To promote water conservation, the Department of Water Resources shall consult with leaders in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors to develop strategies for improving water conservation, including direct technical assistance, financial assistance, and other approaches. By May 25, 2022, the Water Board shall consider adopting emergency regulations defining "non-functional turf" (that is, a definition of turf that is ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreation purposes such as school fields, sports fields, and parks) and banning irrigation of non-functional turf in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors except as it may be required to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings.
- 5. In order to maximize the efficient use of water and to preserve water supplies critical to human health and safety and the environment, Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended, with respect to the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order and any other projects and activities for the purpose of water conservation to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought, and any permits necessary to carry out such projects or activities. Entities that desire to conduct activities under this suspension, other than the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order, shall first request that the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension. The Secretary shall use sound discretion in applying this Executive Order to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating conservation projects that are necessary to address impacts of the drought, while at the same time

protecting public health and the environment. The entities implementing these directives or conducting activities under this suspension shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

6. To support voluntary approaches to improve fish habitat that would require change petitions under Water Code section 1707 and either Water Code sections 1425 through 1432 or Water Code sections 1725 through 1732, and where the primary purpose is to improve conditions for fish, the Water Board shall expeditiously consider petitions that add a fish and wildlife beneficial use or point of diversion and place of storage to improve conditions for anadromous fish. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1064, subdivisions (a)(1)(A)(i)-(ii) are suspended with respect to any petition that is subject to this paragraph.
7. To facilitate the hauling of water for domestic use by local communities and domestic water users threatened with the loss of water supply or degraded water quality resulting from drought, any ordinance, regulation, prohibition, policy, or requirement of any kind adopted by a public agency that prohibits the hauling of water out of the water's basin of origin or a public agency's jurisdiction is hereby suspended. The suspension authorized pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to the hauling of water by truck or bottle to be used for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation in communities or residences threatened with the loss of affordable safe drinking water. Nothing in this paragraph limits any public health or safety requirement to ensure the safety of hauled water.
8. The Water Board shall expand inspections to determine whether illegal diversions or wasteful or unreasonable use of water are occurring and bring enforcement actions against illegal diverters and those engaging in the wasteful and unreasonable use of water. When access is not granted by a property owner, the Water Board may obtain an inspection warrant pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 13 (commencing with section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the purposes of conducting an inspection pursuant to this directive.
9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:
  - a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability

Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

- b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

10. To address household or small community drinking water shortages dependent upon groundwater wells that have failed due to drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall work with other state agencies to investigate expedited regulatory pathways to modify, repair, or reconstruct failed household or small community or public supply wells, while recognizing the need to ensure the sustainability of such wells as provided for in paragraph 9.
11. State agencies shall collaborate with tribes and federal, regional, and local agencies on actions related to promoting groundwater recharge and increasing storage.
12. To help advance groundwater recharge projects, and to demonstrate the feasibility of projects that can use available high water flows to recharge local groundwater while minimizing flood risks, the Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards shall prioritize water right permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water right priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. For the purposes of carrying out this paragraph, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, and Chapter 3 (commencing with section 85225) of Part 3 of Division 35 of the Water Code and regulations adopted pursuant thereto are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. This suspension applies to (a) any actions taken by state agencies, (b) any actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for the implementation of the directives concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b). The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.
13. With respect to recharge projects under either Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge or the Department of Water Resources Sustainable

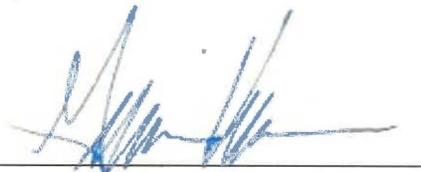
Groundwater Management Grant Program occurring on open and working lands to replenish and store water in groundwater basins that will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, for any (a) actions taken by state agencies, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Department of Water Resources concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

14. To increase resilience of state water supplies during prolonged drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall prepare for the potential creation and implementation of a multi-year transfer program pilot project for the purpose of acquiring water from willing partners and storing and conveying water to areas of need.
15. By April 15, 2022, state agencies shall submit to the Department of Finance for my consideration proposals to mitigate the worsening effects of severe drought, including emergency assistance to communities and households and others facing water shortages as a result of the drought, facilitation of groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protection of fish and wildlife, mitigation of drought-related economic or water-supply disruption, and other potential investments to support short- and long-term drought response.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of March 2022.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.  
Secretary of State



# WATER WELL PERMITTING AND DROUGHT EMERGENCY

May 10, 2022  
Virtual Public Workshop



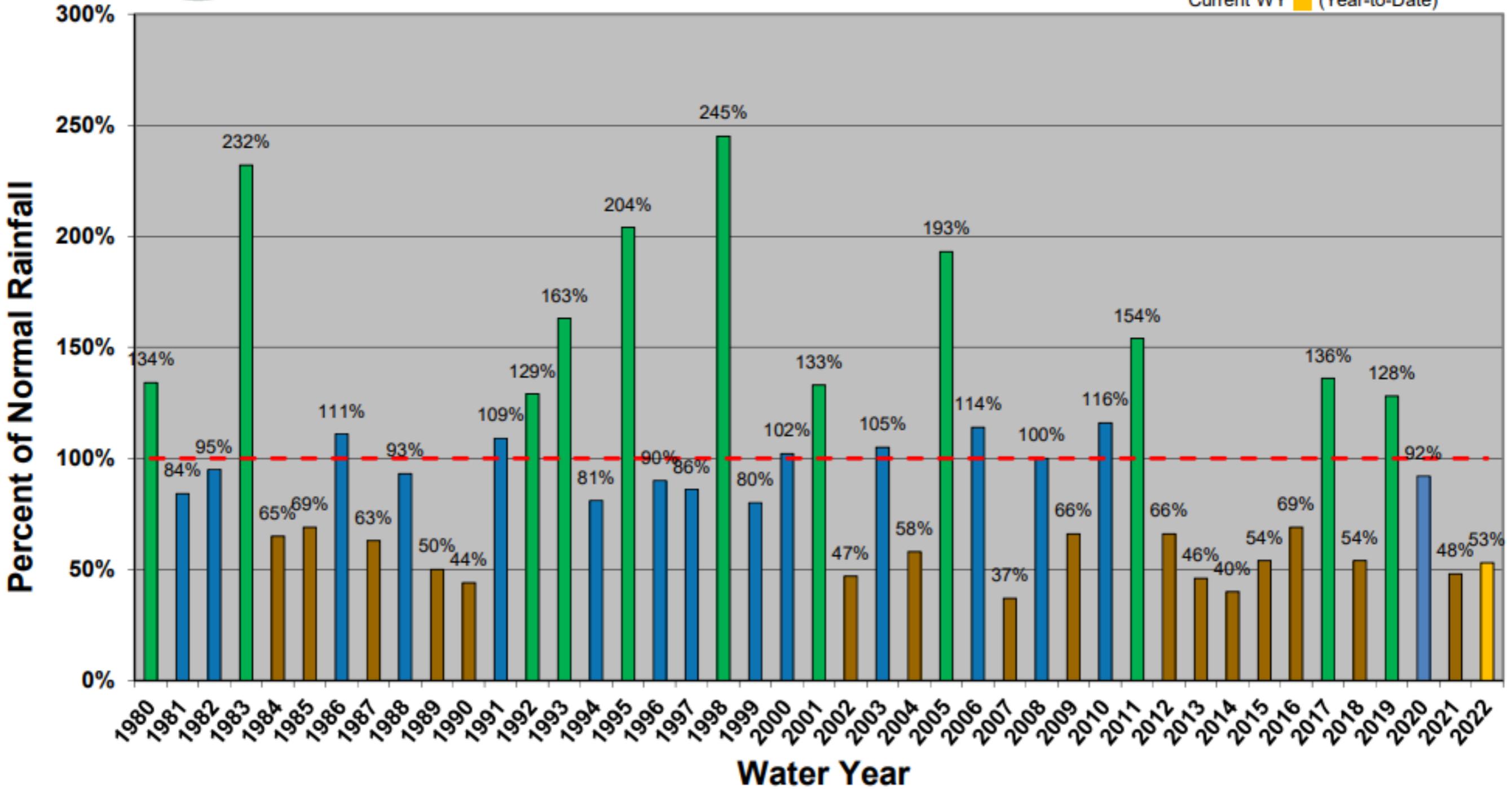
# LOCAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY



## Countywide Percent-of-Normal Water-Year Rainfall

Updated through March 1, 2022  
 (Rainfall as a percentage of an entire average water-year)

Wet Years (>120% Normal Rain) ■  
 Dry Years (< 80% Normal Rain) ■  
 Avg Years (within ±20% Normal) ■  
 Current WY (Year-to-Date) ■





## Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 (issued March 28, 2022)

- ❖ Domestic wells exempt
- ❖ Irrigation water well requirements
- ❖ Temporary water well ordinance
- ❖ Water well permit fees

## Drought EO N-7-22: Action 9

**For new wells or alterations to existing wells\***

### **9a. Consultation with the GSAs, Prior to Approving a Well Permit**

- In high and medium priority basins, where there is a GSA and GSP
- Obtain written verification from the GSA
- Consistency with GSP & sustainability goals

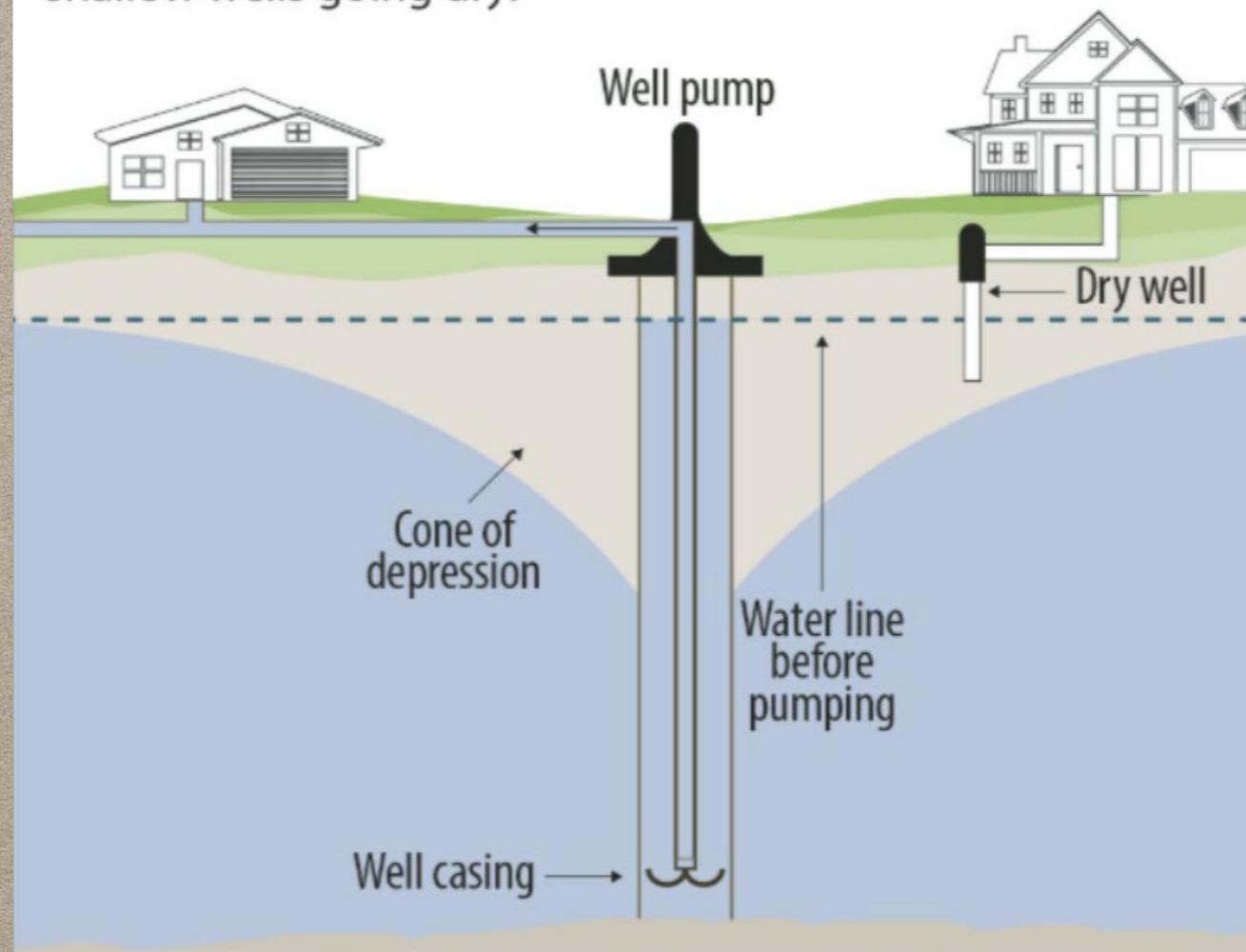
### **9b. Permit Evaluation, Prior to Issuing a Well Permit**

1. Not likely to interfere with production and functioning of existing nearby wells
2. Not likely to cause adverse subsidence impact or damage nearby infrastructure

*\*excluding individual domestic wells who use less than two acre-feet per year and public water system supply who rely exclusively on groundwater wells*

## A cone of depression

Large water withdrawals from an aquifer can lower the water table and create a "cone of depression" that can result in shallow wells going dry.

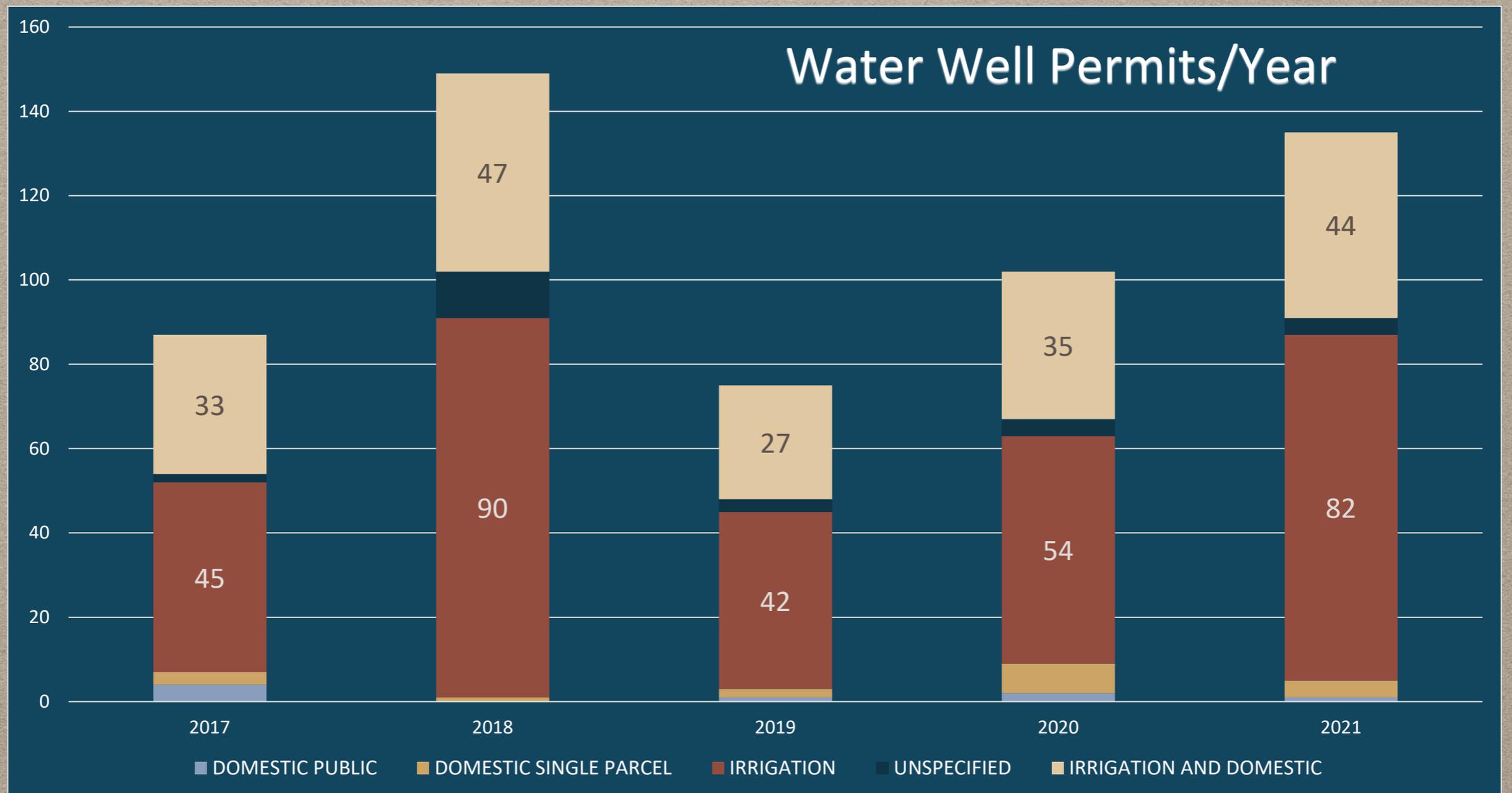


**STEP 1 – INDICATE TYPE,  
LOCATION, AND USE**



OR

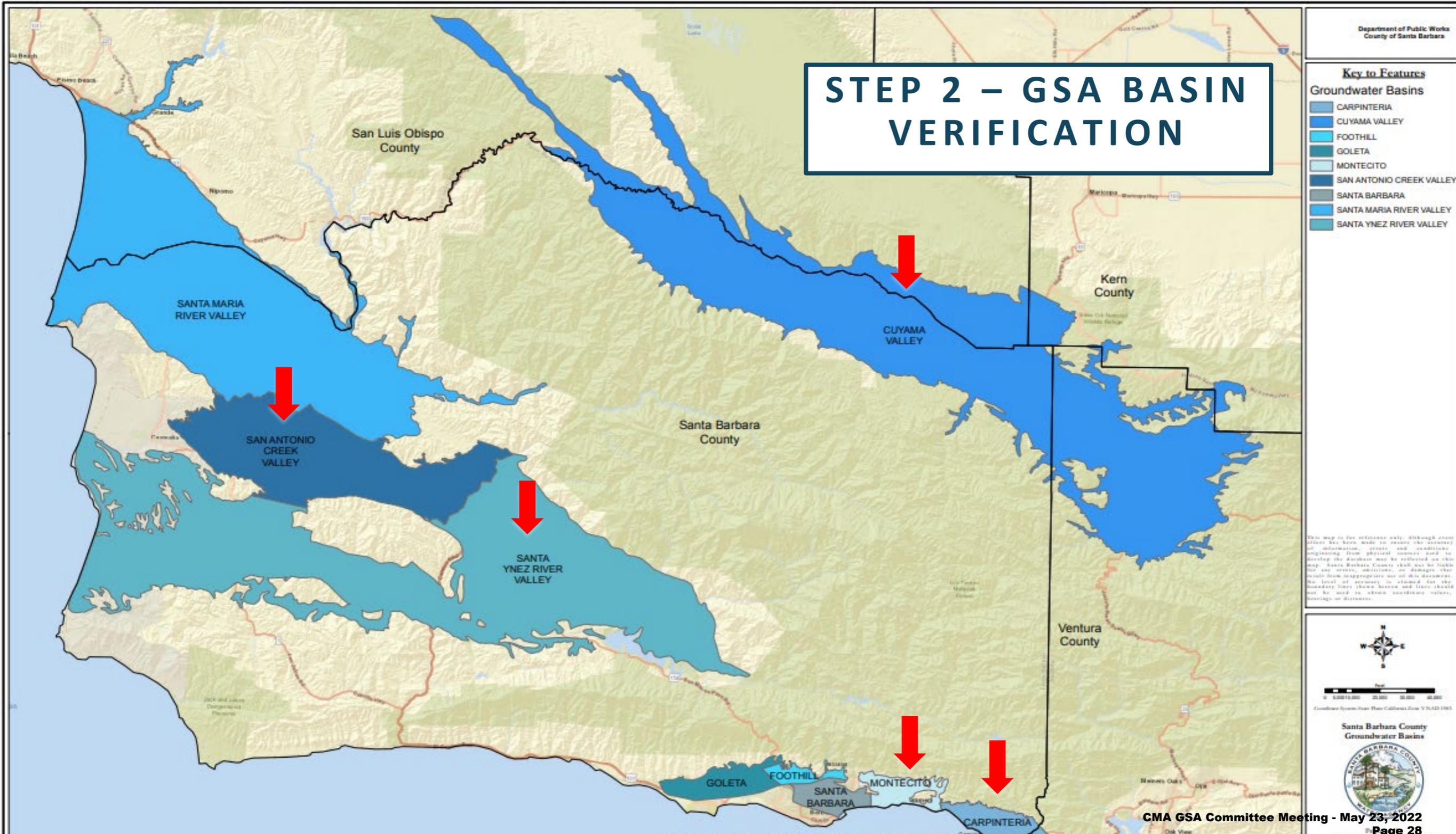




## No further permitting steps or additional fees:

- ❖ Domestic wells with less than two acre-feet per year
- ❖ Public water system wells

**STEP 2 – GSA BASIN VERIFICATION**



Department of Public Works  
 County of Santa Barbara

**Key to Features**

**Groundwater Basins**

- CARPINTERIA
- CUYAMA VALLEY
- FOOTHILL
- GOLETA
- MONTECITO
- SAN ANTONIO CREEK VALLEY
- SANTA BARBARA
- SANTA MARIA RIVER VALLEY
- SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY

This map is for reference only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors and omissions originating from physical sources used to develop the database may be reflected on this map. Santa Barbara County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or damages that result from inappropriate use of this document. No level of accuracy is claimed for the boundary lines shown herein and lines should not be used to obtain accurate values, bearings or distances.

Scale: 0 10000 20000 30000 40000 Feet

Coordinate System: State Plane California Zone V NAD 1983

Santa Barbara County  
 Groundwater Basins

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri

## Drought EO N-7-22: Action 9

**For new wells or alterations to existing wells\***

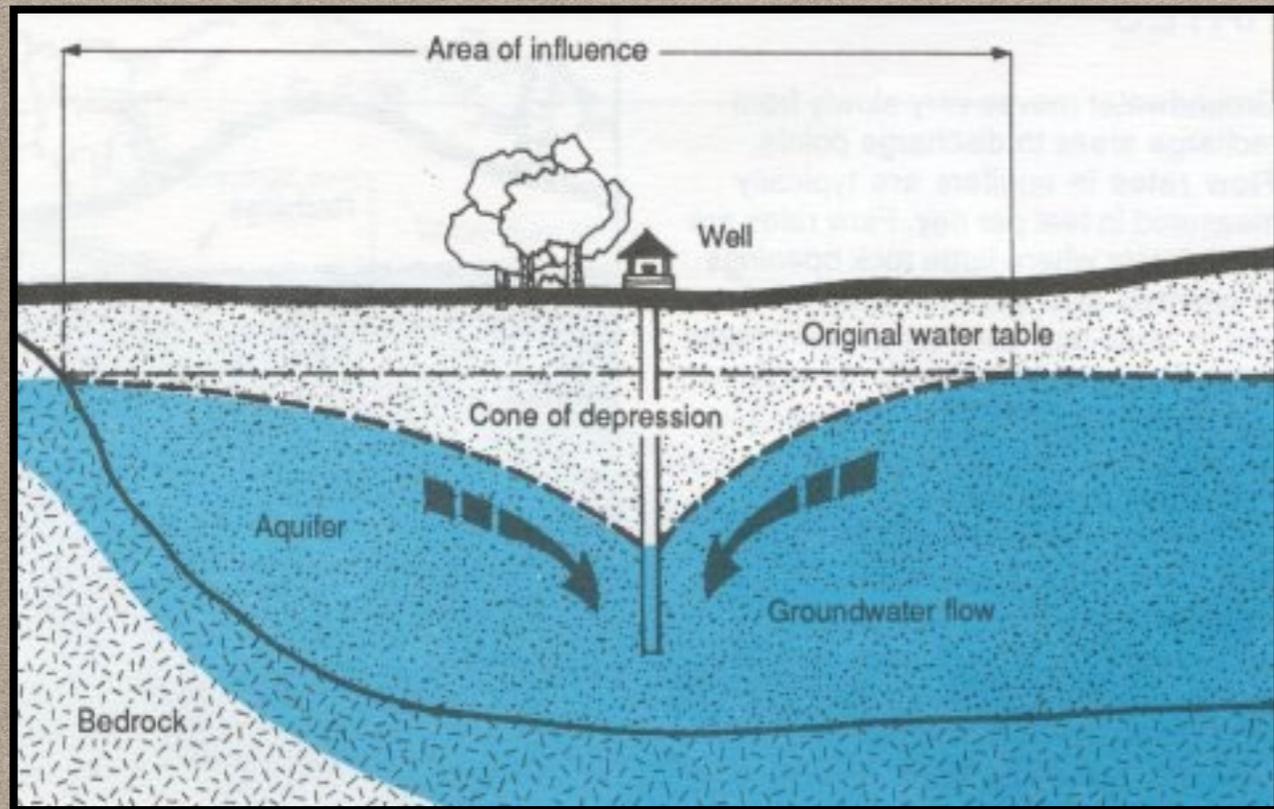
### **9a. Consultation with the GSAs, Prior to Approving a Well Permit**

- In high and medium priority basins, where there is a GSA and GSP
- Obtain written verification from the GSA
- Consistency with GSP & sustainability goals

### **9b. Permit Evaluation, Prior to Issuing a Well Permit**

1. Not likely to interfere with production and functioning of existing nearby wells
2. Not likely to cause adverse subsidence impact or damage nearby infrastructure

*\*excluding individual domestic wells who use less than two acre-feet per year and public water system supply who rely exclusively on groundwater wells*



### STEP 3 – ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT TO NEARBY WELLS

#### Wells >1,000 feet

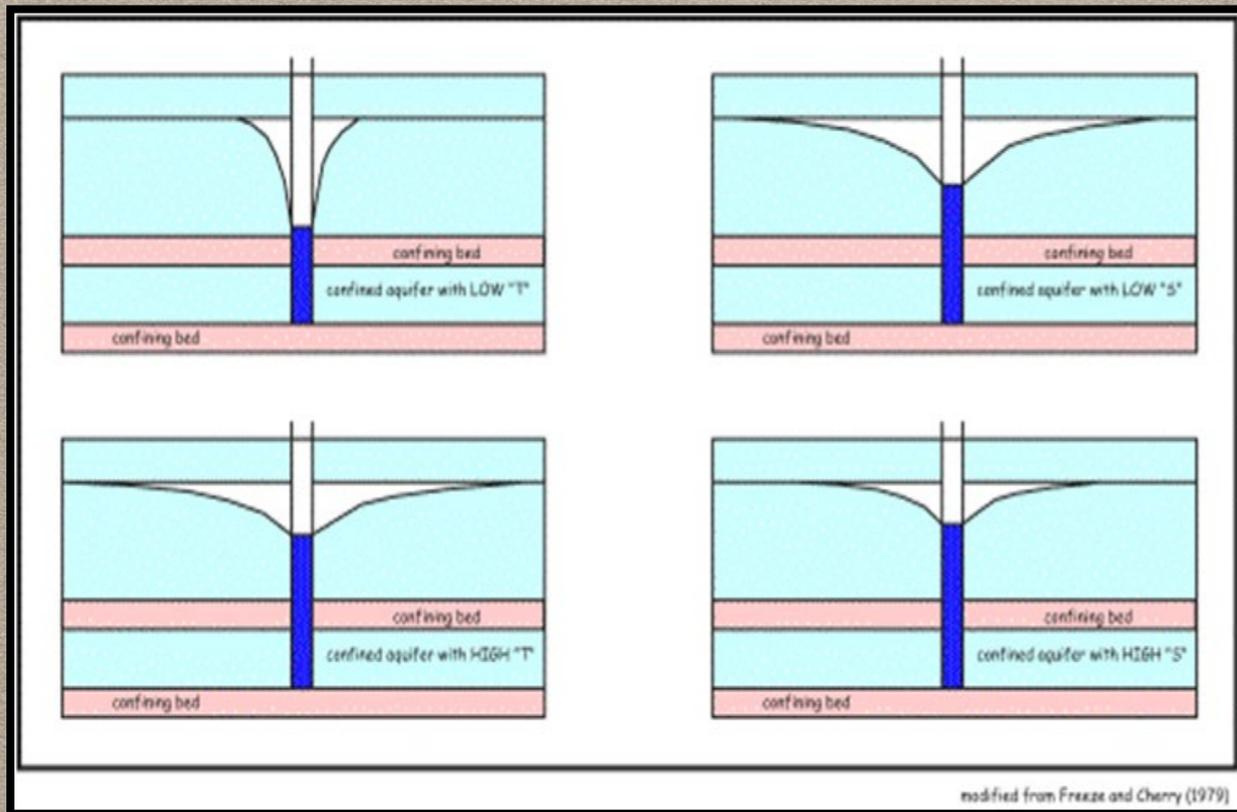
- ❖ No further information required
- ❖ CEQA Filing Fee

## No further permitting steps:

- ❖ New wells located >1,000 from existing wells
- ❖ Replacement wells (“like for like”)

## Additional fee required:

- ❖ CEQA filing fee of \$50



## Wells <1,000 feet

- ❖ Aquifer Data Submitted by CHG
- ❖ Review Fee at Existing Rate of \$161/Hour
- ❖ CEQA Filing Fee

- **Water Well Construction Permit Fee (\$721) - No Change**
- **Additional Review (Hourly Rate) - No Change**
  - Two hours included in flat permit fee
  - Additional review at \$161/hour
- **CEQA Filing Fee (\$50) – *NEW***
  - Filing fee for Fish & Wildlife (if applicable)



PROJECT TYPE	APPLICATION, FEE, INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (STEP 1)	GSA APPROVAL EO-N-7-22 9A (STEP 2)	LOCATION-SPECIFIC HYDROLOGY DATA EO-N-7-22 9B (STEP 3)	CEQA REVIEW
NEW WELL OR ALTERATION OF EXISTING WELL (INCREASING CAPACITY)	YES	IF IN A MEDIUM- OR HIGH-PRIORITY BASIN	IF PROPOSED WELL IS LESS THAN 1,000 FEET FROM AN EXISTING WELL	YES
REPLACEMENT WELL (NO INCREASE IN CAPACITY)	YES	IF IN A MEDIUM- OR HIGH-PRIORITY BASIN	N/A	YES
INDIVIDUAL DOMESTIC WELLS	YES	EXEMPT	N/A	N/A
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS	YES	EXEMPT	N/A	N/A

# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

[EHSAdmin@sbcphd.org](mailto:EHSAdmin@sbcphd.org)

