



## **Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/s/92597340524>

### **SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, December 8, 2025  
12:00 PM**

**District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.**

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS:**

Nai Hsueh, Chairperson  
Director, District 5  
Shiloh Ballard, Vice Chairperson  
Director, District 2  
Richard Santos  
Director, District 3

All public records relating to an item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118, at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend Board of Directors' meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600.

**STAFF LIAISONS:**

Vincent Gin  
Kirsten Struve  
Ryan McCarter  
Stephanie Simunic  
COB Liaison  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
[ssimunic@valleywater.org](mailto:ssimunic@valleywater.org)  
1-408-630-2408

**Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.**

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**Santa Clara Valley Water District**  
**Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**  
**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

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5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California  
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<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/92597340524>

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Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as a “hybrid” meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and is compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

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- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

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This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq. and has

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Under the Brown Act, members of the public are not required to provide identifying information in order to attend public meetings. Through the link below, the Zoom webinar program requests entry of a name and email address, and Valley Water is unable to modify this requirement. Members of the public not wishing to provide such identifying information are encouraged to enter "Anonymous" or some other reference under name and to enter a fictional email address (e.g., attendee@valleywater.org) in lieu of their actual address. Inputting such values will not impact your ability to access the meeting through Zoom.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**  
**<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/92597340524>**  
**Meeting ID: 925 9734 0524**  
**Join by Phone:**  
**1 (669) 900-9128, 92597340524#**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

1.1. Roll Call.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

*Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

3.1. Approval of October 27, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.

[25-1008](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.  
Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193  
Attachments: [Attachment 1: 10272025 WSDMC Minutes](#)  
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

#### 4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Update on Groundwater Basins Managed by Valley Water and Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. [25-0988](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on the groundwater basins managed by Valley Water and compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Manager: Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 30 Minutes

- 4.2. Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities. [25-1020](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.

Manager: Greg Williams, 408-630-2867

Attachments: [Attachment 1: South County Recharge Facility Map](#)  
[Attachment 2: South County Recharge Facility Capacity](#)  
[Attachment 3: Potential South County Recharge Projects Map](#)  
[Attachment 4: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

- 4.3. Receive and Discuss Information Regarding the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank. [25-1006](#)

Recommendation: Receive and discuss information regarding the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.

Manager: Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

- 4.4. Receive and Discuss the 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan and Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items. [25-1007](#)

Recommendation: Receive and discuss the 2025 WSDMC Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items.

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193.

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 2025 WSDMC Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

**5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.**

*This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.*

**6. ADJOURN:**

6.1. Adjourn. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, January 26, 2026.



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-1008

**Agenda Date:** 12/8/2025  
**Item No.:** 3.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Approval of October 27, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes.

### **SUMMARY:**

A summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the District's historical records archives and serve as historical records of the Committee's meetings.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

The approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice impact analysis.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 10272025 WSDMC Minutes

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025  
10:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (Committee) was called to order by Chairperson Hsueh at 10:01 a.m. in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

**1.1. Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance were: District 5 Director Nai Hsueh, Chairperson, District 2 Director Shiloh Ballard, Vice Chairperson, and District 3 Director Richard Santos, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: Gina Adriano, Karen Adriano, Antonino Alfaro, Emmanuel Aryee, Justin Burks, Rita Chan, Theresa Chinte, Phil Dolan, Gavin Downs, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Joshua Golka, Jason Gurdak, Andrew Gschwind, Matt Keller, Kaho Kong, Jess Lovering, Katherine Maher, Ryan McCarter, Carmen Narayanan, Julianne O'Brien, Carlos Orellana, Steve Peters, Mark Poole, Mario Rivas, Desiree Sausele, Ashley Shannon, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Erina Szeto, Darin Taylor, Cindy Torres, Metra Ulloa, Sana Wazit, and Jing Wu.

Public in attendance were: Director Rebecca Eisenburg (District 7), Negin Ashoori (Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency/BAWSCA), D. Becker, Michael Bolzowski (California Water Service Company), Jerry Brown (Sites Reservoir), Amparo Flores (Brown and Caldwell), Thomas Francis (BAWSCA), Jenny Gain (California Urban Water Agencies), Lundyn Harrelson (Raftelis), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter), Arthur Keller, Kevin Kostiuk (Raftelis), Danielle McPherson (BAWSCA), Adit Pal (BFS Landscape Architects), Larry Rodriguez (GEI Consultants), Tom Smegal (BAWSCA), Elaine Vastis (Raftelis), Luke Wang (Hazen and Sawyer), XXX-XXX-7722, XXX-XXX-8214, XXX-XXX-9821.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Hsueh declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one who wished to speak.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **3.1 Approval of August 25, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.**

**Recommendation: Approve the minutes.**

The Committee considered the minutes of the August 25, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Vice Chairperson Ballard, and unanimously carried, to approve the August 25, 2025 WSDMC minutes.

### **4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

#### **4.1 Receive Information on Consultant Study Regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer Affordability Study; and Provide Comments to the Board.**

**Recommendation: Receive information on consultant study regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's water use projections, water demand elasticity, and customer affordability, including study scope, objectives, and status update; provide comments to Valley Water's Board.**

Kevin Kostiuk (Raftelis) and Luke Wang (Hazen and Sawyer) reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachment and with Carmen Narayanan and Darin Taylor, were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following with staff input including: water demand elasticity for different income levels, what may trigger behavior changes relating to water bill costs, how the study was countywide not individual customers, water conservation effects relating to billing, affordability indicators and which one might work best for Valley Water's analysis, and the Low-Income Residential Water Rate Assistance Program through Sacred Heart.

Public comments: Katja Irvin expressed the need to continue an affordability analysis and additional public meetings, and if the water use forecast has been accurate. Arthur Keller stated that when people use less water there is less revenue and rates are raised, and to also look at people on fixed income like retirees.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

**4.2 Consider Recommending to the Board to Approve Execution of an Assignment Agreement With Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District That Would Give Valley Water 6,234 Acre-Feet of Wheeler Ridge's Storage Capacity in Sites Reservoir For Up to \$618, 500, Which Would Increase Valley Water's Project Participation Level From 0.2% to 0.66%, Providing Valley Water a Total of 9,351 Acre-Feet Storage.**

**Recommendation:** Consider recommending to the Board to approve execution of an assignment agreement with Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District that would give Valley Water 6,234 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge's storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Valley Water's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, providing Valley Water a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage.

Katherine Maher reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachments and with Jerry Brown (Sites Reservoir Authority), was available to answer questions.

Public Comment: None.

The Committee discussed the following with staff input including: the recommendation being consistent with Board action in July 2022 to increase participation level in the Project up to a maximum of 2.6 percent, Valley Water received this opportunity in part due to the rest of the waiting list not being qualified as current participants, the project not moving forward until all commitments are in place, and a program baseline report will be available prior to Valley Water making a final commitment.

The Committee requested a risk analysis of the project to be returned to the Committee.

On a motion by Director Santos, Seconded by Director Ballard, the Committee approved to recommend to the Board to approve execution of an assignment agreement with Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District that would give Valley Water 6,234 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge's storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Valley Water's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, providing Valley Water a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage.

**4.3 Receive Safe Clean Water Conservation Program - Project A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs Update.**

**Recommendation:** Receive Safe Clean Water Conservation Program - Project A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs Update.

Ashley Shannon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachment and with Adit Pal of BFS Landscape Architects, was available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following with staff input including: tracking Measure S funding and budget relating to Valley Water's water conservation programs and Board water conservation goals, public education relating to Valley Water's water

conservation programs, edible plants in the demonstration garden, acknowledging past landscape committee members who advocated for a Valley Water demonstration garden, and utilizing public surveys of conservation program participants.

Public comment: None.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

**4.4 Receive Update on Valley Water’s New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; Provide Feedback.**

**Recommendation: Receive update on Valley Water’s New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; provide feedback.**

Ashley Shannon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachments and was available to answer questions.

Public Comment: None.

Chairperson Hsueh suggested that the funding level for the Graywater Rebate Program could be increased to raise program awareness and participation level.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

**4.5 Review and Discuss Water Supply and Demand Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan and Upcoming Discussion Items.**

**Recommendation: Review and discuss the WSDMC Work Plan and upcoming discussion items.**

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and without discussion noted the WSDMC Work Plan and upcoming discussion Items.

Public Comment: None.

**5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS:**

Stephanie Simunic noted the Committees request relating to include information on risk variables for Item No. 4.2 regarding the Sites Reservoir.

**6. ADJOURN:**

**6.1 Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025.**

Chairperson Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Date Approved:

Stephanie Simunic  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 25-0988

**Agenda Date:** 12/8/2025

**Item No.:** 4.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive Update on Groundwater Basins Managed by Valley Water and Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on the groundwater basins managed by Valley Water and compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) managing a basin ranked as medium- or high-priority submit a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP (Alternative) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by certain statutory deadlines. SGMA provides GSAs with various groundwater management authorities to implement GSPs or Alternatives with the goal of achieving sustainable local groundwater conditions. This item presents a brief update on SGMA status for the following groundwater basins:

- Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins in Santa Clara County, managed exclusively by Valley Water, and
- North San Benito Subbasin in Santa Clara and San Benito counties, primarily managed by San Benito County Water District

### **Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins**

Valley Water is the exclusive GSA for the high-priority Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, which are located entirely in Santa Clara County and have been sustainably managed for many decades. For initial SGMA compliance, Valley Water submitted the 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins to DWR as a GSP Alternative. DWR approved the Alternative in 2019, confirming it satisfies the objectives of SGMA.

In December 2021, Valley Water submitted the 2021 GWMP to DWR as the first periodic evaluation of the approved Alternative, as SGMA requires evaluations at least every five years. In June 2024,

DWR approved the 2021 GWMP, confirming it was responsive to DWR comments on the 2016 GWMP, satisfies the objectives of SGMA, and complies with related regulations. DWR staff have proposed minor recommendations to enhance the Alternative and facilitate future evaluation by DWR for the next periodic update due on December 17, 2026. These recommended actions are summarized below:

1. Explain how inter-basin items have been coordinated.
2. Ensure monitoring network details are consistent with DWR's SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module.

Staff have begun addressing DWR recommended actions and are conducting various technical analyses needed to incorporate 2021 GWMP recommendations into the next periodic update to the Alternative. As this work progresses further, staff will update the Water Supply and Demand Management Committee and engage basin stakeholders through email updates and public meetings. A draft of the next periodic updated Alternative is expected to be available for public review in late summer 2026, prior to consideration by the Board of Directors.

Valley Water will continue implementing its comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan, provide annual SGMA reports to DWR by April 1, and submit the updated Alternative to DWR by December 17, 2026.

### **North San Benito Subbasin**

Valley Water is also the GSA for small portions of the North San Benito Subbasin located in Santa Clara County. Nearly all of this medium-priority basin is in San Benito County, so the San Benito County Water District GSA leads SGMA compliance efforts (including GSP development and implementation) in coordination with Valley Water. After being adopted by the Board of Directors for both agencies, the North San Benito Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR in January 2022. In July 2023, DWR approved the GSP, indicating it satisfies the objectives of SGMA and substantially complies with GSP regulations. The DWR assessment includes four recommendations that will need to be addressed in the first periodic evaluation, which is due by January 2027. The assessment can be viewed on the SGMA portal at [sgma.water.ca.gov](https://sgma.water.ca.gov).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867



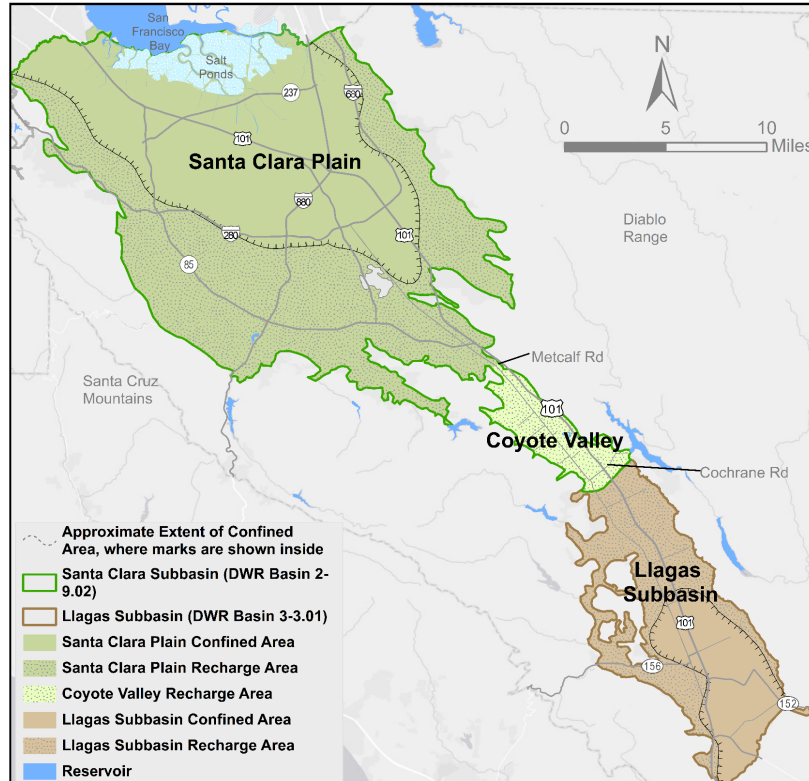
# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee  
December 8, 2025

# Local Basins Subject to SGMA

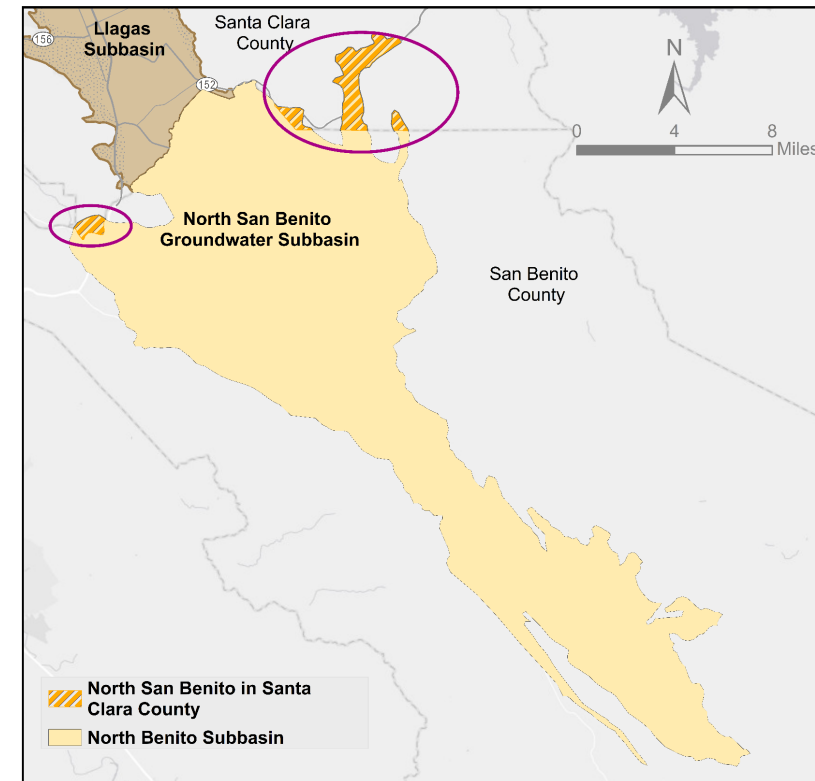
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## Santa Clara & Llagas Subbasins



- Located entirely in Santa Clara County
- Cover about 400 square miles
- Valley Water is the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency (GSA)

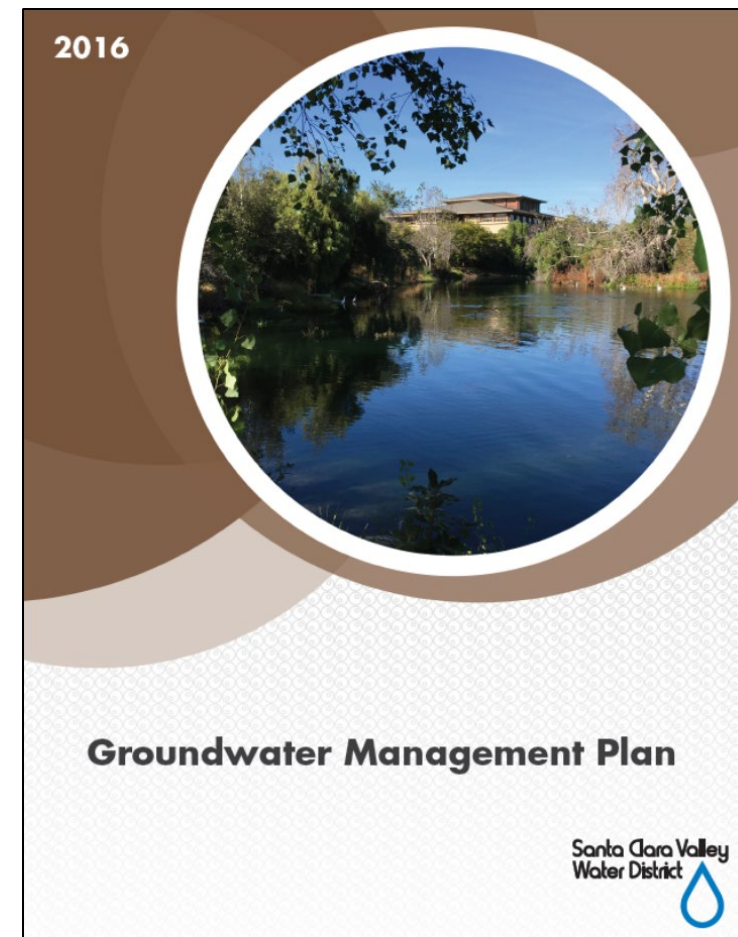
## North San Benito Subbasin



- Primarily located in San Benito County
- Valley Water is the GSA for Santa Clara County portions (5.2 square miles)
- Coordination with San Benito County Water District

# Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins – SGMA History<sup>3</sup>

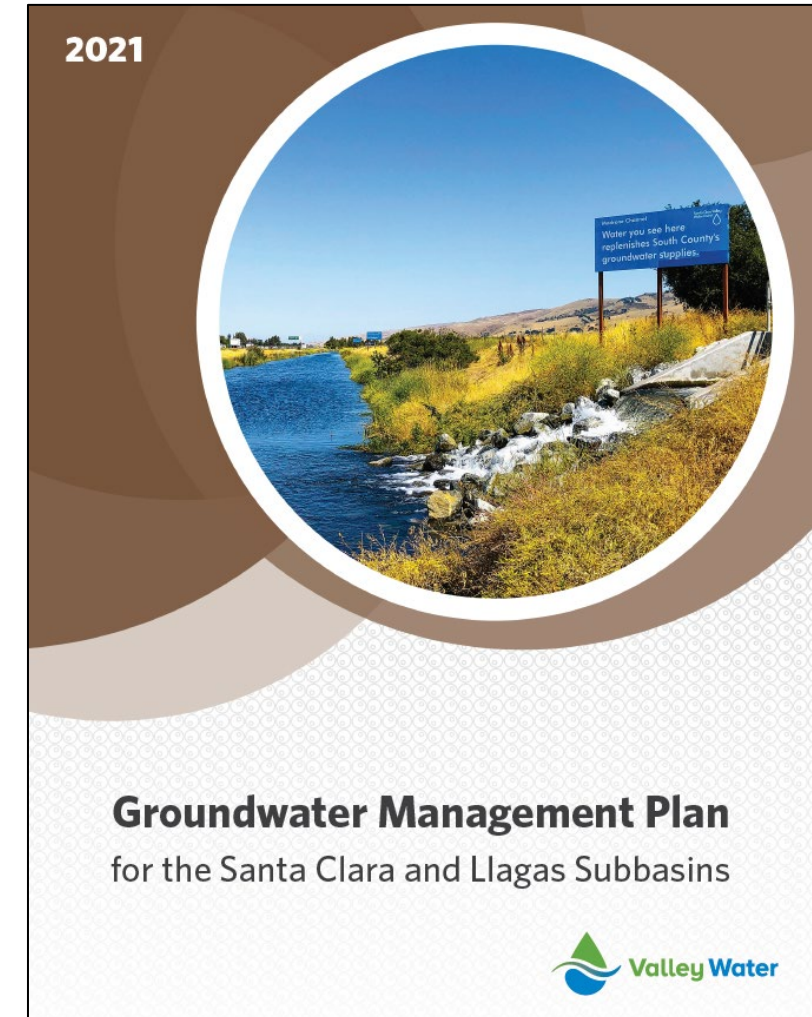
- **May 2016:** Valley Water became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- **December 2016:** Submitted 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) as Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative)
- **July 2019:** Alternative approved by Dept. of Water Resources (DWR)
- **December 2021:** Submitted 2021 GWMP as first required periodic evaluation
- **June 2024:** Periodic evaluation approved by DWR
- **April 2017 to 2025:** Submitted annual Water Year reports
- **December 17, 2026:** Second periodic evaluation due to DWR



# Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins – SGMA Status

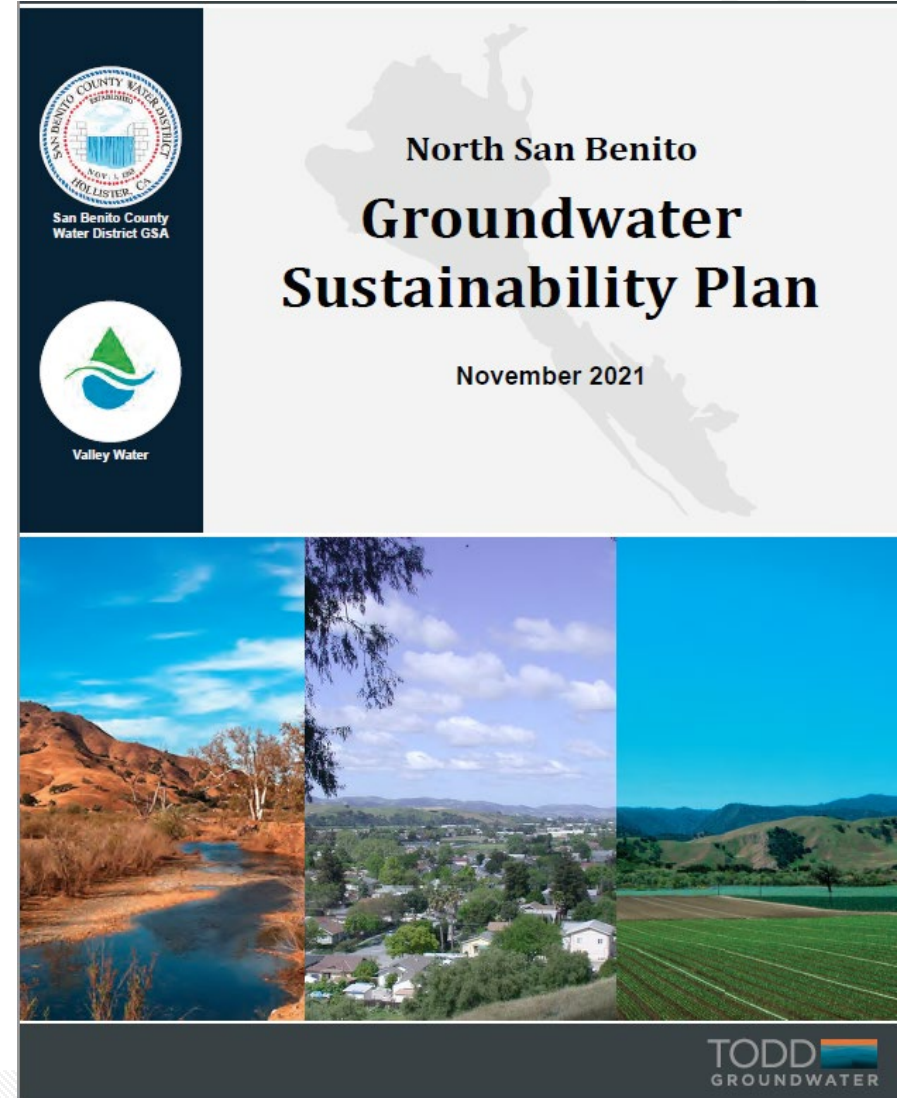
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- Staff updating the 2021 GWMP (Second periodic evaluation)
- Implementing 2021 GWMP technical recommendations
- Integrating DWR recommendations
  - Clarify coordination with adjacent GSAs
  - Ensure monitoring network details are consistent with DWR's Monitoring Network Module
- Outreach
  - Periodic updates to Board Committees
  - Engage stakeholders: well owners, retailers, other agencies
  - Public review of draft (late summer 2026)
  - Board consideration



# North San Benito Subbasin – SGMA Status

- San Benito County Water District lead GSP development with support from Valley Water
- GSP submitted in January 2022
- GSP approved by DWR in July 2023
- DWR recommendations to be addressed in the next GSP update (due by January 2027)





# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 25-1020

**Agenda Date:** 12/8/2025

**Item No.:** 4.2.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.

### **SUMMARY:**

Managed aquifer recharge continues to be essential for groundwater sustainability throughout Santa Clara County, but particularly in South County where local communities depend almost entirely on groundwater. Valley Water's managed recharge using local and imported surface water helps balance groundwater pumping and supports long-term water supply reliability. This memorandum describes Valley Water's South County recharge program and related projects that are part of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, which was adopted by the Board of Directors on November 12, 2025.

### **Background**

For many decades, groundwater pumped in Santa Clara County has exceeded the amount naturally replenished by rainfall or other sources. To ensure the long-term sustainability of local groundwater supplies, Valley Water augments natural groundwater recharge through the managed recharge of local and imported surface water. Additionally, water conservation, recycling programs, and treated water deliveries in North County protect groundwater supplies by reducing the need for groundwater pumping.

Each year, Valley Water determines optimal water supply operations, including managed recharge, based on available supplies and local needs. Long-term water reliability is evaluated through Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan and Urban Water Management Plan, which assess projected future supplies and demands and are updated every five years. Investments and projects to meet projected future shortfalls and ensure continued reliability are identified in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

## Current South County Recharge Facilities

South County overlies all or part of both primary groundwater subbasins in Santa Clara County. This includes the Coyote Valley portion of the Santa Clara Subbasin (which extends north from the Cochrane Road area in northern Morgan Hill to the Coyote Narrows near Metcalf Road in San José) and the entire Llagas Subbasin (which extends south from Cochrane Road to the Pájaro River along the boundary with San Benito County). Based on 2015 to 2024 data, average South County annual pumping is approximately 54,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), while natural recharge is estimated at 26,000 AFY. To help offset this imbalance, Valley Water recharges an average of 36,000 AFY of local and imported surface water.

Using established local surface water rights at Uvas, Chesbro, Coyote, and Anderson reservoirs, Valley Water captures and stores large volumes of upper watershed stormwater runoff for delivery to groundwater recharge facilities in South County. Valley Water also has contracts with both the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to receive imported water via San Luis Reservoir and the federal San Felipe Division system and uses some of this imported water for managed recharge in South County. Recharge occurs through a network of in-stream and off-stream facilities strategically located in areas with highly permeable soils that are connected to deep drinking water supply aquifers.

Valley Water operates three groundwater recharge systems in South County, as shown in Attachment 1. Releases into Coyote Creek replenish groundwater in the Coyote Valley and extend into North County. The Upper and Lower Llagas recharge systems replenish the Llagas Subbasin, supporting groundwater supplies for the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, as well as unincorporated areas including San Martín. In addition to municipal wells, thousands of privately owned domestic, agricultural, and industrial wells depend on local groundwater. As summarized in Table 1, the annual recharge capacity of South County managed recharge facilities is over 54,000 acre-feet (AF), with most capacity in creeks (73%) as compared to off-stream recharge ponds (27%). Attachment 2 provides more detailed information on the recharge capacity of individual facilities within the South County recharge systems.

**Table 1 - South County Managed Recharge Facility Capacity Summary**

Groundwater Management Area	In-Stream Recharge (AF)	Off-Stream Recharge (AF)	Total Recharge (AF)
Coyote Valley (Santa Clara Subbasin)	14,600	0	14,600
Llagas Subbasin	25,000	14,700	39,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>54,300</b>

Note: The annual recharge capacity shown assumes water is available all year and that ponds are in normal operational condition.

## Potential South County Recharge Projects

Valley Water investments in reservoirs, imported water, and managed aquifer recharge have ensured

reliable South County groundwater conditions for many decades. Valley Water closely monitors groundwater levels and prioritizes recharge to groundwater-dependent communities like South County, particularly during droughts. Managed recharge is essential for long-term water supply reliability and has played a critical role in quick groundwater recovery following dry periods. With "weather whiplash" (frequent shifts between extremely wet and dry years) becoming more common and the high local reliance on groundwater, there is a need for additional recharge capacity in South County.

Several South County managed recharge projects were evaluated in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, including:

- a) San Pedro Ponds Improvement Project - to implement project(s) to enable the existing seven ponds to be operated at their full operating capacity of 4,700 AFY without interfering with septic systems on several adjacent residential properties in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County;
- b) Coyote Valley Recharge Pond(s) - to construct a new off-stream recharge pond(s) near the Cross Valley Pipeline to increase operational flexibility, reduce reliance on Coyote Creek flows, and help balance increased pumping;
- c) Madrone Channel Expansion - to increase recharge capacity to the existing facility by adding one to two ponds on land owned by Valley Water; and
- d) Butterfield Channel Managed Aquifer Recharge - to connect the Butterfield Channel that is owned by the City of Morgan Hill to Valley Water's raw water conveyance system so imported water can be recharged when the channel is not used for stormwater flows.

Attachment 3 shows the locations of these projects. Not all four managed recharge projects are needed to ensure reliable groundwater supplies, and most of these projects are in the early conceptual phase. More substantial evaluation has been conducted for the San Pedro Ponds, with a 2023 study that identified eight alternatives that could fully or partially restore the operating capacity of the San Pedro Ponds. The study was mentioned at the November 4, 2024, meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Management Committee, and staff plans to present the findings of the study to this committee early in 2026. Furthermore, Valley Water has recently initiated a feasibility study to evaluate the construction of a new off-stream pond(s) in the Coyote Valley to increase managed aquifer recharge. Staff will continue evaluating which of the four managed recharge projects will best support water supply needs.

In addition to managed recharge projects at Valley Water facilities, staff continues to explore the feasibility of Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) in Santa Clara County.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: South County Recharge Facility Map

Attachment 2: South County Recharge Facility Capacity

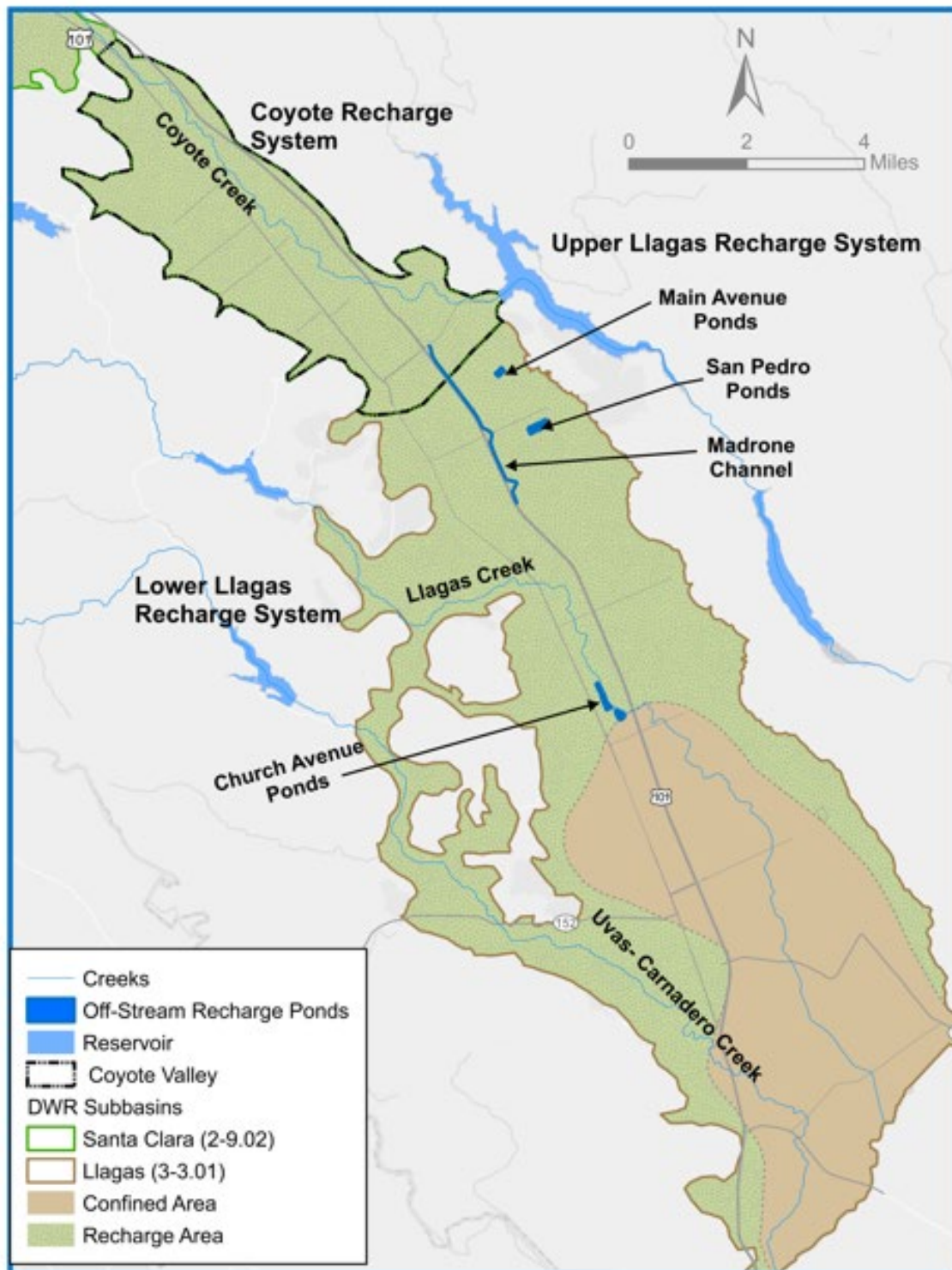
Attachment 3: Potential South County Recharge Projects Map

Attachment 4: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Greg Williams, 408-630-2867

## South County Managed Recharge Facility Location Map



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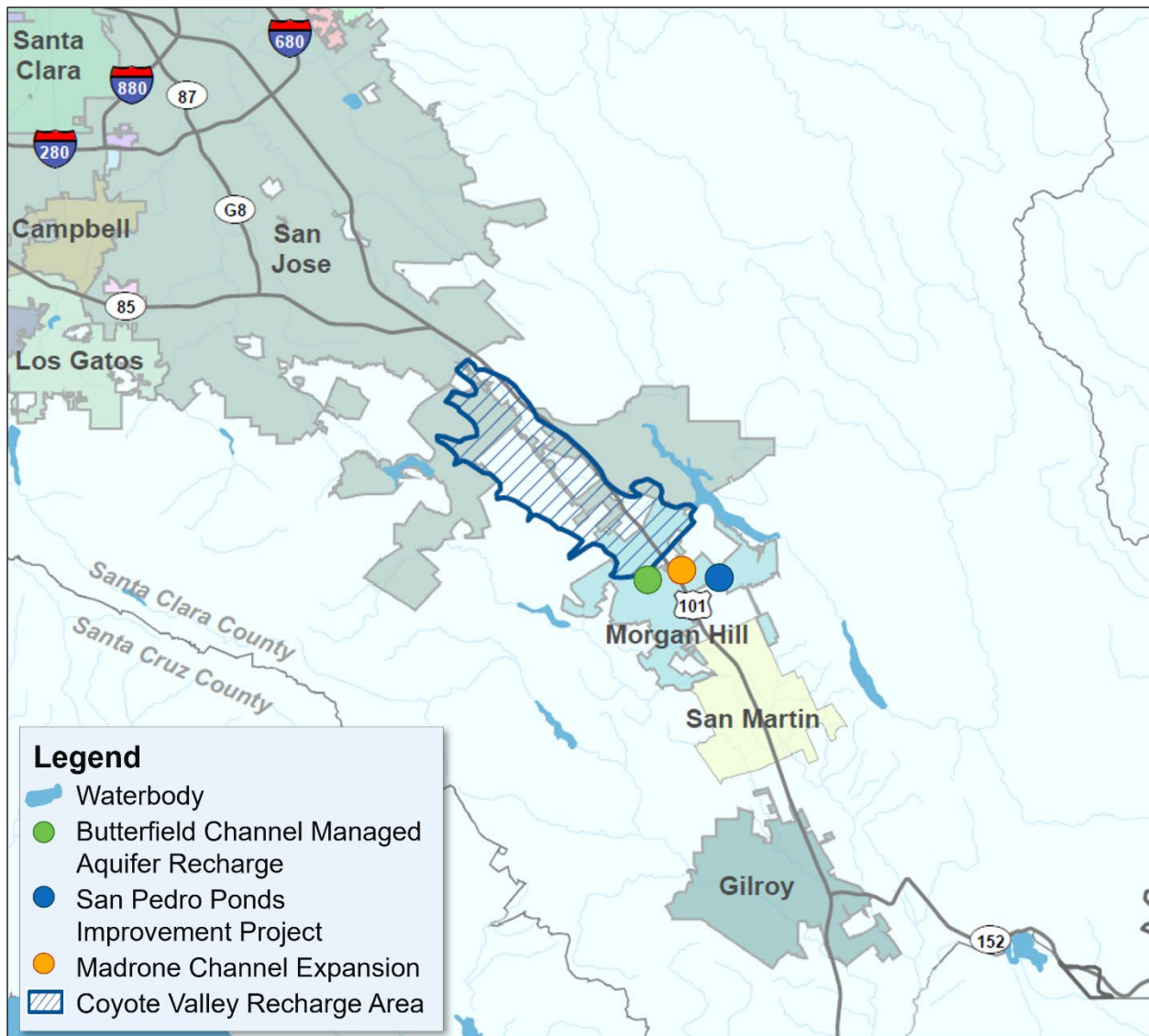
## South County Managed Recharge Facility Capacity

Groundwater Management Area	Recharge System	In-Stream Recharge (Creeks)	Annual Creek Recharge Capacity (AF) <sup>1</sup>	Off-Stream Recharge (Ponds)	Annual Pond Recharge Capacity (AF) <sup>1</sup>
Coyote Valley (Santa Clara Subbasin)	Coyote Creek	Upper Coyote Creek	14,600		
		Creek Total	14,600	Pond Total	0
		Coyote Creek Recharge System Total: 14,600			
Llagas Subbasin	Upper Llagas	Madrone Channel	10,000		
		East Little Llagas	1,100		
				Main Avenue Ponds	2,700
				San Pedro Ponds	4,700
		Creek Total	11,100	Pond Total	7,400
		Upper Llagas Recharge System Total: 18,500			
	Lower Llagas	Uvas Creek	8,100		
		Llagas Creek	5,800		
				Church Ponds	7,300
		Creek Total	13,900	Pond Total	7,300
Lower Llagas Recharge System Total: 21,200					
South County		Total Recharge Capacity in South County: 54,300			

1. The annual recharge capacity shown assumes water is available all year and that ponds are in normal operational condition.

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## Potential South County Recharge Projects Map



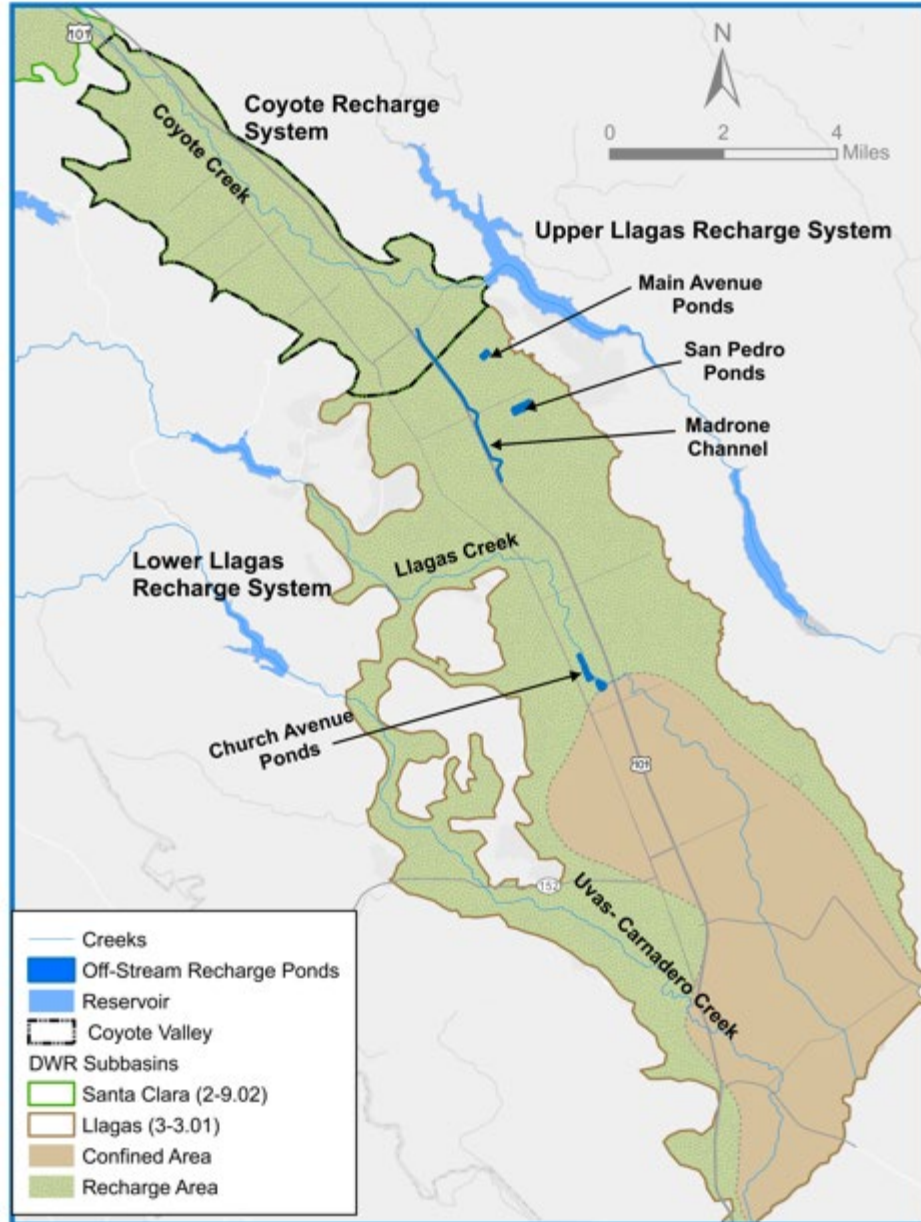
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# South County Recharge

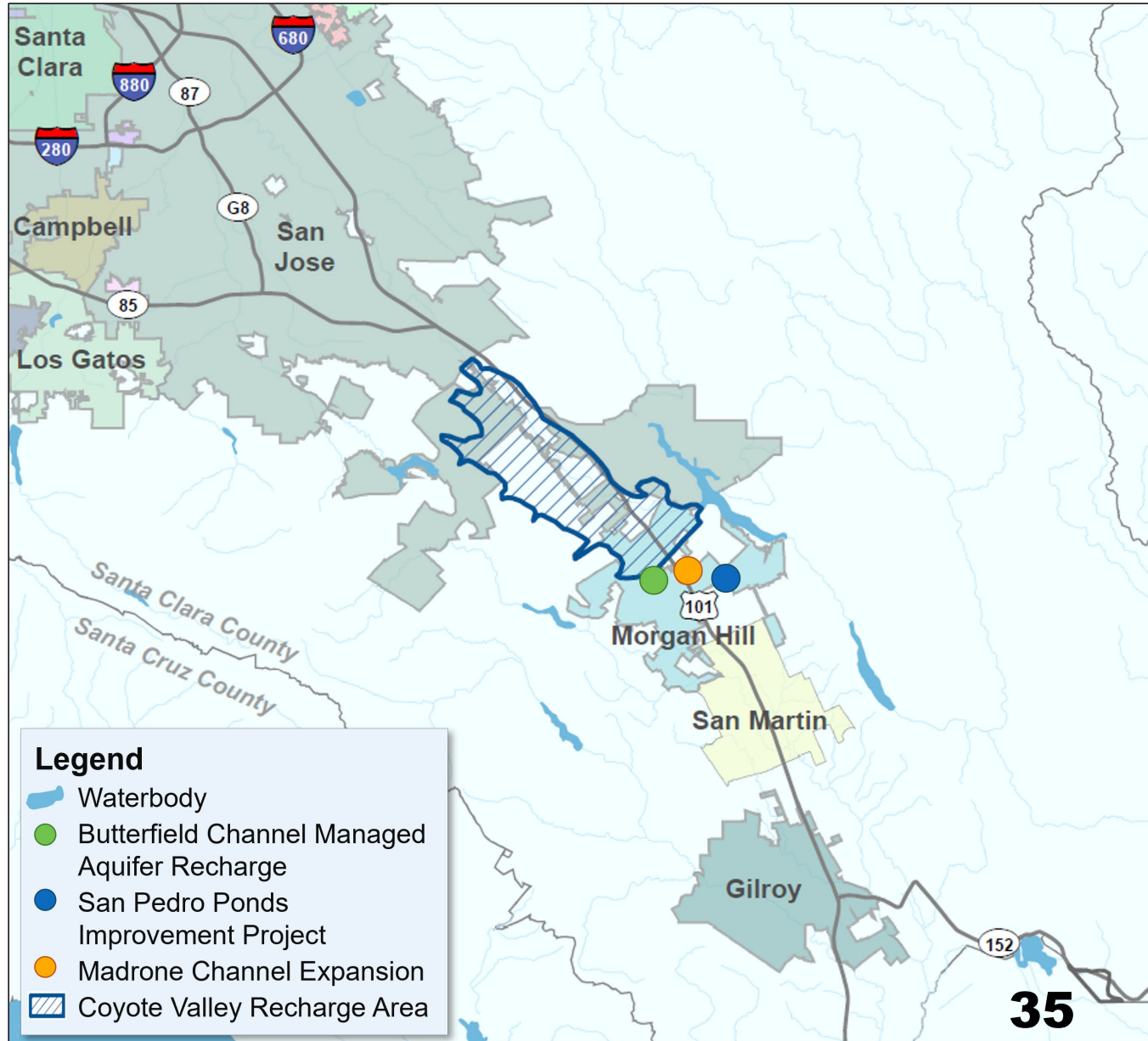
Water Supply and Demand Management Committee  
December 8, 2025

# Current South County Recharge Facilities



- Managed recharge supports:
  - Municipal wells for cities and unincorporated areas
  - Thousands of privately owned domestic, agricultural, and industrial wells
- Three recharge systems
  - Coyote
  - Upper Llagas
  - Lower Llagas
- In-stream recharge from reservoirs
- Off-stream recharge ponds

# Potential South County Recharge Projects



1. **San Pedro Ponds Improvement Project:** implement project(s) to enable existing ponds to be operated at full capacity without interfering with nearby septic systems
2. **Coyote Valley Recharge Pond:** construct new off-stream recharge pond(s)
3. **Madrone Channel Expansion:** increase recharge capacity to the existing facility
4. **Butterfield Channel Managed Aquifer Recharge:** connect the Butterfield Channel to Valley Water's raw water conveyance system

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 25-1006

**Agenda Date:** 12/8/2025

**Item No.:** 4.3.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive and Discuss Information Regarding the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss information regarding the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.

### **SUMMARY:**

Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank (Semitropic Groundwater Bank), Valley Water's only out-of-county groundwater banking program, lies within the Kern County Subbasin (Subbasin), the largest subbasin in the State. The Subbasin has been ranked by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a high-priority basin due to declining water levels, subsidence, and history of critical overdraft. Due to the Subbasin's status as a high-priority basin, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) within the Subbasin are required to submit Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to DWR for approval pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic) operates the Semitropic Groundwater Bank, and the Semitropic Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), along with other GSAs in the Subbasin, submitted GSPs to DWR for approval.

In 2023, DWR determined that the GSPs for the Subbasin were inadequate and referred the Subbasin to the State Water Board. The State Water Board released its Staff Report for the probationary hearing in January 2025. In particular interest to Valley Water, the report expressed concerns that there may be adverse impacts during extended periods of banking operations, and that State Water Board staff needs to evaluate whether water banked utilizing in-lieu recharge, such as Semitropic Groundwater Bank, should be considered native groundwater. Therefore, a probationary designation could have significant impacts on banking operations.

Over the past several months, the GSAs updated the GSPs to address deficiencies identified by the State Water Board. On September 17, 2025, the State Water Board conditionally returned the Subbasin to DWR oversight, pending staff review of Subbasin responses in the final 2025 GSP to address three remaining priority deficiencies related to drinking water wells, drinking water

contaminants, and governance. The State Water Board did not discuss nor raise concerns related to water banking.

Once the Subbasin is returned to DWR oversight, DWR will review the final 2025 Subbasin GSPs, including the final Semitropic GSP. Several items to note regarding the final 2025 Semitropic GSP are as follows:

1. The GSP recognizes the existence of groundwater banking and the addition of banked supplies to the groundwater basin.
2. Semitropic GSA does not include banked supplies in its water budget, which means Semitropic GSA does not account for the water recharged for a banking partner as a Semitropic water supply to meet its landowner demands.
3. Banked water is included along with local native groundwater in setting minimum thresholds to protect against dry domestic wells and land subsidence; in other words, the banked water will assist in meeting minimum thresholds identified in the GSP.
4. Semitropic expects to continue operating the Semitropic Groundwater Bank consistent with its existing banking contracts, and this continued operation would be consistent with its GSP. However, if minimum thresholds are exceeded or not met as the GSP is implemented, there could be potential impacts to Semitropic banking operations, but these are unclear. Therefore, continued monitoring, assessment, and evaluation of Semitropic's GSP implementation are necessary.

Staff will continue to monitor the subbasin and evaluate potential impacts, if any, to banking operations as SGMA is implemented, in addition to other factors that may impact Semitropic operations, such as water quality.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There is no environmental justice impact associated with this item.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

#### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633



# Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank Update

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee  
December 8, 2025

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Attachment 1  
Page 1 of 4

# Semitropic GSA SGMA Status

- In March 2023, DWR referred the subbasin to State Water Board for state intervention
- State Water Board held a Probationary Hearing on February 20, 2025 and continued the hearing to September 17, 2025, citing progress made by the subbasin
- On September 17, after substantial progress in revising the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), State Water Board voted to return the subbasin to DWR oversight, pending staff review of the final 2025 GSPs



**Figure 3-1**

Overview of the Kern  
County Subbasin

*Draft Staff Report  
Kern County Subbasin  
July 2024*

- Kern County Subbasin
- Hydrologic Regions
- Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region

# Semitropic GSP Key Notes

- Banking and banked water are recognized in the GSP
- Water delivered for banking is not considered a Semitropic water supply
- Banked water is included along with local groundwater in setting and meeting minimum thresholds
- Semitropic Bank is expected to continue to operate consistent with the banking contract and its GSP, but potential impacts are uncertain if minimum thresholds are exceeded as SGMA is implemented



**Figure 3-1**

Overview of the Kern County Subbasin

*Draft Staff Report  
Kern County Subbasin  
July 2024*

- Kern County Subbasin
- Hydrologic Regions
- Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region



# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-1007

**Agenda Date:** 12/8/2025

**Item No.:** 4.4.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive and Discuss the 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan and Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss the 2025 WSDMC Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items.

### **SUMMARY:**

Under direction of the Clerk, Work Plans are used by Board Committees to increase Committee efficiency, provide increased public notice of intended Committee discussions, and enable improved follow-up by staff. Work Plans are dynamic documents managed by Committee Chairs and are subject to change.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

The Committee's Work Plan and meeting calendar are not subject to environmental justice impact analysis.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 2025 WSDMC Work Plan

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193.

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**Water Supply & Demand Management Committee**  
**December 8, 2025**

Task	Agenda Item	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Nov/ Dec
<b>FY 25</b>	<b>Drought Preparation</b>											
1.1	Drought Response Plan					X	X					X
<b>FY 23</b>	<b>WSMP Strategy 1: Secure Existing Supplies - 99,000 AF Conservation by 2030</b>											
2.1	Water Conservation Savings Model/Annual Water Conservation Savings			X								
2.2	Water Conservation as a Way of Life recommendations (including water waste restrictions)										X	
2.3	New Programs (Lawn Busters, Pilot programs, landscape design assistance, demonstration garden, + affordability discussion/supporting underserved communities)			X							X	
2.5	SCW Funding (LRP & Demo Garden)			X							X	
2.6	Collaboration with Retailers+outreach, including Renters/Landlords	X									X	
2.7	Water Use Demand, Elasticity, and Rate Affordability Study				X						X	
<b>FY 24</b>	<b>WSMP Strategy 2: Increase Water Conservation (109,000 AF) and Stormwater Capture (1,000 AF) by 2040</b>											
3.1	Investments in no-regrets package, including stormwater resource plan						X					
3.2	Stormwater Capture/ FloodMAR						X					
3.3	Find opportunities to ensure new development has improved water wise features (MWENDO, land use coordination)								X			
3.4	Water Conservation Program Costs								X			
<b>FY 24</b>	<b>WSMP Strategy 3 Optimize the Use of Existing Supplies and Infrastructure (SGMA/groundwater management and storage projects)</b>											
4.1	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) - annual update										X	X
4.2	South County Recharge										X	X
4.3	Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project	X										
4.4	Sites Reservoir Expansion						X		X		X	X
4.5	BF Sisk Dam Raise	X		X			X					
4.6	Groundwater Banking Opportunities				X							
4.7	Semitropic Groundwater bank			X								X
4.8	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project	X			X			X			X	

CANCELED

\*Red item added.

X - Item Moved or Deleted

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