

Public Meeting for the 2026 Groundwater Management Plan**July 30, 2026****5:30 – 6:30 p.m.****Summary of Questions from the Public and Valley Water's Responses**

1. **Question from the public:** For the Llagas Subbasin, why was the total dissolved solids trend near the outcome measure level in recent years?

Valley Water's Response: Overall groundwater quality is good in the Llagas Subbasin. Groundwater quality fluctuates annually and the trend analysis is influenced by the wells sampled each year. Much of our groundwater quality data comes from Valley Water's [Free Domestic Well Testing Program](#) and participation in the program varies annually. Therefore, the total dissolved solid trend is influenced by natural variability and data availability.

2. **Question:** I have interest in the following topics for the updated Groundwater Management Plan:

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) definition of a high-priority subbasin
- Mix of wells with completion reports and depth information
- Effect of wildfire on groundwater quality and contamination
- Definition of a calibrated groundwater flow mode,
- Use of aerial electromagnetic (AEM) survey data
- Tracer study of Llagas Subbasin
- Conjunctive management and recycled water in South County

Response: The [draft 2026 Groundwater Management Plan](#) will be available for [public review](#), and we welcome comments on specific topics. Regarding South County, Valley Water's [Water Supply Master Plan 2050](#) describes four potential projects that are being evaluated to support South County recharge and groundwater supply in the Llagas Subbasin, including the Madrone Channel Expansion Project and a new off-stream recharge facility in Coyote Valley.

3. **Question:** Is there a coordinated, regional effort for housing development plans, especially in the City of Santa Clara and for large developments with more than 1,500 units? I am concerned because I am not seeing anything in the environmental impact statements and there appears to be a lack of coordination for these developments coming online very rapidly.

Response: Valley Water is not a land-use agency but we review environmental impact statements and other plans through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and provide comments to protect groundwater quality and sustainability. Under CEQA, large developments (500 units or more) are required to provide water supply assessments that include information about water supply and demand. We also proactively request water demand estimates for smaller developments to better understand potential demands on groundwater resources. Additionally, Valley Water's [Water Supply Master Plan 2050](#) has water demand projections for the future, which includes our coordination with the land-use agencies and ensures sustainable supplies into 2050.

4. **Question:** How robust are Valley Water's recharge sources, excluding natural recharge?

Response: Valley Water's [Water Supply Master Plan 2050](#) outlines diverse water supply portfolios that are used when imported water allocations are limited during drought. During wet years, Valley Water's conjunctive water management strategy is to do more than average managed recharge with local and imported surface water to build groundwater supplies that we rely on during droughts when there is less available local and imported surface water. For example, following the 2020-2022 drought Valley Water has taken advantage of the above average hydrology in 2023 and 2024 for managed recharge to help build groundwater supplies for the next drought, which is outlined in the [draft 2026 Groundwater Management Plan](#).

5. **Question:** What is going on with PFAS in the groundwater basin?

Response: [PFAS](#) have been detected in groundwater at low concentrations throughout the subbasins. Overall, groundwater quality conditions are

healthy. We continue to implement aggressive programs, both volunteer and required, to monitor PFAS in both subbasins.

6. **Question:** Is a supply and demand analysis available that shows where water comes from and where it is consumed, including volumes?

Response: Valley Water's annual [Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies \(PAWS\) Report](#) include information about water supply and demand, groundwater use, treated water use, and recycled water use by subbasin. The [draft 2026 Groundwater Management Plan](#) also included groundwater supply and demand and information about imported versus local water.

7. **Question:** Does Valley Water's conservation rebate program that focuses on land-safe irrigation include farmers, and if so, does it include tenant farmers?

Response: While Valley Water's [Landscape Rebate Program](#) is not specifically geared toward agricultural rebates, growers installing equipment aligned with the current rebate program categories can apply and receive rebates. A few farms have made sprinkler nozzle and sprinkler body upgrades that complied with the rebate.

As part of Valley Water's most recent work with the [Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab](#), our vendor will be exploring potential ways to expand our rebate to include more farm-specific equipment. For Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program, we allow both site owners and tenants/renters (with site owner approval), to apply and receive the rebate. This would include tenant growers as well.

8. **Question:** What is our agreed upon definition of "sustainable"? Considering most of north county water is imported, why is it "acceptable" to us as a community that we adhere to the decided metrics? From my perspective our water use has never been sustainable the moment we began importing water. How as a society do we start thinking of water as a relative rather than a resource and hold ourselves response as the climate crisis continues?

Response: Valley Water has water rights and contracts to imported surface water supplies that we used to maintain groundwater supplies that avoid the resumption of historical land [subsidence](#) in North County. Without the imported supplies, local surface water supplies for managed recharge and natural recharge would not be enough to balance groundwater pumping, which would lead to groundwater overdraft. Valley Water's use of imported supplies helped stop groundwater overdraft and the resulting historical subsidence by the 1970s, which previously caused the land to sink by more than 13 feet in part of San Jose. As described in Valley Water's [Water Supply Master Plan 2050](#), imported supplies will be part of our water portfolio to meet future demands. However, Valley Water is working to reduce future reliance on imported water and growing our local recycled water and purified water programs, which are drought resilient sources of water.

9. **Question:** Will the direct potable reuse or in-direct potable reuse that is coming impact our groundwater basins?

Response: Valley Water is currently evaluating [direct potable reuse \(DPR\)](#), which will help reduce demand on groundwater in the subbasins and directly benefit groundwater sustainability.