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## **Stakeholder Meeting #2 Elsinore Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

### **Summary**

#### **BACKGROUND**

On September 16, 2014, the Governor signed into law a legislative package comprised of three bills (Assembly Bill 1739, Senate Bill 1168, and Senate Bill 1319). These laws are collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA (pronounced sigma) defined sustainable groundwater management as the “management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained without causing undesirable results.” SGMA requires the formation of a locally controlled Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) which is responsible for developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet the sustainability goals of its groundwater basin and ensure it is used within its sustainable yield, without causing undesirable results while considering all groundwater uses and users in the basin.

Under SGMA, local public agencies with water supply, water management, or land-use responsibilities are eligible to form GSAs. Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) formed a GSA and is developing a GSP for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin. In order to prepare a comprehensive GSP, the Elsinore Valley GSA must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. In order to share information and get input from stakeholders, the Elsinore Valley GSA planned a series of stakeholder meetings.

The first stakeholder meeting conducted on November 5, 2019, focused on communicating the basics of SGMA, GSP development, and stakeholder engagement opportunities. The second stakeholder meeting conducted on September 15, 2020 focused on providing updates on plan developments and presenting and collecting feedback on the Draft Sustainability Goal and draft sustainable management criteria. EVMWD conducted the meeting with support from Carollo Engineers, Inc, Todd Groundwater, and Kearns & West. A summary of the September 2020 meeting begins on the next page.

#### **SUMMARY**

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### **Meeting Objectives**

The meeting had three objectives. The first objective was to give an update on the development of GSP elements so far including the plan area and basin setting, hydrogeologic conceptual model, and groundwater conditions. The second objective was to present and collect stakeholder feedback on the draft sustainability goals and management criteria. The third objective was to provide stakeholders opportunities to ask questions and receive answers.

### **Outreach and Attendance**

In advance of the meeting, EVMWD reviewed and updated its interested stakeholders list. Email invitations were sent out one month prior to the stakeholder meeting and email reminders were sent a week before. Eighteen people attended the meeting, including nine stakeholders.

### **Agenda**

The meeting agenda included the following items: Welcome and Introduction, Recap and Review, Plan Development Update, Sustainability Criteria, and Q&A/Discussion. See full agenda in Appendix A.

### **Introduction**

Parag Kalaria, Water Resources Manager with EVMWD welcomed all and thanked them for attending the virtual meeting to provide their input. Jack Hughes, facilitator from Kearns & West, reviewed the meeting agenda and the ways in which participants could give input at the virtual meeting. Participants provided input during Q&A/Discussion portions of the presentation, live polling, and a discussion of draft sustainability criteria.

### **Presentation**

#### ***Recap and Review***

Inge Wiersema, Chief of Water Resources at Carollo Engineers, provided a background on the purpose of groundwater management and SGMA. SGMA is California State Legislation, finalized in 2014, that provides comprehensive requirements and guidance for forming a GSA and preparing a GSP. The purpose of a GSP is to provide a detailed road map for how a groundwater basin will reach long term sustainability. The Elsinore Valley Subbasin is designated as a medium priority basin and has a deadline to complete a GSP by January 2022. For more information on SGMA and GSPs, please click on this [link](#) to visit the project website.

#### ***Elsinore Subbasin GSP Development Update***

Wiersema presented an update on GSP development since the November 2019 stakeholder meeting. The team has prepared a draft of Chapter 2 of the GSP, which can be viewed on the website. This chapter outlines the Plan Area for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin. The project team has identified three management zones in the Plan Area: the Elsinore Area, Lee Lake Area, and Warm Springs Area. SGMA also requires that jurisdictional areas, state and federal lands, land uses, location of groundwater wells, monitoring locations, and contamination sites within the Elsinore GSP area are mapped. To view these maps for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin, see slides 16 through 24 in Appendix B.

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### *Q&A/Discussion*

Hughes opened the floor for questions and discussion. Discussion points are summarized below. The arrows mark the project team's responses.

- Has there been any evidence of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in any of the wells in your area and have they generally been below levels?
  - Yes, PFAS have been detected in three or four wells. One is in the Back Basin in the southern part of the aquifer. Those levels of PFAS in those wells are close to the notification levels.

### **Presentation**

#### *Hydrogeological Concept Model*

Chad Taylor, Senior Hydrogeologist at Todd Groundwater, gave a presentation on the hydrogeologic conceptual model, which describes the physical framework of the basin and where groundwater exists, moves, and what governs that movement. The model also gives descriptions of boundaries of the basin, its geology and hydrology, aquifers and their properties, and groundwater use. Another part of the hydrogeologic conceptual model consists of maps and graphics of topography, surface water features, geology, soils, and cross sections.

Taylor reviewed some of those maps and graphics. The Elsinore Valley Subbasin has complexities, including variable and uncertain thickness, extensive faulting, and limited connections between subareas. These factors have helped define three management areas that will be used in the GSP. Taylor displayed basin-wide cross sections prepared for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin. Cross sections have been extended to the deepest point where well data is available and depths are known. To view these maps, graphics and cross sections, see slides 27 through 33 in Appendix B.

#### *Groundwater Conditions*

Taylor presented on the current and historic groundwater conditions for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin, which will be included in Chapter 3 of the GSP. Some of the elements in that chapter will include groundwater flow, water levels, water quality, and surface water/groundwater connections. In the mid-1990s, the groundwater system flow in the basin was divided between the Elsinore area and Lee Lake area, whereas data from 2017 shows a more dynamic and widely used aquifer. Pumping has increased over time to meet local water demand, causing water to be drawn towards active wells. Taylor also reviewed hydrographs to evaluate changes in water levels over time. Some areas have highly dynamic water levels and others have static water levels.

More information on groundwater quality will be coming in the groundwater condition section, but the project team has noted that nitrate and total dissolved solids historical concentrations are influenced by local geology and human activities. The project team also analyzed potential surface water/groundwater connections to understand which portions of major streams were gaining groundwater or losing surface water (flowing into aquifer). This gaining and losing of groundwater can have impacts on ecosystems. Taylor noted that draft chapters containing the hydrogeologic conceptual model and the current and historic groundwater conditions would soon be posted to the website for review. See slides 34 for 40 in Appendix B for more information.

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### *Monitoring Wells*

Taylor described two potential wells that would help fill water quality and water level data gaps in the monitoring network. There are two potential areas being explored in the Warm Springs Area and Lee Lake Area that will provide additional data points. Putting a monitoring well in the Temescal Wash in the Warm Springs area would also allow for monitoring of the location of surface water/groundwater connection. The monitoring wells will be drilled after permitting and Assembly Bill 52 consultation is complete. See slides 41 and 42 in Appendix B for more information.

### *Q&A/Discussion*

- Is there arsenic in the groundwater coming out of EVMWD wells?
  - There is some historically high arsenic within the subbasin, we have looked at concentrations based on geography and over time, and they vary over depth and pumping levels. In the groundwater conditions section, we will reflect its presence, and we will be looking into what that means for sustainability as we continue to prepare the GSP.

### *Sustainability Criteria*

Matt Huang, Principal Planning Engineer at Carollo Engineers, presented the drafts of the GSP Goal and sustainability criteria for the Elsinore Valley Subbasin. The Draft GSP goal is the following: Manage the Elsinore Subbasin to provide sustainably and adequately for all beneficial uses within the subbasin over wet and dry climatic cycles. This goal implies active management and the desire to ensure the basin is a groundwater supply source for years to come and will provide for all beneficial uses. It also recognizes that there will be climatic cycles.

The three sustainability criteria used in the GSP process are undesirable results, minimum threshold, and measurable objectives. Minimum thresholds are quantifiable criteria used to identify whether a certain indicator is sufficient. Undesirable results are conditions that are below the minimum thresholds. Measurable objectives are defined as conditions that perform above the minimum thresholds, so if groundwater levels are above the minimum threshold, the objectives have been met.

California Department of Water Resources have defined six sustainability indicators that need to be examined in the GSP (groundwater levels, groundwater storage, water quality, land subsidence, interconnected surface water, and sea water intrusion). Groundwater levels refer to the levels of water in aquifers below ground. The second, groundwater storage, is concerned with the possibility of water being held long term under the ground. In terms of water quality, the concern is that management actions do not do anything to make water quality worse. Land subsidence is when the elevation of the ground drops, which could damage infrastructure. Interconnected surface water is especially important for riparian vegetation in the region. Sea water intrusion is not applicable in the Elsinore Valley Subbasin. Sustainability criteria must be defined for each indicator.

Participants were then invited to share which indicator was of most concern to them. The majority indicated that lowering groundwater levels were a concern. The second most frequent response was reduction of storage, followed by degraded water quality.



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### **Discussion on Draft GSP Goal and Minimum Thresholds for Indicators**

Huang reviewed the Draft GSP Goal and draft minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator and invited participants to ask questions and provide feedback. The Draft GSP Goal and draft minimum thresholds are in the grey boxes and meting participant questions and comments are summarized below.

#### *Draft GSP Goal:*

Manage the Elsinore Subbasin to provide sustainably and adequately for all beneficial uses within the subbasin over wet and dry climatic cycles.

- There were two comments expressing support for the Draft GSP Goal.

#### *Groundwater Levels Minimum Threshold:*

The Minimum Threshold (MT) relative to chronic lowering of groundwater levels is defined as a well-specific water level at designated Key Wells.

The well-specific water levels are historical low elevations in wells on the periphery of the Elsinore Management Area (MA) and throughout the Lee Lake and Warm Springs MAs.

In the central portion of the Elsinore MA between the faults the well-specific water levels are groundwater levels projected from critical well construction related depths in existing nearby wells.

MTs will be exceeded for all MAs when 2 consecutive exceedances occur in each of 2 consecutive years, in 2/3 or more of the Key Wells in each MA.

- What is the basis for first proposal of exceedance of the minimum threshold based on?
  - They are defined by historical low elevations since in the past these elevations have not caused significant concern with groundwater production.
- What is the timespan for historical?
  - We have data for 30 years in the basin. In general, the historical low elevations occurred in the last drought. We are looking at data for all the key wells which have long records and are geographically distributed so that we have good coverage across the basin. In each key well we are looking at all records of water levels so we have a sense of what those levels are and can see if there are any historical lows associated with those levels.
- How do you define two consecutive exceedances?
  - Two consecutive years and two years is a good starting point given the frequency of monitoring in this basin. We want to make sure we are giving operational flexibility to pumpers and that they are not being restricted unnecessarily while also protecting beneficial uses. This is a draft minimum threshold and could be reviewed. The most recent drought conditions we have considered have lasted more than two years, so we could consider being more conservative.
- How many key wells are there?

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- There will be as many as there are necessary in each management area. In the Warm Springs Area there may be only two, but in the others, there will be at least three.
- Do you have any advice on developing undeveloped sections and drilling for groundwater?
  - You may be outside the Elsinore Valley Groundwater Basin. If you can send an email with your exact location, we can determine what basin you are in.

**Groundwater Storage Minimum Threshold:**

Use groundwater levels as a proxy for groundwater storage.

- There were two comments supporting this definition.

**Water Quality Minimum Threshold:**

The Minimum Thresholds (MT) for degradation of water quality address nitrate and total dissolved solids (TDS) for each Management Area as defined in the Basin Plan Amendment associated with the Maximum Benefit Proposal for the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zonjeand Upper Temescal Valley Salt Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Ambient groundwater conditions will be calculated every three years using the calculation performed by the SAWPA Basin Monitoring Task Force.

**Nitrate:** The MT is the maximum benefit objective of 5 mg/L as N per Basin Plan in each of three MAs.

**Total Dissolved Solids:** The MT for TDS is the maximum benefit objective in each of three MAs (530 mg/L in the Elsinore Area and 820 mg/L in the Warm Springs and Lee Lake Areas).

- This is consistent with the ongoing regulatory framework for water quality.
- Is the plan to increase groundwater pumping to 40% of the District's water supply?
  - We have different subbasins and aquifers within the EVMWD service area. In our 2005 Groundwater Management Plan, EVMWD identified the amount it could pump sustainably every year so that all that groundwater would be replenished. EVMWD operates in accordance with that sustainable yield. In our Urban Water Management Plan and Integrated Regional Water Management, EVMWD talked about increasing capacity by investing in our local water supply. So, EVMWD is not looking to pump additional water from a basin if we are already maximizing our sustainable yield, but rather, we hope to identify additional opportunities to increase our groundwater supply portfolio in the basins we have not tapped into yet.
- I support the minimum threshold to the maximum benefit objectives as proposed for approval by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Land Subsidence Minimum Threshold:**

Change in ground surface elevation of more than 1 foot total (using maximum displacement in service area) as measured by InSAR satellite measurements and compared to the earliest InSAR measurement (May 2015).

- Is there a time component you are monitoring for this change?

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- Hopefully, there is no change in surface elevations during any time frame.
- Is the 1 ft change over the 50-year planning horizon?
  - Yes, that is the plan at this point.

***Interconnected Surface Water Minimum Threshold:***

Groundwater levels within approximate root zone (appr. 10-40 feet) in areas with interconnected surface water and Groundwater dependent ecosystems.

There were no questions or comments from participants.

**Next Steps and Closing**

Parag Kalaria thanked attendees for their participation and reviewed how interested stakeholders could get information and give comments in between stakeholder meetings. EVMWD will post updates and information on the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Program](#) page of its website. The main contact for questions is Jesus Gastelum, Senior Water Resources Planner at EVMWD. Stakeholders can also email questions or comments to [GSP@evmwd.net](mailto:GSP@evmwd.net). The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 2021 and will focus on the Draft GSP.

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## Appendix A – Agenda

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## ELSINORE VALLEY SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

<b>Date:</b>	September 15, 2020	<b>Time:</b>	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Virtual Meeting 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530	<b>Project No.:</b>	11585A.00
<b>Subject:</b>	Stakeholder Meeting #2	<b>DWR Grant:</b>	460012666

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### Objectives

1. Give an update on the development of GSP elements so far including the plan area and basin setting, hydrogeologic conceptual model, groundwater conditions, and water budget.
2. Present and collect feedback on the draft sustainability goals and management criteria.
3. Provide stakeholders opportunities to ask questions and receive answers.

### Topics

- |                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Welcome and Introduction                                 | 4:00 p.m. |
| a. Opening Remarks                                          |           |
| b. Zoom Orientation                                         |           |
| c. Introductions                                            |           |
| d. Agenda Review                                            |           |
| 2. Recap and Review                                         | 4:15 p.m. |
| a. Overview of Groundwater Management                       |           |
| b. Purpose of SGMA and GSP                                  |           |
| 3. Plan Development Update                                  | 4:20 p.m. |
| a. Plan Area and Basin Setting                              |           |
| b. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model                           |           |
| c. Groundwater Conditions                                   |           |
| d. Monitoring Wells                                         |           |
| e. Look Ahead                                               |           |
| 4. Q&A/Discussion                                           | 4:35 p.m. |
| 5. Sustainability Criteria                                  | 5:45 p.m. |
| a. Draft GSP Goal                                           |           |
| b. Sustainability Criteria Per Indicator                    |           |
| 6. Polling Exercise                                         | 5:05 p.m. |
| 7. Discussion on Draft GSP Goal and Sustainability Criteria | 5:10 p.m. |



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- |                                              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 8. Wrap Up and Next Steps                    | 5:55 p.m. |
| a. Next Steps                                |           |
| b. Summary of Upcoming Engagement Activities |           |
| c. Closing Remarks                           |           |
| 9. Adjourn                                   | 6:00 p.m. |

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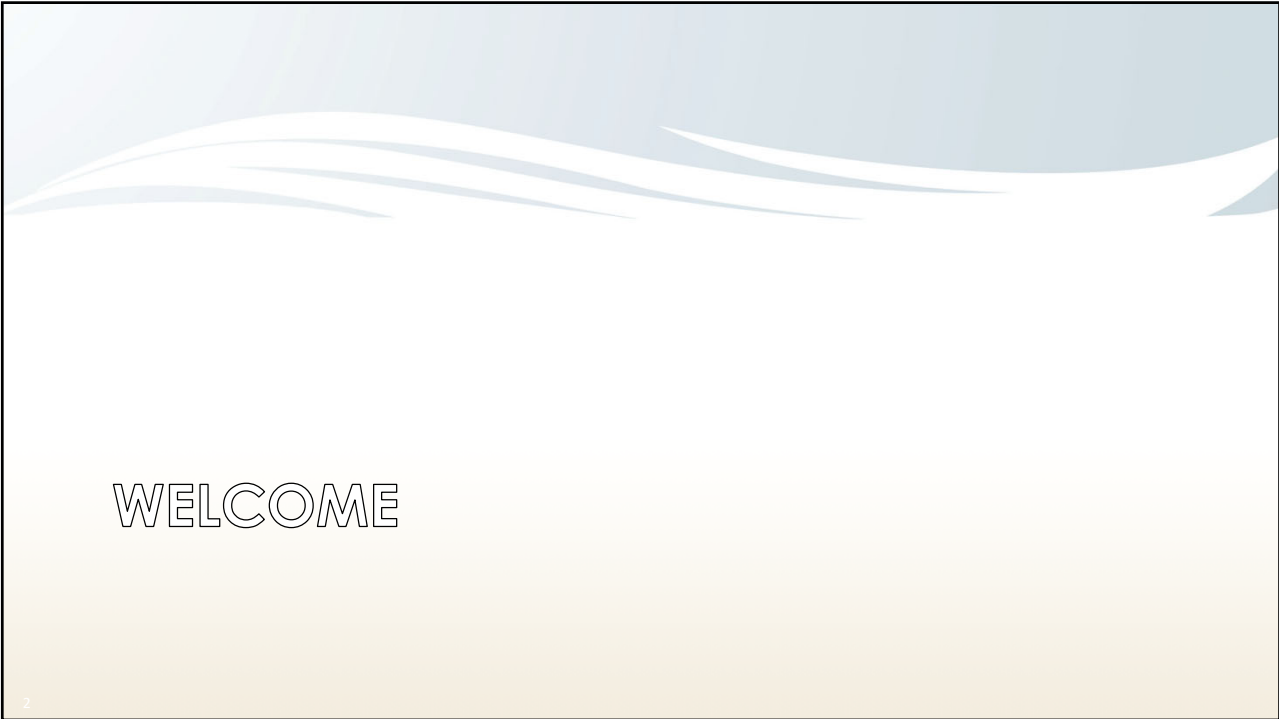
**Legal Counsel**

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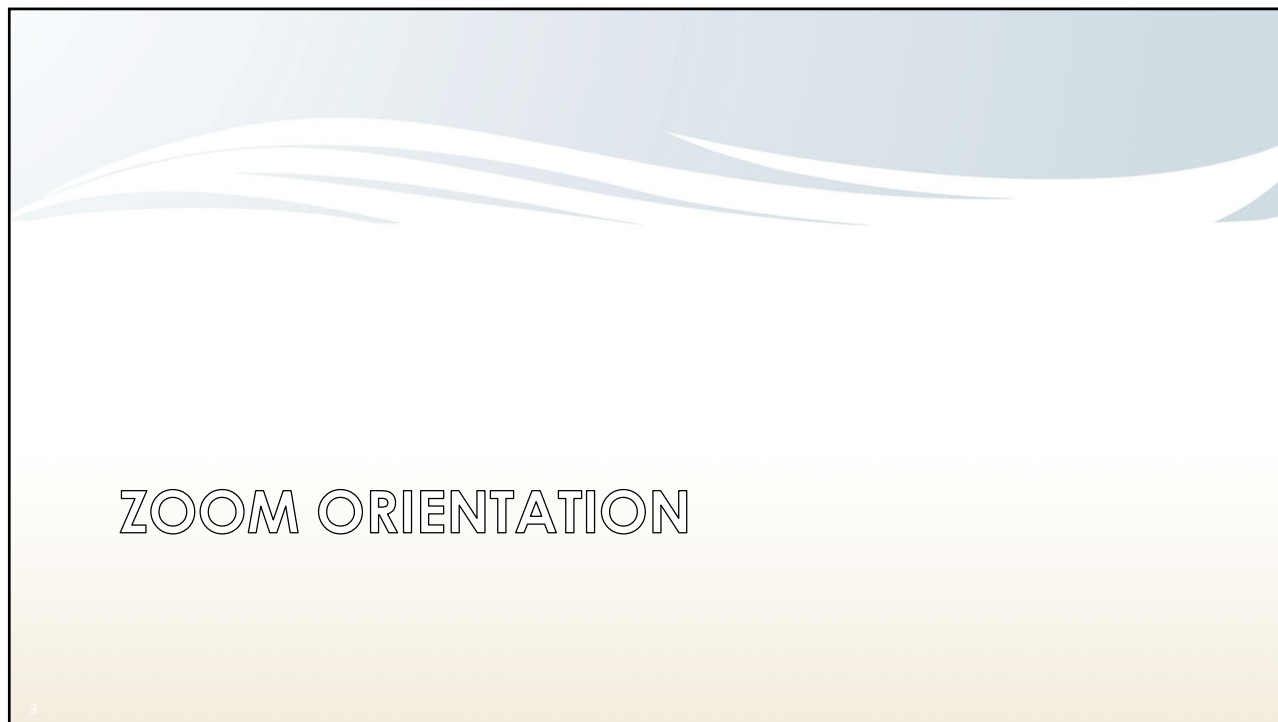
## Appendix B – Meeting Presentation



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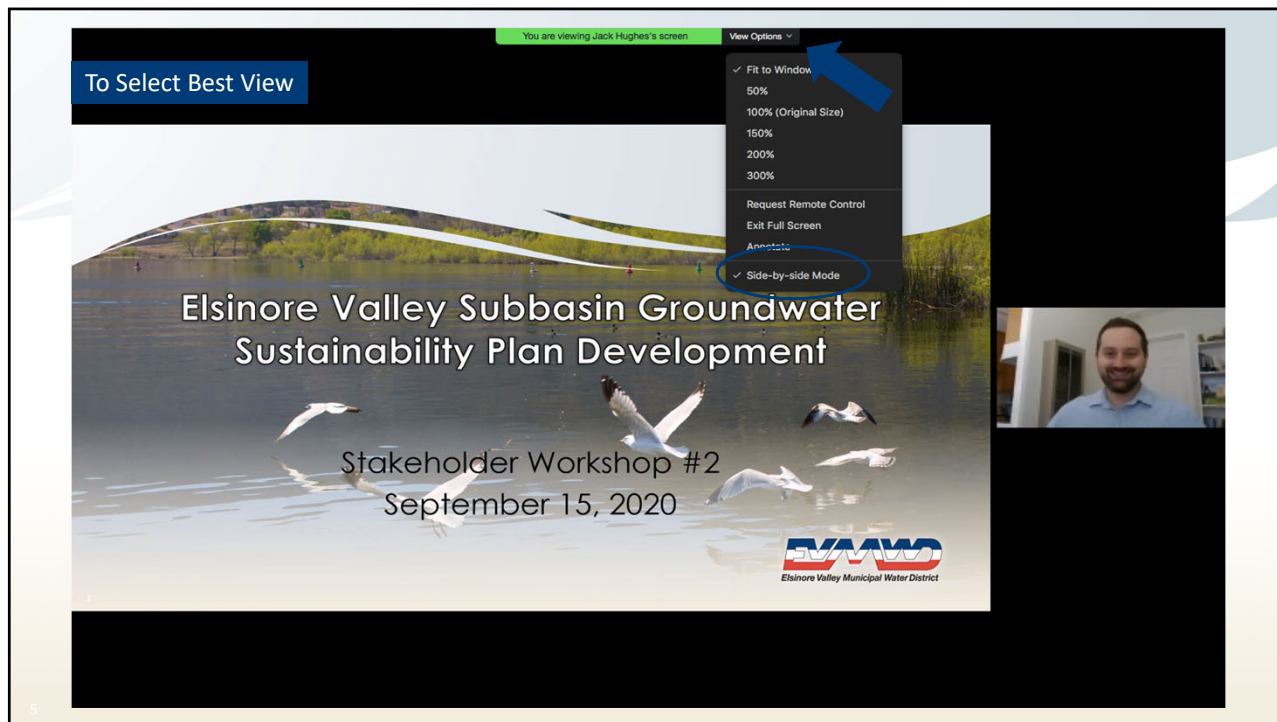
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6



Zoom Meeting You are viewing Jack Hughes's screen View Options

How to Raise Your Hand – Step 2

Elsinore Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

Stakeholder Workshop #2  
September 15, 2020

AS Alyson Scurlock (Me)  
JH Jack Hughes (Host)

Jack Hughes  
Alyson Scurlock

Mute Start Video Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Leave Invite Mute Me Raise Hand

7

INTRODUCTIONS

8

8

# Agenda Review

Introduction	Recap and Review	Plan Development Update	Sustainability Criteria	Wrap Up & Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Remarks</li><li>• Zoom Orientation</li><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Agenda Review</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of Groundwater Management</li><li>• Purpose of SGMA and GSP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan Area/Basin Setting</li><li>• Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model</li><li>• Groundwater Conditions</li><li>• Monitoring Wells</li><li>• Q&amp;A/Discussion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft GSP Goal</li><li>• Sustainability Criteria Per Indicators</li><li>• Polling Exercise</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next Steps in GSP</li><li>• Public Meeting #3</li><li>• Closing Remarks</li></ul>

9

9

# Tips for a Productive Discussion

- Allow one person to speak at a time
- Keep your input concise so others have time to participate
- Help make sure everyone gets equal time to provide input
- Actively listen to others and seek to understand their perspectives
- Offer ideas to address questions and concerns raised by others

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## Your Input Matters

- EVMWD and the planning team will consider your comments as they prepare the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Your input will be recorded, organized thematically, and presented in a workshop summary on the project website

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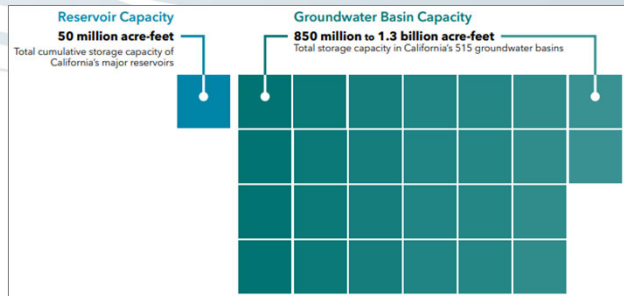
RECAP AND REVIEW

12

12

# Purpose of Groundwater Management

- Groundwater is:
  - A significant water supply resource in California
  - A local water supply
  - Relatively inexpensive compared to other sources
- Groundwater management is needed to avoid depletion of aquifers, which can lead to:
  - Wells drying up/reduced water supply capacity
  - Adverse impacts on water quality and ecosystems
  - Subsidence

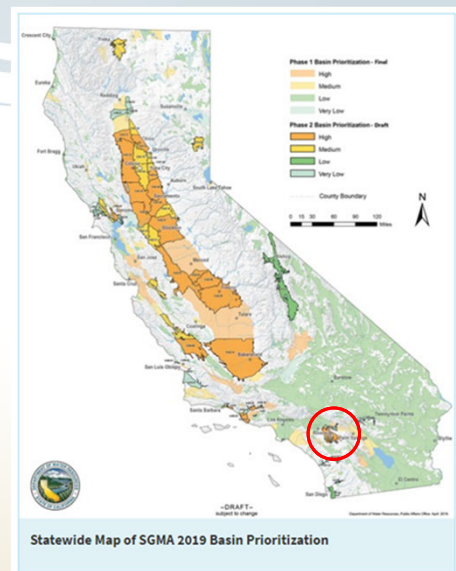


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# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- SMGA is a landmark Legislation
  - Finalized in 2014
  - Based on local control
  - State assistance and intervention, if necessary
- Comprehensive requirements for:
  - Forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
  - Preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
  - Compliance deadlines



14

14

## Purpose of SGMA and GSP

- Purpose of SGMA
  - Empower local agencies to manage groundwater resources
  - Authorize the State Water Board intervention, when needed
  - Protect California's groundwater supplies for long-term sustainable use
  - Provide a buffer against drought and climate change
- Purpose of GSP
  - Provide a detailed road map for how a groundwater basin will reach long term sustainability

15

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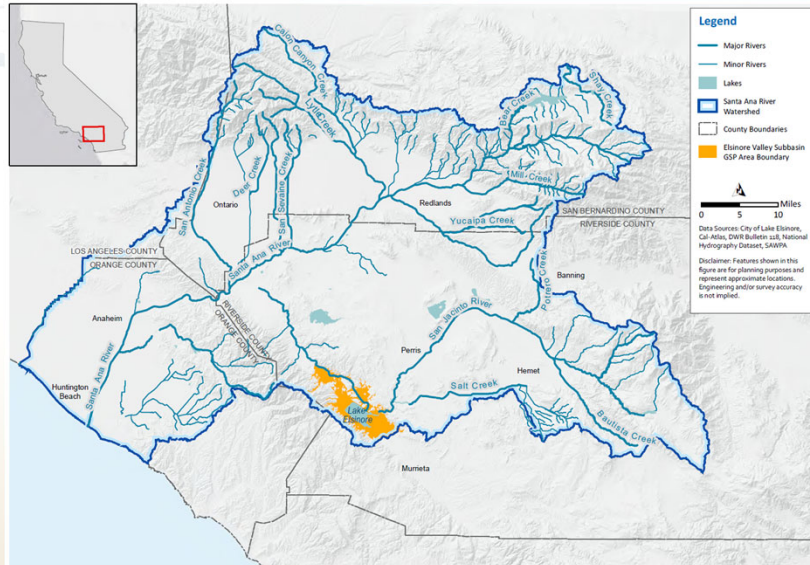
## ELSINORE SUBBASIN GSP DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

16

16



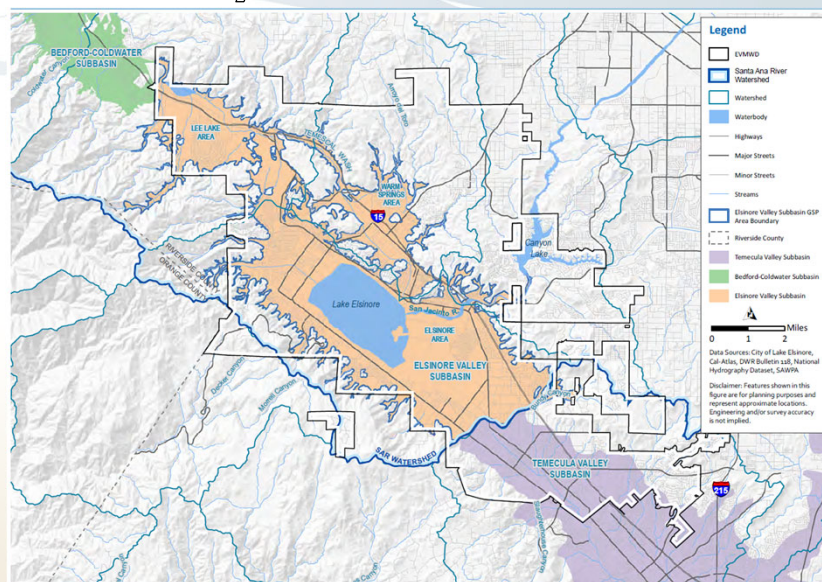
# Elsinore Valley Subbasin GSP Area Location



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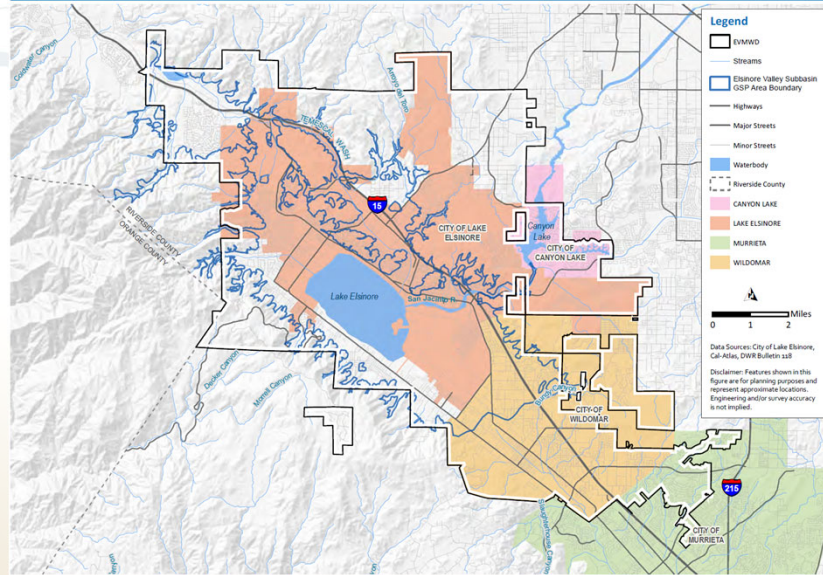
# Elsinore Valley Subbasin GSP Area



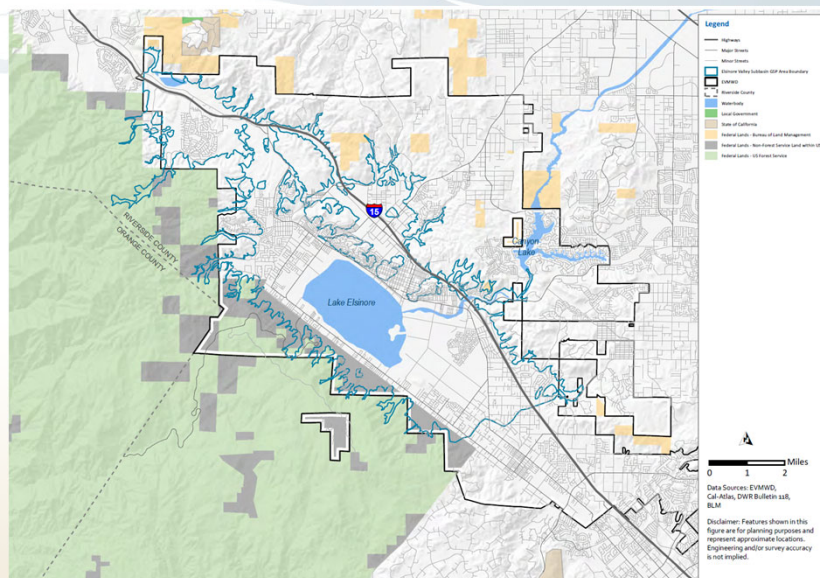
18

18

# Jurisdictional Areas

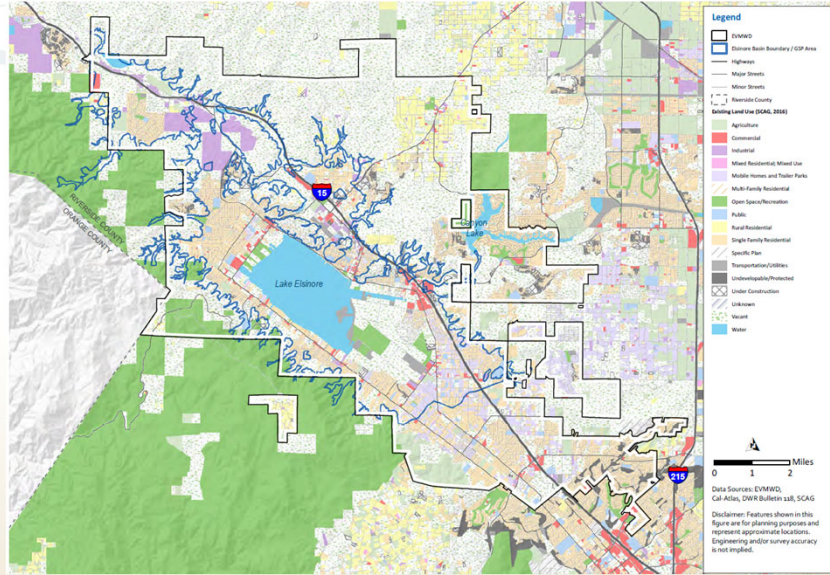


# State and Federal Lands in the GSP Area





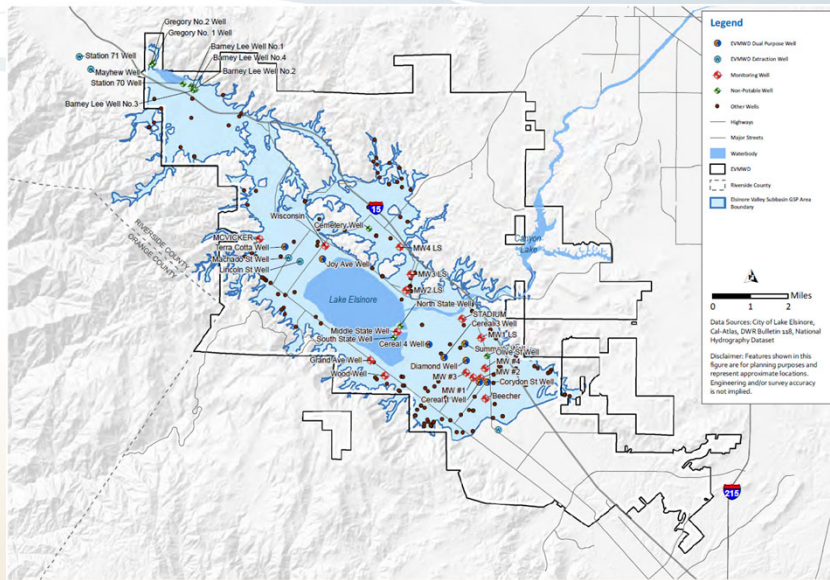
# Land Use in the GSP Area



21

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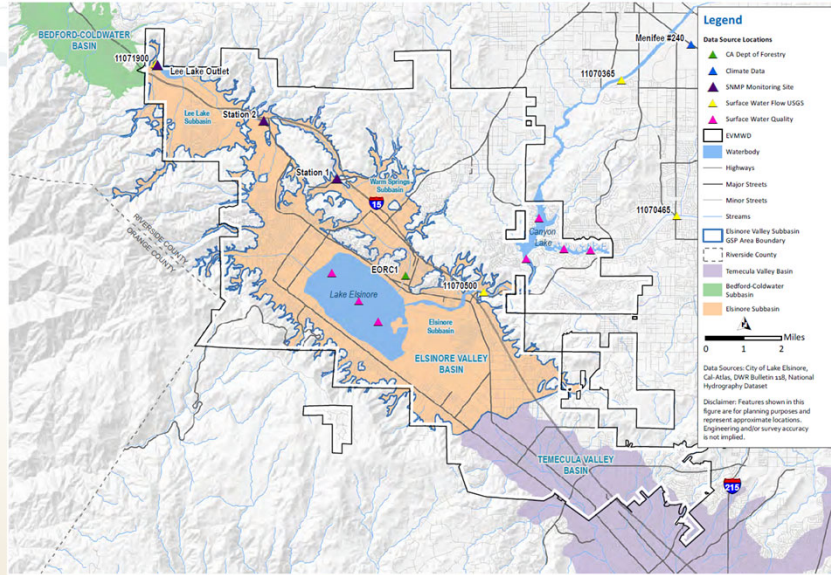
# Groundwater Wells in the GSP Area



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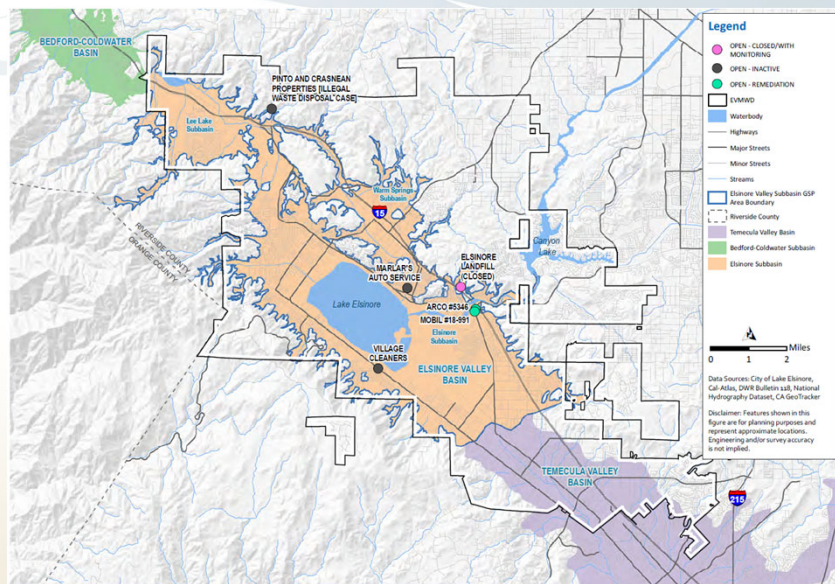
# Monitoring Locations in the GSP Area



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# Groundwater Contamination Sites



24

24

# Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM)

What is the physical framework of the Basin?

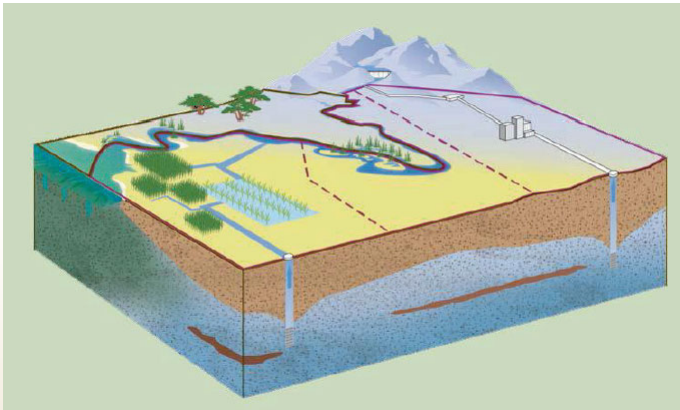
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# Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

## Conceptual Model

*How does the groundwater/surface water system work?*



26

## Descriptions

- Boundaries
- Geology/hydrogeology
- Aquifers and aquitards
- Aquifer properties
- Groundwater pumping and use

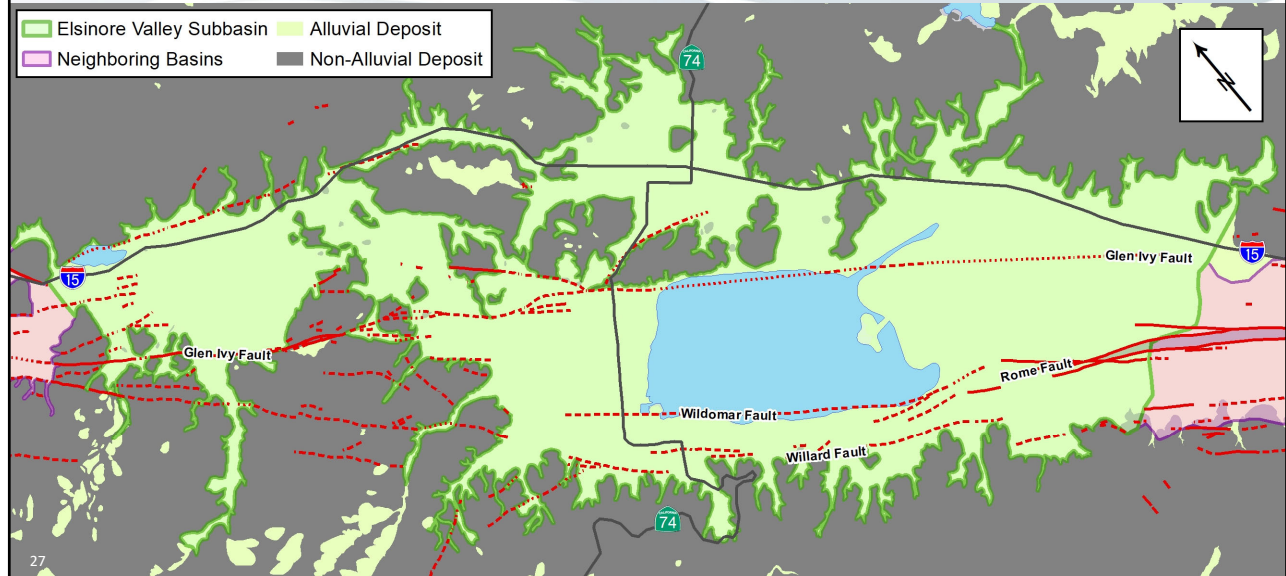
## Maps and Graphics

- Topography
- Surface water features
- Geology
- Soils
- Cross-sections

26



# General Geology of Elsinore Subbasin



27

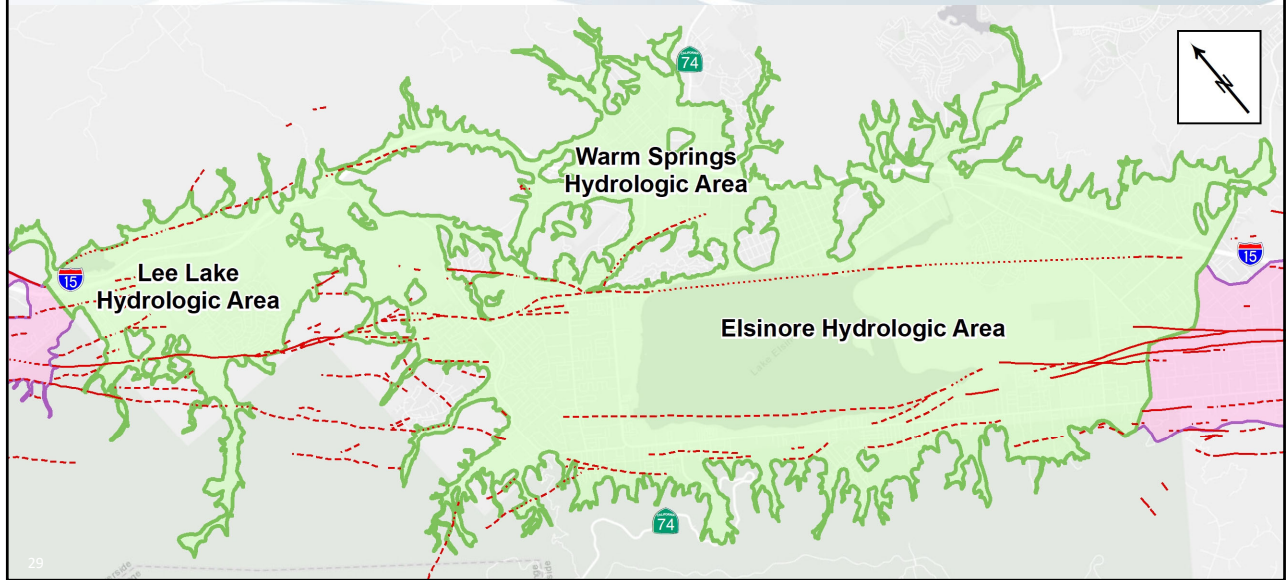
# Complexities of the Elsinore Subbasin

- Variable and uncertain thickness
- Extensive faulting
- Limited connections between subareas

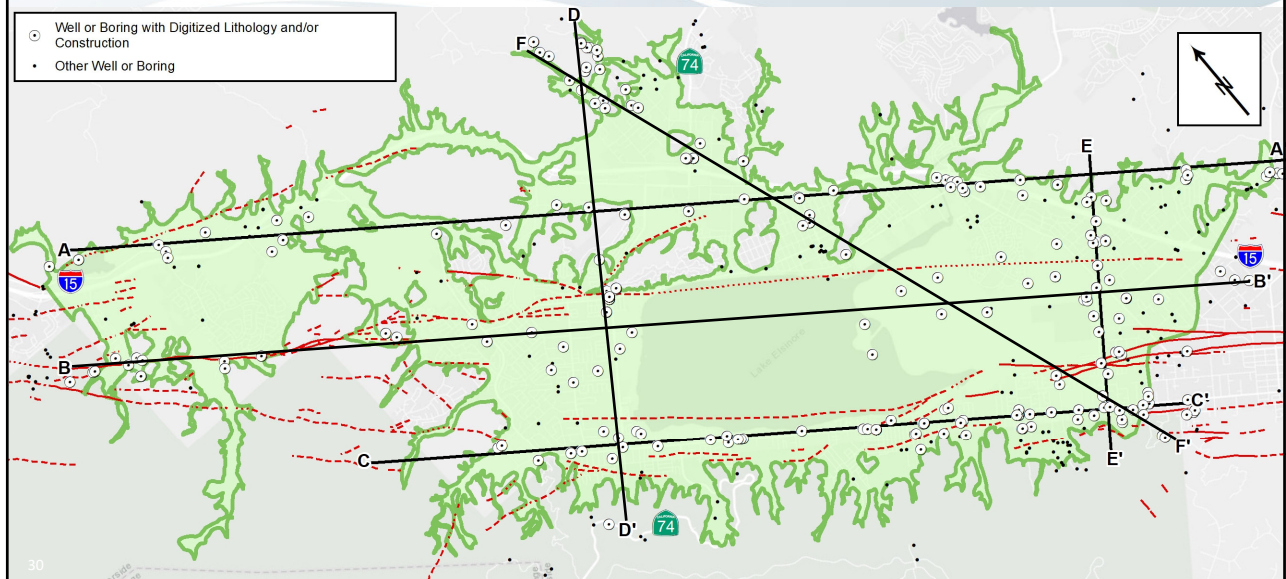
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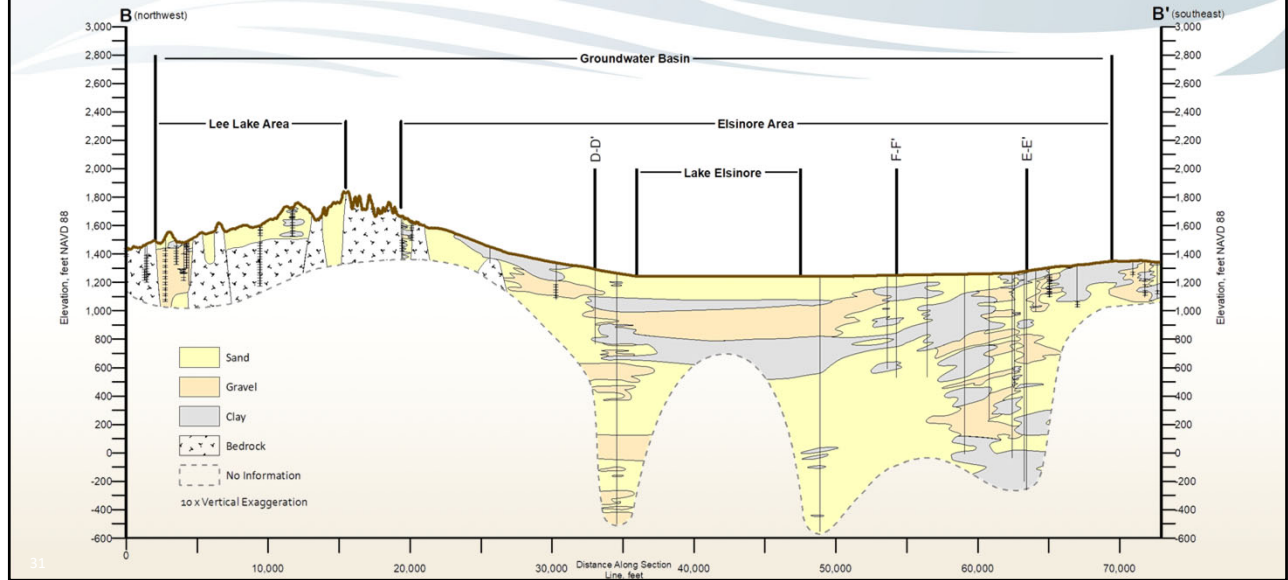
# Complexities of the Elsinore Subbasin



# Elsinore Cross Sections

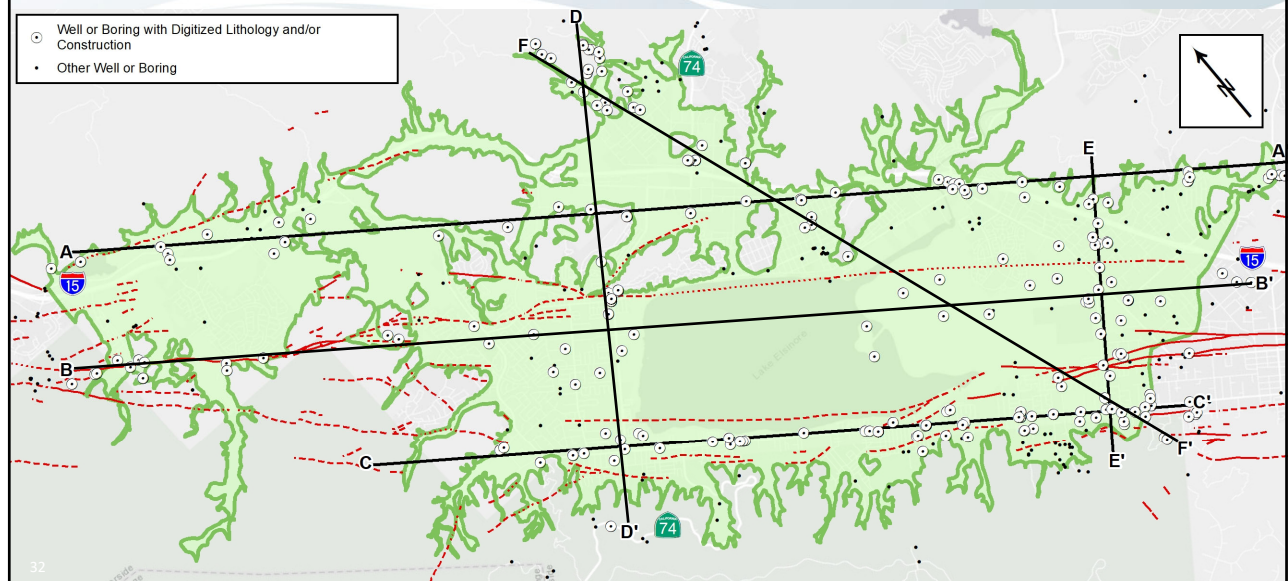


# A highly variable subbasin



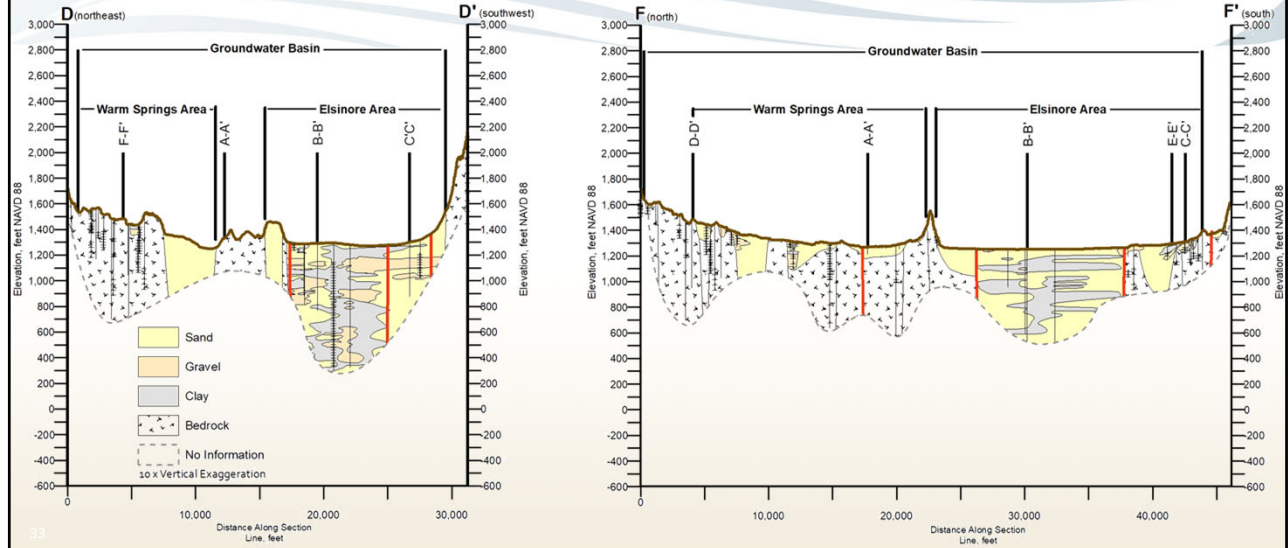
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# Elsinore Cross Sections



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# Aquifer depth uncertain



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# Groundwater Conditions

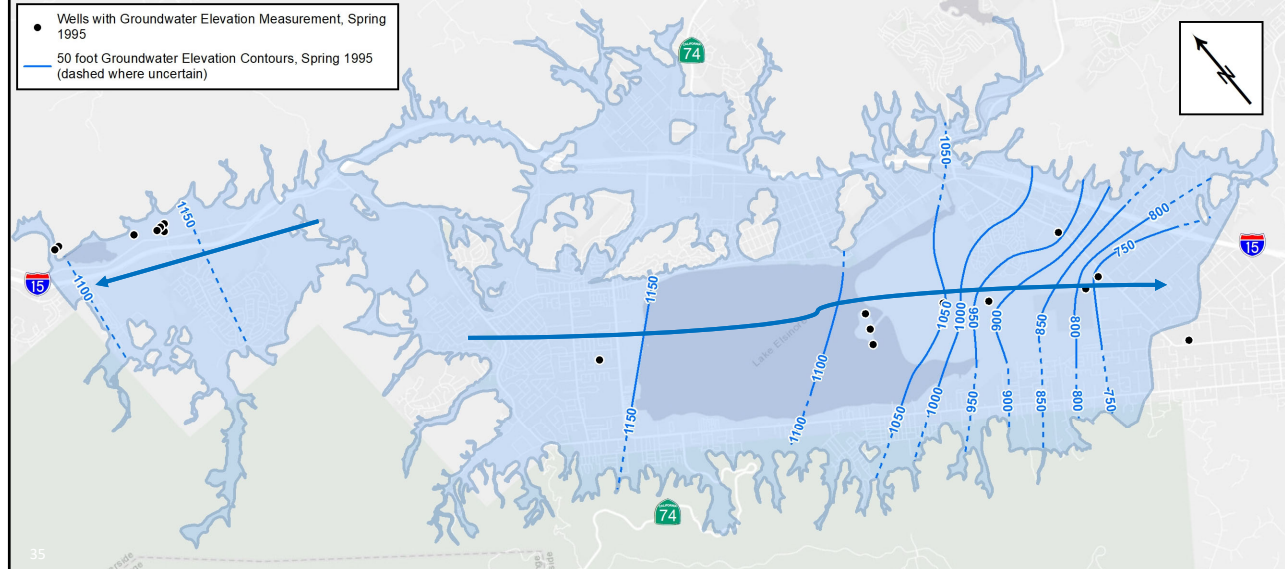
What is the state of the basin?

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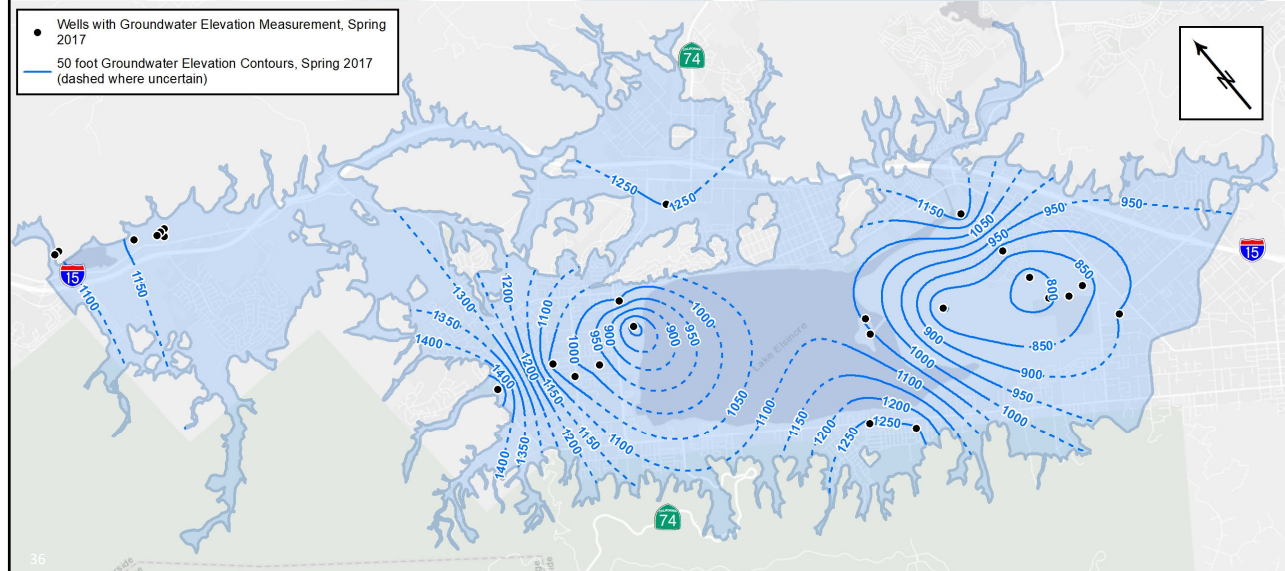


# Historical groundwater flow, Fall 1995



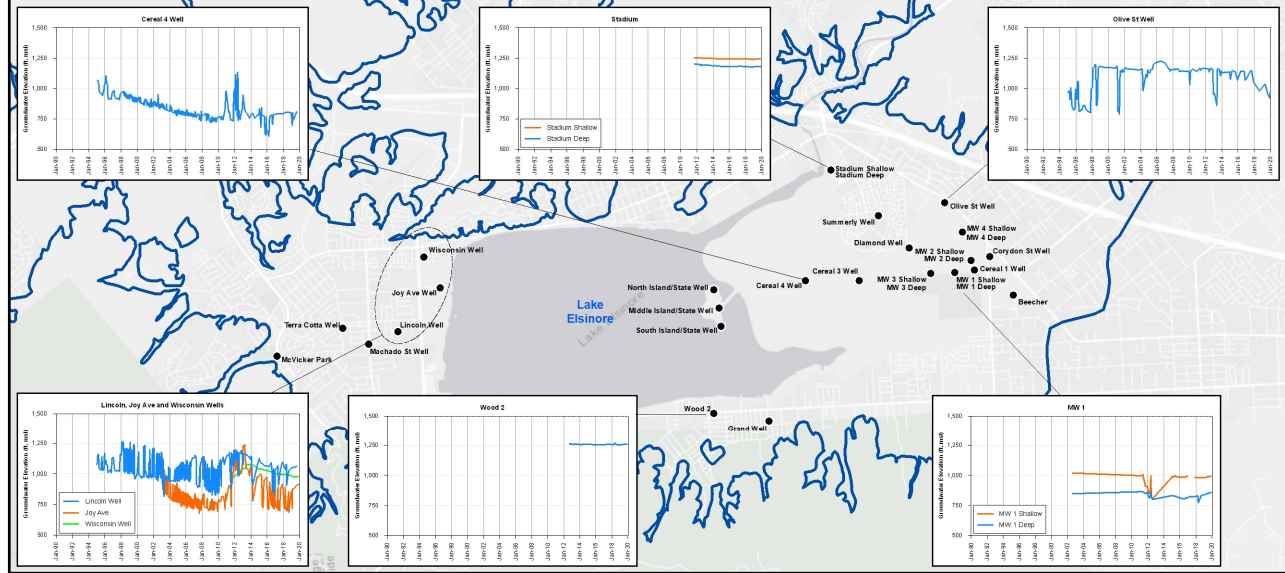
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# Current groundwater flow, Spring 2017



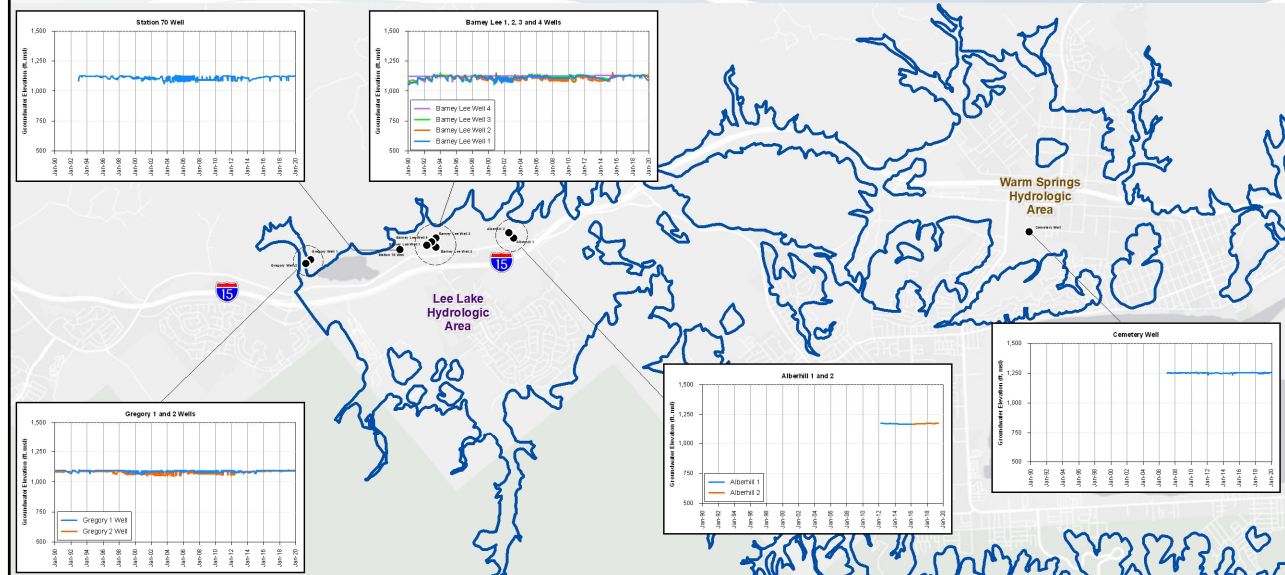
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# Elsinore Area Hydrographs



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# Lee Lake and Warm Springs Hydrographs



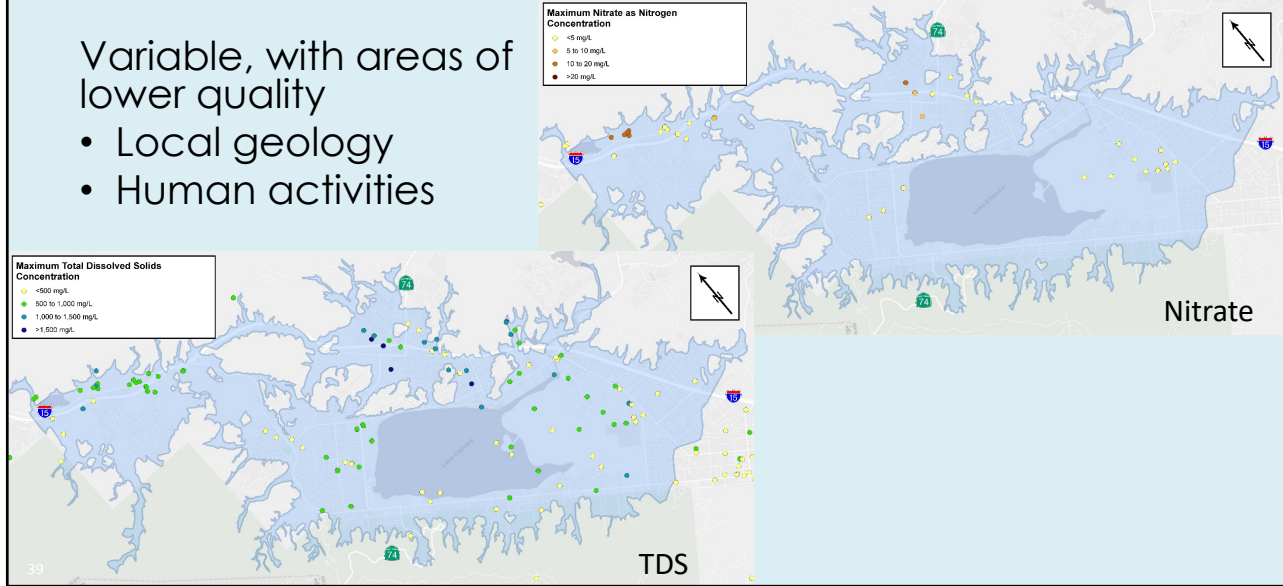
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# Groundwater quality is documented

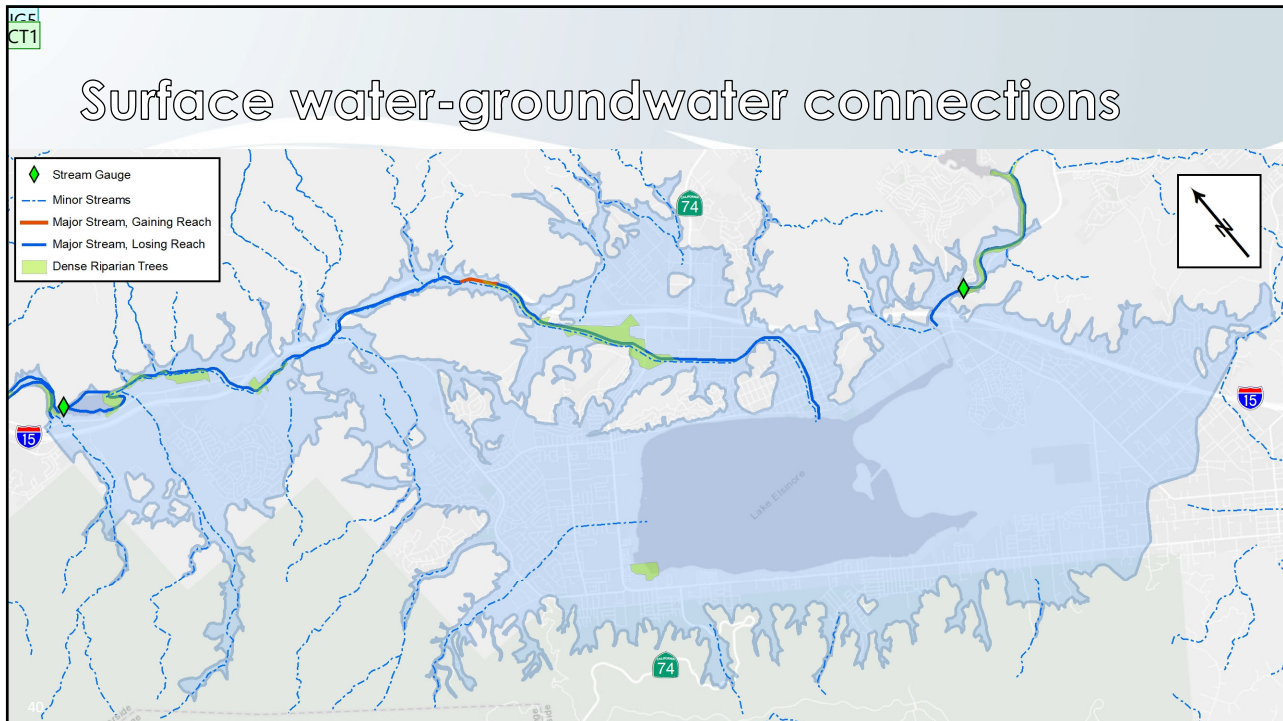
Variable, with areas of lower quality

- Local geology
- Human activities



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# Surface water-groundwater connections



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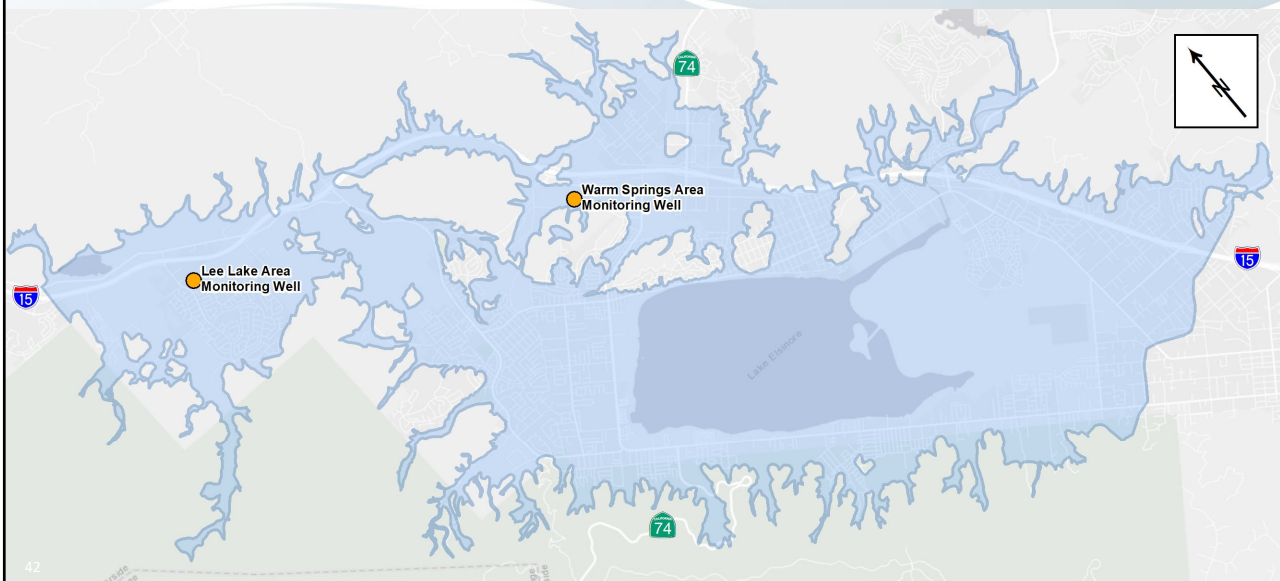
# New Monitoring Wells

Increased monitoring of the subbasin

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# Two new monitoring wells planned



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# Q&A/Discussion

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# SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

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## Draft GSP Goal

***Manage the Elsinore Subbasin to provide sustainably and adequately for all beneficial uses within the subbasin over wet and dry climatic cycles.***

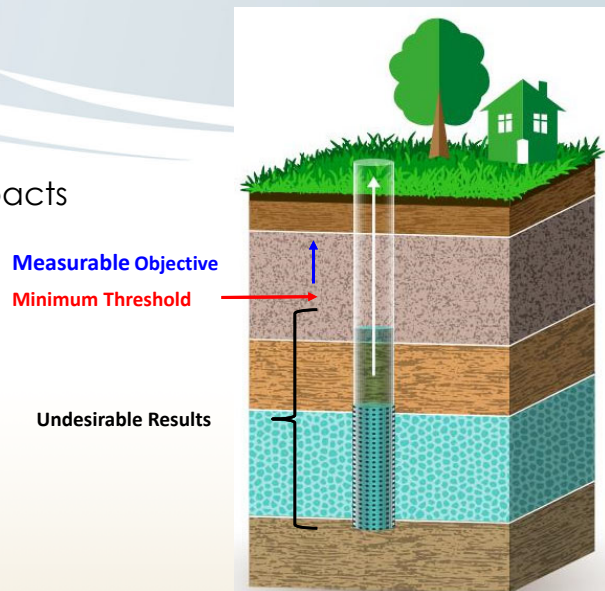
45

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MW2  
MW2  
MH1

## Sustainability Criteria

- **Undesirable Results**
  - Significant and unreasonable impacts
  - Metrics are worse than minimum threshold
- **Minimum Threshold**
  - Quantifiable criteria
- **Measurable Objectives**
  - Necessary if current conditions are undesirable








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# Sustainability Indicators

## What is considered sustainable?






-  Groundwater levels
-  Groundwater storage
-  Water quality
-  Land subsidence
-  Interconnected surface water
- ~~Sea water intrusion~~

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# Poll

## Which sustainability indicator is of most concern to you?

-  Lowering Groundwater Levels
-  Reduction of Storage
-  Degraded Quality
-  Land Subsidence
-  Surface Water Depletion

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# Q&A/Discussion

Feedback on Draft Sustainability Criteria

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NEXT STEPS

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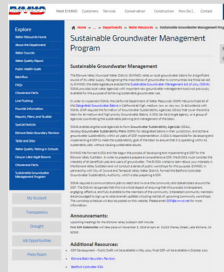


# Stakeholder Engagement Participation and Communication Opportunities

## Future Workshops

1. **Sustainability Goals**  
(Today)
2. **Draft GSP**  
(June 2021)
3. **Final GSP**  
(November 2021)

## Online



[www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com)

Click on link for:  
**EVMWD Sustainable Groundwater Management Program**  
 OR  
 email us at:  
[GSP@evmwd.net](mailto:GSP@evmwd.net)

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# Next Stakeholder Meeting

## Stakeholder Workshop #3: (June 2021)

### Topics:

- Public Draft GSP with Management Actions

Visit [www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com)



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