

Item No. 3

Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Proposed Resolution No. R1-2021-0006

GROUNDWATER BASIN EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION RESULTS
SUPPORTING SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING AS
REQUIRED BY STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RECYCLED WATER POLICY

April 15, 2021



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Presentation Outline

1. Background and Purpose
2. Basin Evaluation Process
3. Public Comments and Staff Responses
4. Prioritization Recommendations
5. Implementation Approaches
6. Resolution No. R1-2021-0006
7. Recommended Action



Purpose – Groundwater Protection

- Basin Plan Triennial Review Priority Project
 - Initiated in early 2000s & evolved over last decade
- Established WQOs for Groundwater
- Recycled Water Policy
 - Salt and nutrient management planning (SNMP)
 - Groundwater basin evaluation and prioritization
 - Implement SNMP based on basin priority



Background

North Coast Groundwater Basins

- 63 DWR defined Groundwater Basins
- Generally High Quality – some localized degradation
 - More than 80% of population lives within a groundwater Basin
 - 1,000 public and over 38,000 private wells supply groundwater
 - Nearly 50% of municipal water use supplied by groundwater
 - More than 80% of extracted groundwater is used in agriculture



Basin Evaluation Process

Factors*

- Groundwater Quality
- Imported/Recycled Water
- Groundwater Reliance
- Population and Growth
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Agriculture
- Basin Specific Factors

*Data source: GAMA, GeoTracker, DWR, and other publicly available datasets



Public Comment and Staff Response

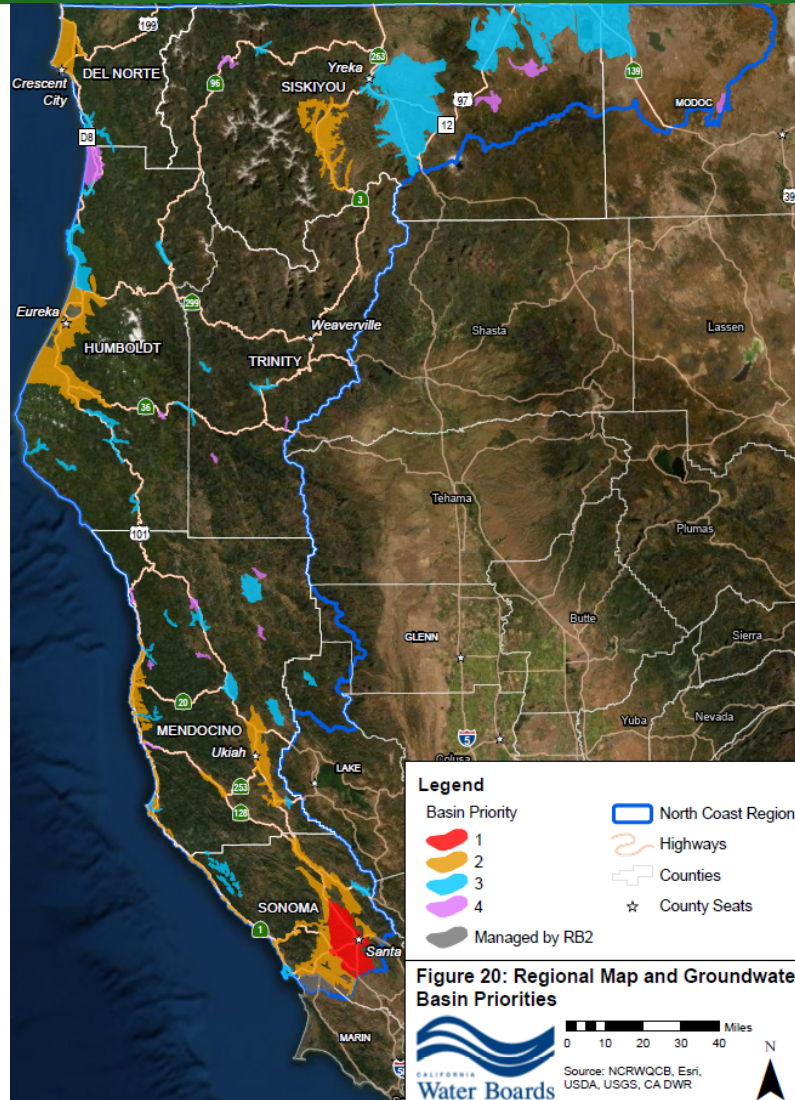
- 30-day Public Comment Period – Draft Staff Report and Resolution
- Commenters – Public Agencies (8) and Private Citizen (1)
- Comment Categories: 1) clarifications; 2) additional data; and 3) imported/recycled water.
- Tele-conferences and email exchanges with commenters
 - New information resulted in changes to priority points for Smith River and Santa Rosa Plain basins. No change in priority category.
- Staff initiated changes
 - Statistical method refinement = change in priority category for 4 basins.
- A written response was prepared for each comment.

Prioritization Recommendations

Numeric Priority Categories (1 and 2 = priority basins)

Numeric Priority Category	Number of Basins	Percent Area of all Basins	Basin or Subbasin
1	1	7	Santa Rosa Plain
2	16	34	Smith River Plain, Scott River Valley, Mad River Lowland, Eureka Plain, Eel River Valley, Covelo Round Valley , Anderson Valley, Fort Bragg Terrace Area, Big Lagoon Area , Ukiah Valley, <u>Sanel Valley</u> , Alexander Area, Cloverdale Area, Healdsburg Area, Rincon Valley, <u>Wilson Grove Formation Highlands</u> , Lower Russian River Valley, Fort Ross Terrace Deposits
3	30	54	Dows Prairie School Area, <u>Covelo Round Valley</u> , Tule Lake, Lower Klamath, Butte Valley, Shasta Valley, Hayfork Valley, Hoopa Valley, Laytonville Valley, Little Lake Valley, Lower Klamath River Valley, Seiad Valley, Garcia River Valley, Redwood Creek Area, <u>Big Lagoon Area</u> , Mattole River Valley, Honeydew Town Area, Pepperwood Town Area, Weott Town Area, Garberville Town Area, Dinsmore Town Area, Hyampom Valley, Branscomb Town Area, Ten Mile River Valley, Rig River Valley, Gravelly Valley, Annapolis Ohlson Ranch Fm. Highlands, Knights Valley, Potter Valley, Sanel Valley , McDowell Valley, Bodega Bay Area, Wilson Grove Formation Highlands
4	15	5	Happy Camp Town Area, Bray Town Area, Red Rock Valley, Fairchild Swamp Valley, Prairie Creek Area, Larabee Valley, Hettenshaw Valley, Cotteneva Creek Valley, Little Valley, Sherwood Valley, Williams, Valley, Eden Valley, Navarro River Valley, Wilson Point Area

Prioritization Recommendations





Implementation Approach and Adaptive Management Pathways

Staff have identified four (not mutually exclusive) components of an approach to addressing the results of this groundwater basin prioritization:

- 1) continued technical analysis
 - Use of latest data to refine priorities and priority areas
- 2) implementation of existing regulatory tools
 - WDRs, basin plan, statewide policies
- 3) stewardship actions (Non- regulatory)
 - BMP development, financial assistance, and stakeholder outreach.
- 4) possible amendments to the Basin Plan.

Implementation Approach and Adaptive Management Pathways

Basin Priority	Salt and Nutrient Budget	Identify Priority Zones	Expanded Groundwater Monitoring	Frequency of Re-Evaluation (years)
1	Y	Y	Y	2
2	Y	Y	Y	3
3	N	Y	Y	4
4	N	N	N	5



Proposed Resolution

1. Accepts the technical process for evaluating and developing priority basins described in the Final Staff Report.
2. Accepts the Priority Category 1 and 2 basins listed below as Priority Basins having a relatively high threat from salts and nutrients and thus would benefit from salt and nutrient management planning.
3. Acknowledges that the priority status of groundwater basins may change and the list of priority basins will be updated a minimum of every 5 years as required by the Recycled Water Policy.
4. Acknowledges that the Recycled Water Policy grants the authority to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer to determine priority groundwater basins for salt and nutrient management planning and to update the list of priority basins.
5. Directs staff to proceed with developing a Policy Statement for Groundwater Protection which outlines a range of strategies to protect high groundwater quality and improve degraded groundwater quality within the region and to present the Policy Statement for Board consideration within the shortest time practicable.



Recommended Action

Adopt Proposed Resolution
No. R1-2021-0006

GROUNDWATER BASIN EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION
RESULTS SUPPORTING SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
PLANNING AS REQUIRED BY STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD RECYCLED WATER POLICY



Questions/Discussion
