



# Ukiah Valley Basin

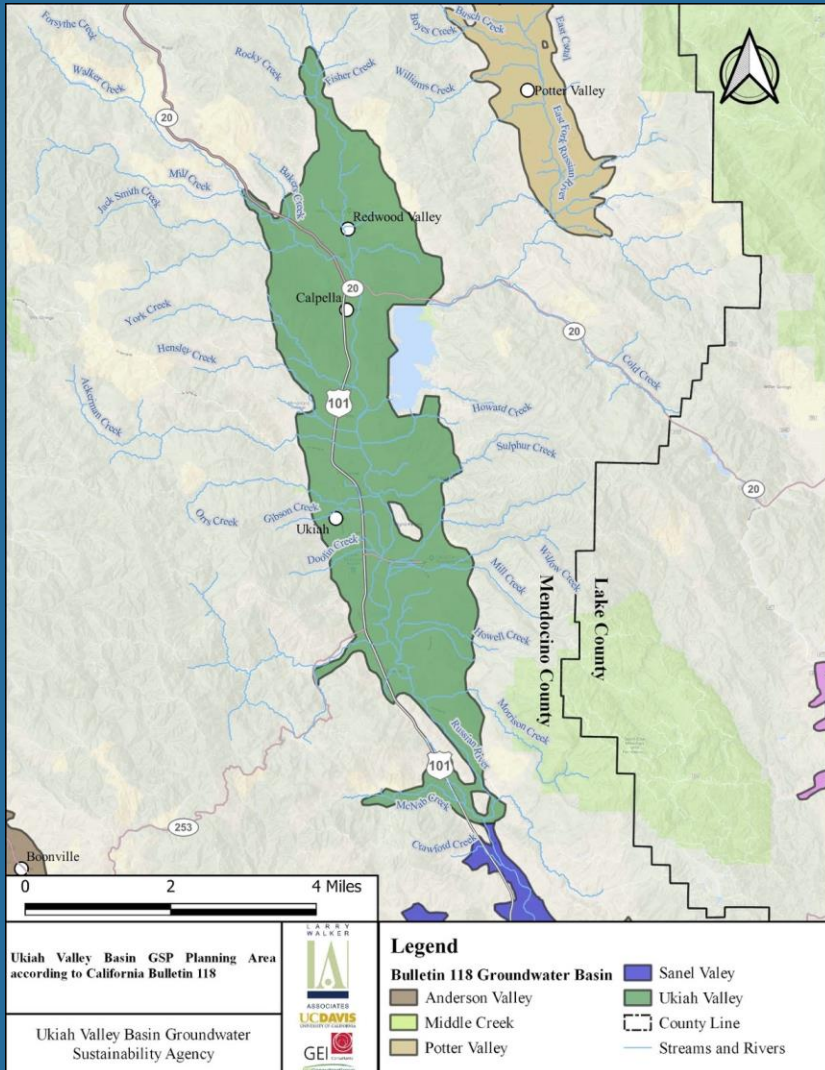
## Sustainable Groundwater Management

Spring 2023 Updates

# GSP Development and Review

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) in high- or medium-priority basins to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- As a medium-priority basin, Ukiah Valley submitted their GSP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review in January 2022.
- DWR will make a determination on the Plan's adequacy by January 2024.
  - The GSP may either be approved or deemed inadequate, at which point the Basin would be subject to State intervention.

# Local Setting



- The Ukiah Valley Basin is managed by a GSA Board and is informed by input from a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- The Board and TAC [meet on a quarterly basis](#) at the **County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors Chambers**.
- The GSA is tasked with maintaining groundwater resources consistent with the GSP's Sustainability Goal, submitting Annual Reports, and updating the GSP every five years.

# Status of the Basin

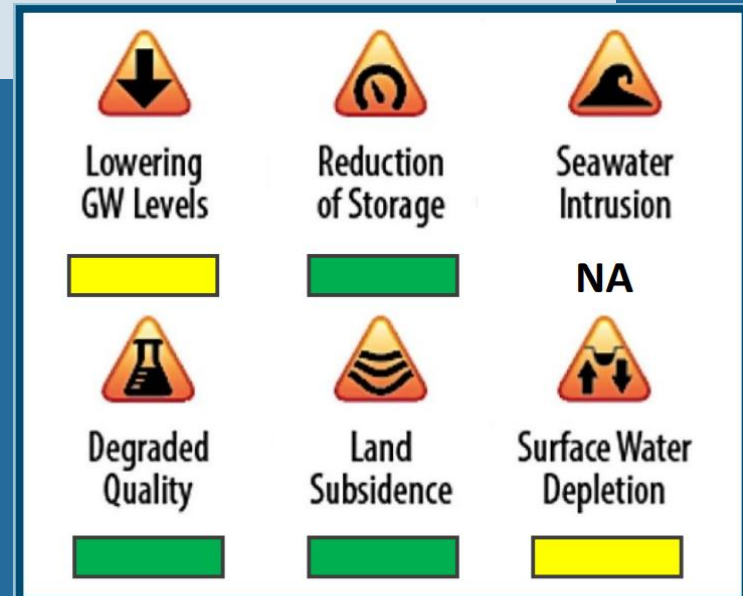
To demonstrate progress towards the Sustainability Goal, **Sustainable Management Criteria** (SMC) are used to measure and assess groundwater conditions in the Basin.

SMC take the form of indicators or “effects” caused by changing groundwater conditions which are monitored to ensure the effects don’t become significant or unreasonable.

## Annual Reporting

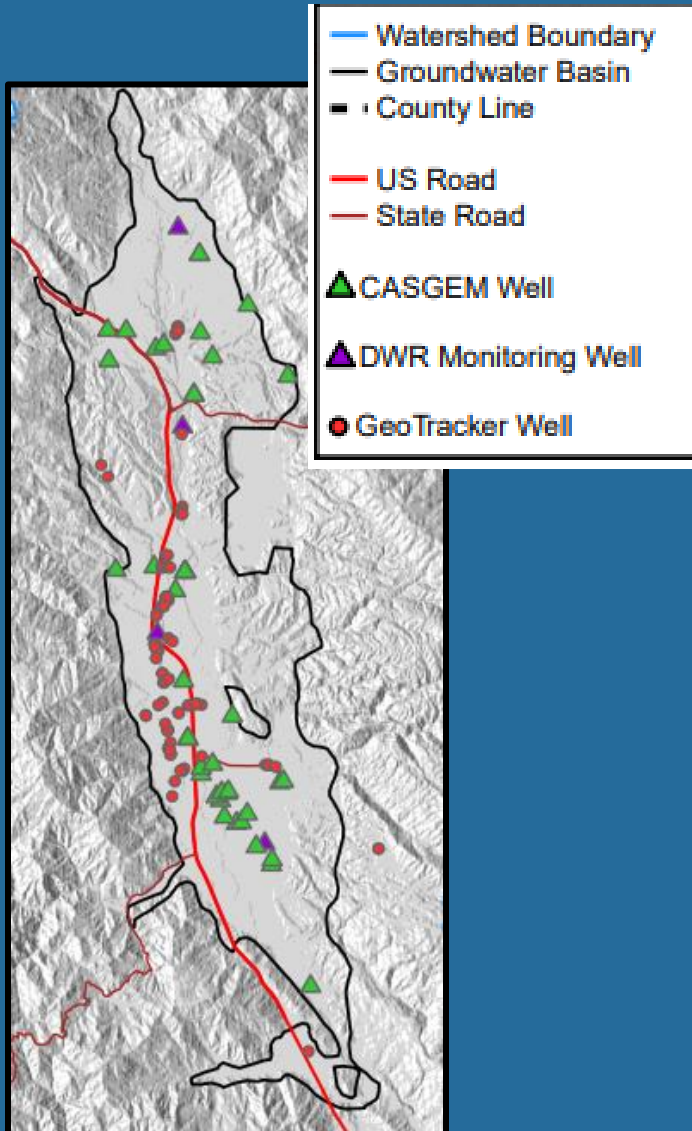
The GSA is currently preparing the Annual Report for the 2022 Water Year (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022), where the ratings on the right will be updated.

The Annual Report will be submitted to DWR on April 1, 2023 and posted online at the [GSA website](#) as well as the [DWR SGMA portal](#).



*Green indicates that conditions are in line with goals laid out in the GSP. Yellow indicates that conditions may require actions to be taken if conditions do not improve.*

# Status of the Basin



## Groundwater Monitoring

- There are over 40 wells in the monitoring network. These wells are monitored for water quality and groundwater levels
- Monitoring occurs on either a monthly or annual basis
- Land subsidence data is obtained from DWR

## What is the data used for?

- Data helps track the Basin's overall health and identify potential areas of concern
- Data is also used to continually improve and refine the groundwater model for the Basin

# What can the Groundwater Model tell us?

- The model is a tool which simulates surface water and groundwater conditions in the Basin
- Model results help the GSA Board and TAC evaluate Sustainable Management Criteria and identify potential areas of concern
- The model uses data collected from monitoring efforts (quantify surface water flows, groundwater levels, and water quality)
- The model will continue to be updated to improve its accuracy and utility as an effective management tool

# News & Recent Achievements

## Applied for DWR Round 2 SGM Implementation Grant



- The GSA applied for funding under Round 2 of the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation grant.
- Application includes projects that address known data gaps and supports Basin sustainability.
- Draft award notifications are anticipated this summer.
- The GSA may choose to pursue additional grants if needed based on the anticipated SGM funding award.

# If awarded, what will the Implementation Grant fund?

**GSP 5-Year Update** – to focus on updating SMCs and GW model

**Water Supply Reliability Study** – to better understand the basin's supply reliability

**Recharge Master Plan and Pilot Project Implementation** – to develop a strategy for groundwater recharge within the basin and implement up to three pilot projects

**Rate and Fee Study** – to provide the foundation for the GSA to become a self-sufficient agency

**Interconnected Surface Water-Groundwater Study** – to fill critical data gaps where the interconnected relationship is not well understood

**Groundwater Well Inventory Study** – to fill data gaps in areas where groundwater flows are not well understood

Award notification from DWR anticipated in June 2023.



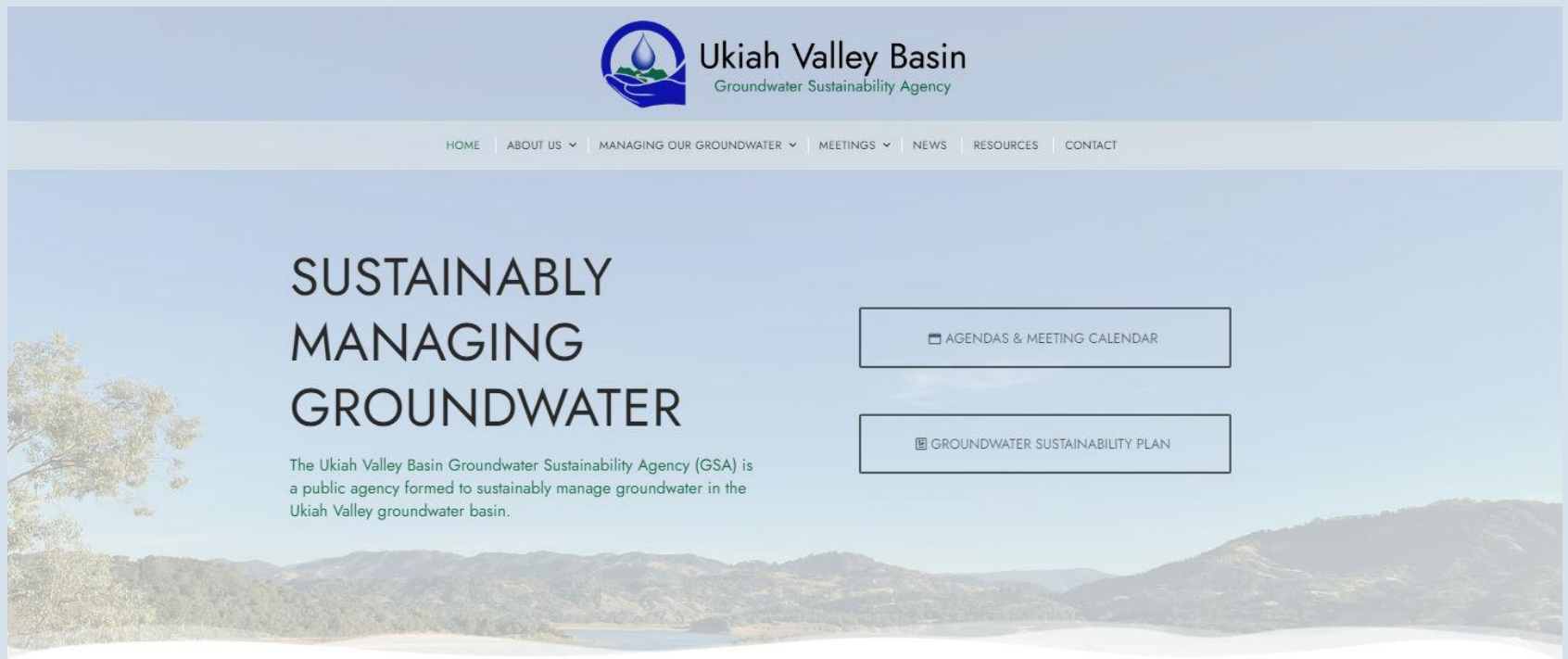
# More about the Rate and Fee Study

- Implementing the GSP is expected to cost at least \$405,000 per year, some of which costs will be funded through grants.
- Unless the GSA can implement rates and fees and actively pursue available grant funds, it will be vulnerable to state intervention.
- The Rate and Fee Study is anticipated to start in July 2023 and conclude by July 2025, at which point the GSA will then focus on implementing the rates and fees determined in the study.

# New GSA Website

In response to public feedback, the GSA contracted with a local website developer to create a new site that's user friendly, accessible, and easier to update for new information.

Check it out and let us know your thoughts:  
<https://ukiahvalleygroundwater.org/contact/>



# Well Permitting

The GSA is coordinating with Mendocino County Environmental Health Dept. to comply with Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23, which furthered the State's drought response by requiring new well permitting provisions in groundwater basins that are subject to SGMA.

The GSA and the County are planning the second workshop to share more information about the response to the Executive Order, gather feedback on the revised draft process for well permitting, provide an update on timing for when to expect the updated process to be adopted, and solicit feedback from community members on the draft process being proposed.

## **Well Permitting Workshop Part 2**

**April 17, 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

Barra of Mendocino Winery  
7051 N State St, Redwood Valley

# Education, Outreach, and Meetings

The GSA is expanding education and outreach activities through more frequent workshops, distribution of newsletters, and increased involvement at meetings hosted by community groups and other local organizations (such as this one) to provide updates on groundwater management activities.

*Do you have suggestions for meetings or groups the GSA should connect with?*  
Let us know by emailing [staff@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org](mailto:staff@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org)

Upcoming Board and TAC Meetings:

## **TAC Meeting**

**May 24**, 1:00 – 3:00  
County Board Chambers

## **Board Meeting**

**June 8 or 15**, 1:30 – 3:00  
County Board Chambers

# New GSA Contact Information



## **Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Phone: (707) 463-4363

*New Email:* [staff@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org](mailto:staff@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org)

*New Website:* <https://ukiahvalleygroundwater.org/>



## **GSA General Manager, Erik Cadaret**

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*New Email:* [admin@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org](mailto:admin@ukiahvalleygroundwater.org)