

# NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER SITUATION ASSESSMENT

*Presentation for the*  
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory  
Committee  
*October 27, 2011*

*Prepared by*  
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# Origin, Purpose, and Methods

- DWR Local Groundwater Assistance Program Grant
- Assess public support for a voluntary groundwater monitoring program
- 15 interviews with 34 people across a range of interests

# Key Findings

- Concern about extraction coupled with recognition of diversity
- Concern about tradeoffs between urban, rural residential, and agricultural use
- Tension between recognition of private property rights and collective rights to the resource

## Key Findings *continued*

- Interest coupled with caution about recycled water
- Concern about impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat and species
- Concern about institutional locus of groundwater and related issues

# Design Considerations

- Almost all willing to participate if the following conditions were met:
  - Process has a clear purpose, executive commitment, and transparency
  - The purpose is reframed to be inclusive and to benefit everyone in the county
  - The work is tailored to regionally-specific conditions

# Communication and Engagement

- Should work through existing networks
- Need consistent messaging and strong, proactive relationship with the media
- Must bring the whole system into productive conversation

# Conditions for Collaboration

- Clear desired outcomes: condition appeared met, but would require continued attention
- Political leadership and commitment: condition appeared unmet, yet could be met if concerns were appropriately addressed
- Economic resources: condition appeared unmet, and was closely tied to political support

# Conditions for Collaboration

- Opportunities to create shared value: condition appeared met
- Primary parties: individually and overall this condition appeared met

# Recommendations

- Convene a groundwater advisory committee that includes diverse interests and has an interface with public agencies
- Synthesize existing information, assess the resource, identify critical regional information needs, and develop a data gathering framework
- Convene regional joint fact-finding teams to gather data

## Recommendations *continued*

- Conduct a second synthesis based on data gathering results and involve the public in developing a vision and next steps
- Develop a proposal for addressing outstanding groundwater issues in different parts of the county, for review and adoption by the Board of Supervisors
- Develop and implement an ongoing communication and education plan, including both substantive issues and the committee's work

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