

Landowners' Perspective on Groundwater Monitoring

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Is it Necessary?

- No legal requirement for County or Landowner to perform GW monitoring
- Exceptions include:
 - Discretionary project conditions of approval
 - County Groundwater Conservation Ord. (MST)

Why Monitor?

- Valuable resource worth protecting
- Understanding GW conditions allows for informed land use decisions for both existing and new development (example MST)
- Can lead to more informed management of resources for both private and public
- If County does not participate in CASGEM it is ineligible for water grants from State

Why be proactive?

- Local vs. State Regulation
 - If groundwater management needs cannot be directly resolved at the local agency level, additional actions such as enactment of ordinances by local governments, passage of laws by the Legislature, or decisions by the courts may be necessary to resolve the issues.
- Distinguish Napa from “Problem Areas”, i.e., San Joaquin Basin
- Maintain Local Control of a Local Resource

How much is enough?

- Synthesis of existing info and identify CRITICAL data needs
- Develop sustainability objectives that can be achieved voluntarily and via incentives
- Provide Landowners with tools to manage resource NOT studies that raise more questions than provide answers
 - Groundwater/Surface Water Monitoring, is it critical or is there another agenda?

Specific Concerns

- How confidential is the monitoring data?
- No good deed goes unpunished: Will the information be used against landowner?
 - Additional costs
 - Impacts on Existing uses
 - Impacts on New uses
- What are the logical “next steps” that will impact landowners?
 - See 2050 Napa Valley Water Resources Study conclusions for 2020 and 2050.