

Zone 7 Water Agency

# STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE LIVERMORE VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN



August 2020

**Zone 7 Water Agency  
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan**



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# Zone 7 Water Agency Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan



## Glossary / Abbreviations

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AB     | Assembly Bill                                   |
| ACCD   | Alameda County Community Development Agency     |
| ACEH   | Alameda County Environmental Health             |
| ACWD   | Alameda County Water District                   |
| AF     | acre-feet                                       |
| AFY    | acre-feet per year                              |
| ARM    | Areal Recharge Model                            |
| C&E    | Communication & Engagement                      |
| CCE    | California Conservation Easements               |
| CCR    | California Code of Regulation                   |
| CDFW   | California Department of Fish and Wildlife      |
| CEQA   | California Environmental Quality Act            |
| COL    | Chain of Lakes                                  |
| CPA    | California Protected Area                       |
| CWC    | California Water Code                           |
| DAC    | Disadvantaged Communities                       |
| DSRSD  | Dublin San Ramon Service District               |
| DWR    | Department of Water Resources                   |
| EBMUD  | East Bay Municipal Utilities District           |
| EBRPD  | East Bay Regional Park District                 |
| ft     | feet  |
| GDE    | Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystem                 |
| GPQ    | Groundwater Pumping Quota                       |
| GSA    | Groundwater Sustainability Agency               |
| GSP    | Groundwater Sustainability Plan                 |
| LARPD  | Livermore Area Recreation and Park District     |
| LAVQAR | Livermore Amador Valley Quarry Area Reclamation |
| LLNL   | Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory          |
| MOU    | Memorandum of Understanding                     |
| NMFS   | National Marine Fisheries Service               |
| NOAA   | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| OWTS   | Onsite Wastewater Treatment System              |
| RWQCB  | Regional Water Quality Control Board            |
| SB     | Senate Bill                                     |
| SBA    | South Bay Aqueduct                              |
| SCEP   | Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan   |
| SDWIS  | Safe Drinking Water Information System          |
| SFPUC  | San Francisco Public Utilities Commission       |
| SGM    | Sustainable Groundwater Management              |
| SGMA   | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act          |
| SLDMWA | San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority        |

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|      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| SWP  | State Water Project              |
| TDS  | total dissolved solids           |
| TVC  | Tri-Valley Conservancy           |
| TWRC | Tri-Valley Water Retailers Group |

# Zone 7 Water Agency Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Zone 7 Water Agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Zone 7) has developed this Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (SCEP) to describe its approach to Communication & Engagement (C&E) throughout the 2022 Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (2022 Alt GSP) development and implementation process. This SCEP was prepared in accordance with the California Water Code (CWC), the GSP Regulations (Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations [CCR] §354.10 [see text boxes inserted below]), and was informed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) *Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Stakeholder Communication and Engagement* (DWR, 2018).

### 1.1. SGMA Overview

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is a combination of three bills signed by the California Governor Jerry Brown in 2014: Assembly Bill (AB) 1739, Senate Bill (SB) 1168, and SB 1319<sup>1</sup>. This landmark legislation recognizes that groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level and provides local agencies with a framework and timeline to achieve or maintain groundwater sustainability.

In SGMA, sustainable groundwater management is defined as management of groundwater supplies in a manner that can be maintained in planning and implementation phases without causing “Undesirable Results”. Undesirable Results include the “significant and unreasonable” chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface waters.

### 1.2. Communication & Engagement Plan Elements

The required elements of a SCEP and associated processes as documented in the GSP Regulations are summarized below.

§ 354.10. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:

- (a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.
- (b) A list of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.
- (c) Comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses by the Agency.
- (d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:
  - (1) An explanation of the Agency’s decision-making process.
  - (2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
  - (3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.
  - (4) The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Some minor changes of the legislation were made in SB 13 and AB 617 pertaining to Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation, and AB 1390 and SB 226 pertaining to groundwater adjudication processes.

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The C&E efforts described in this SCEP will help to ensure that beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) are adequately considered during the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation process as required by GSP Regulations (23-CCR §354.10). Specifically, in this SCEP:

- **Section 2** includes a description of Zone 7's decision-making process (23-CCR §354.10(d)(1));
- **Section 3** identifies beneficial users within the Basin (23-CCR §354.10(a)) and describes how Zone 7 intends to engage with them, building upon its current understanding of stakeholders within the Basin (23-CCR §354.10(d)(3) and CWC §10723.4);
- **Section 4** includes a summary of information relating to communication by Zone 7 with other agencies and interested parties (23-CCR §354.10(d)(3));
- **Section 5** identifies and documents opportunities for public engagement and how public input and response will be incorporated into the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation process (23-CCR §354.10(c); §354.10(d)(2) and §354.10(d)(4));
- **Section 6** describes the C&E implementation timeline, including when this SCEP will be updated to inform the public about the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation progress, including the status of projects and management actions (23 CCR §354.10(d)(4)); and
- **Section 7** describes how Zone 7 will assess its C&E implementation during 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation.



## **2. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY OVERVIEW**

As shown in **Figure 1**, the “Plan Area” that is covered by the 2022 Alt GSP and managed by Zone 7 is the entire Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin. For the purposes of SGMA compliance, this SCEP is focused on the entirety of the Plan Area and outlines how Zone 7 intends to engage Basin stakeholders in the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.

### **2.1. GSA Description and Service Area Boundary**

Zone 7 is one of the ten active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). The Zone 7 service area encompasses approximately 425 square miles (272,000 acres) within the eastern portion of Alameda County and includes the Livermore-Amador Valley, the Sunol Valley, and portions of the Diablo Range (Zone 7, 2016a). Major cities within Zone 7 include the Cities of San Ramon, Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton.

The Zone 7 service area overlies almost all of the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR 2-10), all of the Sunol Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR 2-11), and a small section of the Tracy Subbasin in the adjacent San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR 5-22.15). Consistent with its management responsibilities, duties, and powers, Zone 7 is designated in SGMA as the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within its boundaries and, in electing to be the GSA for the Basin, will continue to exercise its groundwater management authority consistent with the District Act and with SGMA (Zone 7, 2016a).

A small portion of the Basin extends into Contra Costa County beyond the Zone 7 service area and into the service areas of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), the City of San Ramon, and the Dublin San Ramon Service District (DSRSD). To provide management of this portion of the Basin, Zone 7 and the other overlying agencies have developed and adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which Zone 7 serves as the GSA for the Contra Costa portion of the Basin (Zone 7, 2016a).

The Sunol Valley Groundwater Basin is designated as very low priority and is therefore not subject to SGMA<sup>2</sup>. In the Tracy Subbasin, Zone 7 has executed a MOU with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) to support SGMA compliance (Zone 7, 2016a), and a GSP for that subbasin is anticipated in January 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> Per CWC §10727 (a), “A groundwater sustainability plan shall be developed and implemented for each medium- or high priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency to meet the sustainability goal established pursuant to this part.” Per CWC §10720.7 (b), “The Legislature encourages and authorizes basins designated as low- and very low priority basins by the department to be managed under groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to this part. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) does not apply to a basin designated as a low- or very low priority basin.”



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### 2.2. GSA Structure and Decision-Making Process

*§ 354.10. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:*

- (d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:*
- (1) An explanation of the Agency's decision-making process.*

Key decisions regarding the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation will be made by the Zone 7 Board of Directors (Board), which is also the governing body of the Zone 7 GSA.

#### 2.2.1. Zone 7 Board Structure and Meetings

Zone 7 is overseen by a seven-member Board that is elected by the community to provide strategic guidance and planning for Zone 7's policies, programs and finances. Board members serve four-year terms and represent the public throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley.

Zone 7 Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Zone 7's offices, located at 100 North Canyons Parkway in Livermore. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20), Board meetings have recently been held online. Video recordings of the meetings are open to the public and can be accessed through the Tri-Valley Community Television website (<http://www.tri-valleytv.org/?q=node/59>). Board meeting agendas and packets are posted to the Zone 7 website (<http://www.zone7water.com/library/board-meetings>).

#### 2.2.2. Board Committee Structure and Meetings

Board decision making is supported by four Board Committees including the Administrative Committee, the Liaison Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Water Resources Committee. Each Board Committee is composed of three Board members. Committee meetings are open to public and held on an "as needed" basis (Zone 7, 2012). Board committee assignments can be found on the Zone 7 website (<http://www.zone7water.com/about-us/board-of-directors>). The Water Resources Committee addresses both water and flood protection matters and will have direct involvement in the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation.

#### 2.2.3. Zone 7 Organizational Structure

The Board provides direction to Zone 7 management and staff through the Zone 7 General Manager and general counsel (Zone 7, 2016a). The General Manager is assisted by two Assistant General Managers with respective responsibility for Engineering and Finance. Three other Core Managers oversee the core functions of the Agency: Engineering, Operations and Maintenance, and Integrated Water Resources. Groundwater management falls under the Integrated Water Resources function and coordinates within the group to also achieve stream management and flood protection, long-term planning, watershed and water quality protection, environmental planning, Asset Management and Capital Improvement Program planning (Zone 7, 2016a). Zone 7's organizational chart is included as **Appendix A**.

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### 2.3. Desired Outcome of 2022 Alt GSP Development and Implementation

For more than 50 years, Zone 7 has managed imported and local surface and groundwater resources for beneficial uses in the Basin. Given Zone 7's ongoing sustainable management of the Basin, DWR determined that the 2016 Alt GSP adopted by Zone 7 satisfied the objectives of the SGMA and approved the Plan in 2019<sup>3</sup>.

As part of its approval of the 2016 Alt GSP, DWR provided four suggestions for how the 2022 Alt GSP could be improved (see **Appendix B**). Zone 7 successfully applied for a Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant funded by the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) to support the suggested refinements. As such, Zone 7's goal in developing and implementing the 2022 Alt GSP is to respond to DWR's comments while continuing to demonstrate that: (1) the Basin is being operated within its Sustainable Yield;<sup>4</sup> and (2) Zone 7 is successfully managing the groundwater resources within the Basin to prevent Undesirable Results.

### 2.4. Challenges for the Plan Area

Zone 7 anticipates and plans to address the following challenges in its development of the 2022 Alt GSP:

- A small portion of the Basin extends into Contra Costa County and outside of Zone 7's statutory boundaries. Coordination efforts are required among multiple entities, including Contra Costa County, Contra Costa County Water Agency, the City of San Ramon, DSRSD, and EBMUD. Zone 7 entered into a MOU with each of the above entities and has assumed the GSA role for that portion of the Basin (see **Appendix C**). Zone 7 will continue to actively involve and work cooperatively with these local agencies in its SGMA-related planning and programs.
- Urban and irrigated agriculture are the primary land uses in the Plan Area, including a portion of the City of Livermore that is a Disadvantaged Community (DAC). Some stakeholders may be concerned regarding how SGMA compliance could impact that land and water use, or costs. Zone 7 aims to be open and transparent in any decisions that will have a substantial impact on beneficial users of groundwater in the Plan Area and to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process to consider their interests and concerns.
- Based on varying geologic, hydrogeologic, and groundwater conditions, the Basin has three different Management Areas (23 CCR §354.20(a)), including the Main Basin, Fringe Subareas, and Upland Area. Groundwater pumping in the Fringe and Uplands Management Areas is minor relative to the Main Basin. Groundwater levels and other data are routinely monitored in portions of the Fringe and Uplands Management Areas; however, there are some areas of the Basin that are not adequately monitored. As part of the 2022 Alt GSP development, Zone 7 will be working to fill these data gaps.

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<sup>3</sup> The DWR Approval Letter regarding the Zone 7 2016 Alt GSP is posted on the Zone 7 website (<http://www.zone7water.com/library/groundwater>), accessed August 2010.

<sup>4</sup> SGMA defines Sustainable Yield as the maximum quantity of water (calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus) that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result. In 1992, Zone 7 Water Agency calculated the natural sustainable yield for the Basin at 7,214 acre-feet per year (Zone 7, 2016a).

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- Zone 7 supports the current and expanded use of recycled water in the Tri-Valley, which results in lower consumption of potable water supplies, by updating the Salt Management Plan to address nutrient management and supporting retailer grant applications for recycled water infrastructure funding. Zone 7 has also been working closely with the retailers in exploring potential options for expanding recycled water use beyond irrigation applications. Potable reuse offers the benefits of being local and drought-proof; however, some key implementation issues remain to be resolved, including the need for using multiple treatment technologies for reliable purification and the feasibility of groundwater injection. Portions of the 2022 Alt GSP work will provide additional data and tools that can help evaluate the feasibility of these potential options to expand recycled water use.



### 3. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

§ 354.10. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:  
(a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.

Zone 7 cooperates with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) - San Francisco Bay Region in the implementation of the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan; RWQCB, 2015). In the Basin Plan, the RWQCB identifies beneficial uses and water quality objectives for surface water and groundwater in the Livermore Valley. Consistent with the Basin Plan, and in accordance with the interests listed in CWC §10723.2<sup>5</sup>, Zone 7 identified current beneficial uses and users of groundwater and cooperative programs with groundwater users in the Basin in the 2016 Alt GSP (Zone 7, 2016a). Those key cooperative programs is summarized in **Table 1**, and beneficial uses and users of groundwater are described further below and in **Table 2**. Zone 7 welcomes all of the beneficial users of groundwater in the Basin, and the parties representing those interests, to participate in the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation process through the venues for engaging described in **Section 5**.

#### 3.1. Holders of Overlying Groundwater Rights

##### 3.1.1. Agricultural Users

Zone 7 maintains maps of agricultural use within its service area, the majority of which are developed as vineyards or grazing, and tracks agricultural well locations. Agricultural demand accounted for a major portion of Basin groundwater use prior to the 1970s, but decreased significantly once imported surface water became available in 1974 (Zone 7, 2016a). Zone 7 provides approximately 5,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of untreated surface water to local agriculture while agricultural pumping averaged approximately 400 AFY between 1974 and 2015 (Zone 7, 2016a; 2016b). Individual groundwater users have been active

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<sup>5</sup> § 10723.2. The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
  - (1) Agricultural users, including farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals.
  - (2) Domestic well owners.
- (b) Municipal well operators.
- (c) Public water systems.
- (d) Local land use planning agencies.
- (e) Environmental users of groundwater.
- (f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.
- (g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.
- (h) California Native American tribes.
- (i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.
- (j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

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participants in prior Zone 7 groundwater-related planning efforts and numerous private well owners participate in Zone 7 groundwater monitoring programs.

### **3.1.2. Domestic Well Owners**

As shown in the 2016 Alt GSP, there are numerous domestic wells located within the Plan Area. Individual groundwater users have been active participants in prior Zone 7 groundwater-related planning efforts and numerous private well owners participate in Zone 7 groundwater monitoring programs.

However, the actual quantity and distribution of active domestic wells within the Plan Area remains a source of uncertainty. Zone 7 seeks to compile additional information on the number, location and status of domestic wells, especially in the Fringe and Uplands Management Areas of the Basin. Zone 7 will be conducting direct outreach to land- and well-owners as part of the 2022 Alt GSP process to identify potential wells for future monitoring.

### **3.1.3. Commercial and Industrial Users**

Groundwater is used for golf course irrigation; otherwise there is limited direct use of groundwater by commercial entities within the Basin.

A major industrial land use in the Plan Area is aggregate mining, conducted by various mining companies. Groundwater is extracted to dewater localized areas to facilitate the active mining of gravel. The extracted groundwater is stored in holding ponds and can be used for industrial mining purposes such as gravel washing and dust control. Zone 7 worked closely with Alameda County Planning Department and the mining companies in developing a quarry reclamation plan that recognizes the importance of groundwater recharge and conveyance through the mining area. This resulted in the Specific Plan for Livermore Amador Valley Quarry Area Reclamation (LAVQAR), wherein the mining area reclamation is being implemented to include a series of “lakes” (the Chain of Lakes [COL]) that will be owned and operated by Zone 7 for flood control and managed aquifer recharge (Alameda County Board of Supervisors, 1981).

## **3.2. Municipal Well Operators**

Municipal pumpers constitute the majority of groundwater use within the Basin and include Zone 7, the City of Pleasanton, California Water Service (Cal Water), the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the Alameda County Fairgrounds. In addition to Zone 7’s ten municipal wells, Cal Water operates 12 wells in the Livermore area, the City of Pleasanton operates three wells, and SFPUC operates two wells (Zone 7, 2016a). The DSRSD receives pumped groundwater through Zone 7 (Zone 7, 2016a).

In 1992, Zone 7 calculated the natural sustainable yield for the basin at 7,214 AFY and collaborated with its retailers to allocate the yield (Zone 7, 2016a). As a result, each retailer is limited to an annual independent Groundwater Pumping Quota (GPQ), which is generally based on average historical use and is pro-rated based on the agreed upon natural sustainable yield. Together, the retailers are permitted to pump a total average of 7,214 AFY without paying recharge fees to Zone 7. Groundwater extraction is reported to Zone 7 on a monthly basis. Retailer-specific pumping averages are tracked by Zone 7, including a process of carry-overs (limited to 20% of the GPQ) and the assessment of recharge fees for all groundwater pumped in excess of the GPQ and carry-over credit (Zone 7, 2016a).

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Zone 7 pumping is for municipal purposes, salt management, demand peaks, and to address any shortage or interruption in its surface water supply or treatment (Zone 7, 2016a). Zone 7 pumps only groundwater that has been stored in the Basin as part of its aquifer recharge program (i.e., over the long-term, Zone 7 only pumps groundwater in volumes equivalent to or less than its active recharge; Zone 7, 2016a). The timing and quantity of Zone 7's active recharge efforts are typically dependent upon available supply, available recharge capacities, source water quality, and regulatory requirements. Zone 7 pumping has ranged from zero (for example, in the wet years of the early 1980s) to significant pumping during the drought years, for example from 1987 to 1992 and from 2007 to 2009 (Zone 7, 2016a).

### **3.3. Public Water Systems**

Zone 7 supplies the majority of the water within the Plan Area through its four retailers, including Cal Water, DSRSD, City of Livermore and City of Pleasanton. Three of these retailers (DSRSD, City of Livermore and City of Pleasanton) are public water supply agencies. The SFPUC supplies groundwater to the Castlewood Development in the western portion of Pleasanton (Zone 7, 2016a). Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton, has a small water system that relies on groundwater.

The retailers and Zone 7 work together through various means of communication including the Tri-Valley Water Retailers Group (TWRG), consisting of staff from each retailer, and Liaison Committee meetings, consisting of both elected officials and staff (Zone 7, 2016a). Policy-level discussions related to water resources management is held through either the Water Resources Committee or Liaison Committee meetings. In addition to these formal meetings, the staff from operations and planning regularly meet to discuss annual operations, safety and emergency response, and long-term water supply planning (Zone 7, 2016a).

Zone 7 maintains close coordination with these public water systems within its service area. To the extent that additional public water systems are identified, they will be considered and engaged during the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.

### **3.4. Local Land Use Planning Agencies**

The Basin is located mostly in Alameda County, with a northern extension into Contra Costa County. Cities overlying portions of the Basin include San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore. The Counties and Cities are responsible for land use planning in the Plan Area.

There are two Park Districts in the Valley: the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). The Lake Del Valle State Recreation Area and Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area located on the southern side of the Basin are operated by EBRPD (Zone 7, 2016a). In addition, the Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) protects open space for parks, farms, trails, ranches and wildlife habitat in the Tri-Valley. Most of the lands managed by TVC are in the Fringe and Upland Management Areas of the Basin (TVC, 2019).

Zone 7 maintains close coordination with the land use planning entities within its service area. To the extent that additional local land use planning agencies are identified, they will be considered and engaged during the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.



### **3.5. Environmental Users of Groundwater**

Based on the 2016 Alt GSP and comments provide by DWR, there may be areas of the Basin that are considered a groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE), or where there is known surface water-groundwater interaction. These areas include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- The Springtown Alkali Sink (Sink) that is habitat for over a dozen Federally-listed, state-listed or state-listed-as-sensitive plant and animal taxa and includes plant communities that are globally or regionally rare or otherwise degraded. The Sink is also designated as Critical Habitat for vernal pools and some vernal pool species, and identified as predicted habitat for California red-legged frog, by the US Fish and Wildlife Service<sup>6</sup>. Recognized as such, most of the alkali sink and adjacent creeks are protected either as Preserves of the City of Livermore or conservation easements, or are owned and managed by Zone 7 or the Federal Communications Commission (Zone 7, 2016a).
- The prehistoric Pleasanton marsh complex extended over thousands of acres, including much of the Bernal and Castle Subareas and extending north into the Dublin Subarea and east into the Amador Subarea (Zone 7, 2016a). The existence of the marsh complex reflected the limited outlet of the Livermore-Amador Valley along Arroyo de la Laguna, resulting in shallow groundwater levels and ponding of floodwater. Arroyo de la Laguna is situated along the western edge of the Livermore-Amador Valley (and the former Pleasanton Marsh) and extends southward into the Sunol Valley Groundwater Basin, where it joins Alameda Creek (Zone 7, 2016a).

A significant focus of the 2022 Alt GSP is focused on improved delineation of GDEs in the Basin. To the extent that additional environmental users of groundwater are identified, they will be considered, and appropriate representatives will be engaged during the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.

### **3.6. Surface Water Users**

Surface drainage features within the Basin include the Arroyo Valle, Arroyo Mocho, and Arroyo las Positas as principal streams, with Alamo Creek, South San Ramon Creek, and Tassajara Creek as minor streams draining from the north. All streams converge on the west side of the Basin to form Arroyo de la Laguna, which flows south, exiting the Livermore Valley and joining Alameda Creek in Sunol Valley. Both the Arroyo Valle and Arroyo Mocho originate in the woodland forests of the Burnt Hills region in Santa Clara County, in the sub-watershed above Lake Del Valle. These two streams and their tributaries cover the largest drainage areas within the Zone 7 service area. The Arroyo Las Positas mainly flows westerly along Interstate 580 and is fed by the Arroyo Seco, Altamont Creek, Cayetano Creek, Collier Canyon Creek, and Cottonwood Creek (Zone 7, 2016a).

As the water wholesaler for the Tri-Valley Area, Zone 7 imports surface water from the State Water Project (SWP) through the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) for treatment, storage, and groundwater recharge. As part of Zone 7's managed recharge efforts, the imported water is discharged into the Arroyo Valley and Arroyo Mocho, where the underlying gravels allow the water to percolate into the Basin. Zone 7 supplies treated drinking water to its four retailers (i.e., Cal Water, Pleasanton, Livermore and DRSD), which deliver water

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<sup>6</sup> See the California Department Fish and Wildlife interactive map <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios/>.

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to customers in their specific service areas. Zone 7 also supplies untreated surface water for local industry and agriculture.

Numerous saline springs have been observed east of the Basin associated with upwelling along faults, especially those in the Greenville fault zone. Although minor springs contribute to the upper reaches of the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Valle above Lang Canyon, none of these springs contribute sufficient runoff to the arroyos to cause continuous flow in the streams (i.e., most are isolated and are subject to tectonic shifts and climatic conditions that impact the amount of flow emanating) (Zone 7, 2016a).

Other surface water bodies include the Chain of Lakes, which when completed will consist of ten quarry lakes in the western central Basin, and Lake Del Valle, a portion of which is located within the southern end of the Basin.

A significant focus of the 2022 Alt GSP is focused on improved delineation of surface water/groundwater interaction in the Basin. To the extent that additional areas of groundwater/surface water are identified, they will be considered and appropriate representatives will be engaged during the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.

### **3.7. The Federal Government**

Based on application of DWR's SGMA Data Viewer, within the Plan Area there are several areas of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) owned and operated lands and conservation easements, Nonprofit California Protected Area (CPA) holdings, and California Conservation Easements (CCE).

The Camp Parks Military Reservation/Reserve Forces Training Area is located on the northern boundary of the Basin and is operated by the Department of Defense/United States Army. The facility is a semi-active mobilization and training center for army reserve personnel to be used in case of war or natural disaster. The site also includes a federal correctional institution (Zone 7, 2016a).

To the extent that additional Federal and State landowners are identified, they will be also be considered and engaged during the development and implementation of the 2022 Alt GSP.

### **3.8. California Native American Tribes**

There are no identified California Native American tribal lands within the Plan Area.

### **3.9. Disadvantaged Communities**

There are three block groups identified as DACs based on an average household income less than 60% to 80% of the State median (U.S. Census, 2016). There are currently 2,598 disadvantaged households in the City of Livermore, with a total population of 6,678. Zone 7 will coordinate with the City of Livermore and community representative or groups, as appropriate, with respect to how to best engage with, and address the needs of, this DAC.



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### 3.10. Groundwater Monitoring Entities

Zone 7 implements a groundwater elevation monitoring program within the Basin to track groundwater levels and flow, identify short- and long-term trends, estimate subsurface flows between Basin Management Areas, and support water budget and storage analyses. The groundwater elevation monitoring program consists of about 240 wells including 18 nested wells providing local information on vertical gradients (Zone 7, 2016a). These data will be incorporated into the 2022 Alt GSP.

### 3.11. Additional Stakeholders

As a water supply wholesaler, Zone 7 maintains close relationships with other groundwater users in the basin, and coordinates their actions with the groundwater monitoring and management activities of others (Zone 7, 2016a). **Table 1** below provides a summary of key cooperative programs.

**Table 1. Summary of Cooperative Water Resource Management Programs**

| Water Resources Management Program   | Other Local Agency   | Zone 7 Cooperative Role  |
|--|--|--|
| Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)  | Alameda County Environmental Health (ACEH)   | Reviews permit applications; Zone 7 approval is required in some cases                         |
| Toxic Sites Surveillance (TSS)   | RWQCB and ACEH   | Tracks progress of site investigation/cleanup and provides input to lead agencies              |
| Surface Mining Permits   | Alameda County Community Development Agency (ACCD)   | Reviews permit changes and provides input as a future owner                                    |
| Water Quality/Groundwater Elevation Monitoring   | Retailers (City of Pleasanton, City of Livermore, DSRSD, Cal Water); Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) | Data sharing of water quality and elevation data   |
| Referral Process (Development Reviews/ <b>California Environmental Quality Act</b> [CEQA] Reviews) | Cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, and Dublin, and Alameda County.   | Review proposed site plans and comment on existing infrastructure as well as potential impacts |
| South Bay Contractors  | Alameda County Water District (ACWD) and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)                                 | Work with other water agencies on allocating water supply available for recharge               |
| Integrated Regional Water Management   | San Francisco Bay Area water agencies  | Local representative   |

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| Water Resources Management Program         | Other Local Agency                          | Zone 7 Cooperative Role                                |
|--|---|--|
| Liaison Committee                          | Cities, retailers, DSRSD, Elected Officials | Local representative to provide input and information  |
| Tri-Valley Potable Reuse Feasibility Study | Retailers                                   | Evaluating feasibility of potable reuse for the Valley |

Zone 7 has established positive ongoing working relationships with numerous other agencies involved in the basin including, but not limited to DWR, RWQCB, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-NMFS), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For example, Zone 7 was an early signatory to a Statement of Understanding for the development of NOAA-NMFS Multispecies Recovery Plan that explores responsible water management for the preservation of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (steelhead trout) within the Alameda Creek watershed.

For development of the 2004 Salt Management Plan, Zone 7 assembled a Groundwater Management Advisory Committee including citizens and stakeholders and an independent Technical Advisory Group (including key stakeholders and water retailers). Similarly, the 2015 Nutrient Management Plan was developed with support and input from the RWQCB, ACEH, ACCDA, Zone 7 retailers, and other stakeholders and interested public. Most recently, the Tri-Valley Potable Reuse Feasibility Study was developed through a process involving a series of public Round Table discussions among representatives of Zone 7 and the retailers, along with extensive outreach to the public, including a survey (Zone 7, 2016a).

**Table 2. Stakeholder Identification and Planned Engagement Summary**

| Organization/<br>Individual     | Type of<br>Stakeholder (a)                        | Anticipated Key<br>Interests  | Anticipated Key Issues (b)   | Relevant Alt GSP Sections  | Level of<br>Engagement and<br>Rationale (c)                |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Retailers (d)</b>            | Municipal<br>Users and<br>Public Water<br>Systems | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>municipal uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> <li>• 2022 Alternative Groundwater Sustainability plan (Alt GSP) development and implementation costs</li> <li>• Increased Recycled Water Use</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users |
| <b>Agricultural Water Users</b> | Agricultural<br>Users                             | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>irrigation     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential curtailment of pumping</li> <li>• 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation costs</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users |
| <b>Domestic Well Users</b>      | Domestic Well<br>Owners                           | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>domestic users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> <li>• Declining water levels</li> <li>• 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation costs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users |
| <b>Industrial Well Users</b>    | Industrial Users                                  | Continue to operate<br>mining field                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> <li>• Declining water levels from increased mining pit depths</li> <li>• 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation costs</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users |
| <b>Commercial Well Users</b>    | Commercial<br>Users                               | Continue to irrigate<br>golf course                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> <li>• 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation costs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users |

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| Organization/<br>Individual   | Type of<br>Stakeholder (a)           | Anticipated Key<br>Interests  | Anticipated Key Issues (b)   | Relevant Alt GSP Sections  | Level of<br>Engagement and<br>Rationale (c)                         |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>SFPUC</b>  | Municipal Well<br>Users              | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>municipal uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management<br/>Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>Alameda County<br/>Fairgrounds</b>   | Public Water<br>System               | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>municipal uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management<br/>Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>Alameda County,<br/>Contra Costa County,<br/>City of San Ramon,<br/>City of Dublin, City of<br/>Pleasanton, and City<br/>of Livermore</b>  | Local Land Use<br>Planning<br>Agency | Managing County-<br>wide or City-wide land<br>use                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications for land use<br/>planning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul>   | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>East Bay Regional<br/>Park District,<br/>Livermore Area<br/>Recreation and Park<br/>District, and Tri-<br/>Valley Conservancy</b>          | Local Land Use<br>Planning<br>Agency | Managing Regional-<br>wide land use                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications for land use<br/>planning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul>   | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>California<br/>Department of Fish<br/>and Wildlife, and<br/>Camp Parks Military<br/>Reservation /<br/>Reserve Forces<br/>Training Area</b> | Federal<br>Government                | Managing Regional-<br>wide land use                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications for land use<br/>planning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul>   | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |

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| Organization/<br>Individual                        | Type of<br>Stakeholder (a)   | Anticipated Key<br>Interests  | Anticipated Key Issues (b)  | Relevant Alt GSP Sections   | Level of<br>Engagement and<br>Rationale (c)                         |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Groundwater<br/>Dependent<br/>Ecosystem (e)</b> | Environmental<br>Users       | Preserving<br>interconnected<br>surface water and<br>groundwater<br>interactions          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality degradation</li> <li>• Declining water levels</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management<br/>Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>Surface Drainage<br/>Features (f)</b>           | Surface Water<br>Users       | Preserving<br>interconnected<br>surface water and<br>groundwater<br>interactions          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining water levels</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basin Setting</li> <li>• Sustainable Management<br/>Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul> | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |
| <b>Disadvantaged<br/>Communities</b>               | Disadvantaged<br>Communities | Preserving access to<br>high quality<br>groundwater for<br>domestic and<br>municipal uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 Alt GSP development<br/>and implementation costs</li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Area</li> <li>• Sustainable Management<br/>Criteria</li> <li>• Projects and Management<br/>Actions</li> </ul>     | Inform and<br>involve to avoid<br>negative impact<br>to these users |

### Notes:

- (a) Type of stakeholder based on CWC §10723.2 (e.g., agricultural groundwater users, municipal well operators, etc.).
- (b) Any documented issues (media coverage, statements, reports, etc.), specific issues such as past events, or issues that have been otherwise communicated to or are anticipated by Zone 7.
- (c) Level of engagement based on the International Association of Public Participation Spectrum of Public Participation, as referenced in DWR’s Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Stakeholder Communication and Engagement (DWR, 2018).
- (d) Retailers in the Basin include California Water Service, Dublin San Ramon Service District, City of Livermore, and City of Pleasanton.
- (e) Known or suspected Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems within the Basin include the Springtown Alkali Sink and the prehistoric Pleasanton marsh complex.
- (f) Surface drainage features within the Basin include the Arroyo Valle, Arroyo Mocho, and Arroyo las Positas as principal streams, with Alamo Creek, South San Ramon Creek, and Tassajara Creek as minor streams. Other surface drainage features include numerous saline springs and the South Bay Aqueduct.

# Zone 7 Water Agency Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan



## 4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

§ 354.10. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:  
 (d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:  
 (3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.

Zone 7 has developed objectives that support a basic philosophy of working cooperatively with groundwater stakeholders in the Basin including the public, irrigation and domestic well owners, gravel mining companies, TWRG, water purveyors, and planning agencies. These objectives include:

- develop information, policies, and procedures for the effective long-term management of the groundwater basin;
- inform the public and relevant governmental agencies of the Zone’s water supply potential and management policies and to solicit their input and cooperation; and
- work cooperatively with the gravel mining industry to implement the Chain of Lakes reclamation plan.

Zone 7 involves the public, stakeholders and local agencies in its planning and programs through meetings, data sharing, and online media and has memorialized this approach as an operational policy in the Agency’s 1987 Statement on Groundwater Management (Zone 7, 2016a)<sup>7</sup>.

Zone 7’s C&E efforts described herein specifically aim to provide beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Basin with opportunities to engage in the 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation process. Zone 7 will provide on-going outreach opportunities through the specific communication venues discussed in **Section 5**.

Zone 7 further aims to convey consistent high-level messaging to all stakeholders throughout 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation. As such, Zone 7 has developed a summary of anticipated questions as well as responses. **Table 3** will be updated to add additional, frequently received questions as well as to build upon responses based on 2022 Alt GSP development progress.

**Table 3. Likely Stakeholder Questions and Responses**

| Likely Questions   | Responses  |
|--|--|
| <b>How can I participate in the 2022 Update of Alt GSP development and implementation process?</b> | Zone 7 Board meetings are open to the public and held on the third Wednesday of every month. Board meeting agendas and packets are posted to the Zone 7 website: <a href="http://www.zone7water.com/library/board-meetings">http://www.zone7water.com/library/board-meetings</a> . |

<sup>7</sup> Objectives include: “To inform the public and relevant governmental agencies of the Zone’s water supply potential and management policies, and to solicit their input and cooperation.”

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| Likely Questions   | Responses   |
|--|---|
| <b>What types of management actions or projects have been done or are going to occur in my area?</b> | Zone 7 has implemented several management actions that are outlined in the Well Master Plan (2003), Salt Management Plan (2004), Nutrient Management Plan (2015), and 2016 Alt GSP. Additional management actions or projects have not been identified yet, as we are in the preliminary stages of the 2022 Alt GSP development.  |
| <b>Are pump meters going to be required?</b>   | At this point Zone 7 does not plan to require meters for single family residential, domestic, or agricultural wells.  |
| <b>Can groundwater management activities improve water challenges in DACs?</b>                       | Zone 7 has implemented several long-term management actions (listed above) to improve the water quality and to ensure future water supply for DACs.   |
| <b>Who is paying for 2022 Alt GSP development and implementation?</b>                                | Funding for the 2022 Alt GSP development is provided by Zone 7 and the DWR SGM Grant funded by Proposition 68.  |
| <b>How will Zone 7 resolve groundwater conflicts?</b>  | The Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin is not adjudicated; therefore, the State of California governs water rights and ownership. Zone 7 will work with landowners and the State to provide guidance and local data to resolve groundwater conflicts.   |
| <b>Why does my water taste funny/musty?</b>  | During the warm summer months, algae that produces a musty/muddy odor can grow in the surface waters of the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA), from which the Tri-Valley gets 80% of its water supply. DWR, which controls the SBA, treats the water periodically to minimize the growth of algae. Zone 7 is also in the process of building two ozone facilities that provide additional treatment to reduce the musty taste caused by algae. Consumer Confidence Report provided information on local drinking water quality can be accessed through the website here: <a href="http://www.zone7water.com/36-public/content/120-consumer-confidence-report">http://www.zone7water.com/36-public/content/120-consumer-confidence-report</a> . |
| <b>Why is my water so hard? Why are there white spots on my glassware or car after washing?</b>      | In the late 1980s, total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations increased in the Basin and have been relatively steady since that time. Zone 7 has been proactively addressing TDS concentrations, including implementing demineralization projects, both ongoing (Mocho Wellfield demineralization) and planned (Tri-Valley Recycled Water Project).  |
| <b>Is my water contaminated with Nitrate/Chromium/Boron/PFAS?</b>                                    | While these constituents of concern are present in the Basin, Zone 7 closely monitors the extent of these constituents and ensures that the concentrations of these constituents do not exceed any drinking water limits when introduced into the water distribution system.  |

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| Likely Questions  | Responses   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Does my well require CEQA compliance?</b></p>           | <p>Currently CEQA compliance for supply wells is discretionary (i.e., at the discretion of the local agency); however, the California Supreme Court is currently evaluating whether or not this should be mandatory or not.</p>   |
| <p><b>Is groundwater pumping causing land subsidence?</b></p> | <p>Zone 7 surveyed the land surface in the vicinity of our municipal wells in Pleasanton between 2002 and 2018 and has been monitoring the land surface over the entire Tri-Valley using InSAR since 2016. We have not seen any evidence of inelastic land subsidence from groundwater pumping.</p> |





## 5. VENUES FOR ENGAGING

§ 354.10. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:

- (b) A list of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.
- (c) Comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses by the Agency.
- (d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:
  - (1) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
  - (4) The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

Zone 7 has historically provided, and will continue to provide, a variety of opportunities for engagement with stakeholders per (23-CCR §354.10(d)(1)). Stakeholder input received will inform and be incorporated into corresponding sections of the 2022 Alt GSP, as appropriate.

A list of public meetings at which the 2022 Alt GSP has been discussed or considered by Zone 7 is included as **Appendix D** and will be updated regularly (23-CCR §354.10(b)).

### 5.1. Zone 7 Board Meetings

Zone 7 Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Zone 7's offices, located at 100 North Canyons Parkway in Livermore. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20), Board meetings have recently been held online. Video recordings of the meetings are available to the public and can be accessed through the Tri-Valley Community Television website (<http://www.tri-valleytv.org/?q=node/59>). Board meeting agendas and packets are posted to the Zone 7 website (<http://www.zone7water.com/library/board-meetings>).

Zone 7 intends to inform its stakeholders of key updates and decisions regarding the 2022 Alt GSP during public Board meetings. These meetings provide a key venue for public engagement and discussion and will be where comments on the 2022 Alt GSP will be documented and addressed, as appropriate. Presentation materials will be posted on the SGMA website, discussed below.

As part of the Alt GSP implementation efforts, Zone 7 will continue to use the Board meetings as a venue to inform the public about 2022 Alt GSP implementation progress, including the status of projects and actions (23-CCR §354.10(d)(4)).

### 5.2. Website Communication

Zone 7 regularly updates its website (<https://www.zone7water.com/>) with Board meeting materials as described in **Section 2.2.1**. It also includes a webpage that includes significant reports related to its water resources and groundwater (<https://www.zone7water.com/library/reports-planning-documents>). Stakeholders can sign up to receive newsletters and other communications from Zone 7 directly from the website: <https://www.zone7water.com/news/enewsletter-signups>.

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A new, dedicated webpage that briefly summarizes SGMA, the Alt GSP, Annual Reporting, and Five-Year Update process will be developed as part of the 2022 Alt GSP development effort. This updated webpage will provide information to the public and other agencies to encourage public involvement in the SGMA process.

### 5.3. Stakeholder Outreach

Zone 7 currently envisions directly engaging with key stakeholders throughout the development of the 2022 Alt GSP (e.g., Tri-Valley Retail Group and the local land use and regulatory agencies). Zone 7 will keep records of all stakeholder outreach efforts, which will also be included as **Appendix D**.

Zone 7 initiated an “Open House” event in October 2019, and intends to hold similar public engagement event annually to showcase Zone 7’s facilities, operations, and projects, including SGMA and other groundwater management efforts. Website and radio advertisement links for the 2019 Open House are shown in **Appendix D**. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public engagement event for 2020 has not yet been decided.

### 5.4. Public Review of Draft Materials

Zone 7 plans to make a public draft version of the 2022 Alt GSP available for public review for a period of at least 30 days. A Public Hearing prior to the adoption of the Plan will also be held. Feedback received on the draft document will be noted and responses incorporated into the Final 2022 Alt GSP (23-CCR §354.10(c)).

### 5.5. Agencywide Annual Report

Every year, Zone 7 produces an agencywide annual report, which can be accessed directly from the website: <http://www.zone7water.com/reports-a-planning-documents>. The agencywide annual report includes information regarding Zone 7’s key accomplishments, outreach and education events, supply and demand, and water quality.



## 6. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Zone 7’s C&E implementation efforts will be aligned with the 2022 Alt GSP development timeline, as described in **Table 4** below.

**Table 4. 2022 Update of Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Communication & Engagement Efforts by Phase**

| Alt GSP Element                           | Timeframe                  | 2022 Alt GSP Efforts   | C&E Efforts   |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Plan Stakeholder Engagement</b>        | July 2020 – December 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection and review</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and begin to implement SCEP</li> <li>Begin website update</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Groundwater Level Program Update</b>   | July 2020 – December 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection and review</li> <li>Revise Depth to Water and Historic Low Maps</li> <li>Review/Develop Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach to existing well owners</li> <li>Conduct meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul> |
| <b>Groundwater Storage Program Update</b> | July 2020 – September 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Existing Hydrogeologic Framework</li> <li>Migrate and Extend Areal Recharge Model (ARM)</li> <li>Review/Develop Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Groundwater Quality Program Update</b> | July 2020 – December 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update TDS and Nitrate Projections</li> <li>Evaluate Effectiveness of NMP</li> <li>Review/Develop Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Land Subsidence Program Update</b>     | July 2020 – December 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate Use of InSAR</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul>   |

## Zone 7 Water Agency Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan



|   |                            |   |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Surface Water - Groundwater Interaction / GDE Program Update</b> | July 2020 – September 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm presence of GDEs</li> <li>• Assess Groundwater Needs for Sustainability</li> <li>• Review/Develop Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds</li> <li>• Evaluate the Need for New Monitoring Locations and Protocols</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>• Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>• Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Prepare 2022 Alt GSP Report</b>                                  | July 2020 – December 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile complete draft 2022 Update of Alt GSP</li> <li>• Revise draft 2022 Update of Alt GSP (if necessary) per stakeholder feedback</li> <li>• Finalize 2022 Update of Alt GSP Chapter and submit to DWR</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute public review draft 2022 Alt GSPs for public review</li> <li>• Incorporate feedback from public review in 2022 Alt GSP</li> <li>• Present progress update at one (1) Board meeting</li> <li>• Hold Public Hearing to adopt 2022 Alt GSP</li> <li>• Update SCEP, as needed to reflect C&amp;E efforts during 2022 Alt GSP development</li> </ul> |



## **7. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

Zone 7 intends to assess its C&E implementation during the 2022 Alt GSP development process, as shown in **Table 4**. Zone 7 will also present brief summaries of C&E progress at Zone 7 Board meetings and will lead a discussion about lessons learned and what can be improved as part of future SGMA implementation. The following questions will guide C&E evaluation:

- What worked well?
  - What allowed us insight into stakeholder concerns?
  - What types of materials best communicated GSP development to stakeholders?
- What didn't work as planned?
  - Could materials (e.g., presentation slides, fact sheets, website pages) have been improved to better communicate 2022 Alt GSP development progress?
  - Are certain stakeholder groups less represented in the 2022 Update of Alt GSP development process than they should be?
- What do we plan on doing differently during the next phase based on what we have learned?
- How much of our C&E budget have we spent relative to work completed? Do we have enough remaining budget to complete our C&E plan?
- Are there any outreach venues that need to be added to the implementation timeline?
- What are the next steps?

## Zone 7 Water Agency Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan











### REFERENCES AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

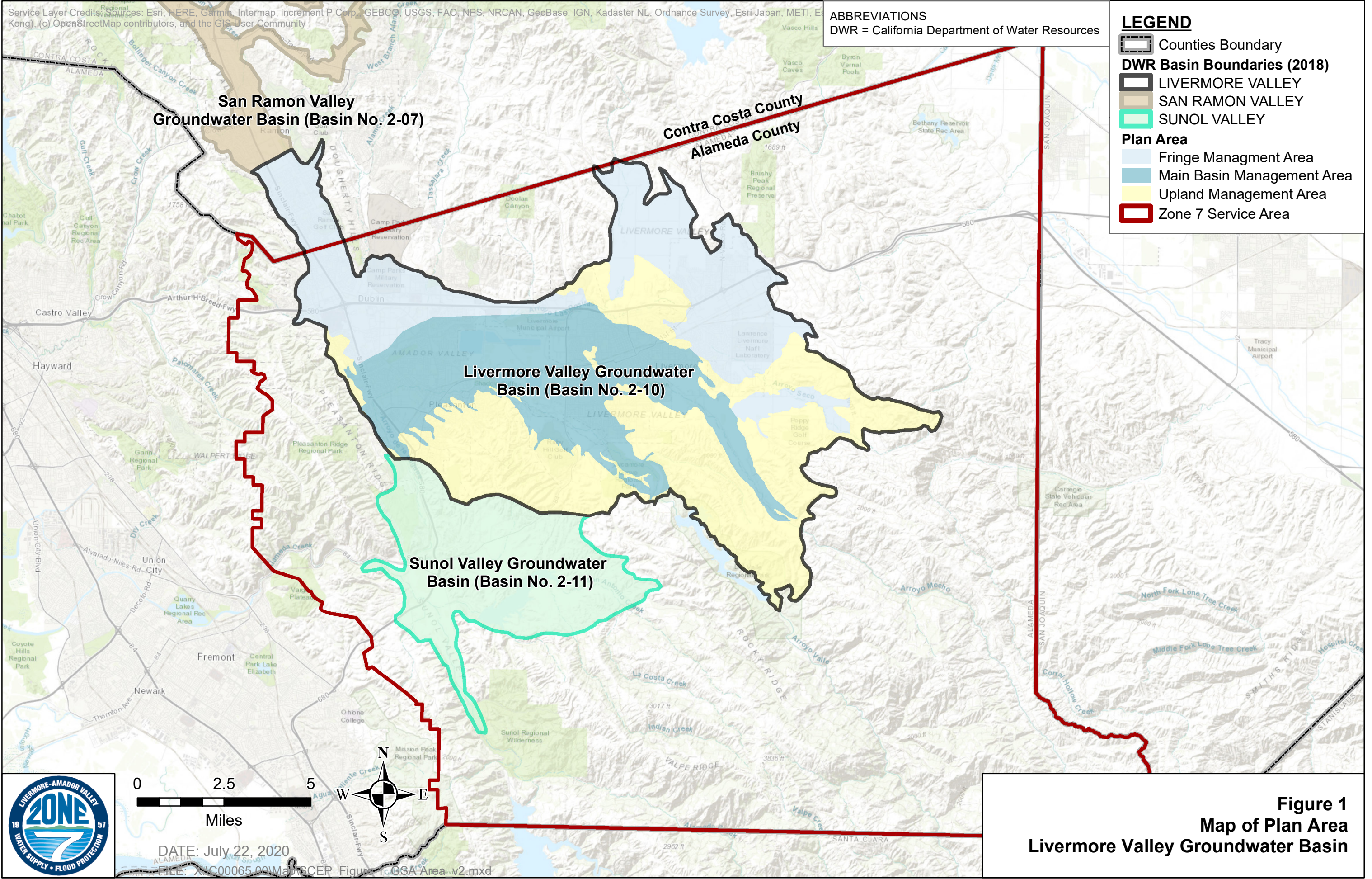
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**ABBREVIATIONS**  
DWR = California Department of Water Resources

**LEGEND**

-  Counties Boundary
- DWR Basin Boundaries (2018)**
-  LIVERMORE VALLEY
-  SAN RAMON VALLEY
-  SUNOL VALLEY
- Plan Area**
-  Fringe Management Area
-  Main Basin Management Area
-  Upland Management Area
-  Zone 7 Service Area



0 2.5 5  
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DATE: July 22, 2020

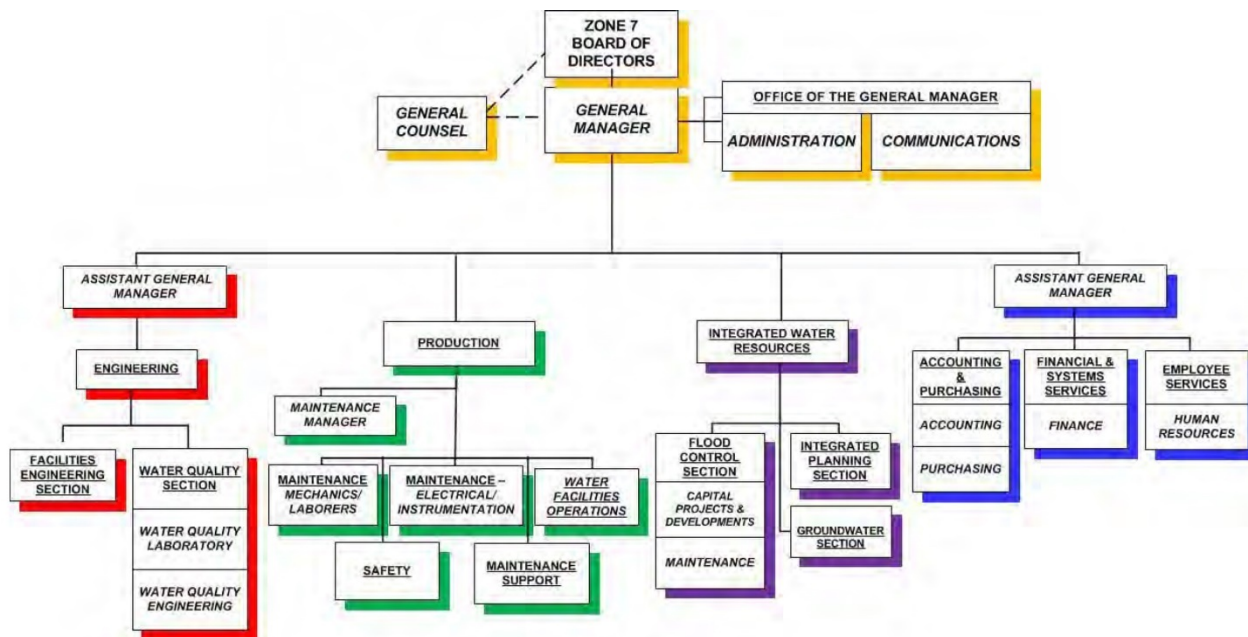
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**Figure 1**  
**Map of Plan Area**  
**Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin**



APPENDIX A

Zone 7 Organizational Chart







## **APPENDIX B**

### **Summary of DWR Recommendations**

The following recommended actions include information that the District may wish to include in the first five-year update of the Alternative to facilitate the Department's ongoing evaluation and assessment of the Alternative as well as recommendations for improvements to the Alternative.

#### **Recommended Action 1.**

Staff recommends that in the first update to the Alternative Report, the Agency identify those groundwater levels taken at representative monitoring sites, that are used to define the minimum threshold for the Basin, to facilitate the Department's ongoing responsibility to evaluate the Alternative Report.

#### **Recommended Action 2.**

Staff recommends that the Agency should develop quantitative minimum thresholds for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels for the Fringe and Upland management areas to better align with the requirements for management areas and definition of minimum thresholds, as defined in 23 CCR Sections 354.20(b)(2) and 354.28(b)(6).

#### **Recommended Action 3.**

Staff recommends that the Agency develop quantitative minimum thresholds for reduction of groundwater storage for the Fringe and Upland management areas to better align with the requirements for management areas and definition of minimum thresholds, as defined in 23 CCR Sections 354.20(b)(2) and 354.28(b)(6).

#### **Recommended Action 4.**

Staff recommends that the Agency include monitoring groundwater levels at additional locations in the Uplands Management Area to monitor changes in groundwater conditions and manage the groundwater resources to prevent undesirable results in future updates to the Alternative Report. The Agency should identify the frequency and timing when groundwater levels would be collected at new monitoring stations, and other relevant monitoring well construction information in accordance with the GSP Regulations.



**APPENDIX C**

**Memorandums of Understanding with Other Agencies**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
AMONG  
ZONE 7 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY,  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WATER AGENCY,  
CITY OF SAN RAMON,  
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
AND  
DUBLIN SAN RAMON SERVICES DISTRICT**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is made and entered among Contra Costa County (CCC), Contra Costa County Water Agency (CCCWA), the City of San Ramon (San Ramon), the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) (together, the Five Parties) and Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Zone 7) in consideration of the factual recitals and mutual obligations contained herein.

**WITNESSTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires the formation of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and the adoption of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for high- and medium-priority basins within five to seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, while the majority of the Livermore-Amador Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Groundwater Basin No. 2-10, hereinafter referred to as "Basin No. 2-10"), a medium priority basin, lies within the boundaries of Alameda County and the jurisdiction of Zone 7, portions lie within the boundaries of Contra Costa County and the jurisdictions of CCC, CCCWA, San Ramon, DSRSD, and EBMUD; and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA identified Zone 7 as the exclusive local agency to be the GSA for managing groundwater within its statutory boundaries (Water Code, § 10723, subd. (c)(1)(A)), and those statutory boundaries include the portion of Basin No. 2-10 lying within Alameda County, which comprises the majority of the basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Five Parties agree it would be prudent for Zone 7 to also manage the small remaining portion of Basin No. 2-10 that lies within the jurisdictions of CCC, CCCWA, San Ramon, DSRSD, and EBMUD to achieve effective groundwater management; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the interests of the Five Parties and Zone 7 to maintain current levels of jurisdictional authority while striving for holistic, sustainable groundwater basin management; and

**WHEREAS**, it is mutually beneficial to create this agreement to establish a delegation of authority to allow Zone 7 to be the GSA for the remaining portion of Basin No. 2-10 within the jurisdictions of CCC, CCCWA, San Ramon, DSRSD, and EBMUD to assure sustainable groundwater management;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Five Parties and Zone 7 do hereby agree as follows:

1. Purposes of MOU. The purposes of this MOU are (1) for each of the Five Parties to agree to confer to Zone 7 certain Delegated Authority (as that term is defined in Paragraph 2.A below) within the Delegated Area (as that term is defined in Paragraph 3 below), and (2) for Zone 7 to agree to exercise the Delegated Authority within the Delegated Area.
2. Authority and Responsibility.
  - A. Upon execution of this MOU, and upon final approval by California Department of Water Resources recognizing Zone 7 as the GSA responsible for the portion of Basin No. 2-10 lying within the area described in Paragraph 3 of this MOU, the Five Parties agree to delegate to Zone 7 all functions, powers, duties, and authority of a GSA conferred by SGMA. Notwithstanding any other provision of this MOU, the following authority shall not be delegated to Zone 7: (1) CCC shall continue to be the well permitting agency for all areas within its jurisdiction, (2) San Ramon and CCC shall continue to be the land use agencies for all areas within their respective jurisdictions, and (3) EBMUD and DSRSD shall continue to be the water supply agencies for all areas within their respective jurisdictions. The authority delegated by this Paragraph 2.A is referred to herein as the “Delegated Authority”.
  - B. Zone 7 agrees to assume and exercise all responsibilities required of a GSA, and to enforce all provisions and requirements contained in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan to be adopted for Basin No. 2-10 in accordance with SGMA. Zone 7 shall continue to monitor groundwater elevations within the Designated Area and to enter data into CASGEM as required in order to maintain grant eligibility.
3. Geographic Extent of Delegated Authority. The Delegated Authority shall have effect in that portion of Basin No. 2-10 which lies within the jurisdictional boundaries of each of the Five Parties, which portion is depicted in Exhibit A and is referred to herein as the “Delegated Area”.
4. Records. Zone 7 shall provide each of the Five Parties copies of all documents, reports, studies and other records created in the course of its exercise of the Delegated Authority which affects or relates to groundwater management within the Delegated Area. CCC shall provide Zone 7 with copies of all well permits issued or environmental reports received (including well completion reports) and any water level measurements taken within the Delegated Area. Zone 7 and the Five Parties shall cooperate and coordinate in responding to requests made under the California Public Records Act regarding records related to groundwater management within the Delegated Area.
5. Term. This MOU becomes valid and effective immediately upon execution by each of the Five Parties and Zone 7 and shall remain in effect unless terminated pursuant to Paragraph 9, below.
6. Entire Agreement. This MOU shall constitute the entire agreement among the Five Parties and Zone 7 relating to the delegation of authority provided by SGMA as relates to Basin No. 2-10. This MOU supersedes and merges all previous understandings, and all other agreements, written or oral, between the parties and sets forth the entire

understanding of the parties regarding the subject matter thereof.

- 7. Counterparts and Copies. This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which may be deemed an original and all of which collectively shall constitute a single instrument. Photocopies, facsimile copies, and PDF copies of this MOU shall have the same force and effect as a wet ink original signature on this MOU.
- 8. Amendment. This MOU may be amended at any time by a written agreement duly executed by each of the Five Parties and Zone 7.

9. Termination.

A. This MOU may be voluntarily terminated in full at any time by a writing signed by each of the Five Parties and Zone 7.

B. Any of the Five Parties may elect to terminate its participation in this MOU at any time. Termination of such party's participation in this MOU shall not become effective until after both of the following have occurred: (1) the terminating party provides written notice to all other signatories to this MOU of its intent to terminate its participation, and (2) one year has elapsed following the date of such written notice, during which time the terminating party may make efforts to assume the GSA role for the portion of the Delegated Area within the terminating party's jurisdiction. The termination of any of the Five Parties' participation in this MOU shall not affect the continuing validity of the MOU with respect to the remaining signatories.

C. Zone 7 may provide written notice to each of the Five Parties of its intent to terminate the Agreement, and the MOU shall cease to be of further effect one year following delivery of Zone 7's notice, during which time Zone 7 shall continue to exercise the Delegated Authority within the Delegated Area to allow adequate time for the Five Parties to address GSA related requirements for their respective portions of the Delegated Area.

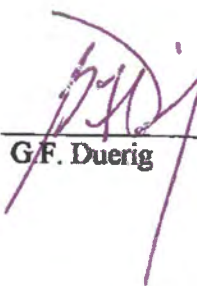
- 10. Signatures. The individuals executing this MOU represent and warrant that they have the legal capacity and authority to do so on behalf of their respective legal entities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as follows:

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

ZONE 7 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, BOS                      Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
G.F. Duerig                      Dated: 21 Apr 2016

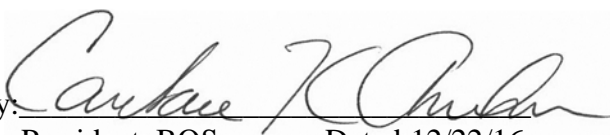
understanding of the parties regarding the subject matter thereof.

- 7. Counterparts and Copies. This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which may be deemed an original and all of which collectively shall constitute a single instrument. Photocopies, facsimile copies, and PDF copies of this MOU shall have the same force and effect as a wet ink original signature on this MOU.
- 8. Amendment. This MOU may be amended at any time by a written agreement duly executed by each of the Five Parties and Zone 7.
- 9. Termination.
  - A. This MOU may be voluntarily terminated in full at any time by a writing signed by each of the Five Parties and Zone 7.
  - B. Any of the Five Parties may elect to terminate its participation in this MOU at any time. Termination of such party's participation in this MOU shall not become effective until after both of the following have occurred: (1) the terminating party provides written notice to all other signatories to this MOU of its intent to terminate its participation, and (2) one year has elapsed following the date of such written notice, during which time the terminating party may make efforts to assume the GSA role for the portion of the Delegated Area within the terminating party's jurisdiction. The termination of any of the Five Parties' participation in this MOU shall not affect the continuing validity of the MOU with respect to the remaining signatories.
  - C. Zone 7 may provide written notice to each of the Five Parties of its intent to terminate the Agreement, and the MOU shall cease to be of further effect one year following delivery of Zone 7's notice, during which time Zone 7 shall continue to exercise the Delegated Authority within the Delegated Area to allow adequate time for the Five Parties to address GSA related requirements for their respective portions of the Delegated Area.
- 10. Signatures. The individuals executing this MOU represent and warrant that they have the legal capacity and authority to do so on behalf of their respective legal entities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as follows:

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

ZONE 7 OF THE ALAMEDA  
COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL &  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT


By:   
President, BOS                      Dated: 12/22/16

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
G.F. Duerig                      Dated:

CONTRA COSTA WATER AGENCY

CITY OF SAN RAMON

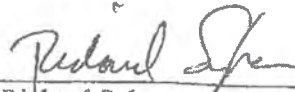
By: \_\_\_\_\_

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_

DUBLIN SAN RAMON SERVICES  
DISTRICT

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY  
DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  8/19/16  
Richard Sykes      Dated:  
Director of Water  
and Natural Resources

CONTRA COSTA WATER AGENCY

CITY OF SAN RAMON

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

DUBLIN SAN RAMON SERVICES  
DISTRICT

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY  
DISTRICT

By: *Dan McIntyre* *10/20/16*

Dan McIntyre      Dated:  
General Manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Sykes      Dated:  
Director of Water  
and Natural Resources



# EXHIBIT A

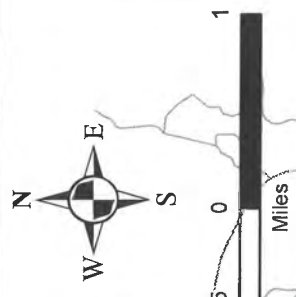
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GROUNDWATER BASIN  
(DWR BASIN 2-7)

City of  
San Ramon

Zone 7  
Jurisdictional Area

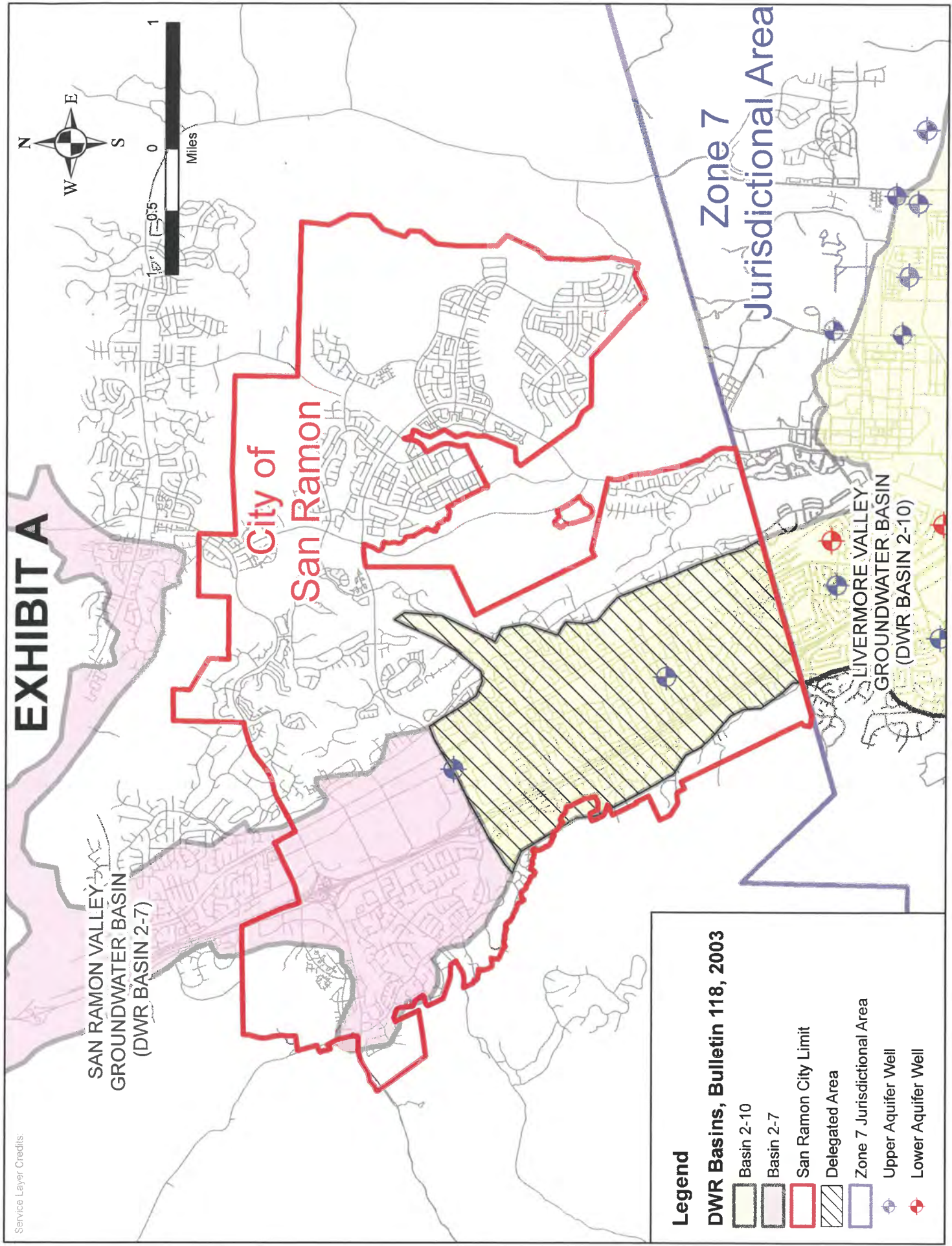
LIVERMORE VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER BASIN  
(DWR BASIN 2-10)



**Legend**

**DWR Basins, Bulletin 118, 2003**

- Basin 2-10
- Basin 2-7
- San Ramon City Limit
- Delegated Area
- Zone 7 Jurisdictional Area
- Upper Aquifer Well
- Lower Aquifer Well



**Zone 7 Water Agency  
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan**



**APPENDIX D**

**Stakeholder Outreach Efforts (updated 8/10/2020)**

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Stakeholder</b> | <b>Outreach Efforts</b>   | <b>Contacted</b>  | <b>Outreach Response</b>                        |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Oct 12, 2019</b>  | Public             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zone 7 Open House</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public advertisements</li> </ul> | Staff answered verbal questions from the public |
| <b>June 17, 2020</b> | Public             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation at Board meetings: Grant Project 2022 Update to Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> </ul>                | No comments or questions from the public        |
| <b>June 23, 2020</b> | Public             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E Newsletter: Zone 7 Groundwater Management Efforts Supported with Half Million Dollar Grant</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> </ul>                | No comments or questions from the public        |