

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

SONOMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2008 Progress

OUTREACH & STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- Implemented 2008 Public Outreach Plan: updated web site (www.sonomacountywater.org/svgroundwater) and prepared fact sheets.
- The Basin Advisory Panel met 4 times to oversee implementation of the groundwater plan, the Technical Advisory Committee met 10 times to advise on technical matters and the funding subcommittee met 3 times securing \$275,000 in funding.
- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) funded facilitation services for the Basin Advisory Panel and Technical Committee.

VOLUNTEER GROUNDWATER-LEVEL MONITORING

- 41 additional wells were added to the program in 2008, nearly doubling the number of water-level measurements.
- DWR and local trained volunteers coordinated the semi-annual measurement of water levels in nearly 100 wells using protocols developed with stakeholder guidance.
- DWR grant funding was obtained for two new dedicated multi-depth monitoring wells.
- The Panel and the Sonoma County Water Agency has set up a secure web-based data entry and management system for individuals to enter and analyze well data, called Web H₂O.

CONSERVATION REDUCES GROUNDWATER USE

- The Panel is implementing its \$25,000 grant to conduct water saving assessments and make recommendations for other conservation activities tailored to the Sonoma Valley.
- The Valley of the Moon Water District began offering water conservation programs and services to areas adjacent to the District.

RECHARGE AREAS BEING IDENTIFIED

- A new stream gage, installed on Sonoma Creek, will improve understanding in that part of the watershed and allow the Panel to couple recharge opportunities with flood control.
- The Technical Advisory Committee worked with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on groundwater recharge age-dating study.

FUNDING ADVANCES MONITORING AND INCREASES CONSERVATION

The program received 2 grants in 2008 totaling \$275,000:

- A \$250,000 DWR AB 303 grant to fund two new dedicated multi-depth monitoring wells and recharge area mapping. The Panel ranked 2nd in a pool of over 120 grant applications submitted across the state.
- A \$25,000 North Bay Watershed Association grant to conduct water saving assessments in the Valley.



2008 Hydrologic/Groundwater Conditions

ANNUAL RAINFALL/SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

- Annual rainfall was approximately 75% of average in 2008 (22 inches at the City's rain gage compared with the 50-year average of 29.5).
- Annual discharge of Sonoma Creek measured at the USGS Agua Caliente gage was similarly approximately 75% of average in 2008 (38,600 acre-feet in compared with the average of 51,800 acre-feet).

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

- Of the 57 wells for which at least 5 years of groundwater-level data is available, approximately 30 appear to be relatively stable, 21 exhibit declining trends, and 6 show upward trends.
- Two previously identified groundwater pumping depressions remain evident — Southeast of the City of Sonoma and Southwest of El Verano. Groundwater levels are locally below sea level in these areas.

2009 Goals and Planned Activities

CONTINUE STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

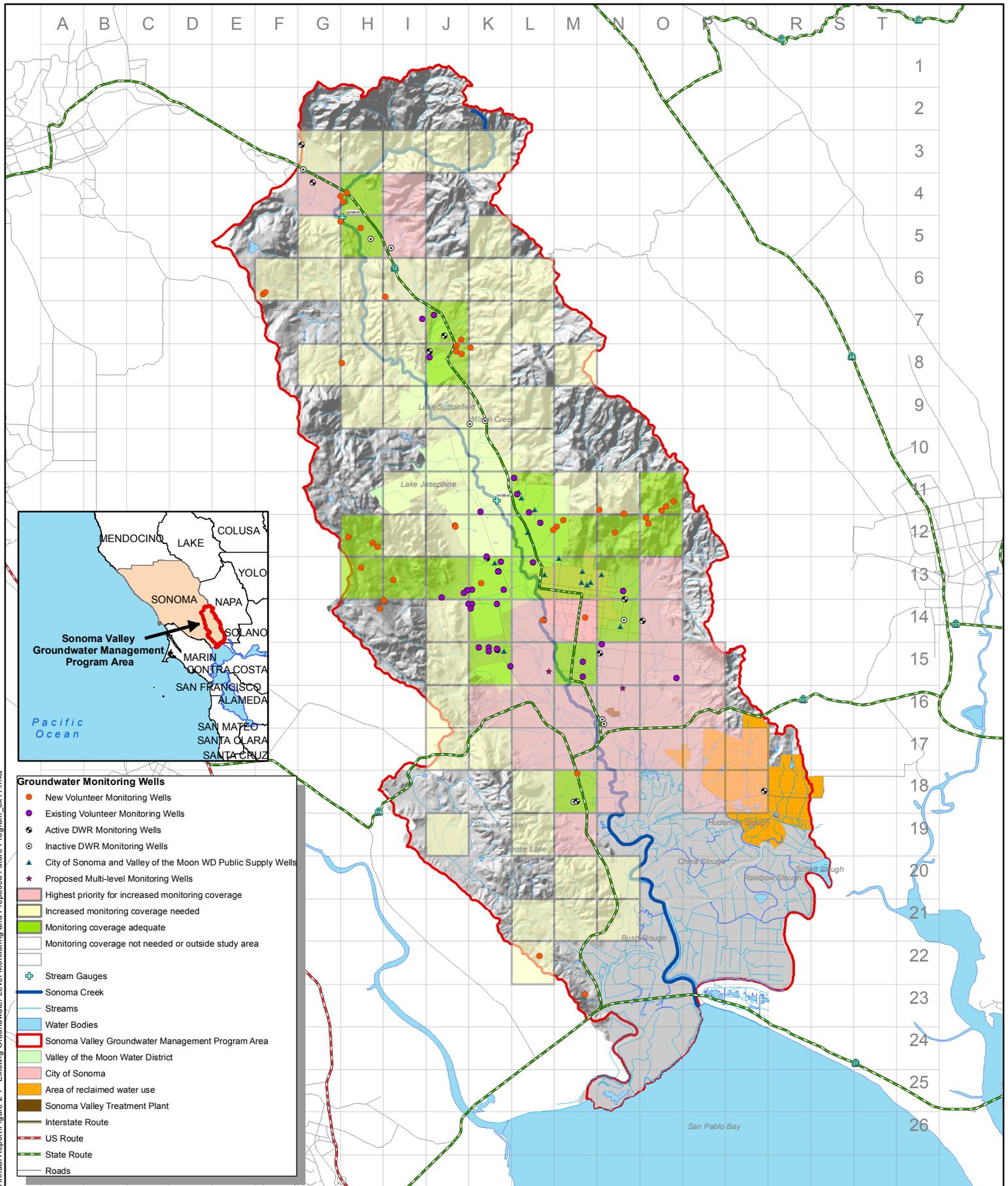
- Continue Panel and TAC meetings, prepare media outreach materials and conduct stakeholder briefings
- Update existing Well Owner's Guide to incorporate Sonoma Valley issues.

EXPAND GROUNDWATER-LEVEL PROGRAM

- Expand Voluntary Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network by approximately 30 wells and continue coordinated semi-annual measurements.
- Construct two new multi-depth monitoring wells using DWR grant funds to improve monitoring of groundwater-levels and salinity.
- Increase use and utility of web-based data management system (WEBH₂O)

PROMOTE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

- Conduct water conservation assessments using NBWA grant funds and use results to expand water conservation throughout Sonoma Valley, including agricultural users.
- Perform groundwater recharge mapping using DWR grant funds to identify areas suitable for groundwater recharge enhancement projects.
- Identify and plan projects that capture available stormwater from Sonoma Creek and its tributaries for recharge into the groundwater basin.
- Explore feasibility of banking excess winter flows from the Russian River in the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin for storage and use in the summer.
- Develop guidebook on implementing small-scale recharge, conservation, and reuse projects for landowners in coordination with the Southern Sonoma County Resource and Conservation District



**Sonoma Valley
Groundwater Management Program 2008 Annual Report
Groundwater Level Monitoring Network**



Note: Map must be printed at paper size 8.5x11 for the representative fraction to be correct

Figure 2-1

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