

Summary of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Assessment

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Interview Findings (16 interviews conducted with 30 stakeholders)

- **Water Supply** - Stakeholders from many perspectives suggest it is time for residents of Sonoma Valley and Sonoma County to change their attitudes about water.
- **Groundwater** - Interviewees report that pumping existing quantities of groundwater is not sustainable.
- **Groundwater** - Quality is a concern.
- **Recycled Water** - Recycled water is viewed favorably and expanded use is encouraged.
- **Land Use** - Linking land use and water, including housing and new vineyards, is an area of concern that should be considered as part of the groundwater management process.
- **Diversify Supply** - Interviewees who supply water or deal with water policy expressed strong support for the need to diversify the water supply.
- **Information Gathering and Data Analysis** - Any efforts at managing groundwater in the Sonoma Valley will have to negotiate issues related to well monitoring and data analysis.
- **Hydrologic Assessment** - Interviewees feel that conducting an objective hydrologic assessment could provide a framework for planning.
- **Groundwater Management Planning** - Motivation for groundwater management planning exists.
- **Goals and Scope** - If a groundwater management plan were to move forward, some offered hopes it would prevent further depletion of the aquifer, limit quality or shortage issues, and increase recharge.
- **Jurisdictions and Leadership** - Multiple agencies have jurisdiction in the Sonoma Valley and an interest in water issues there.
- **Water Resources Education** - Most interviewees noted that there is a great deal of misinformation related to water supply and management and groundwater in Sonoma Valley.

Recommendations

Based on the interview findings, CCP recommends the following:

- Use Collaboration to Address Groundwater Management
- Convene a Basin Advisory Panel under AB 3030 with economic interests, environmental interests, groundwater users, and government represented.
- Design and Implement a Public Outreach Plan
- Develop a Phased Approach to the Work Plan to frame stakeholder discussion, create clear milestones for briefing constituents and encourage the stakeholder group to evaluate progress and make a conscious decision to continue.