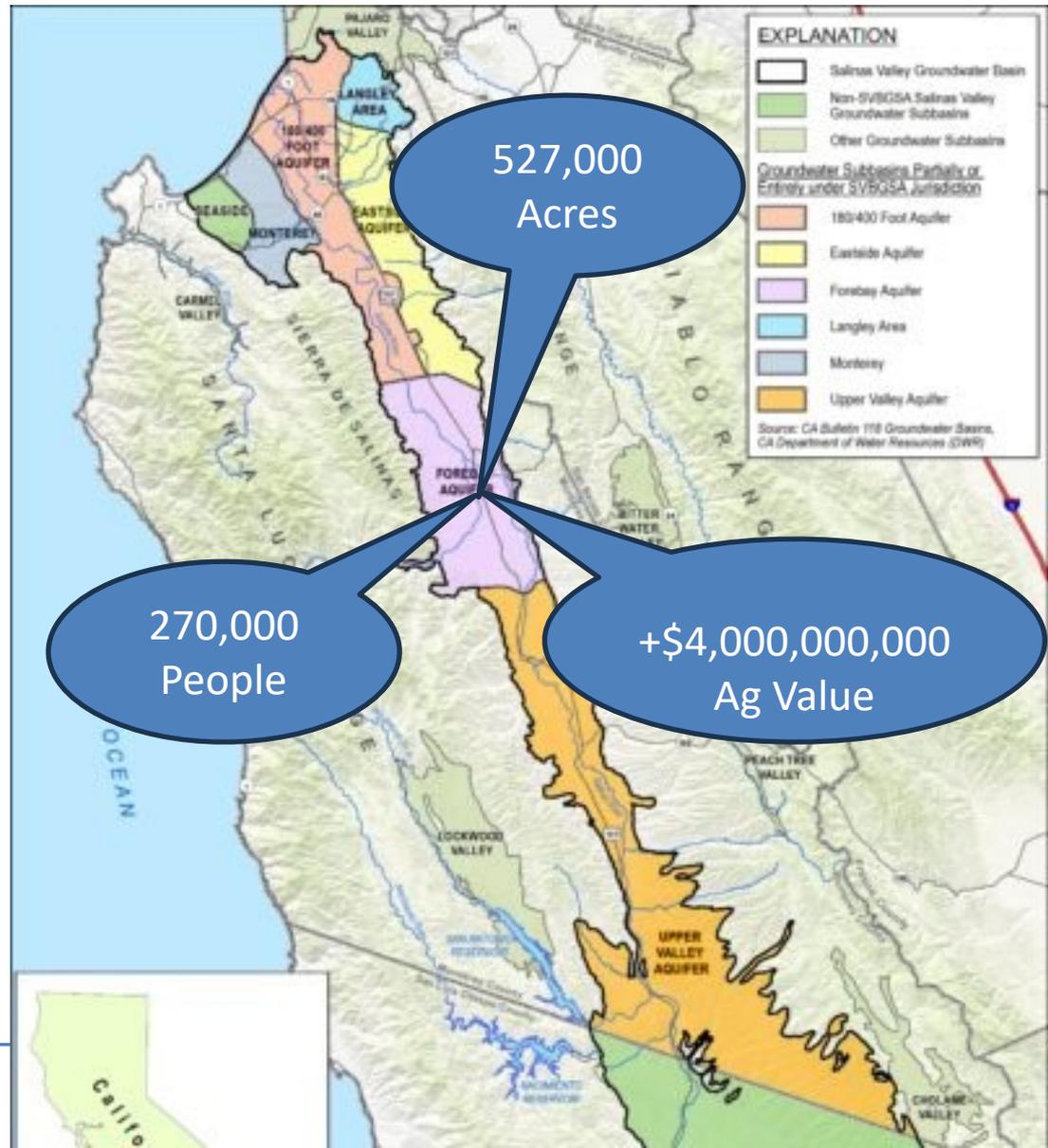


Today's Discussion At A Glance

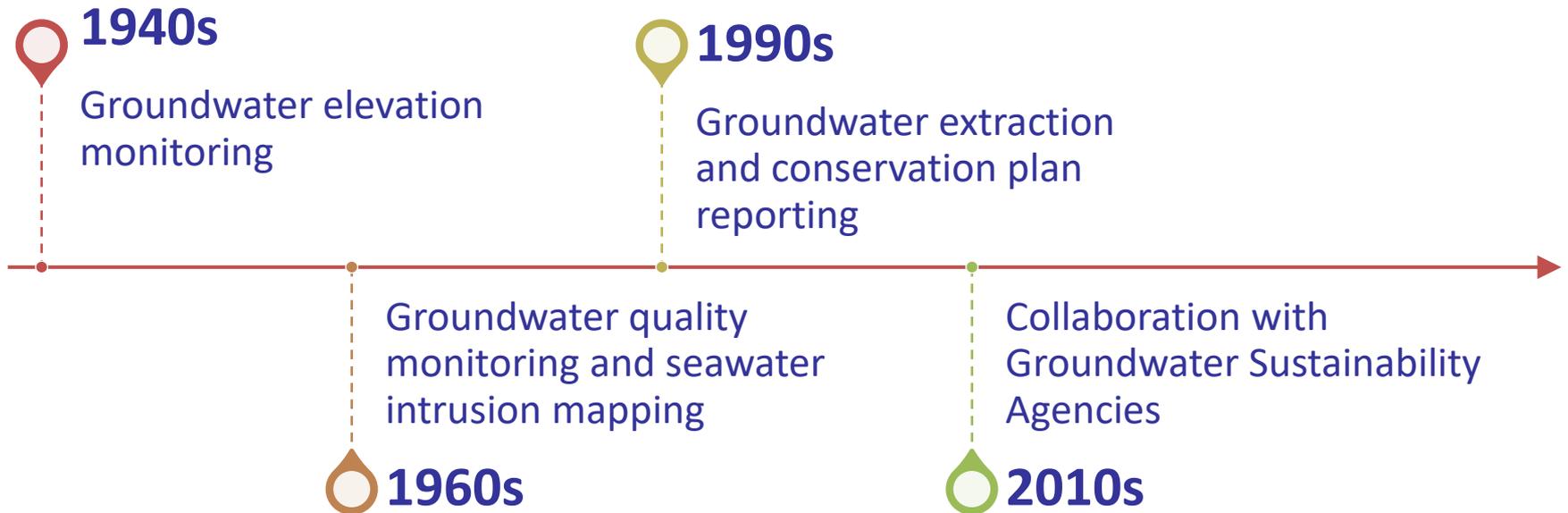
- The Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin;
- The Agency's groundwater monitoring history;
- SGMA and the new regulatory paradigm;
- WRA Groundwater Monitoring Program;
- GEMS Expansion Update;
- “Bringing it all Together”
 - The intersection of GEMS Expansion and establishment of the WRA Groundwater Monitoring Program;
- Next Steps.

Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

- Extends throughout the Salinas Valley from the southern San Luis Obispo County line to the Pacific Ocean in northwestern Monterey County.



WRA Groundwater Monitoring



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- SGMA is really three state acts signed into law in 2014.
- SGMA mandates:
 - Groundwater sustainability by 2040 or 2042;
 - The Department of Water Resources:
 - Establish and prioritize groundwater basins (5);
 - Approve plans and monitor progress;
 - Determine sustainability
 - Formation of GSAs (6) in lieu of county or state control;
 - Development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans;
 - **Monitoring of groundwater level, quality, and usage.**

Groundwater Monitoring Program

- Establishes one cohesive monitoring program to support today's regulatorily driven monitoring requirements;
- Leverages ~75 years of Agency expertise;
- Advances WRA Strategic Planning Goals:
 - Goal B: Planning & New Project Strategies 2, 5, & 7
 - Goal C: Financial Sustainability Strategies 2 & 6
 - Goal D: Core Services Strategies 1, 2, 3, & 5
- Supports the Salinas Valley Basin GSA's efforts;
- Creates opportunity to consolidate monitoring efforts under one entity;

Groundwater Monitoring Program

- Currently focused on consolidating and expanding current monitoring efforts within the Salinas Valley Basin;
- Could be utilized to support other groundwater management efforts:
 - Environmental Health
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - GSAs outside of the Salinas Valley Basin
- Proposes to repeal 3 existing well registration & extraction monitoring ordinances and adopting 1 new ordinance;
- Proposes establishing a Prop 26 Regulatory Fee per well.
- Proposes to support SVB GEMS Expansion request.

GEMS Expansion Update

- The Agency and the Salinas Valley Basin GSA continue collaborating to meet regulatory requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- The Agency and SVB continue stakeholder outreach on “GEMS Expansion” that began in the fall 2023.
- The Agency’s outreach efforts include:
 - WRA Planning Committee
 - WRA Personnel & Administration Committee
 - WRA Board of Directors
 - WRA Board of Supervisors
 - SVBGSA Board of Directors
 - Various stakeholders

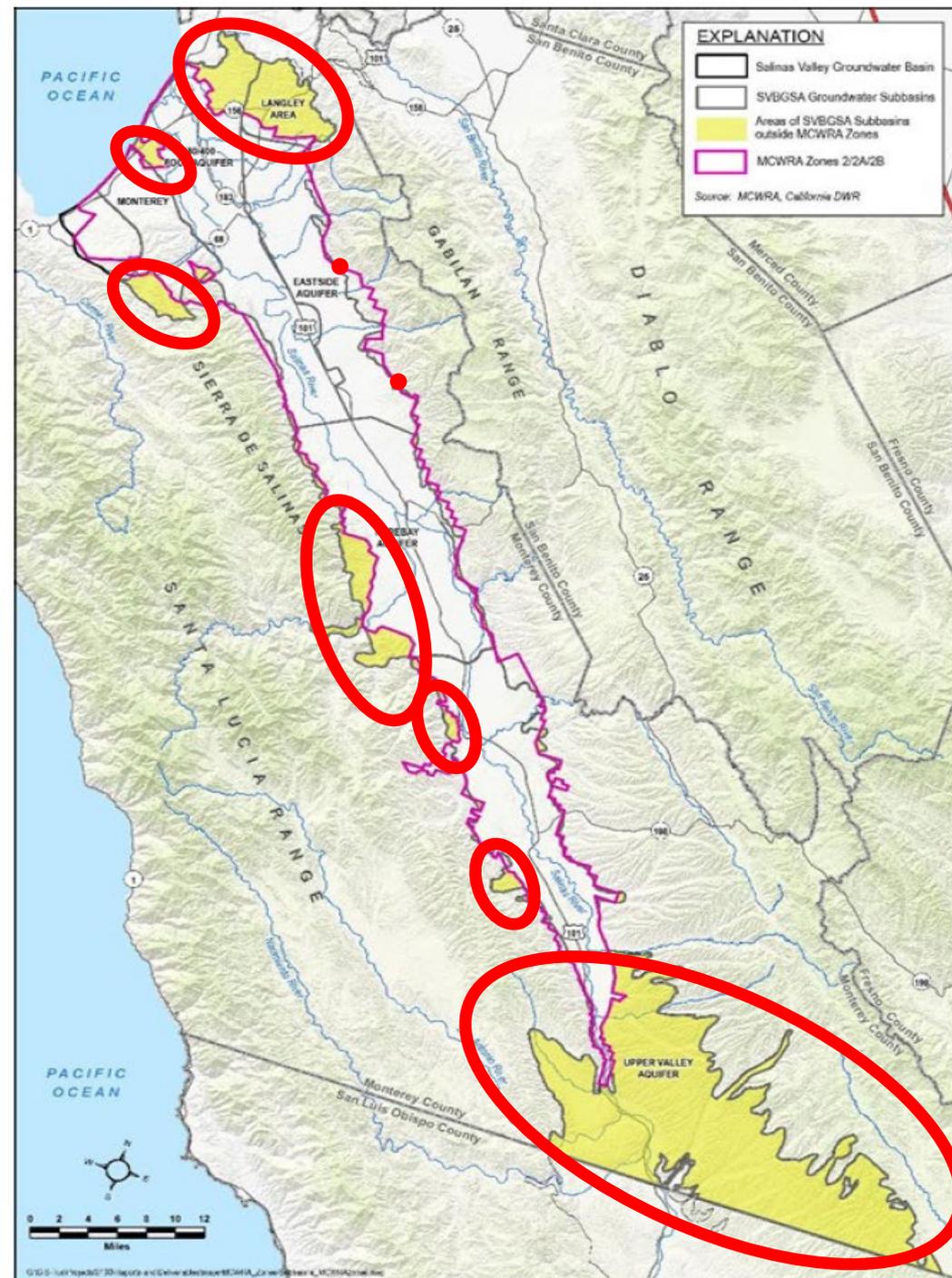
Why GEMS Expansion?

- Meets the regulatory data collection needs of SVB.
 - 5-year GSP evaluations due
 - 180-400 subbasin: January 2025
 - Other 5 subbasins: January 2027
- Helps address DWR's Recommended Corrective Actions.
- Aligns Agency's GEMS boundaries and SVB/DWR Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin boundaries.

Red Circles Are Outside of Current GEMS Program

Implementation Priorities 2024-2027

- ✓ 180-400 due to GSP 5-Year Evaluation deadline;
- ✓ Registration of unregistered wells;
- ✓ New extraction reporting in all areas to fill data gaps;
- ✓ Enhancements and other cooperative opportunities.



What changes are being planned?

▪ Well Registration:

- Currently in GEMS, wells with a discharge pipe smaller than 3 inches in diameter need not register.
- ***Under Expansion, all wells will need to register.***
- Known wells will not need to re-register.
- Any changes to wells, e.g. ownership, repair, modification, and destruction, will need to be reported.

What changes are being planned?

- Definition of a “well”:
- “Well” means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into, the underground. “Well” includes abandoned wells, inactive wells, monitoring wells, and observation wells.
- For the purposes of this ordinance, **“well” does not include:** (1) oil and gas wells, or geothermal wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation, except those wells converted to use as water wells; (2) wells used for the purpose of dewatering excavation during construction, or stabilizing hillsides or earth embankments; (3) cathodic protection wells; or (4) test wells or dry wells.
- The definition of "well" in the draft ordinance is written to be consistent with the definitions in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74-81, "Water Well Standards;" Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74-1, "Cathodic Protection Well Standards;" and Monterey County Code Chapter 15.08 "Water wells."

What changes are being planned?

- **Extraction Reporting:**
 - Expansion of GEMS to include new reporting requirements in all areas under SVB jurisdiction.
 - Currently in GEMS, wells with a discharge pipe smaller than 3 inches in diameter need not report.
 - ***Under Expansion, all wells using more than 2 AFY will need to report, consistent with SGMA.***
- Enhancement of GEMS to improve the processes
 - Reporting timeframe and period
 - Protocols, devices, technology

In sum, “GEMS Expansion” is:

- To meet the regulatory needs of the SVB for data collection within their jurisdiction;
- Registration of wells not previously registered;
- New reporting requirements;
- Improved processes, greater efficiencies;
- Opportunity to meet the future needs of others.

Bringing it all Together

- The proposed new ordinance would:
 - Affirm the Agency’s authority to perform groundwater monitoring throughout the County;
 - Establish a new regulatory fee to support the Groundwater Monitoring Program;
 - Establish opportunity for other entities with groundwater regulatory responsibilities to request service from the Agency.

Bringing it all Together

- New approach to cost allocation and recovery.
 - Historically, Agency costs are predominately allocated and recovered on a per-acre basis.
 - Future GMP costs are proposed to be allocated and recovered on a per-well basis (monitoring efforts are driven by the number of wells, not the number of acres).

Bringing it all Together

- Article XIII C, section 1(e)(3) of the California Constitution allows local agencies to charge for reasonable regulatory costs to the local agency performing investigations, inspections, and the administrative enforcement of the regulations.
- To show a fee is a regulatory fee and not a special tax, the local agency should prove: (1) the estimated costs of the regulatory activity; and (2) the basis for determining the manner in which the costs are apportioned, so that charges allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on or benefits from the regulatory activity.

Bringing it all Together

- The Ordinance establishes ***broad authority*** for the Agency.
- A Service Agreement will establish the ***terms and conditions*** for the Agency to provide groundwater monitoring service to a requesting entity.
- Task Orders will define the ***specific work and proposed cost*** of an entities request.
- Resolution(s) adopted at least annually by the Supervisors ***will approve*** proposed Agency work, related costs, and a resultant, annual regulatory fee.

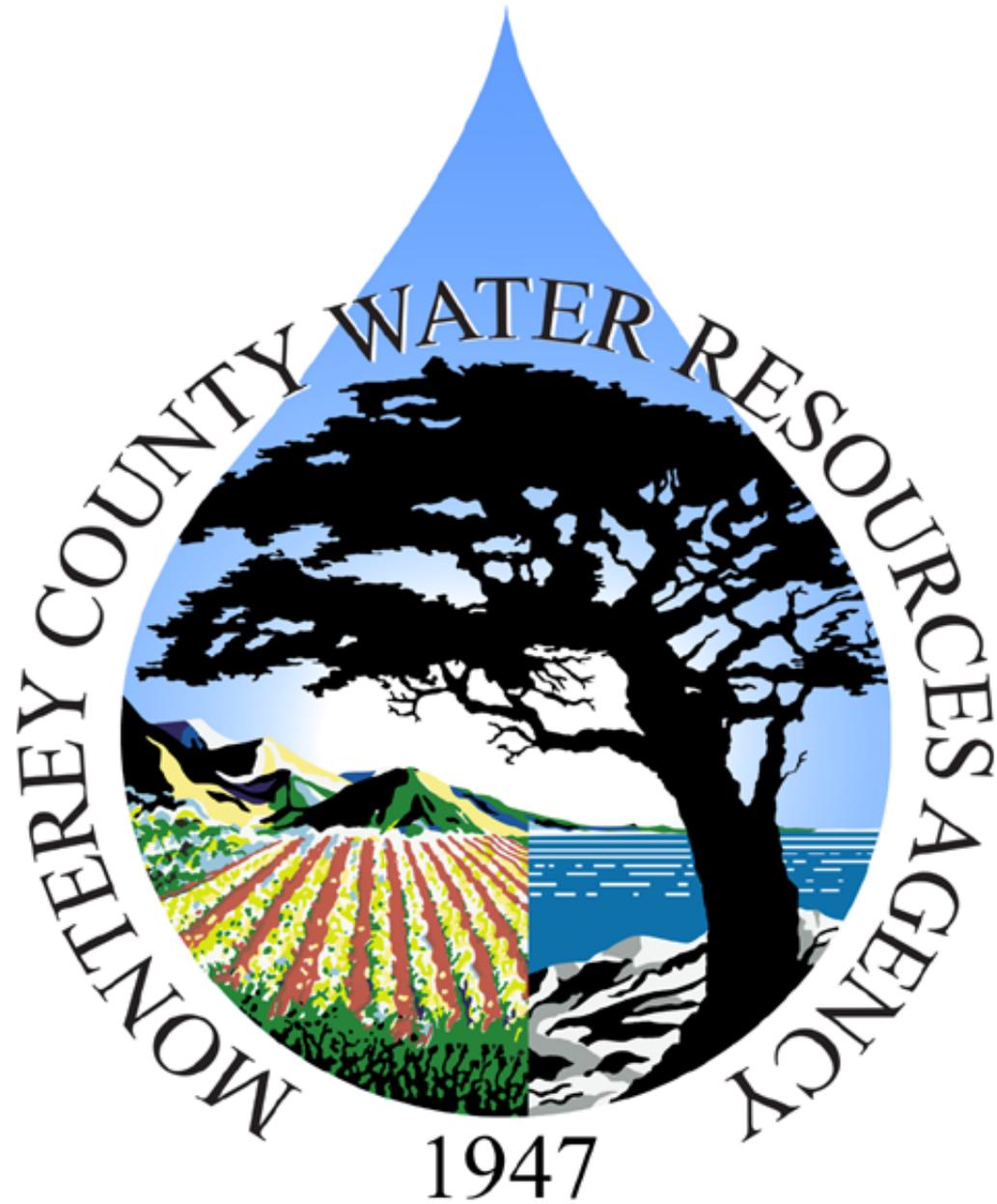
Next Steps

- Working with County Counsel and the SVB, the Agency will continue stakeholder outreach to inform the new draft Ordinance .
- Working with the SVB, the Agency will seek to refine its specific requests for groundwater monitoring deliverables and methods.
- The Agency is developing its own manual for the Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program.
- The regulatory fee nexus study has begun.

GEMS Expansion Proposed Timeline

WELL REGISTRATION & GEMS EXPANSION TIMELINE															
Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Oct '25	Feb '26	Jan '27
						<p>Aug 19th – BOD considers recommendation to BOS</p>			<p>Sep 10th & 24th, two readings of new ordinance for BOS</p>						
			WELL REGISTRATION & GEMS EXPANSION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT												
					ORDINANCE, AGREEMENTS, & POLICIES DEVELOPMENT										
										POPULATE WELL REGISTRATION & GEMS EXPANSION DATABASE					
												COLLECT NEW WELL & GEMS DATA			
														REPORT NEW DATA	
															5-YR. GSPs UPDATE





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