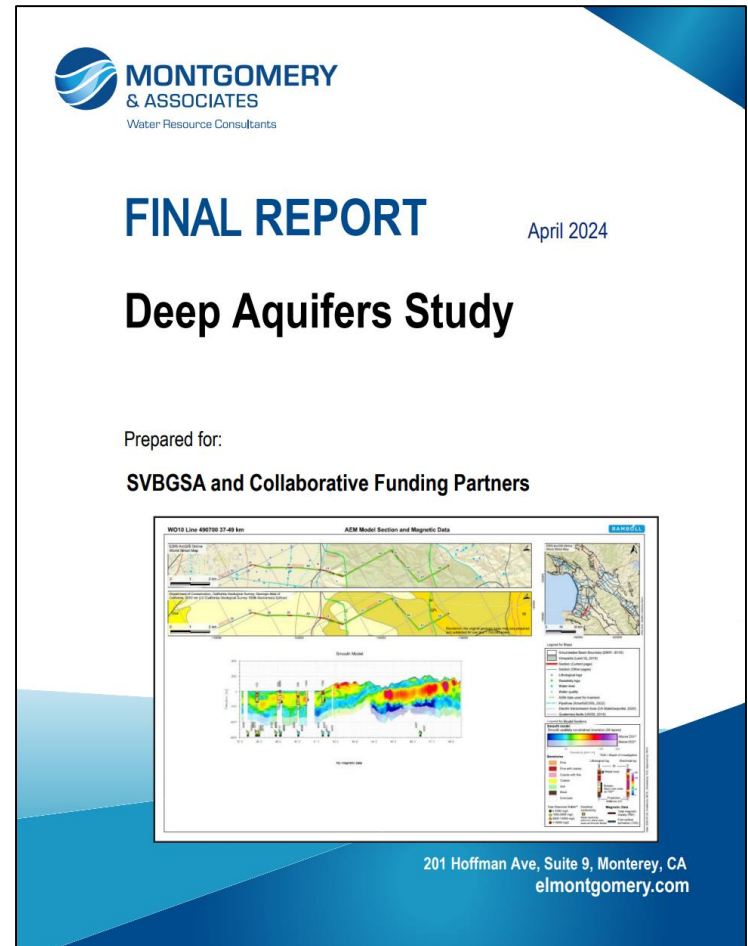


**Consider adopting the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.**



# Background

- The Deep Aquifers Study (“Study”) was completed in 2024.
- The Study included recommendations for refining existing monitoring networks across the entirety of the Deep Aquifers.



Available at [www.svbgsa.org/deep-aquifer-study](http://www.svbgsa.org/deep-aquifer-study)





# Overview

- In response to the Study recommendation, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“MCWRA”) prepared a *Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin* (“Monitoring Plan”).
- The Monitoring Plan describes the types and frequencies of monitoring across the Deep Aquifers extent as conducted by:
  - MCWRA
  - Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
  - Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
  - Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
  - Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster



# Purpose

The Monitoring Plan is intended to:



Describe current groundwater monitoring activities and methodologies.



Identify data gaps and present an approach for enhancing and expanding monitoring to minimize or eliminate data gaps.



Improve a collective regional understanding of conditions in the Deep Aquifers.

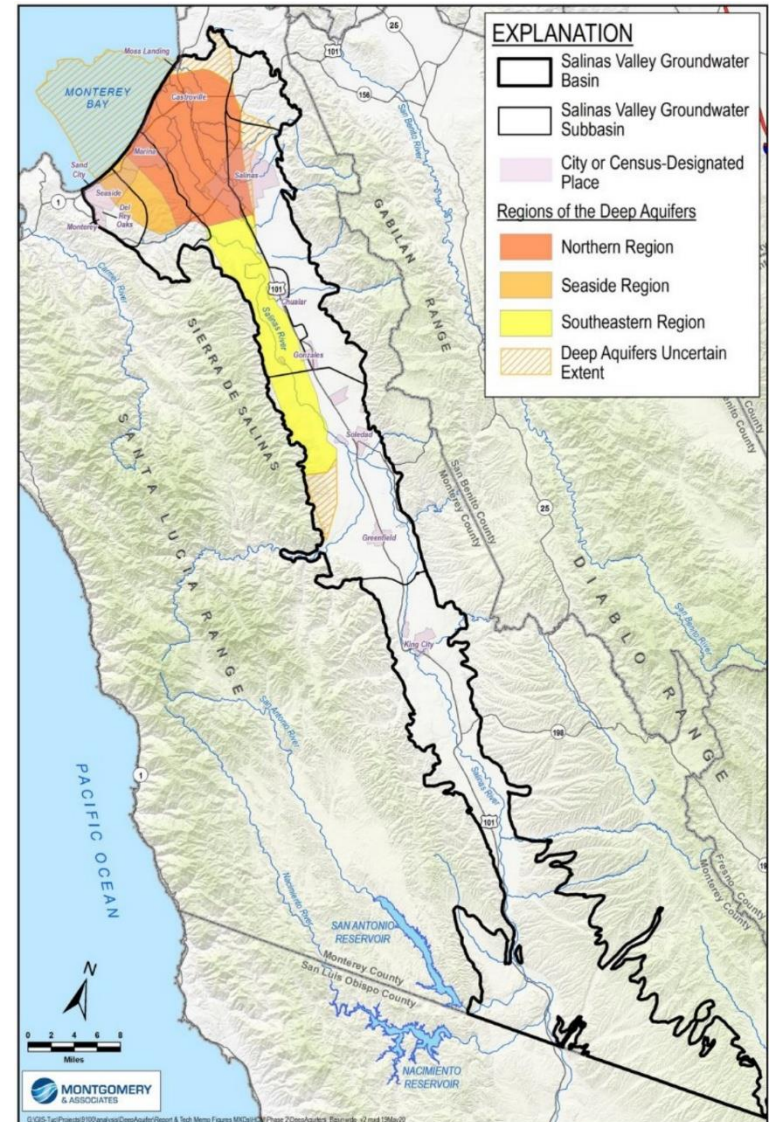


Provide a mechanism for the monitoring entities to regularly review and, if needed, refine the monitoring network.



# Monitoring Plan Elements

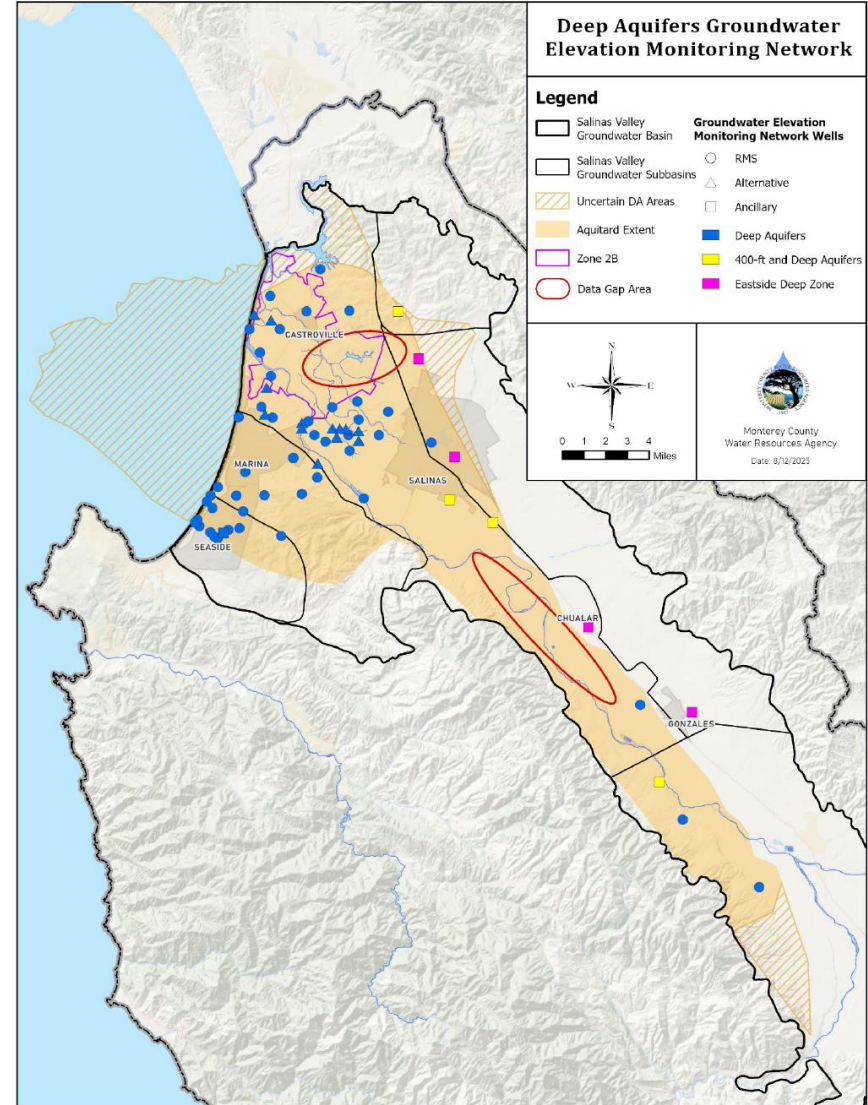
- Geographic extent is based on the definition in the Deep Aquifers Study.
- Data collection includes:
  - Groundwater extraction and injection
    - Annually
  - Groundwater elevation
    - At least quarterly
  - Groundwater quality
    - At least annually





# Monitoring Plan Elements

- Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
  - 76 existing wells
  - 2 data gaps
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring
  - 59 existing wells
  - 2 data gaps
- The Monitoring Plan does not provide a schedule or funding mechanism for filling data gaps.





# Monitoring Plan Elements

- An annual assessment of the monitoring networks is included in the Monitoring Plan. The purpose of this is to provide a time for the monitoring entities to:
  - Identify wells that may need to be replaced.
  - Capture information about new wells to add to the monitoring network(s).
  - Discuss changes to monitoring methodologies.
  - Update the Monitoring Plan.
  - As they arise, work on other topics related to Deep Aquifers monitoring that may require coordination.





# Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Five groundwater management agencies span the Deep Aquifers, with varying governance and monitoring programs.
- Purposes of the MOU:
  - Generally describe each agency's activities
  - Capture respective commitments to cooperate toward implementation of the Monitoring Plan
  - Annual sharing of data and reevaluation of the Monitoring Plan, as needed
  - Provide a non-technical explanation of agency roles and cooperation needed to implement the Monitoring Plan





# Financial Impact

- Funding to prepare the Monitoring Plan was provided in full through a subgrant from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which received funds from the Budget Act of 2021 through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.
- Participating entities are responsible for implementing the Monitoring Plan within their jurisdiction.
- For MCWRA, adoption of the MOU has no fiscal impact on the adopted FY 2025-26 budget.



# Strategic Plan Alignment

- Development and implementation of the Monitoring Plan and adoption of the MOU align with the adopted Strategic Plan:
- **Goal B – Planning and New Projects**
  - **Strategy 2** – Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, define MCWRA's role, and implement a GSA integration plan.
  - **Strategy 5** – Develop plans to enhance our critical water resources facilities and increase sustainability.
  - **Strategy 7** – Use data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science.
- **Goal C – Financial Sustainability**
  - **Strategy 6** – Pursue grant funding and cost saving opportunities from all available sources, including collaborating with the GSA.
- **Goal E – Community Relations**
  - **Strategy 1** – Improve public outreach to increase transparency, communication, education, and information about Agency projects and programs.





**Adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep  
Aquifers and authorize the General  
Manager to execute a Memorandum of  
Understanding to memorialize coordination  
among agencies toward implementing the  
Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.**