

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Five-Year Update to the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Zone 7 Board Meeting
November 18, 2026

Strategic Plan Alignments

Strategic Goals



Initiative

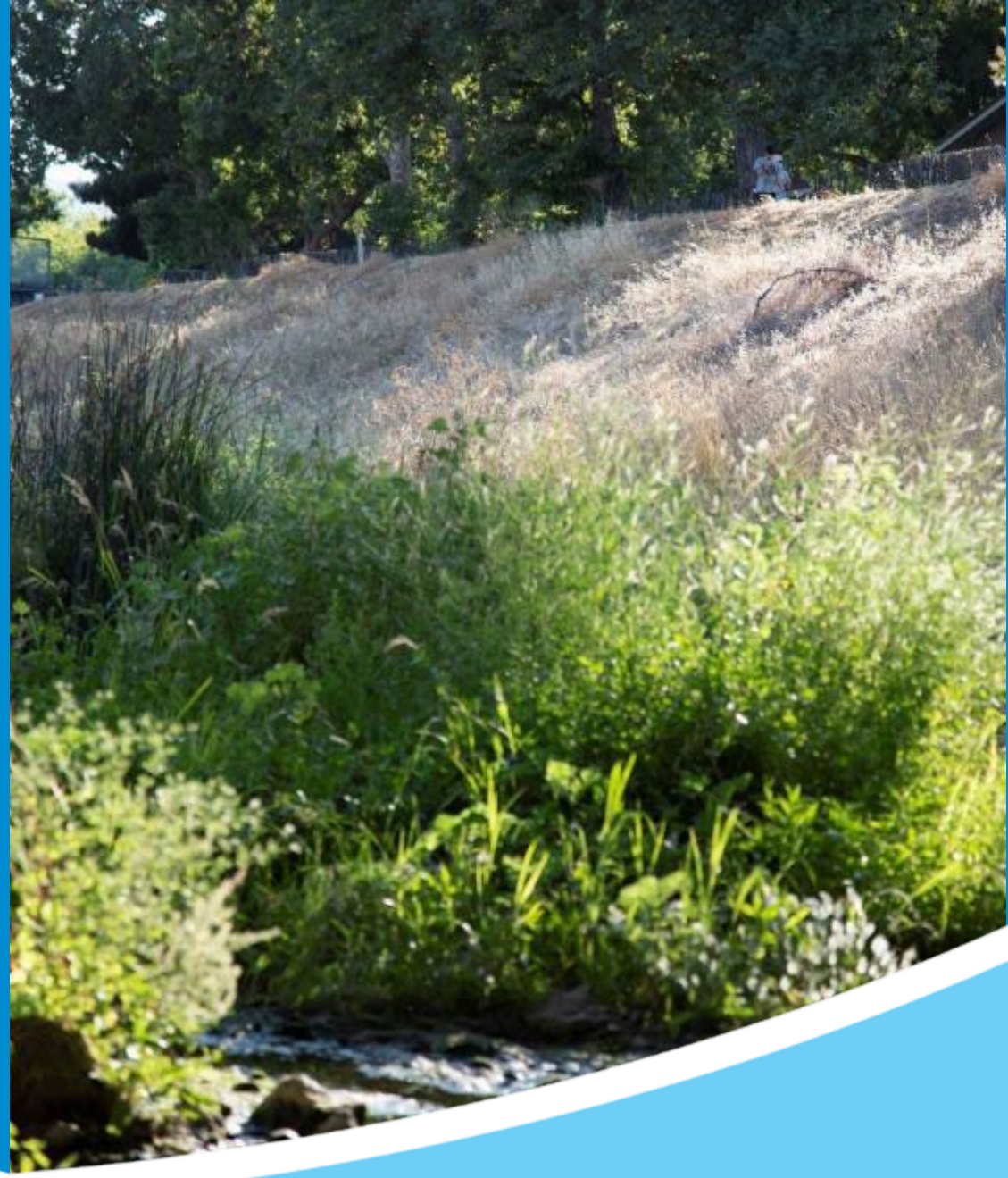
# 11	Manage the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

OUTLINE

- **Background**
  - Overview of the Livermore Valley Basin
  - Key concepts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
  - Zone 7's role
- **2026 Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan**
- **Summary**
  - Current Status
  - Next Steps
  - Staff Recommendations

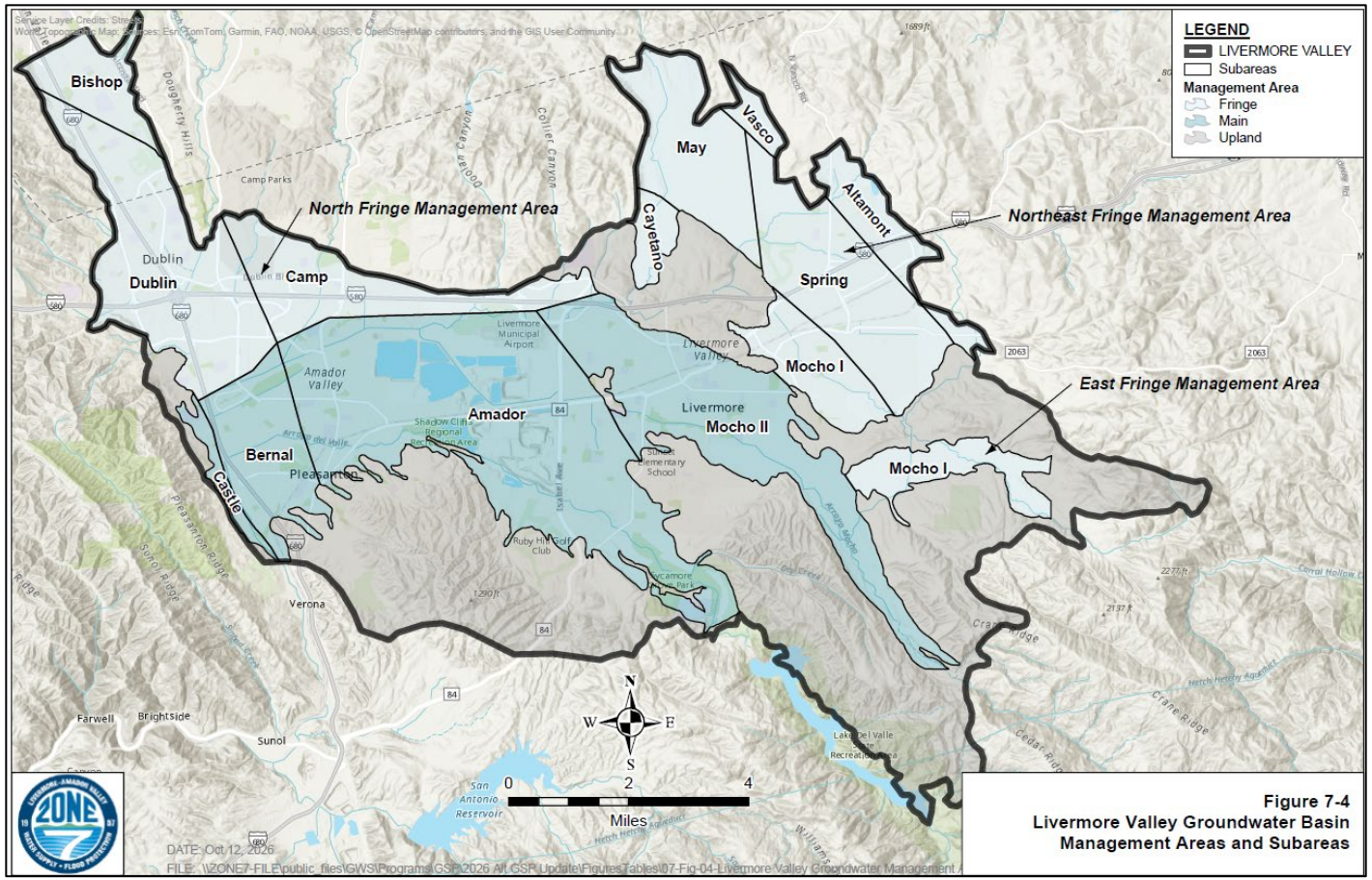
Zone 7 and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin

- SGMA designates Zone 7 as the exclusive GSA for the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 2-10)

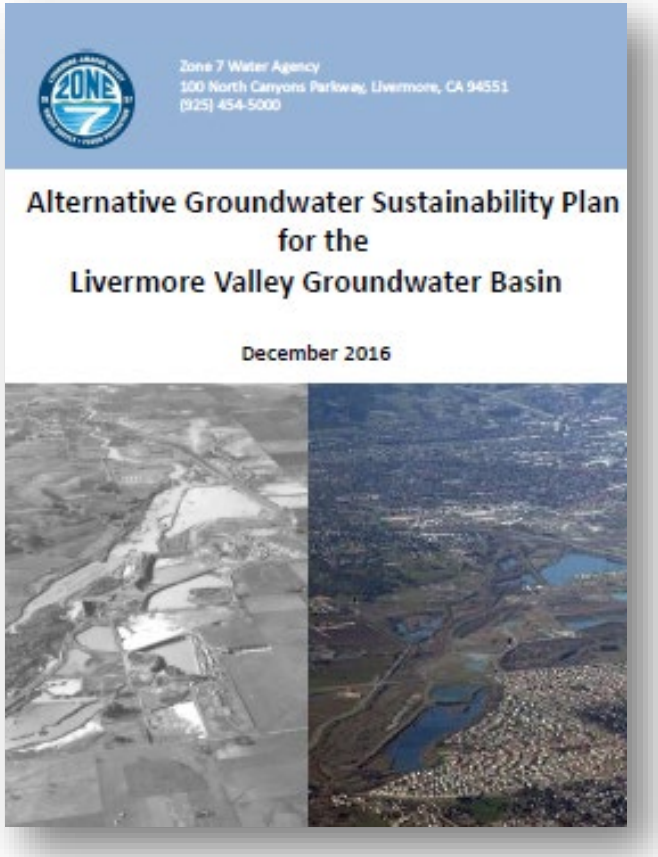


SGMA & Zone 7

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA, 2014)
  - Zone 7 is “Exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)”
  - Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2020 or 2022
  - If Already Sustainable, can submit “Alternative” (2016)

- Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (2016)
  - **DWR Approved** with 4 recommended actions
  - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) comment letter

- Five-Year Update of Alternative GSP (2021)
  - Addressed recommended actions
  - **Approved by DWR in 2024**



2026 Update to Alternative GSP

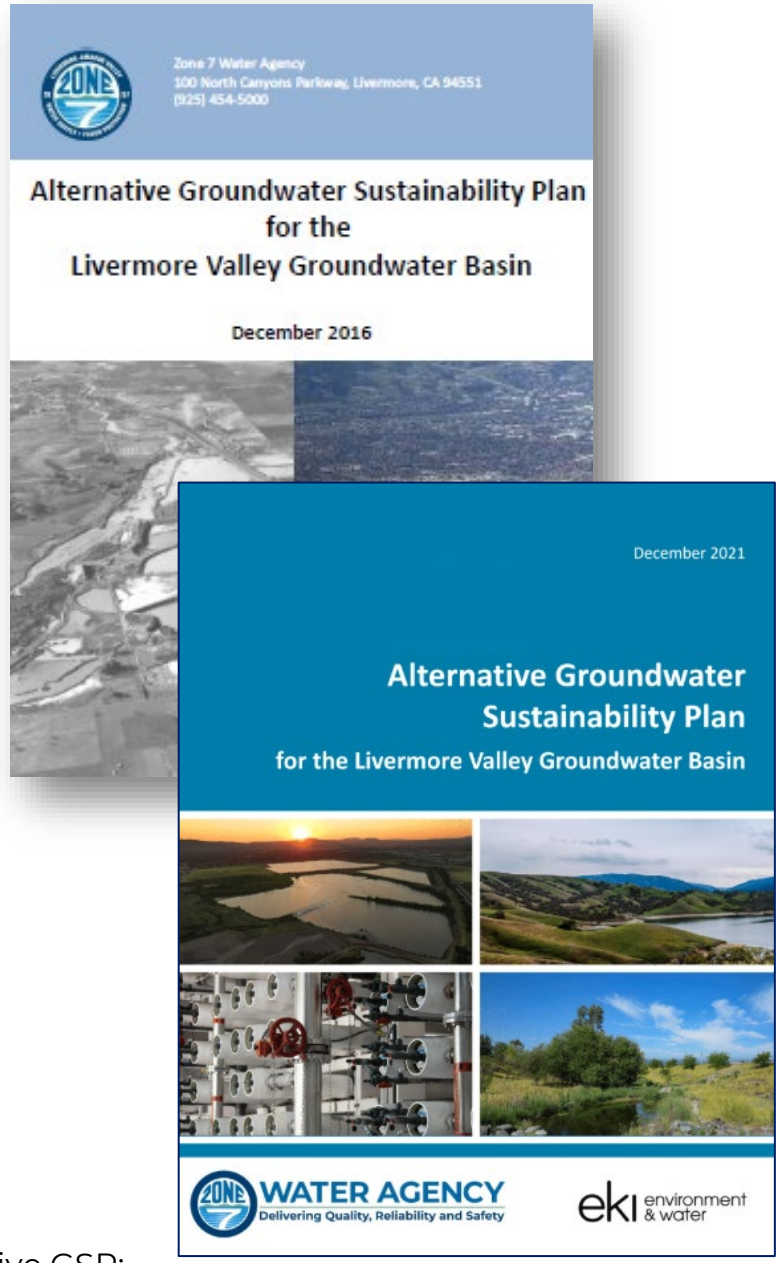


ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

eki environment & water

Alternative GSP

- Zone 7 is on the Alternative GSP 'SGMA track' which requires demonstration that the Basin has been managed sustainably for past 10 years
- DWR confirmed that **Zone 7 has operated the Basin within its Sustainable Yield for more 10 years** in their approval of the 2016 and 2021 Alternative GSPs

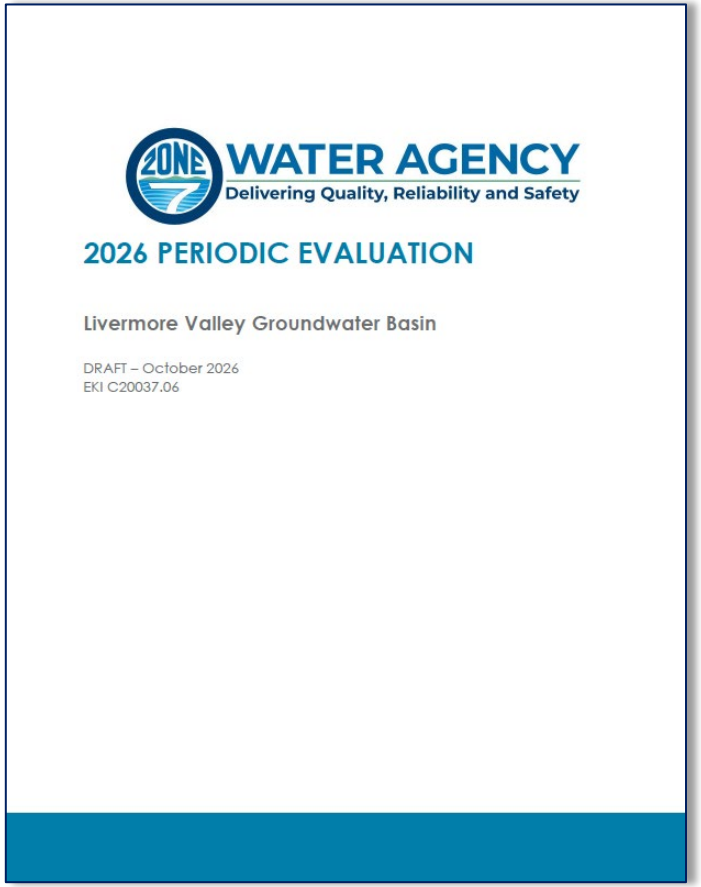


DWR: *"Department staff conclude that the 2016 Alternative and its updated 2021 Alternative…**demonstrate a thorough understanding of the Basin based on what appears to be the best available science and information, set well explained, supported, and reasonable sustainable management criteria to prevent undesirable results…**"* [1]

1. From DWR approval letter for 2021 Alternative GSP: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/service/alternativedocument/download/2057

2026 Periodic Evaluation

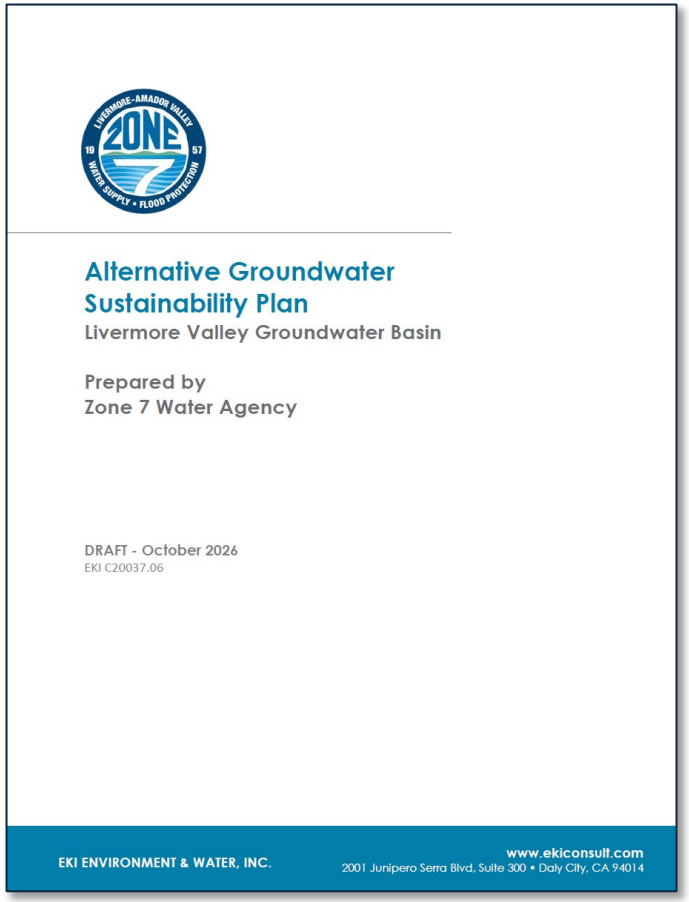
- SGMA requires evaluation, update and resubmittal of the Alternative GSP every 5 years
- In 2026, Zone 7 also prepared a Periodic Evaluation to provide a high-level overview to DWR and the public:
  - Summarizes Basin conditions relative to Sustainability Goal
  - Provides a status update on implementation and planning of Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs)
  - Summarizes any material updates to content of Alternative GSP



2026 Alternative GSP Update

The 2026 Alternative GSP update provides:

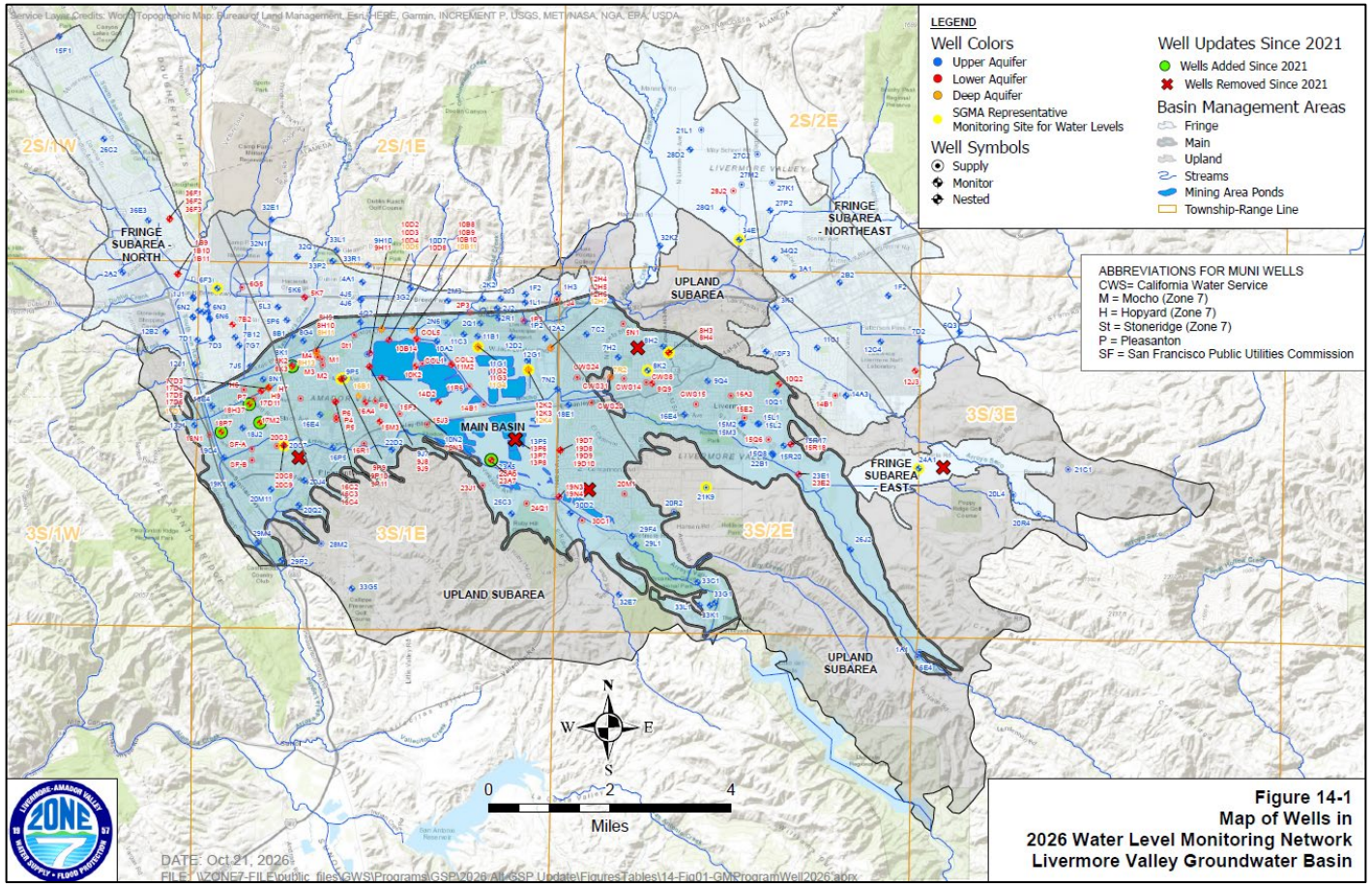
1. Response to the DWR recommendation on the 2021 Alternative GSP
2. Incorporation of new data, regulatory conditions, DWR guidance and Best Management Practices (BMPs), and other relevant information
3. Update on status of Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs)
4. Demonstration that Zone 7 continues to manage the Basin to meet the Sustainability Goal



1. Response to DWR Recommendation

DWR: "Ensure the monitoring network details included in the Alternative are consistent with the information contained in the Department's SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module." [1]

- The Basin monitoring network data in the SGMA Portal is now consistent with the monitoring network presented in the Alternative GSP
- Each year Zone 7 ensures any adjustments to the monitoring network presented in the Annual Report are correctly reflected in the SGMA Portal



1. From DWR approval letter for 2021 Alternative GSP: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/service/alternativedocument/download/2057

2. Incorporation of New Data, Regulations, DWR Guidance and BMPs

- New groundwater level data (WY 2021-2025)
  - Updated hydrographs and groundwater contours
- New water quality data (WY 2021-2025) and regulatory updates
  - Preliminary SMCs established for PFOS, PFOA, and hexavalent chromium in accordance with Zone 7's DWR-approved methodology
- New hydrogeologic and geophysical data
  - Refined 3D Basin-wide hydrogeologic conceptual model
  - Informed development of the new Basin numerical groundwater flow model



2. Incorporation of New Data, Regulations, DWR Guidance and BMPs

- New satellite and shallow groundwater data
  - Updated analyses of GDE presence and health, and confirmed Interconnected Surface Water management is protective of GDEs
- New DWR guidance and BMPs
  - Confirmed alignment of Zone 7's approach with Subsidence BMP
  - Refined Interconnected Surface Water SMCs to reflect DWR Guidance

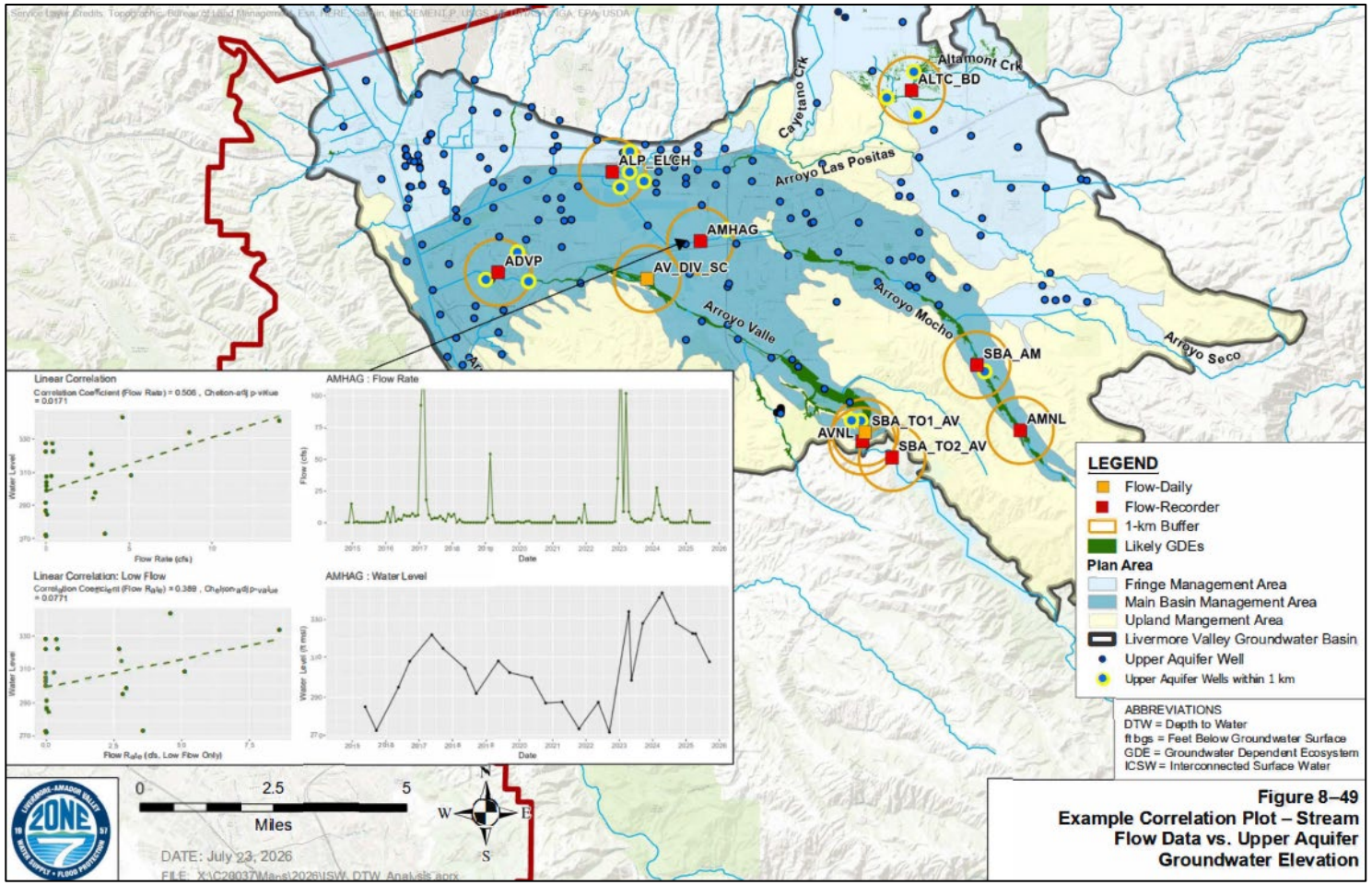


Figure 8–49
Example Correlation Plot – Stream Flow Data vs. Upper Aquifer Groundwater Elevation

3. Status Update on Projects & Management Actions

- Secured **$16M SGMA Grant**
- **Well Master Plan** update initiated in 2026
- Water supply augmentation and redundancy evaluations conducted since 2024 for **Regional Groundwater Development Project**
- Planning phase underway for **Chain of Lakes Conveyance System Project**, expected to increase storage within Basin by 2035
- Developed and implementing comprehensive **PFAS Management Strategy**
- Integrated **Basin Water Quality Management Plan** anticipated to be completed by 2029
- **Sites Reservoir** received final water right permit, increase in imported water availability expected by 2035



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

eki environment & water

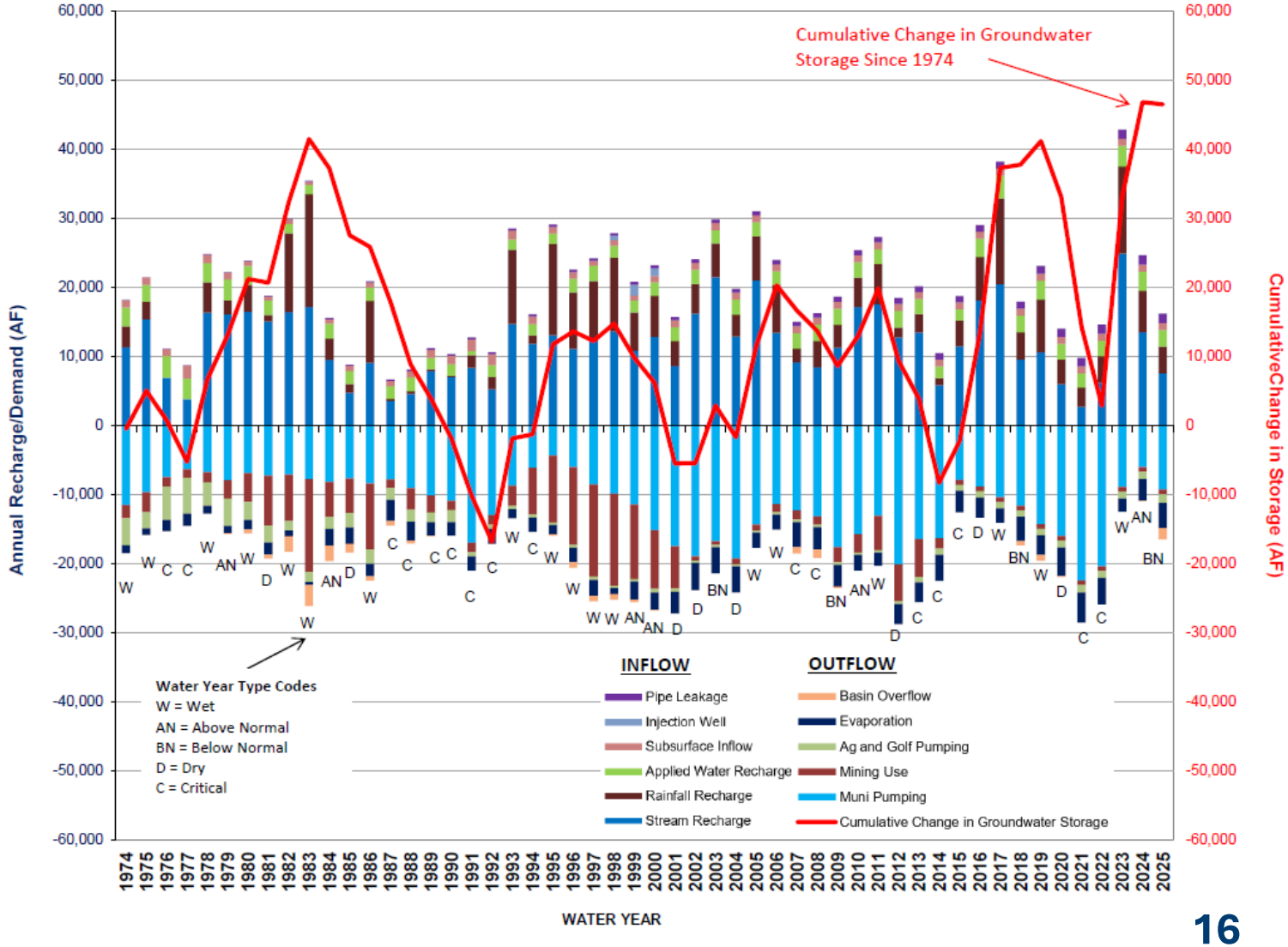
4. Demonstration of Sustainable Management: SMCs

Sustainability Indicator	DWR Assessment of 2021 Alternative GSP	2026 Alternative GSP & Periodic Evaluation
	"…no minimum thresholds are being exceeded, no undesirable results are being observed, and the Basin continues to operate within its sustainable yield" [1]	No Undesirable Results have occurred for any of the Sustainability Indicators during the evaluation period (WY 2021 – WY 2025). The Basin continues to operate within its sustainable yield and meet its Sustainability Goal.
		
		
		
		

1. from DWR approval letter for 2021 Alternative GSP: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/service/alternativedocument/download/2057

4. Demonstration of Sustainable Management: Water Budget

- Water Budget: inflows – outflows = change in storage
- Basin water levels and storage recover quickly after dry periods, and Basin **water budget is 'balanced' over long-term**
- Groundwater storage at end of WY 2025 is approx. 99% of full Basin
- **Zone 7 has managed the Basin within its Sustainable Yield over five decades**



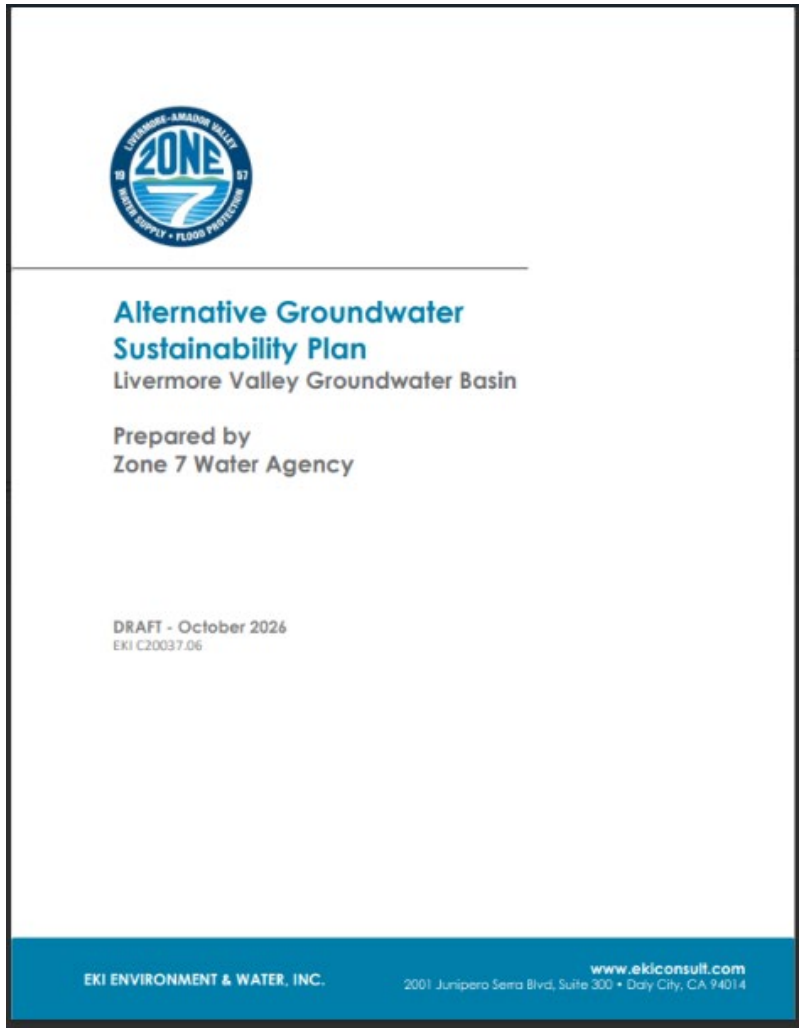
Summary & Next Steps



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Alternative GSP Status

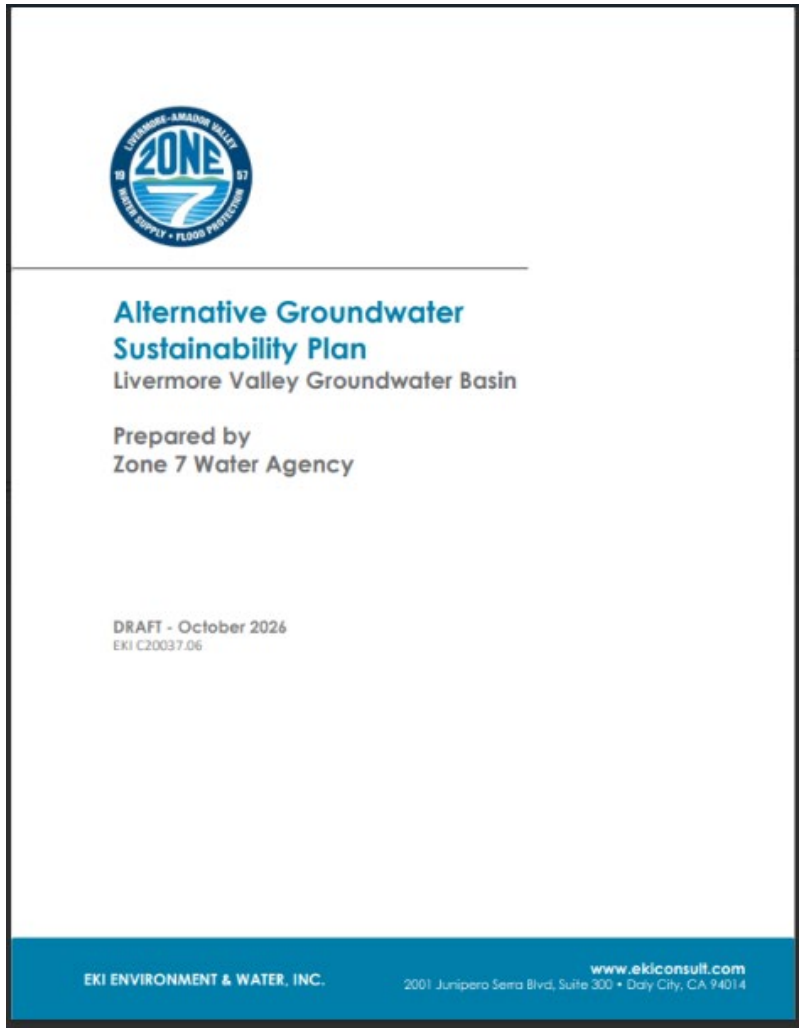
- Stakeholder Outreach
  - Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan
  - Letters sent: September & October
  - Stakeholder meeting: 10/20
- Draft Alternative GSP Posted for Public Review
  - Alternative GSP Full Draft & Periodic Evaluation – 11/3
  - Advanced Comment Period Closes 11/18
    - Additional 75-day comment period to be held by DWR after submittal of Alternative GSP



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Next Steps

- Incorporate comments into the Final Alternative GSP
- Adopt the Alternative GSP
- Submit the Alternative GSP and PE to the SGMA Portal on December 18, ahead of the December 21 deadline
- 75-day public review period hosted by DWR on the SGMA Portal

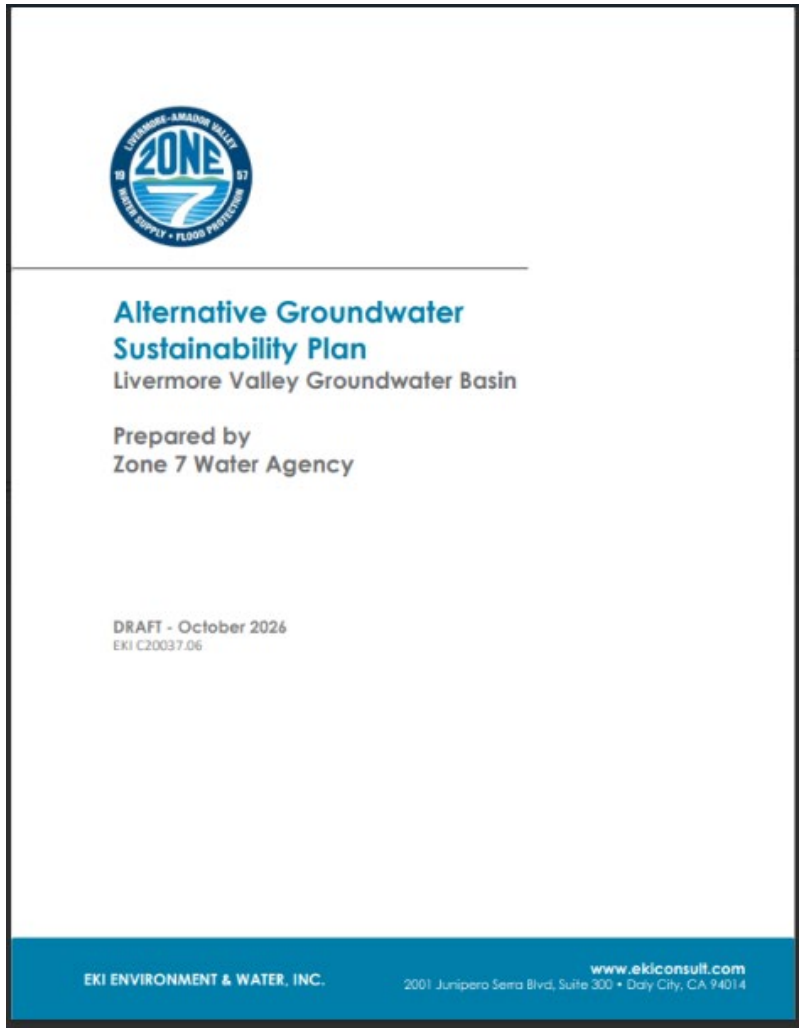


ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Staff Recommendations

1. Hold a public hearing

2. Adopt the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the Periodic Evaluation



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Questions?



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY