



Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) Updates

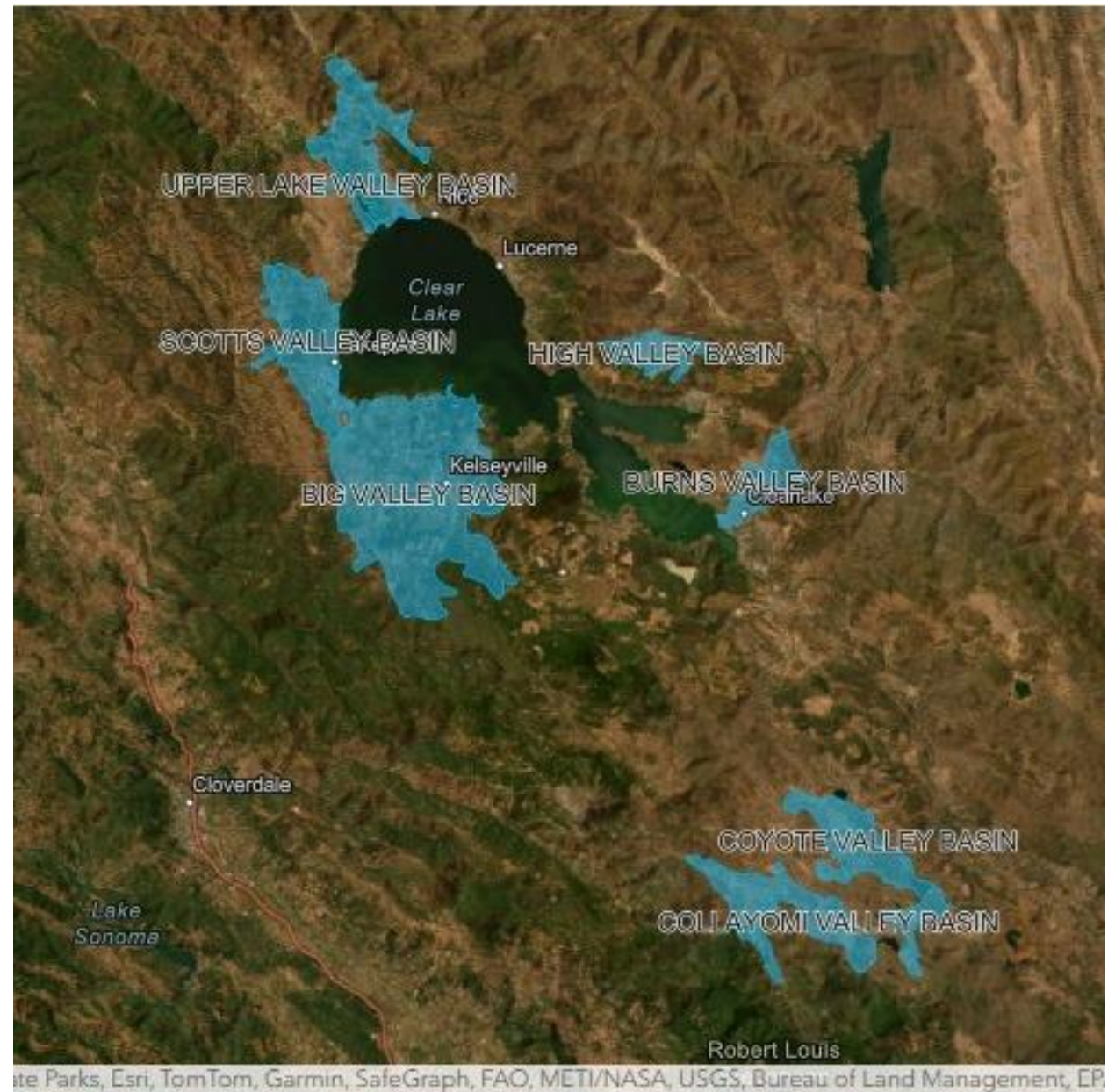
**Board Of Supervisors Meeting
November 18, 2025**

SGMA Overview

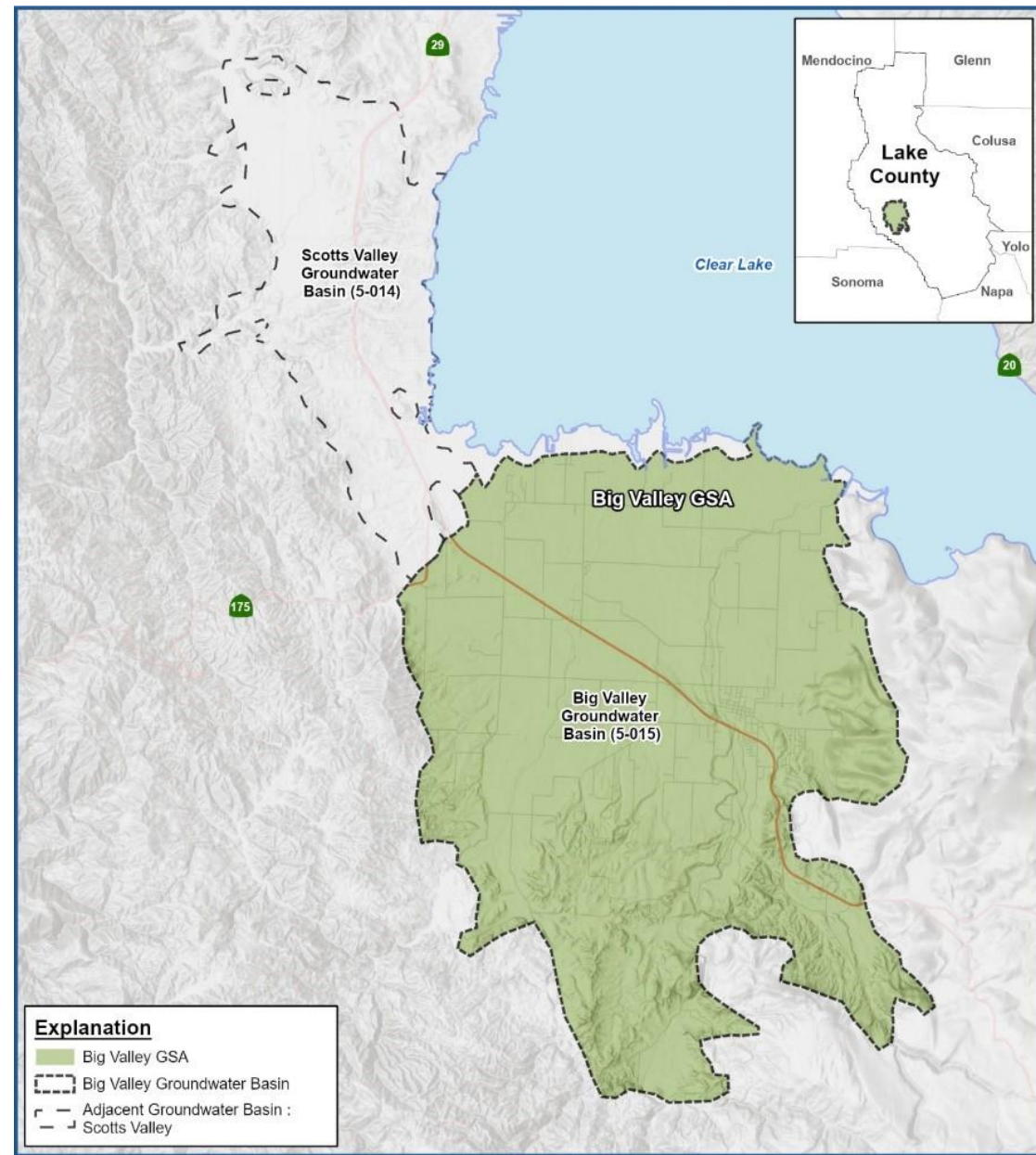


- **SGMA:** Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- SGMA is a 2014 California law requiring local management of groundwater to prevent overdraft and ensure long-term sustainability.
- It mandates the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for high- and medium-priority basins, with the goal of reaching sustainability by 2042.
- **Oversight:** CA DWR and State Water Resources Control Board oversee compliance.

Groundwater Basins in Lake County



Big Valley Groundwater Basin





SGMA Progress In Lake County

**Lake County Watershed Protection District
is the Local GSA for the Big Valley
Groundwater Basin**

Lake County SGMA Progress Cont.



- 2014: CA Passed SGMA
- 2015: DWR releases Basin prioritization
- 2021: Received \$1.3M SGMA Implementation Grant (DWR).
 - Formation of the GSA & GSP
 - Consulting services, meetings, etc.
- 2022: Submit GSP to DWR, approved in 2023 (4/27)
- 2021 – 2024: Annual Report submitted (2025 report submitted 4/26')
- **2027**: Next 5-Year Evaluation due
- 2042: Achieve long-term sustainability

Requirement to be Compliant with SGMA



- Submit an annual update Report
- Submit a periodic evaluation every 5 years (a comprehensive update)
 - Next periodic evaluation is due in 2027

Cost to Implement SGMA



SGMA Implementation Costs

There are common costs associated with SGMA implementation. Example costs are highlighted below for reference but should not be taken as an exhaustive list.

Administrative Costs

- GSA Board or Committee meetings
- Staff
- Legal counsel/consultants
- Fiscal responsibilities (e.g., budgeting, annual audits)
- Interested-party outreach and engagement
- Acquiring/maintaining fixed assets
- Website
- General operation and maintenance needs

Regulatory Costs

- Annual reports
- GSP periodic evaluations Monitoring
- Data Management System maintenance

Project and Capital Costs

- Planning, design, and construction of projects (e.g., monitoring wells, recharge basins, well mitigation, storage facilities, etc.)
- New tool development and construction

Source: DWR's Funding SGMA Implementation Resource Guide

Cost to Implement SGMA Cont.



- Grants: Applied (successful and unsuccessful)
- Water Resources internal funds (limited)
- Need to establish a long-term funding stream



Immediate Funding Needs

Immediate Funding Needs



- **Cost of the Annual GSP update report:**
 - Approximately \$80k annually (as of 2025)
 - Will reduce to about \$40k annually with internal staff support
- **Cost of the Periodic Evaluation: \$200k**
 - Once every 5 years; \$200k total with internal staff support
 - OR \$40k annually
- **Funding Evaluation & Feasibility Study to determine long term funding options.**
 - Approximately \$100k (incl. \$10k to 15k contractor retainer fee)

Immediate Funding Needs



- **Annual Report** (GSP update): ~\$40K/year (with staff support).
- **5-Year Periodic Evaluation**: \$200K total (\$40K/year avg).
- **Funding Feasibility Study**: ~\$100K

- **Total of Approximately: \$340k**



Options to Address Immediate Funding Needs

Immediate Funding Options



Funding Strategy & Ask

- **Previously allocated matching funds:** \$500K (May 3, 2022) for stormwater projects.(File # 22-402)
 - Only \$50K used so far.
- **Request:** Expand use of remaining ~\$450K to include groundwater management costs.
- **Purpose:** Cover annual reports, 5-year evaluations, and long-term funding feasibility study.

Long Term Funding Needs



- **Annual report: Approximately \$40k/year (as of 2025)
(with internal staff support)**
- **Periodic Evaluation: \$200k every 5 years (or ~\$40k/year)**
- **Total of Approximately: \$80k to \$100k/year (adjusted for inflation)**

Long Term Funding Options



- Need to be in effect by 2027, so the next periodic evaluations and annual reports cost is covered
- **Option 1:** County provides 100% of annual need (~\$100K/year).
- **Option 2:** County provides 50% (~\$50K/year), balance via local fee mechanisms (e.g., Prop 218).
- **Option 3:** 100% of the need is met with a local fee mechanisms (e.g., Prop 218).
- We will continue to pursue external grant opportunities for this work, with County funds serving as a contingency to ensure continuity if such funding is not secured