



WATER WELL PERMITTING AND DROUGHT EMERGENCY

May 24, 2022

Board of Supervisors Hearing



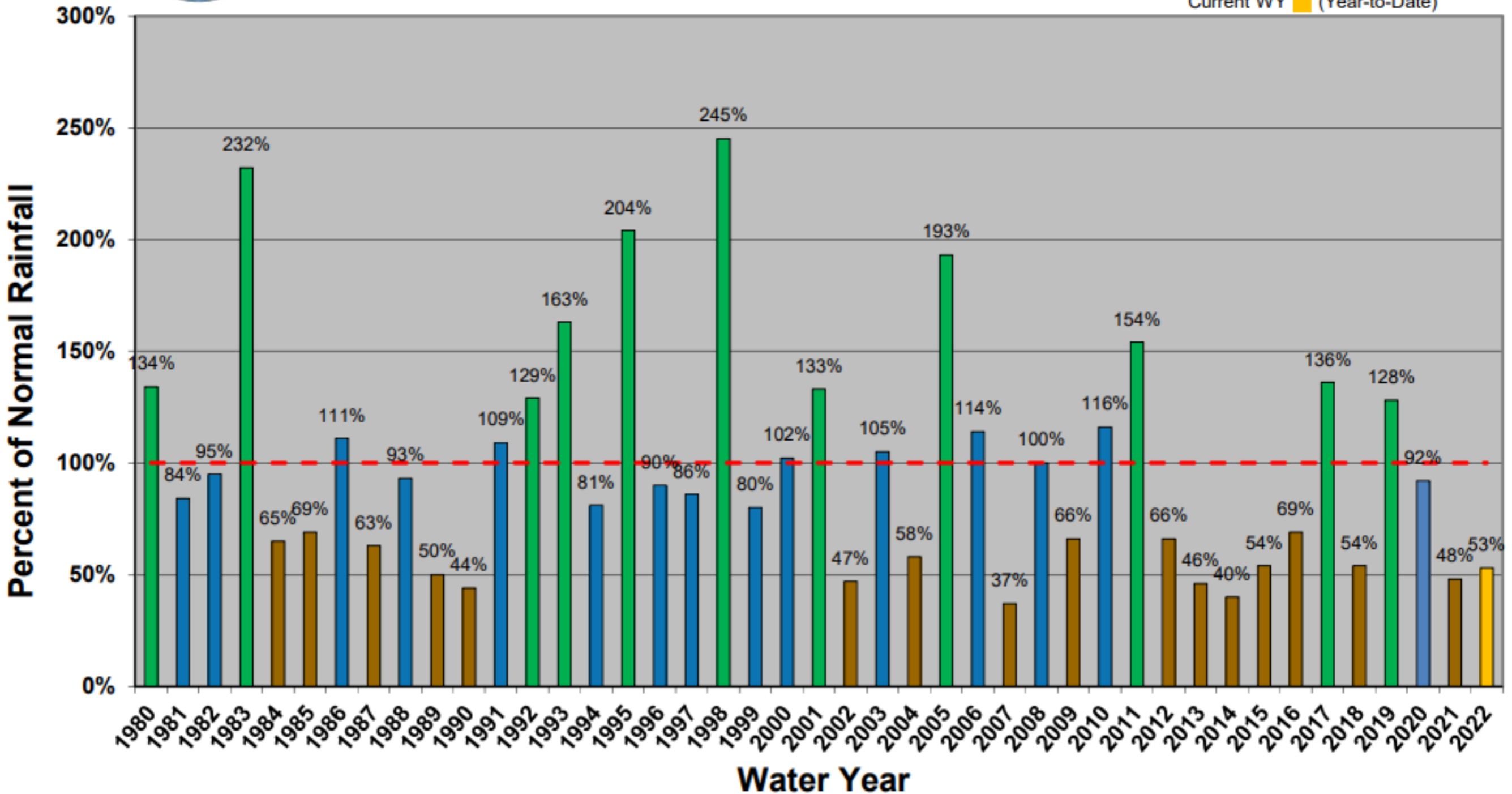
LOCAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY



Countywide Percent-of-Normal Water-Year Rainfall

Updated through March 1, 2022
 (Rainfall as a percentage of an entire average water-year)

Wet Years (>120% Normal Rain) ■
 Dry Years (< 80% Normal Rain) ■
 Avg Years (within $\pm 20\%$ Normal) ■
 Current WY (Year-to-Date) ■





Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 (issued March 28, 2022)

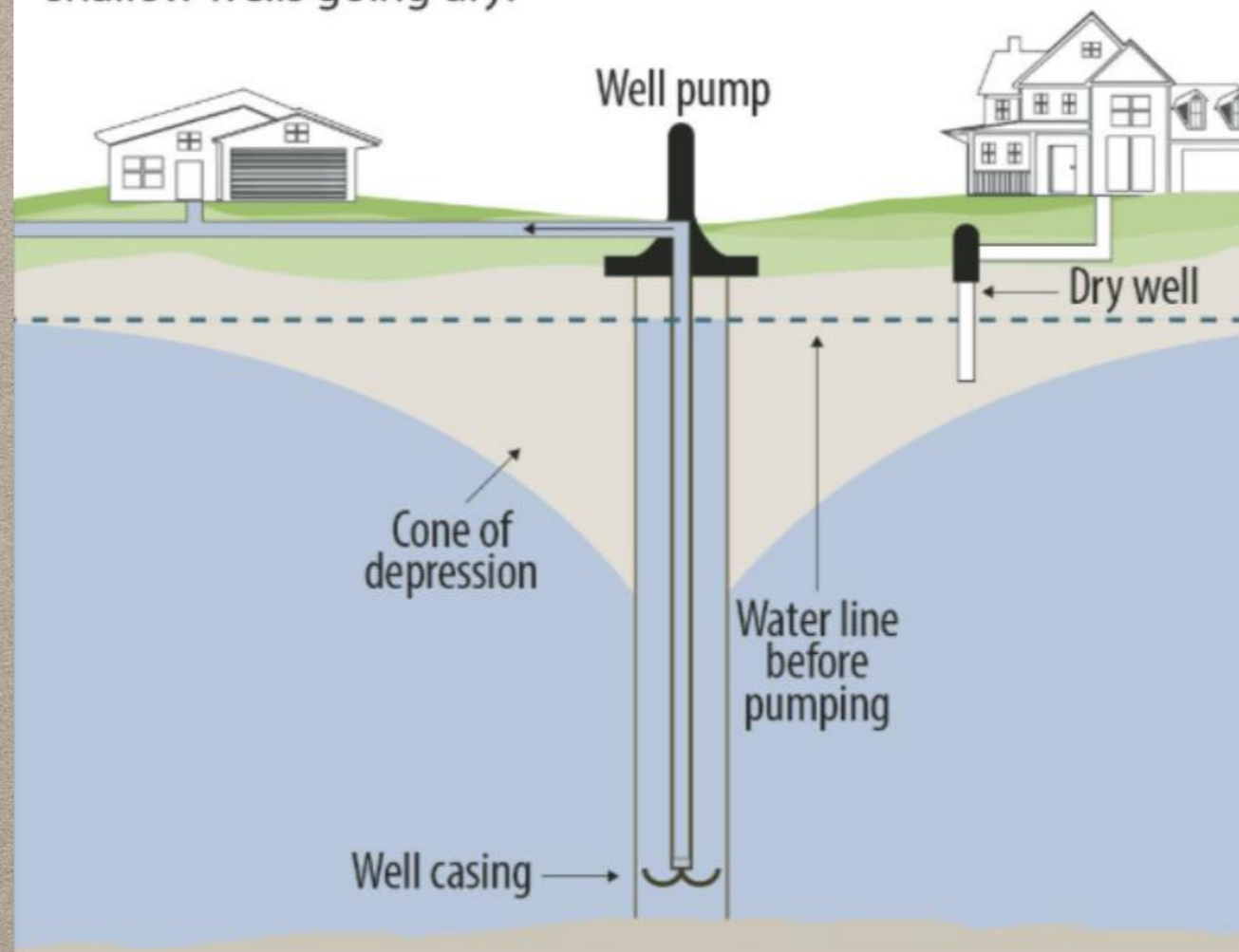
- ❖ Domestic wells exempt (< 2 acre-feet)
- ❖ Public water wells exempt

EHS Proposes:

- ❖ Temporary water well ordinance
- ❖ Water well permit fees

A cone of depression

Large water withdrawals from an aquifer can lower the water table and create a "cone of depression" that can result in shallow wells going dry.



Drought EO N-7-22: Action 9

For new wells or alterations to existing wells*

**GSA ACTION
REQUIRED**

9a. Consultation with the GSAs, Prior to Approving a Well Permit

- In high and medium priority basins, where there is a GSA and GSP
- Obtain written verification from the GSA
- Consistency with GSP & sustainability goals

**COUNTY ACTION
REQUIRED**

9b. Permit Evaluation, Prior to Issuing a Well Permit

1. Not likely to interfere with production and functioning of existing nearby wells
2. Not likely to cause adverse subsidence impact or damage nearby infrastructure

**excluding individual domestic wells who use less than two acre-feet per year and public water system supply who rely exclusively on groundwater wells*

**STEP 1 – INDICATE TYPE,
LOCATION, AND USE**

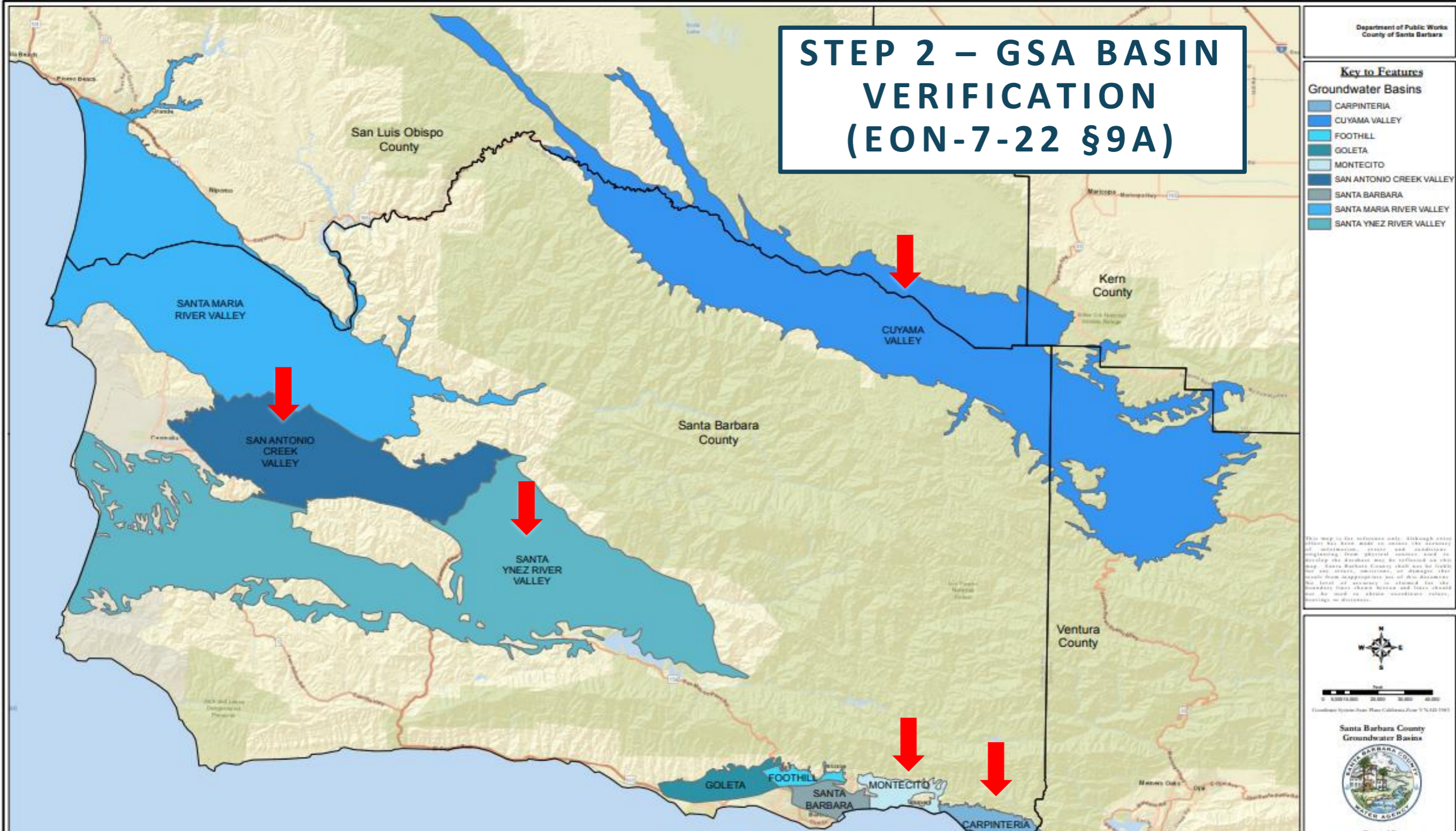


OR





STEP 2 – GSA BASIN VERIFICATION (EON-7-22 §9A)



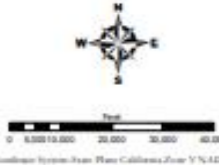
Department of Public Works
 County of Santa Barbara

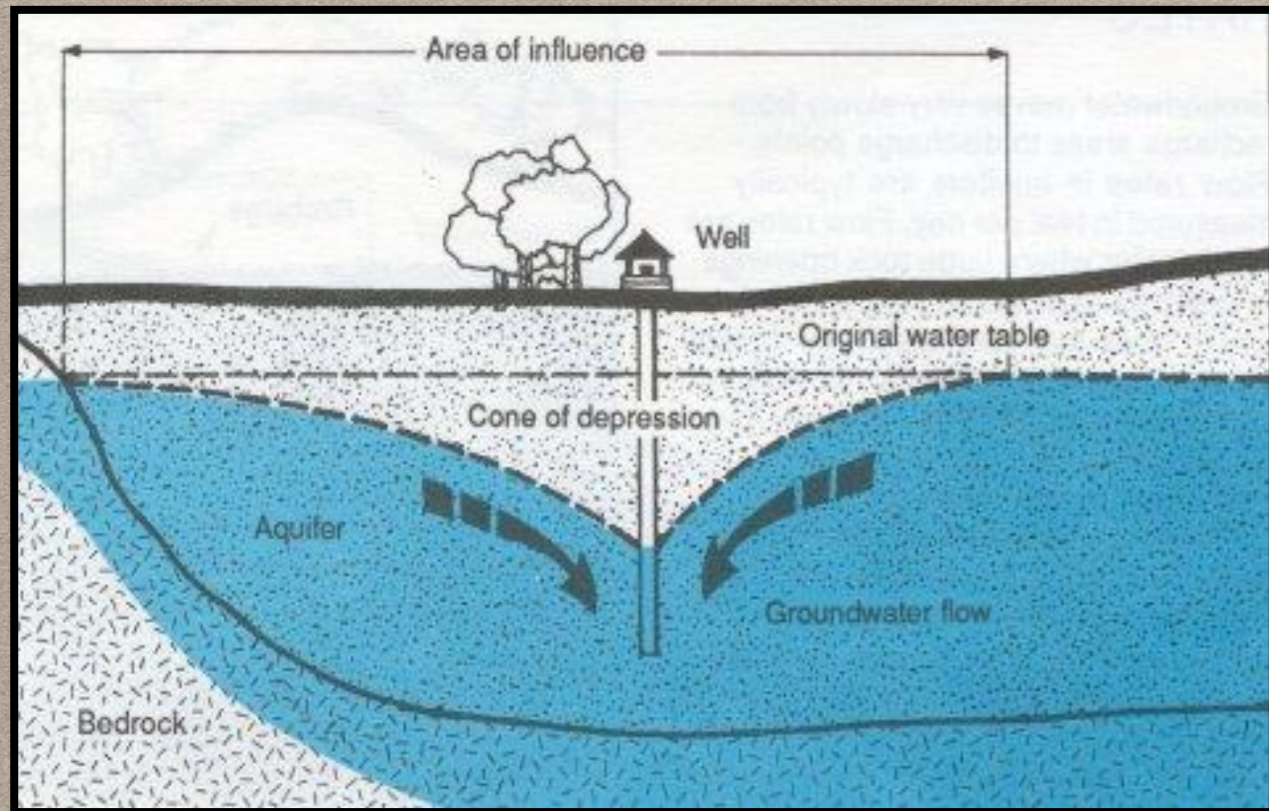
Key to Features

Groundwater Basins

- CARPINTERIA
- CUYAMA VALLEY
- FOOTHILL
- GOLETA
- MONTECITO
- SAN ANTONIO CREEK VALLEY
- SANTA BARBARA
- SANTA MARIA RIVER VALLEY
- SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY

This map is for reference only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors and omissions originating from physical sources used in developing the basins may be reflected on this map. Santa Barbara County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or damages that result from inappropriate use of this document. No level of accuracy is claimed for the boundary lines shown herein and users should not be used to obtain coordinates, values, bearings, or distances.





STEP 3 – ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT TO NEARBY WELLS

Wells >1,000 feet to nearby wells

- ❖ No further information required
- ❖ Setback to nearby wells met for no impact finding

Wells <1,000 feet to nearby wells

- ❖ Aquifer data required from hydrogeologist
- ❖ Findings required by EHS prior to permit issuance

Replacement Wells

- ❖ If “like for like” no further actions required

PROJECT TYPE	APPLICATION, FEE, INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (STEP 1)	GSA VERIFICATION EO-N-7-22 9A (STEP 2)	LOCATION-SPECIFIC HYDROLOGY DATA EO-N-7-22 §9B (STEP 3)	CEQA REVIEW
NEW WELL OR ALTERATION OF EXISTING WELL (INCREASING CAPACITY)	YES	IF IN A MEDIUM- OR HIGH-PRIORITY BASIN	ONLY IF PROPOSED WELL IS LESS THAN 1,000 FEET FROM AN EXISTING WELL	YES - LIKELY CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT
REPLACEMENT WELL (NO INCREASE IN CAPACITY)	YES	IF IN A MEDIUM- OR HIGH-PRIORITY BASIN	EXEMPT	YES - LIKELY CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT
INDIVIDUAL DOMESTIC WELLS	YES	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	YES - LIKELY STATUTORILY EXEMPT AS A MINISTERIAL ACTION
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS	YES	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	YES - LIKELY STATUTORILY EXEMPT AS A MINISTERIAL ACTION

FEES

- **Water Well Construction Permit Fee (\$721) - No Change**
- **Additional Technical Review (Hourly Rate) – *NEW***
 - Two hours included in flat permit fee
 - Additional review at \$161/hour
- **CEQA Filing Fee (\$50) – *NEW***



STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- **Agricultural Advisory Committee**
 - May 5, 2022 (committee members)
- **Virtual Public Workshop**
 - May 10, 2022 (interested parties; well drillers; groundwater sustainability agencies)
- **Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**
- **Environmental Health Services website**



SBC Public Health

@SBCPublicHealth

📢 Join us for a virtual workshop to learn more about the County's proposed water well permitting ordinance to temporarily amend Santa Barbara County Code in response to the Governor's Drought Emergency Executive Order.

🖱️ Full details here: ow.ly/L9Ey50IYzNK

VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Learn more about the County's Proposed Temporary Water Well Permitting Ordinance Related to Governor's Executive Order and Drought Emergency

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Join via Zoom



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

On May 24, 2022:

1. Pursuant to California Government Code sections 25123(d) and 25131 and the California Executive Order N-7-22, adopt an Urgency Ordinance to amend Chapter 34A of County Code in order to implement changes to the process for water well permitting in accordance with California Executive Order N-7-22 until the County's Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions is terminated and the Executive Order, as may be superseded, is rescinded (Attachment A);
2. Read the title and waive further reading of Urgency Ordinance;

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

On May 24, 2022, also:

3. Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Water Wells and Private Water Systems; and
4. Determine that adoption of the Urgency Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), 15061(b)(3), 15307 and 15378(b)(5); and that approval of the Fee Resolution is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B) and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 because fees will be used for operating expenses and for the purchase of supplies, equipment, and materials, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

QUESTIONS?

**Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services
May 24, 2022 Board of Supervisors Hearing**

