**CARPINTERIA GSA**
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

# CGSA Listening Session #2
*Well Registration and Metering Program Policy*

April 14, 2025

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Executive Director

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# Agenda

- Background
  - Summary of Listening Session #1 – March 31

- Topics & Questions for Policy Consideration
  - Policy and Implementation Timeline
  - Well Registration Requirements
  - **Well Metering Requirements**
  - **Well Status and Location**
  - **Data Collection**
  - **Exemptions**
  - Fees and Billing
  - Non-Compliance & Enforcement

# Listening Session #1 Summary

## Key Takeaways

- Goal to finalize and adopt a Policy by no later than end of June 2025.
- Give property owners until end of March 2026 to both **register their wells** and **install meters** per the Policy.
- Suggesting AMI (Automated Meter Infrastructure) system to save staff time associated with compliance and data collection.
- The goal: by March & April 2026, GSA will have installed all AMI endpoints on well meters.
- May 1, 2026− April 30, 2027, suggested as first billing period to be assessed for FY2027-2028 fees using meters.

# Listening Session #1 Summary

## **Key Takeaways-** *Continued*

- Registration will require CGSA form to be filled out by the well owner. CGSA may develop a custom form or add additional pages to accommodate shared well situations
- New wells will have **30 days** from well completion to register and install meters per the Policy
- CGSA will require one meter per well monitored by the CGSA with CGSA fees billed to the APN of the parcel the well resides on.
- Meter accuracy testing to ± 5% every 3 years similar to Fox Canyon's GMA
- If a meter is not maintained within accuracy range or installed; crop-factor calculations will be applied for CGSA fees.
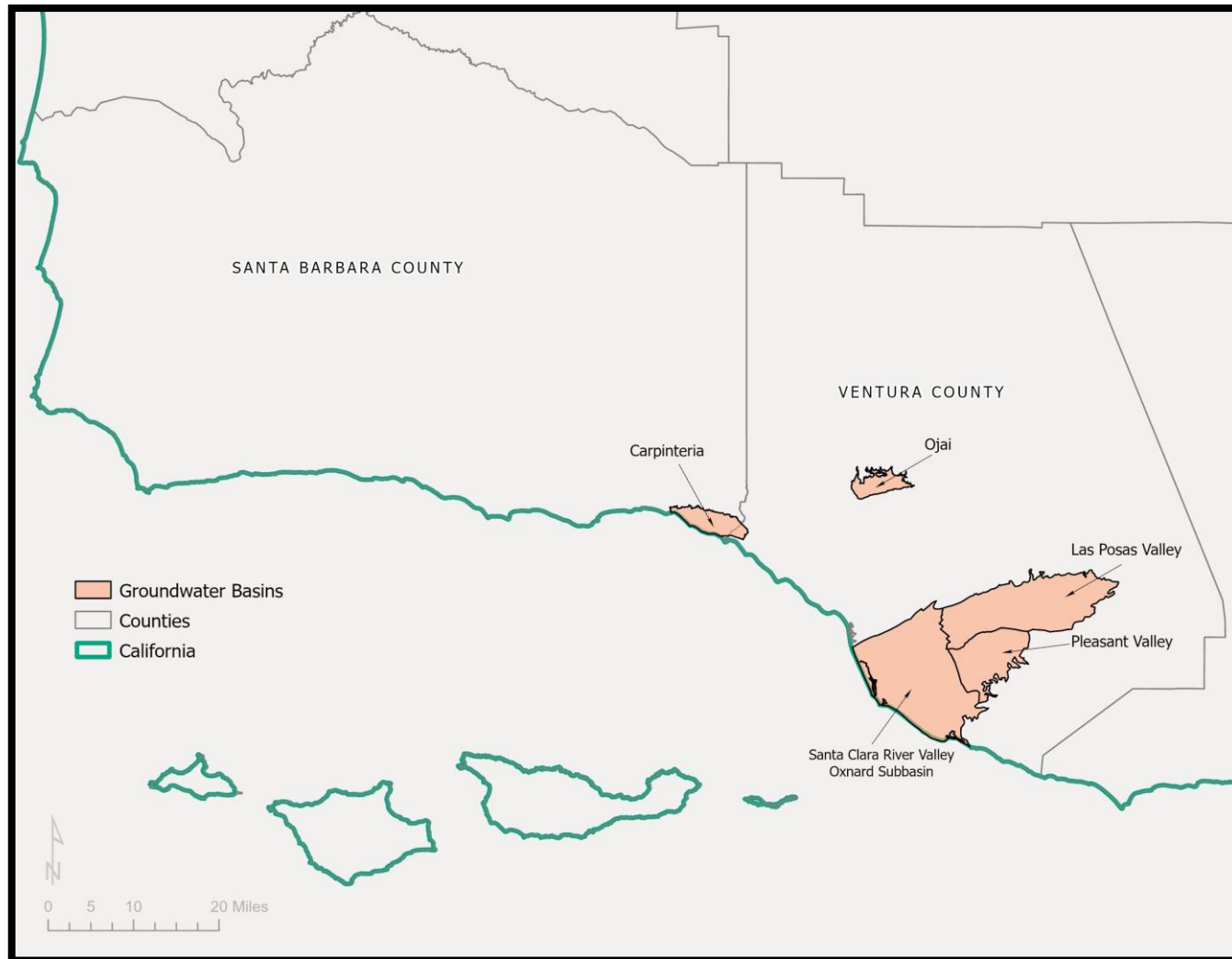
# Background
## Listening Session #1 Summary

## Missed the meeting?
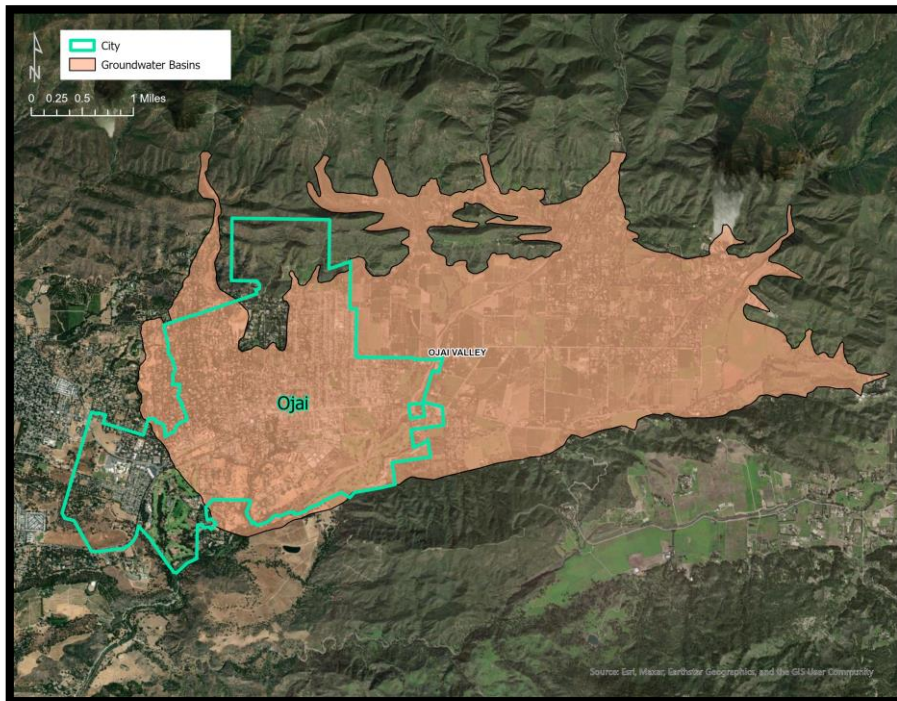
Video recording and PDF of Presentation available at: https://carpgsa.org/listening-sessions/
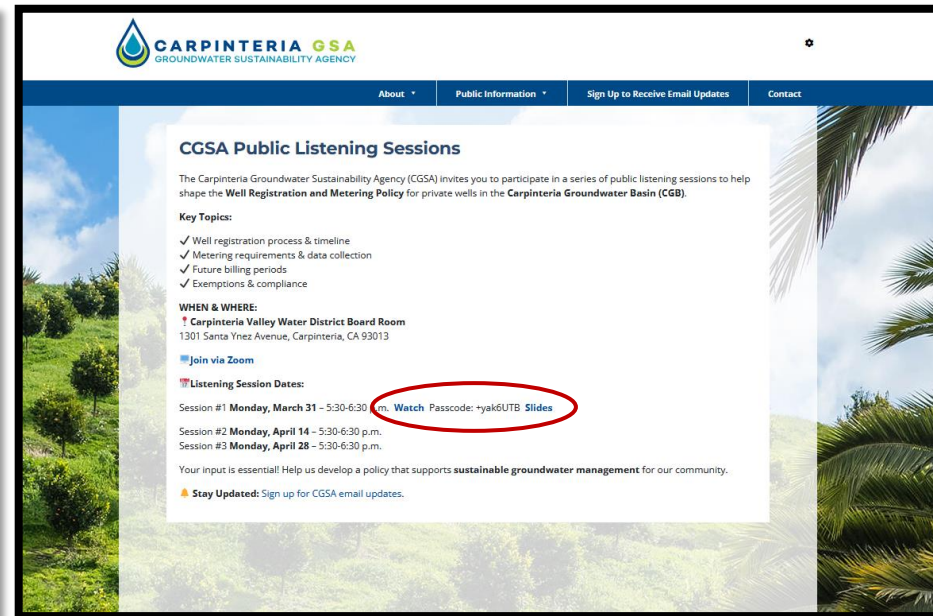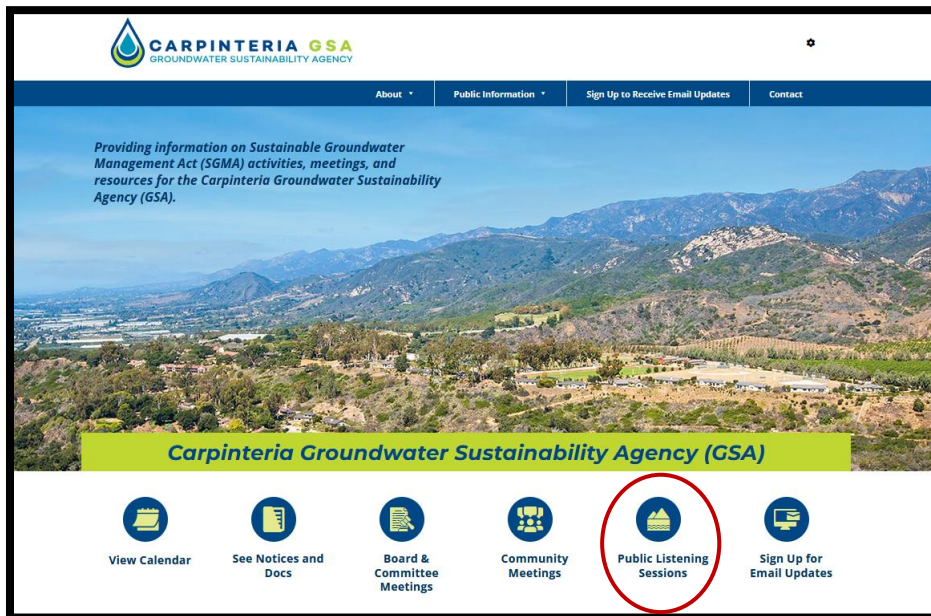
# Other Local Groundwater Agencies
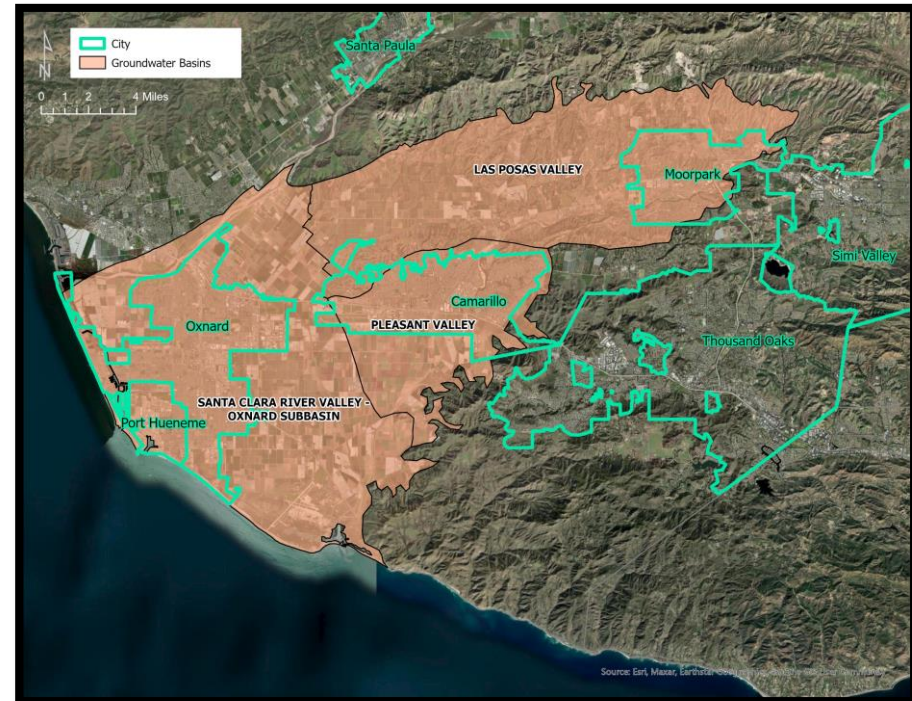## With Metering Programs

# Other Local Groundwater Agencies
## With Metering Programs

**Ojai Basin GMA**



**Fox Canyon GMA**

# Updated CGSA Implementation Timeline

## Currently Proposed

**Proposed Implementation Timeline:**
*(through first two tentative billing periods of metered CGSA fees)*

| Timeframe | Proposed *Private Well Metering Program and Well Registration Policy* Step |
|---|---|
| December 2024 | Policy Framework Board Meeting Presentation and Staff Memo. |
| March 31, 2025 | First Listening Session |
| April 14, 2025 | Second Listening Session |
| April 28, 2025 | Third Listening Session |
| June TBD, 2025 | Adopt final Policy at second Board meeting of the month. Require private well meters and registration paperwork to be submitted by end of March 2026 (12 months). 9 months |
| July 1, 2025 – March 2026 | Private well owners begin installing meters and registering their wells. CGSA staff to begin to install ERTs/"endpoint" radio transmitters. |
| March 2026 | By end of month, all active wells require meters and all active and inactive wells must have registration paperwork submitted. Wells exempt from installing meters would also be required to submit their first annual exemption form/potential affidavit. |
| March & April 2026 | CGSA staff finish installing ERTs/"endpoint" radio transmitters at all private wells and finish all data entry for upload to AMI system. All wells entered into a separate system for work order or service order tracking. |
| May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 | AMI system collects reads for 12-month billing period. |
| May and June 2027 | CGSA staff download and format data and prepare for direct charge submissions. |
| July 2027 | *CGSA staff submit Ventura County Direct Assessment information for tax roll.* |
| July 2027 | *CGSA staff submit Santa Barbara County Direct Assessment information for tax roll.* |
| November 2027 - Feb 2028 | FY 2027-2028 CGSA fees collected through tax rolls in both counties based on May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 groundwater extraction. |
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# Questions & Topics for Policy Consideration
Covered over 3 listening sessions

- Policy and Implementation Timeline
- Well Registration Requirements
- **Well Metering Requirements**
- **Well Status and Location**
- **Data Collection**
- **Exemptions**
- Fees and Billing
- Non-Compliance & Enforcement

# Well Metering Requirements
## Staff Suggestions

**_Approved_ meter installations**

- If the CGSA's suggested AMI system moves forward, meter must be compatible with AMI system
    - No insertion style flowmeters meters permitted

- Meter must be sized appropriately for flows used on property

- All piping from well to meter must be **_above ground_** with no tees or outlets ahead of meter

- As above, any sampling ports would need to be downstream of meter

- Meter installations must comply with all state and local requirements
(SB County EHS/ Ventura County Groundwater Section/California Well Standards)

- Must be installed per manufacturer's specifications with adequate upstream and downstream piping to prevent turbulence and ensure accuracy
    - Some exceptions may be considered if in-situ meter accuracy testing can demonstrate meter meets adopted accuracy testing requirements

# Well Metering Requirements
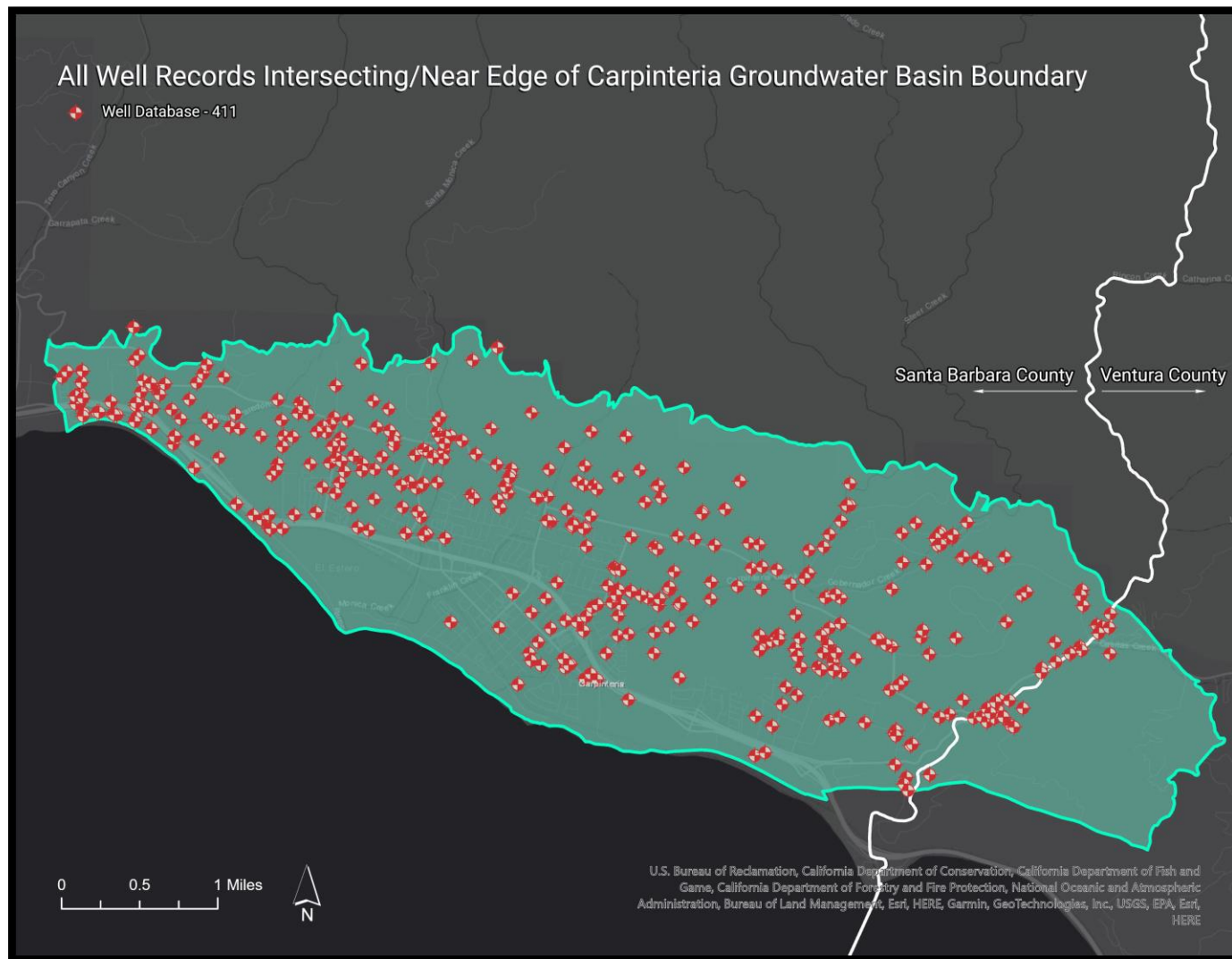## Example

# Well Metering Requirements
## Well Development/Flushing - Estimations

- CGSA proposes that after the completion of well construction or after well rehabilitation, owners submit a Well Flushing Estimation Form calculating the amount of water that was removed from the well if unmetered
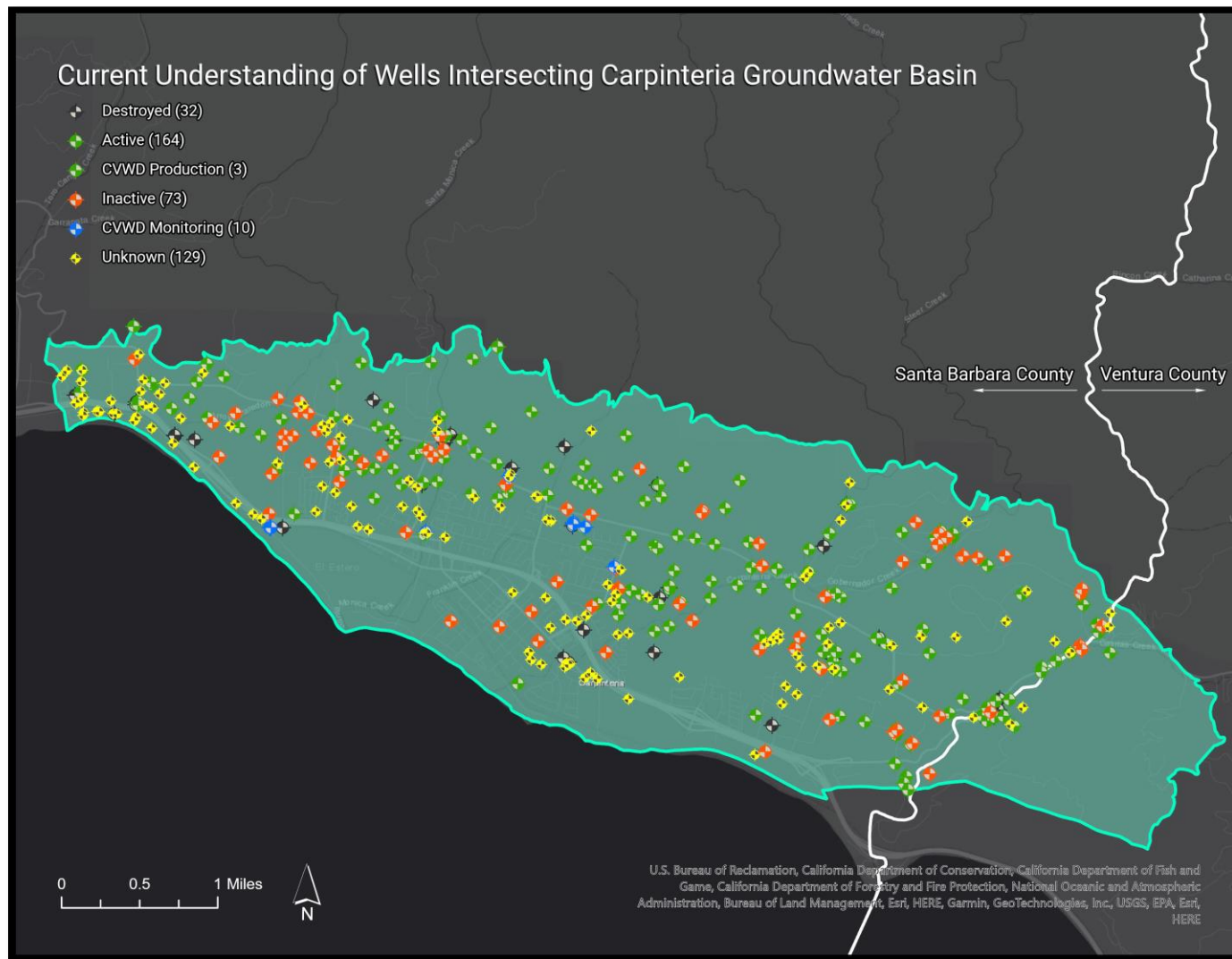
- Form to be available on website

# Well Status & Location
## Map – 411 records of wells intersecting along/basin boundary



All Well Records Intersecting/Near Edge of Carpinteria Groundwater Basin Boundary

Well Database - 411

Santa Barbara County    Ventura County

0    0.5    1 Miles

N

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Conservation, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, EPA, Esri, HERE

# Well Status & Location
## Map – 411 records – Current Understanding

# Well Status & Location
## Proposed Questions

- What unique identifier will be used to "name" and identify each well in the basin?

- Will the CGSA report abandoned wells with no intended future use to either Ventura County's Groundwater Section or Santa Barbara County's Environmental Health Services? What level of interaction will the CGSA have with these departments throughout the well registration process.

# Well Status & Location

Other Agencies (for context)

- What unique identifier will be used to "name" and identify each well in the basin?

  Ojai: State Well Number          Fox Canyon: State Well Number

- Will the CGSA report abandoned wells with no intended future use to either Ventura County's Groundwater Section or Santa Barbara County's Environmental Health Services? What level of interaction will the CGSA have with these departments throughout the well registration process.

  Ventura County has very strict requirements that both Ojai and Fox Canyon agencies emphasizes in their metering ordinances. According to Ventura County's Groundwater Section "all wells must be pumped at least 8-hours per year, or they are considered abandoned. Abandoned wells, or inactive wells, must be destroyed at the owner's expense." * some exemptions if plan to re-activate in the future

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# Well Status & Location
## Staff Suggestions

- What unique identifier will be used to "name" and identify each well in the basin?

  The CGSA proposes using the State Well Number (SWN) as the unique identifier. If wells do not have an official State Well Number, suggest that staff acquire one from the Department of Water Resources during the well registration process.

- Will the CGSA report abandoned wells with no intended future use to either Ventura County's Groundwater Section or Santa Barbara County's Environmental Health Services? What level of interaction will the CGSA have with these departments throughout the well registration process?

  Counties will inform CGSA staff when there is a new well permit and pass on Registration, Meter, and Calibration forms as required.
  It is the owner's responsibility to comply with the Well Registration and Metering Policy.
  The CGSA would not work on abandoned well compliance, but would maintain data about inactive/active wells.

# Data Collection
Proposed Questions

- How would the CGSA receive monthly private well metered data?

- Should the CGSA require an AMI system to be installed and, if so, what vendor(s) should be used?

# Data Collection
## Other Agencies (for context)

- How would the CGSA receive monthly private well metered data?

  Ojai: No monthly data. They only receive quarterly water use via paper statements

  Fox Canyon: 8 AMI vendors send data monthly to them

- Should the CGSA require an AMI system to be installed and, if so, what vendor(s) should be used?

  Ojai: No AMI required

  Fox Canyon: AMI required.
  Property-owner owns/maintains the AMI equipment.

# Data Collection
## Staff Suggestions

- How would the CGSA receive monthly private well metered data?

  The CGSA proposes using a CGSA-maintained and managed AMI system because the data could be exported easily and regularly from the system.

  If an AMI system is not implemented, other agencies such as OBGMA have utilized self-reporting by owner; however, this results in issues with enforcement and accuracy and results in more staff time involved with enforcement and getting the owner to comply with requirements.

- Should the CGSA require an AMI system to be installed and, if so, what vendor(s) should be used?

  The CGSA is proposing to use an AMI system like FCGMA; however, rather than have the owner invest in the AMI equipment and maintain it the CGSA proposes that the CGSA own & maintain the AMI equipment. The CGSA is proposing to use Badger meter's BEACON Advanced Metering Analytics (AMA) system due to staff's familiarity with the software and equipment.

# Data Collection
## Proposed Questions

- What data, forms, and/or fees would the CGSA collect annually from inactive wells?

# Data Collection
Other Agencies (for context)

- What data, forms, and/or fees would the CGSA collect annually from inactive wells?

Ojai: Owners must still fill out quarterly statements and pay fixed quarterly fees.

Fox Canyon: Owners must fill out Flowmeter Exemption Form & submit annually.

# Ojai Basin Inactive Wells



$5.00

$65.00

$12.50

$50.00
(if agricultural)

**$132.50** quarterly

x 4

**$530** yearly

# Fox Canyon Inactive Wells

# Data Collection
Staff Suggestions

- What data, forms, and/or fees would the CGSA collect annually from inactive wells?

The CGSA proposes having a flowmeter exemption form similar to Fox Canyon's and a small annual processing fee to cover staff time keeping track of the well's status. There is the potential for CGSA staff to inspect inactive wells at regular intervals.

The CGSA also proposes that owners be required to attach additional proof/demonstrate that the well was not used during the billing period if they wish to continue to be exempt (SCE bills during specific time frame, photos of an empty well casing with no pump, etc.)

# Exemptions
## Proposed Questions

- What wells are exempt from installing meters, if any (i.e., inactive, less than 2 af, etc.)

- What exemptions should be allowed for AMI system equipment, if any?

# Exemptions
## Other Agencies (for context)

- ## What wells are exempt from installing meters, if any (i.e., inactive, less than 2 af, etc.)

Ojai: Older *Ordinance 3* allowed exemption if:
- Owner could demonstrate with evidence that the facility draws from a hydrologic source other than the basin
- Wells powered by a motor of three or less horsepower and the sum total of water extracted by the operator for use on any single parcel is less than 1.5 af/year

Fox Canyon: Allows exemption if:
- "Inactive" well - defined as wells pumped less than 8 hours in a 12-month period.
- Wells serving a single-family dwelling on one-acre or less, with no income producing operations.

- ## What exemptions should be allowed for AMI system equipment, if any?

Ojai: NO AMI Requirement

Fox Canyon: Domestic operator exemption. 2 af or less per year from a well with a pump discharge pipe and flowmeter diameter of 2 inches or less and a pump motor of ten horsepower or less.*

*The Executive Officer may provide an exemption for a domestic operator using less than 5 af or less per year for domestic purposes with a pump discharge pipe and flow diameter of 4 inches or less and a pump motor of fifteen horsepower or less.

# Exemptions
Staff Suggestions

- ## What wells are exempt from installing meters, if any (i.e., inactive, less than 2 af, etc.)?

  The CGSA proposes to only allow exemptions for inactive wells and de minimis wells under SGMA. Must fill out exemption form/affidavit annually with photos and submit additional proof as required.

  De minimis wells under SGMA: a groundwater well that pumps 2 af or less per year solely for domestic (non-ag) purposes.

- ## What exemptions should be allowed for AMI system equipment, if any?

  The CGSA proposes that if a meter is required, then a CGSA-owned and maintained AMI endpoint would be required. Suggest no exemptions since there is no financial burden to the well owner.

# Well Registration and Metering Policy

Questions/ Comments?

Please state your name before your question/comment both from online and in-person.