SONOMA VALLEY
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

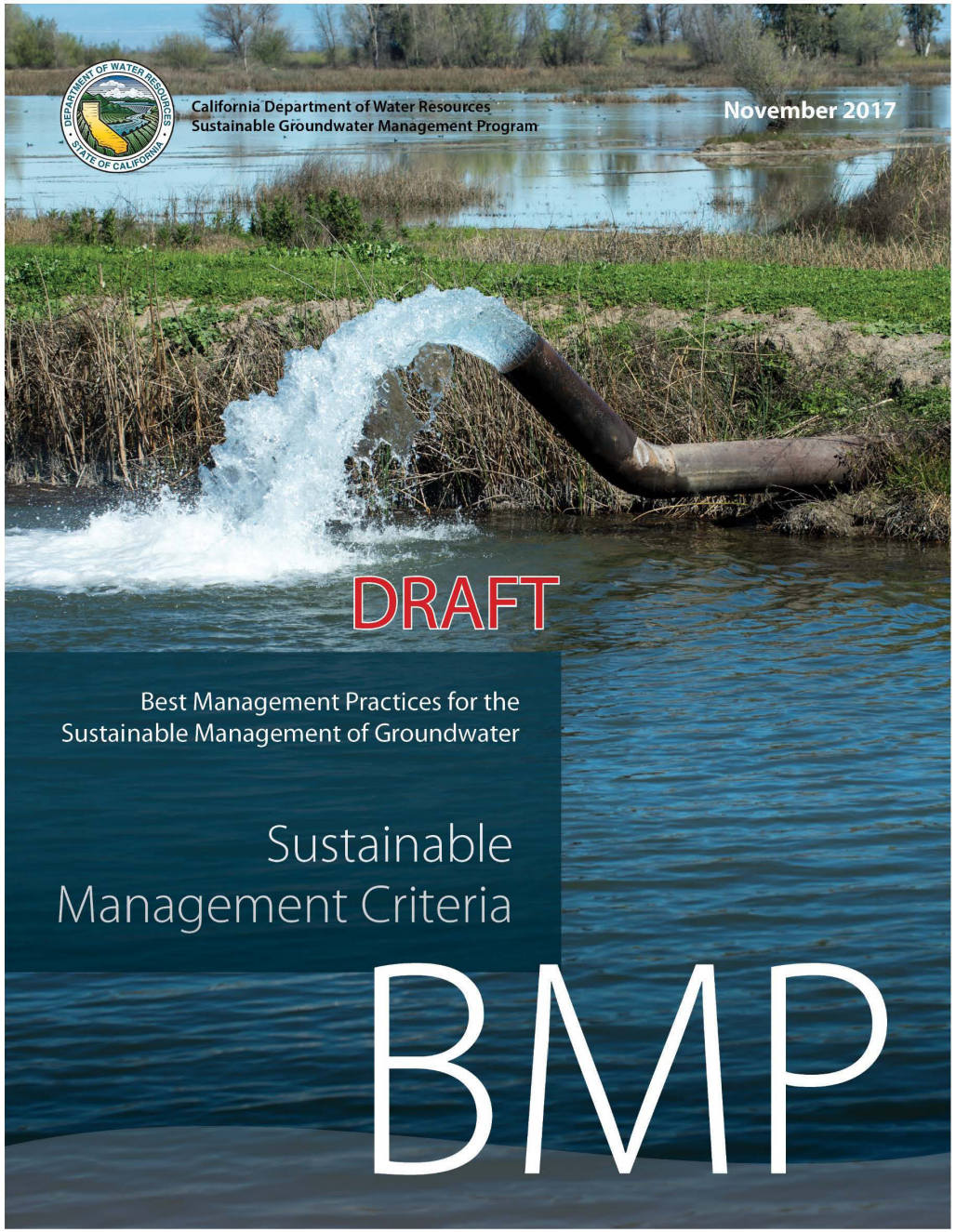
# Sustainability in the Sonoma Valley Basin

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: JULY 20, 2020

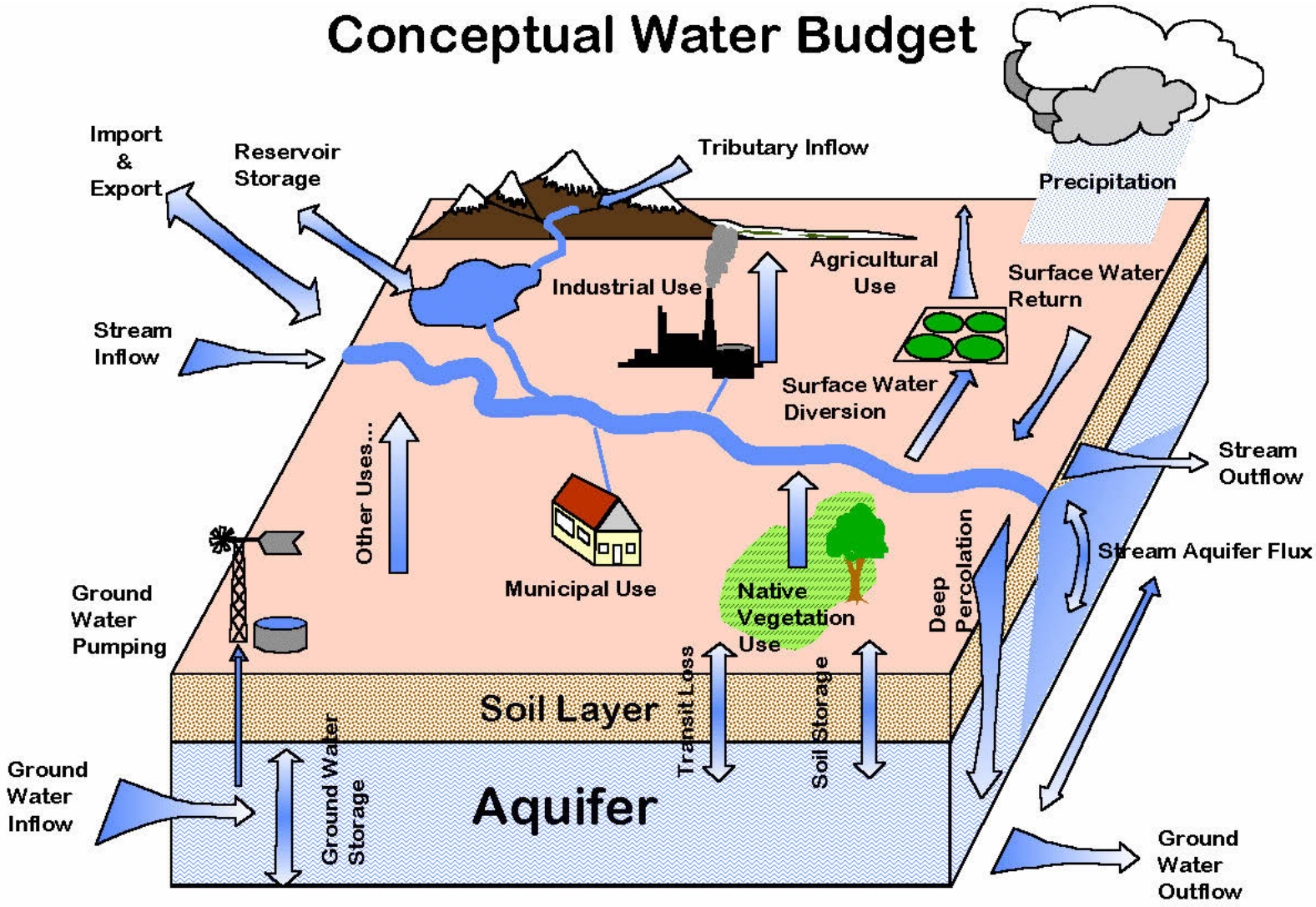
SGMA requires that sustainability be maintained for 50 years

# Sustainable Management Criteria are the heart of SGMA

- Predicting future conditions
- What is sustainability?
- Sustainability Indicators
- Key terms
- Next steps



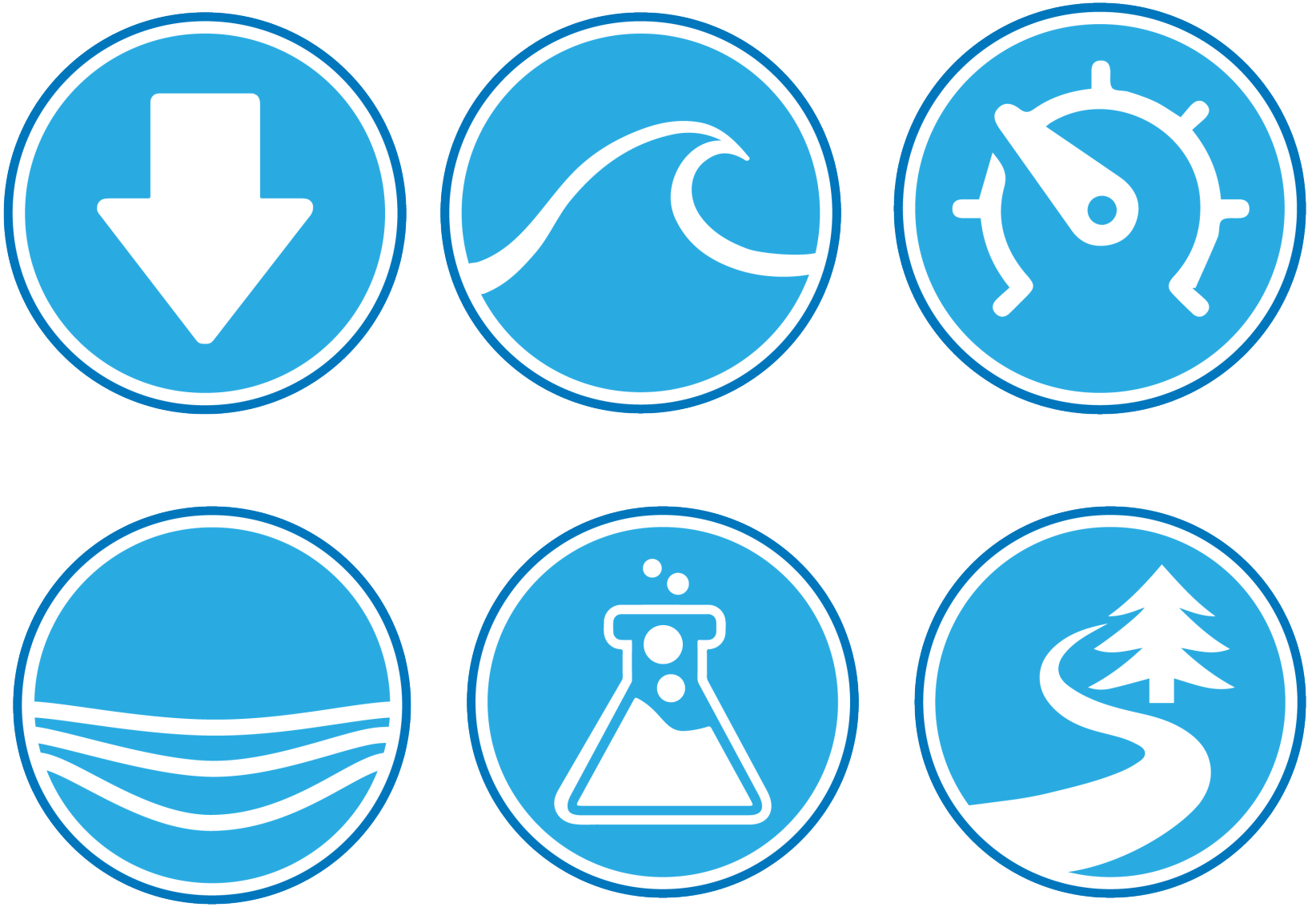
# Models can help predict future challenges



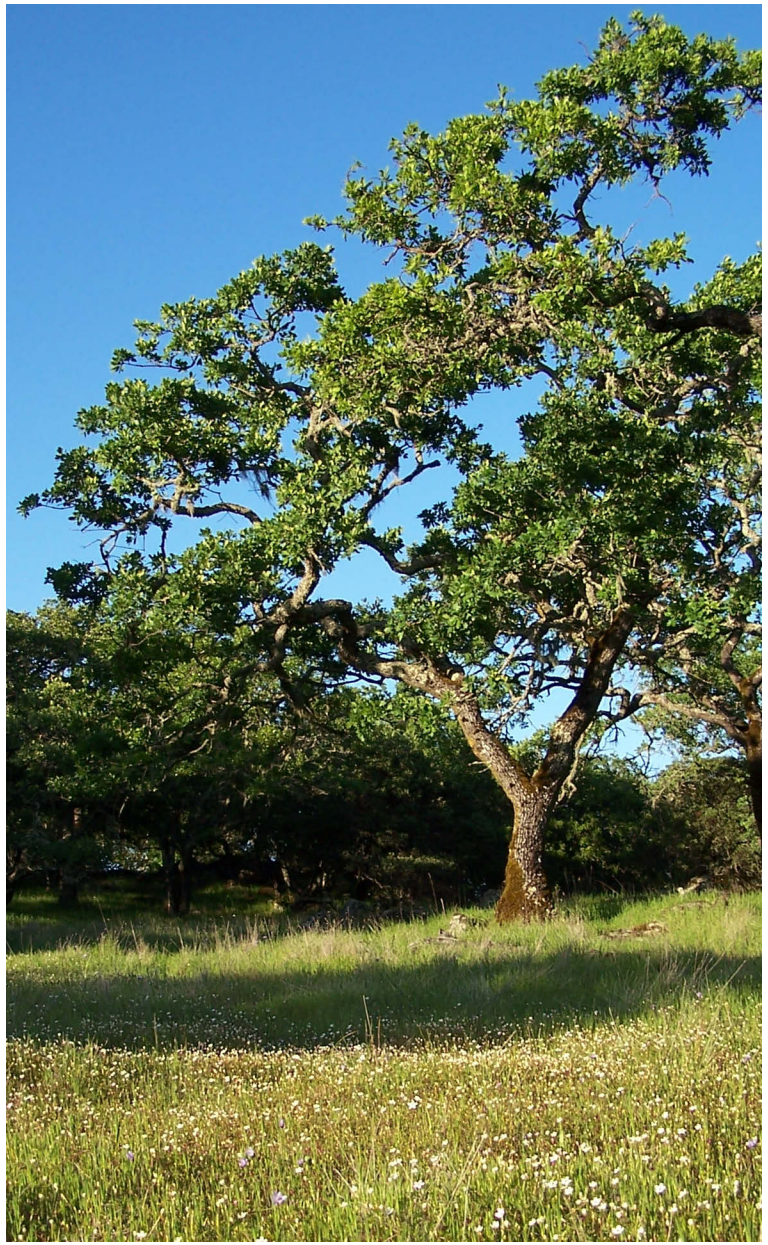

*Source: California Water Blog*

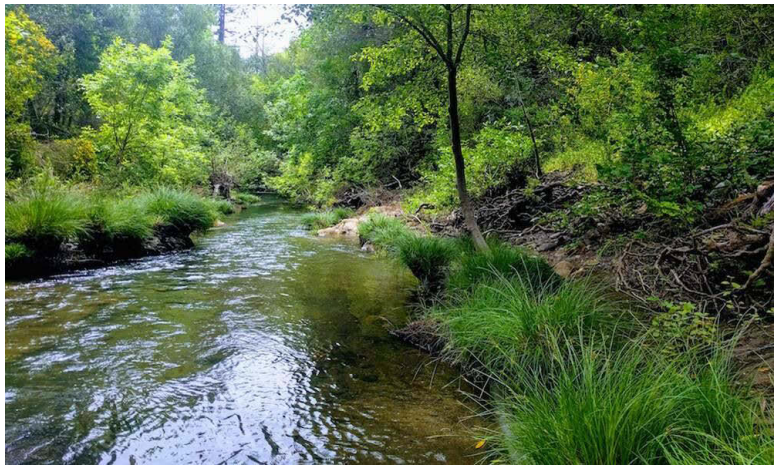
# The goal of SGMA is groundwater sustainability

# Sustainability has specific meanings in SGMA



# Defining the meaning of groundwater sustainability locally





# SGMA uses specific terminology

For each of the six Sustainability Indicators, the Sustainable Management Criteria must:

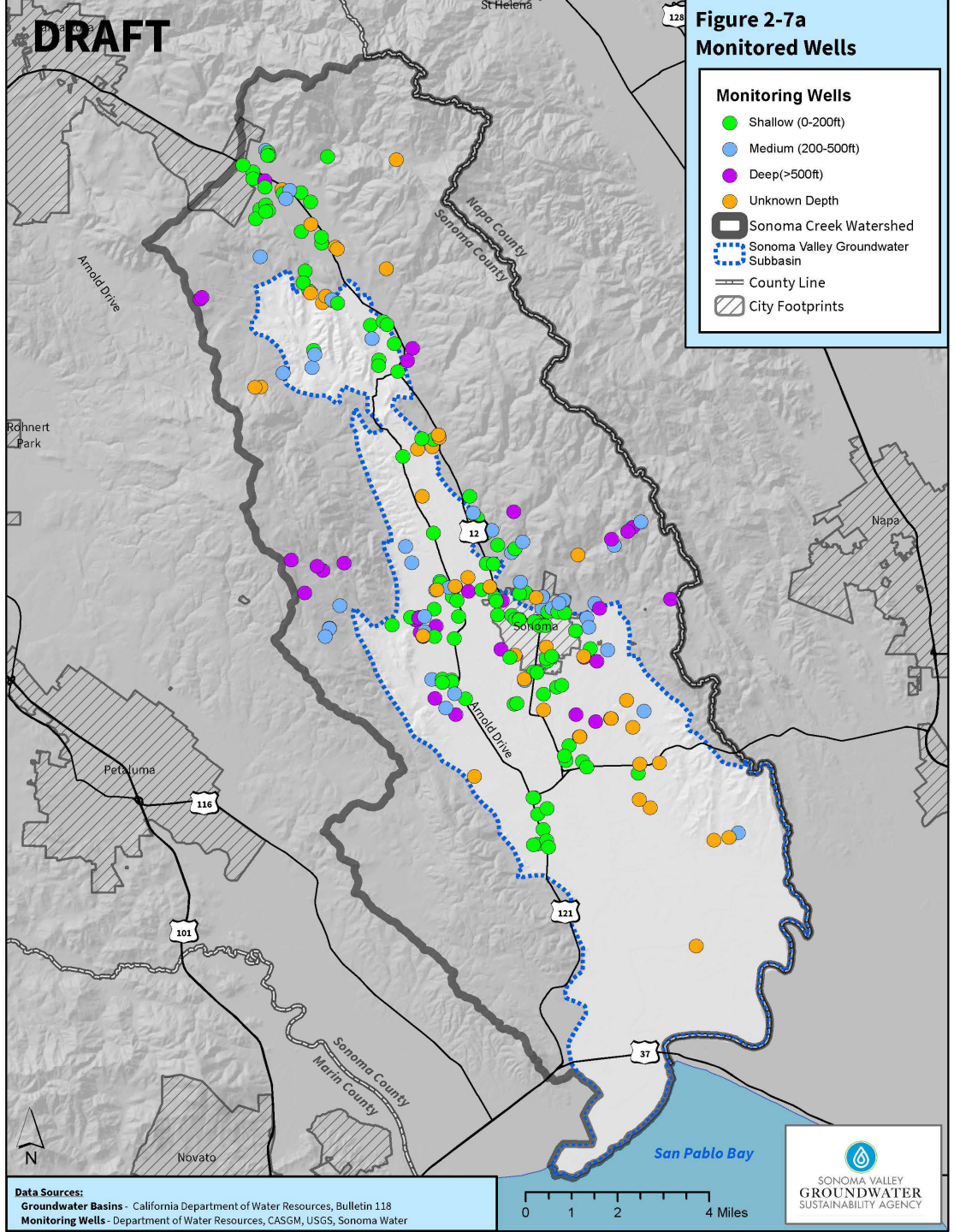
- Include a **Sustainability Goal**, which is a succinct big-picture statement of the GSA's objectives and desired conditions and how they will be reached;
- Define **Significant and Unreasonable Effects**
- Identify **representative monitoring sites**
- Develop **measurable objectives**
- Define **minimum thresholds**
- Determine **undesirable results**
- Develop **Interim Milestones,** which are five-year check-ins to measure progress

Go to sonomavalleygroundwater.org/gsp for a cheat sheet of terminology for Sustainable Management Criteria

SGMA requires that Significant and Unreasonable Effects be described for each Sustainability Indicator

# What we don't want to happen . . .

# SGMA requires that the GSA identify Representative Monitoring Points



# SGMA requires that the GSA develop Measurable Objectives

Measurable objectives are **specific, quantifiable goals** to maintain or improve groundwater conditions

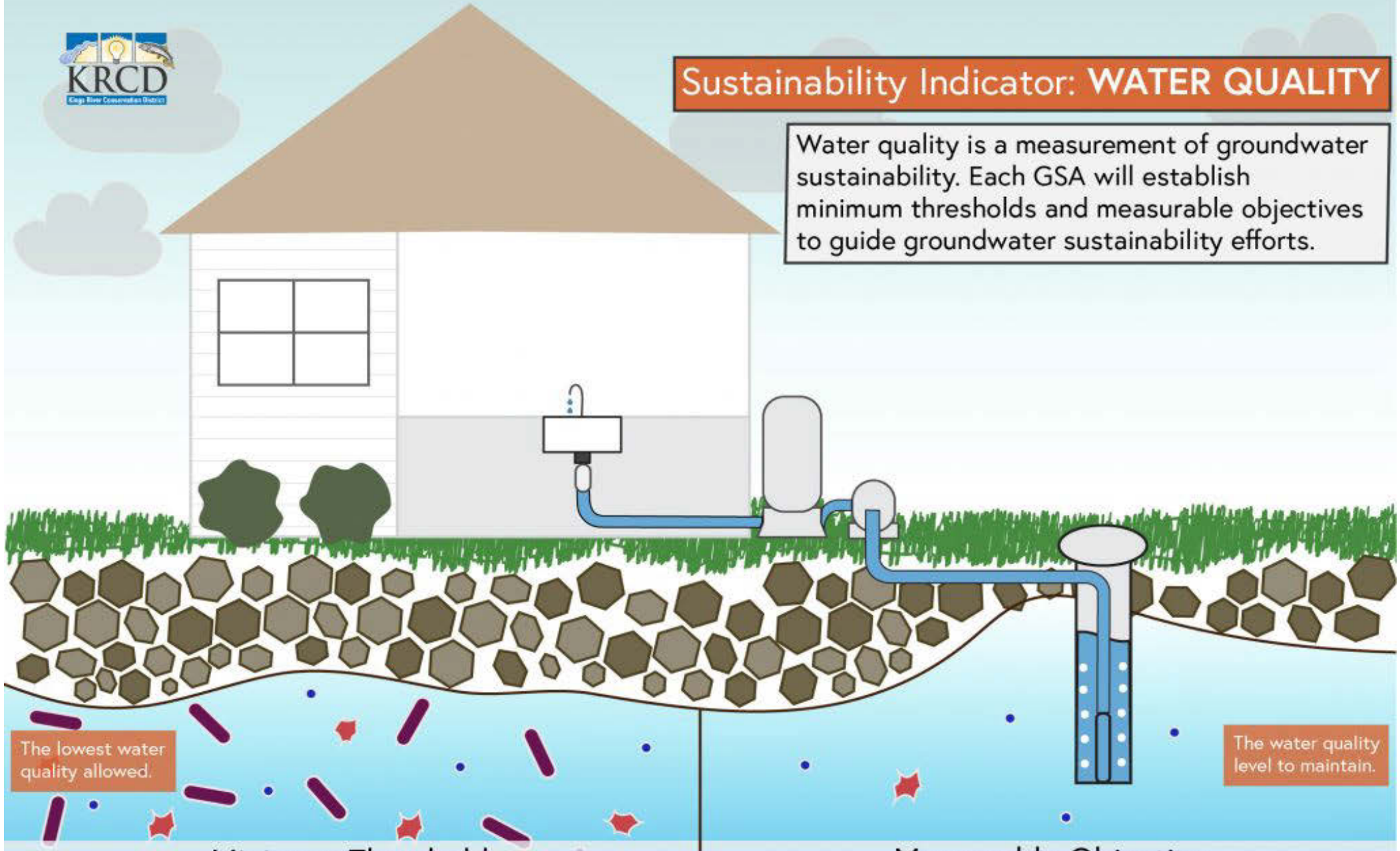
# SGMA requires that GSAs develop Minimum Thresholds

Minimum Thresholds are the **quantitative, measurable** lines in the sand that we don't want to cross.

# Undesirable Results are the worst-case scenario

# Sustainability Indicator: WATER QUALITY

Water quality is a measurement of groundwater sustainability. Each GSA will establish minimum thresholds and measurable objectives to guide groundwater sustainability efforts.




## Minimum Threshold

A value for water quality level that when exceeded, may cause significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, considered an "undesirable result".

## Measurable Objective

The water quality level that must be maintained by 2040. Maintaining the measurable objective will help identify whether or not overall sustainability is accomplished.

Projects and Management Actions will be identified to address Undesirable Results

# Sustainability must be achieved by 2042 through specific projects and actions

# The plan must include a budget and discussion of possible funding sources

(Since 2017, the GSA has been awarded more than $2 million in state grants and technical and facilitation support)

# What happens next?

- All SMC will be revisited
- Community Workshop in Fall or Winter to discuss modeling results and draft SMCs

In progress:

Coming in September/October:

# Questions?

# Breakout group questions

1. **Where do you live** in the basin, and **do you have a well?**
2. Have you had **any problems with wells** in your area?
3. Which of the six sustainability indicators (groundwater level declines, groundwater quality, groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, land subsidence, impacts to surface water like creeks and streams) are you the **most concerned about?** Which is the **least of your concerns?**
4. **Were you aware** that there are areas in the basin where GW levels are declining?
   - Do you think it's problematic if groundwater levels decline to the point where groundwater isn't available?
   - Do you have ideas about how groundwater levels should be addressed?
5. If you have a well in the southern part of the basin, **have you experienced increased saltiness in your water?** Do you know of anyone who might have experienced seawater intrusion?
6. **Any other concerns** about groundwater management or groundwater problems that we haven't discussed today?