

Napa County

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559



Agenda - Final

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2026

1:30 PM

**Board of Supervisors Chambers
1195 Third Street, Third Floor**

Groundwater Technical Advisory Group

Mathias Kondolf (Chair)
Miguel Garcia (Vice-Chair)
Albert Filipelli
Monica Cooper
Julie Chambon

Brian D. Bordona, Secretary - Director
Chris Apallas, County Counsel
Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager
Brendan McGovern, Principal Planner
Nick Fetherston, Planner II
Alexandria Quackenbush, Meeting Clerk
Angie Ramirez Vega, Meeting Clerk
Aime Ramos, Meeting Clerk

How to Watch or Listen to the Napa County Groundwater Technical Advisory Group Meetings

The Napa County Groundwater Technical Advisory Group will continue to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. There will be no regular meeting in January, May, June or October. August 19, 2025 will be a special-joint meeting of the GTAG & GSA.

The Groundwater Technical Advisory Group meets at 1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Napa, California 94559. The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Assistive listening devices and interpreters are available through the clerk of the Groundwater Technical Advisory Group. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made to the Clerk of the Groundwater Technical Advisory Group's office no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting (707) 253-4417 or meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org.

The Groundwater Technical Advisory Group realizes that not all County residents have the same ways to stay engaged, so several alternatives are offered. Remote Zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the Groundwater Technical Advisory Group reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

Please watch or listen to the Groundwater Technical Advisory Group meeting in one of the following ways:

1. Attend in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Napa, Third Floor.
2. Watch on Zoom using the attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/89426085834>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date.
3. Listen on Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 894-2608-5834).

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person and wish to submit a general public comment or a comment on a specific agenda item, please do the following:

1. Email your comment to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org. Emails will not be read aloud but will still become part of the public record and shared with the Groundwater Technical Advisory Group.
2. Use the Zoom attendee link: <https://Countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/89426085834>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date. When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click "raise hand". Please limit your remarks to three minutes.
3. Call the Zoom phone number: 1-669-900-6833. (Meeting ID: 894-2608-5834). When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise hand. Please limit your remarks to three minutes.

****Please note that phone numbers in their entirety will be visible online while speakers are speaking****

For more information, please contact us via telephone at (707) 253-4417 or send an email to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org.

ANY MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE:

ON A MATTER ON THE AGENDA

Please proceed to the podium when the matter is called and, after receiving recognition from the Chair, give your name and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair or Committee, but is generally limited to three minutes.

ON A MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker, subject to the discretion of the Chair. Comments should be brief and focused, and speakers should be respectful of one another who may have different opinions. Please remember this meeting is being recorded and broadcasted live via ZOOM. The County will not tolerate profanity, hate speech, abusive language, or threats. Also, while public input is appreciated, the Brown Act prohibits the Committee from taking any action on matters raised during public comment that are not on the agenda.

1. **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
(The Committee invites comments and recommendations from the public concerning issues relevant to the charge of the Technical Advisory Group. Anyone who wishes to speak to the Technical Advisory Group on such a matter, if it is not on the agenda, may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Technical Advisory Group as a result of any item presented at this time.)
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. The Secretary of the committee requests approval of the minutes from the [26-1242](#) April 9, 2026 TAG meeting.
Attachments: [Draft Minutes](#)
4. **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members will receive a presentation on the development of concepts for incentives to support implementation of the Groundwater Pumping Reduction and Water Conservation Workplans, as well as a brief update on the Water Certification Partnership Program. This is intended to spur discussion, questions, and provide feedback to staff and participants. [26-1279](#)

- B. The TAG will receive a presentation from Nick Newcomb (LSCE) describing current refinements to the Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (NVIHM) used to support the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. [26-1278](#)

- C. Provide an update on the Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Workplan implementation and the CEFF assessment. [26-1259](#)

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE ABOVE STATED MEETING WAS POSTED AT A LOCATION FREELY ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE NAPA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 1195 THIRD STREET, NAPA, CALIFORNIA ON JUNE 8, 2026 BY 11:00AM. A HARDCOPY SIGNED VERSION OF THE CERTIFICATE IS ON FILE WITH THE COMMITTEE CLERK AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

AIME RAMOS (By e-signature)
Aime Ramos, Committee Clerk



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
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Main: (707) 253-4580

Groundwater Technical Advisory Group **Agenda Date:** 6/11/2026

File ID #: 26-1242

TO: Technical Advisory Group for the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FROM: Brian Bordona - Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager
SUBJECT: TAG Minutes from April 9, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

The Secretary of the committee requests approval of the minutes from the April 9, 2026 TAG meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The TAG held its meeting on April 9, 2026. Minutes were prepared and are ready for the committee's approval.



Meeting Minutes

Technical Advisory Group

Julie Chambon
Monica Cooper
Albert Filipelli
Miguel Garcia (*Vice-Chair*)
Mathias Kondolf (*Chair*)

Brian D. Bordona, Director
Chris Apallas, County Counsel
Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Manager
Brendan McGovern, Principal Planner
Nick Fetherston, Planner II
Alexandria Quackenbush, Meeting Clerk
Angie Ramirez-Vega, Meeting Clerk
Aime Ramos, Meeting Clerk

Thursday, April 9, 2026

1:30 PM

Board of Supervisors Chambers
1195 Third Street, Third Floor

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Group Members Present: Chair Matt Kondolf, Albert Filipelli, Miguel Garcia, Julie Chambon, Monica Cooper

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No public comments were received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Member Chambon to approve minutes for the March 12, 2026, meeting as presented, seconded by Member Filipelli.

Vote: Carried 5-0-0

Yes: Chambon, Garcia, Filipelli, Kondolf, Cooper

No: N/A

4. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Receive an update on the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan including the Annual Report on conditions in Water Year 2025, implementation of Workplans, increased monitoring, and outreach activities.

Vicki Kretsinger, LSCE presented.

Chair Kondolf initiated a discussion between members and staff.

Chair Kondolf opened public comment, three public comments were received.

No action was taken.

- B.** Provide an update on the Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Workplan implementation with a focus on 2025 monitoring results.

Esther Adelstein, Stillwater Sciences presented.

Chair Kondolf initiated a discussion between members and staff.

Chair Kondolf opened public comment, one public comment was received.

No action was taken.

- C.** The TAG will receive a presentation by staff and technical consultants on the Napa County Public Draft 2026 Water Availability Analysis (WAA) Guidance document and supplemental Technical Report for Napa County's updated draft well permitting standards.

Patrick Ryan, PBES and Vicki Kretsinger, LSCE presented.

Chair Kondolf initiated a discussion between members and staff.

Chair Kondolf opened public comment, three public comments were received.

No action was taken.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 P.M

AIME RAMOS, Meeting Clerk



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Groundwater Technical Advisory Group **Agenda Date:** 6/11/2026

File ID #: 26-1279

TO: Technical Advisory Group for the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager
SUBJECT: Napa Valley Subbasin GPR Implementation: Technical Advisory Group Review of Incentive Development

RECOMMENDATION

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members will receive a presentation on the development of concepts for incentives to support implementation of the Groundwater Pumping Reduction and Water Conservation Workplans, as well as a brief update on the Water Certification Partnership Program. This is intended to spur discussion, questions, and provide feedback to staff and participants.

Procedure

Staff introduces.
Questions and answers with the TAG.
Public comments.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NCGSA) is implementing the Water Conservation (WC) and Groundwater Pumping Reduction (GPR) Workplans (March 2024). The WC Workplan identified a suite of water conservation practices and the GPR Workplan developed an implementation plan to achieve measurable groundwater pumping reductions and overall water savings in the Napa Valley Subbasin (Subbasin). GPR implementation includes incentives for water users/industries in the Subbasin to adopt and expand water conservation practices.

One concept in the WC and GPR Workplans was expanding water conservation practices by partnering with existing certifications programs to include and expand required practices and develop data to quantify water conservation. The pilot Water Certification Partnership Program (WCPP) is being implemented to encourage vineyards and wineries to expand adoption of water conservation practices in Subbasin. NCGSA and its certification partners are developing the pilot WCPP. This includes a certification checklist for water conservation practices, a data reporting template, preliminary outreach to interested parties, developing a memorandum of understanding, and incentives. An update on these activities will be presented to the TAG.

Incentives can encourage adoption of water conservation practices, change existing behaviors, and prevent the need for more strict, mandatory measures. Incentives for water conservation are being evaluated and will be

presented to the TAG. A short concept list of agricultural water conservation incentives has been prepared that includes the following categories of incentives/actions:

- Sponsor a series of joint outreach meetings or presentations with local organizations to present the need for water conservation in Napa Valley, available incentives, and how growers can implement practices to support groundwater. Partners would receive funding to participate.
- Develop direct incentives for five priority practices: meter installation, vineyard floor management, distribution uniformity (DU) testing with follow-up action, irrigation system repairs, and voluntary water use tracking and reporting.
- Establish a block grant for partner certification programs and local organizations to distribute the water conservation incentives to participating growers.

Reporting anonymized water use data would be required to be eligible for incentives, following the process set out with the WCPP. Additional incentives tailored to other groundwater users, including self-supplied domestic users, are also under development and will be presented at future meetings. The TAG will receive an overview of potential incentives.

Question/Prompts for TAG Discussion

One (1) question was identified for this TAG meeting.

1. Are there any specific questions and feedback on the updates presented?
 - This is an update on work in progress to develop and implement effective incentives for water conservation. These three incentives are specifically focused on agricultural water conservation, and they will be refined alongside additional incentives for other groundwater users.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A. ERA Economics PowerPoint Presentation: GPR Workplan Implementation Update, June 2026



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Groundwater Technical Advisory Group **Agenda Date:** 6/11/2026

File ID #: 26-1278

TO: Technical Advisory Group for the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager
SUBJECT: Updates on Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model Refinements

RECOMMENDATION

The TAG will receive a presentation from Nick Newcomb (LSCE) describing current refinements to the Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (NVIHM) used to support the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Procedure

Staff introduces.

Questions and answers with the TAG.

Public comments.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The TAG will receive a presentation from Nick Newcomb (LSCE) describing current refinements to the Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (NVIHM) used to support the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Key elements include:

1. Changes to the model to accommodate the modified Subbasin boundary;
2. Refinement to the Streamflow Routing Package used to simulate streamflow;
3. Updates to representation of land use and evapotranspiration;
4. Updates to the distribution and construction of groundwater pumping wells; and
5. Coordination with the model code developers to incorporate soil moisture storage.

This is intended to provide the TAG an opportunity to spur discussion, questions, and provide feedback to staff and participants.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A. Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model Refinements Presentation (LSCE, June 2026)



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Groundwater Technical Advisory Group **Agenda Date:** 6/11/2026

File ID #: 26-1259

TO: Technical Advisory Group for the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager
SUBJECT: Presentation on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Workplan and CEFF Assessment

RECOMMENDATION

Provide an update on the Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Workplan implementation and the CEFF assessment.

Procedure

Staff introduces.
Questions and answers with the TAG.
Public comments.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the Interconnected Surface Water and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Workplan (Workplan) both recommended using the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF) to assess ecosystem instream flow needs in the Napa Valley Subbasin (Subbasin). CEFF is divided into three sections. Section A includes identifying ecological management goals and the functional flow components (e.g., maintain suitable habitat conditions for juvenile steelhead rearing) required to support the ecosystem functions that correspond to each management goal. CEFF Section B includes developing ecological flow criteria for flow components by developing detailed conceptual models relating the functional flow components to ecological management goals and quantifying flow-ecology relationships while taking non-flow factors (e.g., channel incision, physical habitat, and potentially stream temperature) into account. In Section C, which will be completed after implementation of the Workplan, ecological flow requirements are considered along with other water users to develop environmental flow recommendations. The assessment focuses on dry-season baseflow (generally June through October), which is strongly tied to groundwater management in the Napa Valley Subbasin and crucial for supporting special-status aquatic species.

Four listed species that occur in the Subbasin (steelhead, foothill yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, and California freshwater shrimp) depend on dry-season baseflow for at least part of their lifecycle. The presentation to the Technical Advisory Group focuses on steelhead and foothill yellow-legged frog at three of six intensive sites (Napa River at St. Helena, Napa River at Oak Knoll, and Sulphur Creek) analyzed as part of the Workplan. The ecological goals for each site were tied to observations of species presence and habitat

condition during Workplan implementation. Observations suggest that the channel goes dry during normal years at both the St. Helena and Sulphur Creek sites. In contrast, the Napa River at Oak Knoll generally remains flowing during normal years but may transition to isolated pools or dry conditions during droughts.

The hydrology at the six intensive survey sites outlined in the workplan was evaluated using the California Natural Flows Database (CNFD) and the Napa Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (NVIHM) and compared with field observations and USGS gage data, where available. CNFD is a statistical model that uses hydrologic data from across the state from the period prior to dam construction to develop a statistical model of the range of natural flow conditions throughout California. At all six intensive sites, the range of dry-season baseflows were modeled using the NVIHM with and without pumping and compared with the CNFD and, at two of the sites, with USGS gage data. In general, CNFD predicts slightly lower dry-season baseflow in the mainstem Napa River than the NVIHM without pumping, and higher dry-season baseflow in the two tributary sites than the NVIHM. Other studies have shown that CNFD struggles in alluvial basins where baseflows are dominated by groundwater.

As part of CEFF Section B, detailed conceptual models relating flow to ecological management goals were developed for each species of interest. Steelhead spend 1-3 years in the watershed before migrating to the ocean and therefore must spend at least one dry-season in the watershed. Their survival depends on having suitable habitat, including sufficient water, cool temperatures, and sufficient dissolved oxygen. In contrast, foothill yellow-legged frogs lay eggs in streams during the spring as flows are receding and require sufficient time for the eggs to hatch and tadpoles to metamorphose into subadults that can leave the stream and find other water sources. The time from laying eggs to metamorphosis varies based on stream temperature with shorter times for warmer temperatures.

Monitoring as part of the Workplan implementation observed juvenile steelhead in Sulphur Creek in both years and in smaller numbers at the Napa River at St. Helena site. Two adult steelhead and zero juveniles were observed in the Oak Knoll site in 2025, suggesting the site may act as a migration corridor and may not support juvenile rearing. At all three sites, temperature and dissolved oxygen were stressful for juvenile steelhead in 2024 and 2025, which likely limits growth and survival. While the degree to which stream temperature and flow at these sites are correlated is not fully understood, stream temperatures can be high early in the dry season (May and June) when flows are slightly higher than July. Both mainstem sites had relatively limited habitat diversity, with long pools and little cover. Sulphur Creek has much more frequent gravel bars and a diversity of high and low velocity areas that juvenile steelhead prefer and is closer to colder water than the mainstem sites. Monitoring in 2024 and 2025 suggests that stream temperature and dissolved oxygen are much more suitable for juvenile steelhead just upstream of the Sulphur Creek site near the confluence with Heath Creek, where flows are perennial.

Most of the foothill yellow-legged frog observations were at the Sulphur Creek site where there is more abundant suitable habitat (including slow velocity zones) for egg masses and tadpoles. One foothill yellow-legged frog egg mass was observed at the Napa River near St. Helena site near the confluence of Sulphur Creek in 2024 but no frogs, tadpoles, or egg masses were observed in 2025. For most of the reach the edge habitat created by bar and pool morphology is not present in the St. Helena site. Foothill yellow-legged frog habitat was poor at the Napa River at Oak Knoll site regardless of flow and the positive eDNA result at this site was attributed to tadpoles observed upstream in Dry Creek where the habitat was better.

Preliminary dry season baseflow ecological flow recommendations were developed based on monitoring results previously collected in the basin (including stream temperature data), data collected as part of the Workplan implementation, results of the NVIHM on the effects of groundwater pumping on streamflow and the CEFF analysis described above. Based on modeling and observations to date, it is assumed that stream temperatures remain stressful for salmonids during dry-season baseflow even in the event of no groundwater pumping. The

ecological flow recommendation for the Napa River at St. Helena site is to maintain flowing conditions through mid-July to support foothill yellow-legged frog metamorphosis. The degree to which foothill yellow-legged frog use varies at this site from year to year is unknown. Additional surveys could help to determine if egg masses, one of which was observed in 2024, occur during most years, and to refine the timing of flow needs.

Because dry-season, low-flow water quality and habitat conditions are poor regardless of flow, there are no flow recommendations to support juvenile steelhead for the Napa River at Oak Knoll. No juvenile steelhead or foothill yellow-legged frogs have been observed at the Napa Oak Knoll site, and both habitat and water quality are poor. Northwestern pond turtles occur at the site but do not require specific flow in the dry-season. Because no special status species at this site rely on dry-season baseflow, no preliminary dry-season baseflow flow recommendations are developed for this site. Although there are no flow recommendations at Oak Knoll, groundwater near Oak Knoll may affect flows in Dry Creek, which supports foothill yellow-legged frogs, although this interaction requires additional study.

For the Sulphur Creek site, maintaining flow to support foothill yellow-legged frog metamorphosis (through July) is important for their success. Whether frogs emerge earlier in the season during dry years or later in the season during wetter, cooler years is not known. Continued frog surveys at this site would help to address this uncertainty. Because flows are dependent on inflow from outside of the groundwater subbasin, rather than local groundwater, there are no flow recommendations at this time.

Maintaining intra-basin connectivity in the Napa River during dry-season baseflow is important to allow adult and juvenile steelhead to migrate to better habitat within the watershed, typically outside of the Subbasin. At the mainstem sites, this connectivity is important while tributaries within the Subbasin are still flowing throughout their length and migrating fish can access better habitat. The timing of tributary disconnection varies within the Subbasin but observations and the NVIHM results without groundwater pumping suggest that larger tributaries become intermittent between May and July. In 2026, fish population surveys will occur twice at each site to better understand fish movement during the dry season and further analysis of hydrologic data will be used to assess flows to support migration to be included in the periodic evaluation. At all sites, continued monitoring of fish and frog presence, water quality, groundwater elevation, and flow connectivity will be used to refine preliminary minimum ecological flow requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A. Napa California Environmental Flows Framework Assessment Progress Update (Stillwater Sciences, June 2026)