

# Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## *Current Conditions – Start of Water Year 2024*

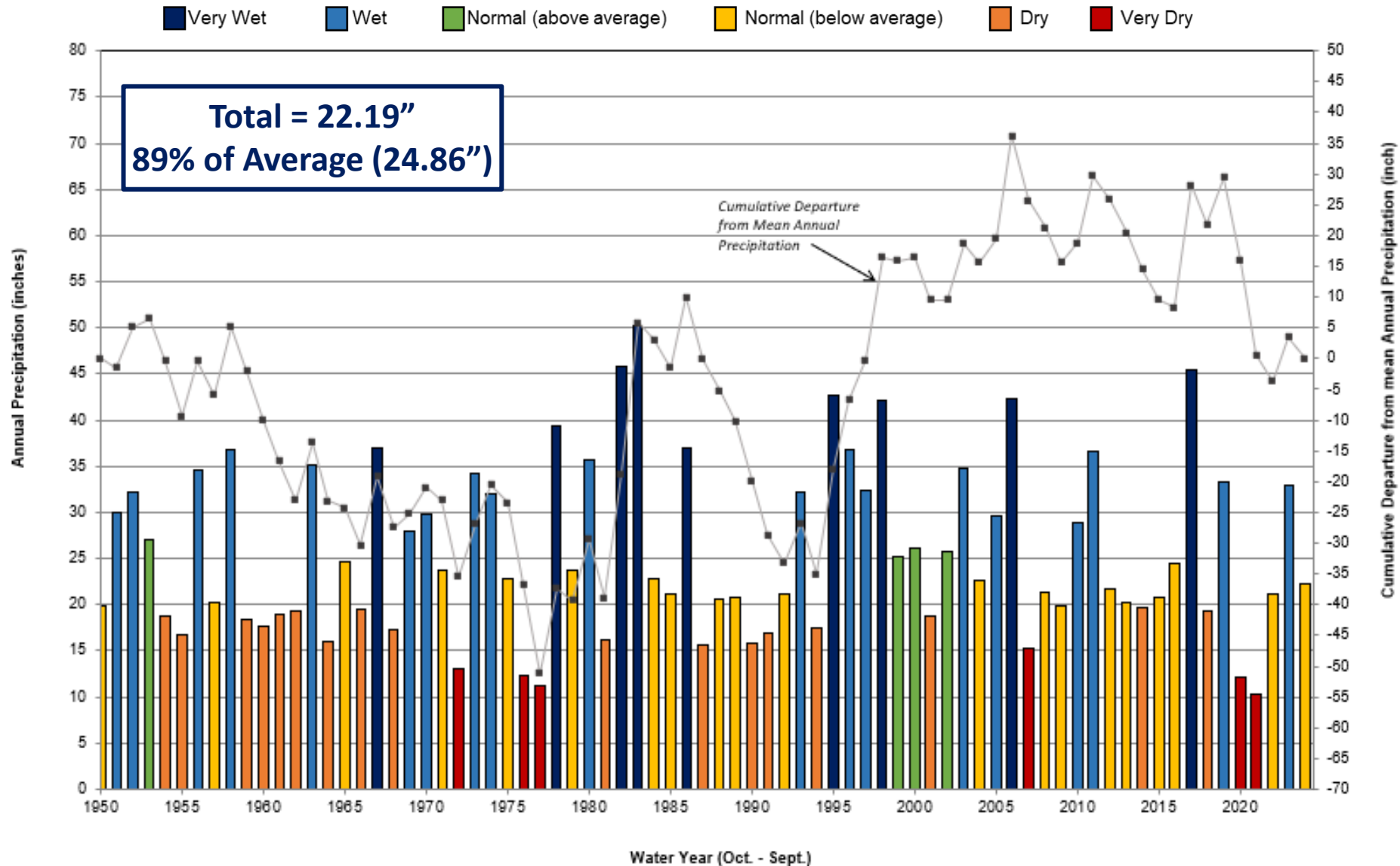
May 9, 2024



**Luhdorff &  
Scalmanini**  
Consulting Engineers



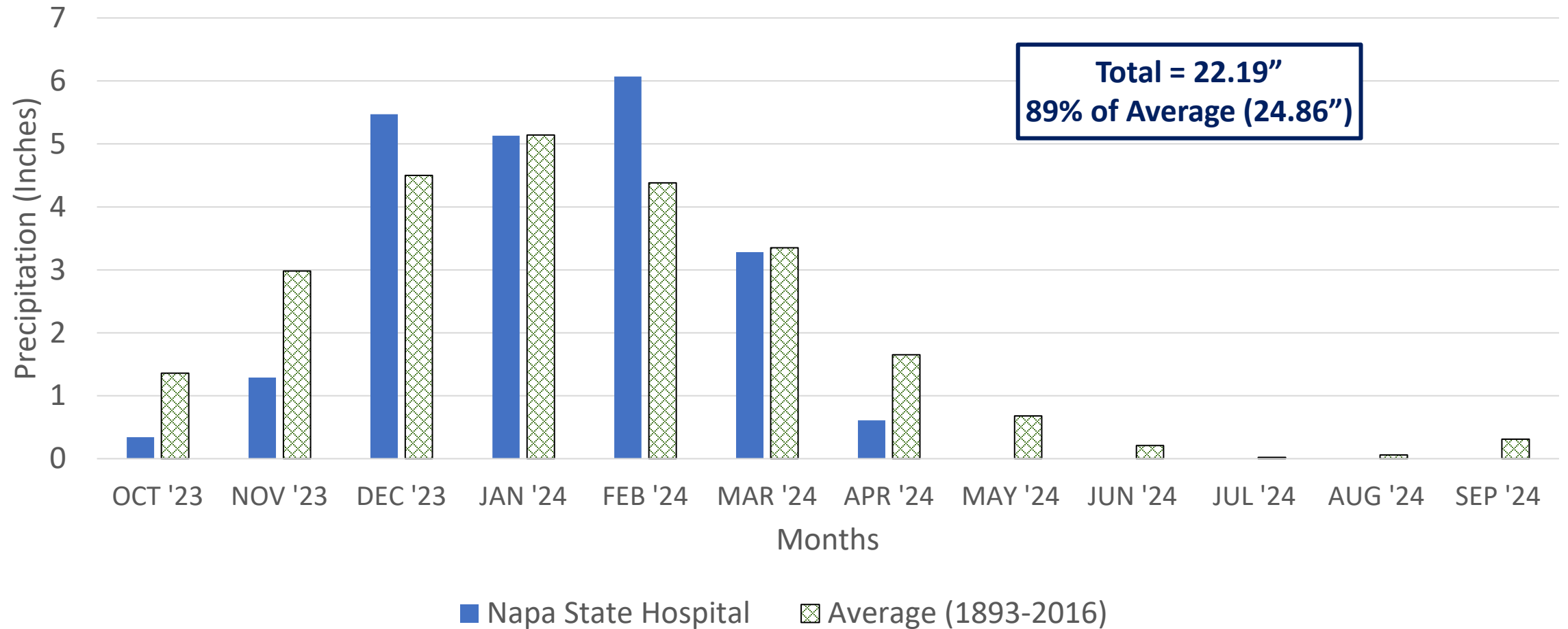
# Historical Precipitation at Napa State Hospital



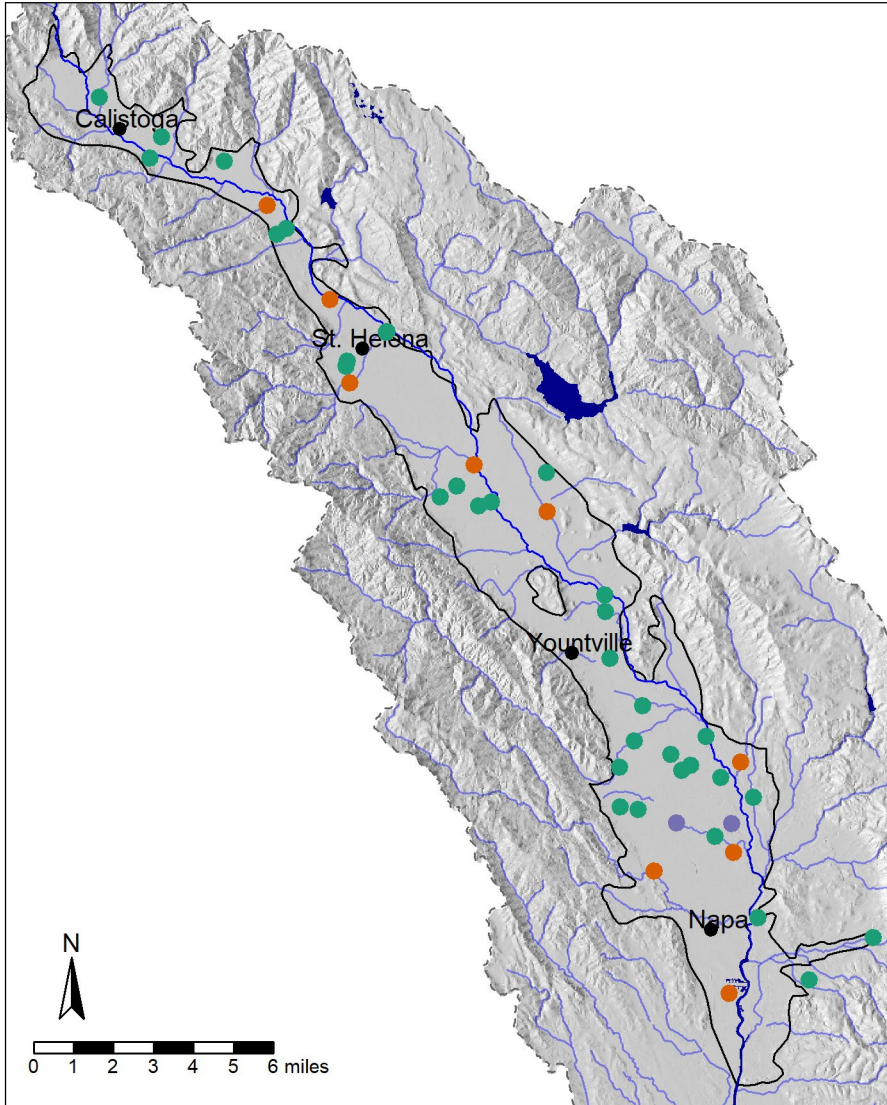
NOTE: Gaps in this data record have been reconstructed using data from the Oakville CIMIS station (77) and NOAA Saint Helena, CA station (SHCND:USC00047848).

# Precipitation: Water Year 2024

Napa State Hospital Station: Water Year 2024  
(as of April 26, 2024)



# Changes in Quaternary Alluvium (Qa) Monitoring Sites

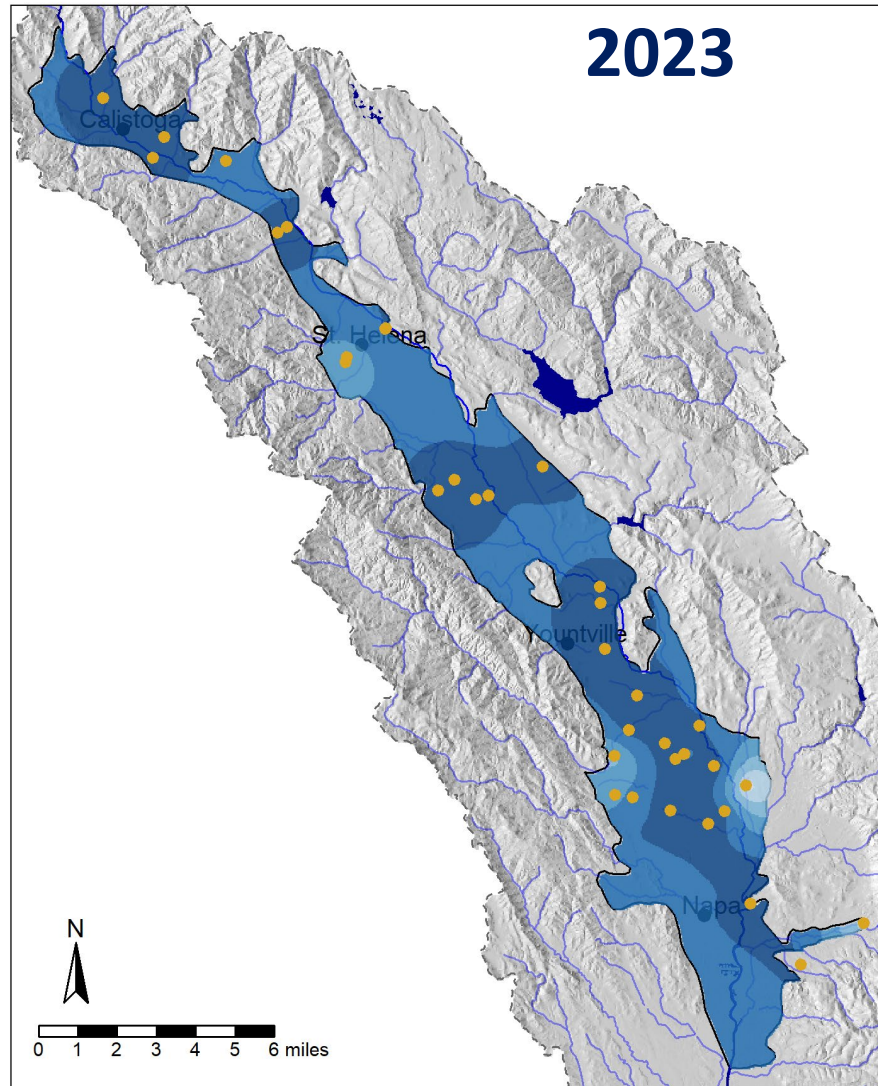


- Generally shallow wells screened within the alluvium are used to assess water table conditions.
- Total of 44 wells uses to assess storage in 2023/2024.
- Two wells were only measured in 2023.
- Nine wells only measured in 2024 (including the eight new ISW wells).

## Wells in 23/24

- Continuous
- Not Measured 2023
- Not Measured 2024

# Depth to Water (DTW) for Spring 2023 and 2024

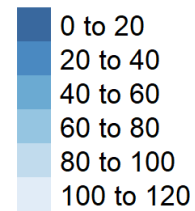


Similar pattern of DTW from 2023 to 2024.

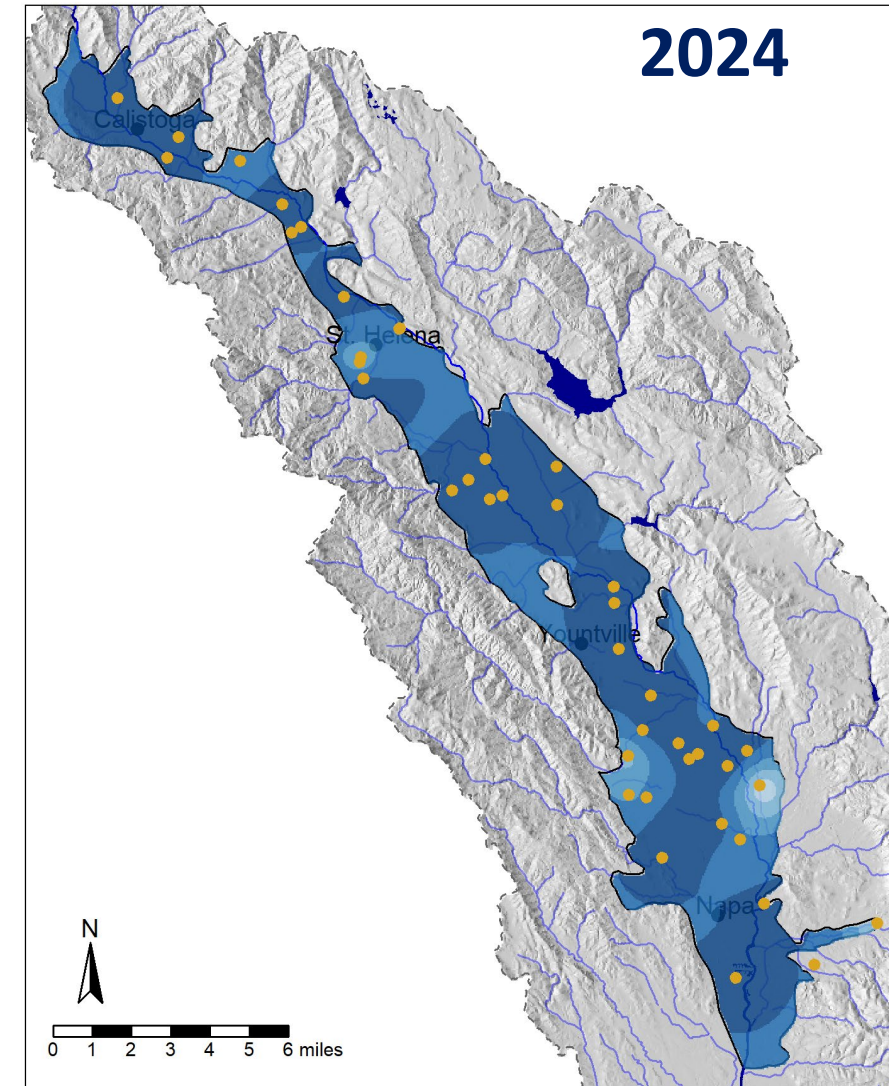
Generally, DTW are:

- Calistoga: 2-36 ft bgs
- St. Helena: 7-58 ft bgs
- Yountville: 4-26 ft bgs
- Napa: 4-88 ft bgs

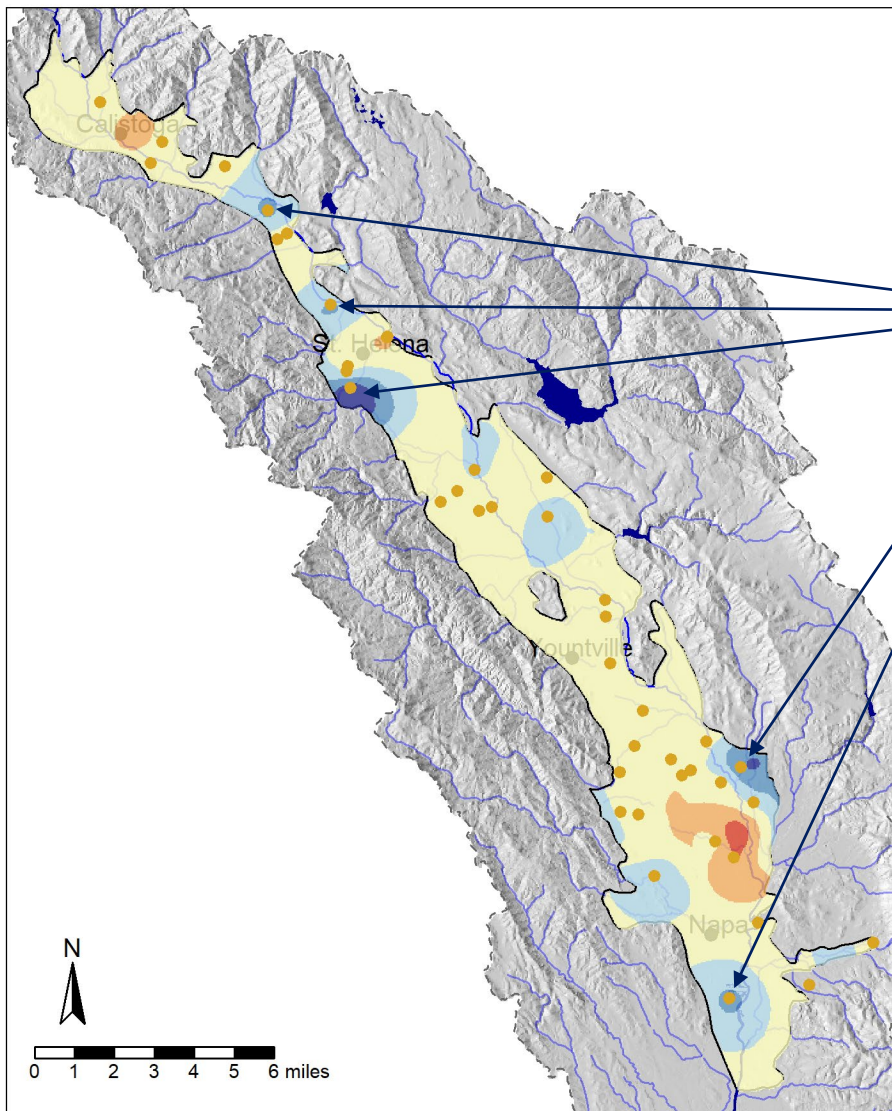
Depth to Water  
(ft below ground surface)



● Groundwater Well (Qa)



# Change in Saturated Thickness from 2023 to 2024



New wells had generally higher heads than would be expected based on previous interpolation of groundwater elevations.

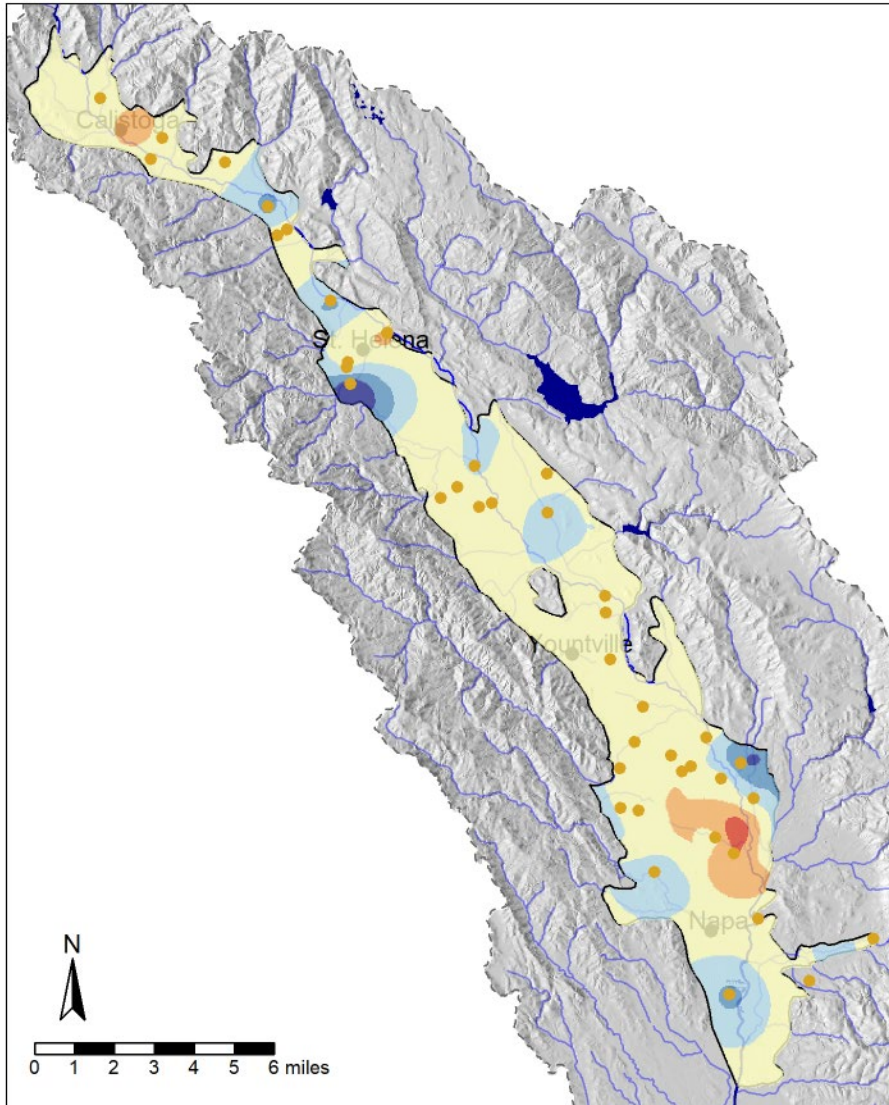
New wells addressed important data gaps throughout the Subbasin. Dedicated monitoring wells provide important measurements of water table conditions.

## Groundwater Elevation Change (2023 to 2024)

- 25 to -15 (ft; lower in 2024)
- 15 to -5
- 5 to 5
- 5 to 15
- 15 to 25
- 25 to 35 (ft; higher in 2024)

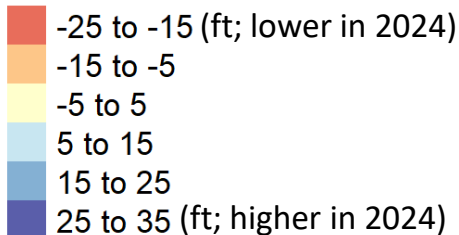
● Groundwater Well (Qa)

# Change in Saturated Thickness from 2023 to 2024



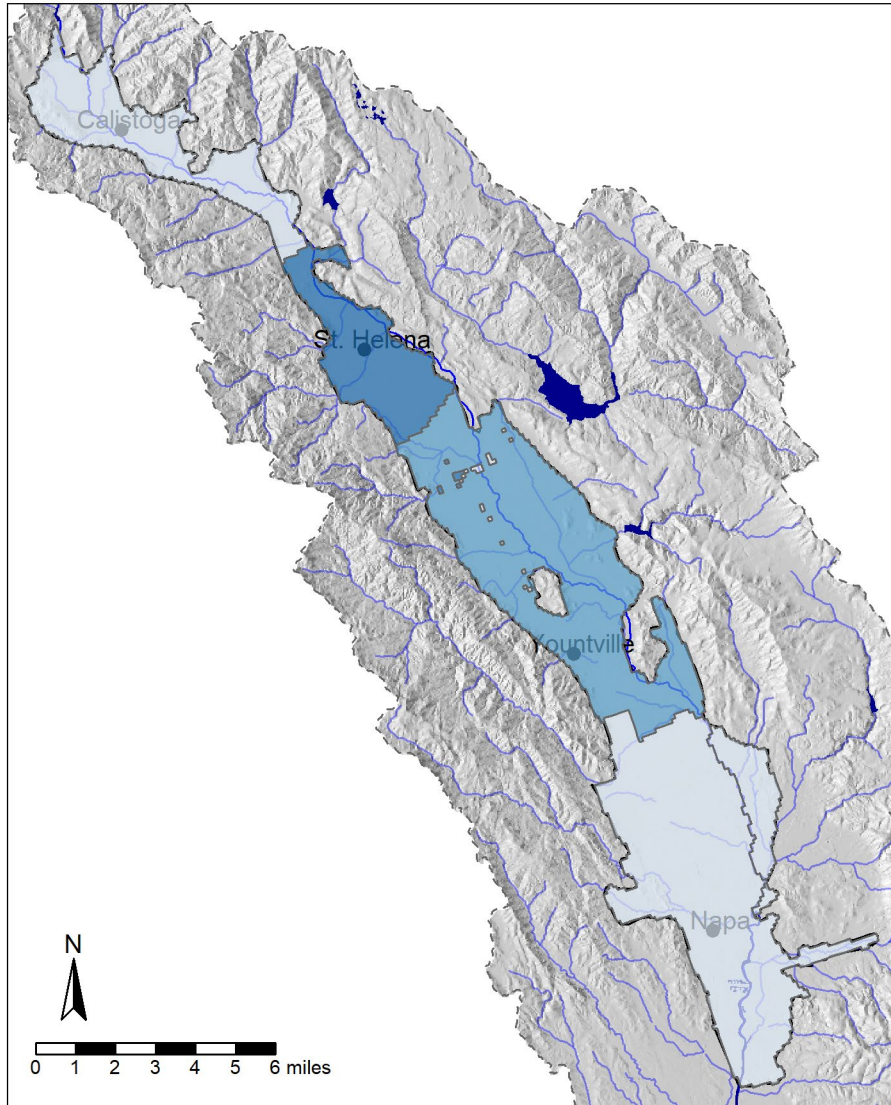
- For wells measured in both 2023 and 2024, year-to-year changes ranged from -7.9 decline to 8.2 increase (feet).
- Total estimated increase in groundwater storage of **3,500 acre-feet**.

Groundwater Elevation Change  
(2023 to 2024)



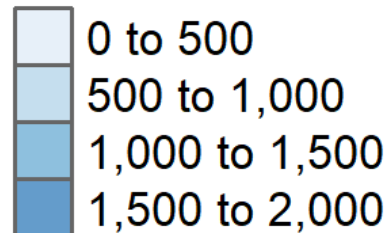
● Groundwater Well (Qa)

# Change in Storage from 2023 to 2024 by Area



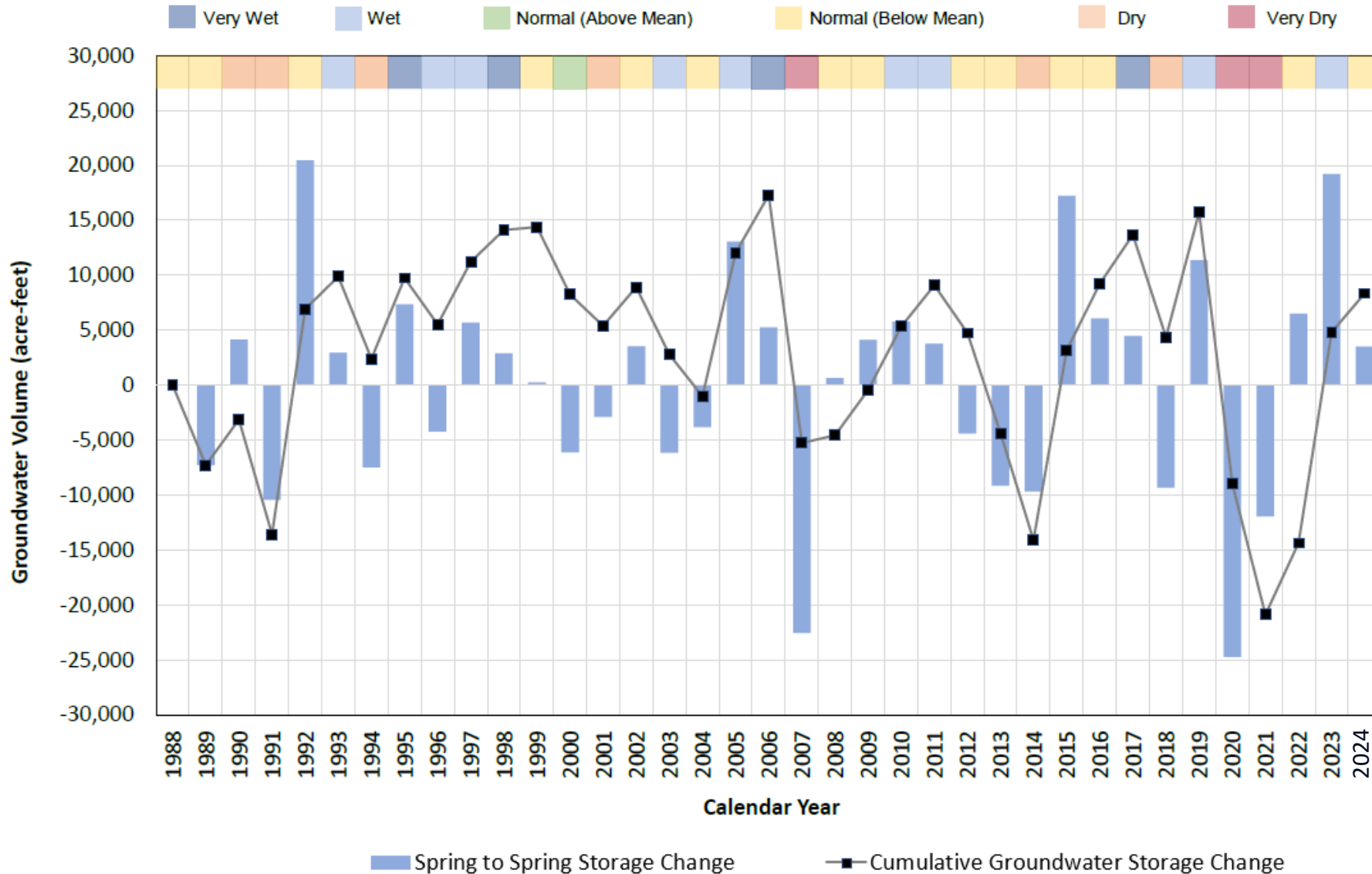
- All areas increased in storage.
- From north to south (in ac-ft), Calistoga (+200), St. Helena (+1,800), Yountville (+1,000), Napa (+300), and Northeast Napa (+130).
- St. Helena increased by  $\sim 0.33$  ac-ft/ac, other areas ranged from 0.02-0.07 ac-ft/ac.
- Total estimated increase in groundwater storage of **3,500 acre-feet**.

## Change in Storage 2024 (ac-ft)





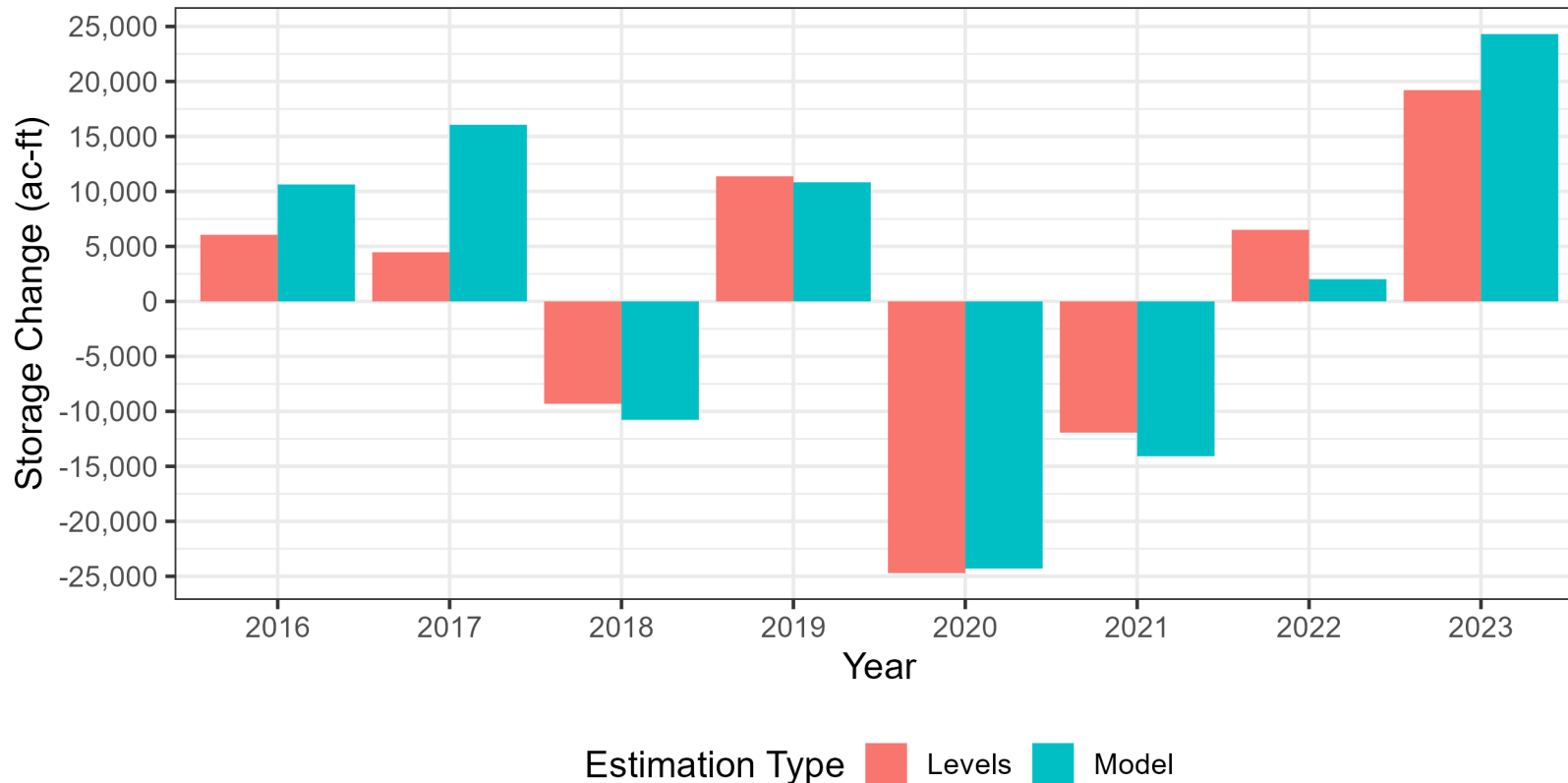
# Subbasin Estimated Storage Change: Spring to Spring Groundwater Levels



- Spring 2024 marks the third year of increased groundwater storage.
- Average start to WY 2024 further increased storage across the Subbasin.
- Storage change was essentially stable in Calistoga and Napa with slight increases in St. Helena and Yountville.

# Subbasin Estimated Storage Change: Comparing Modeled to Analytical Estimation

Spring-to-Spring Storage Change Estimates  
Napa Alluvial Aquifer



- Change in storage calculations, both through water levels and within the NVIHM, generally agree.
- Differences include:
  - Basin geometry/extent.
  - Water levels integrate all fluxes.
  - Model better accounts for areas without data.



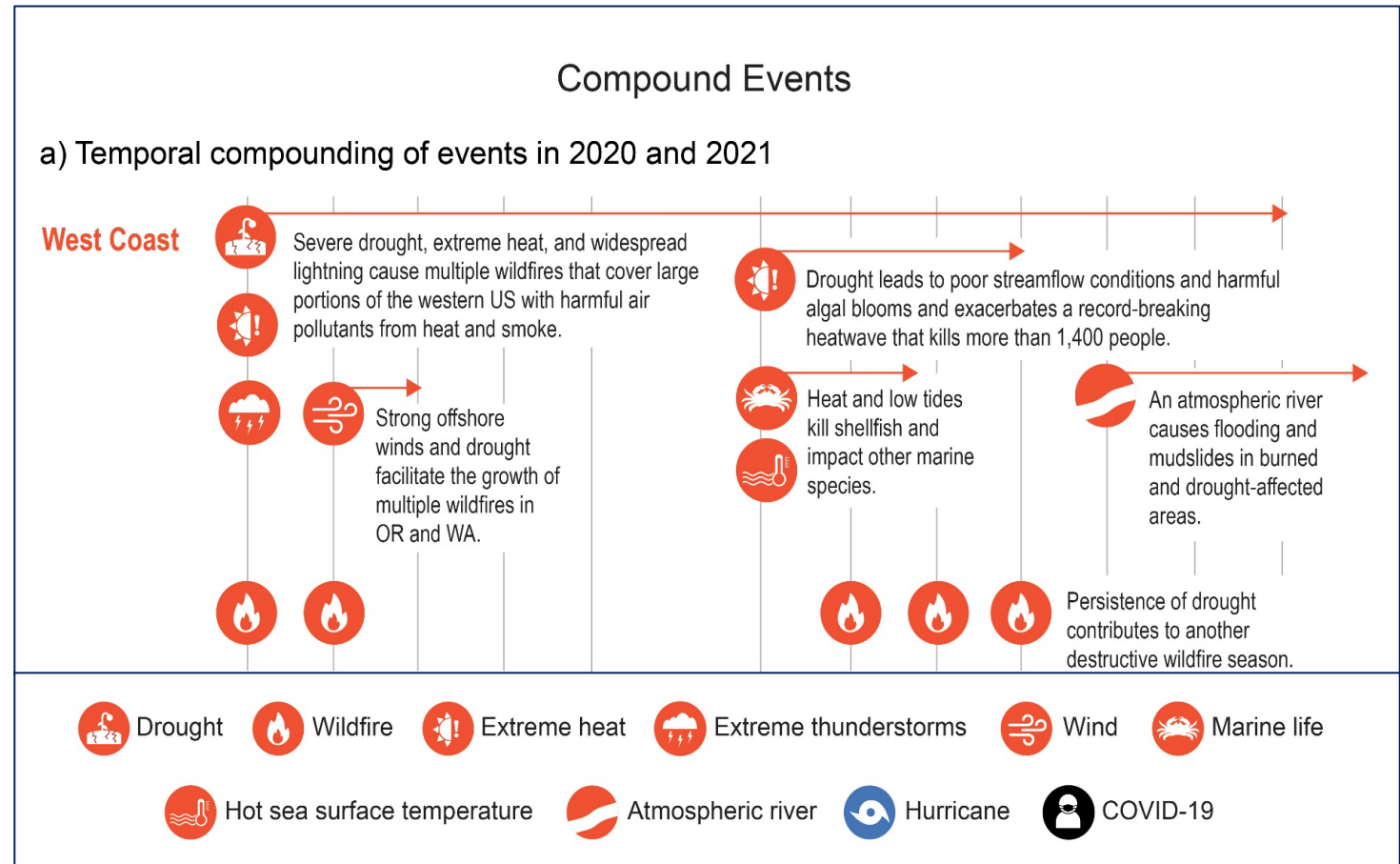
# Climate Change and Potential Impacts From Fifth National Climate Assessment

- The Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) was published in 2023 and provides tools for the entire country to assist decision makers in understanding climate impacts.
- Impacts to multiple sectors are detailed including water, energy, forest, ecosystems, agriculture, transportation, etc...
- County level impacts were assessed based on four climate scenarios, 1.5°C (2.7°F), 2°C (3.6°F), 3°C (5.4°F), and 4°C (7.2°F).

Jay, A.K., A.R. Crimmins, C.W. Avery, T.A. Dahl, R.S. Dodder, B.D. Hamlington, A. Lustig, K. Marvel, P.A. Méndez-Lazaro, M.S. Osler, A. Terando, E.S. Weeks, and A. Zycherman, 2023: Ch. 1. Overview: Understanding risks, impacts, and responses. In: *Fifth National Climate Assessment*. Crimmins, A.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, B.C. Stewart, and T.K. Maycock, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA.

# Key Takeaways from NCA5

- Increase in compound and cascading events:
  - Compound events result from occurrence of multiple climate drivers or hazards either in individual or multiple locations that, when combined, have greater impacts than isolated hazards.
- Hotter hot days as well as hotter minimum temperatures are expected.
- More precipitation is simulated under most climate scenarios.
- More high-intensity storms.



# Addressing Climate Urgency

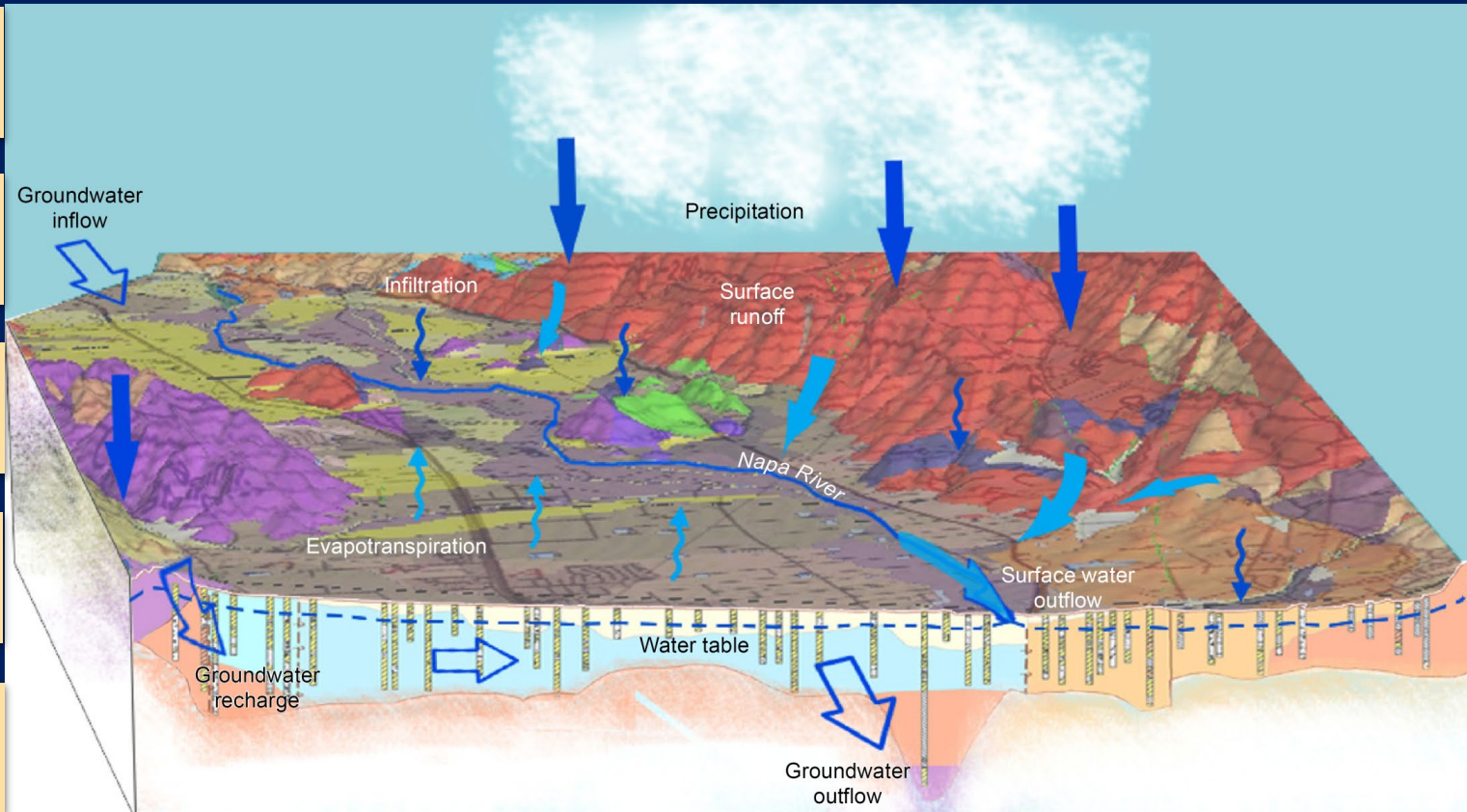
**Increasing Extreme  
Precipitation**

**Changing Hydrological  
Variability**

**Shifting  
Streamflow Timing**

**Increasing  
Drought Severity**

**Increasing  
Evaporative Demand**



**Increase Avg/Extreme  
Air Temperature**

**Increasing  
Wildfires**

**Increasing  
Flooding**

**Changing  
Groundwater Recharge**

**Increasing  
Water Temperature**

California Water Plan Update 2023 Theme: Adapted to Napa River Watershed

# Recharge Opportunities: On-Farm Approaches Scaled Up for Basin Benefits



Cover Crops and building  
Soil Health



Vineyard-Specific BMPs:  
Conservation/ Recharge



SW Right: Winter Recharge



Tile Drainage: Capture and  
Store for In-Lieu Use



On-Site Ponds: Stormwater  
Storage, In-Lieu Use,  
Recharge

# Adapting to Climate Change by Building Resiliency



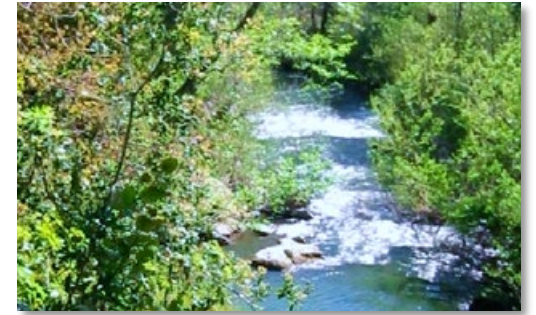
BMPs to Recharge  
Groundwater



Maintain/Improve  
Groundwater Discharge to  
Streams



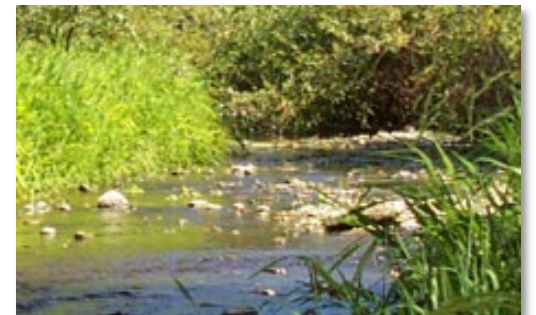
Maintain/Improve  
Functional Flows



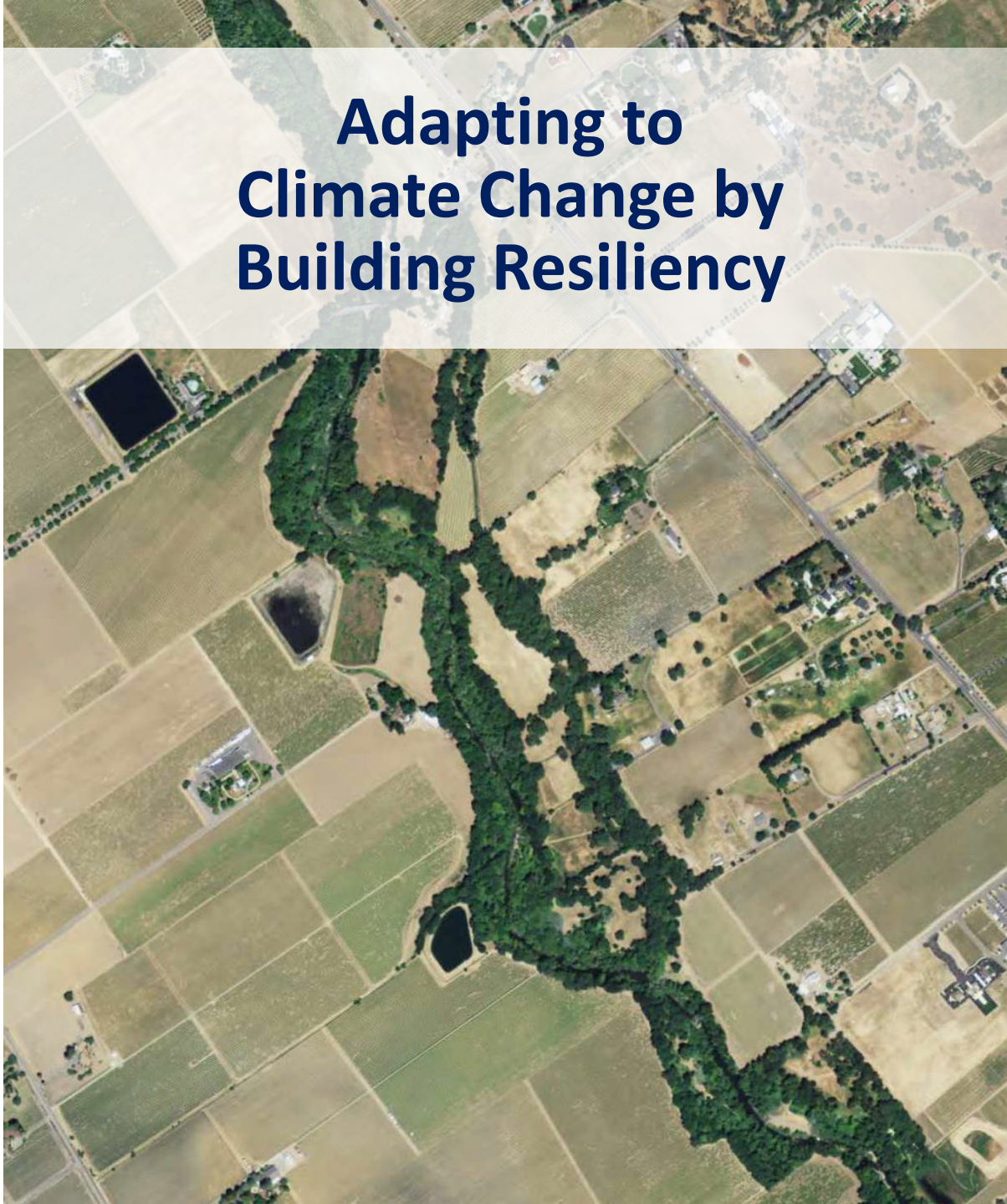
Capture/Store Surplus  
Stormwater to Buffer  
Drought Effects



Enhance Soil Moisture  
Profile



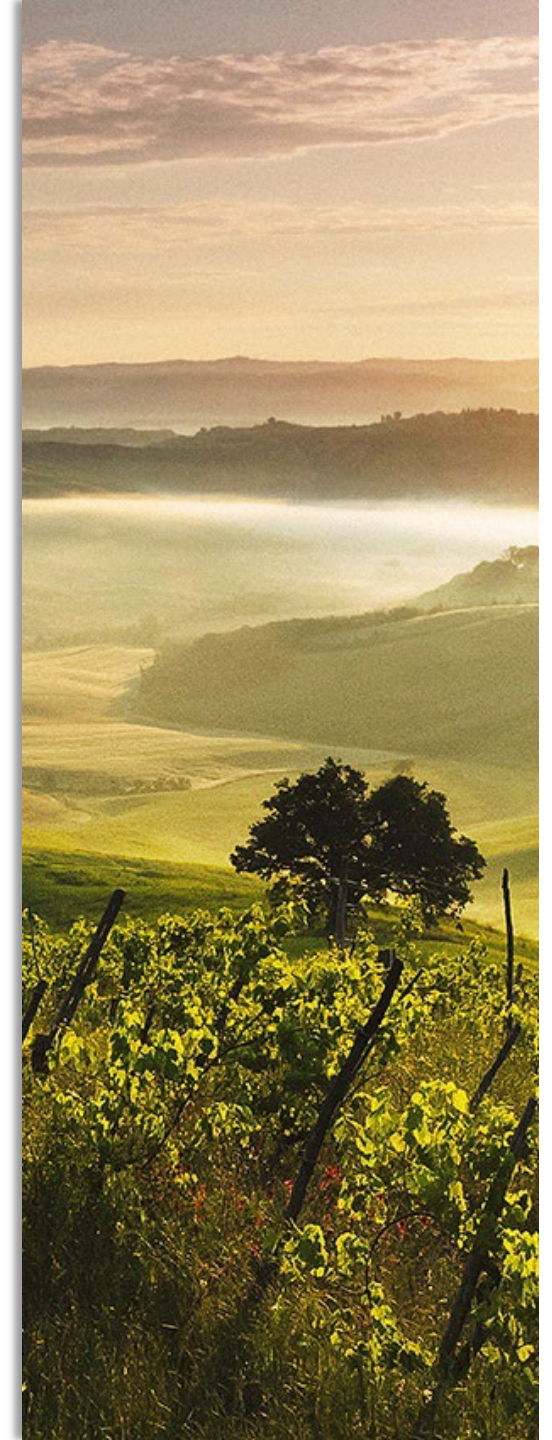
Reduce GDE Drought Effects



# Drought or Deluge: Conservation as a Napa Way of Life

- California is experiencing hotter/drier conditions, including uncertain climate with more extreme events.
- Approaches are needed to adapt to climate change, build resiliency, and better protect interconnected surface water.
- Napa Valley vineyards and wineries are widely recognized for their resource stewardship and conservation practices.
- These uncertain times and changing climate call for *Conservation as a Napa Way of Life*.

**4Rs: Retain – Replenish – Resilience – Reserves**







# Questions and Discussion

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# Thank You

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## Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Jamison Crosby, *Natural Resources Conservation Manager***

Planning, Building, and Environmental  
Services Department

1195 Third Street

Suite 210

Napa, CA 94559

[jamison.crosby@countyofnapa.org](mailto:jamison.crosby@countyofnapa.org)



**Ryan Alsop, *Executive Officer***

Napa County Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency

1195 Third Street

Napa, CA 94559

**Brian Bordona, *Director***

Planning, Building, and  
Environmental Services Department

1195 Third Street

Napa, CA 94559