



# Napa County Groundwater Planning Interview Information

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the Napa County Groundwater Planning interviews. The purpose of the interview is to gain your perspective on communications and engagement about the County's groundwater management program and the planned actions to manage it sustainably. You and your organization were identified as an important perspective to include in the interview process based on your role in the community and your level of expertise in the topic.

## Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) aims to protect groundwater resources across California. SGMA changed the requirements for managing groundwater, including requiring the creation of [Groundwater Sustainability Agencies](#) (GSAs) and [Groundwater Sustainability Plans](#) (GSPs) for identified groundwater basins.

The [Napa Valley Subbasin](#) is categorized as a 'high priority' basin for sustainability planning due to "the amount of irrigated lands, the density of wells, projected population growth, and the degree to which people rely on groundwater in the Subbasin".

The Napa County Board of Supervisors acts as the GSA and is responsible for implementing the GSP across the Napa Valley Subbasin. A Community and Engagement Plan (CEP) was developed to guide public participate in the development of the GSP and needs to be updated.

Updates to the CEP will improve the Napa County's communication and engagement with the stakeholder community and help guide the ongoing implementation of the GSP. Interviewing stakeholders - like you! – is the first step in that process.

## Interview Information and Process

The purpose of the interview is to learn more about your views on the current communications efforts and your ideas about what would best serve the community as the County's GSP is implemented.

Interviews will be conducted by third-party (independent) facilitators from Stantec, an internationally recognized firm in the water industry, either in-person or online via Zoom. We expect interviews to take anywhere from sixty to ninety minutes. All the remarks will be bundled together and reported without attributing them to any specific individual. If a comment would

be difficult to understand without knowing the name of the source, such input will only be included with the permission of the participant. The results of the interview process will be reported in a public meeting and used to update the Napa Valley Subbasin GSA Communications and Engagement Plan.

All interview notes will be destroyed after the presentation of the public report and, until then, will not be shared outside of the Stantec team.

### **Interview Questions**

There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions. Learning your views is the goal of the interview. The interview will cover three general areas.

1. Overview

In this section we will ask a few questions to learn more about you and your degree of involvement with water issues in general. We will also explain more about how information from the interview will be utilized and incorporated into County groundwater sustainability planning.

2. Groundwater Sustainability Planning

In this section we will ask about your familiarity with groundwater sustainability requirements, and any level of engagement you may have had with the Napa GSA and GSP development and implementation.

3. Communications and Engagement

In this section we will focus on communications and engagement by the Napa GSA and gather your insights on the best approaches to share information with the Napa Valley Community.

Altogether we will ask about 15 questions with some follow-up questions (if needed). It is common for some questions to not apply and for people to answer more than one question at a time in the course of our conversations.

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this work, please contact Lisa Beutler, Senior Principal at Stantec (lisa.beutler@stantec.com and 916-418-8257), or Aaron Dickinson, Public Affairs Specialist at Stantec (aaron.dickinson@stantec.com).