

# Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources Drought Stakeholder Meeting

*May 25, 2022*

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Valley Water Collaborative*



# WHO IS THE VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE?

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- **We are a non-profit organization ...**

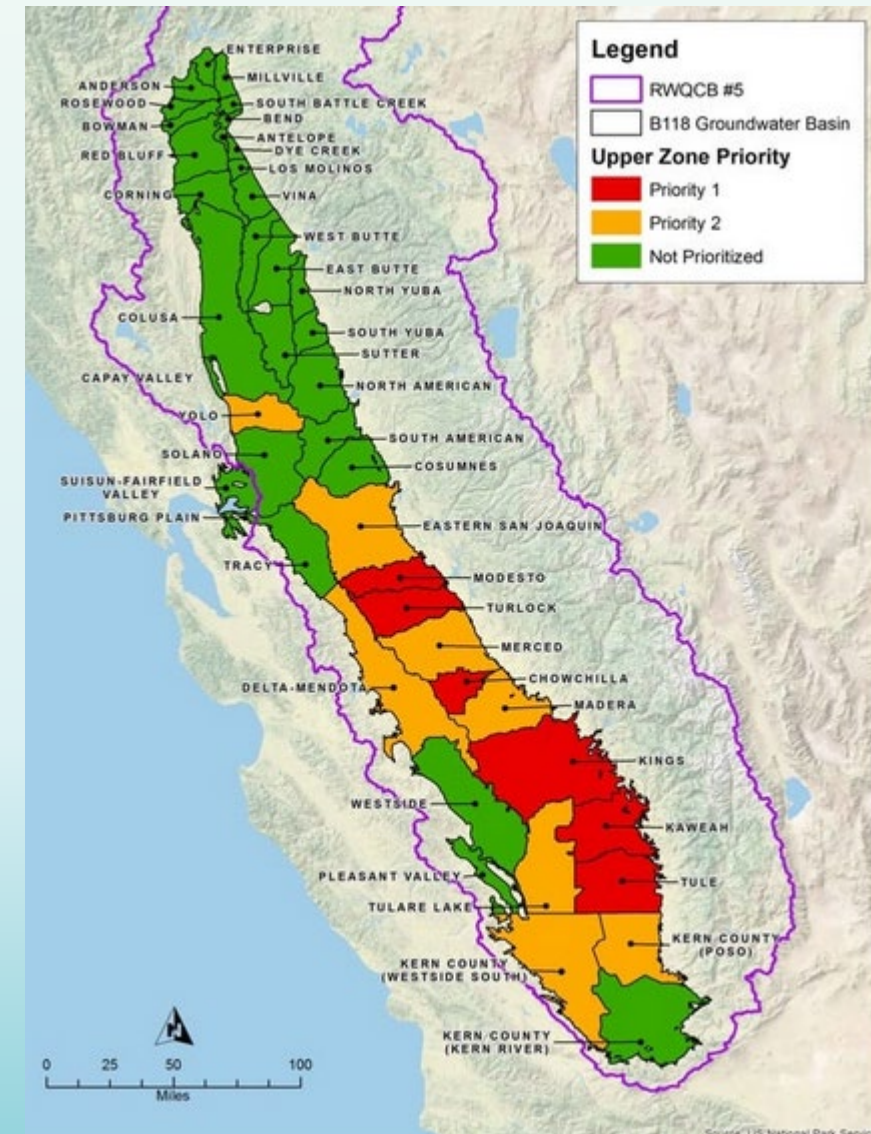
- Formed to implement Management Zone approach to address nitrate contamination of groundwater in private domestic wells used for drinking water.
- Based in Modesto

- **Mission**

*To maintain and improve the quality of life in the northern San Joaquin Valley by implementing programs that provide access to safe drinking water for residents, and by engaging in activities with the goal of protecting or enhancing the quality of groundwater used as drinking water for residents in the region.*

# WHAT IS THE NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM (NCP)?

- New Water Board Regulation (adopted 2020) to address nitrate in groundwater
- Program has 3 goals:
  - Provide safe drinking water when nitrate exceeds drinking water standard
  - Reduce nitrate impacts to water supplies
  - Restore groundwater quality, where reasonable, feasible and practicable
- Management Zone approach to implement NCP
- Early Action Plan submitted March 8, 2021
- Plan rollout May 8, 2021
- More information about the Nitrate Control Program: [www.cvsalinity.org/nitrate-control-program.html](http://www.cvsalinity.org/nitrate-control-program.html)



# NITRATE REDUCTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

## Existing Discharges of MZ Participants

- **Interim Goal** – Achieve balanced nitrate loading
- **Final Goal** – No longer causing or contributing to an exceedance of the nitrate water quality objective

## Impaired Waters in Groundwater Subbasin

- Implement program to restore nitrate levels to at or below the nitrate water quality objective, where reasonable, feasible and practicable

# SAFE DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS

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## **Interim, Emergency Water**

- Implement Early Action Plan until permanent solutions implemented
  - Ongoing outreach to the community
  - Residential well-testing program
  - Provide replacement water where necessary

## **Long-term Drinking Water Solutions**

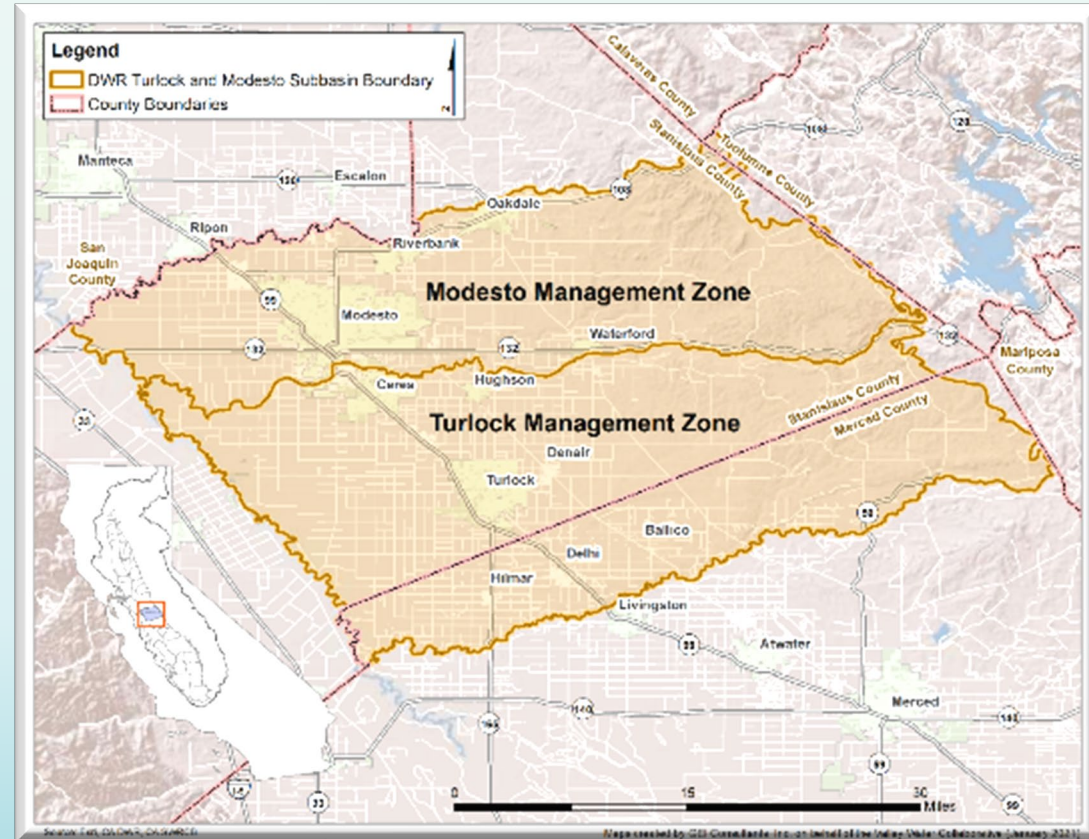
- Work plan to provide permanent safe drinking water supply to those in areas adversely affected by nitrate discharge
  - Modesto and Turlock work plans may be prioritized to address most significant areas of impact first
  - Work plan will include implementation milestones

# POTENTIALLY IMPACTED WELLS AND POPULATIONS IN VWC REGION

<b>Wells Outside Public Water Systems</b>			
	<b>Modesto Management Zone</b>	<b>Turlock Management Zone</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nitrate Conditions			
Less than 10 mg/L-N	938	1,399	2,337
Over 10 mg/L-N	353	1,700	2,053
		<b>Total Wells</b>	4,390
Population Outside Public Water Systems 7.5-10 mg/L-N	2,589	10,487	13,076
Population Outside Public Water Systems > 10 mg/L-N	4,546	37,441	41,987
		<b>Total Population</b>	55,063

# RECENT ACTIVITIES

- One year after starting the program, VWC received a California state grant (State Water Resources Control Board, Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resiliency [SAFER]) that **expands the water testing beyond nitrate to other common groundwater contaminants.**
- This grant also **provides replacement water or a water treatment system for households that meet the income parameters set by the State.**
- We continue to serve residents with domestic wells in the Modesto and Turlock Groundwater Basins (right).



# WHAT DOES VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE DO?

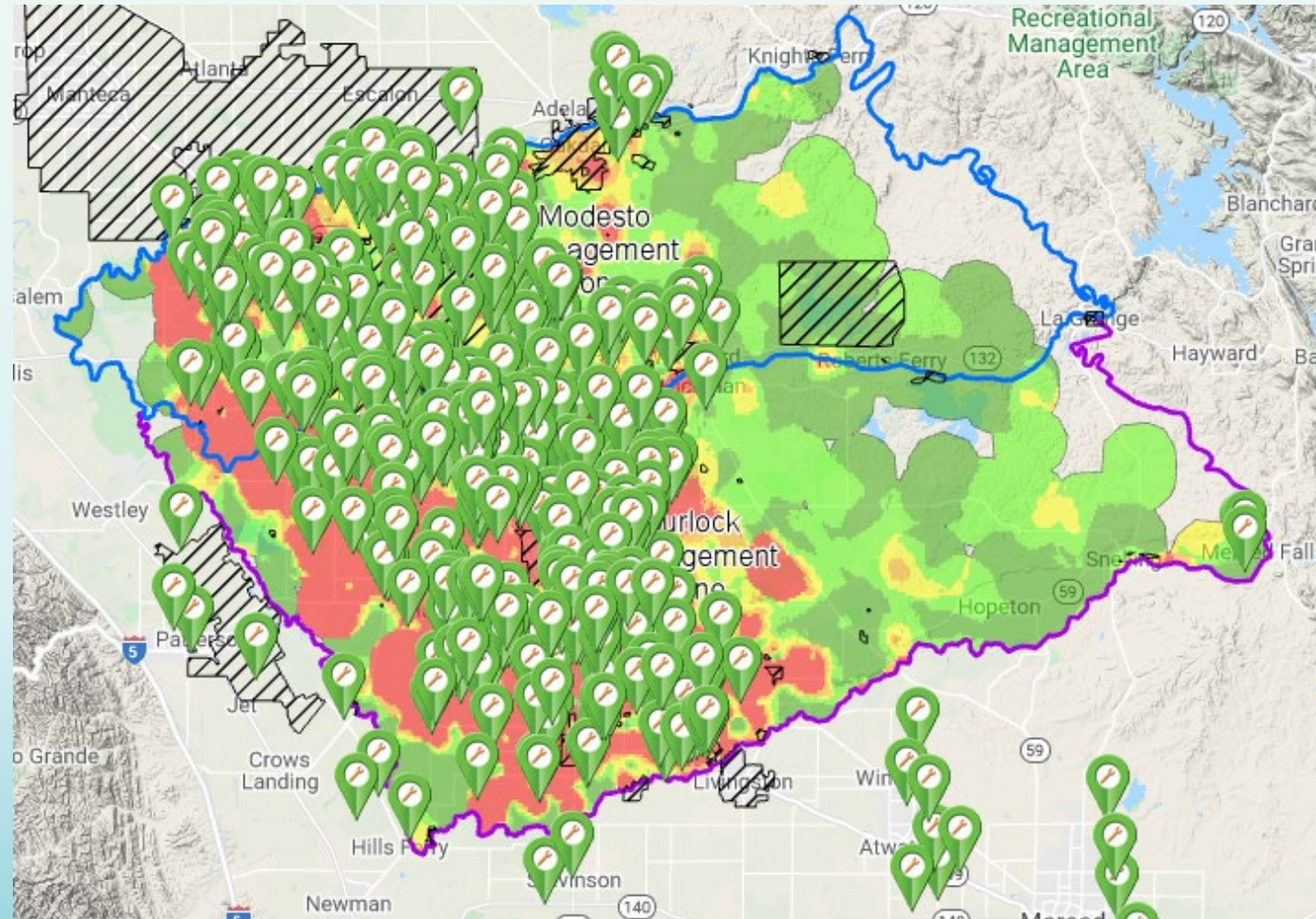
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- VWC provides **free well testing** for all domestic wells located in the Modesto or Turlock Groundwater Basins.
- VWC provides **replacement water** or **water treatment systems** for nitrate contamination to all qualifying applicants, regardless of income level.
- While well testing continues to be free for all qualifying applicants, the SAFER grant only **provides replacement water or a water treatment system for households that meet the income parameters set by the State**. Households that exceed the income limits are responsible to pay for solutions to address exceedances of the other contaminants. VWC does not cover this cost (VWC only covers free well sampling and solutions for nitrate).



# APPLICATION UPDATE

- **Applications Received:**
  - ~775
- **Wells tested:**
  - over 400
- **Receiving bottled water:**
  - nearly 250
- **Water treatment systems:**
  - 6 (so far!)



# WHAT ABOUT DRY WELLS?

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- We refer all residents with dry wells or other well concerns to Self Help Enterprises.
- We will continue to test domestic wells for contaminants and provide bottled water and water treatment systems for those with nitrate exceedances, and other exceedances if they meet the State's income requirement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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## Valley Water Collaborative

[www.valleywaterc.org](http://www.valleywaterc.org)

(209) 750-3867

[contact@valleywaterc.org](mailto:contact@valleywaterc.org)





# Questions

Valley Water Collaborative: [www.valleywaterc.org](http://www.valleywaterc.org)

Contact : [contact@valleywaterc.org](mailto:contact@valleywaterc.org)