



# Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Project

## **Protection of Domestic Drinking Water Supplies for the Lower Salinas Valley**



# Disclaimer

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part by Proposition 1 – the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The content of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the foregoing, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



# Project Description

- Destroy a minimum of 100 abandoned or inactive wells.
  - Wells are primarily located in MCWRA Zone 2B (CSIP)
  - Well destruction work is called out in MCWRA Ordinance No. 3790.
- Monitor groundwater levels and quality throughout the project.
  - Seawater intrusion (chloride)
  - Nitrate



# Project Goals

- Prevent conduits for vertical migration of seawater- and nitrate-contaminated groundwater.
- Protect 180-Foot, 400-Foot, and Deep Aquifers.
- Ensure reliable access to unimpaired groundwater for drinking water and agricultural uses.
- Contribute to sustainability of groundwater basin.

# Current Work

- Identified 105 wells to destroy
- Ongoing field work to locate wells and current site conditions
- Grant-mandated activities
  - Formed Technical Advisory Committee
  - Groundwater level monitoring and water quality sampling event
  - Monitoring plan, project evaluation plan, QAPP

# Technical Advisory Committee

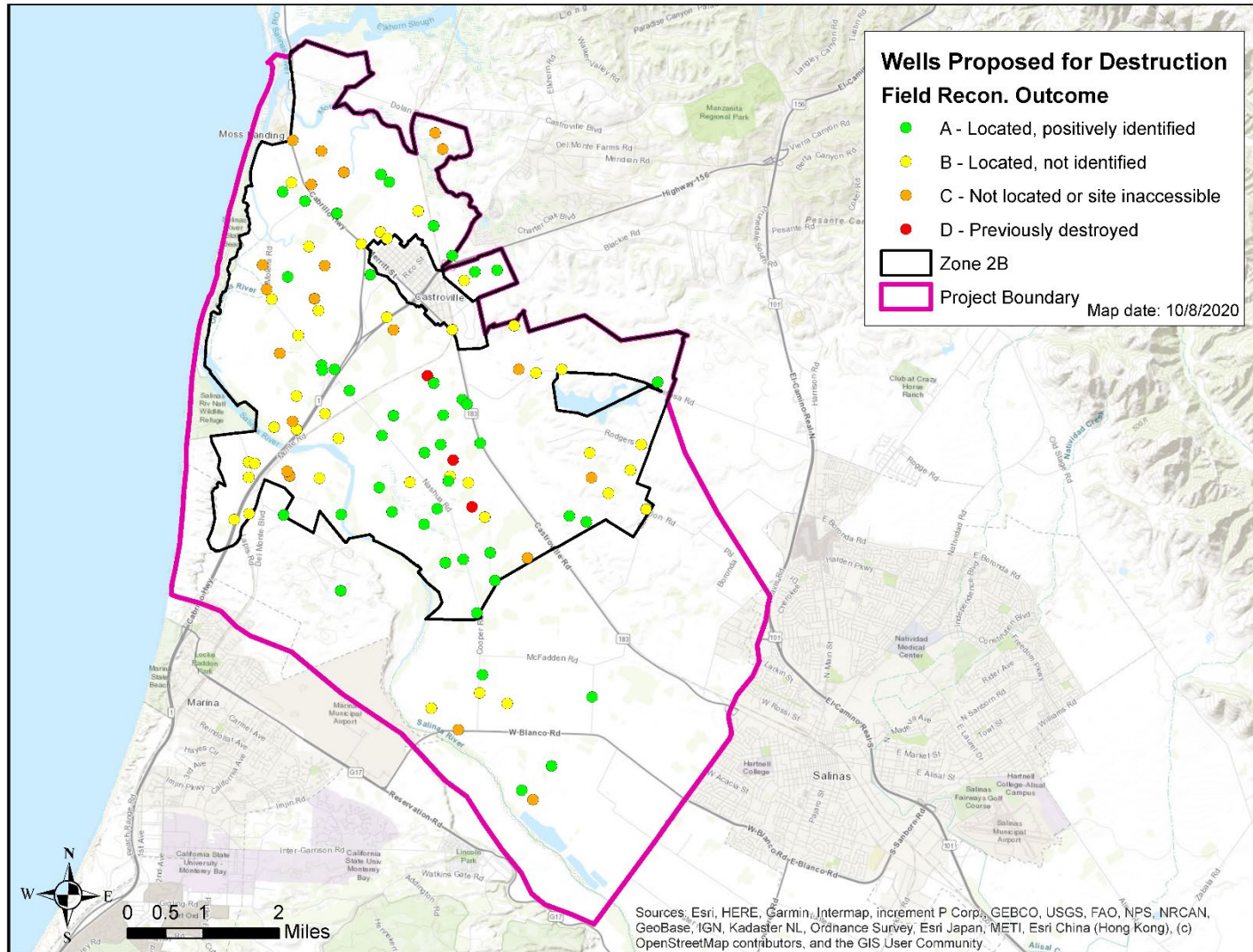
- Required by grant agreement
- Purpose is to provide technical input on project, review of certain reports and plans as required by the grant agreement
- Members include
  - State Water Resources Control Board
  - Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Salinas Valley Basin GSA
  - Castroville Community Services District
  - Marina Coast Water District
  - Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau
  - Stakeholders (2)
  - MCWRA

# Well Location / Identification

- Field effort to locate and identify wells proposed for destruction as part of the project.
- Well list based on:
  - 1994 report by Montgomery Watson and Staal, Gardner & Dunne, Inc.
  - Known wells in Zone 2B



# Well Location / Identification



# Owner Notifications

- Once a well has been located and identified, the owner will be notified of either:
  - Reclassifying the status of the well to “abandoned”
    - 39 reclassification notices sent in Jan. 2021
  - Notice of upcoming well destruction
    - 5 destruction notices sent in Jan. 2021
- Appeal process for both types of notifications is ongoing.
- Second round of notifications for additional wells to follow in Spring 2021.

# Project Funding

- Project total \$9,125,524
  - State grant \$4,927,729
  - Agency match \$4,197,795 (46%)
  
- Agency match
  - In-kind work \$1,524,495
  - Other funding \$2,663,300



# Project Funding

- “Other funding” match
  - MCWRA committed to using fund balance when entering the grant agreement.
    - Impacts timing/completion of projects
  - Pursuing outside funding options
    - Monterey County Cannabis Assignment
    - Water purveyors

# Project Funding

- “Other funding” match
  - Monterey County has contributed \$399,499 from the Cannabis Assignment for the current fiscal year.
  - Contributions for next two fiscal years will be included in MCWRA budget but are not guaranteed.
  - Continuing to pursue other funding sources.

# Project Timeline

- Field work and planning – ongoing
- Well owner notification/agreements – ongoing
- RFP for well destruction contractors – March 2021
- Public workshop – April/May 2021
- Well destructions begin – May/June 2021
- Project completion – February 2023