**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE**

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Name, Title:
Email:
Phone:

**Get To Know Groundwater During Groundwater Awareness Week**

**CITY, Calif.** – The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) and The Groundwater Foundation have announced that **Groundwater Awareness Week** (GWAW) will take place **March 6-12, 2022**. GWAW was established in 1999 to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater and to celebrate local groundwater efforts across the country.

Groundwater is a critical component of California’s water supply, accounting for 40 percent in a normal year and up to 60 percent during dry conditions. Groundwater serves as a resource for many different industries and uses, including farms, urban and rural communities, and ecosystems across the state.

“Insert a quote from your GSA Board Chair or Manager about groundwater in your basin.”

Groundwater basins serve as the state’s water savings account and are intended to provide a reliable water source during drought conditions when we have less rain and snowpack. In fact, the state’s groundwater basins have the capability of storing 850 million acre-feet to 1.3 billion acre-feet of water, or 8 to 12 times the combined storage capacity of all major above ground reservoirs in California.

As we are entering a third dry year, following 2021 that was the second driest year on record, understanding groundwater conditions and managing groundwater so it is available for future generations’ use is crucial. To help ensure long-term sustainable groundwater conditions, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 set forth a statewide regulatory framework for improving the management of our critical groundwater resources. SGMA required the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that are now in place throughout the state to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to manage groundwater pumping and recharge.

Describe/name your basin(s) and link to your GSA(s) website here.

For more information, visit the California Department of Water Resources [SGMA website](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management), interactive groundwater [StoryMap](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ff075c25b77e4b1d95ce86a82bf0fe96), and view this [educational groundwater video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vtr07_bZKlg).

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For more information, follow us on Twitter or Facebook, and visit our website: [www.xx](http://www.xx)

**Outreach and Engagement Resources for GSAs**

**Public Awareness Library**

* Groundwater: California’s Vital Resource - Video in [English](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vtr07_bZKlg), [Spanish](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4jNAgS_yXQ), [Punjabi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv6ND4Z5c3U), [Hmong](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZUW9RhOG-g)
* [Groundwater: Understanding and Managing this Vital Resource](https://arcg.is/1OWj81) – Interactive Story Map to help expand public awareness
* SGMA website - [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management)

**Guides and Resources**

* [DWR Assistance and Engagement Website](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement)
* [SGMA Communications: Media Relations and Social Media](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement/Files/DWR---SGMA_Communications_v4.pdf)
	+ [Groundwater Media Contacts](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement/Files/DWR---Groundwater_Media_Contacts.pdf)

**National Groundwater Awareness Week logo**

