

# Salinas Valley Interim Replacement Drinking Water Agreement

May 12, 2017

John M. Robertson, Executive Officer

Central Coast Water Board

Cris Carrigan, Director

State Water Board, Office of Enforcement



# Getting to this Agreement

- **2010-2016: Abundant nitrate-impaired groundwater and unsafe drinking water**
  - Hundreds/thousands of wells with unsafe drinking water region-wide
- **2013: Central Coast Water Board replacement water actions as foundation**
  - At small, individual community-level systems
  - Slow to attaining short-term replacement water resolution
- **Late 2014: State Water Board and Central Coast Water Board enact strategy change**
  - Need for a more efficient/comprehensive strategy
  - Office of Enforcement takes lead
  - Central Coast staff provides support



# Getting to this Agreement (2)

- **2016: Office Of Enforcement negotiated with 19 largest Salinas basin ag land owners**
  - **November 2016: Skeletal agreement**
- **Feb. 2017: Central Coast Water Board Re-engaged in Agreement**
  - **Communicated with the Stewardship group**
  - **Made additions/clarifications to the agreement**



# What's In the Agreement?

## Stewardship group/Year One

- Interim replacement water to a minimum of 35 systems
- Approved Interim replacement water plan for all drinking water wells and small water systems within the Salinas basin

## Stewardship group/Year Two

- Implement the Interim replacement water plan throughout Salinas groundwater basin.



# What's In the Agreement? (2)

## State and Central Coast Boards:

- Suspend replacement water enforcement for Agreement members
- Audit replacement water efforts
- Not suspended for non-members
- No change in Ag Order or nitrate loading enforcement authority

## Work Towards a Larger Stable Funding Solution

- For both short- and long-term replacement water



# Central Coast Two-Part Nitrate Strategy

## Part One: Address human health exposure issues

- Create replacement water (both short and long-term)

## Part Two: Restore the Groundwater Resource

- Reduce nitrate loading (via 3.0, 4.0, etc.)



# Implementation and Accountability

**Central Coast Water Board and Office of Enforcement staff working with the Stewardship group project team.**

- **Initial mail out to Water System operators from Stewardship group**
  - Per our request, Stewardship group agreed to work with staff from the two Water Boards build clarity in outreach materials
- **Water Board's Oversight team**
  - Section Manager Angela Schroeter
  - Office of Enforcement's Angeles Caliso
- **Public accountability**
  - Salinas Valley public meetings
  - Regular reports to the board



# Outreach and Applying Lessons Learned

- **Meetings with Monterey County**
  - Supervisors and Environmental Health Director
  - An abundance of outreach ideas
- **Community outreach assistance**
- **Additional funding options for outreach/assistance**
- **Applying experience from our own replacement water and outreach efforts**
- **Extension for enrolling in this Agreement**





# Summary/Closure

## This Agreement provides:

- Significant increase in rate of delivery of replacement water
- For this opportunity, we traded 1-2 years of enforcement authority to require replacement water
- Minimized downside risk via Year One requirement (35 systems served)
- Clear, collective goal of maximizing amount of replacement water served



# Discussion and Questions?

