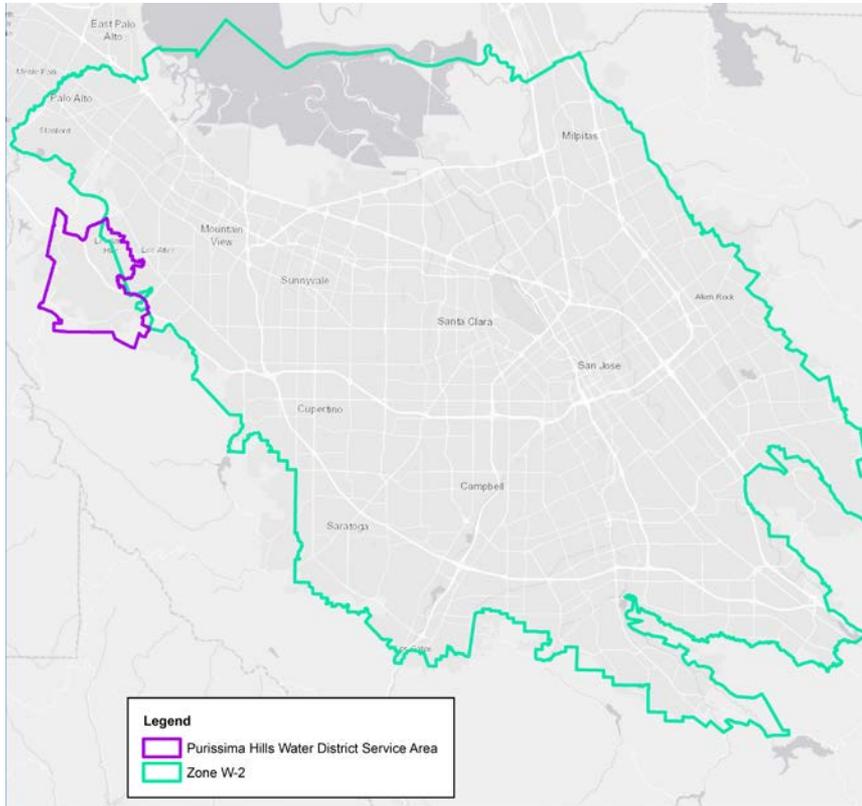


Groundwater Benefit Zone Study
Purissima Hills Water District Board Meeting

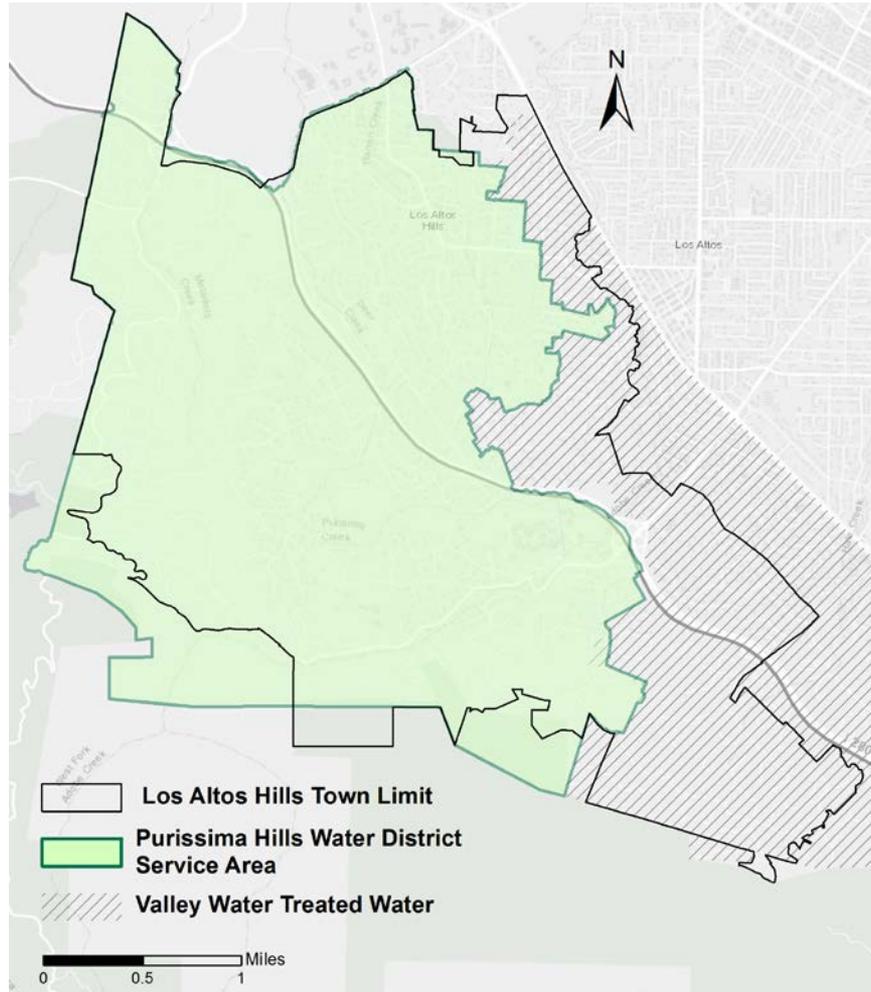
May 15, 2019



Groundwater Benefit Zone Study



- Applies to those who pump and use groundwater from wells in areas benefitting from Valley Water activities
- Goal to recommend changes needed to help ensure well users are charged fairly and equitably
- Scientific study, with approach and results reviewed by independent expert panel



Water delivery areas in Los Altos Hills

Potential changes based on study

	Current	Potential (if proposed study changes adopted by the Valley Water Board)
Number of zones	Two zones established more than 40 years ago	Six zones, with increased granularity to help ensure well users pay only for benefits received
Who pays groundwater charges to fund related Valley Water activities	Well users in two zones, which have different rates	Slightly different well users in six zones, which would have different rates

Total Valley Water revenue would be unchanged.

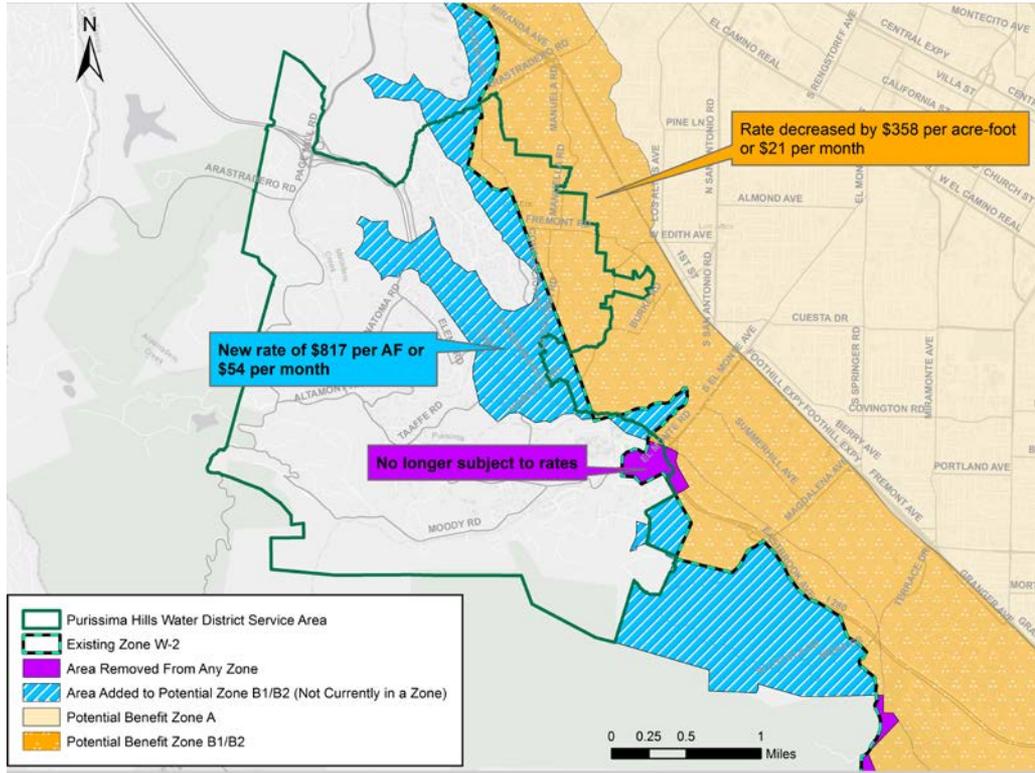


Benefits to the Los Altos Hills Area

- Activities funded by groundwater charges
 - Delivery of Valley Water treated surface water (Cal Water)
 - Water conservation programs: www.watersavings.org
 - Well permitting and compliance
 - Land use/regulatory agency coordination for water supply issues
 - Monitoring, including free water quality testing for domestic wells
- Activities funded by other sources
 - Grants for advanced metering infrastructure (\$100K to PHWD)
 - Mitigation plantings along Matadero and Hale Creeks
 - Vegetation management to maintain flow conveyance along Deer Creek
 - Flow obstruction removal along Adobe Creek



Potential changes for well users in the PHWD service area



- Decreased rates (~75 wells)
 - Estimated decrease from \$1175/AF to \$817/AF (-\$21/month)
- Up to 30 wells added to a zone
 - Estimated charge: \$54/month
- One well removed from any zone - no longer subject to rates

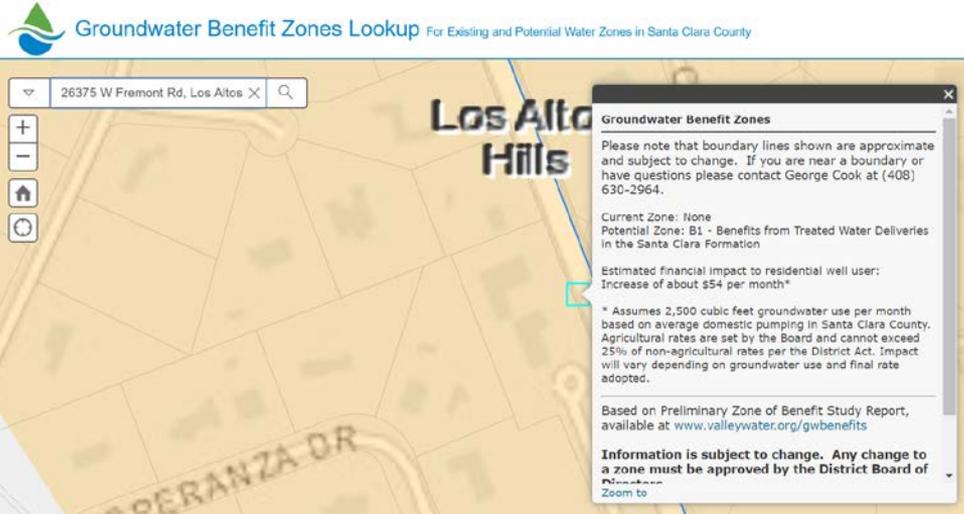
❖ Preliminary rate estimates shown – well user charges will depend on adopted zones, rates, and the amount of groundwater pumped.

Next Steps

- Stakeholder engagement will help well users understand potential impacts.
- Valley Water Board expected to consider zone changes in June/July 2019.
- If the Board adopts new zones, a rate study will be done to determine appropriate rate in each zone.
- Rates for new zones would not take effect until July 2020 or later.



Where to find more information



Study webpage:

www.valleywater.org/gwbenefits

- FAQ, preliminary report
- Sign-up for updates

Project Manager George Cook
(408) 630-2964 or
gcook@valleywater.org

Web app helps well users understand potential changes in their area:

<https://gis.valleywater.org/ZoB>

Study Highlights

- If the proposed changes are adopted by the Valley Water Board, this study would affect some well users in the PHWD service area:
 - Most (~75) would pay lower groundwater charges (estimated 30% reduction)
 - Some (~30) in eastern/central Los Altos Hills would be newly subject to groundwater charges
- Total Valley Water revenue would not change if zones are changed.
- This study provides a scientific basis to refine zones.
- This helps ensure well users are charged fairly and fund only those activities benefitting their area.