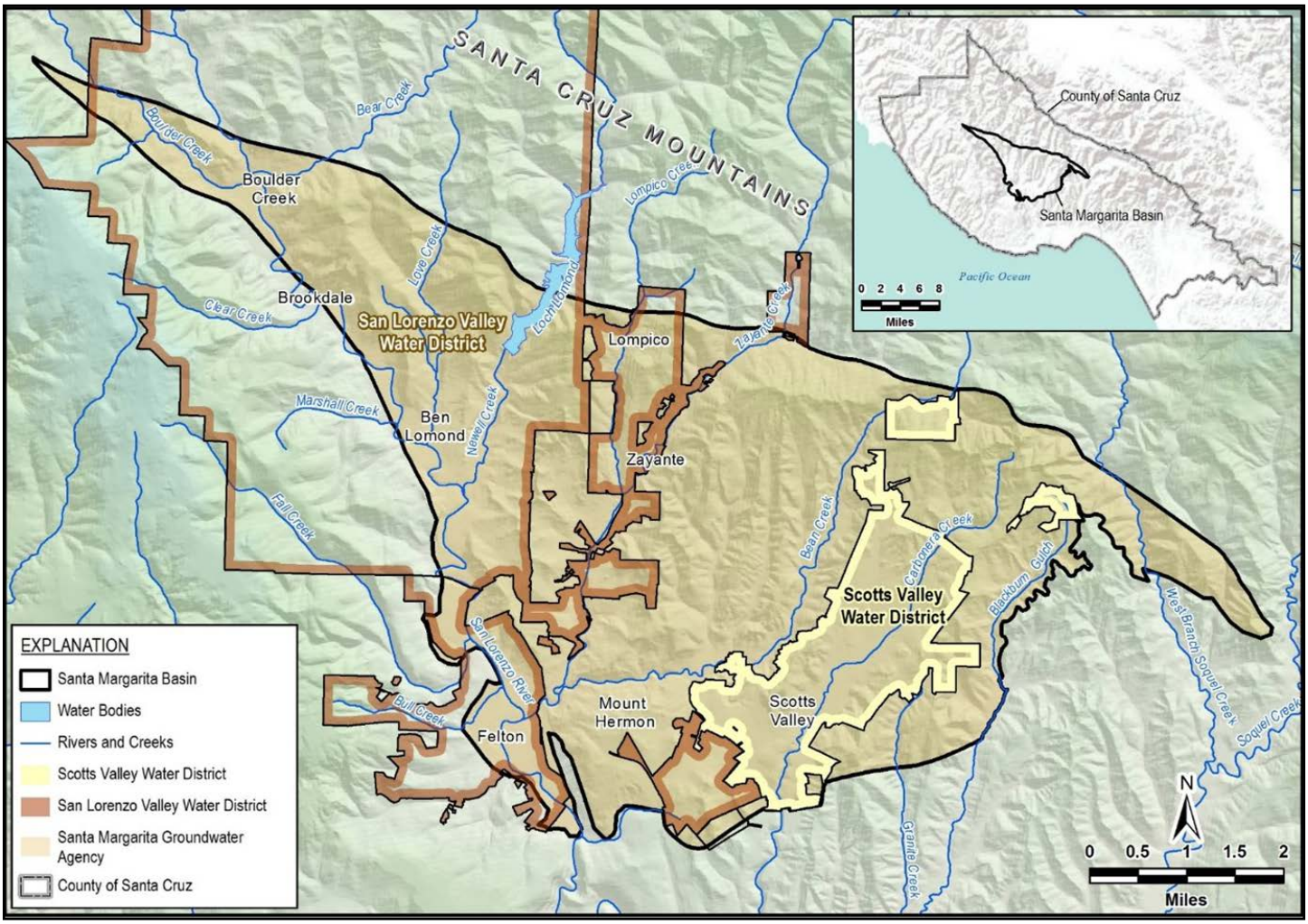
SANTA MARGARITA Groundwater Agency

Sustainably Managing our Local Groundwater Resources

The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency (SMGWA) oversees groundwater management of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin (Basin) in Santa Cruz County, California. The agency was formed in 2017 by the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Scotts Valley Water District and the County of Santa Cruz to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The SMGWA Board of Directors includes two representatives from each of the member agencies, one from the City of Scotts Valley, one from the City of Santa Cruz, one from the Mount Hermon Association Community Water System and two private well owner representatives.



The Basin covers an area of 34.8 square miles (22,249 acres). The Basin is home to an estimated 30,600 residents, and includes the City of Scotts Valley, and the communities of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, Lompico, Zayante, Felton and Mount Hermon. On average, groundwater meets about 70% of the Basin's water supply needs and feeds local streams to serve important habitat needs. To maintain local control of the Basin, SMGWA is required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and monitor and report on Basin conditions annually to the California Department of Water Resources.

For more information, visit **www.smgwa.org**

SANTA MARGARITA Groundwater Agency

Sustainably Managing our Local Groundwater Resources

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation Completed

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires a full evaluation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to be completed every 5 years following GSP submission. This evaluation is referred to as a Periodic Evaluation (PE). The Santa Margarita Basin (Basin) GSP was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 3, 2022, so the GSP PE is due by January 3, 2027.

The PE is a thorough assessment of how a GSP is performing and whether an amendment to the GSP is needed. Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA) from DWR's April 2023 approval of the Basin GSP were addressed in the PE. Addressing the RCA required modifications to 3 of the 4 local SGMA indicators, including: Lowering Groundwater Levels; Degraded Groundwater Quality; and Surface Water Depletion. After considering changes needed to address RCAs, the SMGWA Board opted to prepare a GSP amendment.

Also during the PE, the likelihood of the Basin being sustainable by the SGMA deadline in 2042 was evaluated using recent trends of groundwater conditions and future projections of groundwater demand and climate. This assessment allowed SMGWA to reduce the number of projects needed to reach sustainability. The SMGWA Board adopted both the GSP PE and GSP amendment in October 2026, and these documents will be submitted to DWR by the January 2027 deadline.

For more information or to sign up to receive updates, see our Periodic Evaluation page at **www.smgwa.org/GSPPeriodicEvaluation**

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Scotts Valley Water District

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Well Owner Representative

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Scotts Valley Water District

Monica Martinez
County of Santa Cruz

Dale Pollock
Mt. Hermon Association

Greg Wimp
City of Scotts Valley

Key SMGWA Accomplishments:

- Secured $1.6 million in State grants to support GSP development and improve the Basin monitoring network
- Developed a GSP with input from water suppliers, community members and technical experts to demonstrate groundwater sustainability by 2042 per SGMA requirements
- Submitted the GSP in January 2022 that was approved by DWR in April 2023
- Installed a groundwater monitoring network needed to demonstrate SGMA compliance in 2023
- Submitted Annual Reports since required beginning in 2022

For more information, visit **www.smgwa.org**