

Board Meeting Recap: September 2021

Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Public Comment Period Closes

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency held a board meeting Thursday, Sept. 23, via all-remote, web- and phone-based access due to the coronavirus prevention guidelines. At the meeting, the board heard public comments about the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), a state-mandated planning document that has been the main focus of the board's work since the agency's inception four years ago.

Two public comments on the GSP were heard at the board meeting. Additional comments were submitted online during the 60-day public comment period for GSP, which closed on Thursday, Sept. 23. The draft can be viewed at www.smgwa.org/GroundwaterSustainabilityPlan.

Staff and consultants are in the process of considering the comments and will bring the final GSP document to the Board at their scheduled meeting on Wednesday, November 17.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), one of the key responsibilities of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency (SMGWA) is developing, adopting and submitting a GSP for the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin (Basin). The Basin forms a roughly triangular area between Felton, Ben Lomond and Scotts Valley. The Basin provides drinking water for the Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley Water Districts, over a dozen small water systems and around 1100 parcels served by private wells. Additionally, the groundwater table influences the surface water in the San Lorenzo River, a primary drinking water source for the City of Santa Cruz and a home to endangered species.

The next SMGWA board meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 28, at 5:30 p.m. To learn more about the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency and upcoming events, visit our website at www.smgwa.org.



SCOTTS VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT
