

Board Meeting Recap: October 2021

Groundwater Sustainability Plan public comments reviewed

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency held a board meeting Thursday, Oct. 28, via all-remote, web- and phone-based access due to the coronavirus prevention guidelines. At the meeting, the board reviewed public comments on 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. The final draft can be viewed at www.smgwa.org/GroundwaterSustainabilityPlan.

A total of 39 public comments on the GSP were submitted during the 60-day public review window. The majority of the comments were submitted in writing by members of the public as well as by nonprofit groups including The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, Clean Water Action, Union of Concerned Scientists and Local Government Commission. A few verbal comments also were received. The public comment period for GSP closed on Thursday, Sept. 23.

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

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan Summary, an 8-page document highlighting the basics of the GSP, is also now available online. Board reviewed the GSP Summary during the meeting and was advised that printed copies can be made available for future in-person events.

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 Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 5:00 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
