
SANTA MARGARITA Groundwater Agency

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Board Meeting Recap — February 2020 —

SMGWA Board Considers Sustainability Criteria for Groundwater Quality

Understanding the elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was the primary focus of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency (SMGWA) meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, at Scotts Valley City Council Chambers.

This included an informational session about Sustainable Management Criteria and Groundwater Quality, led by Georgina King of Montgomery & Associates, with a presentation by Rosemary Menard, Director of the Santa Cruz Water Department.

Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) comprises Sustainability Goals, Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds and Undesirable Results. SMC are developed by assessing which of the six sustainability indicators are applicable for this basin and understanding the historical groundwater conditions relevant to each indicator. After the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives are established, interim milestones can be set. Meeting these milestones will lead to the basin achieving its sustainability goals.

The SMC focus at the February meeting was on the Degraded Water Quality indicator. King and Menard spoke about water quality condition in the basin, and state and federal water policy framework. The GSP is not required to mitigate existing groundwater quality issues. However, SMGWA could address undesirable results from water quality degradation that has already occurred, but must present a means to achieve those objectives. Input from the board and public was collected for drafting a statement of significant and unreasonable conditions related to groundwater quality in the basin.

The final GSP for the Santa Margarita Basin is due to the State Department of Water Resources in January 2022.

The board also heard from Terry Rein, the SMGWA's legal counsel, regarding alternate board members' participation in public meetings. Rein advised the board that she will be consulting with the legal counsels of San Lorenzo Valley Water District and Scotts Valley Water District, and gather additional information before bringing to the board a recommendation for potential solution.

The next SMGWA Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. More information at smgwa.org.



SCOTTS VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT
