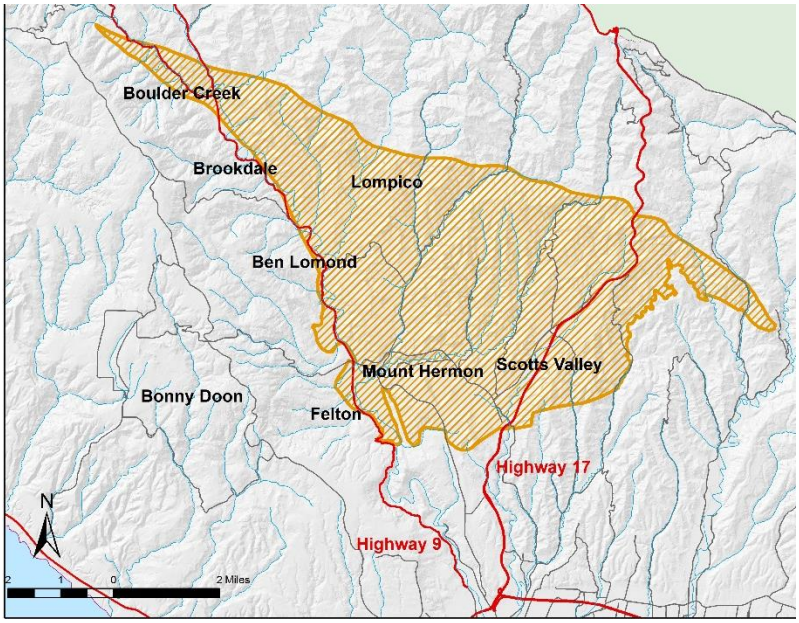
Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

October 20, 2020

Subject: Seeking Private Well Owners for Voluntary Water-Level Monitoring Program

The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency is seeking well owners living within the Santa Margarita Basin that would like to participate in a water level monitoring program. The program benefits participating well owners by providing water level data in their well. This can be compared to the original drillers report if available and can indicate how water levels have changed and if there is any reason to be concerned about the long-term viability. The data collected will be used in the calibration of the groundwater model being developed for the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency.



To be able to participate, wells should have an access port in the wellhead at least half an inch wide. Typically this port is sealed with a metal or plastic plug, or an air vent. The plug or vent is removed during the measuring process. Measurements are taken using a handheld sonic water level meter which uses sound waves to calculate the distance in the well column down to the water level. The well should have time to rest from being pumped before measurements are taken, but recovery time is different for each well.

This process typically only takes a few minutes. After an initial meeting, you do not need to be present for future measurements as long as wellhead access is provided.

The program is strictly voluntary and measurements from your well will not be made available to the general public. Groundwater elevation measurements are kept in an internal database and reports are provided to well owners annually to provide an update on measurement data specific to their well only. Readings are taken once in October and once in April. This program is ongoing, and will take place every year. If interested, or if you have questions, please contact Nathan Salazar from the County of Santa Cruz who performs the readings. His phone number is (831) 454-2145, and email is Nathan.Salazar@santacruzcounty.us

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