

**SANTA MARGARITA
Groundwater Agency**

**Sustainably Managing our
Local Groundwater Resources**

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation

Board of Directors Meeting

October 22, 2026

General Business 4.1

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

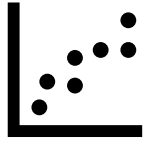
a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County



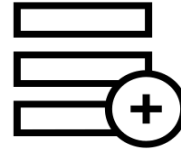
**MONTGOMERY
& ASSOCIATES**

Water Resource Consultants

Periodic Evaluation Overview



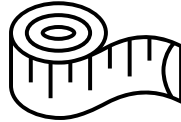
Groundwater Conditions
Relative to Sustainable
Management Criteria (SMC)



New information
collected



Status of Projects and
Management Actions



Review of Monitoring
Network



Groundwater Sustainability
Plan (GSP) Implementation,
Outreach, etc.



Address Recommended
Corrective Actions (RCA)



Option to Amend GSP

Periodic Evaluation Contents

Section	Highlights
Executive Summary	
1. Introduction	
2. New Information Collected	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Monitoring well improvements2. airborne electromagnetic (AEM) survey3. updated groundwater use estimates4. anadromous salmonid habitat conservation plan
3. Response to DWR Recommend Corrective Actions (RCAs)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updated description on how groundwater levels impact domestic users and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)2. Removed drought exemption from groundwater level undesirable results3. Removed exemption related to groundwater quality problems not being an undesirable result unless they were caused by SMGWA actions4. Updated criteria for interconnected surface water

Periodic Evaluation Contents (2)

Section	Highlights
4. Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Groundwater levels – single water level minimum threshold (MT) exceedance2. Groundwater in storage – extraction MT exceedances in 2021 and 20253. Groundwater quality – no undesirable results4. Interconnected surface water – no undesirable results
5. Status of Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gave updates on the original GSP 20 identified projects and management actions2. Reduced PMAs to 1 primary project, 1 primary management action, and 2 supplemental projects
6. Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updated water use based on past 5 years2. Updated projected use and locations of groundwater extraction
7. Monitoring Network Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indicated groundwater level data gaps filled with exception of dedicated Butano Formation well.2. Added new production wells to water quality network3. Eliminated streamflow monitoring by SMGWA unless see MT exceedances

Periodic Evaluation Contents (3)

Section	Highlights
8. Authorities and Enforcement Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Eliminated metering for non-de minimis pumpers (greater than 2 acre-feet per year)2. Determined to not pursue funding from other private pumpers in Basin at this time
9. Outreach, Engagement and Coordination	
10. Other Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Highlighted challenges of small Basin SGMA compliance funding
11. Summary of Plan Amendments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Listing of amendments proposed in GSP
References	
Appendixes	8 total

Comments Received

Commenter	Comment(s) or Recommendation
Doug Engfer, SMGWA Board representative for City of Santa Cruz	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Confirmation if San Lorenzo Valley Water District phase 2 of conjunctive use involving use of 313 acre-feet of Loch Lomond water being removed as a proposed project2. Clarification on water level trend in SMGWA-6 monitoring well3. Clarification if we are proposing a 5-year “rolling forward” average of 5-year “trailing” average for groundwater extraction4. Clarification if we are still using an exemption for groundwater quality if the issue was not related to our management practices5. Consider developing a guide document of the more significant changes in the GSP amendment.

What Comes Next?

- SMGWA to submit Periodic Evaluation by January 3, 2026
- DWR has 20 days to post on SGMA Portal, which begins a 75-day public comment period
- DWR will commence its Periodic Review of the Periodic Evaluation
 - DWR review intended to ensure the GSP, as implemented, remains compliant with SGMA, in substantial compliance with the GSP Regulations, and is being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal
- DWR will use the GSP, Annual Reports, and the Periodic Evaluation to conduct its review
 - DWR may request supplemental information
- No specific deadline for DWR to complete Periodic Review, but had 2 years for initial GSP review
 - DWR took nearly full 2 years to review MGA Periodic Evaluation

Discussion/Comment/Action

Staff requests authorization to submit the Periodic Evaluation, submit to final editorial revisions, no later than January 3, 3027

