



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2016

Workshop Slated to Update Petaluma Valley Well Owners on Local Compliance with Groundwater Act

Petaluma, CA – A series of public workshops are underway this summer, aiming to update well owners and others on local implementation of California’s new groundwater law. Workshops have already taken place in the Santa Rosa Plain and Sonoma Valley basins, two of Sonoma County’s three groundwater basins that are immediately affected by California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The final workshop for the summer is scheduled for August 17 in Petaluma. The workshop will include a brief overview of SGMA requirements and an update on implementation of SGMA in the Petaluma Valley basin.

Petaluma Valley Basin

August 17, 6-8 p.m.
Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma

The first requirement of SGMA is the creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), which are regulatory bodies responsible for developing and implementing plans to sustainably manage groundwater. Staff representatives from the entities that are eligible to serve as GSAs (see chart below) are working on recommendations to their governing bodies regarding these new agencies. The workshops will provide an opportunity for the GSA eligible entity staff to

provide an update on the recommendations for GSA formation, and for people to ask questions and to provide input on the recommendations.

AGENCIES ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

SANTA ROSA PLAIN BASIN	PETALUMA VALLEY BASIN	SONOMA VALLEY BASIN
City of Cotati	City of Petaluma	City of Sonoma
City of Rohnert Park	North Bay Water District	North Bay Water District
City of Santa Rosa	Sonoma County	Valley of the Moon Water District
City of Sebastopol	Sonoma County Water Agency	Sonoma County
Town of Windsor	Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma County		Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Sonoma County Water Agency		
Sonoma Resource Conservation District		

ABOUT SGMA LOCALLY

SGMA was passed into California law in fall 2014. The Act requires that State-designated medium and high priority basins form a GSA(s) and develop a groundwater sustainability plan(s). Sonoma County has three medium priority basins: Petaluma Valley, Santa Rosa Plain and Sonoma Valley; these basins will have to comply with SGMA.

The Sonoma Valley has a groundwater management plan and Basin Advisory Panel and is in its 8th year of implementation. The Santa Rosa Plain recently adopted a groundwater management plan, has a Basin Advisory Panel, and is in the initial stages of implementing that plan. These existing groundwater management plans will remain in effect until new groundwater sustainability plans are developed. The Petaluma Valley has embarked on a study with the U.S. Geological Service to understand its basin. These programs will be incorporated as much as possible when developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

As a first step to implement SGMA, the County of Sonoma and the Water Agency hired the Consensus Building Institute to conduct a stakeholder assessment regarding GSA formation. The report was released Fall 2015 and is available at www.sonomacountygroundwater.org.

Staff of the GSA eligible entities have been meeting to understand SGMA requirements and explore options for GSA formation. Basin Advisory Panels (in Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain) have provided input on reaching out to stakeholders and shared ideas on how eligible

entities can work together. Staff recommendations to date on GSA formation will be shared at the public workshops.

A website, www.sonomacountygroundwater.org includes up-to-date information on SGMA and a place to sign up for more information.

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