



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$1 MILLION GRANT RECOMMENDED FOR SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER AGENCY BY CA DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES**

*GRANT WILL FUND PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF GROUNDWATER BASIN THAT  
SUPPLIES WATER TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN SAN LORENZO VALLEY,  
SCOTTS VALLEY AND ADJACENT AREAS*

(FEBRUARY 7, 2018) SCOTTS VALLEY, CA – The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency (SMGWA) today announced the California Department of Water Resources has recommended a \$1 million matching grant to help fund development of a state-mandated groundwater sustainability plan. Funding for the grant comes from Proposition 1, passed by California voters in 2014. Before funding is finalized, a public comment period will be open until February 21, at 5:00 p.m.

“We’re thrilled with this news because the grant will save \$1 million in costs that member agencies including Scotts Valley Water District, San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the County of Santa Cruz would have been responsible for covering from their tight budgets,” said Piret Harmon, general manager of Scotts Valley Water District, a member of the SMGWA. “The state requires us to develop a sustainability plan for the local groundwater basin, which is an important step toward a more resilient water supply. The challenge is how to pay for this unfunded mandate. Today’s news amounts to a 50 percent reduction in the estimated cost.”

### **ABOUT SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency (SMGWA) is a joint powers authority comprised of the Scotts Valley Water District, San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the County of Santa Cruz, to oversee the groundwater management activities in the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin in Santa Cruz County, California. The agency was established in 2017. The Board of Directors of the SMGWA includes two board members from each of the member agencies, one from the City of Scotts Valley, one from the City of Santa Cruz, one from the Mount Hermon Association Community Water System and two well owner representatives. Learn more at [www.smgwa.org](http://www.smgwa.org).

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