

## Board Meeting Recaps: May and June 2022

### Groundwater monitoring project advances with well site selection

[Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency](#) (SMGWA) held board of directors meetings on May 26 and June 23. Meetings were conducted in a hybrid format with some directors and public participating remotely while the others attended in person.

At the May meeting, the Board approved SMGWA Fiscal Year 2023 budget and heard an update on the enhancements being made to the groundwater monitoring network. Based on assessments of existing groundwater monitoring points, staff and technical consultants had identified several data gaps for Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin. Proposed new monitoring well sites are intended to fill the data gaps, which are included in SMGWA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources in January 2022.

Eight monitoring well sites have been selected, including five wells to be installed on road shoulders within the County right-of-way, one well at Vine Hill Elementary School, one well on a parcel owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and one well on a parcel owned by the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. The ninth site has not yet been identified. The next steps on this project include obtaining state approval of construction documents and opening the bid solicitation period.

The board also approved an agreement with the County of Santa Cruz for administrative and planning services and data management system hosting and maintenance, and received a presentation on Santa Margarita Basin Streamflow Monitoring Report for the dry season of 2021, performed by Balance Hydrologics. This work conducted for the report is consistent with the GSP and helps to understand surface water conditions in the basin.

At the June meeting, the board approved the technical specifications for monitoring well installation in the Santa Margarita Basin and discussed the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury Report "Our Water Account is Overdrawn." The Grand Jury requested SMGWA board to respond to certain findings and recommendations made in the report by Aug. 22, 2022.

Also, SMGWA staff and board members are hosting booths at both the Scotts Valley and Felton farmers markets this summer. Outreach efforts at the markets, held on Saturdays and Tuesdays, respectively, are a way for community members to learn more about SMGWA's role in achieving groundwater sustainability on a local level and offer ways for people to become more involved.

The next SMGWA board will be on Thursday, July 28 at 6 p.m. To learn more about the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency and upcoming events, visit our website at [www.smgwa.org](http://www.smgwa.org).



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WATER DISTRICT