

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

News from the Shasta Valley, Butte Valley, and Scott Valley Subbasins

There are four medium-priority basins in Siskiyou County: Butte, Scott, Shasta, and Tulelake. Of these, the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) serves as Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Butte, Scott, and Shasta Valley subbasins. This newsletter serves to provide an update on GSA activities and implementation of the Scott, Butte, and Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).

DWR review of GSPs underway

GSPs for the three subbasins were submitted by the January 31, 2022 deadline. DWR is now reviewing the Plans and has until January 2024 to determine if they are adequate, incomplete, or inadequate. DWR will review the GSPs every five years thereafter to ensure compliance with SGMA.

The District will provide any updates on the progress of DWR's review through its email listserv. Feedback from DWR is not anticipated until Fall 2023 at the earliest.

GSPs may be viewed on DWR's SGMA portal: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/all>

GSP Annual Reports

GSAs are required to submit annual reports by April 1st of each year. The purpose of the annual report is to provide regular updates to DWR and basin stakeholders on GSP implementation activities as the region works to achieve sustainability. The reports for water year 2021 were submitted and can be found on DWR's SGMA portal: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/submitted>

In addition to submittal of the annual report, groundwater level measurements for Spring 2022 were uploaded to the SGMA portal for representative monitoring points, as identified in the GSPs. Fall 2022 groundwater level data for these locations will be uploaded when available.

What's Next?

The GSA is working on numerous groundwater planning activities:

- 1) Preparing a proposal for DWR's Implementation Grant Program this Fall: <https://water.ca.gov/sgmgrants>
- 2) Starting to develop a "Multi-Basin Management Strategy Document" that will serve as a guide for the GSA to manage the three GSPs. The GSA is gathering input through interviews and a stakeholder survey. A link to fill out the survey will be made available through the SGMA email list.
- 3) Working to explore and develop opportunities with the community and local entities to improve monitoring and data collection under the current drought conditions that will aid the GSA in improving groundwater reliability for all beneficial users.

Interested parties can tune in to the upcoming advisory committee meetings, where these activities will be discussed in greater detail.

Well Permitting

On March 28 Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-7-22 which includes new requirements for the GSA to evaluate new well permit applications: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/March-2022-Drought-EO.pdf>

GSA staff is working with the Environmental Health Department regarding the County's well permitting and application process and will bring information to the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Advisory Committee Meetings

Groundwater advisory committee meetings will be held from 3-6pm:

Scott Valley

Tuesday September 27
Fort Jones Community Hall

Butte Valley

Wednesday September 28
Dorris City Hall

Shasta Valley

Thursday September 29
Montague City Hall

Interested parties are encouraged to attend the meetings in person, however, a Zoom link is available for those who are not able to travel. Details will be distributed through the SGMA email list.

Stay connected:

If you would like to be added to the SGMA outreach email list, contact: sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us