

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Notice of Public Meeting for Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

The City of Carpinteria, Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD), and the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura will cohost a Town Hall meeting to discuss formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This is a continuation of an effort to develop and implement a long-term Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to locally manage groundwater.

The Carpinteria Basin has been designated by the California Department Water Resources (DWR) as a “High Priority Basin” and therefore must comply with the requirements of SGMA which are intended to set a framework for managing groundwater at the local level. The first step of compliance is formation of a GSA. The four agencies hosting this workshop have expressed interest in being a part of the Carpinteria GSA. SGMA is designed to be a collaborative process with the goal of developing an appropriate governance structure and an appropriate groundwater management strategy. Stakeholder involvement is an essential part of this effort and includes local agricultural groundwater users, groundwater dependent environmental interests, California Native American tribes, disadvantaged communities and all interested stakeholders within a community.

The Agencies have developed a draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that will generally define the governance of the GSA. More information regarding the proposed Agreement can be found on the CVWD website at http://www.cvwd.net/water_info/sgma.htm

The goal is to establish Carpinteria’s GSA in early 2020 so that our basin/community is eligible for important State funding. Your input will be important to development of this GSA so please consider attending the Town Hall meeting to hear about the GSA formation process.

The Town Hall meeting will be held:

Date: Monday, December 16, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Carpinteria Lions Park
6197 Casitas Pass Road
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Proposed GSA Governance Structure



* Agencies with optional Directors may elect one seat after the first meeting of the GSA and up to two seats if any of the other three seats remain unclaimed after the GSP is adopted or if other criteria is met. There will be a 30-day period in which this can occur after the date of the GSP adoption. Alternatively, if an agency with an optional seat formally surrenders its right to claim its seat prior to the adoption of the GSP, then either of the remaining two agencies can claim the open seat.

Voting: Will require unanimous votes on any issue at the first hearing and simple majority votes at the second hearing except for specific actions requiring super-majority votes (as defined in the Joint Powers Agreement), including; (i) any capital expenditure of \$250,000 or more; (ii) the Agency's annual budget and amendments thereto; (iii) adoption or amendment of the GSP for the Basin; (iv) adoption of groundwater extraction fees; (v) the Agency's adoption of any taxes, fees, or assessments that are subject to Proposition 26 or 218; (vi) any stipulation to resolve litigation concerning groundwater rights within, or groundwater management for, the Basin.