

Groundwater Meeting

Attend a workshop to learn about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and what it means for Yolo County

6:00 PM Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Yolo County Farm Bureau
69 W. Kentucky Ave., Woodland

6:00 PM Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Winters Community Center
201 Railroad Ave., Winters

6:00 PM Thursday, March 31, 2016

Clarksburg Community Church
52910 Netherlands Ave., Clarksburg

MEETING PURPOSE

- Review of SGMA: the intent, requirements, and timeline of the law and what is being done locally to address it.
- Review of Yolo County's water system and the groundwater conditions.

AGENDA 6 PM to 8 AM

- Part 1: SGMA Overview & Requirements: Q&A
- Part 2: SGMA Outreach & Implementation: Q&A
- Part 3: Open Discussion
- Part 4: Next Steps

Hosted by
Yolo County Farm Bureau
&
Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA)

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Learn About Groundwater In Yolo County

Name(s) of Attendee(s): _____

Company Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Please circle the session you plan to attend:

March 29 (Woodland)

March 30 (Winters)

March 31 (Clarksburg)

Overview of SGMA

This factsheet provides a summary of SGMA and what it means for us in Yolo County.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which went into effect on January 1, 2015, established a robust framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources for the first time in California's history. Groundwater is a critical component of the state's water supply portfolio, and if effectively managed, this resource will help protect communities, farms, and the environment against the impacts of prolonged dry periods and climate change. SGMA recognizes that management is most effective when done at the local level by local agencies with adequate information, tools, resources, and authorities.

SGMA requires medium- and high-priority groundwater basins in the state to be managed by local agencies that have formed a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 30, 2017. Once formed, a GSA must develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2022 to guide the sustainable management of its groundwater basin. The GSA has 20 years following this date to achieve its sustainability goals. The law allows for limited state intervention when necessary to protect groundwater resources.

SGMA Implementation Timeline

Forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

The first step in implementing SGMA is to develop Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). SGMA defines a GSA as one or more local agencies that must implement SGMA's provisions. A local agency is defined as any local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin. Any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin can elect to be a GSA.

A combination of local agencies may form a GSA by using any of the following methods: a joint powers agreement (JPA), or a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement (MOU). A water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company may participate in a GSA through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement. Non-agency parties can be incorporated into the decision-making process for the GSA, or in certain cases, they may wish to form a new GSA-eligible agency.

What's Happening in Yolo County?

There are four subbasins located within the Yolo County geographic boundary.

- 1) The GlennColusa Subbasin stretches from Tehama County to Yolo County.
- 2) The Yolo-Solano Subbasin is shared by Yolo and Solano counties
- 3) The RD 108 Subbasin is shared with Colusa and Yolo counties.
- 4) The Capay Valley is the only subbasin wholly within Yolo County.

The state has designated three of the four subbasins located in Yolo County as medium-priority, and thus subject to SGMA. (The Capay Valley is not designated as a priority area so can choose whether or not to be part of the SGMA).

What Are Local Agencies Doing?

Local agencies are expected to collaborate and coordinate their GSA formations on a basin-wide scale to sustainably manage groundwater at a local level. The Yolo County Water Resource Agency (WRA) is made up of members from Yolo County cities (Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland) and numerous Water Districts (Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation Agency (YCFWCWCD) ; Dunnigan Water District; RD 108; RD _____). Tim O'Halloran, General Manager of the YCFWCWCD is working closely with the WRA to contact all the water agencies in Yolo County with a proposal to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for Yolo County. Funds were obtained to hire a facilitator to support this process. The Farm Bureau is not an agency so cannot be part of the GSA, but has been included as a major partner in meetings to date.

How Can Interested Stakeholders Get Involved?

Successful implementation of SGMA include participation from Yolo County's communities, farms, and environment while maintaining local control over local groundwater resources. Groundwater use in Yolo County is City of Woodland (whose use will decrease as their water diversion project is completed); the cities of Davis and Winters, and rural residences. The sustainable management of groundwater requires that local agencies and groundwater users work closely with one another from the start. The cities have been aware of the efforts through their membership in the WRA. These meetings are to talk with local farmers, landowners, and rural residents.