



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER PLAN RELEASED FOR COMMENT

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) is pleased to announce release of a draft Sustainability Plan for the Mid-County groundwater basin, including the opening of a 60-day window for review and comment.

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is an essential source of water that is in a state of overdraft. Working with community members and experts, the MGA is developing a plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to restore the basin to sustainability by 2040.

The MGA encourages all community members to get involved. The Sustainability Plan will have long-term community implications and includes the following information:

- Detailed information about the Groundwater Basin including geology, hydrology, and political boundaries;
- Detailed information about water use within the Basin;
- Definition of sustainability for the following indicators:
 - Seawater Intrusion;
 - Surface Water Depletion;
 - Groundwater in Storage;
 - Groundwater Levels;
 - Groundwater Quality;
- Proposed programs and projects to reach sustainability.

The draft Sustainability Plan will open for public comment on July 18th at the MGA Board meeting. Members of the public will have 60 days to review the Plan and provide written comments. The plan will be available at www.midcountygroundwater.org along with a survey for stakeholders.

The MGA will host a series of community events regarding the draft Plan, including two open houses in July, a community Q&A in August, and a public hearing in September so that residents may learn more about the Plan and its impacts on the future of local water supplies.

The MGA is a regional partnership between local agencies and the public to help ensure our groundwater remains a high-quality, reliable water supply today and into the future. It is governed by a board with two agency representatives each from Central Water District, City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, and Soquel Creek Water District, and three private well representatives.