



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PRESS RELEASE

Release: Immediately  
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### GROUNDWATER AGENCY FORMATION WORKSHOP

Residents within the boundaries of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin are invited to attend a public workshop on the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to help guide the long-term protection of critical aquifers and local water supplies.

Forming a roughly triangular area between Felton, Ben Lomond and Scotts Valley, the Santa Margarita Basin is in a state of overdraft, resulting in lowered groundwater levels and reduced streamflow. Under the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a GSA must be formed to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040, a solution that will likely involve a combination of water efficiency, increased groundwater recharge and supplemental supply.

The County of Santa Cruz, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, and the Scotts Valley Water District are working together to address overdraft of the basin and comply with state requirements. The San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Scotts Valley Water District, and commercial and private well owners are all users of the basin.

Residents and private well owners are encouraged to stay informed and participate in the process by visiting [www.smgwa.org](http://www.smgwa.org), where they may also sign up for the newsletter. In addition, a workshop will be held at the following time and location:

**WHAT:** Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency planning meeting

**WHEN:** Feb. 22, 2017, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Scotts Valley Water District, 2 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley