



SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER AGENCY

AGENDA PACKET

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

10/23/2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

SANTA MARGARITA COMMUNITY ROOM
2 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SCOTTS VALLEY, CA.

This meeting is conducted in a hybrid setting.

The public may attend and provide public comment in person.

The meeting will also be publicly streamed via Zoom webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81928656966>

Webinar ID: 819 2865 6966; Webinar audio by phone (669) 444-9171

Disability Access

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Please contact SMGWA Administrative Services at admin@smgwa.org or 831.662.2055 if you need assistance in order to participate in a public meeting or if you need the agenda and public documents modified as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act



Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Santa Margarita Community Room, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA.

This meeting is conducted in a hybrid setting through Zoom Webinar.

Public participation is encouraged. Members of the public may attend in person, remotely via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81928656966>, or by phone 669-444-9171. Webinar ID: 819 2865 6966.

The public has opportunities to comment throughout the meeting. To comment online, use the raise hand option, by phone press *9. If experiencing technological difficulties online, consider joining the meeting via phone. Remote access is available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. CONVENE

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call
Director Koenig is video/teleconferencing from 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Director Pollock is video/teleconferencing from 2700 S. Kidder Creek Rd., Etna, CA 96027
- 1.2 Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
- 1.3 Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda

2. CONSENT

- 2.1 [Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting](#)
Recommendation: Approve the minutes of the August 28, 2025, Board Meeting.
- 2.2 [Approval of Board Schedule 2026](#)
Recommendation: Approve the Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2026.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 [Groundwater Sustainability Program Update](#)
- 3.2 [Scotts Valley Water District & City of Santa Cruz Water Systems Intertie Project](#)

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 [Board Vacancy - Well Owner Alternate Director Vacancy](#)
Recommendation: Approve Well Owner Alternate Director Cheap assuming the role of Director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Director Hutchison; and, form an ad hoc committee and appoint the members of the committee to conduct a solicitation and selection process to fill the Well Owner Alternate Director vacancy.
- 4.2 [Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation](#)
Recommendation: Receive update and provide direction on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation

4.3 [Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Memorandum of Understanding for a Cost Sharing Agreement](#)

Recommendation: Subject to final legal counsel review and approval, authorize the Scotts Valley Water District General Manager to enter into a Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Memorandum of Understanding for a Cost Sharing Agreement.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- 5.1 [Financial Report for the Period July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025](#)
- 5.2 [Santa Margarita Basin GSP Implementation Activities Status Report](#)

6. DIRECTORS REPORTS

- 6.1 Reports from Meetings, Conferences, and Educational Opportunities

7. FUTURE ITEMS

Invitation for Board requests for future agenda items

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 8.1 [24th Annual Environmental Town Hall, November 8th, 1 - 3pm, Felton Community Hall](#)

9. EVENTS CALENDAR

ADJOURN

PURSUANT TO TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THE SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER AGENCY (AGENCY) REQUESTS THAT ANY PERSON IN NEED OF ANY TYPE OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, ASSISTANCE, OR ACCOMMODATION(S) IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE AT THE AGENCY'S PUBLIC MEETING PLEASE MAKE SUCH A REQUEST TO THE AGENCY AT 2 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SCOTT'S VALLEY, CA 95066 OR BY CALLING **(831) 662-2055**. A MINIMUM OF THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING. ADVANCE NOTIFICATION WITHIN THIS GUIDELINE WILL ENABLE THE AGENCY TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY.



Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 8/28/2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Santa Margarita Community Room, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA

Minutes

1. CONVENE

1.1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Perri called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: (Voting Alternates represented in *italics*)

Chris Perri (Chair) – Scotts Valley Water District

Bryan Largay (Vice Chair) – San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Edan Cassidy (Secretary) – Well Owner Representative

Doug Engfer – City of Santa Cruz (remote via Zoom)

Cara Hutchison – Well Owner Representative

Alina Layng – San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Wade Leishman – Scotts Valley Water District

Rae Spencer-Hill – County of Santa Cruz

Directors Absent:

Allan Timms – City of Scotts Valley

Dale Pollock – Mount Hermon Association

Manu Koenig – County of Santa Cruz

Monica Martinez – County of Santa Cruz

Non-Voting Alternate Directors: (Present as Non-Voting Observer)

Frank Cheap – Well Owner Alternate Representative

Bill Ekwall – Scotts Valley Water District Alternate Representative

SMGWA Member Agency Executive Staff:

Jason Lillion – General Manager, San Lorenzo Valley Water District

David McNair – General Manager, Scotts Valley Water District

Other:

Teresa Rein – SMGWA legal counsel; Rein & Rein

Tim Carson, Rob Swartz, Sophia Sholtz – Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF)

Heidi Luckenbach – Water Director, City of Santa Cruz (online via Zoom)

John Dillon – Finance and Customer Service Manager, Scotts Valley Water District

1.2 Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None.

1.3 Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda

Director E. Cassidy welcomed former Well Owner Representative director Nick Vrolyck to the meeting and Chair Perri welcomed Jason Lillion as the new General Manager at San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

2. **CONSENT**

2.1 Approval of Minutes from 5/22/2025 Meeting

- MOTION:** E. Cassidy/B. Largay moved to approve the Minutes.
- AYES:** E. Cassidy, D. Engfer, C. Hutchison, A. Layng, W. Leishman, B. Largay, C. Perri.
- NOES:** None.
- ABSTAIN:** R. Spencer-Hill.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 Groundwater Sustainability Program Update

R. Swartz provided updates on the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Coalition and water use in the Basin.

The Small GSA Coalition (Coalition) is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among participating agencies to help fund both a part-time administrative staff and legislative advocate for the Coalition. Generally, the Coalition has been limited to groundwater basins that use less than 10,000 acre-feet of water per year (AFY) but could be expanded to include Basins of up to 20,000 AFY to accommodate a handful of interested basins in northern California. Currently there are 12 basins considering participation. Staff will return at the October Board meeting with an update on progress and, if the participating agencies can reach consensus, an MOU for Board consideration.

R. Swartz then reviewed groundwater use in Water Year 2024. Public water utilities, Mount Hermon Association, and metered small water systems account for just under 2,000 AFY, or approximately 86% of water use in the Basin. Private domestic wells are estimated to use 234 AFY, based on the estimated number of wells and the average use per household as determined by the reported use of small water systems the Basin.

Previous Water Year Annual Reports estimated water usage from non-domestic private users at 122 AFY, based on a 1998 report prepared for the Scotts Valley Water District. The only known non-domestic private users in the Basin are three mobile home parks – Spring Lakes, Vista del Lago, and Montevalle. Following outreach to these mobile home parks, R. Swartz concluded that all three mobile home parks use significantly less water than originally reported in 1998. These estimates will be revised in the 2025 Annual Report.

Quail Hollow Quarry’s use of 32 AFY was updated reflecting a small increase in estimated usage.

3.2 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation

P. Dennehy and R. Swartz presented on the Periodic Evaluation process, the potential for a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) amendment, and the preliminary schedule. The Periodic Evaluation is the GSA's opportunity to address recommended corrective actions from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), discuss new information collected, report on the status of projects and management actions, review the groundwater conditions relative to sustainable management criteria, review the monitoring network, and provide any updates on the GSP, management, or outreach.

P. Dennehy discussed what would warrant an amendment to the GSP at the same time as the Periodic Evaluation. This would include changes to the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC), significant changes to the monitoring network, changes to planned projects and management actions, or modifications to the administrative management of the basin, including changes to the GSA.

DWR provided four specific Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs): evaluate beneficial use and users of the Monterey Formation and consider how changes in groundwater levels in the Monterey Formation may affect domestic well users and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); revise undesirable results definition to remove the drought year condition for chronic lowering of groundwater levels; revise SMC for degraded groundwater quality; and evaluate interconnected surface water SMC. The RCAs received from DWR regarding the evaluation of interconnected surface water was a general comment that was provided to many other GSAs.

Board had questions for both P. Dennehy and R. Swartz.

4. GENERAL

4.1 Establish a Water Year 2025 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

R. Swartz discussed the need for an Ad Hoc committee to help guide the streamlining of the Annual Report in concert with evaluating streamlining opportunities working directly with DWR staff. Committee members appointed: D. Engfer, B. Largay, C. Perri, E. Cassidy, F. Cheap.

MOTION: B. Largay/W. Leishman move to establish an Ad Hoc committee on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report and appoint Board members to serve on the committee.

AYES: E. Cassidy, D. Engfer, C. Hutchison, B. Largay, A. Layng, W. Leishman, C. Perri, R. Spencer-Hill.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

4.2 Establish Policy to Review Applicable County of Santa Cruz Well Permit Applications

R. Swartz discussed the County of Santa Cruz (County) Well Permit Application. The County in its recent Well Ordinance update, recognized the importance of GSAs in the sustainability of the Basin; the Well Ordinance now allows for 10 days for GSAs to provide comments on any new well permit application submissions within their management areas. The GSAs can provide

comment, request additional information, or identify any other requirements that must be met, for the construction and use of a new well. The County anticipates that most well permit applications will be for Domestic wells and will require a low level of review.

The policy authorizes the Member Agency executive staff to appoint a reviewer to complete the timely review of well permit applications within 10 business days of receipt. If the well permit is straightforward and there are no concerns, the reviewer will respond as such, and if there are concerns, the reviewer will notify the executive staff of the potential concerns and solicit feedback on how to proceed with the County.

The Board asked for clarification on whether the 10 business days are in consecutive to or concurrent with, the County’s allotted 20-day review period. R. Swartz and T. Rein confirmed that the 10 business days allotted for GSA review are concurrent with the County’s review period. Because of the concurrent review period, there would not be a situation where the GSA’s inability to provide comment would delay the approval of a well construction permit.

Upon further questions from the Board, R. Swartz confirmed that the GSA’s involvement in the approval or denial of well permits is limited to commenting and that the GSA does not have authority to deny a well permit application the County had otherwise deemed appropriate.

- MOTION:** W. Leishman, R. Spencer-Hill move to approve and adopt Well Construction Permit Application Review Policy.
- AYES:** E. Cassidy, D. Engfer, C. Hutchison, B. Largay, A. Layng, W. Leishman, C. Perri, R. Spencer-Hill.
- NOES:** None.
- ABSTAIN:** None.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- 5.1 Financial Report for the Period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025
No questions or comments on this item.
- 5.2 Santa Margarita Basin GSP Implementation Activities Status Report
No questions or comments on this item.

6. DIRECTORS REPORTS

Director C. Perri reported on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) groundwater subcommittee on Water Banking.

7. FUTURE ITEMS

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

None.

9. EVENTS CALENDAR

None.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

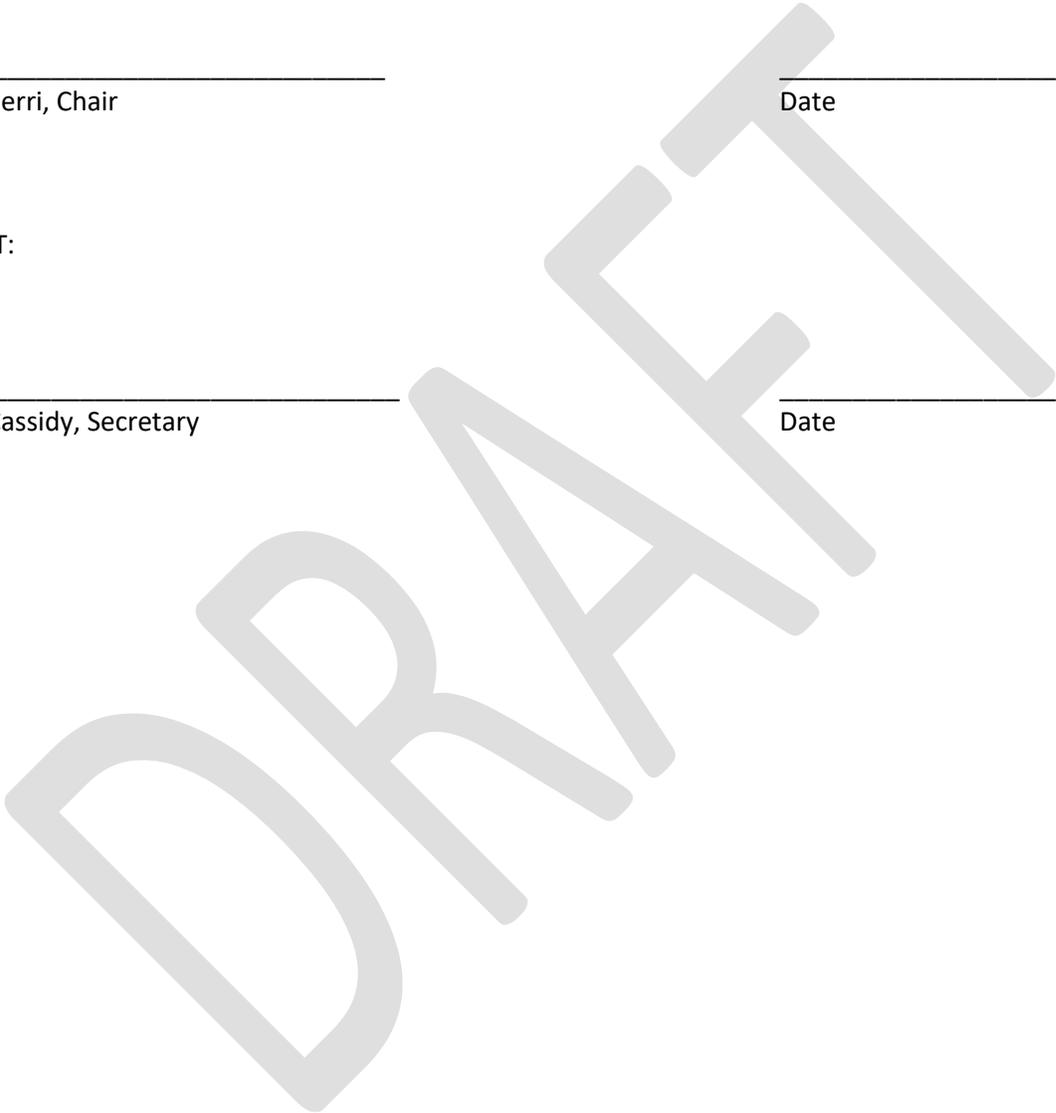
Chris Perri, Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Edan Cassidy, Secretary

Date



AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Consent 2.2
Subject: **Board Schedule for 2026**

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Approve the 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2026
Fiscal Impact: The number of Board meetings per year impacts the administrative expenses of the Agency. The number of proposed meetings (four) in 2026 is the same as the prior year.

BACKGROUND

Staff proposes four meetings in 2026 occurring on February 26, May 28, August 27, and October 22. At the February 26 meeting, the Board will review and consider the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report prior to its submittal to the Department of Water Resources by the April 1 deadline and will review the preliminary annual budget. The proposed annual budget will come to the Board for approval at the May meeting, with the intent to have the approved annual budget in place by the start of the fiscal year of July 1. If circumstances necessitate, the Board may call a special meeting to address business that cannot wait until the next quarterly meeting.

Submitted by,

Tim Carson, Program Director
Regional Water Management Foundation

Attachment(s): 2026 SMGWA Board Meeting Schedule



2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Meeting Location
Thursday, February 26	6:00 p.m.	Meeting location and/or call-in details can be found on the meeting agenda or at www.smgwa.org.
Thursday, May 28	6:00 p.m.	
Thursday, August 27	6:00 p.m.	
Thursday, October 22	6:00 p.m.	

AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Presentations 3.1
Subject: **Groundwater Sustainability Program Update**

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Receive a presentation of highlights of current groundwater sustainability program efforts.

Fiscal Impact: No direct impact from this action. Activities described in this update are either provided in-kind by Member Agencies or have been approved by separate Board actions.

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin (Basin) was adopted by the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency Board of Directors on November 17, 2021. The GSP was approved by the Department of Water Resources on April 27, 2023. The Basin GSP identifies a monitoring and reporting program, areas of monitoring needing improvements (i.e., data gaps), implementation of projects and management actions, and other administrative activities needed to fully implement the GSP. Together, this suite of activities represents the Basin's Groundwater Sustainability Program.

DISCUSSION

With the conclusion of Water Year (WY) 2025, SMGWA has begun collecting water-related data for the GSP Annual Report. Staff will provide a summary of WY 2025 hydrology and groundwater level conditions.

Submitted by,

Rob Swartz, Senior Planner
Regional Water Management Foundation

Attachment(s): None

AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Presentations 3.2
Subject: **Scotts Valley Water District & City of Santa Cruz Water Systems Intertie Project**

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Receive a presentation on the water systems intertie project.
Fiscal Impact: No direct impact from this action.

BACKGROUND

The Scotts Valley Intertie project will link the treated water systems of the City of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley Water District. The intertie will enable the agencies to share water in droughts or other emergencies and improve fire protection through increased fire-response flows. While this project was not specifically identified in the Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), it does create an opportunity to increase groundwater stored in the Basin for beneficial use; this is consistent with a Group 2, Tier 2 GSP Project and Management Action - Water Transfer from Other Basins for Inter-District Conjunctive Use.

The project includes the construction of a 2-mile pipeline and an accompanying pump station. The pipeline will be constructed along Firehouse Lane, Sims Road and La Madrona Drive between Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley. The project includes drilling and equipping a deep well in the Butano and Lompico aquifers of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin to provide operational flexibility and redundancy for groundwater production.

Funding for this project is provided in-part by \$9.45 million (M) dollar grant from the California Department of Water Resources with approximately \$6.62M for design and construction of the intertie and pump station and \$2.83M for the groundwater production well and related improvements. Construction of the intertie, led by the City of Santa Cruz, started in January 2025 and will last 12 - 18 months. Construction of the groundwater well and related improvements, led by Scotts Valley Water District, are underway and will be completed in 2025.

Taylor Kihoi, City of Santa Cruz Water Department, will provide an informational presentation on the project to the Board.

Submitted by,
Tim Carson, Program Director
Regional Water Management Foundation
Attachment(s): None

AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Agenda Report 4.1
Subject: Board Vacancy – Well Owner Alternate Director Vacancy

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Approve Well Owner Alternate Director Cheap assuming the role of Director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Director Hutchison; and, form an ad hoc committee and appoint the members of the committee to conduct a solicitation and selection process to fill the Well Owner Alternate Director vacancy.

Fiscal Impact: There will be costs to the Agency to conduct the solicitation and selection process for an applicant to fill the vacancy for the Well Owner Alternate Director.

BACKGROUND

Well Owner Director Cara Hutchison resigned from the Board on September 17, 2025. Director Hutchison was appointed to the Board as a Director on February 27, 2025. The Second Amended Bylaws (Bylaws) (Section 2.3) establish a procedure for appointments of Well Owner Directors (attached).

DISCUSSION

The Bylaws (Section 2.3.4.2) state that in the event of a Well Owner Director vacancy, the Well Owner Alternate shall fill the vacancy as a Director if the Well Owner Alternate is willing to serve as Director, subject to compliance with Section 2.3.2. In this case, Well Owner Alternate Cheap is willing to serve as a Director. Under the Bylaws, the Well Owner Alternate who fills a vacancy will serve for the remainder of departing Director's the three (3) year term. As such, Director Cheap's term ends on February 29, 2027.

The Well Owner Alternate Director position is now vacant. Per the Bylaws, the Board shall appoint an ad hoc Committee of three (3) Directors to facilitate the appointment process. At least one (1) of the members of the Committee shall be a Member Agency representative, and the Board shall give preference to then-serving Well Owners to fill the remaining two (2) Committee positions. The Agency is to publicly notice the opportunity for individuals to submit an application to serve as a Well Owner to fill a vacancy. A draft summary of the process for the Well Owner Alternate Director appointment is attached.

The Committee, with staff support from the Regional Water Management Foundation and Member Agencies, will carry out the process, including finalizing application materials, noticing the opportunity to apply, coordinating the application process, evaluating applications and may include interviews or attending meetings with applicants.

Submitted by,

Tim Carson, Program Director
Regional Water Management Foundation

Attachment(s):

1. Procedure for Appointment of Well Owners (Section 2.3) from Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency Second Amended and Restated Bylaws
2. Information Sheet - Process for Well Owner Director Appointment

2.3 PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF WELL OWNERS.

2.3.1 Under section 6.3.7 of the Agreement, Well Owners shall be nominated and approved by the procedure described in these Bylaws.

2.3.2 At minimum, one (1) of the two (2) Well Owner Directors shall be from an Individual Water System. If one (1) of two (2) Well Owner Directors is from a Small Water System, then the preference in choosing a Well Owner Alternate shall be given to an Individual Water System representative.

2.3.3 Any person meeting the requirements of section 2.3.2 and the following qualifications may apply to serve as a Well Owner (individually, an “**Applicant**”). At a minimum, an Applicant shall (a) be an owner of a private well located within the boundaries of the Agency, a tenant leasing property with a private well located within the boundaries of the Agency, or a representative of a small public water system with a well located within boundaries of the Agency; (b) be at least 18 years of age; and (c) exhibit high standards of integrity, commitment, and good judgment; (collectively, 2.3.3 (a)-(c) shall be the “**Qualifications**”). Once appointed, a Well Owner shall meet the Qualifications for the duration of his or her service as a Well Owner.

2.3.4 If a Well Owner position becomes vacant for any reason, including death, permanent disability, inability to perform his or her responsibilities, resignation, removal, or failure to meet the Qualifications, the following process shall apply:

2.3.4.1 In the event of Well Owner Director vacancy, the Well Owner Alternate shall fill the vacancy as a Director if the Well Owner Alternate is willing to serve as a Director, subject to compliance with section 2.3.2 of these Bylaws. The Well Owner Alternate who fills a vacancy under this section shall serve as a Director for the remainder of the term of the departing Well Owner Director.

2.3.4.2 If a Well Owner Director vacancy is not filled under section 2.3.4.1, or if a Well Owner position remains vacant, the Board shall appoint an ad hoc committee of three (3) Directors of the Agency to facilitate the appointment process (“**Committee**”). At least one (1) of the members of the Committee shall be a Member Director, and the Board shall give preference to then-serving Well Owners to fill the remaining two (2) Committee positions.

2.3.4.2.1 The Committee shall provide or cause to be provided a notice of the opportunity for individuals to submit an application to serve as a Well Owner to fill a vacancy. The notice may include a description of the work of the Agency, the minimum qualifications of a Well Owner, the desired characteristics and skills of a Well Owner, criteria to be used in evaluating applications received, as well as deadlines and the timeline for decision-making on appointees. The notice shall also inform Applicants that if there are more Well Owner Applicants than the number of positions available, the Applicants will have the opportunity to self-nominate a Well Owner by reaching agreement among themselves by having some Applicants voluntarily withdraw their applications so that the remaining number of applications is the same as the number of

vacant positions. To encourage participation, a variety of print media, electronic or other formal and informal communication mechanisms may be utilized, and the period of notice shall cover, at a minimum, ten (10) working days.

2.3.4.2.2 The Committee shall be given the names and contact information of all Applicants. The Applicants shall be informed that they have at least twenty (20) days but no more than forty (40) days (“**Deadline**”) to meet and/or confer and endeavor to seek agreement on which Applicants elect to voluntarily withdraw their applications and which Applicants will be recommended to fill the vacant positions. Committee members are encouraged to attend the meetings of the Applicants. The Committee may recommend the rejection of an application if the Applicant fails to meet the Qualifications or if an Applicant fails to attend a meeting of Applicants called for the purpose of nominating an Applicant to fill a vacancy.

2.3.4.2.3 An Applicant may withdraw his application prior to the Deadline by sending a written request to the Principal Office by mail, email or facsimile.

2.3.4.2.4 If by the Deadline, the number of Applicants equals the number of vacancies, then the applications shall be forwarded to the Board for consideration, provided the Applicants meet the Qualifications.

2.3.4.2.5 If no applications are forwarded to the Board under section 2.3.4.2.4, then the Committee shall report its findings and forward all of the applications of the Applicants to the Board. The Board may then appoint any Applicant to fill each vacant Well Owner position.

2.3.4.2.6. If a Well Owner position remains vacant after the conclusion of the forgoing process, the Board may appoint any person meeting the requirements of section 2.3.3.

2.3.5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the final appointment of any person to fill a Well Owner vacancy shall be subject to the approval of the Board and the unanimous approval of the Member Directors participating in voting.

Process for Well Owner Representative Appointment

Desired characteristics and skills of Board members

To be eligible, an applicant must own, operate, or be served by an individual well, small water system, mutual, or other non-municipal water system within the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin. They must also be able to meet the time commitment of approximately 10 - 20 hours per quarter, including evenings, for a three-year term.

An ideal candidate will have a demonstrated ability to work with others in a collaborative setting. They will have the means and motivation to communicate with the community they are representing. They will have knowledge and experience that will benefit the SMGWA and the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. They agree to operate under the Guiding Principles outlined by the SMGWA Board and adhere to the code of conduct, Bylaws, and Joint Powers Authority that outline the goals and operation of the agency.

Application and timeline for decision-making on appointees

Application forms have been made available on the website (SMGWA.org), and notice sent through the email list and a press release. Applications are due by *Insert MM/DD/YYYY*. A Board Committee has been formed to lead the process to select the new Well Owner Representative by reviewing all received applications for eligibility.

Process for self-nomination

Upon the close of the filing period, if there are more eligible applicants than the number of positions available, the applicants shall be notified of the opportunity to act as a group to nominate the candidate by reaching agreement among themselves for some applicants to withdraw their applications so that the remaining number of applications is the same as the number of positions available. Applicants shall be given the names and contact information of the other applicants and shall be allowed at least twenty (20) days but no more than forty (40) days to meet and confer and seek agreement on which applicant shall become the group representative. Withdrawal of an application may be done electronically by email, or by submitting a request to withdraw signed by the applicant at the Agency office. If after 40 days, the number of applications is greater than the number of positions available, the procedure for selection described below will be followed.

Nomination

The Board Committee will evaluate applications to determine whether and how a candidate meets the desired characteristics. The Committee may hold interviews with the top candidates from the screening process. They will report their findings to the full Board, who will then appoint an applicant for the Well Owner Representative.

Appointment

Appointment the Well Owner Representative representing well owners shall be made by a unanimous vote of the Member Agency Directors in compliance with Section 6.3.7 of the Joint Powers Agreement. If the well owners have self-nominated their candidate, as described above, the Board appoints that candidate assuming they are eligible for the position.

AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Agenda Report 4.2
Subject: Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Receive update and provide direction on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation.

Fiscal Impact: No direct impact from this action. Activities described in this update have been approved by separate Board action in May 2025 to adopt the annual Agency budget and approve an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Montgomery & Associates.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires periodic evaluation that is due at least every five years after submittal of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Periodic Evaluation (PE) is intended to be an assessment of how a GSP is performing and whether modifications are needed.

In October 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released guidance on GSP annual reports, periodic evaluations, and plan amendments. The DWR guidance document is available on the SMGWA website and can be accessed at this link: [A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments](#). Recommended corrective actions (RCA) from DWR's GSP review must also be addressed by the time of PE submittal, which is due by January 3, 2027. The Santa Margarita Basin RCAs can be found in this link to the [DWR GSP approval letter](#).

In May 2025, the Board approved a contract amendment with Montgomery & Associates (M&A) to begin a Periodic Evaluation of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin GSP. In August 2025, the Board received an overview of the PE process and timeline and a review of DWR's RCAs for the Basin GSP.

DISCUSSION

The Board will receive an update and provide direction on work underway on the PE, including the status of the DWR RCAs.

Submitted by,

Rob Swartz, Senior Planner
Regional Water Management Foundation

Attachment(s): None

AGENDA REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Agenda Report 4.3
Subject: **Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Memorandum of Understanding for a Cost Sharing Agreement**

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Subject to final legal counsel review and approval, authorize the Scotts Valley Water District General Manager to enter into a Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Memorandum of Understanding for a Cost Sharing Agreement

Fiscal Impact: The Board approved up to \$2,750 for Fiscal Year 2026 for a Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Cost Sharing Agreement. Future funding would be subject to annual budget approvals.

BACKGROUND

The Agency has been a participant in a Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) Coalition, a cooperative group formed to serve as a forum for sharing information and ideas to find cost efficiencies and funding sources to comply with SGMA. The Coalition also endeavors to educate elected representatives, state agencies and other stakeholders regarding SGMA implementation challenges unique to basins that extract less than 10,000 acre-feet per year. The Coalition has been using an Administrator and an Advocate to achieve its goals. Sonoma Water Agency has provided funding to cover those but is unable to exclusively fund the effort past December 31, 2025. To continue this important effort, participants in the Coalition have proposed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to share in common costs. Up to 20 small GSAs are considering entering into the MOU.

DISCUSSION

Coalition participants are expected to execute the MOU by December 29, 2025, and are still reviewing a draft of the MOU. On behalf of the Agency, Rob Swartz and legal counsel have reviewed the latest version of the MOU and have provided comments to the Coalition (see enclosed mark-up version of the draft MOU). The Coalition will meet again on November 6, 2025, to consider final edits to the MOU. Because the Agency does not meet again until February 26, 2026, staff is requested that the Board authorize the Scotts Valley Water District General Manager to enter into the MOU subject to final legal counsel review and approval.

Submitted by,
Rob Swartz, Senior Planner
Regional Water Management Foundation

Attachment(s): Draft Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Coalition Memorandum of Understanding for a Cost Sharing Agreement

SMALL GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES COALITION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

COST SHARING AGREEMENT

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

This Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Coalition Memorandum of Understanding Cost Sharing Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between the undersigned Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs” or “Parties”), collectively referred to as the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Coalition (“Coalition”).

RECITALS

1. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), codified at California Water Code Section 10720 et seq., became effective on January 1, 2015.
2. SGMA requires the designation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) to achieve groundwater sustainability through the adoption and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) or alternative plans for medium and high priority basins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”).
3. Many GSAs managing basins or sub-basins with average annual groundwater extractions under 10,000 acre-feet per year (“Small GSAs”) face disproportionate administrative and compliance costs relative to their size and groundwater usage.
4. The Parties desire to cooperatively fund and manage shared advocacy interests and efforts that benefit Small GSAs under SGMA, while retaining their independent local authority.
5. The Parties therefore enter into this Cost Sharing Agreement to define the financial and administrative framework for such cooperation, beginning January 1, 2026.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the cost-sharing and administrative framework for the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Coalition, a cooperative group formed to serve as a forum for sharing information and ideas to find cost efficiencies and funding sources to comply with SGMA. The Coalition also endeavors to educate elected representatives, state agencies and other stakeholders coordinate advocacy efforts regarding SGMA implementation challenges unique to Small GSAs.

2. COST SHARING PRINCIPLES

- a) Equal Shares: Each Party shall contribute an equal share of the Coalition budget.
- b) Annual Budget Basis: The Coalition’s cost-sharing obligations shall be based on an Annual Budget as outlined in Section 7 of this Agreement.
- c) Adjustments: Should the number of Parties change during the fiscal year, the per-Party cost may be adjusted proportionally to maintain total funding commitments.
- d) Nonpayment: Failure to remit payment of a Party’s share of the Coalition budget within 60 days after delivery of the invoice for such share shall constitute a default, which shall entitle the Coalition to terminate the defaulting Party’s participation and pursue recovery of that Party’s unpaid obligations.

3. ADMINISTRATION

The Coalition shall appoint or contract for the services of an Administrator, in an amount not to exceed the Budget, who may be an individual, a firm, or other entity including a participating GSA, which Administrator will be responsible for coordinating meetings and communications, managing budget development, invoicing, and recordkeeping, and assisting in implementing Coalition decisions. Compensation and performance of the Administrator shall be reviewed annually. The initial Administrator of the Coalition is Ann DuBay.

4. ADVOCATE

The Coalition may contract for the services of ~~retain~~ an Advocate—an individual or firm— in an amount not to exceed the Budget, to ~~represent~~ track and advise the Coalition on SGMA-related issues ~~interests~~ before and assist with communicating with the Legislature, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The Advocate's compensation and scope of work shall be approved as part of the annual budget.

5. MEETINGS AND DECISION-MAKING

- a) Meetings: The Coalition shall meet at least twice annually and as otherwise needed. Meetings may be held virtually or in person.
- b) Voting: Each Party GSA that is in good standing with respect to payment of their share of the budget as described below (each, a "Member in Good Standing") shall have one vote.
- c) Supermajority Decisions: The following matters require approval by at least three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all Members in Good Standing: amendments to this Agreement, adoption of the Annual Budget, and admission of new Parties.
- d) Other Actions: All other decisions require a simple majority vote of the Members in Good Standing.

6. ANNUAL BUDGET AND BILLING

- a) The fiscal year shall be July 1 through June 30 of each year.
- b) The Administrator shall prepare and distribute a Draft Budget by March 1 of each year for review by the Parties.
- c) Provided the Parties have timely reviewed and communicated their comments on the Draft Budget to the Administrator, the Administrator shall present a Revised Budget by no later than April 1 each year, with the Parties reviewing and commenting on the Revised Budget in order to vote on approval of a Final Budget by May 1.
- d) For the last six months of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Coalition costs for advocacy and management will total \$30,000. The Administrator will issue invoices for January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, by January 1, and payments are due within 60 days.
- e) Thereafter, invoices to the Parties for their share of the Coalition's budget will be issued by the Administrator by July 1, and payments are due within 60 days.
- f) Parties with fiscal years other than July 1 to June 30 may defer payment up to October 1 provided written notice of such deferment is given to the Administrator.

7. WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION

- a) A Party may withdraw from the Coalition with 30 days' written notice to the Administrator, but the withdrawing Party will not receive a refund for any portion of their paid-in share of the Coalition budget

b) Despite the withdrawal of a Party, this Agreement will remain in effect among remaining Parties, provided at least five (5) Members in Good Standing remain part of the Coalition.

8. INDEMNIFICATION

Each Party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Parties, their officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, liabilities, and expenses ~~(“Claims”)~~ to the extent any Claims arise ~~arising~~ out of that Party’s negligent acts or omissions in connection with ~~under~~ this Agreement.

9. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

The Parties are independent entities collaborating voluntarily. Nothing in this Agreement shall create a joint venture, partnership, or agency relationship among the Parties.

10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION; CHOICE OF LAW

Disputes arising under this Agreement shall first be addressed through good-faith negotiation. If unresolved within 30 days, disputes shall proceed to mediation, and if necessary, binding arbitration under California Code of Civil Procedure Part III, Title 9. Venue for all proceedings shall be Sacramento County, California. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

11. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended only upon approval of a three-fourths (¾) vote of the Members in Good Standing.

12. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM

Upon execution by all Parties, this Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2026, and it shall remain in effect until terminated by written consent of a supermajority of the Members in Good Standing or upon there being less than five (5) Coalition Members in Good Standing.

13. EXTENSIONS OF TIME

Whenever the last day of any period described herein falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the period shall be automatically extended to 11:59 p.m. of the next business day, Pacific Time. The time in which any act provided under this Agreement is to be done shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last day, unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, and then it is also excluded.

14. NOTICES

Notices sent to a Party shall be sent to that Party’s email address provided beneath their signature on this Agreement, below. Notices sent to the Administrator shall be sent to anndubay@sonic.net. A Party or the Administrator may change its email address for notices by giving notice to the other given in the manner set forth above.

15. COUNTERPARTS AND ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, including by electronic or digital signature, each of which shall be deemed an original and together constitute one instrument.

16. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement, including the Recitals which are a material part of the Agreement and are incorporated herein, constitutes the full and complete understanding among the Parties concerning cost sharing and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements or Memoranda of Understanding relating to the subject matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the dates set forth below.

BEAR VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

CARPINTERIA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

INDIO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

MONTECITO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

MOUND GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

PETALUMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, MONTEREY SUBBASIN

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, LANGLEY AREA SUBBASIN

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SAN GORGONIO PASS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SISKIYOU GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SPADRA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SONOMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

UKIAH VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____, its duly authorized representative
Email: _____
Date: _____

DRAFT

STAFF REPORT

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

To: Board of Directors
Date: October 23, 2025
Item: Staff Reports 5.1
Subject: **Financial Report for the Period July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025**

SUMMARY

Attached is the Financial Report with a short summary provided below.

- Budget vs. Actuals – reflects grant revenue and contributions from the member agencies, payments for services incurred in the period, in comparison with the FY25/26 Budget.
- Balance Sheet – reflects the cash balance at Santa Cruz County Bank as of 09/30/2025, payments owed to vendors as Accounts Payable (A/P), retained earnings from prior year activity and net income for the period.
- Checking Account Activity – reflects all payments made in this period
- A/P Aging Summary – reflects payments owed to vendors
- Credit Card Activity – provides a list of expenses charged on the credit card

Submitted by,

John Dillon, Treasurer
Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Attachment(s): Financial Report for the Period July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Budget vs. Actuals

July - September, 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
Billable Expense Income		0.00	0.00	
Total Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
GROSS PROFIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Expenses				
51000 Administrative Services				
51100 Administrative Staff		61,249.98	-61,249.98	
51200 Treasury Administration		0.00	0.00	
Total 51000 Administrative Services		61,249.98	-61,249.98	
52000 Professional Contract Services				
52100 Legal Services	1,676.25	2,500.00	-823.75	67.05 %
52200 Outreach Services	1,037.50	5,000.00	-3,962.50	20.75 %
52400 Audit Services	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
52500 Technical Services	24,600.13	80,294.52	-55,694.39	30.64 %
Total 52000 Professional Contract Services	31,313.88	91,794.52	-60,480.64	34.11 %
53000 General Administrative Expenses				
53100 Insurance	100.00	500.00	-400.00	20.00 %
53200 Membership Fees		1,650.00	-1,650.00	
53300 Supplies & Equipment		0.00	0.00	
53400 Software & Licenses	225.00	225.00	0.00	100.00 %
53500 Meetings		0.00	0.00	
53600 Travel, Training & Seminars		0.00	0.00	
53700 Banking Fees		50.00	-50.00	
53800 Other Business Expenses		300.00	-300.00	
Total 53000 General Administrative Expenses	325.00	2,725.00	-2,400.00	11.93 %
Total Expenses	\$31,638.88	\$155,769.50	\$ -124,130.62	20.31 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -31,638.88	\$ -155,769.50	\$124,130.62	20.31 %
NET INCOME	\$ -31,638.88	\$ -155,769.50	\$124,130.62	20.31 %

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking	370,441.34
Total Bank Accounts	\$370,441.34
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	17,998.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$17,998.00
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$388,439.34
TOTAL ASSETS	\$388,439.34
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	13,009.75
Total Accounts Payable	\$13,009.75
Credit Cards	
SCCB Credit Card	75.00
Total Credit Cards	\$75.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$13,084.75
Total Liabilities	\$13,084.75
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Retained Earnings	406,993.47
Net Income	-31,638.88
Total Equity	\$375,354.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$388,439.34

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Check Detail

July - September, 2025

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
Checking						
07/17/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1422	Miller Maxfield	May 2025 - Public Outreach Services	R	-1,412.50 -1,412.50
07/17/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1423	Rein & Rein, APC	Legal services- May 2025	R	-990.00 -990.00
07/17/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1424	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc.	WY2024 GSP Annual Report - May 2025	R	-4,705.50 -4,705.50
07/17/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1425	Balance Hydrologics	Bean Creek real-time gauge - service through 6/21/25	R	-4,099.73 -4,099.73
07/17/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1426	cbec eco engineering	Streamflow monitoring - Jun 2025	R	-5,380.50 -5,380.50
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1434	Nigro & Nigro PC	Audit Service for FY 2025 -Interim	R	-4,000.00 -4,000.00
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1438	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc.	WY2024 GSP Annual Report - July 2025	R	-1,978.00 -1,978.00
08/07/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1428	cbec eco engineering	Streamflow monitoring - Jul 2025	R	-3,294.50 -3,294.50
08/07/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1429	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc.	WY2024 GSP Annual Report - June 2025	R	-4,168.50 -4,168.50
08/07/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1430	ACWA-JPIA	FY 25-26 Cyber Liability Insurance	R	-100.00 -100.00
08/13/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1427	Miller Maxfield	June 2025 - Public Outreach Services	R	-1,325.00 -1,325.00
08/13/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1431	County of Santa Cruz - Enviro Health	FY 25-Q4 (Apr-Jun) - RWMF Services	R	-43,289.49 -43,289.49
09/03/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1435	cbec eco engineering	Streamflow monitoring - Aug 2025	R	-3,118.50 -3,118.50
09/11/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1432	Rein & Rein, APC	Legal Services - 06/01 - 06/30/2025	R	-202.50 -202.50
09/11/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1433	Rein & Rein, APC	Legal Services - 07/01 - 07/31/2025	R	-225.00 -225.00
09/11/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1436	SVWD	FY 24-25 Treasurer Service		-10,000.00 -10,000.00
09/11/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1437	Balance Hydrologics	Bean Creek real-time gauge - service through 7/19/25	R	-1,000.90 -1,000.90
09/11/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	1439	Miller Maxfield	Aug 2025 - Public Outreach Services	R	-587.50 -587.50

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

A/P Aging Summary

As of September 30, 2025

	CURRENT	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 AND OVER	TOTAL
cbec eco engineering	6,809.00					\$6,809.00
Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc.	4,299.50					\$4,299.50
Miller Maxfield	450.00					\$450.00
Rein & Rein, APC	1,451.25					\$1,451.25
TOTAL	\$13,009.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,009.75

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Credit Card Activity

July - September, 2025

DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
SCCB Credit Card					
07/27/2025		EvoGov, Inc.	July 2025 web hosting	R	75.00
08/27/2025		EvoGov, Inc.	Aug 2025 Web Hosting	R	75.00
09/27/2025		EvoGov, Inc.	September 2025 web hosting	R	75.00

**Santa Margarita Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Implementation Activities Status Report
October 23, 2025**

1. Agency Membership and Funding Structure Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMGWA Board of Directors (Board) approved the current cost share structure on February 24, 2022. This cost share, with minor modification, was used for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and in FY 2026.
2. Administrative and Business Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved the agreement with the County of Santa Cruz for administrative and planning services, and data management system (DMS) hosting and maintenance for a three-year period through June 30, 2025. The County contracted with Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF) to provide administrative and planning services and Kisters North America to provide DMS hosting and maintenance effective July 1, 2022. Board approved an extension of the contract with the County through June 30, 2027. Board approved the FY 2026 budget on May 22, 2025. Board approved cbec, inc. as contractor on March 23, 2023 for dry season stream monitoring. Contract with cbec executed effective April 12, 2023. The contract covers monitoring for 2023, 2024, and 2025. Board approved Montgomery & Associates as a contractor on October 26, 2023 for hydrogeologic support services. Services consist primarily of assistance in preparation of the required Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report, collection and upload of data required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), groundwater model data updates and simulations to assist in annual report preparation.
3. Technical Support and Consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin groundwater model with Water Year 2024 (WY24) hydrology and metered pumping data updated and ran for purposes of preparing the WY24 annual report required under SGMA. Updates for WY25 are expected to begin in November 2025.
4. Monitoring and Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2025 groundwater level data collected in late April to early May and uploaded into DMS and uploaded to the SGMA Portal by the July 1, 2025 deadline. Fall 2025 groundwater level data currently being collected. Dry season streamflow monitoring for 2025 commenced on April 30, 2025 and will conclude at the end of October. The monitoring report for 2024 has been posted to the SMGWA website. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) monitoring for fall 2025 completed by County staff in October. GDE data and monitoring approach to be evaluated as part of GSP Periodic Evaluation to commence in late 2025. WY24 annual report approved by Board on February 27, 2025 and submitted to SGMA web portal on March 18, 2025. DWR confirmed the WY24 annual report determined to be complete on July 18, 2025.

Santa Margarita Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Activities Status Report (continued)

5. Non-De Minimis Metering Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RWMF communicated with the Quail Hollow Quarry in 2024 to improve estimates of its water use. The quarry estimates its current use at 32 acre-feet per year. RWMF in process of confirming outdoor water use for three mobile home parks in Scotts Valley that have water features.
6. Address Data Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the monitoring network of seven shallow wells completed in August 2023. The shallow wells were partially funded through a Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant awarded in 2020. Data downloaded from loggers in October 2025. The County of Santa Cruz identified a domestic well owner in the Weston Road area that is allowing County staff to collect groundwater spring and fall groundwater level measurements. First measurement was collected on May 10, 2024 and latest reading collected in October 2025. The Weston Road area was an identified monitoring data gap in the GSP. Request for construction of a deep monitoring well in the Butano Formation at Vine Hill Elementary School submitted to the Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services Program on September 26, 2023. DWR provided update on August 28, 2025 that the request is still being evaluated. Conducted dry season monitoring in 2024 at a location on Carbonera Creek. The creek had been identified as a potential monitoring data gap in the GSP. Carbonera Creek monitoring is continuing in 2025 dry season.
7. Data Management System (DMS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial development of DMS with a public web portal, in coordination with the neighboring Mid-County Groundwater Basin and the County of Santa Cruz, has been completed. Member agency and RWMF staff continue to upload data to the DMS site. In 2024, RWMF assisted member agency staff in reviewing and updated extensive water quality for wells in the DMS.
8. Evaluate, Prioritize, and Refine Projects and Management Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member agencies progressing on their respective projects. Updates on progress are being collected from agencies as part of WY25 GSP Annual Report preparation.

FREE TO ATTEND!

REFRESHMENTS!

You're invited

to the Valley Women's Club 24th Annual

Environmental Town Hall

Saturday, November 8th from 1-3

featuring

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin

Presenting updates on CA State Environmental Issues,
and their impacts on us locally.

at

Felton Community Hall

6169 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018

plus

**Information and advice from vital
environmental organizations
and government agencies.**

- environment • watershed • fish & wildlife • native plants • education •
- pest management • rivers & roads • restoration • fires & floods • drought •
- parks • transportation • air quality • eco solutions •



www.valleywomensclub.org