

Proposed Stanislaus County Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Program

Representatives of private landowners on the Water Advisory Committee propose to assist with the systematic evaluation of the important conditions of groundwater in Stanislaus County.

The concept proposed below involves designing a monitoring effort that provides enough information to meet the proper evaluation needs and protects the property rights and confidentiality of landowners in accordance with California law. The implementation of the concept involves adopting a program that the representatives will commit to assist in using to approach private landowners and request such landowners supply the information needed for the monitoring network.

1. Purpose: To establish a program to monitor and collect groundwater level information from all areas overlying useable groundwater within Stanislaus County and to encourage the measurement and reporting of groundwater elevations by private well owners while maintaining the privacy of that data to the extent authorized by law, and to report monitoring data by sub-area to the public.

2. Establishment of Groundwater Level Monitoring Sub-areas within the County.

2.1. The WAC, based upon the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee, shall establish the following six (6) groundwater level monitoring sub-areas within the County. The geographic extent of these areas is shown on Attachment No. 1 of this document.

2.2. The groundwater level monitoring sub-areas are designated as follows. The numerical descriptor in parentheses correlates to the areas as designated on Attachment No.1, referenced above.

- a. Northern San Joaquin Subbasin (**Sub-area 1**): That area laying north of the Stanislaus River encompassed within the boundaries of Stanislaus County.
- b. Eastern Modesto Subbasin (**Sub-area 2E**): That area laying north of the Tuolumne River and south of the Stanislaus River, from the eastern county line, west to the approximate boundary of the geological subsurface division created by the Corcoran Clay.
- c. Western Modesto Basin (**Sub-area 2W**): That area laying west of the boundary of the Eastern Modesto sub-area and east of the San Joaquin River.
- d. Eastern Turlock Groundwater Subbasin (**Sub-area 3E**): That area laying south of the Tuolumne River and north of the Merced River, from the

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eastern county line, west to the approximate boundary of the geological subsurface division created by the Corcoran Clay.

- e. Western Turlock Suubasin (**Sub-area 2W**): That area laying west of the boundary of the Eastern Turlock sub-area and west of the San Joaquin River.
- f. Delta-Mendota Subbasin (**Sub-area 4**): All that portion of Stanislaus County laying west of the San Joaquin River to the Santa Clara County line, but excluding that portion of the sub-area which does not overly useable groundwater.

2.3. Each sub-area will send at least one representative to the TAC. The Board of Supervisors should consider private well owners as part of the qualifications for appointment when considering applicants for future Water Advisory Committee positions.

3. Monitoring Network.

3.1. The TAC will propose a monitoring network designed to detect changes in groundwater elevations within each Sub-area.

3.2. The monitoring network may include as many of the following as are feasible: dedicated monitoring wells and selected domestic, irrigation, and drainage wells owned by water districts, private owners, and municipal and industrial water purveyors. [Note: The locations of wells owned by public water purveyors cannot be disclosed because of CA Department of Public Health (State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water after July 1, 2014) and Homeland Security regulations.]

The proposed well information includes the following.

- a. Type of well: Domestic, Agriculture, Industrial and Municipal
- b. Use of the well: seasonal or continuous
- c. Mandatory well information
 - 1. Total well depth
 - 2. Depth to top of first screened section
 - 3. Well casing diameter
 - 4. Well casing material
 - 5. Measuring Point elevation (use vertical datum conformable with

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CASGEM)

6. Year well was constructed

3.3. Location of well.

a. What Sub-area is it located? (see Section 2.2)

b. GPS location (latitude/longitude in degrees to the nearest tenth of a degree.)

3.3. Participation in monitoring activities by private well owners shall be on a voluntary basis. If requested by a private well owner and to the extent authorized by law, the County shall treat the groundwater elevation information from a private well as confidential and exempt from release to the public under the California Public Records Act. The County understands and agrees that, unless otherwise authorized by the private well owner, the private well owner is only allowing the collection of groundwater elevation information from the owner's well on the condition that all such information and the location of the well shall remain confidential.

3.4. The selection of the wells to be monitored within each Sub-area shall be made by the WAC in consultation with the TAC and the applicable Sub-area representative.

4. Monitoring Frequency for Groundwater Elevations.

4.1. At a minimum, groundwater water elevations within each Sub-area shall be monitored two (2) times during the year: one (1) measurement prior to the irrigation season in March and one (1) measurement following the irrigation season in November.

4.2. Based upon the TAC's evaluation of the groundwater elevation data and recommendation, the WAC may determine that water level monitoring needs to occur on a more frequent basis. If so, such changes can be made to the monitoring schedule as available resources allow.

5. Monitoring Protocol and Review of Technical Data.

5.1. All data will be collected and recorded through methods generally accepted in the applicable scientific field.

5.2. The TAC shall establish methods for data collection, storage, and dissemination. Methods for collecting groundwater elevations shall follow established Quality Assurance and Quality Control guidelines and established

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field measurement protocols. In order to obtain any information needed in the professional opinion of the TAC, beyond what is required by law now or in the future, the process should involve a step-wise approach to obtaining such information in consultation with landowner representatives on the WAC and TAC, using publicly available information first before requesting specific information from any landowner.

5.3. Standard methods for review and analysis of the collected data will be established by the TAC.

5.4. The TAC will review, analyze, and evaluate the data collected, at least annually after the November measurements are collected, and that analysis shall consider all available pertinent hydrologic and precipitation data and any additional information provided by the Sub-area representatives.

6. Reporting.

6.1. The County will disseminate information on the monitoring network, data collected, and TAC reports to the public and through a County website. The information should be displayed using established methods that aggregate information and present it fairly but should not include any private information about any well or landowner in violation of California law.

6.2. The WAC will report to the Board of Supervisors on the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Program on or about April 15th of each year.

