SCV GSA

AUGUST 2021

DEVELOPING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY EAST SUBBASIN

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is a blueprint for achieving balanced management of the basin and ensuring a reliable future water supply for the Santa Clarita Valley.

Agencies that manage basins throughout California are required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to craft a Plan that ensures basin sustainability will be maintained or reached within 20 years. The Plan is tailored to the resources and needs of the region.

The goal is to maintain or achieve sustainability of the Santa Clara River Valley East Basin within 20 years.

Why do we need a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?

In the Santa Clarita Valley, about half of the water used for drinking, bathing and irrigation comes from the groundwater basin. Prudent management of this resource provides a buffer against drought and climate change and contributes to a reliable water supply regardless of weather patterns. Without this valuable local asset, water suppliers would need to purchase more expensive imported water.

Sustainable groundwater management is essential to a reliable and resilient water system, which supports the health and economic well-being of the community.

How is a GSP developed?

The Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA), made up of local agencies, began work on the GSP in 2017. Several technical documents were created to update our understanding of the basin groundwater conditions, future water demands, and future climate change so that we can better operate the basin sustainably into the future. Technical documents include:

- A groundwater flow model assessing conditions in the basin, the movement of the water and the connection of local groundwater resources to the Santa Clara River and its tributaries.
- Potential groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Water budget development
- Sustainable management criteria
- Project and management actions

The GSP will consider the sources and uses of water from the basin, changes that might occur due to population growth and other factors such as rainfall, streamflow and climate change.

SCV GSA

DEVELOPING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY EAST SUBBASIN

KEY TO THE PROCESS: Stakeholder Input

Feedback from basin pumpers and the public is a critical component of the GSP development. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee made up of groundwater pumpers, environmental and business interests and members-at-large was created to represent their interests to the SCV-GSA.

The public process has focused on the perspectives and well-being of all groundwater users. To ensure success, it is essential that a wide variety of voices to be heard.

Get involved

The SCV-GSA welcomes and encourages public participation in the GSP process. We hope you will provide feedback over the next few months by attending a workshop or board meeting, or leaving us a comment on our website.

Visit scvgsa.org for additional information about the GSP, along with options to contact us and sign up for email updates.

Next steps

The information and public feedback obtained through the GSP process over the years has helped us establish a Draft GSP that contains sustainable management criteria to avoid undesirable results such as chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduced storage, degraded water quality and depletion of surface water. The plan also includes management actions to ensure long-term groundwater sustainability. The public draft GSP and workshop will allow additional time for stakeholder input.

The Draft GSP will be used to balance the interests of all those who depend on the basin. The final plan will be considered by the SCV-GSA Board of Directors in December 2021 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.