



Consideration of New or Replacement Well Review Process Required by Governor's Executive Order

SCV GSA Board Meeting
June 5, 2023
Item No. 3.2

Background

- GSP Adopted in January 2022
- Includes Sustainable Management Criteria designed to maintain basin sustainability over the long term.
- It evaluated groundwater sustainability at full build out based on municipal planning documents
- The GSP made reasonable estimates about future private well use, but some data gaps exist
 - Depending on the amount of groundwater extraction and location of extraction, new wells covered by this Executive Order, could make it harder to maintain sustainability and so it is important to review new well permits

Background

- Though SGMA provides authority to GSAs to review and consider future well permits, the Governor's Executive Order now requires GSAs to review certain new well permit requests.
- The Executive Order contains two key sections 4.a. and 4.b. and has some limited exemptions
- GSAs now need to develop procedures to administer the conditions in the Executive Order

Background

- What is known about well permitting demand in the GSA?
- County of Los Angeles staff provided data that since 2020, the following permits have been issued in the SCV-GSA Area
 - 18 well construction permits, and 4 destruction/modification permits:
 - 5 Cathodic Protection Wells
 - 6 Private Wells
 - 2 Irrigation Wells
 - 2 Municipal Wells
 - 3 unspecified applications
 - 4 well destruction

Proposed Production Well Review Process

1. Applicant fills out and submits the “New or Replacement Groundwater Production Well Form”
2. SCV GSA staff fill out the “SCV-GSA Determination” form.
 - Well is exempt from further review, or a hydrogeologic report is required.
3. If a hydrogeologic report is required, SCV-GSA reviews reports, recommends that a well be considered consistent or not consistent with the GSP
 - The Board memo with the recommendation will be considered by your board and it will make the final finding.

Proposed Production Well Review Process

1. Applicant fills out and submits the “New or Replacement Groundwater Production Well Form”
 - Key information provided by applicant includes
 - Expected well location
 - Estimated annual groundwater production
 - Proposed well use (domestic, agricultural, community, other)
 - Anticipated well depth and screen interval
 - Self certification regarding review for Exemptions
 - Acknowledgement form
 - 7 acknowledgments

Proposed Production Well Review Process

2. SCV GSA staff evaluate the “New or Replacement Groundwater Production Well Form” and issue the Determination
 - If well is exempt, then no further technical review would be required
 - If well is not exempt, then a hydrogeologic report would be required, along with depositing funds with SCV Water so that SCV-GSA staff and consultant costs could be captured.

Proposed Production Well Review Process (Hydrogeologic Report Required)

3. SCV-GSA and its groundwater consultant review applicant's hydrogeologic report, applicant deposits funds with SCV Water to offset staff and consultant costs, and SCV Water utilizes the groundwater flowmodel to evaluate.
 - A technical memo prepared that makes recommendation about the well being consistent or not consistent with the GSP.
 - SCV-GSA staff develop a presentation of the technical memo and staff recommendation for the GSA Board of Directors for an upcoming regularly scheduled meeting.
 - The GSA Board of Directors makes the final consistency determination

Certain policy related questions

- If SCV-GSA staff determine the well meets the Exemption (i) in the Executive Order because the well is described as providing less than 2-acre feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, should the GSA consider requiring a flowmeter?