

**Private wells, small water systems, cities, farms and wildlife  
all rely on the same water sources.**

Private well owners comprise approximately 20% of residential water use in Santa Cruz County. The risks of saltwater intrusion and reduced availability of groundwater that face the municipalities also face the private wells. It is important that everyone, including well owners, do everything they can to conserve water. Now is a great time to try and reduce your water consumption, every effort helps.

**What can you do? Here are some ideas, challenge yourself to try them:**

**Outside**

- Limit watering to two days or less
- Use mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture
- Remove overhead sprinkler systems and replace with drip or hand watering
- Make sure all your hoses have a shut off nozzle
- Install soil moisture meters to make sure you aren't watering unnecessarily
- Use hay to supplement dry pastures
- Avoid any outdoor watering from 10am-5pm
- Collect rainwater for outdoor irrigation
- Consider washing your animals, including horses, less frequently

**Inside**

- Install efficient toilets, washing machines and shower heads
- Keep showers to 5 minutes or under
- Use buckets to collect warm up water
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.

**Know your usage!**

Consider installing a meter on your well to tell you how much water you are using. Knowing your water usage can help you detect leaks quickly, saving your equipment from working too hard and keeping your energy bills down. It can also help you track your conservation progress to let you know if your efforts are working.

**Resources**

For more information or addition water saving suggestions, visit

[www.watersavingtips.org](http://www.watersavingtips.org) or contact

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## **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014**

- ▶ Develop and implement a plan that will prevent undesirable results:
  - Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
  - Significant, unreasonable reductions in storage
  - Significant, unreasonable degradation of water quality, seawater intrusion
  - Significant, unreasonable depletion of surface water
- ▶ Local agency or combination of agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- ▶ The GSA may measure and limit extraction, impose management fees, enforce the terms of the groundwater sustainability plan
- ▶ Involvement of Stakeholders is required
- ▶ Coordination with land use agencies and land use plans is required
- ▶ State oversight and action if locals fail to act

### **Key dates:**

- January 1, 2015 – Legislation went into effect
- January 31, 2015 - DWR completes initial basin prioritization
- January 1, 2016 – DWR adopts criteria for modifying basin boundaries
- June 30, 2017 – Local GSA's must be formed
- January 31, 2020 – GSP's for basins in critical overdraft
- January 31, 2022 – GSP's for other medium and high priority basins
- Annually – GSA submits report on elevation, extraction, storage
- 20 years after plan adoption: sustainability achieved

### **SGMA Activities for Soquel-Aptos Basin:**

- ▶ Work with State on regulations for boundaries, GSA, and Plans
- ▶ Update basin boundaries – January 2017
- ▶ Expand Basin Implementation Group (BIG) to form Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee
  - SqCWD and CWD
  - City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz
  - Independent User representatives
- ▶ Engage with stakeholders, users
- ▶ Form Groundwater Sustainability Agency – by June 2017
- ▶ Evaluate groundwater use and model groundwater basin conditions
- ▶ Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plan - 2020 or 2022
- ▶ Implement Plan to achieve sustainability by 2040 or 2042