



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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June 13, 2025

Sierra Ryan
Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin – Plan Manager
5180 Soquel Drive
Soquel, CA 95010
BasinPOC@midcountygroundwater.org

RE: Review of Annual Report for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, Water Year 2024

Dear Sierra Ryan,

As the basin point of contact for the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin (Basin), this letter is to inform you that the Department of Water Resources (Department) has reviewed the annual report submitted for the Basin for Water Year 2024. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that on April 1, following the adoption of a GSP and annually thereafter, an annual report be submitted to the Department. Once an annual report has been submitted, the Department is required: to notify the submitting agency of receipt within 20 days, review the information to determine whether the basin's GSP is being implemented in a manner likely to achieve its established sustainability goal, and notify the submitting agency in writing if additional information is required (23 CCR § 355.8).

Here, the submitted information appears to satisfy the annual report requirements of the GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2), so the Department does not require additional information for purposes of reviewing the annual report at this time. Previously, following a comprehensive evaluation of the GSP for the Basin, the Department issued an assessment that the GSP was likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the Basin. Following review of the 2024 annual report, the Department has determined that the GSP continues to be implemented in a manner consistent with achieving the Basin's sustainability goal as described in the GSP. The Department reached this conclusion based on a review of information in the annual report, any public comments submitted to the Department regarding this annual report, and other relevant information regarding Basin conditions available to the Department.

The Department noted that the annual report provided an update on all the applicable sustainable management criteria for the Basin, as required by GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2). The Department will require that you continue to include this information in your subsequent annual report, including a description of progress towards implementing the Plan for each of the applicable sustainable indicators.

Consequently, the Department's review of this and other annual reports noted information contained in the annual report may not precisely match the schedules, projections, or estimates reported in the initial GSP as approved by the Department because of numerous factors over which the GSA has varying levels of knowledge and control (e.g., annual hydrology, actions of other private or public entities, unforeseen delays or events, and unexpected physical or geologic processes, etc.).

The approved GSP for the Basin is still in the early years of its implementation and it is State policy that sustainable groundwater management is best achieved locally through the development, implementation, and updating of plans and programs (Wat. Code §113, §10720.1). Accordingly, for this Basin, the Department concluded that any discrepancies between information in the annual report and the GSP as approved by the Department, did not at this time create an appreciable concern regarding GSP implementation and its continued likelihood of achieving the Basin's sustainability goal.

The Department is currently reviewing GSP implementation as part of its periodic review of the GSP, which, in contrast to annual report reviews that consider information about only one year, will look at the periodic evaluation and the collective annual reports that provide the Department with numerous years of reporting data to better assess trends, issues or conditions of concern in the Basin, and whether GSP implementation remains on track to achieve sustainability.

Please contact the assigned DWR basin point-of-contact or sgmps@water.ca.gov if you have questions about this notice or the annual reporting process. The Department looks forward to receiving your Water Year 2025 Annual Report by April 1, 2026.

Thank You,

Paul Gosselin

Paul Gosselin
Deputy Director
Sustainable Water Management