

## **Funding Compliance Workshop Flyer FAQs (Updated March 17, 2025)**

### **1. Where is the Mid-County Groundwater Basin?**

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin extends from the Santa Cruz Mountains (east of Highway 17), from the Zayante fault (somewhat below Summit Road) to the Pacific Ocean and from the edge of the City of Santa Cruz near Twin Lakes in the west to La Selva Beach in the east. The Basin includes portions of the City of Santa Cruz, the City of Capitola, Santa Cruz County census designated places of Twin Lakes, Live Oak, Pleasure Point, Soquel, Seacliff, Aptos, and Rio Del Mar. The Basin also includes portions of Santa Cruz County unincorporated census designated places of Day Valley, Corralitos, Aptos Hills-Larkin Valley, and La Selva Beach.

This links to an [interactive map](#) that is searchable by address.

### **2. Why did I receive a mailer for the Funding Compliance Workshop for Domestic Well Users?**

The meeting is intended for domestic groundwater users (private well owners/users) within the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin. Flyers were mailed to addresses for parcels identified as residences that are not served by a public water system (e.g., Soquel Creek Water District, Central Water District, City of Santa Cruz) or a small water system. The parcels were identified based on County of Santa Cruz records using the County Assessor residential use code designations.

We are aware that the County Assessor use code information associated with individual parcels may not reflect the property's actual use, may be out of date or may not be accurate. There are likely to be some residents that received the flyer that may not have a well or rely upon a private well from a neighboring property for water supply. The invitation was sent to more than 1,800 addresses – the approach aimed to be comprehensive, so it is very likely some parcels that received the invitation do not currently rely upon a private well.

### **3. What should I do if I received the flyer but do not either own or rely on a private well for domestic water supply?**

You may notify the MGA by email, phone or letter (see [Contact page](#)) to let us know that you received a mailer but do not own or rely on a private well. Please include your name, address and contact information.

**4. I cannot attend the March 17 Workshop, will there be future opportunities for public input?**

Yes, there will be future opportunities. The MGA is at the start of this process. There will be at least three (3) future opportunities for input at public meetings over the next several months, including at MGA Board of Director meetings. Recordings of the presentations from the March 17 workshop will be posted on the SGMA Compliance Funding web page.

**5. Why is MGA doing this now?**

When the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) formed in 2016, the four member agencies committed to funding development of the required Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the first five years of compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The GSP identified that MGA would evaluate long-term funding options to comply with the SGMA mandate beginning in July 2026. The MGA member agencies that rely on groundwater are still committed to funding an equitable share of SGMA compliance activities, but we are evaluating how other beneficiaries of SGMA compliance could contribute an equitable portion to these expenses. We are beginning outreach now to allow for extensive public engagement in assessing funding options.

**6. I own/use a well for domestic use, are you going to meter my well or require me to meter my well for usage?** Metering domestic wells is not being considered; metering “de minimis” (small) users is not authorized under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA defines a “de minimis” user as “a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less of groundwater per year.” Most private users with a domestic well use less than two acre-feet of water per year. The average household uses less than one-third of an acre-foot per year. If your household relies on a single domestic well and you are not watering crops or large areas of landscape, it is likely that you are a de minimis user.