



POSSIBLE STUDY SESSION ON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

Date: October 26, 2015 for November 4, 2015 Agenda
To: LAFCO Commissioners
From: Patrick M. McCormick, Executive Officer
Subject: Possible Study Session on Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Summary: The Commission should discuss whether to schedule a study session outlining the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies in Santa Cruz County.

Recommendation: No recommendation.

One of the most significant resource issues addressed by the Legislature and the Governor's administration in recent sessions has been California's minimal coordination and regulation of groundwater basins, compared to other western states. The Groundwater Sustainability Act of 2014 sets up a process to get overdrafted basins into sustainable equilibrium principally by empowering local agencies to cooperate and implement programs to eliminate overdraft over many years. Groundwater makes up 38% of the state's water supply in average rainfall years, and 46% in dry years. In 2012, groundwater comprised 78% of the water used in Santa Cruz County.

A session at the CALAFCO Annual Conference addressed the formation of sustainable groundwater agencies. In Santa Cruz County and many other counties, the formation of sustainable groundwater management agencies is being accomplished through joint powers agreements, which are not subject to LAFCO review.

Through their directly elected positions of Water District Board Member, City Council Member, or County Supervisor, some LAFCO Commissioners are actively involved in setting up the SGMAs in Santa Cruz County. Other LAFCO Commissioners are less familiar with these agencies and may gain a better understanding of the groundwater management efforts if a briefing were held at a LAFCO meeting.

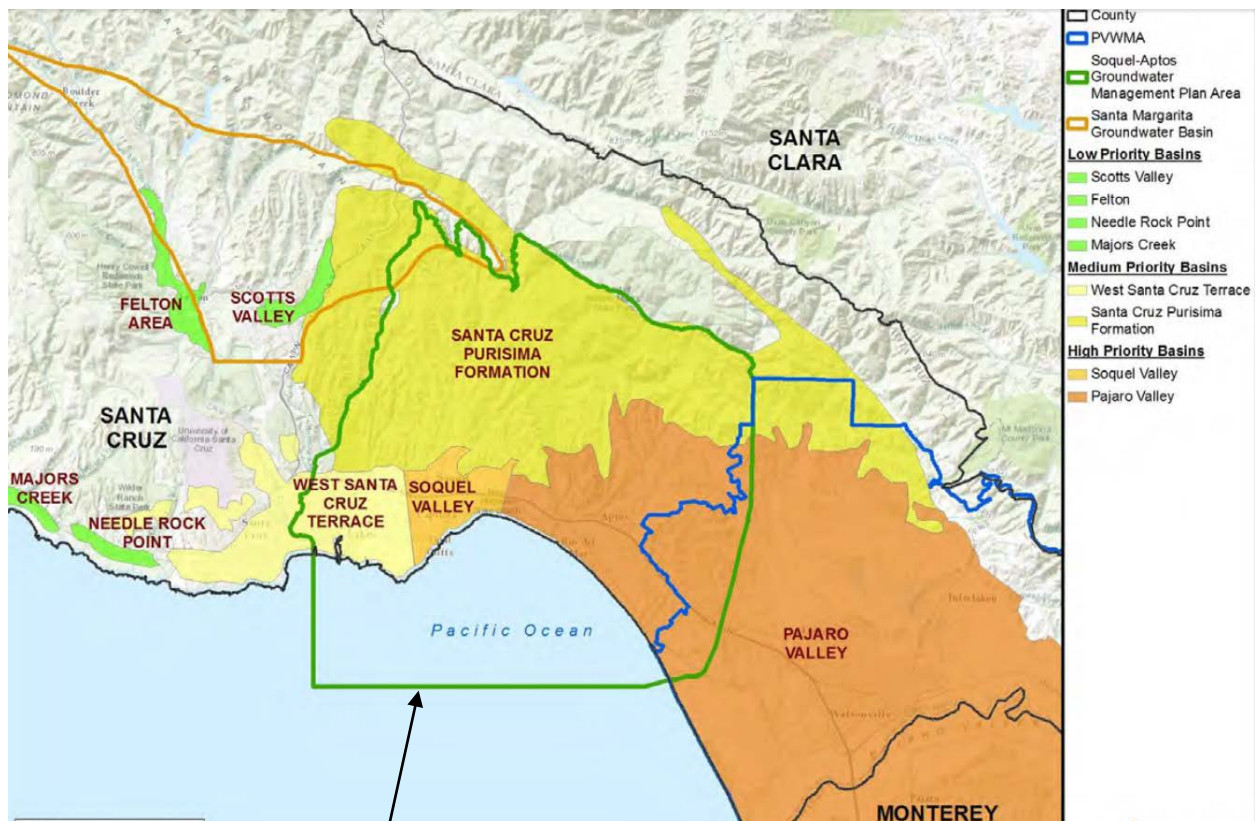
The Commissioners should discuss whether to schedule a study session on sustainable groundwater management agencies, or to direct staff to provide information to commissioners in some other manner.

Maps on next page from:

http://www.souelcreekwater.org/sites/default/files/documents/public-meeting/packets/08-20-15_BIG_%20packet_secured.pdf



Agency Boundaries and State Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basins



Potential SGMA Boundary