

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN  
SAN LUIS REY VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN (9-7)  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT  
(SGMA) PROGRAM**

**Prepared for**



*And Partner Agencies:*

**Mootamai Municipal Water District  
Pauma Municipal Water District  
Pauma Valley Community Services District  
Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
Yuima Municipal Water District**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Engagement Plan) summarizes the strategies to educate and involve stakeholders (those individuals and representatives of organizations who have a direct stake in the outcome of the planning process) and other interested parties in the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin (SLR Basin) – Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin No. 9-7 (Figure 1). This GSP will be prepared in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which was signed by Governor Brown in September 2014 and became effective January 1, 2015.

SGMA provides a framework to regulate groundwater for the first time in California's history. The intent of SGMA is to strengthen local management of specified groundwater basins that are most critical to the state's water needs by regulating groundwater and land use management activities. SGMA also aims to preserve the jurisdictional authorities of cities, counties and water agencies within groundwater basins while protecting existing surface water and groundwater rights.

The Pauma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) consists of the County of San Diego (County), Pauma Valley Community Services District (CSD), Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District (USLRCD), and Yuima Municipal Water District (MWD). With input from the Executive Team that also includes Mootamai MWD, Pauma MWD, and Valley Center MWD, the GSA is responsible for developing a GSP for the SLR Basin to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. Additionally, SGMA requires and directs GSAs to involve stakeholders and interested parties in the process to regulate groundwater.

Since the State Water Resources Control Board has management authority in the Mission, Bonsall, and Pala Subbasins and the Pauma Valley GSA's jurisdiction is in the Pauma Valley Subbasin of the SLR Basin (Figure 1), stakeholder outreach discussed in this Engagement Plan will primarily be focused in Pauma Valley.

## **2 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the outreach activities described in this Engagement Plan is to provide individual stakeholders and stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties an opportunity to be involved in the development and evaluation of the GSP for the SLR Basin. The Pauma Valley GSA intends to develop and implement a basin-specific GSP for the SLR Basin. This GSP is required under SGMA to be completed no later than January 31, 2022. The projects and management actions necessary to implement the GSP could affect individuals and groups who have a stake in ensuring the basin is sustainably managed as required by SGMA.

In an effort to understand and involve stakeholders and their concerns in the decision-making and activities of the GSAs, the County and aforementioned partner agencies have prepared this Engagement Plan to achieve broad, enduring and productive involvement during the GSP development and implementation phases. This Engagement Plan will assist the GSAs in providing timely information to stakeholders and receive input from interested parties during GSP development. This Engagement Plan will identify stakeholders who have an interest in groundwater in the SLR Basin, and recommend outreach, education and communication strategies for engaging those stakeholders during the development and implementation of the GSP. The plan also includes an approach for evaluating the overall success of stakeholder engagement and education of both stakeholders and the general public. In consideration of the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, this Engagement Plan has been developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2.

### **3 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The following personnel at the County will serve as contacts for the public during GSA formation and GSP preparation.

#### **3.1 SGMA Coordinator**

The County's SGMA Coordinator will serve as the central contact for stakeholders and the public. For information on the GSP, contact:

Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist  
Planning & Development Services  
County of San Diego  
[PDS.groundwater@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:PDS.groundwater@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
(858) 694-3820

#### **3.2 Media Contact**

Media inquiries should be addressed to:

Alex Bell, Group Communications Officer  
Land Use and Environment Group  
County of San Diego  
[Alex.Bell@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Alex.Bell@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
(619) 531-5410

## **4 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

The County and partner agencies will implement the following outreach activities to maximize stakeholder involvement during the development of the GSP and throughout SGMA implementation.

### **4.1 Public Notices**

To ensure that the general public is apprised of local activities and allow stakeholders to access information, SGMA specifies several public notice requirements for GSAs. Refer to Table 1 for a summary of statutory requirements. Three sections of the California Water Code require public notice before establishing a GSA, adopting (or amending) a GSP, or imposing or increasing fees:

- Section 10723(b). Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the basin.
- Section 10728.4. A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment.
- Section 10730(b)(1). Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting, at which oral or written presentations may be made as part of the meeting....(3) At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public data upon which the proposed fee is based.

In accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b), the following was noticed to the public:

- On May 9, 2016, the Mootamai, Pauma, and Yuima MWDs each held public hearings to consider becoming a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. Each public hearing was noticed in the Valley Roadrunner in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.
- On June 6, 2016, the Valley Center MWD held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the Valley Roadrunner in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.

- On June 13, 2016, the Pauma Valley CSD held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the Valley Roadrunner in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.
- On August 3, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the Daily Transcript in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.
- On September 8, 2016, the Upper SLR Resource Conservation District held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the Valley Roadrunner in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.
- On June 21, 2017, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to consider the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for sustainable groundwater management for the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin.

Future noticing will occur as required by SGMA.

#### **4.2 Stakeholder Identification**

SGMA mandates that a GSA establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. The County and partner agencies compiled a list of interested persons wishing to receive information that will be maintained throughout the GSA formation and GSP development phases. An initial list of stakeholders and interested parties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights.
- b) Municipal Water Districts – City of Oceanside, Mootamai, Pauma, Rainbow, San Luis Rey, Yuima, and Valley Center MWDs.
- c) Public water systems – Several mutual water companies.
- d) Local land use planning agencies – County of San Diego and City of Oceanside.
- e) Environmental users of groundwater.
- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies – Users downstream of Pauma Subbasin.

- g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.
- h) California Native American Tribes – La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon and San Pasqual Bands, and the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority.
- i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.
- j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency – The County, City of Oceanside, and Yuima MWD have filed and maintain California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) monitoring data with the DWR.

The County intends to work cooperatively with partner agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties to develop and implement the GSP for the SLR Basin and will maintain a list of stakeholders and interested parties to be included in the formation of the GSP.

#### **4.3 Planning Group**

The Pala-Pauma Community Sponsor Group is actively involved in the community on matters dealing with planning and land use in Pauma Valley. Since this group provides a forum for the discussion of planning issues that are important to the community, it is important for this group to be well informed throughout GSP development. Representatives from the County and/or partner agencies will attend these meetings at key milestones to provide up-to-date information and hear feedback from group members.

#### **4.4 Public Hearings/Meetings**

##### **4.4.1 Planning Commission**

Periodic updates on SGMA implementation will be provided to the County's Planning Commission and the public will be invited to listen. No action will be taken during these meetings. Planning Commission hearings can be viewed online at:

[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/PC/sop/PCHearing\\_stream.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/PC/sop/PCHearing_stream.html).

On April 22, 2016 and April 7, 2017, County staff presented an informational item about SGMA to the commission. Each presentation served to inform the commission and community on SGMA and what impacts the legislation has on San Diego County.

#### **4.4.2 Public Meetings**

Comprehensive stakeholder involvement will include regularly scheduled public meetings to aid in developing and implementing the GSP. In addition to signing up to receive information about GSP development at the County's SGMA webpage, interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the GSP by attending and participating in public meetings (Water Code Section 10727.8(a)). Prior public meetings have been held at the Pauma Valley Community Center located at 16650 Highway 76 in Pauma Valley. Future public meetings will likely be held in the same location. Each meeting will have a scheduled time for public comments. Information about upcoming meetings can be found on the County's SGMA website.

(<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/SGMA.html>).

#### **4.4.3 Local Agency Meetings**

To ensure their constituency is kept informed of the progress of GSP development and implementation, the County's partner agencies, which include Mootamai MWD, Pauma MWD, Pauma Valley CSD, USLRRC, Valley Center MWD, and Yuima MWD, have committed to providing periodic updates during their regularly scheduled board meetings. These meetings offer a chance for the public to receive information and provide comment. Information about upcoming meetings will be noticed in the *Valley Roadrunner* and/or provided on the following agency websites:

- <http://paumavalleycsd.com/wastewater.php> (Pauma Valley CSD)
- <http://uppersanluisreycd.org/> (USLRRC)
- <http://vcmwd.org/> (Valley Center MWD)
- <http://yuimamwd.com/> (Yuima MWD)

or, by the means each agency currently meets its legal noticing requirements, whichever is appropriate.

#### **4.4.4 County Board of Supervisors Hearings**

On August 3, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and voted to become a GSA over the Pauma Valley portion of the SLR Basin. On June 21, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and partner agencies. Additional Board of Supervisors Hearings will be scheduled at key stages during SGMA implementation, including adoption of the GSP for SLR Basin.



Hearings can be viewed online at:

<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/general/board-meeting-video.html>.

#### **4.5 Direct Mailings/Email**

Public meetings and project information will be disseminated through email or direct mail if requested. This communication will provide information for the Pauma Valley community, public agencies, and other interested persons/organizations about milestones, meetings, and the progress of GSP development. Property owners with groundwater wells within the basin will be notified via email and/or direct mailings about the establishment of an interested persons list and given the opportunity to receive future notices.

#### **4.6 Newsletters/Columns**

Periodic updates in the *Valley Roadrunner* newspaper and County Planning & Development Services (PDS) newsletter, *eBlast*, will be provided to advise, educate, and inform the public on SGMA implementation in Pauma Valley. The latest County PDS *eBlast* can be found online at <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/>.

#### **4.7 SGMA Website**

A variety of information about SGMA and groundwater conditions will be produced by the County and partner agencies. This information will include maps, timelines, frequently asked questions, groundwater information, and schedules/agenda of upcoming meetings and milestones. This information will be accessible on the County's SGMA webpage located at: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/SGMA.html>. County staff will update the website regularly and invite users to request information or be added to the interested persons list.

#### **4.8 Database**

To distribute information about GSP development, an email list has been compiled into a database of interested persons and stakeholders. The database will be updated regularly to add names of attendees at public meetings along with those requesting information via email or the through the SGMA website. Those requesting information through the County website or via email will also be added to this database.

#### **4.9 Executive Team**

With the intent of providing information, guidance, and advice on GSP development to the County Team, representatives from partner agencies formed the SLR Basin GSP Executive Team (Executive Team). The Executive Team will be kept informed by the

County Team and provide periodic updates to their respective agencies via public agency meetings. Since partner agencies represent constituents of Pauma Valley, the Executive Team will be responsible for relaying public concerns to the County Team via email and/or during regularly scheduled meetings with the Executive Team and County Team.

#### **4.10 Tribal Engagement**

Portions of the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, and Rincon Tribes are located within the SLR Basin. San Pasqual Tribe is also located in the vicinity of the SLR Basin. Although tribes are not subject to the requirements of SGMA, any federally recognized Indian tribe may voluntarily participate with GSAs in the preparation or administration of a GSP.

Since tribal participation is integral to the success of groundwater sustainability in the SLR Basin, tribal participation is encouraged. Now that the Pauma Valley GSA has been formed, the GSA and Executive Team has initiated government to government communication to determine each tribe's preferred level of involvement throughout GSP development and implementation. Tribes may decide to participate on a tribe-by-tribe basis or choose a single delegate (such as the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority) to represent tribal interests. The Pauma Valley GSA is open to communication procedures that are preferred by each tribe. The County and partner agencies acknowledge and respect the tribes federally reserved water rights and recognize the importance in tribal involvement throughout SGMA implementation.

### **5 EVALUATION**

To determine the level of success of the Engagement Plan, the County and partner agencies will implement the following measures:

#### **5.1 Attendance/Participation**

A record of those attending public meetings will be maintained throughout the GSP development process. The County and partner agencies will utilize sign-in sheets and request feedback from attendees to determine adequacy of public education and productive engagement in the GSP development and implementation process. Meeting minutes will also be prepared and will be provided on the SGMA website once approved.

#### **5.2 Adherence to Schedule**

Public participation in developing projects and management actions for inclusion in the GSP is instrumental to the success of the GSP. Keeping these tasks on schedule will be an important indicator of stakeholder involvement. Early identification of milestones and due dates will be important in ensuring a commitment from Executive Team members.

## **6 REFERENCES**

Community Water Center. 2015. *Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation*. July.

## TABLE

**Table 1. Summary of Statutory Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement in SGMA<sup>1</sup>**

<i>During GSA Formation:</i>	
“Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing.”	Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)
“A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered.”	Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)
<i>During GSP Development and Implementation:</i>	
“A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing”.	Water Code Sec. 10728.4
“Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting”.	Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.4
“Any federally recognized Indian Tribe... may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan... A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part”.	Water Code Sec. 10720.3(c)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)
<i>Throughout SGMA Implementation:</i>	
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.2
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)

<sup>1</sup> Source: Community Water Center. *Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation*. July 2015.