



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Planning on Track Community Workshop Set for May 29 in Atwater, CA

Merced, CA...The three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the Merced Subbasin¹ are hosting a community workshop to provide an update on the status of the **Groundwater Sustainability Plan** (GSP) being developed for the Merced Subbasin. The community workshop is scheduled as follows and Spanish translation will be available.

Wednesday, May 29, 2019, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, Jessie Frago Meeting Room, 760 E. Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA

All interested community members, ranchers, farmers, landowners, business owners, and residents with private wells are encouraged to attend. The workshop is an important opportunity for everyone using groundwater to learn more about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) being developed for the Merced Subbasin (see map on page 2).

At this workshop, the GSP development team will present the latest developments in GSP preparation including presentations on:

- Sustainable Management Criteria
- Next Steps for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Adoption

The workshop is designed to be interactive and allow time for participants to ask questions and provide input.

Hicham ElTal, Chair, Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency A, stated, "As we get closer to the anticipated completion of the Draft of the State mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plan around July 2019, it is vital that community members in and around Atwater take advantage of this workshop to understand what is being planned and contribute your comments and questions."

¹ Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Turner Island Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

“If you rely on well water for drinking, irrigation, or industry, we’d like to hear from you as the draft GSP development is nearing completion,” added Bob Kelley, Chair, Merced Subbasin GSA.

Larry Harris, Turner Island Water District GSA, noted, “The workshop will help the community understand what is being planned to bring groundwater in the Merced Subbasin into balance.”

For more information about the GSP, visit: <http://www.mercedsgma.org>

Roles and Responsibilities for Developing the Merced Subbasin GSP

Governing Boards: Consistent with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), water management and land management agencies in Merced Subbasin formed three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs): the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The three GSAs are collaborating on developing one Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the entire Merced Groundwater Subbasin by January 2020. To develop the Plan, the GSAs will review groundwater conditions and identify means to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin.

Coordinating Committee: The three GSAs for the Merced Groundwater Subbasin have formed a Coordinating Committee of senior staff and governing board members to coordinate day-to-day planning activities and public outreach. Meetings of the Coordinating Committee will be noticed and open to the public and are held the fourth Monday of the month.

Stakeholder Committee: The three GSAs have also approved the formation of a Stakeholder Committee. The Stakeholder Committee serves as community representatives to advise the Coordinating Committee and the GSA governing boards on groundwater conditions, management issues and needs, and projects and management actions to improve sustainability in the basin. Meetings of the Stakeholder Committee are open to the public and are held the fourth Monday of the month.

General Public, Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers in the Merced Subbasin: The public’s role is to provide input as the GSP is developed. Members of the public can submit comments and questions through the GSP website: www.mercedsgma.org or consider attending a Board meeting, Coordinating Committee meeting, Stakeholder Committee meeting, or a Community Workshop to learn more, ask questions, and provide input.

Merced Subbasin Boundaries

