



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Groundwater Sustainability Planning is Underway for the Merced Subbasin Public Workshop Scheduled, August 2, 2018, 6 pm to 8:30 pm

Sam Pipes Room, Merced Civic Center, 678 W 18th Street, Merced, CA

Merced, CA...On Thursday, August 2, 2018, the three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the Merced Subbasin (Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Turner Island Groundwater Sustainability Agency) will host a public workshop to discuss and gather input on water resource management for the area. The workshop will be from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sam Pipes Room, 678 W 18th St, Merced, CA. At the workshop, the agencies will discuss the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and what it means for the future of groundwater in the Merced Subbasin (see map on page 2).

“The future of our groundwater in the Merced Subbasin is at stake. We all need groundwater for drinking water, agriculture, and the environment. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan is the first step for agricultural, business, environmental, and other interests to work together to bring our groundwater into a sustainable balance by 2040,” noted Bob Kelley, Chair, Merced Subbasin GSA.

The workshop is an opportunity for area ranchers, farmers, landowners, residents, and businesses to learn about, discuss, ask questions, and provide input on the following topics. Spanish translation will be available.

- What is the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)** and the Merced Subbasin?
- What is included in the **Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)** being developed for the Merced Subbasin and how is it developed?
- What are the past and present **Groundwater Conditions** in the Merced Subbasin?
- What are priorities for **Sustaining Groundwater Supplies** in the future?

Hicham Eltal, Chair of the Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA, added: “Groundwater management is going to be one of the most complex and crucial components for of local planning and development for decades to come. It is critical our community is working collaboratively on this issue.”

Larry Harris, Turner Island Water District GSA, noted, “Everyone in the Merced Subbasin is encouraged to attend this workshop as it is a great opportunity to learn what SGMA is all about.”

For more information: <http://www.mercedsgma.org>

Roles and Responsibilities for Developing the Merced Subbasin GSP

Governing Boards: Consistent with the requirements of the 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, or Stakeholder Committee meeting, or a Community Workshop to learn more, ask questions, and provide input.

Merced Subbasin Boundaries

