

Farm Bureau of Ventura County, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County present:

## Countdown to Sustainability: A forum on Ventura County's progress toward SGMA implementation

8-11:30 a.m., November 15, 2017  
Courtyard by Marriott, Oxnard

### AGENDA

#### 8 a.m. Registration

Visit sponsor booths

#### 8:30 a.m. Welcome

*Glenn Shephard, director, Watershed Protection District,  
Sue Hughes, deputy executive officer, County of Ventura*

#### Introduction

*John Krist, CEO, Farm Bureau of Ventura County*

It's been nearly three years since California launched a new era in water-resource management. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act unleashed a flurry of legal, technical, political and administrative activity, as public agencies and private stakeholders began the hard work of establishing groundwater sustainability agencies and developing groundwater sustainability plans. In Ventura County, with its long history of groundwater management, progress toward SGMA implementation has been relatively swift, although not without its hiccups.

#### 9 a.m. The View From Sacramento

*Trevor Joseph, sustainable groundwater management section chief, California Department of Water Resources*

Activity has been intense in Sacramento, too, as the Department of Water Resources (DWR) hired additional staff and began rolling out the guidance documents and regulations necessary for orderly SGMA implementation statewide. It's also been busy processing basin boundary adjustment requests, certifying GSAs, and processing requests for grant funding to help local agencies with their planning. How does SGMA implementation look from a statewide perspective? What else does DWR have up its sleeve?

#### 9:30 a.m. What's in the Tank?

*Tony Morgan, deputy general manager of groundwater resources, United Water Conservation District*

To develop a plan to sustainably manage groundwater basins, agencies first must understand how those basins work. This means understanding how all the moving pieces — pumping, rainfall, irrigation return flows, surface flows, subsurface flows, artificial recharge — combine to determine the water budget for a given basin. What do monitoring and modeling efforts tell us about the current and possible future status of Ventura County's key groundwater basins?



### **10:15 a.m. Send Lawyers, Guns and Money**

*Panelists: Glenn Shephard, director, Watershed Protection District; Gordon Kimball, president, Fillmore Basin Pumpers Association; Joe McDermott, assistant general manager, Ventura Water; Tony Stafford, general manager, Camrosa Water District; Candice Meneghin, conservation program manager, CalTrout. Moderator: John Krist, CEO, Farm Bureau of Ventura County.*

With GSA formation behind them — a process that forced private landowners, public officials and agency resource managers into sometimes awkward partnerships — the delicate work of determining how big the groundwater “pie” is and how big a slice will be allocated to each pumper is under way in earnest. With so much at stake, opportunities for conflict abound. But so do opportunities for collaboration. How are Ventura County’s GSAs grappling with the challenges of governance, potential conflicts between user groups, data gaps and imperfect technical understanding as they build a new regulatory structure for the county’s most critical resource?

### **11 a.m. Silver linings**

*Lynn Rodriguez, projects manager, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County*

Although the challenges that still lie ahead are daunting, resources are available to help local agencies and stakeholders cope with them. What funding opportunities, tools and other resources are available to support SGMA implementation in Ventura County? What supply augmentation projects are in the works to make the groundwater “pie” bigger for everyone?

### **11:30 a.m. Adjourn**

**Who should attend?** Groundwater pumpers, water industry professionals, elected officials, environmental professionals, farmers, representatives of GSAs, mutual water companies, land use planners and interested members of the public.

**This event is free**

**Register online by Thursday, November 9 at [sgma-forum.eventbrite.com](http://sgma-forum.eventbrite.com)**

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