



Private Pumpers (/initiative/4Xxs/private-pumpers)

Legislative changes are revolutionizing this arena. Promote a regional Groundwater Management/Reclamation District to incentivize conservation among private well owners, and to gain their financial participation in groundwater recharge projects. SqCWD groundwater attorney Russ McGlothlin repeatedly emphasized on 2014-09-09 that we must bring all stakeholders to the table and absolutely find a compromise, because contesting the terms of a new groundwater district in court would be disastrous and counter-productive.

Comments

Bill Smallman 2w, 1d ago

NEUTRAL

First I liked the "Groundwater Management Agency" , and then thought maybe it should be a "Recycled Water Agency", because they would use recycled water to restore the groundwater basin. Then I realized that the Santa Clara Valley Water District, SCVWD, does all of this, so I now think we need a scaled down version of SCVWD. And yes they would meter all of there service connections, including injection wells. I think all the private well owners should just pay a annual lump sum fee for a bulk amount of water for irrigation only, with fines for overuse. I've been told virtually all of them are SqCWD customers in the central part of the County. Seems to me there was not any problems before with unregulated use, it

was mainly because lack of water, and if we started pumping about 4000 gpm of recycled water into the ground it would solve the problem, rather than trying to get on these people with regulations and monitoring to cut back.

Jan Karwin 2w ago

PRO

The City of Santa Cruz should participate in discussions with the regional stakeholders.

Jon Kennedy 1w, 1d ago

NEUTRAL

There are three types of private pumpers: agricultural (mainly nurseries if we are discussing the mid-Co basin), institutional (Cabrillo College, Seascape Golf Course, and various camps such as 7th Day Adventist Conference Grounds, Kennolyn, KOA), and residential wells. Agricultural and Institutional use is about 10% of our total basin use. Residential wells constitute less than 15% of the use, and would probably be exempt from metering (if they are under 2Afy.) SqCWD and SCWD (Beltz wells) are about 70% of the usage. Under the new Groundwater Management entity, small water districts and institutional users will be metered.

One issue is paying some sort of replenishment fee, based on use. An issue for residential well owners is getting credit for existing recharge (the hydrologists indicate that about 47-52% of residential use goes back into the ground through septic systems.) Seascape and Cabrillo alone are about 4% of basin use after allowing for recharge..

To answer Bill's comment about private wells as customers, very few private wells are SqCWD customers; some are within the District's "boundaries", but outside their water lines. (I am in that category.) There are probably less than 120 parcels with dual service. There are about 3,000 residential parcels served by private wells in our mid-Co basin; some of these are served by small private water districts such as Trout Gulch WD.

Purea Koenig 2d, 19h ago

PRO

I agree that all water users should be involved.

Jude Todd 2d, 14h ago

PRO

I think this proposal should be further explored by WSAC.

Fred Yukic 2d, 12h ago

CON

Having the groundwater pumping distributed over a wider area lowers the impact on the aquifer, and results in less saltwater intrusion. By concentrating the pumping in a few locations, the cone of depression is greater and the potential for saltwater intrusion increases. So, having distributed private pumping is a good thing in terms of groundwater levels and the prevention of saltwater intrusion. So, centralizing pumping is not a solution to the groundwater overdraft in the Purissima formation. Private pumpers should be part of the discussion, but should not be penalized for creating a more evenly distributed extraction. If the extraction equaled the infiltration in all areas, then there would be no exceedance of safe yeild.