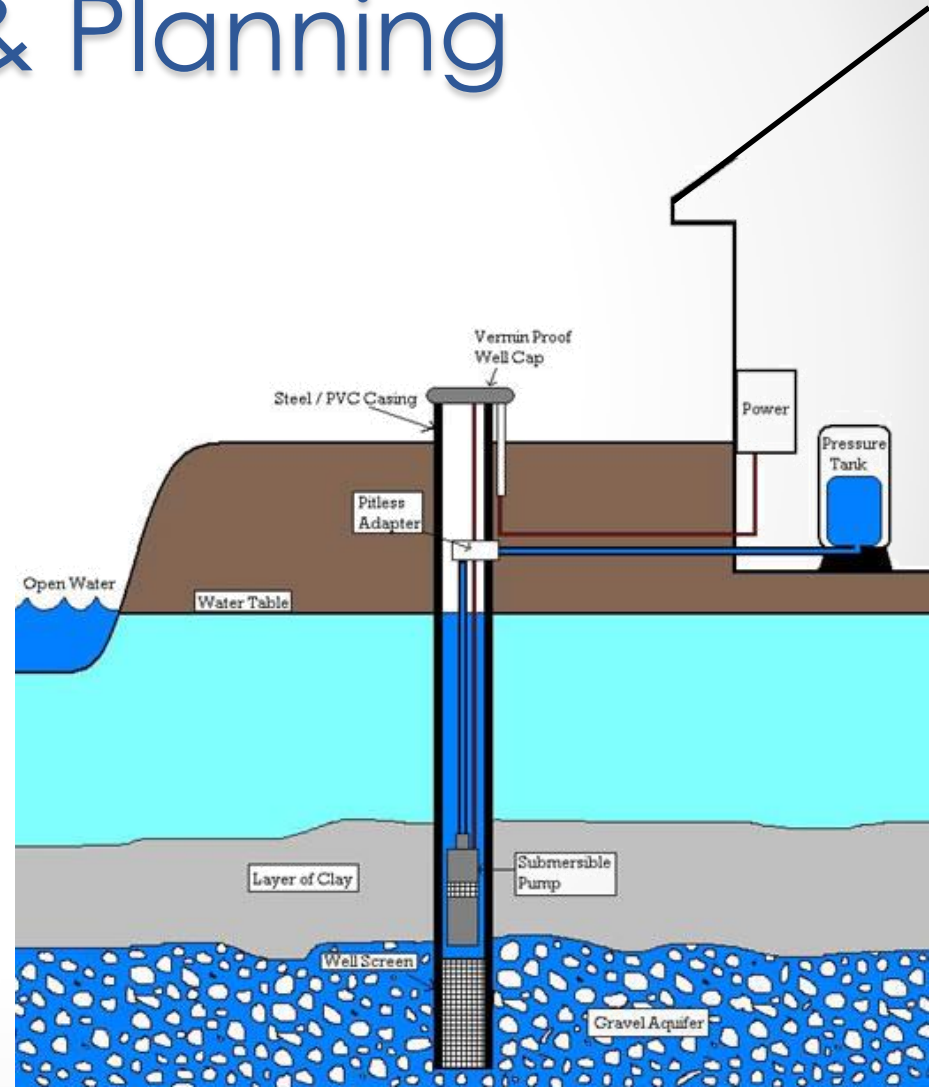


Water Well Discussion & Planning

March 17, 2015

Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors





Purpose

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

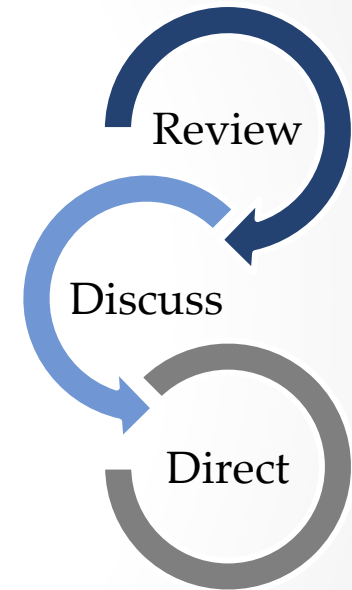
Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Review Montecito Letter to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (BoS)**
- **Discuss Policy Options**
- **Receive Direction From BoS**



Montecito Water: Request to BoS dated 11/21/14



Purpose

Montecito Request to BoS

Current Water Well Program

Santa Barbara: Permit Wells in City

Policy Options

Groundwater Sustainability Act

Conclusion – Next Steps

- **Moratorium in their service area**
- **Condition wells to require meters and access for reading**
- **Apply to new wells and new land use projects with existing wells**



Current Water Well Program



Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Ministerial Well Permitting**

- EHS
 - Location
 - Construction

- **Discretionary Well Permits**

- Planning Department Permits
 - Export/mining
 - Coastal Zone



Santa Barbara: Permit Wells in the City



Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara: Permit Wells in City

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Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Considering temporary moratorium on new wells applicable to properties that receive water from the City**
- **Would like County to do same for any areas served by public water**





Policy Options

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

• Moratorium

- Largely untested
 - Waste
 - Export



• Moratoriums in effect in Ventura and San Luis Obispo (SLO) Counties

- SLO: Court determined that the county has the authority
- Decision concerning takings pending
- Ventura tied to sustainability act





Policy Options, Cont'd.

- **Setting Conditions**

- Meters required
 - City of Santa Barbara
 - Meters on new wells
 - May require meters on existing wells; city pays cost
 - Annual Reporting



- Madera
 - Meters on new wells (modified from original which required meters on repair, reconstruction, pump replacement)
 - Annual reporting

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps



Policy Options, Cont'd.

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Discretionary Permits**

- Stanislaus County

- Certain large capacity wells discretionary
 - Small domestic/minor uses ministerial





Policy Options, Cont'd.

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Meeting with Purveyors Group, January 2015**
 - Generally, little enthusiasm for moratorium (except Montecito)
 - Many thought metering is a good idea and they could use the data; some vocal concern about imposing the requirement
 - All expressed concern about possible cross connections
 - All favor some kind of notification process when wells are being drilled in their service area
 - EHS has already modified its procedure so that water purveyors are notified when a well application is submitted



Policy Options, Cont'd.

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Administrative Concern**

- Data Collection
- Report Tracking
- Enforcement
- Cost of meters: agriculture vs. domestic
- Specifications and calibration

- **Applicability**

- New wells only?
- County wide
- Areas served by public water systems



Ground Water Sustainability Act



Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

**Groundwater
Sustainability
Act**

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- **Requirements:**

- Formation of **Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)** – June 30, 2017
- Completion of **Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)** - January 31, 2020
- Long term sustainability of high and medium priority basins within ~20 years

- **The Act provides GSAs authority to require property owners, at their own expense, to install water measuring devices on groundwater extraction facilities producing more than 2 acre-feet of water per year.**

[\(Cal. Water Code section 10725.8\)](#)

Sustainable
Groundwater Management





Ground Water Sustainability Act

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

Current Water
Well Program

Santa Barbara:
Permit Wells in
City

Policy Options

**Groundwater
Sustainability
Act**

Conclusion –
Next Steps

- Three basins in the County have been deemed *medium priority basins*; they are required to form a GSA by 2017 and then create a GSP.
- The Montecito, Santa Barbara and Foothill basins have been designated *low priority* and may form a GSA and create a GSP.
- Santa Barbara County basins that are subject to the legislation:
 - Cuyama
 - San Antonio
 - Santa Ynez
- Basic conclusion is that the act will likely require metering and monitoring in the future, so requiring meters now facilitates implementation later.



Conclusion – Next Steps

Purpose

Montecito
Request to BoS

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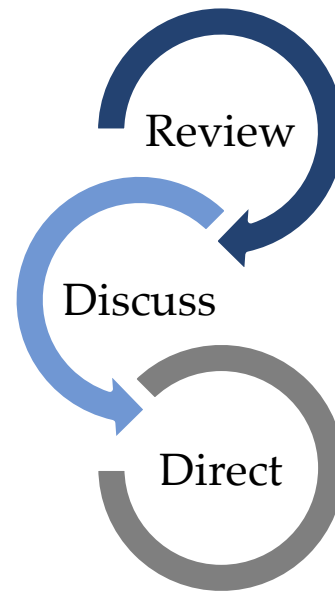
Santa Barbara:
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Groundwater
Sustainability
Act

**Conclusion –
Next Steps**

- **Discussion and Direction to Staff**



March 17, 2015
Santa Barbara County
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Thank You

