

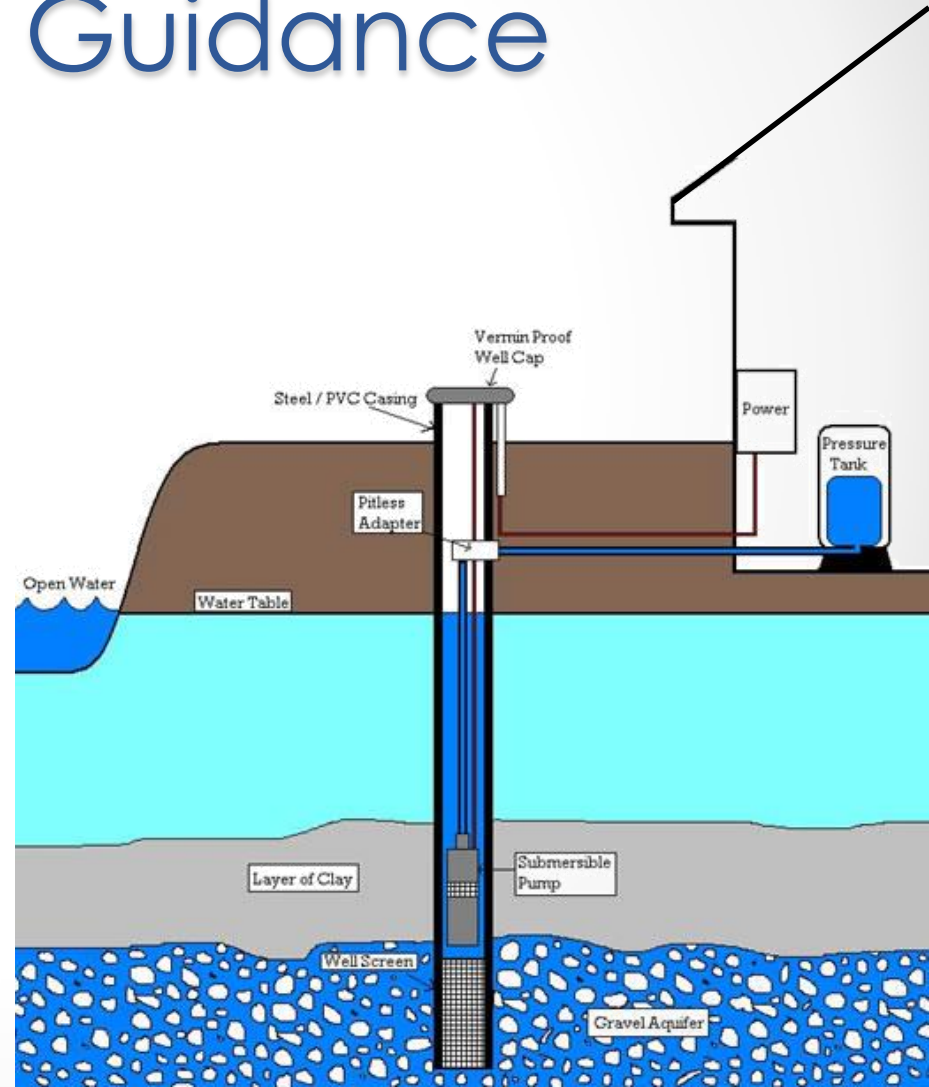
Water Well Discussion & Guidance

July 18, 2017

Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

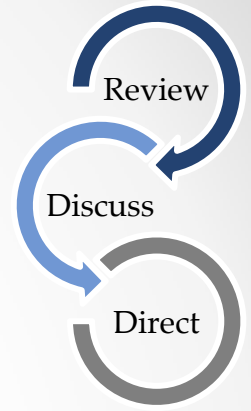
Presented by Public Health Department
and Planning & Development

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David Brummond*





Issues at a Glance



At a Glance

Current Water Well Production

Types of Permits

Recent Incidents

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Policy Options

Recommendations

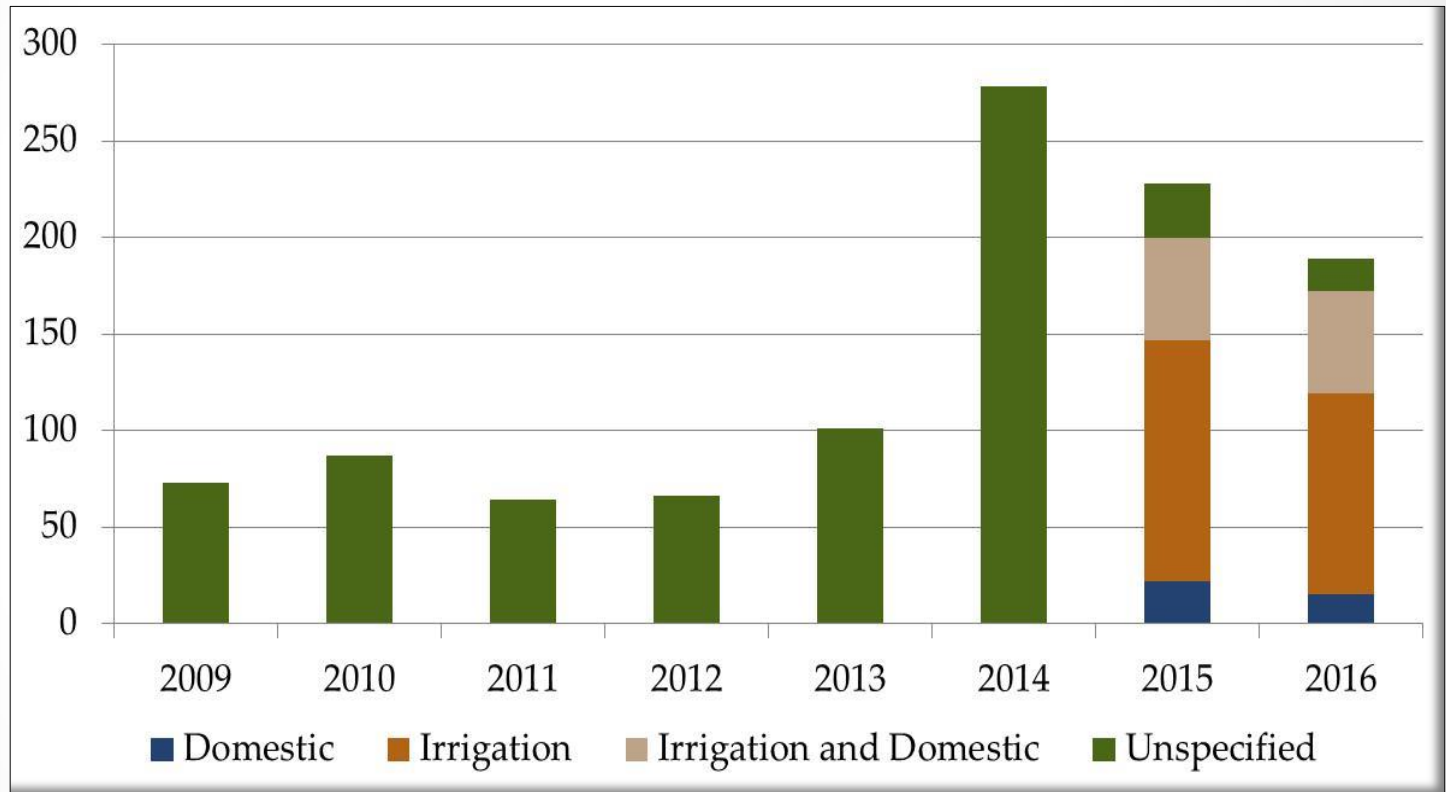
- **Five Years of Drought**
- **Increased Drilling (deeper wells)**
- **CA Coastal Commission Concerns**
- **Groundwater Sustainability Agency**



Current Water Well Permit Applications



- At a Glance
- Current Water Well Production**
- Types of Permits
- Recent Incidents
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Policy Options
- Recommendations



NOTE:

- *New ground water wells, replacement wells, and wells needed to maintain historic pumping levels, are all counted in the totals shown above.*
- *Irrigation includes agricultural irrigation and landscape irrigation wells.*



Types of Permits Required for Well Drilling

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- **Ministerial Permit**
- **Minor Use Conditional Permit**
- **Coastal Development Permit**



Recent Incidents



- **H2S Release**

- County agricultural well was drilled in excess of 3,000' deep
- Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) released resulting in a number complaints as well as investigations by several agencies attempting to identify the source

- **CA Coastal Commission Letter:**

- Construction of a well & extraction of water constitutes development, which must be authorized by a coastal development permit
- The permitting of private wells on parcels that already receive municipal water service is generally inconsistent with the County's LCP
- Requests that County halt any new private water well permits for residential properties in the designated urban areas with existing municipal water district service connections



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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

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- Requires sustainable management of groundwater basins designated as medium- or high-priority
- County Water Agency working with local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in Cuyama Valley & Santa Ynez River Valley
- Anticipate GSPs to manage groundwater withdrawals within the respective basins



Policy Options Overview

At a Glance

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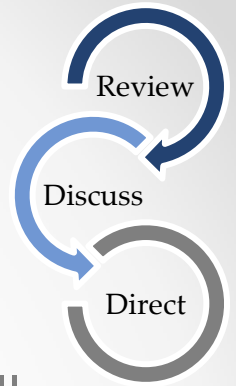
Recommendations

- Add conditions to County Code 34-A stating actions that must be taken if a Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) leak occurs during water well drilling
- Add a Flow Meter requirement to County Code 34-A
- Research discretionary review of some types of water well permits





Recommendations



- Receive a report on current water well program and options related to water well permits.
- Provide policy direction with regard to future water well permits and direct staff to return at a future date as appropriate.
- Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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Questions?