

West San Jacinto Groundwater Sustainability Agency process to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the western portion of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin (8-005), referred to the West San Jacinto GSA, and is comprised of the EMWD Board of Directors. The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin (Basin) is a high priority basin, but is not critically overdrafted, as designated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The West San Jacinto GSA is responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that meets the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and GSP regulations by the January 31, 2022 submittal deadline. The West San Jacinto GSA plans on hiring a consultant by the end of 2018 to develop the GSP.

Development of the GSP is anticipated to begin in 2019. The development of the GSP will include a Stakeholder Outreach Plan to include private and public water users and stakeholders in the GSA Area as well as in adjoining areas. Coordination effort will involve collaboration with the Hemet-San Jacinto Watermaster and stakeholders in adjoining basins. In order to achieve sustainability within the Basin, the West San Jacinto GSA recognizes that a collaborative effort is required to foster cooperation towards achieving groundwater sustainability. The planning process that will be utilized in the development of the GSP includes extensive stakeholder engagement to help ensure that the GSP reflects the groundwater-related needs of the entire Basin and encourages increased coordination with state and federal agencies.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in public stakeholder meetings to review materials included in draft sections of the GSP. This collaborative approach will enhance communication and transparency and provide input to the West San Jacinto GSA during the development of the GSP. In addition, stakeholders will have a variety of opportunities to discover and establish mutually beneficial partnerships through participation in meetings and conversations.

Interested parties may contact EMWD and participate in the development and implementation of the GSP by contacting Rachel Gray, Water Resources Planning Manager, at 951-928-3777 Ext 4514 or grayr@emwd.org.