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WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Groundwater in the Eel River Valley: Responding to the New State Groundwater Legislation

Monday, April 27, 2015 10:00 am - Noon
Humboldt County Agriculture Center (5630 S. Broadway, Eureka)

Purpose of Workshop

- To present information on the new state groundwater legislation and how it applies in the Eel River Valley
- To identify stakeholders and discuss their interests
- To identify key issues and concerns regarding groundwater in the Eel River Valley
- To provide feedback on next steps
- To discuss a proposed working group that would meet quarterly and help formulate a groundwater program in response to the legislation

Schedule of Events

10:00 – 10:05 am

Welcome

Rex Bohn, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

10:05 - 10:30 am

Overview of groundwater legislation

Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works

10:30 - 10:45 am

Overview of hydrogeology in the Eel River Basin

Gary Simpson, SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists, Inc.

10:45 – 11:00 am

Invited statements

John Vevoda, Ferndale dairyman

Merritt Perry, City of Fortuna city engineer/ public works director

Brad Job, Pacific Watershed Associates

David Spinosa, Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health

11:00 - Noon

Facilitated discussion, question/answer, and feedback survey

Yana Valachovic, UC-Cooperative Extension

Who may be interested in attending?

- Agricultural producers who pump groundwater
- Municipal water suppliers (cities, districts)
- People interested in Eel River in-stream flows

Background

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which for the first time provides a state framework for regulating and managing groundwater. The goal of the legislation is for groundwater resources to be managed sustainably for long-term reliability and multiple economic, social, and environmental benefits for current and future beneficial uses. The provisions of the legislation are mandatory for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin due to that basin's importance as a water supply source, and optional for other groundwater basins in the county. The legislation calls for designation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eel River Valley basin by 2017, and preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by 2022. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors seeks input from stakeholders on developing a response to the new legislation.

Contact for Further Information:

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