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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<u>**Local Agencies Convene a Public Meeting for Local Management of Groundwater**</u>

Corning, California— The public will have an opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and local implementation of this law at a public meeting on Wednesday, November 6th, 6:00-8:00 PM at the Corning Senior Center, 1015 4th Avenue, Corning, CA 96021.

SGMA Background

On September 16, 2014, Governor Brown signed into law a legislative package comprised of three bills (Assembly Bill (AB) 1739, Senate Bill (SB) 1168, and SB 1319). These laws are collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA (pronounced sigma) defines sustainable groundwater management as the "management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained without causing undesirable results." SGMA requires groundwater basins to be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and achieve sustainability within 20 years. The State has prioritized 98 basins statewide to comply with this law. The Corning Subbasin, spanning southwestern Tehama County and northern Glenn County, is among the groundwater basins that must comply with SGMA and develop a GSP by January 31, 2022. Local agencies were awarded a nearly $1 million grant to develop a GSP for the Corning Subbasin.

The central purpose of the November 6th meeting is to inform the public on how the two Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Corning Subbasin will work together to manage local groundwater resources.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation

SGMA requires the formation of locally controlled GSAs. A GSA is responsible for developing and implementing a GSP to meet the sustainability goal of the basin and to ensure that it considers all groundwater uses and users in the basin. SGMA refers to six indicators that need to be addressed to achieve groundwater sustainability. They include: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, significant land subsidence and depletions of interconnected surface water.

GSA Eligible Agencies in the Corning Subbasin

Under SGMA, local public agencies with water supply, water management or land-use responsibilities are eligible to form GSAs.

Local agencies formed two GSAs within the subbasin to comply with the State-mandated deadline of July 1, 2017. These agencies have been meeting over the past 5 months working together to find the most effective way to develop and implement one GSP for the Corning Subbasin and how best to engage all groundwater users in the process. The participating agencies are Tehama County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, and Glenn County. These agencies are cooperating to ensure compliance with state law and to make sure the community is informed about local management of groundwater. Representatives from these agencies will participate in the public meeting.

Who Should Attend

Members of the public interested in learning more about SGMA and how local GSAs are working together to implement this law and achieve groundwater sustainability are encouraged to attend.

How to Learn More

To learn more about SGMA visit: https://groundwaterexchange.org

Glenn County Corning Subbasin GSA site:
https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma/corning-subbasin

Tehama County Corning Subbasin GSA site:
 http://www.tehamacountypublicworks.ca.gov/flood/corning.html

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