



San Benito County Water District

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San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) is submitting a request to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for consolidation of four groundwater basins. As defined by DWR, these are the Bolsa Area (3-003.02), Hollister Area (3-003.03), and San Juan Bautista Area (3-003.04) Subbasins of the Gilroy-Hollister Basin and the Tres Pinos Valley Basin (3-025). These basins would be redefined as a single new basin, tentatively called the North San Benito Groundwater Basin.

These basins border one another and they are all hydraulically connected. The boundary modification request consists solely of removing the boundaries between these existing basins to form one consolidated basin. The external boundaries of the new North San Benito Basin would be the same as the combined external boundaries of the existing basins. No changes are proposed to any external boundaries of the four existing basins, and the proposed changes do not affect the boundaries of any neighboring basins. SBCWD has submitted an Initial Notification to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) describing this modification.

If approved by DWR, this modification will improve the sustainable management of groundwater. It will continue the historical groundwater management that has included the four basins and will allow preparation of a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) instead of multiple GSPs. As of August 2018, SBCWD is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within San Benito County for all four existing basins that are proposed to be consolidated. Some portions of the new North San Benito Groundwater Basin extend into Santa Clara County and SBCWD has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (which has jurisdictional authority over all of Santa Clara County). The two districts have agreed to cooperative preparation of a GSP for the entire new North San Benito Groundwater Basin.