

# Item 5A Review of Ventura County Well Construction Moratorium

July 16, 2020

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## Well Permits in Ventura County

- In Ventura County, staff of the Groundwater Section of the Watershed Protection District have the authority to issue well permits.
- Fees are paid for the well permit, and county staff issues the conditions under which a permit will be granted.
- Conditions include provisions such as sanitary seals, and screening multiple aquifers in confined basin settings.
- In response to drought conditions in Ventura County, Ordinance 4468 was adopted in December 2014.

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## Ordinance 4468

- Ordinance 4468 was intended to prevent *increased* groundwater use during times of drought but allows for replacements wells or alternative sources of water for existing uses of water.
- Replacements wells, or alternative sources of water for existing water uses are allowed.
- When a permit application is received, County practice is to notify the GSA for the basin where the parcel is located and ask for comments.
- After a GSA has completed and submitted their Groundwater Sustainability Plan to DWR, the County moratorium for new water use is lifted for that basin.

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## Following GSP adoption:

- GSAs have the authority to place conditions on new wells and extractions.
- If FPBGSA chooses to place conditions on new wells, applicants will need approval from the GSA before the County will issue a well permit.
- If a GSA does not develop conditions following submittal of a GSP, the County will provide a copy of new well permits, but will not request comments.

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