

April 2016



City of Santa Barbara

Public Input Period Open for the City's Groundwater Basin Boundary Modification Request

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides a process by which local agencies may submit requests to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to modify existing groundwater basin boundaries. Basin boundaries are defined in DWR's report on groundwater known as Bulletin 118 (Update 2003). The boundaries information developed by DWR may lack information that local agencies have acquired through years or decades of study and management. DWR's boundary modification process presents local agencies with the opportunity to better align the State's recognized basin boundaries with their own, thereby improving coordination and basin management. On February 9, 2016 City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Public Works Director or designee to submit a groundwater basin boundary request for the Foothill groundwater basin to DWR. The adopted resolution can be found [here](#).

The City has been working in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on groundwater investigations for decades and has produced multiple technical reports describing the basin characteristics. The Foothill basin boundary that is recognized by the City is described in the 1989 USGS Report 89-4017, Geohydrology of the Foothill Groundwater Basin near Santa Barbara, California, prepared by John Freckleton (1989 Freckleton report).

In DWR's Bulletin 118 (Update 2003), the written description of the Foothill basin is accurate and is consistent with the 1989 Freckleton report. However, the mapped boundaries that were developed by DWR using Geographic Information System (GIS) software do not reflect the boundaries shown in the 1989 Freckleton report. The discrepancy is on the northern boundary of the basin which does not border any neighboring basins. DWR has requested that the City go through the basin boundary modification process for adjustment to the GIS maps.

The proposed Foothill basin boundary modification, if approved by DWR, would align DWR's spatial depiction of the basin with the City's recognized basin boundary as defined in the USGS 1989 Freckleton report. While the area omitted by DWR is relatively unpopulated with limited well pumping, it has been documented as an area that significantly contributes to natural recharge of the basin. Therefore, management of this portion of the basin is important.

The City submitted a basin boundary modification request to DWR on March 30, 2016. DWR deemed the City's request complete on April 7, 2016, commencing a 30-day public input period.

Per § 343.12 of the [Basin Boundary Emergency Regulation](#), all public input must be submitted by written notice to DWR by May 7, 2016. A copy of any public input submitted to DWR regarding the City's request must also be submitted to the City the same day. Per § 343.12 of the Basin Boundary Emergency Regulation, all public input must:

- Include the name, address, and email address of the person or entity providing the input.
- Include a clear statement of the basis for the support of or opposition to the proposed boundary modification. The level of detail provided by public input need not be as comprehensive as that contained in the request, but must rely on similar scientific and technical information as the particular boundary modification request to which it is addressed, and will be evaluated by DWR using the same criteria.

Public input should be submitted to DWR through the Basin Boundary Modification Request System online at <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/>

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City of Santa Barbara Groundwater Basin Boundary Modification Request

A copy of the public input should be submitted to the City electronically to dhoffenberg@santabarbaraca.gov or a hard copy may be mailed to:

City of Santa Barbara Water Resources
Attn: Dana Hoffenberg
PO Box 1900
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

DWR will post all public input on the DWR'S Internet website. DWR is not required to respond to comments received through public input, but will consider such comments as part of its evaluation of a boundary modification request. DWR will give the requesting agency a reasonable opportunity to respond to public input, including the opportunity to modify the boundary modification request.

After the public input period, DWR will evaluate all boundary modification requests, make a draft list of approved boundary modifications available on its website, and will hold at least one public meeting to present and discuss the proposed boundary modifications.

For additional information regarding the City's request for a basin boundary modification view the request on [DWR's website](#), or contact Dana Hoffenberg, Water Resources Specialist, at (805) 560-7585 or dhoffenberg@santabarbaraca.gov.

To be included on the City's list of interested parties and receive any further notices regarding the basin boundary modification please submit your request in writing to the above email or mailing address.