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NOTICE OF HEARING IN LOS OSOS GROUNDWATER BASIN LITIGATION
Los Osos Community Services District v. Golden State Water Company, et al.
Case No. CV 040126

This Notice is sent to you because you may have rights to pump groundwater from the Los Osos Groundwater Basin. The parties to the above legal proceeding, the County of San Luis Obispo, Los Osos Community Services District, Golden State Water Company and S&T Mutual Water Company, intend to implement a comprehensive groundwater management plan to restore the long-term viability of the Basin under court oversight. While the implementation of the water management plan is intended to restore the health of Basin water resources without impacting your potential water rights, you should be aware of the intended implementation of this resource management plan.

On February 13, 2004, the Los Osos Community Services District initiated the above legal proceeding to begin the formal process of developing a long-term groundwater management plan for the Basin. The parties formed a working group to prepare a basin management plan, and the working group completed a draft Basin Management Plan in August 2013. In response to public comment on the draft Plan, an updated Basin Management Plan was finalized in January 2015. The Plan describes the conditions in the Basin and tabulates the historical groundwater uses in the Basin. Most importantly, the Plan details the extensive new facilities and infrastructure required to restore the long-term integrity of the Basin as a reliable water supply for all users.

To provide a formal method of implementing the Basin Plan with court oversight, the parties intend to present to the court for its approval a Stipulated Judgment. The Stipulated Judgment provides a mechanism for the parties to work together to fund and implement the Basin Plan. This court document provides details on the hydrogeology of the Basin, describes historic conditions in the Basin, including evidence that the Basin has been in a state of overdraft in every year since 1979, and describes the manner in which Basin groundwater will be allocated. After the document is approved, the court will retain oversight and jurisdiction to ensure the Plan is implemented for the benefit of the entire Los Osos community.

The parties to the Stipulated Judgment are committed to sustainably managing the Basin through a combination of reduction in their use and enhancing the Basin yield through implementation of the Basin Plan. The Stipulated Judgment does not impose any reduction in access to groundwater to any current users other than LOCSD, S&T and GSWC. Rather, the Basin Plan creates various pools (purveyor, agricultural, community and private domestic) and grants to each pool an annual groundwater allowance that is based on actual or estimated groundwater production from 2008 through 2013.

If you desire to seek the advice of an attorney in relation to this action, you should do so promptly.

The Stipulated Judgment will be presented to the court for approval on October 14, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in Department 1, located at 1050 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, California.

A copy of the Stipulated Judgment, including the Basin Management Plan will be available prior to the court hearing at www.SLOCountyWater.org/site/WaterResources/LosOsos.