



# County of Santa Cruz

## Health Services Agency - Environmental Health

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY - Call 711 <http://www.sceeh.org>  
[EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us)



# Santa Cruz County Well Ordinance Technical Advisory Committee

## Role:

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health staff have convened a Well Ordinance Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide County staff (staff) with guidance, recommendations, and feedback regarding technical and policy matters pertaining to the update of the Water Wells and Individual Water Systems chapters of the Santa Cruz County Code:

[Water Wells Chapter \(7.70\)](#)

[Individual Water Systems Chapter \(7.73\)](#)

The TAC is advisory in nature and not a decision-making body. Staff will be responsible for receiving the input from the TAC, drafting the updates, and sending them to the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission, the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission, the California Coastal Commission, and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

## Goal and Objectives

The goal of the TAC is to help staff develop an ordinance that provides protection against adverse impacts of well construction and use, while not creating an undue burden to applicants.

The resulting updated ordinance should meet the following objectives:

- 1) Follows all applicable laws and regulations.
- 2) Honors the core tenants of the County General Plan which includes recognition of agricultural land as an essential and irreplaceable resource for future generations.
- 3) Is equitable in its consideration of impacts to groundwater users, including the public trust.
- 4) Facilitates communications with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and recognizes their mandate to sustainably manage their groundwater basins.
- 5) Acknowledges the impact that climate change is having on water resources.

## Commitment

TAC members have been asked to commit to attending five hybrid meetings of 2-3 hour duration, with an optional sixth meeting if there are significant changes after the ordinance is reviewed by the County Planning Commission and the California Coastal Commission. The meeting topics are expected to be as follows:

<b>Meeting Number</b>	<b>Meeting Topics (Subject to Change)</b>
<b>Meeting 1; November 6, 2023</b>	1) Introductions, ground rules, goal, expectations 2) Intro to well ordinance, reasons for update 3) Code update process 4) Topics for future in-depth discussion
<b>Meeting 2; December 8, 2023</b>	Focused meeting on groundwater: 1) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, GSAs, GSPs 2) Groundwater emergencies 3) Metering of non-de minimus new and replacement wells 5) Areas of declining GW levels/quality and new wells
<b>Meeting 3; January 2024</b>	Evaluating surrounding impacts: 1) Discuss where/how wells may impact Public Trust values 2) Review existing protections and what other Counties have done 3) Determine when additional evaluation and/or protections are needed 4) Consider impacts to surrounding wells 5) How to include Karst
<b>Meeting 4; Late Spring 2024</b>	TAC reviews draft language and assessment of impacts to staffing, permit turnaround time, and fees.
<b>Public Workshop</b>	
<b>Meeting 5</b>	Review Final language
<b>Optional Meeting 6</b>	Final review after changes from Planning Commission, Coastal Commission, Board of Sups

## **Ground Rules**

By attending the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, members agree to the following:

- Active, full participation. Every TAC member is responsible for communicating their perspectives and interests on the issues under consideration. Voicing and actively listening to these perspectives is essential to achieving meaningful dialogue. Everyone will participate; no one will dominate.
- Focused participation. TAC members will come to the meetings prepared and will focus their discussions on the topics at hand. Everyone will help keep the meetings on track.
- Respectful interaction. TAC members will respect each other's personal integrity, divergent viewpoints, values and legitimacy of interests. TAC members will listen courteously while others are speaking. Only one person will speak at a time. TAC members will refrain from using deliberate misinformation, personal attacks, or stereotyping.
- Integration and creative thinking. TAC members will seek to balance advocacy and inquiry. In developing, reviewing and revising work products, TAC members will strive to be open-minded and to integrate each other's ideas, perspectives, and interests. Disagreements will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won. TAC members will attempt to reframe contentious issues and offer creative solutions to enable constructive dialogue. Where TAC members do not support a specific solution or proposal, they are encouraged to offer alternative solutions.



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- Satisfy mutual Interests. TAC members will work to satisfy not only their own interests but also those of other TAC members. TAC members are encouraged to be clear about their own interests and to recognize the important distinction between underlying interests and fixed positions.
- Meeting attendance. All TAC members will make every effort to attend all Committee meetings. Consistent attendance is critical to ensure the creation of shared knowledge. Meetings will start on time.
- Come prepared. TAC members will review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and come prepared to address the meeting objectives. If specific “homework” is assigned, TAC members are expected to have the homework completed by the start of the meeting.
- Commitment to ground rules. TAC members commit to adhere to these ground rules as a set of mutual obligations. TAC members are encouraged to uphold these ground rules.