

AG DIGEST

Valley reminded of groundwater sustainability deadlines

A failure to meet the deadlines of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) could lead to state intervention in the management of Salinas Valley groundwater, Sam Boland-Brien of the State Water Resources Control Board announced during the second Salinas Valley Groundwater Stakeholder forum on Sept. 8.

The SGMA mandates the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies by June 30, 2017 for priority basins like Salinas.

Such agencies are required to adopt a groundwater sustainability plans by 2020.

Boland-Brien also discussed the groundwater law and pushed for coordination among groundwater sustainability agencies in the basin.

The next Groundwater Stakeholder forum is Nov. 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Sherwood Hall at 940 N Main Street. All meetings are open to the public.

—Aylin Woodward

Look for low-flying helicopter in south San Joaquin Valley

The U.S. Geological Survey and the California State Water Resources Control Board, has contracted a helicopter to collect and document geophysical measures in San Joaquin Valley starting Sept. 30 and lasting one to two weeks.

The survey focuses on Lost Hills, Buttonwillow and Cawelo with further surveying along the San Andreas Fault near Parkfield (see the map for details).

SkyTEM ApS, an airborne geophysical company, is leading the effort, which entails flying in a pattern low to the ground. Survey data will help scientists map groundwater salinity and faults.

—Aylin Woodward

Taylor Farms becoming a leader in sustainability

Taylor Farms has partnered with REC Solar to install a 1 MegaWatt solar panel array at its Gonzales facility.

This project allows Taylor Farms to offset the cost of their energy consumption by more than 25% at high-performance periods.

In the past, Taylor has worked with REC Solar to create sustainable and cost-effective energy sources at their Salinas site. Now that the Gonzales site is complete, REC Solar will continue to work with Taylor Farms at their facilities in Tracy and Dallas.

REC Solar is a California-based solar company that specializes in helping businesses design and implement solar technology.

—Sarah McQuate