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## **Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Welcomes New General Manager And Deputy General Manager**

*New leadership brings immense experience in groundwater management*

**SALINAS, Calif.** — Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) today announced it has named Piret Harmon as its new General Manager and added Sarah Hardgrave as the second Deputy General Manager to lead the agency as it works to successfully implement state-required Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the six subbasins in Monterey County that are administered by the SVBGSA.

Piret Harmon comes to SVBGSA after serving as General Manager of the Scotts Valley Water District from 2013 to 2022. In that role, she also was key in the formation of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency, a groundwater sustainability agency in Santa Cruz County. Harmon succeeds Donna Meyers, who served as General Manager of SVBGSA from 2019 to 2023.

“I look forward to being responsive and contributing to the communities we serve in Monterey County — building trust, improving efficiencies and increasing transparency via open dialogue and collaboration,” said Piret Harmon. “I’m passionate about leading the agency to be an innovative and effective catalyst that is focused on turning groundwater sustainability challenges into opportunities.”

In the role of the General Manager at the Scotts Valley Water District, Harmon and her team redefined what an open and transparent organization looks like, deployed technology in every aspect of the operation and empowered employees to convert challenges into solutions. Harmon is equally versed in managing operational disciplines, leading people and guiding the organizations to reach their potential. She excels at streamlining processes, seeing complex initiatives through to completion, and encouraging collaboration.

Harmon holds a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Tallinn Technical University and a master’s degree in Business Administration from Concordia International University. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Regional Water Management Foundation in Santa Cruz County and is an active member of Association of California Water Agencies’ Local Government Committee and Business Development Committee.

Sarah Hardgrave, a new Deputy General Manager at SVBGSA, has been active in water resource issues in Monterey County for over 20 years. Hardgrave has been a project manager for several water supply, sewer, stormwater and flood risk reduction projects, including the design and environmental review phases of the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project, a multi-benefit flood control and habitat restoration project. Her experiences have given her a depth of understanding of water issues throughout Monterey County and the need for the SVBGSA to work closely with its stakeholders and other agencies to manage water resources and infrastructure.



Hardgrave holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, with honors, from Mount Holyoke College, as well as Master of Community and Regional Planning and Master of Science in Public Affairs degrees from the University of Oregon.

**About the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

The SVBGSA was formed to develop comprehensive groundwater sustainability plans for six sub-basins in the region and implement the plans to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2042. The Agency's 11-member Board is comprised of stakeholders who represent diverse interests from across the Salinas Valley. Learn more at [www.svbgsa.org](http://www.svbgsa.org) and on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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