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COUNTY of NAPA

CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

February 22, 2008

TO: Napa County Board of Supervisors
Napa County Planning Commission
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Hillary Gitelman 

RE: 2008 General Plan Update – Water Resources Section

On February 6, 2008, the Planning Commission reviewed the Conservation Element of the proposed General Plan Update and recommended addressing water resources in a separate element of the General Plan (3-2 vote). At the same meeting, the Planning Commission suggested a number of substantive changes to the text of the water resources goals, policies, and action items. County staff has also been working with groundwater experts in an effort to identify changes to the goals, policies and action items necessary to clarify the intent of the water resources section.

The attached document provides a consolidated set of recommended text changes to the water resources section of the December 3, 2007 Revised Draft General Plan Update.

County staff is seeking input regarding these suggested revisions at the joint meeting of the Board and the Planning Commission scheduled for February 26, 2008. At the same meeting, staff is seeking the Board's direction regarding the Commission's recommendation that these goals, policies, and action items be relocated (along with associated introductory text) to a separate element.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 253-4805 or hgitelman@co.napa.ca.us if you have questions regarding the attached recommendations before the meeting on February 26th.

WATER RESOURCES GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal CON-8: Reduce or eliminate groundwater and surface water contamination from known sources (e.g., underground tanks, chemical spills, landfills, livestock grazing, and other dispersed sources such as septic systems).

Goal CON-9: Control urban and rural storm water runoff and related non-point source pollutants, reducing to acceptable levels pollutant discharges from land-based activities throughout the county.

Goal CON-10: Conserve, enhance and manage water resources on a sustainable basis to attempt to ensure that sufficient amounts of water will be available for the uses allowed by this General Plan, for the natural environment, and for future generations.

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Goal CON-11: Prioritize the use of available groundwater for agricultural and rural residential uses rather than for urbanized areas and ensure that land use decisions recognize the long-term availability and value of water resources in Napa County.

Goal CON-12: Proactively and comprehensively collect information about the status of the county's surface and groundwater resources to provide for improved forecasting of future supplies and effective management of the resources.

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Goal CON-13: Promote the development and management of additional water resources to improve water supply reliability and sustainability in Napa County, including imported water supplies and recycled water projects.

WATER RESOURCES POLICIES

Policy CON-41: The County will work to protect Napa County's watersheds and public and private water reservoirs to provide for the following purposes:

- a) Clean drinking water for public health and safety;
- b) Support of the eco-systems;
- c) Agricultural water supply;
- d) Recreation and open space; and
- e) Scenic beauty.

Policy CON-42: The County shall work to improve and maintain the vitality and health of its watersheds. Specifically, the County shall:

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- a) Use all available sources of assistance to protect and enhance the Napa River and its tributaries and watershed to meet or exceed water quality standards imposed by state and federal authorities (e.g., pursue grants and other funding opportunities to assist in the identification, testing, and improvement of individual septic as well as community waste disposal systems, and to support watershed monitoring/sampling and

scientific understanding to inform and develop effective and targeted management options in an adaptive and locally driven manner).

- b) Reduce water pollutants through education, monitoring, and pollutant elimination programs (e.g., watershed education and monitoring programs identified in the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Strategic Plan and Napa County/Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Programs, and pollution reduction goals outlined in Napa County's Phase II National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit from the State Water Board).
- c) Support voluntary cooperative efforts in watershed planning to identify and establish habitat enhancement goals on various reaches of the Napa River and its tributaries, including, but not limited to, the development of localized watershed management plans, project identification, implementation and monitoring to support adaptive management (e.g., Fish Friendly Farming/Green Certification, Rutherford Dust Restoration Team, Resource Conservation District's Stewardship Program, on- and off-site habitat protection and mitigation programs, and dozens of other active efforts currently planned or now underway).
- d) Support environmentally sustainable agricultural techniques and best management practices (BMPs) that protect surface water and groundwater quality and quantity (e.g., cover crop management, integrated pest management, informed surface water withdrawals based upon informative real-time stream flow monitoring, and groundwater management to sustain and enhance the County's groundwater resources).
- e) Promote and support the use of recycled water wherever feasible, including the use of tertiary treated water, to help improve supply reliability and enhance groundwater recharge.
- f) Support completion of the federal, state, and local government flood control projects that contribute to the health of Napa County's watersheds.
- g) Recognize that unmanaged forests and watersheds can have unintended adverse environmental consequences such as increasing the threat and intensity of wild land fires, which could lead to widespread erosion and degradation of water quality.

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Support voluntary efforts by landowners to reduce fuel loads in forests and watersheds to reduce this threat.

h) Recognize that efforts to protect and preserve water for wildlife habitat and watershed health in Napa County also have long term benefits related to adequate water supplies and water quality. [Implemented by Action Items CON WR-1, 4, and 7]

Policy CON-43: Pursuant to the Open Space and Conservation goals and policies that conserve open space and recreational resources, the County shall protect and enhance watershed lands, including the downstream delivery of essential watershed resources and benefits from headwater channels. These efforts shall include:

- a) Preserving and where economically feasible restoring the density and diversity of water dependent species and continuous riparian habitats based on sound ecological principles; and
- b) Supporting the acquisition, development, maintenance and restoration of habitat lands for wildlife and watershed enhancement where clearly consistent with General Plan policies.

Policy CON-44: The County shall identify, improve, and conserve Napa County's surface water resources through the following measures:

- a) Evaluate and develop land use policies resulting in the appropriate density and mix of impervious surface and stable vegetation cover to improve water quality and reduce surface water pollution and siltation within domestic water supply watersheds.
- b) Encourage public agencies and private individuals to explore environmentally sensitive ways to store winter runoff in consultation with the State Department of Water Resources and other regulatory agencies.
- c) Promote a balanced approach to managing reservoir outflows, particularly municipal supply reservoirs, through coordination with cities to maintain a reliable water supply for domestic uses, minimize flooding, and preserve fish habitat and riparian vegetation.
- d) Work with other agencies to develop a comprehensive understanding of potential deficiencies in surface water supplies, and coordinate with private property owners on a voluntary basis to collect additional surface water data and implement an expanded voluntary monitoring effort to ensure development of effective water management and conservation strategies where appropriate. [Implemented by Action Items CON WR-1, 4,

and 7]

Policy CON-45: Protect the County's domestic supply drainages through vegetation preservation and protective buffers to ensure clean and reliable drinking water consistent with state regulations and guidelines. Continue implementation of current Conservation Regulations relevant to these areas, such as vegetation retention requirements, consultation with water purveyors/system owners, implementation of erosion controls to minimize water pollution, and prohibition of detrimental recreational uses. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-3]

Policy CON-46: Napa County's past, present, and future are intertwined with that of the Napa River; therefore, the County is committed to improving and sustaining the health of the river, through attaining water quality and habitat enhancement goals, supporting public access to the river for visual appreciation and recreational purposes, and completing federal, state, and local flood control projects that are consistent with "living rivers" principles.

Policy CON-47: The County shall comply with applicable Water Quality Control/Basin Plans as amended through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process to improve water quality. In its efforts to comply, the following may be undertaken:

- a) Monitoring water quality in impaired waterbodies identified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board(s) and monitoring surface water flows and quality as necessary.
- b) Addressing failing septic systems in the vicinity of Murphy, Browns Valley, and Salvador Creeks and throughout the County, should they be found to exist.
- c) Retrofitting County-maintained roads to reduce sediment caused by runoff.
- d) Supporting voluntary habitat restoration and bank stabilization efforts, with particular focus on the main stem and main tributaries of the Napa River.
- e) Ensuring continued effectiveness of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and storm water pollution prevention.
- f) Ensuring continued effectiveness of the County's Conservation Regulations related to vineyard projects and other earth-disturbing activities.
- g) Addressing effects related to past and current mining, grazing, and other activities to the extent feasible.
- h) Amending the County's Conservation Regulations or County Code to address excessive sediment delivered to waterways as required by state law, particularly as it relates to private roads and rural unimproved (i.e., dirt or gravel) roads.
- i) Developing outreach and education programs to inform land owners and managers about improving surface water quality (e.g., rural and private road maintenance, soil and vegetation retention, construction site management, runoff control, etc.) and cooperating with other governmental and non-governmental agencies seeking to establish waiver or certification programs. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-4]

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Policy CON-48: Proposed developments shall implement project-specific sediment and erosion control measures (e.g., erosion control plans and/or stormwater pollution prevention plans) that maintain pre-development sediment erosion conditions or at minimum comply with state water quality pollution control (i.e., Basin Plan) requirements and are protective of the County's sensitive domestic supply watersheds. Technical reports and/or erosion control plans that recommend site-specific erosion control measures shall meet the requirements of the County Code and provide detailed information regarding site specific geologic, soil, and hydrologic conditions and how the proposed measure will function.

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Policy CON-49: The County shall develop and implement a surface water quality monitoring program (or programs) to track the effectiveness of temporary and permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control soil erosion and sedimentation within watershed areas and employ corrective actions for identified water quality issues (in violation of Basin Plans and/or associated TMDLs) identified during monitoring. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-4]

Policy CON-50: The County will take appropriate steps to protect surface water quality and quantity, including the following:

- a) Preserve riparian areas through adequate buffering and pursue retention, maintenance, and enhancement of existing native vegetation along all intermittent and perennial streams (also see Policy CON-27 which retains existing stream setback requirements).
- b) Encourage flood control reduction projects to give full consideration to scenic, fish, wildlife, and other environmental benefits when computing costs of alternative methods of flood control.
- c) The County shall require discretionary projects to meet performance standards designed to ensure peak runoff following development is not greater than predevelopment conditions. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-2]
- d) Maintain minimum lot sizes of not less than 160 acres in Agriculture, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS) designated areas to reflect desirable densities based on access, slope, productive capabilities for agriculture and forestry, sewage disposal, water supply, wildlife habitat, and other environmental considerations.
- e) In conformance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, prohibit grading and excavation unless it can be demonstrated that such activities will not result in significant soil erosion, silting of lower slopes or waterways, slide damage, flooding problems, or damage to wildlife and fishery habitats.
- f) Adopt development standards, in conformance with NPDES Phase II requirements, for post-construction storm water control.
- g) Address potential soil erosion by maintaining sections of the County Code that require all construction-related activities to have protective measures in place or installed by the grading deadlines established in the Conservation Regulations. In addition, the County shall ensure enforceable fines are levied upon code violators and shall require violators to perform all necessary remediation activities.
- h) Require replanting and/or restoration of riparian vegetation as part of any discretionary permit or erosion control plan approved by the County.
- i) Encourage management of reservoir outflows (bypass flows) to maintain fish life and riparian (streamside) vegetation.
- j) Encourage minimal use of chemical treatment of reservoirs to prevent undue damage to fish and wildlife resources.
- ~~k) Encourage voluntary clustering of development to preserve stream corridors, riparian habitat, wetlands, and floodplains.~~
- ~~l) Prohibit new septic tanks in areas where sewage treatment and disposal systems are available and encourage new sewage treatment and disposal systems in urbanized areas where there is high groundwater recharge potential and existing concentrations of septic tanks.~~

Deleted: (Former Public Health and Safety Policy/Protection of Water Quality and Water Reservoirs a-h)

Comment [heg1]: The last addition here reflects current practices. (The County does not allow new septic tanks where sewer service is available.)

Policy CON-51: Recognizing that groundwater best supports agricultural and rural uses, the County discourages urbanization requiring net increases in groundwater use and discourages incorporated jurisdictions from using groundwater except in emergencies or as part of conjunctive-use programs that do not cause or exacerbate conditions of overdraft or otherwise adversely affect the County's groundwater resources.

Policy CON-52: Groundwater is a valuable resource in Napa County. The County encourages responsible use and conservation of groundwater and regulates groundwater resources by way of its groundwater ordinances. [Implemented by Action Items CON WR-6 and 9]

Policy CON-52.5: The County shall increase the institutional capacity and expertise within the County to be able to competently obtain and analyze the necessary surface and ground water data as part of a countywide program to assess and manage these resources on a sustainable basis using critical indicators and criteria designed to track changes in conditions.

Policy CON-53: ~~The County shall ensure that the intensity and timing of new development is consistent with the capacity of water supplies and protect groundwater and other water supplies by requiring all applicants for discretionary projects demonstrate the availability of adequate water supply prior to approval. Adequate demonstration of availability may include evidence or calculation of groundwater availability and may be satisfied as part of compliance with County Code "fair-share" provisions and state requirements, through coordination with applicable cities and public and private water purveyors to verify water supply sufficiency, by compliance with County Code provisions, State laws or adopted groundwater management plan, and where necessary with an appropriate hydrogeologic analysis. Required analyses may use quantitative standards based on technical studies and established by ordinance. The most detailed review and the most stringent standards will be applied in designated groundwater deficient areas, including the MST groundwater basin, and other areas where groundwater assessments demonstrate a need for additional management actions to address groundwater problems, such as areas where saltwater intrusion has occurred or is likely to occur.~~

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Comment [heg2]: Note: Recommended changes to this policy clarify that analytical requirements will vary by location, but the policy essentially maintains the County's current practice whereby discretionary projects are reviewed to ensure that sufficient water is available.

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Policy 53.5: Before authorizing any exportation of water from the County, the County shall ensure an adequate, long term supply of ground and surface water for agriculture, conservation, domestic, industrial, and recreational uses in affected areas/watersheds.

Policy CON-54: The County shall maintain or enhance infiltration and recharge of groundwater aquifers by requiring all discretionary projects be designed (at minimum) to maintain a site's predevelopment groundwater recharge potential, to the maximum extent feasible, by minimizing impervious surfaces and promoting recharge (e.g., via the use of water retention/detention structures, use of permeable paving materials, bio-swales, water gardens, cisterns, and other best management practices). ~~Where feasible and consistent with General Plan land use policies, the County will try to have storm water retention ponds located in areas where the soil is suitable for groundwater recharge (such as in the Carneros area).~~
[Implemented by Action Item CON WR-5]

Policy CON-55: ~~The County shall consider existing water uses during the review of new water uses and curtail the installation of any new wells where hydrogeologic studies have shown that the new wells will cause significant adverse well interference or substantial reductions in groundwater discharge to surface waters that would alter critical flows to sustain riparian habitat and fisheries or exacerbate conditions of overdraft.~~
[Implemented by Action Item CON WR-6]

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Policy CON-56: ~~The County shall discourage the drilling or operation of any new wells in known areas of saltwater intrusion until such time as a program has been approved and funded which will minimize or avoid expansion of salt water intrusion into useable groundwater supplies.~~

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Policy CON-57: The County shall work with appropriate agencies and districts to develop an understanding of potential groundwater deficiencies and coordinate with private property owners to voluntarily collect groundwater data, including implementing effective water management and conservation strategies and encouraging exploration and use of alternative (e.g., non-groundwater, ~~with recycled water as the preferred alternative when non-potable water is suitable~~) water supplies where feasible to further conserve existing groundwater resources. [Implemented by Action Items CON WR-8 and 9]

Policy CON-58: The County shall periodically review and update groundwater policies and ordinances as new studies and monitoring data become available as appropriate to ~~adequately assess, manage, enhance and sustain the County's surface water and groundwater resources, including implementation of various protective recommendations outlined in the 2050 Napa Valley Water Resources Study (West Yost & Assoc., 2005).~~
[Implemented by Action Item CON WR-9]

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Policy CON-59: The County shall disseminate available information (online or in report format) on

representative groundwater levels by basin or sub-basin on a scale that is appropriate based on data availability and confidentiality. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-5]

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Policy CON-60: The County shall promote cost-effective water conservation and water efficiency measures that reduce water loss, waste, and water demand through the following measures:

- a) Taking a leadership role in water conservation efforts, by using low flow fixtures, drought-tolerant landscaping, drip irrigation, recycled water use where available and appropriate, periodic water use “audits” and other strategies to conserve water at all County-owned and operated facilities.
 - b) Requiring the use of water conservation measures in areas served by municipal supplies on projects to improve water use efficiency and reduce overall demand including, but not limited to, working cooperatively with all water providers and with developers to incorporate water conservation measures into project designs (e.g., as recommended by the California Urban Water Conservation Council), and coordination with water providers to continue to develop and implement water drought contingency plans to assist County citizens and businesses in reducing water use during periods of water shortages and emergencies.
 - c) Seeking cooperative partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry groups, and individuals in furthering water conservation strategies in Napa County.
- [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-9]

Policy CON-61: The County shall coordinate and collaborate with other agencies to identify, improve, and conserve Napa County’s community and municipal water supply resources as follows:

- a) Environmentally sustainable water supply projects should receive priority attention, including development of sustainable alternative water supplies such as the use of recycled water for non-potable uses in Carneros and the MST groundwater basins.
- b) Manage potential disruptions in water supply from reduced Sierra snow-pack and related drought conditions to ensure a stable water supply in the future by purchasing additional supplies or entitlements, including opportunities to purchase dry year water supplies, modifying standard operational procedures and/or facilities to enhance the availability of local water resources, and planning for water supply treatment facilities and delivery systems to urbanized areas of the county. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-7]

Policy CON-62: As stated in Policy AG/LU-74, the County supports the extension of recycled water to the Coombsville area to reduce reliance on groundwater in the MST groundwater basin. Also, the County shall identify and support ways to utilize recycled water for irrigation and non-potable uses to offset dependency on groundwater and surface waters and ensure adequate wastewater treatment capacity through the following measures:

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- a) Require (as part of continued implementation of County Code Title 13 Division 2 provisions associated with sewer systems) verification of adequate wastewater service for all development projects prior to their approvals. This requirement includes coordination with wastewater service purveyors to verify adequate capacity and infrastructure either exists or will be available prior to operation of the development project.
- b) Use the most advanced wastewater treatment and reuse facilities feasible to reclaim, reuse, and deliver treated wastewater for irrigation and possible potable use depending on wastewater treatment standards.
- c) Require proposals for non-residential construction in the Airport Industrial Area and lower Milliken-Sarco/Tulucay Creeks Area to incorporate dual plumbing to allow for the use of non-potable/recycled water when such water becomes available.

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d) Encourage the use of non-potable/recycled water for wherever recycled water is available and require the use of recycled water for golf courses where feasible.

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Policy CON-63: The County will support the work of the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board as a clearinghouse for watershed information, a forum for citizen and interagency discussion and cooperation, and development and coordination of watershed monitoring efforts and strategic planning. [Implemented by Action Items CON WR-4, 7, 8, and 9]

Policy CON-63.5: The County shall modify County policies and programs regarding groundwater as new information becomes available, recognizing the difficulty of assessing and resolving ground water problems.

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Policy CON-64: The County shall monitor the rise in sea levels and resulting saltwater intrusion into surface waters and use adaptive management strategies to modify County practices when warranted. [Implemented by Action Item CON WR-4, 8, and 9]

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WATER RESOURCES ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item CON WR-1: Develop basin-level watershed management plans for each of the three major watersheds in Napa County (Napa River, Putah Creek, and Suisun Creek). Support each basin-level plan with focused sub-basin (drainage-level) or evaluation area-level implementation strategies, specifically adapted and scaled to address identified water resource problems and restoration opportunities. Plan development and implementation shall utilize a flexible watershed approach to manage surface water and groundwater quality and quantity. The watershed planning process should be an iterative, holistic, and collaborative approach, identifying specific drainage areas or watersheds, eliciting stakeholder involvement, and developing management actions supported by sound science that can be effectively implemented. [Implements Policies 42 and 44]

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Action Item CON WR-2: The County shall work with State and Regional Water Board staff to develop specific performance conditions, evaluation criteria, and methods for estimating pre- and post-development peak runoff rates and durations for 2-, 10-, 50-, and 100-year storm events. [Implements Policy 50(c)]

Action Item CON WR-3: Update the Conservation Regulations to establish an appropriate protective buffer (e.g., a special protection zone) in areas that drain toward any intake structure associated with the County's sensitive domestic water supply drainages, requiring specific development and performance measures to protect water quality and balance property owners' ability to use their land and stipulating that discretionary projects must be located outside of the protective buffer wherever this is feasible. [Implements Policy 45]

Comment [heg3]: Note: this change was recommended by the Planning Commission based on comments by representatives of the Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company.

Action Item CON WR-4: Implement a countywide watershed monitoring program to assess the health of the County's watersheds and track the effectiveness of management activities and related restoration efforts. Information from the monitoring program should be used to inform the development of basin-level watershed management plans as well as focused sub-basin (drainage-level) implementation strategies intended to address targeted water resource problems and facilitate restoration opportunities. Over time, the monitoring data will be used to develop overall watershed health indicators and as a basis of employing adaptive watershed management planning. [Implements Policies 42, 44, 47, 49, 63, and 64]

Action Item CON WR-5: Identify, map, and disseminate information on groundwater recharge areas, to the extent feasible, and provide educational materials and resource information on ways of reducing and limiting the development of non-pervious surfaces in those areas. [Implements Policy 54 and 59]

Action Item CON WR-6: Establish and disseminate standards for well pump testing and reporting and include as a condition of discretionary projects that well owners provide to the County upon request information regarding the locations, depths, yields, drilling and well construction logs, soil data, water levels and general mineral quality of any new wells. [Implements Policy 52 and 55]

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Comment [heg4]: Note: The County already applies this type of condition to discretionary projects requiring a use permit from the Planning Commission. Also, well drillers routinely report this information to the State.

Action Item CON WR-7: The County, in cooperation with local municipalities and districts, shall perform surface water and groundwater resources studies and analyses and work toward the development and implementation of an integrated water resources management plan (IRWMP) that covers the entirety of Napa

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County and addresses local and state water resource goals, including the identification of surface water protection and restoration projects, establishment of countywide groundwater management objectives and programs for the purpose of meeting those objectives, funding, and implementation. [Implements Policy 42, 44, and 63]

Action Item CON WR-8: The County shall undertake a comprehensive effort to systematically assess and monitor groundwater and interrelated surface water resources. The assessment and monitoring program will be performed using standard hydrologic and hydrogeologic data sources, including published reports, databases, and related studies. Methods of analysis will be employed to achieve a sound understanding of the status (e.g., stable, improving, or degrading conditions) and vulnerability (e.g., to saltwater intrusion, overdraft, and other degradation mechanisms) of the County's water resources. The monitoring component of the program will include direct measurement, collection, and recording of groundwater and surface water parameters by the County plus coordination with others to do the same where applicable. Monitoring parameters will include, but not be limited to, groundwater levels, quality, and pumpage, and interrelated surface water flows and quality. The monitoring program shall reflect and be tailored to each unique hydrogeologic setting (i.e., for each basin or subbasin) within which groundwater occurs and is utilized for water supply in the County. As applicable to each recognized hydrogeologic setting, the County will incorporate existing monitoring facilities (e.g., stream gauges, precipitation gauges, Department of Water Resources monitoring wells). Also as applicable to program objectives, the County will incorporate public and privately owned wells for groundwater monitoring where access and permission to use the wells (and associated monitoring data) can be obtained on a voluntary basis. The County will also acquire data through conditions of approval for selected discretionary projects where that data contributes to program objectives. Where data cannot be obtained with existing wells or through conditions of approval for discretionary projects, or where private well owners do not grant voluntary access, the County shall conduct studies and install dedicated monitoring facilities to fulfill the program objectives. Similarly, where existing surface water gauging is not available, the County shall install facilities to acquire data targeted under the program objectives. (Implements Policies 57, 58, 64)]

Action Item CON WR-8.5: The County shall establish a computerized surface water and groundwater database for the purpose of compiling and storing all available data, and also to facilitate evaluation of ongoing monitoring data, use existing and future monitoring data to refine the County's assessments of groundwater conditions throughout the County, and to prepare regular reports of these assessments. For aquifers or areas where these assessments indicate that there is a demonstrated need for additional management actions to address groundwater problems, the County shall prepare a plan for managing the groundwater supplies pursuant to Water Code Sections 10750-10755.4 or other applicable legal authorities. The County shall seek the participation and concurrence of the interested local agencies, private water companies and landowners in the development of any such plan. In any area where a groundwater management plan has been adopted, the County will require that any new well be constructed and operated in a manner that is consistent with the plan.

Action Item CON WR-9: The County shall adopt a Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance for multifamily residential, industrial, and commercial developments regarding the use of water-efficient landscaping consistent with AB 325. [Implements Policy 52, 57, 58, and 60]

Action Item CON WR-9.5: The County shall work with the SWRCB, DWR, DPH, CalEPA, and applicable County and City agencies to seek and secure funding sources for the County to develop and expand groundwater assessment, protection, enhancement and management programs.

Comment [heg5]: Note: The revised version of Action Item CON WR-8 and the addition of the new action item which follows represent the most substantive changes recommended by the County's groundwater experts. Under these action items and other policies in this water resources section, groundwater monitoring remains voluntary for private well owners, however the County is committing to undertake more systematic and comprehensive data collection efforts than in the past, and to develop management actions where/when the monitoring data indicates there is a problem.

Deleted: The County shall undertake efforts to obtain and monitor surface and groundwater levels, using County-owned monitoring wells and stream and precipitation gauges (including installation of additional stream and precipitation gauges) in locations to adequately assess water availability and flows for steelhead and aquatic resources. This could include coordinated voluntary efforts undertaken by private property owners through the encouragement of voluntary data collection efforts in each identified groundwater basin. Groundwater levels should be measured twice a year, preferably spring and fall, to track the minimum and maximum groundwater levels, and at a minimum an initial set of water quality samples should be collected to determine baseline water quality conditions. [Implements Policy 57, 63, and 64]