



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 10/16/2018

Agenda Placement: 6G

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steven Lederer - Director of Public Works
Public Works

REPORT BY: Maiko Klieman, Public Works Administrative Manager - 707-259-8382

SUBJECT: Creation of a Special Revenue Fund to support Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests approval to establish a new non-operating special revenue fund (Fund 2440, Division 24402, Sub-Division 12200-55), Well Monitoring Fees, to receive funds based on the conditions set forth in the issuance of certain permits which will be used for the installation of dedicated monitoring wells. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In support of the County's Groundwater Monitoring Program and to facilitate management actions to ensure long-term groundwater resource sustainability, the Director of Public Works is requesting the establishment a new non-operating special revenue fund to receive funds from the conditions set forth in the issuance of some permits and to be used for the installation of dedicated monitoring wells. These specific funds will be deposited into the special revenue fund and staff will be returning to the Board at a later date to request appropriation when the funds are to be used for the installation of dedicated monitoring wells.

Implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Program requires shared responsibilities across multiple County departments and the alignment of permitting and resource management actions. When approving land use entitlements that may have a potential impact on local groundwater resources, special conditions of approval may be required to mitigate potential adverse groundwater impacts. In some cases, it may be more effective to apply permit conditions that support broader Groundwater Monitoring Program objectives, such as the installation of publicly owned and operated monitoring wells in specific locations where key groundwater information is needed.

The County's Groundwater Monitoring Program conducts groundwater level monitoring at over 100 well locations, the majority of which are privately owned and voluntarily enrolled in the Program. County staff and consultants continually look for ways to improve the groundwater monitoring network and thereby enhance community's

understanding of our shared groundwater resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	Funds are collected from the applicant as the conditions set forth in the issuance of some land use entitlements (permits) that are reliant upon groundwater and therefore may have a potential to impact local groundwater resources. Fee will vary with the project permit and condition of approval negotiated with the applicant.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Request to establish a new non-operating special revenue fund is to make sure funds are collected and used for the specific purpose of installing dedicated monitoring wells.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Funds collected from the applicant as the conditions set forth in the issuance of some land use entitlements (permits) that are reliant upon groundwater and therefore may have a potential to impact local groundwater resources will continue to be deposited into the newly created special revenue fund.
Consequences if not approved:	Funds will get mixed in with other revenues and it will be difficult for staff to track.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Since 2008, the County, along with the efforts of others, has been instrumental in implementing groundwater management actions to better understand groundwater conditions, establish monitoring to track conditions, conduct education and outreach, and develop programs to assess and maintain groundwater sustainability. These efforts included the adoption of Goals and Policies in Napa County's 2008 General Plan, commencing new and ongoing groundwater resource studies since 2009, and the creation of a Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC; 2011 to 2014) to spearhead groundwater sustainability planning, management implementation and community outreach.

A Napa County Groundwater Monitoring Plan was prepared in 2013 (LSCE 2013) that formalized groundwater monitoring efforts as part of a Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Program. The Monitoring Plan recommends annual reporting on groundwater conditions and modifications to the countywide groundwater

monitoring program as needed. To date, three annual reports have been prepared (LSCE, 2015; LSCE, 2016a; and LSCE, 2017a). The latest report prepared also meet the annual reporting requirements of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). In December 2016, Napa County submitted the Napa Valley Subbasin Basin Analysis Report (BAR) (LSCE, 2016c) as an alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in accordance with the GSP Regulations developed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

In 2017, the County's Groundwater Monitoring Program conducted groundwater level monitoring at over 100 well locations across Napa County, including 61 wells within the Napa Valley Subbasin. The majority of wells monitored under the Program are privately owned and voluntarily enrolled in the Program. County groundwater staff and their technical consultants are continually working to improve the breadth of scope (spatial distribution) of monitored wells to improve the Program's effectiveness, thereby enhance the community's understanding of shared groundwater resources.

Effective and efficient implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Program requires shared responsibilities across multiple departments and the alignment of permitting and resource management actions. In the process of issuing land use entitlements (permits) that are reliant upon groundwater and therefore may have a potential to impact local groundwater resources, special conditions of approval may be required to alleviate or otherwise mitigate potential adverse groundwater impacts. Conditions of approval that are protective of shared groundwater resources take many forms depending on the scope of project and may include on and off-site groundwater level monitoring, construction of dedicated monitoring wells and ongoing monitoring and reporting of groundwater usage. In some instances, it may be more beneficial and effective to apply permit conditions that support broader Groundwater Monitoring Program objectives, such as the installation of publicly owned and operated groundwater monitoring wells in specific locations throughout Napa County where key groundwater information is needed or limited. Data collected from these dedicated groundwater monitoring facilities will directly support permitting needs and further assist the County in determining the overall trends in groundwater resource usage and sustainability.

In support of the County's Groundwater Monitoring Program and to facilitate management actions to ensure long-term groundwater resource sustainability, the Director of Public Works requests the Board's approval to establish a new non-operating special revenue fund (Fund 2440, Division 24402, Sub-Division 12200-55), Well Monitoring Fees, to receive funds from the conditions set forth in the issuance of some permits and to be used for the installation of dedicated monitoring wells.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi