



Agenda Date: 11/12/2020

Agenda Placement: 6A

A Tradition of Stewardship  
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## GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE **Board Agenda Letter**

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**TO:** Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee

**FROM:** David Morrison - Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services  
PBES - Environmental Health

**REPORT BY:** Jeff Sharp, SUPERVISING PLANNER - 707-259-5936

**SUBJECT:** Review, Discuss and Recommend Adoption of the Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review and discuss the Final Draft of the Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP) and recommend its adoption by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the requirements of The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. These interests include, but are not limited to, holders of overlying groundwater rights (including agriculture users and domestic well owners), public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental users, surface water users, federal government, California Native American tribes, and disadvantaged communities (Water Code 10723.2).

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations require that GSAs provide opportunities for public engagement and active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin in the development of the GSP. This process ensures that the GSAs are using best available information and best available science for GSP development.

A Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP) has been prepared for inclusion in the GSP for the Napa Valley Subbasin. A Final Draft of the CEP is provided for the Committee's review and input. This draft of the CEP incorporates input received from GSPAC members and the public on October 8, 2020. Staff is requesting final review from the Committee and a recommendation that the Napa County GSA adopt the CEP as amended for inclusion in the Napa Valley Subbasin GSP.

#### Procedure

Staff reports and answers questions of the Committee.

Public comments.

Discussion and Committee recommendation to staff.

#### **FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:

#### **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**

SGMA requires consideration of the interests of diverse, social, cultural, and economic elements of the populations within a groundwater basin during GSP development and implementation. Collaborative and inclusive processes can make GSPs more resilient by increasing buy-in and trust, improving compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which plans are based.

Required actions under SGMA:

- | Consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including agricultural and domestic users, municipal uses, environmental uses, users of interconnected surface water, federal and state agencies, California Native American tribes, and disadvantaged communities. (Wat. Code, § 10723.2)
- | Maintain a list of interested persons to whom the GSA will send notices regarding plan development, meetings, and other activities. (Wat. Code, § 10723.4)
- | Issue a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the plan. This statement must be provided to cities, counties, and public water systems located in the plan area. (Wat. Code, § 10723.8.)
- | Provide notice and hold a public hearing prior to adoption or amendment of a plan. (Wat. Code, § 10728.4.)
- | Describe GSA outreach efforts in plans. (California Code of Regulations, § 354.10(d)(3))

To meet the requirements of SGMA and to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin, a Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP) has been prepared as part of the GSP. The CEP will be adopted by the Napa County GSA, included in the final draft of the GSP, and submitted to the Department of Water Resources by December 31, 2020 as a task in the GSA's Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant.

At the October 8th GSPAC meeting, the CONCUR team presented a revised draft of the CEP which incorporated input received from GSPAC members, the public and the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) on the prior version of the document. During the meeting, GSPAC members and members of the public provided additional comments on the revised CEP. Comments included: (1) the addition of metrics to the CEP; (2) the inclusion of the organization ICARE to the list of stakeholders; and (3) a clear statement about outreach to stakeholders outside of the Napa Valley Subbasin.

At the October 8th meeting, the GSPAC voted unanimously to endorse the draft CEP with the additions listed above and to bring the revised CEP document back to the Committee at its November meeting for final review and recommendation of adoption to the Napa County GSA.

The CEP, dated November 3, 2020 has been revised to include:

- | Both quantitative and qualitative metrics in Section 9 (see p. 14) that address participation and engagement in outreach events, traffic and subscriptions to the GSA's electronic distribution list and website, the extent to which community members gained an understanding of groundwater issues, and the extent to which community members felt their participation and/or input was valued and considered;
- | Specific listing of ICARE in Appendix B, Initial List of Potentially Interested Parties to Engage (see p. 16); and
- | Text explaining the GSA's intention to include a broad range of Napa County stakeholders in outreach efforts, including residents outside of Subbasin boundaries (see p. 4).

As described in the CEP, implementation of stakeholder outreach, communication, and engagement will be an adaptive process and a shared responsibility involving several partners, including but not limited to the GSA, the GSPAC, GSA staff, the RCD and many other local agencies and organizations with interest in the Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin.

In support of the CEP's implementation, on October 15, 2020, the RCD submitted a grant proposal to the California Department of Conservation to fund groundwater sustainability-related work which included education, outreach and engagement activities.

Staff is requesting the Committee's review of the revised CEP, and a recommendation from the GSPAC that the Napa County GSA adopt the CEP, submit it to DWR as a deliverable under its Prop 68 Groundwater Management Program Grant by December 2020, and incorporate the CEP into the final draft of the Napa Valley Subbasin GSP in Fall 2021.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan - Nov. 3, 2020

Committee Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Jeff Sharp