



Agenda Date: 11/12/2020

Agenda Placement: 6E

A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

## GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Board Agenda Letter

---

**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:** Update on Revised Draft Section 3 and Summary of Comments Received on Draft Sections 4 and 5 of the Napa Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Committee Secretary requests the following:

- a. Receive revised Draft Section 3 (November 3, 2020) of the Napa Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and discuss revisions made, and
- b. Receive a summary of comments received on Draft Sections 4 and 5 of the GSP during the initial comment period.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Reid Bryson, of Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE), will provide a summary of revisions made to

Draft Section 3 of the Napa Valley Subbasin GSP and summarize public comments received on Draft Sections 4 and 5. Mr. Bryson will summarize the objectives of the three draft GSP sections and responses received from the GSPAC and members of the public during the initial comment periods. Survey responses have been incorporated into the revised Draft Section 3, dated November 3, 2020, provided to the Committee for review and discussion along with an updated Department of Water Resources' GSP Elements Guide. The technical team is presently addressing comments pertaining to Draft Sections 4 and 5. A revised Draft Section 4 is planned to be provided before the Committee's December meeting. A revised Draft Section 5 is planned to be completed in Spring 2021 at the conclusion of the extended comment period on monitoring network data gaps described at the Committee's October 8, 2020 meeting.

#### 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**

Reid Bryson, of LSCE, will provide a summary of revisions made to Draft Section 3 of the Napa Valley Subbasin GSP and will summarize public comments received during the initial comment period for Draft Sections 4 and 5 of the GSP.

Draft Section 3 of the GSP describes local, state, and federal agencies with existing water and land use monitoring and management programs in the Napa Valley Subbasin. These descriptions provide context and a general understanding of efforts underway by other agencies, which may influence groundwater conditions in the Subbasin. Draft Section 3 also describes the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Subbasin consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). These descriptions precede additional details to be addressed in subsequent Sections of the Napa Valley Subbasin GSP, including identification of significant and unreasonable impacts on beneficial users. Many local, state, and federal agencies implement monitoring and management programs in the Napa Valley Subbasin. The objectives of those monitoring programs are often dictated by statutory or regulatory requirements intended to protect groundwater and surface water quality. Draft Section 3 describes those programs and their monitoring networks.

A Draft of Section 3 was first released on September 10, 2020 for public review and comment. Using the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (NCGSA's) SurveyMonkey platform; 23 comments were received during the 9/10/20 to 9/23/20 initial comment period. The technical team at LSCE reviewed all comments, including those from GSPAC members and others. Comments were considered and addressed according to four main

categories: 1) editorial (including text and figure edits); 2) comments pertinent to the objectives of Draft Section 3; 3) general comments of interest but not directly pertinent to the objectives of Section 3; and 4) comments pertinent to future GSPAC discussions and one of more future GSP sections. Revisions made to Draft Section 3 are summarized in the Memo dated 11/3/20, included with this agenda item.

Draft Section 4 of the GSP provides a narrative and graphical description of the physical and geological setting of the Napa Valley Subbasin. The physical and geologic setting are presented as a Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM)\* that informs the interpretation of monitoring data, water budget development and mathematical modeling, and sustainable management criteria development, as well as evaluate projects and management actions described in the GSP. Additionally, Section 4 includes a description of the topography, soil characteristics, geologic setting, principal aquifers, surface water features and interconnections with groundwater, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, sources and points of delivery of imported water supplies, and HCM data gaps. Draft Section 5 describes the monitoring network for the Subbasin that will promote the collection of data of sufficient quality, frequency, and distribution to characterize groundwater and related surface water conditions in the basin and evaluate changing conditions that occur through implementation of the GSP.

The survey for Draft Sections 4 and 5 received a total of 14 responses during the 10/2/20 to 10/20/20 initial comment period. The technical team at LSCE reviewed all comments, including those from GSPAC members and others. Comments were considered and are being addressed according to four main categories: 1) editorial (including text and figure edits); 2) comments pertinent to the objectives of Draft Section; 3) general comments of interest but not directly pertinent to the objectives of Draft Section; and 4) comments pertinent to future GSPAC discussions and one of more future GSP sections.

Of the responses received within the requested period the five most common self-selected affiliations of respondents were domestic well owners, the general public, the business community, surface water users, and public water systems. The comments reflect an overall agreement that Draft Section 4 provides a general understanding of the physical and geologic setting, with 58% (8) in strong agreement, 21% (3) in moderate agreement, and 7% (1) in slight agreement. The comments also reflect an overall agreement that Draft Section 5 provides a clear description of the GSP monitoring networks, with 31% (4) in strong agreement, 38% (5) in moderate agreement, and 8% (1) in slight agreement. Substantive comments received during the initial comment period are summarized in the Memo dated 11/4/20, included with this agenda item.

\**“Hydrogeologic conceptual model” means a description of the geologic and hydrologic framework governing the occurrence of groundwater and its flow through and across the boundaries of a basin and the general groundwater conditions in a basin or subbasin. (23 CCR §341(q)).*

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . Memo on Revised Draft Section 3
- B . Draft Section 3 of GSP Nov 3 2020 (25mb)
- C . Draft List of Acronyms and Abbreviations Nov 3 2020
- D . Revised GSP Elements Guide Nov 3 2020
- E . Memo on Comments Received on Draft Sections 4 and 5

Committee Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Jeff Sharp