



Agenda Date: 2/11/2021

Agenda Placement: 6A

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 from ad-hoc Workgroup on assessment of management tools and policy options, and request to extend the Workgroup's charge through April 8, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Committee Secretary and Facilitator requests the Committee receive an update from the Workgroup and grant an extension of time for the Workgroup to complete its charge.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Workgroup held its fourth meeting on January 27, 2021. At that meeting the Workgroup reviewed a draft matrix of management tools and policy options to identify and rank the effectiveness of potential groundwater management options and policies. Members of the Workgroup provided input on the structure of the matrix and applied it to evaluate a number of vineyard management tools and options. Also during the January meeting, the Workgroup received a presentation by Deborah Elliott, Napa County Environmental Resource Specialist, and Anna

Brittain, Executive Director of Napa Green, which described local winery and residential water conservation efforts and program options. The Workgroup further discussed winery operations related to water conservation and use and briefly talked about the new winery waste discharge requirements (WDR) for wastewater and its implications for water conservation and reuse.

At its November 12, 2020 meeting, the Committee appointed and charged the ad-hoc Workgroup to explore management options and policies that may be implemented locally to manage groundwater sustainably and to develop these options for consideration by the full Committee. The Workgroup was direct to convene through February 2021 and report back to the Committee on its recommendations. The Workgroup has additional work to complete. The Workgroup, the Facilitation Team and Staff is requesting the Committee extend the charge of the Workgroup through April 8, 2021, to coincide with the April GSPAC meeting.

Procedure

Staff and Workgroup reports.

Committee discussion and comment.

Committee considers action to extend the charge of the Workgroup through April 8, 2021.

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

At its November 12, 2020 meeting, the Committee agreed to initiate an ad-hoc workgroup to explore management options and policies that may be implemented locally to manage groundwater sustainably and to develop these options for consideration by the full Committee. The Committee appointed the following members to serve on an ad-hoc Workgroup: Garrett Buckland, David Graves, Lester Hardy, Amber Manfree, Peter Nissen and Paul Warnock.

The Workgroup held four meetings between November 30, 2020 and January 27, 2021. Workgroup member Lester Hardy has provided concise recaps of the Work Team's efforts at the past two GSPAC meetings. To summarize, over the course of the four meetings, the Workgroup:

- 1 Reviewed its process for identifying and evaluating tools and BMPs by water use sector and received and discussed information on water use and other resources for the Workgroup.
- 1 Received and discussed information on vineyard irrigation BMPs, winery water use, and the Napa Green winery and vineyard certification programs that promote water efficiency and other sustainable practices.
- 1 Received, refined, and applied a matrix that summarizes potential tools and considerations related to implementation feasibility and impact on water management. and
- 1 Discussed the County's Water Availability Analysis, how it relates to groundwater sustainability, and ways

that it can be adjusted to achieve groundwater sustainability goals.

Some themes that have arisen in the Workgroup discussions include the importance of considering a combination of regulatory measures and non-regulatory best management practices (BMPs) that allow property owners flexibility in determining how best to meet targets, the need to use empirical data on water use to the extent possible in the GSP, and the need to address any data gaps in the datasets used for the development of the hydrologic model. A brief status report will be presented by Lester Hardy.

At its future meetings, the Workgroup will further discuss and evaluate management tools and policies including monitoring approaches. The Workgroup will continue to refine and apply a matrix to display and evaluate the tools based on key criteria such as effectiveness and feasibility and will indicate whether the tools are most appropriately used in the near term, mid term or long term. The Workgroup will also be developing recommended options for monitoring of groundwater conditions and groundwater dependent ecosystems and suggested protocols for monitoring the effectiveness of management actions. Finally, the Workgroup will consider an “if-then” scenario as a sort of “forcing function” in which future groundwater sustainability and groundwater-dependent ecosystems conditions are threatened and tools must be identified and implemented to address the situation.

As the Workgroup has additional work to do in order to complete the development of recommendations of options for tools, management options and policies for the GSPAC to consider for sustainable groundwater management, the Workgroup, the facilitation team and staff is requesting that the timeframe for completion of the Workgroup's charge be extended through April 8, 2021 to coincide with the Committee's April meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Committee Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Jeff Sharp