



Agenda Date: 9/10/2020

Agenda Placement: 6B

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GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE **Board Agenda Letter**

TO: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee

FROM: Jeff Sharp for David Morrison - Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services
PBES - Environmental Health

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

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion of Draft Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP)

RECOMMENDATION

Review, discuss and provide input on the initial draft of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP).

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. As a result, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development needs to consider effects on stakeholders in or around the groundwater basin with overlapping interests. 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).

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) is being prepared for inclusion in the GSP for the Napa Valley Subbasin. A Draft CEP is provided for Committee review and input. Staff is requesting any comments or recommendations the Committee, or public may have on the Draft CEP.

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. Collaborative and inclusive processes can make plans more resilient by increasing buy-in and trust, improving compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which plans are based. It is important that GSAs send appropriate notices; hold meetings in times, places, and manners that support effective engagement; and acknowledge issues raised. GSAs should consult with individuals or groups when actions may impose direct or indirect costs on those entities. Thoughtful GSA governance and GSP implementation can build trust and reduce legal and environmental/resource management risk.

Required actions under SGMA:

- 1 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)
- 1 Maintain a list of interested persons to whom the GSA will send notices regarding plan development, meetings, and other activities. (Wat. Code, § 10723.4)
- 1 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) is being prepared as part of the GSP for the Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin. Development and submittal of a of a CEP to the Department of Water Resources by December 31, 2020 is a task in the GSA's Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant.

A draft outline of the CEP was provided to the Committee for their review and input on August 13, 2020. At this time, an initial Draft CEP is being provided to the Committee. Staff is requesting any comments or recommendations on the Draft CEP. In particular, Staff is requesting input from the Committee and the public on the following questions regarding the Draft CEP:

- | Who do you see as the audience(s) to be engaged in GSP development and implementation?
- | Who are some key partners (organizations or individuals) who can help bring others into the process and implement engagement activities?
- | What substantive topic areas are critical for education and input from stakeholders?
- | What methods are most valuable for engaging stakeholders?
- | Given your capacity as a GSPAC member, what do you see as your role and the role of other members in outreach, engagement and communication?

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Draft Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan

Committee Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Jeff Sharp