



MEMORANDUM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE AGENCY
PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: April 5, 2016

FROM: Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

Ken Grehm
Director DPWF

BY: Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst
Kevin Bell, P.E., Environmental Engineering Program Manager

SUBJECT: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Program Management Update

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Receive an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act activities for the North American Sub-Basin, proposed timeline to meet regulation milestones, and budget discussion.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires agencies to achieve "sustainable groundwater management" by implementing various elements of the Act. CDRA staff last briefed your Board and was provided direction on November 17, 2015. This memo provides an update on the various Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) activities that Community Development Resource Agency staff and Environmental Engineering staff have been working on related to the North American Groundwater Subbasin.

Additionally, staff intends to bring forward an update of the Martis Valley Basin SGMA activities to your Board at the Tahoe region meeting on April 19, 2016.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

SGMA requires the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 30, 2017. The County has been leading monthly meetings with the City of Roseville, City of Lincoln, Placer County Water Agency and California American Water Company to collaborate on the formation of a GSA that will implement SGMA requirements for a portion of the North American Sub-Basin. In addition, the South Sutter Water District (SSWD) has been invited to participate, as a portion of its jurisdiction is in Placer County and the District is considering whether to join western Placer Agencies or form a separate GSA. Additionally, staff has been meeting with SSWD to understand its desires, as the District is entirely agriculture based, and to assist the District with the issues regarding the rest of the sub-basin.

The GSA team meetings have been productive and progress has been made on several items necessary for meeting the SGMA regulations. A draft timeline has been developed (Attachment 1) to ensure that all requirements are developed in time to meet key milestones.

Public Outreach

The GSA team is currently developing a process for SGMA-required stakeholder engagement and outreach. The goal is to ensure all stakeholders are provided the opportunity to understand SGMA and provide input to the GSA team during the GSA formation process.

On December 14, 2015, staff briefed the Agricultural Commission on SGMA and staff's approach to seek input from the agricultural community before moving forward with developing an outreach plan. The

Commissioners took no action but desired to be helpful as the outreach occurs. In the late fall of 2015, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded the Placer GSA team a facilitation support contractor, at no cost, to assist in creating a communications plan and provide initial outreach targeted to the agricultural community. County staff and the GSA team have been working with the contractor to develop the necessary outreach plans. Staff's intention is to begin outreach to stakeholders this spring and continue through summer and fall to reach all stakeholders before formally creating a GSA.

County staff is also consulting with agency counterparts within Sacramento County and Sutter County portions of the North American Sub-Basin. Bi-monthly meetings are being held to ensure that all issues and information regarding the SGMA are discussed and a compatible path to compliance is agreed upon. Already, each party has agreed to work cooperatively during the formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) once the GSA formation process is complete. This should allow for a smoother and less expensive process by eliminating coordinating agreements and using identical modeling and monitoring standards. Further, the parties can combine resources and technical expertise to formulate joint grant applications, development of best practices and, most importantly, the future GSP development.

Groundwater Monitoring Program

In November 2015, your Board adopted a Resolution authorizing staff to prepare a grant application to the DWR to become a CASGEM (California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring) Monitoring Entity. Implementation of an approved CASGEM groundwater monitoring program allows the County to be eligible for Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act (Proposition 1) funding to assist with formation of GSAs and GSPs. The CASGEM program also provides information and data necessary for the GSP development. The application was approved in December 2015. The County's consultant worked with staff to prepare and submit a Groundwater Monitoring Plan that was also approved by the DWR in December 2015. Moving forward, the County will work with its consultant to implement the Plan, which requires physical upgrades to some of the monitoring wells (pump replacement, video surveys, and elevation surveys), monthly elevation monitoring which began in February 2016, water quality sampling, and periodic reporting to DWR beginning in April 2016.

Basin Boundary Modification

SGMA allows for the modification of basin boundaries, if needed, to promote sustainable groundwater management. On March 8, 2016, your Board adopted a Resolution authorizing staff to submit a Request for a Basin Boundary Modification to the DWR by the March 31, 2016 deadline. As discussed, a portion of the South Yuba Groundwater Subbasin (about two square miles) extends south into Placer County. To simplify groundwater management and eliminate the need for multiple GSAs and / or interagency coordination to manage the overlap area, the requested Modification would adjust the shared North American / South Yuba Subbasin boundary slightly to the north, to align with the Placer / Yuba County line. The DWR will review the Request and inform the County if the submittal was complete or if additional information is needed. Once notified that the request is complete, County staff must notify local agencies and public water systems in the affected basins, informing them of the request and the public comment process. Staff has already been in contact with each agency and each agency has expressed its support.

Grant Funding

In November 2015, your Board adopted a Resolution authorizing staff to apply to the DWR to obtain a *Counties with Stressed Basins Grant* under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program pursuant to Proposition 1. The solicitation required a minimum of 50 percent cost-share funding which was met entirely by past groundwater related funding from Placer County and the other members of our GSA team. The application was successful and DWR awarded Placer County a grant for approximately \$242,000 during FY's 16/17 and 17/18 towards review of basin wide land use planning information, development of GSA structure options, and development of more comprehensive methods for understanding water extraction, water quality trends, and how to integrate that information into a future GSP. These grant dollars will cover costs of both County staff management and labor and consulting costs that are planned for the next eighteen months and will be taken into account for the FY16/17 annual budget process. Staff is currently in negotiation with DWR staff to finalize the grant Agreement and Scope of Work. Once finalized, staff will work with Procurement Services to hire a qualified consulting firm to

provide support and bring to the BOS for approval. Staff anticipates that the grant funding will be available no later than July 1, 2016. Grant activities will conclude by December 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT

As a relatively new program, staff continues to closely monitor costs related to SGMA and assess its impact on County resources. Costs incurred to-date for County labor, consultant services for developing the CASGEM program and Basin Boundary Modification, and well improvements total approximately \$120,000. The cost to continue implementing these programs through FY2015-16 is \$105,500. This includes consultant costs totaling \$38,500 (support for CASGEM monitoring, Basin Boundary Modification, GSA formation, and stakeholder outreach) and projected staff labor costs of \$67,000. Funding for FY2015-16 costs are available in the Planning Department appropriation. Unanticipated costs in excess of the funding available in FY 2015-16, can be offset by contingency funds in the County Executive Office's Community and Agency Support appropriation if needed at year-end. Budget for staff labor and outside contracts for future work will be included in the FY 2016-17 recommended budget. Staff will utilize awarded Proposition 1 grant funds to help offset General Fund impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft GSA formation timeline

Attachment 2: Boundary Line Adjustment (Shared North American/South Yuba, Placer/Yuba County Line)

**DRAFT - GSA FORMATION SCHEDULE
WESTERN PLACER COUNTY
March 31, 2016**

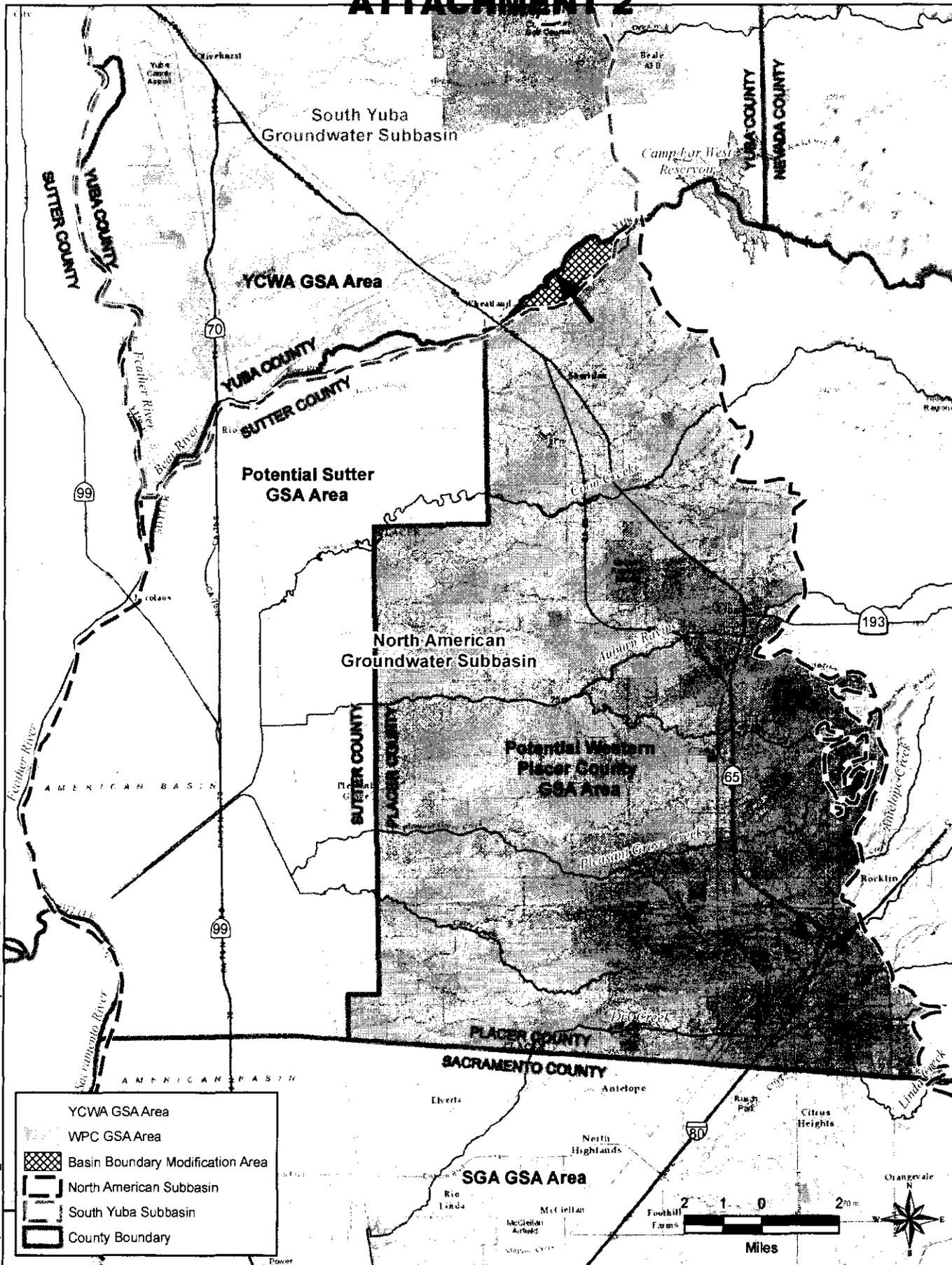
Milestone Activity Toward GSA Formation	DWR activity	Partner Policy Decisions	WPCGSA activity	Date	Year 2015												Year 2016					Year 2017							
					Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Collaborate with potential partners in region on development of GSA boundary alternatives				6/1/15 to 5/31/16	[Gantt bar: Jun 2015 - May 2016]																								
Progress																													
Adopt GSA boundary & Partner Agencies				6/1/2016	[Gantt bar: Jun 2016]																								
Progress																													
Develop list of interested stakeholders for public involvement				6/1/15 to 5/31/16	[Gantt bar: Jun 2015 - May 2016]																								
Progress																													
Develop/Implement Stakeholder Outreach Plan (facilitator support)				12/1/15 to 11/1/16	[Gantt bar: Dec 2015 - Nov 2016]																								
Progress																													
DWR Adopts regulations to revise basin boundaries & Draft of GSP and coordinating agreements released				2/1/2016	[Gantt bar: Feb 2016]																								
Submit request for basin boundary				by 3/31/2016	[Gantt bar: Mar 2016]																								
Progress																													
Develop GSA Budget Estimates				5/1/16 to 1/1/17	[Gantt bar: May 2016 - Jan 2017]																								
Progress																													
Develop Groundwater Management Principles, Governance Type, Bylaws, Lead Agency etc.				1/1/16 to 10/1/16	[Gantt bar: Jan 2016 - Oct 2016]																								
Progress																													
Individual Agencies Agree on Governance Approach (MOA vs JPA)				10/1/16 to 12/1/16	[Gantt bar: Oct 2016 - Dec 2016]																								
Progress																													
Draft GSA Agreement				7/1/16 to 12/1/16	[Gantt bar: Jul 2016 - Dec 2016]																								
Progress																													
DWR Adopts regulations for evaluating GSPs, coordination agreements and alternatives to GSPs				6/30/2016	[Gantt bar: Jun 2016]																								
Review and Comment on DWR regulations for evaluating GSPs and coordination agreements				2/1/2016 to 4/1/2016	[Gantt bar: Feb 2016 - Apr 2016]																								
Progress																													
Individual members boards approve of Agency Agreement (Bylaws, Lead Agency, Estimated Budget) / Adopt Agency Agreement Resolution				1/1/17 to 3/1/17	[Gantt bar: Jan 2017 - Mar 2017]																								
Progress																													
Formation of GSA by submitted the following information to DWR: 1) Service Area Boundaries, Basin, other GSAs in Basin; 2) Copy of Resolution, 3) Copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the local agency; 4) List of interested parties				2/1/17 to 5/1/17	[Gantt bar: Feb 2017 - May 2017]																								
Progress																													
Submit GSA Filing with DWR (Deadline for Filing GSA 6/30/17)				5/15/2017	[Gantt bar: May 2017]																								
Progress																													

Draft released

Milestone

ATTACHMENT 1

ATTACHMENT 2



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