



M E M O R A N D U M
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE AGENCY
PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: April 19, 2016
FROM: Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director
BY: Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Program Management Update

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Receive an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act activities for the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (MVGB), 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. SGMA contains the following pending dates certain for compliance with the Act:

- June 30, 2017: Deadline for formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for each high- and medium-priority basin.
- January 31, 2022: Deadline for adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for each basin (Critical overdraft basins must adopt a plan by 2020. The MVGB is not in critical overdraft.)

Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA) staff briefed your Board regarding SGMA and was provided direction on November 17, 2015. This memorandum provides an update on the various SGMA activities that County staff, with support of the County Counsel office, has been working on related to the MVGB.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) identifies the MVGB, which straddles both Placer and Nevada County, as a medium-priority groundwater basin. It is important to note that the Martis Valley Basin is not in “overdraft” and is presently, according to existing groundwater management plan partners, operating within sustainable conditions. The estimated annual recharge is approximately 32,000 acre-feet and annual extractions are approximately one-third of this amount. Refer to Attachment 1 to see the Map of the MVGB.

Groundwater Planning

The Martis Valley Groundwater Plan was prepared and adopted in 2013. The Plan was prepared by the Placer County Water Agency, the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, and the Northstar Community Services District. Prior to the recent adoption in 2013, and as early as 1995, a Groundwater Plan was in place and monitoring of the MVGB has been performed since 1990.

Truckee River Operating Agreement

The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) is an interstate allocation agreement for the division of water in the Truckee River Basin. This agreement was created by an Act of the US Congress between California, Nevada, the Pyramid Paiute Tribe and various water districts. Water in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin is, in part, governed by the TROA which took effect in December 2015. TROA, amongst other things, sets limits on water use in the Basin, requires regulatory reporting of water use, and has enforcement powers.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

County staff has been attending monthly meetings with Nevada County, the Town of Truckee, Placer County Water Agency, Northstar Community Services District and Truckee Donner Public Utility District for several months to collaborate on the formation of an organization that will implement SGMA requirements for the Martis Valley Basin.

SGMA allows for the creation of an Alternative Plan to the GSP and because of to the TROA limitations of water to the region, there was a possibility that an Alternative Plan could be accomplished with a shorter duration and as a less expensive option than the standard GSP. The group had a consultant perform an analysis to determine what would be needed to submit an Alternative Plan and then discussed the possibility with DWR. It was determined that the amount of work and the deadline for submittal (January 1, 2017) was not feasible, therefore it was determined that a standard GSP would be the right choice for MVGB.

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 2) to ensure that all requirements are developed in time to meet key milestones.

It is anticipated that creating a GSP for the Martis Valley Basin will not take the entire five years DWR has provided to complete. The GSA team is moving forward to estimate those projected costs and that estimate will be brought back to your BOS for review and approval.

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.

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.

FISCAL IMPACT

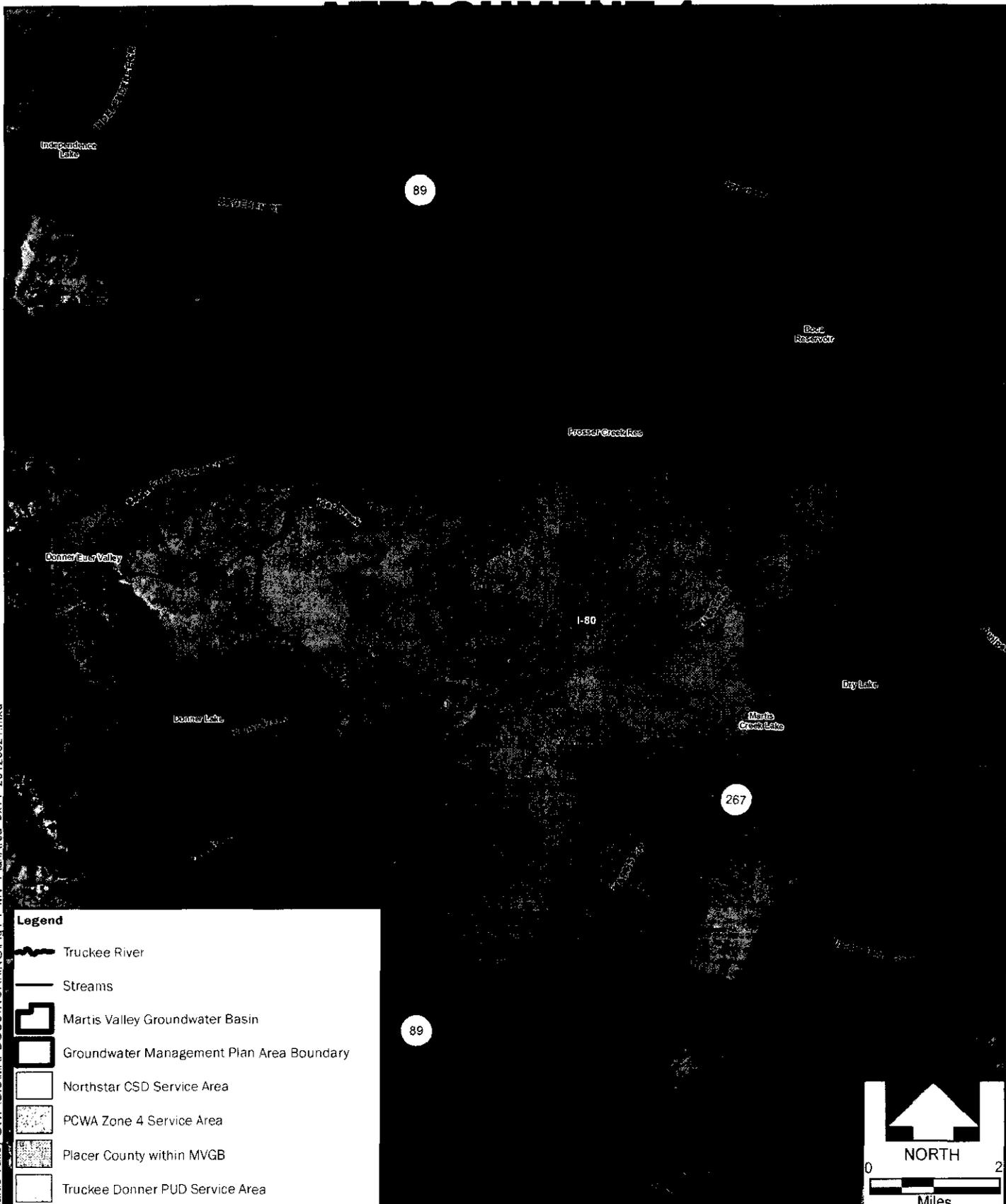
To date, staff costs have been absorbed by the CDRA budget and have been minimal. Budget for staff labor and outside contracts for future work (if necessary) will be included in the FY 2016-17 recommended budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map of Martis Valley Groundwater Basin

Attachment 2: Draft MVGB GSA formation timeline

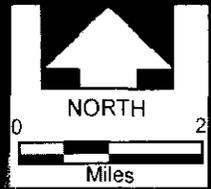
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Legend

- Truckee River
- Streams
- Martis Valley Groundwater Basin
- Groundwater Management Plan Area Boundary
- Northstar CSD Service Area
- PCWA Zone 4 Service Area
- Placer County within MVGB
- Truckee Donner PUD Service Area

Source: Placer County Water Agency; Truckee Donner Public Utility District; Northstar Community Services District



Source: Esri, Intermap, USDA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Geomapping, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

DATE 10/18/2012	PROJECT 140691	SITE Martis Valley, California	Figure 1-1
		TITLE Groundwater Management Plan Area	

**DRAFT - GSA SCHEDULE
MARTIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
April 19, 2016**

				Year 2016												Year 2017					
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
MILESTONES	DWR activity	Partner Policy Decisions	Martis Activity	Date																	
Meet with Potential Partner Agencies to discuss approach to the development of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)				1/1/2016 to 6/1/2016																	
Progress																					
Confirm Partner Agencies participating in development of GSA				6/1/2016 to 7/1/2016																	
Progress																					
Develop list of interested stakeholders for public involvement				1/1/2016 to 7/1/16																	
Progress																					
Develop/Implement Stakeholder Outreach Plan				4/1/2016 to 11/1/16																	
Progress																					
Develop GSA Budget Estimates				7/1/16 to 1/1/17																	
Progress																					
Develop Groundwater Management Principles, Governance Type, Bylaws, Lead Agency etc.				5/1/16 to 1/1/17																	
Progress																					
Prepare Draft Groundwater Sustainability Agency MOA				4/1/16 to 8/1/16																	
Progress																					
Partners review and comment on Draft Groundwater Sustainability MOA				5/1/16 To 1/1/17																	
Progress																					
DWR Adopts regulations for evaluating GSPs and Alternate Plans				6/1/16 to 7/1/16																	
Progress																					
Individual members Boards approve MOA				1/1/17 to 3/1/17																	
Progress																					
Adopt Agency Agreement Resolution				1/1/17 to 3/1/17																	
Progress																					
Formation of GSA by submitting to DWR: 1)Map and Narrative indicating Service Area Boundaries and Basin Boundaries, 2) Copy of Resolution, 3) Copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the local agency; 4) List of interested parties				3/1/17 to 4/1/17																	
Progress																					
Submit GSA Filing with DWR				3/1/17 to 4/1/17																	
Progress																					
Deadline for Filing GSA with DWR (Water Code 10735.2(a))				6/30/2017																	
Progress																					

ATTACHMENT 2