



**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: September 25, 2018  
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works and Facilities  
By: Brett Storey, Principal Management Analyst, and  
Christina Hanson, Senior Planner  
SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / Sustainable Groundwater Management Act / Update on  
Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive an update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act activities including development of the required Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

Beginning with the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2015, your Board has been supportive of County staff's efforts to work with our regional partners to keep local control of groundwater. Placer County overlays two groundwater subbasins: Martis Valley Subbasin in the Tahoe area, and the North American Subbasin (NASb) in western Placer County.

The primary requirements of SGMA include:

- Submittal of optional Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 1, 2017
- Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 30, 2017
- Development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans by 2022

In December of 2016, your Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the County and regional agency partners to prepare and implement an Alternative GSP for the Martis Valley Basin, which met the above deadline.

In January of 2017, your Board approved an MOA with South Sutter Water District (SSWD) to allow SSWD to be the sole agency within their boundary of the NASb, which includes a small portion of Placer County, but protects the rights of County residents.

In May of 2017, your Board approved a MOA with several regional agency partners to form a GSA to manage groundwater in the portion of the NASb located in western Placer County. The West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WPGSA) will now work with the other GSAs in the NASb to develop a single, basin-wide GSP.

Since that time, the WPGSA and partner agencies have conducted several technical studies and stakeholder outreach activities that will be described in staff's Power Point presentation. In brief, these activities include:

- Groundwater Quality Studies
- Stakeholder Communications Plan
- Stakeholder Public Meetings
- Applied for and received a \$995,000 Proposition 1 Grant
- GSP Working Group Formation



### **GSP Initial Notification Process**

The California Water Code and GSP regulations require GSAs to submit an on-line Initial Notification to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) that includes specific information related to GSP development and opportunities for public participation. The submitting GSA must also share that information with legislative bodies within geographic areas covered by the GSP. Where multiple GSAs are preparing a single GSP, a single GSP Initial Notification must be submitted on behalf of all GSAs.

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), one of our NASb partners, has filed the required Initial Notification on behalf of the five NASb GSAs. A Memorandum of Agreement detailing the obligations for the GSP will be brought before your BOS later this year.

There are no formal adoption requirements related to GSP Initial Notifications. This update is to provide your Board and the public with an update on recent SGMA activities. In addition, various opportunities for public comment on decision points of the GSP will be outlined.

Next steps in the GSP process include:

- Receipt of public input through DWR on-line system
- Multiple-agency public outreach meetings
- Local outreach regarding development of the GSP

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

There is no environmental impact as SGMA specifically determined that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is not applicable to GSP preparation and adoption. Any projects within the GSP would be required to have a CEQA determination in the future. This item is an informational discussion only.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact as this is an informational item. The total WPGSA share of the cost to prepare the GSP for this year is included in the Department of Public Works and Facilities FY 2018-19 Final Budget. Consistent with the WPGSA MOU, each of the five Member agencies (Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, City of Roseville, City of Lincoln, and Nevada Irrigation Districts) have agreed to support this effort with an annual contribution of \$50,000, with the California American Water Company contributing \$25,000 as a non-member agency.