



M E M O R A N D U M
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: July 6, 2021
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
By: Christina Hanson, Senior Planner and Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner
SUBJECT: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act / Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

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 Placer 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. Only the NASb is required to be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The primary requirements of SGMA include:

- Public land use and water agencies must form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017
- GSAs must develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by January 31, 2022

In May of 2017, your Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with several regional agency partners to form the West Placer GSA (WPGSA) to manage groundwater in the portion of the NASb located in western Placer County. In January 2019, the WPGSA and other GSAs in the Sub-basin executed a MOA to jointly fund, develop, and submit a single basinwide GSP.

This informational item is to provide your Board and the public with an update on the status of the GSP. Recently, several studies have been completed enabling GSAs to complete some of the key components of the GSP, such as the basinwide groundwater model and water budget, and proposed sustainable management criteria, projects, and management actions.

SGMA requires extensive public engagement and opportunities for input throughout GSP development. Most recently, the GSAs have held three basinwide public meetings on the key information mentioned above and will post additional draft GSP sections online for public review and input in the coming weeks. After incorporating credible public comment, staff plans to return to your Board with a final draft GSP on two occasions, as mentioned below.

Pursuant to California Water Code requirements, the next steps in the GSP process include:

- Notice to cities and counties in the Plan area (CWC 10728.4)
- Public hearing to present GSP to your Board and the public (at least 90 days after notice)
- Adoption of the GSP and approval of a Memorandum of Agreement to fund ongoing efforts

Staff has a presentation prepared that summarizes the key information mentioned above.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This item is an informational discussion only. There is no environmental impact as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of GSPs pursuant to California Water Code Section 10728.6. Any future projects that would implement actions proposed in the GSP would be subject to CEQA review.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as this is an informational item. 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 annual financial contributions.

ATTACHMENT

None