



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Water Agency
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: April 21, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area
Confidentiality Agreement; Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the “Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Confidentiality Agreement”; and
- b) Determine that the proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), organization or administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request Board approval of a Confidentiality Agreement (Agreement) between the member agencies of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). The members of the EMA GSA include the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency), City of Solvang, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), and SYRWCD Improvement District No.1. The Water Agency is conducting a hydrogeological study of the EMA to support preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Agreement is intended to allow the EMA GSA members to share materials related to the study for internal comment and discussion prior to public release. These materials may include items such as administrative draft technical documents, legal analyses, or deliberative work products.

Background:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2014. SGMA provides a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local agencies and provides tools, authority, and a timeline for local agencies during the 20-year implementation period. Public agencies in the Basin created three GSAs representing the three main areas of the Basin (Western, Central, and Eastern Management Areas; see Attachment B) based on jurisdictional and hydrogeological differences. The EMA GSA was formed by a Memorandum of Agreement effective April 27, 2017.

Each GSA is responsible for developing a GSP for its portion of the Basin. The DWR regulations to guide local GSP development were approved by the California Water Commission on May 18, 2016 and went into effect June, 2016. GSPs in the Basin must be adopted by January 31, 2022.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Staff time associated with SGMA activities was included in the Adopted 2019-20 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-305 in the budget book. There are no General Fund monies associated with this Board action.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return four signed originals of the Water Agency signature page of the Confidentiality Agreement and the minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office: Attn: Christina Lopez.

An original of the Confidentiality Agreement signed by the other participants will be returned to the COB's office once all other agencies have approved and executed the agreement.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Confidentiality Agreement (5 signature pages)
- Attachment B – Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Map

Authored by:

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