

Public Comment - Group 1 #4
12.5.16

Daly, Julia Rutherford

From: Beth Horn <BHorn@GoletaWater.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 5:23 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: John McInnes
Subject: Please Use This Version of Letter for Board of Supervisors from GWD
Attachments: Letter Vers. 2 Co. Bd. Supers.pdf

Importance: High

Clerk of the Board,

Please use the attached version of the letter from John McInnes, General Manager of Goleta Water District (instead of the one that was sent to you earlier).

Thanks.

Beth Horn

From: Beth Horn
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 4:42 PM
To: 'sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us' <sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>
Subject: Letter for Board of Supervisors - for Item 4 on Dec. 6 agenda
Importance: High

Clerk of the Board,

FYI, the attached letter is from John McInnes, General Manager of Goleta Water District, regarding item 4 on the departmental agenda for the December 6th Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you very much.

Beth Horn
Executive Secretary
Goleta Water District



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
TELEPHONE 805/964-6761
FAX 805/964-7002

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December 1, 2016

Honorable Peter Adam, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101

RE: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation and Goleta Groundwater Basin

Chair Adam:

Thank you for the Board of Supervisors' ongoing interest in how local agencies are addressing California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Goleta Water District (District) is pleased to provide the following information to the Board of Supervisors on the District's efforts to address the SGMA as it relates to the Goleta Groundwater Basin (Goleta Basin).

The Goleta Basin is unique within the County of Santa Barbara due to the fact that it is one of only two adjudicated groundwater basins in the region. The Goleta Basin lies entirely within the service territory of the District. The portions of the Basin subject to the groundwater adjudication known as the "Wright Judgment" are expressly exempt from SGMA except for certain reporting requirements (Water Code Section 10720.8). All of the District's current groundwater production wells are located within the adjudicated portion of the Basin, and the District manages the adjudicated portion of the Basin in compliance with the Wright Judgment, the voter-adopted SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance, and the District's adopted Groundwater Management Plan, which was most recently updated in November of 2016. The remainder of the Basin that is unadjudicated (portions of the West sub basin and portions of the North and Central sub basins) appears to be subject to the full requirements of SGMA.

The District is currently working with the California Department of Water Resources to determine how best to proceed with managing the groundwater resources of both the adjudicated and non-adjudicated portions of the Basin, and address boundary issues in light of SGMA and the Wright Judgment. Next year, the District Board of Directors will be considering formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the portions of the Goleta Basin that are not exempt from SGMA, but which lie within the District's service area boundaries. Should the District decide to form a GSA, the District will work with stakeholders in the Goleta Basin to guide sustainable management of the unadjudicated portions of the Goleta Basin similar to how the District has managed the adjudicated portions of the Goleta Basin.

There is no question that groundwater extracted from the Goleta Basin is a vital and necessary component in the District's supply portfolio, especially given the unpredictability of State Water Project deliveries and the uncertain future of Lake Cachuma in light of the pending state water rights order and the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion. Accordingly, the District has demonstrated that it is committed to taking all necessary steps that will contribute towards the health and sustainability of the Goleta Basin.

*Honorable Peter Adam, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
December 1, 2016
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Again, thank you for your interest in these matters and we appreciate the County's support in all efforts the District is pursuing to maintain a reliable, adequate and safe water supply for the approximate 87,000 people served by the District.

Sincerely,


John McInnes
General Manager

Daly, Julia Rutherford

From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 5:10 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Carbajal, Salud; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Farr, Doreen; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Comment Letter Item #4 Meeting of 12-6-2016 SGMA

Importance: High

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

12-3-2016

BOS Agenda 12-6-2016 Departmental Item #4 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

Dear Supervisors,

COLAB believes there are two things the Board of Supervisors should keep in mind as it pertains to the County's role in the formation of the GSAs.

1. The State law that serves as the impetus of this program specifically states that the law does not change water law in the State of California with respect to water rights. Therefore, the agencies and the landowners who actually have water rights should be in the driver's seat in determining the best plan for the resources they own pending approval of their plan by the State of CA.

The point here is that the County doesn't own any water nor does the county directly regulate the use of water. Whereas, the County does determine allowable land uses pertaining to the availability of water resources in the unincorporated areas of the county, this will still be the case in the event of a GSA being approved by the State or in those instances in which the State will take charge of a particular area/basin.

We believe therefore that the County and the County Water Agency should seek to serve and collaborate with the cities, special districts, water agencies and landowners in the development of the plans but not try to control them because the county has no skin in the game!

This brings up the second point.

2. These plans could end up costing a lot of money. The county is broke. And, since the county has no water resources that it owns or governs per se, why would the county want to be on any of these GSA's unless of course the Board of Supervisors is willing to foot part of the bill?

Again, we believe the county should be ready and willing to collaborate, serve and assist in the formation of the GSA's but that this process is ultimately between the State that has approval and mandate authority and the cities, special districts, water agencies and landowners who have water rights and prerogatives.

In conclusion, we believe the County should serve as an advisor and collaborator on each of the GSA's but forego the temptation to contend it needs to be in charge when there are so many elected bodies involved in this process with direct authority and responsibility to their constituencies in these matters.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Andy Caldwell
Executive Director
COLAB

COLAB PO Box 7523, Santa Maria, CA 93456 Ph. (805) 929-3148 Email: Andy@colabsbc.org