



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: PHD
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: July 21, 2015
Placement: Administration
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Dr. Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Larry Fay, Environmental Health Services Director, 346-8463
SUBJECT: Revised Water Well Permit Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Receive and file a new Water Well Permit Application (Attachment 1), which will be put into service on July 21, 2015.
- b) Determine that the above actions are organizational and administrative activities of government that are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment 3).

Summary Text:

During the regular hearing on March 17, 2015, Environmental Health Services (EHS) gave a presentation on EHS's water well program and provided several options for processing water well permit applications in the future. The Board decided not to pursue any of the options outlined during the course of the presentation. Instead, the Board made suggestions for changes to the well permit application. This item is on the agenda at the Board's direction to bring the revised application back before the Board on the departmental agenda.

Background:

In November 2014, the Montecito Water District (the District) sent a letter to the office of the County 1st District Supervisor, the County CEO, Planning & Development and EHS expressing concern about the impact of new wells on the groundwater basin that they now critically rely upon to supply water to all of

their customers. The District requested that the County implement a moratorium on the issuance of permits to construct new wells within their jurisdiction until the current water emergency passes. In addition, they requested that permits for new wells be conditioned to require the installation of flow meters and appropriate backflow prevention devices and that the District have access to the well in order to monitor groundwater levels.

In response to the District's concerns, EHS appeared before your Board on March 17, 2015, with a presentation on the current well program as well as several possible options for processing well permit applications in the future. EHS made no recommendations at the time but instead asked for Board direction for future action. The Board decided not to pursue any of the options presented on March 17, 2015 but offered suggestions for revising the well permit application with the goal of gathering more information about where and why wells are being drilled. The Board directed staff to bring the revised application back as a departmental item.

The revised Water Well Permit application is attached to this Board Letter. In order to incorporate all of the requested information a supplemental information page was added to the application form. This supplemental information page contains the data fields that your Board requested laid out in a way the should be easy for the applicant to complete. In addition to the changes to the application, the EHS database was modified so that the information on the application can be entered into the database and readily retrieved as needed for future reports.

While the additional data fields will add slightly to the staff time needed to input into the data system, the increased effort will not be significant. The additional information will not effect staff ability to respond to applications in a timely manner and the additional information does not provide the county with new grounds to deny an application.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this recommendation.

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Please email the Minute Order to phdcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

1. Water Well Permit Application
2. Procedures for Completing a Water Well Permit Application
3. CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Larry Fay, Environmental Health Services, Director