

SOLANO SUBBASIN

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chair:

Supervisor Skip Thomson
Solano County District 5

Vice Chair:

Vice-Mayor Ronald Kott
City of Rio Vista

DIRECTORS:

Mayor Thom Bogue
City of Dixon

Director Jack Caldwell
California Water Services

Director Spencer Bei
Dixon Resource
Conservation District

Director Ryan Mahoney
Maine Prairie Water District

Director Dale Crossley
Reclamation District No. 2068

Supervisor John Vasquez
Solano County District 4

Director John Roteveel
Solano County Farm Bureau

Director Russ Lester
Solano County Agricultural
Advisory Committee

Director Joe Martinez
Solano Resource
Conservation District

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Roland Sanford
Solano County Water Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 14, 2018

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

PLACE: Berryessa Room
Solano County Water Agency Office
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203
Vacaville

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Limited to 5 minutes for any one item not scheduled on the Agenda.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

(A) Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of April 12, 2018 is recommended.

6. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS** (*estimated time: 5 minutes*)

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

7. **SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT** (*estimated time: 5 minutes*)

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

8. AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR PROPOSITION 1: 2017 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER PLANNING GRANT
(estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on status of Agreement with Department of Water Resources on Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant.
2. Authorize Secretary to sign Agreement with Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant.

9. AGREEMENT WITH LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
(estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on status of Tasks and Budget submitted by Luhdorff & Scalmanini during RFP process.
2. Authorize Secretary to sign Agreement with Luhdorff & Scalmanini for development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

10. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR
(estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Hear report from staff on Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
2. Give direction to staff on how to proceed with drafting of Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

11. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT DRAFT BASIN PRIORITIZATION
(estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Hear report from staff on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Draft Basin Prioritization.
2. Authorize the Secretary to sign and submit a letter of opposition to the Department of Water Resources regarding the Draft Basin Prioritization for the Solano Subbasin.

12. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the SCWA offices.

The Full Board of Directors packet with background materials for each agenda item can be viewed on the Agency's website at

www.scwa2.com/resources-management/ground-water/solano-gsa-bod

Any materials related to items on this agenda distributed to the Board of Directors of Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency less than 72 hours before the public meeting are available for public inspection at the Agency's offices located at the following address: 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, CA 95688. Upon request, these materials may be made available in an alternative format to persons with disabilities.

**SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: April 12, 2018

The Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors met this evening at the Solano County Water Agency Offices. Present were:

Mayor Thom Bogue, City of Dixon
Mayor Ronald Kott, City of Rio Vista
Supervisor John Vasquez, Solano County District 4
Supervisor Skip Thomson, Solano County District 5
Director Ryan Mahoney, Maine Prairie Water District
Manager Bryan Busch, Reclamation District 2068
Director Russ Lester, Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Director Joe Martinez, Solano Resource Conservation District

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Thomson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Supervisor Vasquez and a second by Director Mahoney, the Board unanimously approved the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Supervisor Vasquez and a second by Mayor Bogue, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the February 8, 2018 Board meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board Member reports.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

In addition to the report in the packet, staff updated the Board on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The deadline for RFP submittal was April 16. A subcommittee of the Solano GSA TAC, along with representatives from the other

participating GSA's in the Solano Subbasin, will be evaluating and ranking proposals in late April.

The Department of Water Resources has agreed to provide the Solano GSA with facilitation support services to assist with the development of a Groundwater Management Plan for the Solano Subbasin. Ag Innovations – the same firm that assisted with GSA formation for the Solano Subbasin – will provide the facilitation services through 2018.

Staff is recommending that the Board, along with the Board of Directors from other GSA's in the Solano Subbasin hold a joint workshop facilitated by Ag Innovations to discuss the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development and foster cooperation among the various GSA's in the Solano Subbasin. The workshop would be in the evening and likely would occur in September.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COOPERATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SGMA FOR SOLANO SUBBASIN**

Staff recommended amending the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Cooperative Implementation of SGMA for the Solano Subbasin, designating the effective date of the MOU as November 29, 2017-the date when the Proposition 1 grant application for GSP development was submitted to DWR.

Staff also recommended that the Board authorize the Secretary to sign on their behalf for minor changes to the MOU. Any substantive changes proposed to the MOU would come back to the full Board for consideration.

On a motion by Director Lester and a second by Mayor Bogue, the Board unanimously approved amending the MOU and also authorized the Secretary to sign future minor amendments to the MOU.

PROPOSED BASIN BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE SOLANO SUBBASIN

The Yolo Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Yolo GSA) is looking at a potential Basin Boundary Modification (BBM) to the Solano Subbasin. They are working with Reclamation Districts 150 (RD 150) and 999 (RD 999), both of these RDs are comfortable with the Yolo staff and wish to be part of that subbasin and their GSP.

Staff have met with Reclamation District 999 on a couple of occasions since the last Board meeting. It has become clear that neither RD 150 nor RD 999 intend to join the proposed North Delta GSA. However, it is also clear that Reclamation District 307 (RD 307) does intend to join the proposed North Delta GSA and does not wish to become part of the Yolo Subbasin.

Staff reiterated that either the Solano GSA or the Yolo GSA would work with these Reclamation Districts on a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for whichever subbasin they were in. As all three of these Reclamation Districts rely wholly on surface water, we do not anticipate any rigorous monitoring on their parts for GSP compliance.

For the current update to Bulletin 118, the submission period opened on January 1, 2018 and closes on June 30 for new BBM. There will be a 30-day public comment period and then the draft BBM's will be released in the fall by DWR. Final BBM are anticipated to be released in the winter of 2018.

Staff are recommending submitting a letter of opposition if the Yolo GSA BBM is submitted as drafted. If RD 307 decides to join the Yolo Groundwater Subbasin and the Yolo GSA makes a revision to their BBM, then staff recommends sending a letter of support for that effort.

If all three RDs decide to remain in the Solano Subbasin, then there should be no action required from the Solano GSA.

Staff are also recommending that the Board authorize the Secretary to sign either a letter of opposition or a letter of support, dependent on the submittal of a Yolo GSA BBM, and dependent on its contents.

On a motion by Mayor Bogue and a second by Supervisor Vasquez, the Board authorized the Secretary to respond to any BBM with either a letter of support or opposition depending on the effects of the BBM on the Solano Subbasin. Director Mahoney opposed the motion.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The time and place of the next meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., at the SCWA offices.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the Solano Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Roland Sanford, Secretary

DATE: June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: April 2018 Secretary Report

Facilitation Support Services for Solano Subbasin

The Department of Water Resources has authorized Ag Innovations to begin facilitation support services for GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan) development. Initial work tasks include stakeholder messaging, updating website, and scheduling public workshops.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workshop

Staff is recommending the Board, along with the Board of Directors from other GSA's in the Solano Subbasin, hold a joint workshop facilitated by Ag Innovations to discuss Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and to foster cooperation among the various GSA's in the Solano Subbasin. In order to minimize scheduling conflicts with City Council and Board of Director meetings, staff is suggesting the joint facilitated workshop be held from 6:30-8:30 pm on one of the following dates in October: 1, 2, 4, 15, 17, or 18.

North Delta GSA/Basin Boundary Modifications

The status of the proposed North Delta GSA remains unclear – whether or not the North Delta GSA will form as a Joint Powers Authority or submit a Basin Boundary Modification (BBM) that would remove most of the Reclamation Districts currently in the Solano Subbasin to another, presumably newly created subbasin. BBM requests are due to the Department of Water Resources by June 30. Should the aforementioned Reclamation Districts remain in the Solano Subbasin, further outreach will be required to determine how or if they will participate in the development of the Solano Subbasin GSP.

ACTION OF
SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DATE: June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Agreement with Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on status of Agreement with Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant.
2. Authorize Secretary to sign Agreement with Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

Staff received a letter, dated May 7, 2018, from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), stating that the Solano GSA has been conditionally recommended for funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 under the Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program. The award is conditioned upon the execution of a Grant Agreement between DWR and the Agency. The letter included an attachment that detailed conditions for grant agreement execution. Both the letter and attachment are included with this Item.

There are three conditions for grant agreement execution. The first condition requires that the grantee submit a letter to DWR within 14 calendar days that they accept the grant award. Staff submitted an acceptance letter (attached) to DWR on May 15, within the allotted time frame.

The second condition requires that the Agency submit any changes to the work plan, budget, or schedule for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within 45 days to DWR. In the attached acceptance letter to DWR, staff

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on June 14, 2018 by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the
Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

requested a meeting with DWR to discuss proposed changes. If any changes are to be made, they will be submitted to DWR within the allotted time frame. More background information on potential changes to the GSP work plan and requested permissions are detailed in Agenda Item No. 10.

The third condition requires that the Agency, prior to initiating the development of the GSP, to make available to the public and DWR a written description of the means in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. Staff submitted this Initial Notification (attached) to DWR on May 15.

As is standard with DWR, the Agency must also meet the pertinent requirements listed in the Grant Agreement to remain eligible to receive State funds. Staff is recommending the Board authorize the Secretary to sign and execute the Agreement on behalf of the Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



May 7, 2018

Mr. Roland Sanford, Secretary and Treasurer
Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203
Vacaville, CA 95688

**Award Notification: Proposition 1:
2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant**

Dear Mr. Sanford:

We are pleased to inform you that your proposal, Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development filed by your agency has been conditionally recommended by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the 2017 Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects Solicitation under Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program. This award is conditioned upon the execution of a Grant Agreement between DWR and your agency. A copy of the Grant Agreement template is available at the following website:

http://author.water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater/Files/AgreementTemplate_Prop1SGWP_FINAL_30April18.pdf

Please be aware that this provision of State funds awarded to your Agency does not constitute an approval by the State for any project, component, or plan as it pertains to an adopted Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Attachment 1 includes a list of conditions that must be satisfied before DWR will enter into the agreement with your agency, as well as the requirements that must be met to maintain your eligibility to receive grant funds. Your attention to these details are critical for the timely execution of the Grant Agreement. Failure to meet these conditions and requirements in a timely manner may result in DWR revoking the grant award.

Please return the requested information to the DWR Regional Lead, Paul Wells at 3500 Industrial Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691 within the time periods listed in Attachment 1. If you have any questions you may reach Paul Wells at (916) 376-9656 or Paul.Wells@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Art Hinojosa".

Art Hinojosa, Chief
Division of Integrated
Regional Water Management

ATTACHMENT 1

Grantee Considerations:

- The provision of State funds awarded for funding to your Agency cannot be construed or interpreted to mean that the GSP, or any components of the GSP, implemented under an executed Grant Agreement with the State will meet the evaluation and assessment criteria when submitted to DWR as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2.
- DWR began the process of re-prioritizing California's 517 groundwater basins after the release of the 2016 Basin Boundary Modifications, as required by SGMA. Therefore, prioritization could change for some basins. If the draft results move the basin contained in the grant application from high or medium priority to low or very low, the grant recipient in that basin will not be required to forfeit the grant funds, as the basin was eligible at the time final awards were announced. However, if a grant recipient in a low/very low basin wishes to keep the grant funds, a GSP must be developed for the basin and submitted to DWR for review by January 31, 2022.
- For those basins with an alternative plan previously submitted to DWR, if the alternative plans are subsequently approved by DWR, this award will be withdrawn since applicants with approved alternative plans are ineligible for this funding.

Grant Agreement Execution Conditions:

- Within 14 calendar days of the date of this letter:
 - Submit a letter or send an e-mail confirming your agency as the Grantee to accept the grant award in the amount specified in the award letter.
 - Contact the DWR Regional Lead, listed in the Award Notification Letter, to assess the current condition of the work plan, budget, and schedule as submitted in the original application, and determine direction to provide an appropriate work plan, budget, or schedule if changes are deemed appropriate since the grant application was submitted.
- Within 45 calendar days of the date of this letter:
 - Submit any changes to the work plan, budget, or schedule since the grant application was submitted. Any proposed changes should be submitted as track changes to the original document (work plan, budget, or schedule), with an explanation of the changes provided. Changes will only be considered acceptable by DWR if the project maintains or increases the level of quality and benefits as compared to the original application. If applicable, Grantee must maintain the projects and benefits for the severely disadvantaged communities at a level that is at least proportional to the grant award percentage of total grant request.
 - If the Grantee is requesting funds for formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for a groundwater basin, and multiple GSA applications have been submitted for the same groundwater basin, additional information addressing outreach and cooperation with competing GSA applicant agencies may be required.

- Complete an Environmental Information Form for the project and submit to DWR. The electronic fillable form is available at the following link:
http://www.water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater/Files/IRWM_CEQA EIF.pdf

Requirements to Maintain Eligibility for Grant Reimbursements:

- DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations requires the GSA, prior to initiating the development of a GSP, to make available to the public and DWR a written description of the means in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. DWR refers to this as the initial notification. Therefore, any work directly related to the drafting of the GSP, performed before DWR receives an initial notification (via the SGMA Portal: <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/init/all>) is not permitted, and will not be eligible for reimbursement or counted as cost share. However, other activities contained in the grant agreement work plan, not directly related to the drafting of the GSP and performed after January 1, 2015 (Proposition effective date) are eligible for cost share; and eligible for reimbursement if performed after July 1, 2017.
- Grantee must also meet all the pertinent requirement(s) listed in the Grant Agreement to remain eligible to receive State funds.

SOLANO SUBBASIN

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

May 15, 2018

Via Email and U.S. Mail
Art Hinojosa, Chief
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Acceptance Letter for Award Notification: Proposition 1: 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

Dear Mr. Hinojosa:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Solano GSA) will accept the Proposition 1 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Solano Subbasin.

The Solano GSA would request that the DWR Regional Lead, Paul Wells, assess the current condition of the work plan, budget, and schedule as submitted in the original application, and determine direction to provide an appropriate work plan, budget, or schedule if changes are deemed appropriate since the grant application was submitted.

Coordination, outreach and solicitation of input will be the foundation of a transparent and stakeholder driven GSP in the Solano Subbasin. The Solano GSA submitted the Notice of Intent to Develop a GSP earlier today that details how interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the Solano Subbasin GSP.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Lee at 707-455-1105, or clee@scwa2.com, thank you.

Sincerely,



Roland Sanford,
General Manager, Solano County Water Agency
Secretary to Solano Subbasin GSA

SOLANO SUBBASIN

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

May 15, 2018

Via Email and U.S. Mail
Trevor Joseph, Section Chief
Sustainable Groundwater Management Section
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Notice of Intent to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Solano Subbasin

Dear Mr. Joseph:


The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Solano GSA), intends to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Solano Subbasin pursuant to Water Code §10727.8. Following passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), local agencies within the subbasin increased coordinated efforts to determine if a single GSP was feasible for the subbasin. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the GSAs in the Solano Subbasin, establishing the Solano Collaborative, to move forward with a single GSP. The Solano Collaborative is designating staff of the Solano GSA, the General Manager of the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), or designee, as the Plan Manager for the Solano Subbasin GSP.

The collaborating GSAs are: the City of Vacaville GSA, the Solano Irrigation District GSA, and the Sacramento County GSA. The Solano Collaborative intends to be inclusive of all GSAs in the Solano Subbasin.

Coordination, outreach and solicitation of input will be the foundation of a transparent and stakeholder driven GSP in the Solano Subbasin. As such, the Solano Collaborative will host a series of facilitated workshops to provide a forum for stakeholder engagement and participation during development of the GSP over the next several years. The Solano GSA posts the agendas of its meetings that are open to the public on the SCWA web site and staff maintain an email list with over 700 participants to provide SGMA and GSP updates.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Lee at 707-455-1105, or clee@scwa2.com, thank you.

Sincerely,


Roland Sanford,
General Manager, Solano County Water Agency
Secretary to Solano Subbasin GSA

**ACTION OF
SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

DATE: June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Agreement with Luhdorff & Scalmanini for Development of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on tasks and budget submitted by Luhdorff & Scalmanini during RFP process.
2. Authorize Secretary to sign Agreement with Luhdorff & Scalmanini for development of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Agency received three proposals during the RFP process to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Proposals were submitted by EKI Environment & Water, GHD Inc., and Luhdorff & Scalmanini. Through a collaborative process with a GSP subcommittee of the Solano GSA TAC and representatives from the other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the subbasin, the team of Luhdorff & Scalmanini (LSCE) was selected to develop a GSP.

The budget submitted by LSCE through the RFP process was \$1.6 million dollars. This budget covers all of the necessary tasks required for a GSP. LSCE also listed optional tasks that totaled \$1.1 million dollars. Staff has asked LSCE to revisit a number of these tasks for potential refinement and lowering of the overall budget.

The Solano County Water Agency and some of its Member Agencies have commissioned a number of groundwater studies over the past decade looking at the Solano Subbasin. Staff hope that some of this

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on June 14, 2018 by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the
Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**ACTION OF
SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

DATE: June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
2. Provide direction to staff regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Solano Subbasin (SGMA MOU) is to have all of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the subbasin collaborate on a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the entire Solano Subbasin, in order to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The MOU was signed by the Solano Subbasin GSA, Solano Irrigation District GSA, Sacramento County GSA, and City of Vacaville GSA. An Amendment to the MOU stipulated that the Solano GSA would be the lead for applying for grants to develop the GSP and would act as the point of contact for all GSPs regarding interactions with funding agencies. A second Amendment added an effective date of November 29, 2017 (date of grant application). The MOU is valid up to 24 months from the effective date and will expire on November 29,

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued on next page
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Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the
Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

2019.

In the SGMA MOU, under Section 12b. Termination, it states that it is the intent of the parties (GSAs) to develop a new MOU or amend the existing MOU to discuss GSP development and Implementation. This new MOU, the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Implementation of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP MOU), defines roles, responsibilities, and decision-making of the GSAs participating in the GSP.

With the possibility of more GSAs joining the Solano GSP effort, it will take some time to develop an MOU that satisfies all parties.

Staff is recommending the drafting of a GSP MOU begin as soon as possible. Staff is also proposing the Solano County Water Agency's counsel, Herum, Crabtree & Suntag, prepare an initial draft of the GSP MOU for discussion and review by the various parties to the GSP MOU. Herum, Crabtree & Suntag are working in multiple groundwater basins and with multiple GSAs and drafted the original SGMA MOU for the Solano Subbasin. The Solano County Water Agency would provide these services at no cost to the Agency.

previously documented information can be used as part of the foundation for the GSP. There are also some potential tasks detailed in the LSCE proposal that might be addressed by the Solano County Water Agency under its normal annual groundwater investigations as well as a potential county-wide agricultural water-supply study. Staff anticipates a revised budget and task list in the next few weeks. However, staff is not anticipating a significant change in the overall budget.

With the \$1,000,000 planning grant award and the \$350,000 gift from the Solano County Water Agency, there will likely be a need for \$200,000-\$300,000 to complete the GSP. Staff has asked LSCE to project costs over the next 4 years during development of the GSP to determine when this shortfall may occur.

Staff is recommending execution of an agreement with LSCE, not to exceed \$1,350,000. Staff is also recommending the Board authorize the Secretary to sign and execute the agreement with LSCE, to develop the GSP.

Staff will continue to explore other funding avenues, but it appears that there are three main alternatives to address this shortfall. The other GSAs have indicated that they would be willing to go to their respective Boards to ask for funding to complete the GSP if the Solano GSA followed suit.

Secondly, the GSAs could develop a fee system for groundwater extractors. A fee system will likely be required for the GSP Implementation phase, but GSAs have the authority now to institute a fee system to help fund Sustainable Groundwater Management Act activities.

Lastly, Staff from the Agency as well as staff from the other participating GSAs may be able to provide in-kind technical services to finalize some of the tasks of the GSP, however, this may be the least likely viable alternative given the extreme technical nature of groundwater investigations.

**ACTION OF
SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

DATE: June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Draft Basin Prioritization

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive staff report on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Draft Basin Prioritization.
2. Authorize the Secretary to sign and submit a letter of opposition to the Department of Water Resources regarding the Draft Basin Prioritization for the Solano Subbasin.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Water Resources categorizes California's 517 groundwater basins and subbasins into priorities – "low", "medium", "high", etc. - based on criteria specified in the California Water Code. The assigned priority of a basin or subbasin determines whether and which California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provisions apply to the basin or subbasin in question.

Following the release of the 2016 Basin Boundary Modifications, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) began the 2018 SGMA prioritization of California's 517 groundwater basins (Water Code 12924(b)) defined in Bulletin 118. Prioritization has changed for some basins due to the consideration of impacts from local habitat and local streamflows, the change in area of basin as a result of boundary modifications, and incorporation of newly available data sources. DWR will conduct public meetings to present the draft results and solicit public comments.

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on June 14, 2018 by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the
Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

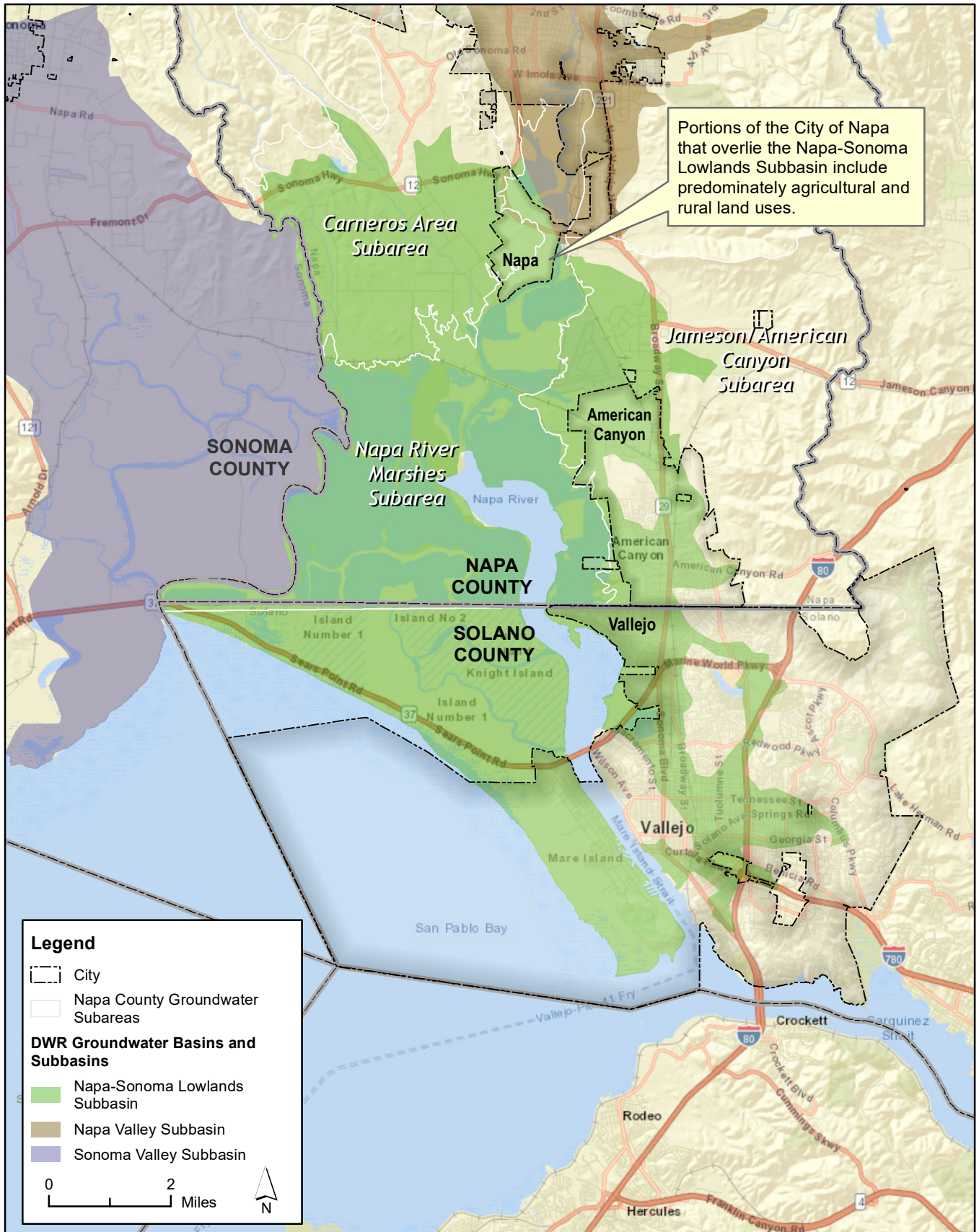
The draft recommendations from DWR affect two groundwater basins in Solano County. The Solano Subbasin is recommended to change from a Medium Priority Basin to a High Priority Basin. If this change occurs, it does not affect any GSP timelines or requirements. However, a preliminary review of the priority point categories in the draft DWR recommendations seem to indicate some discrepancies. It appears the scoring is incorrect in both the Impacts and Habitat sections. Staff has contacted DWR for clarifications, the data used to make these priority point changes, and to set up a meeting to discuss these draft recommendations.

Staff is recommending the Board authorize the Secretary to sign and submit a letter of opposition to DWR if they move forward with these draft Basin Prioritization recommendations. Staff requires more information from DWR to draft the opposition letter. Comment letters are due July 18.

The second groundwater basin potentially affected by these draft Basin Prioritization recommendations is the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin (map attached). This subbasin is partially in Solano County, but outside the jurisdiction of the Solano GSA and is presented here for information purposes only. This subbasin is recommended to be prioritized as a medium-priority subbasin and thereby subject to SGMA. It is currently prioritized as a low priority subbasin and not subject to SGMA. A preliminary review of the priority point categories seems to indicate discrepancies in multiple sections. If the recommend prioritization moves forward, it affects Solano County and the City of Vallejo, as well as Napa County.

Solano County Water Agency staff has set up a meeting between DWR, Solano County Staff, City of Vallejo staff, and Napa County staff on June 19 to discuss the draft recommended change for this subbasin and possible solutions. The optimal solution would be for DWR to reassess the draft priority points assessed to this subbasin (staff are drafting a peer-review paper on DWR's draft recommendations) and to recommend that it remain a low priority subbasin and thus not subject to SGMA. Another possible solution would be for either Napa or Solano County, or both, to submit a Basin Boundary Modification (BBM) to DWR to divide the subbasin at County lines. This should drop the subbasin back to a low priority on the Solano side.

A compounding factor is that BBM requests are due June 30 and comments on the draft Basin Prioritization recommendations are due July 18. The next scheduled update to Bulletin 118 would occur in 2020, which would provide another opportunity to submit a BBM for this subbasin.



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