



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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www.CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
April 4, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum (CSCGF)

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation:

This report provides information on the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum.

Contact: Gary A. Reents, Director of Utilities, 808-1433; Mel Johnson, Consultant, 808-1469

Presenters: N/A

Department: Department of Utilities

Division: Administrative Services

Organization No: 3311

Summary:

This report provides information to the City Council concerning the development of a groundwater management plan by the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum (CSCGF). It also contains information on the possibility of developing a Joint Powers Authority to manage the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Basin. The City of Sacramento is a local government stakeholder in the CSCGF.

Committee/Commission Action: N/A

Background Information:

In April 2000, the City signed the Water Forum Agreement. The Agreement had two coequal objectives: to provide a reliable and safe water supply through 2030 and to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum (CSCGF) was initiated in 2002 to carry out a portion of the Water Forum's mission to develop mutually agreed upon recommendations intended to protect the health and viability of the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Basin for both current and future users. The portion of the City south of the American River is within this basin, however, the City uses almost no groundwater in this area.

The CSCGF consists of representatives of stakeholder interests in the central county area, including ranchers and farmers, businesses, community and environmental interests, water suppliers and agricultural/residential groundwater users and local governments and public agencies. Following thirteen months of careful review and analysis of technical data, representatives of each of the interest groups participating in the CSCGF completed a Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan in February 2006.

Stakeholders in the Groundwater Forum are continuing to work on recommendations concerning basin governance. Having studied and discussed all of the available options, it appears at this time they will recommend formulation of a joint powers agreement which creates an independent board of directors to manage the basin. The signatories to the JPA would be the cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Sacramento, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County (the only entities which have the legal authority to manage the groundwater basin). This is similar to what has been done in the north area of the county but the JPA will be adapted to circumstances in the Central Basin with the Sacramento County Water Agency acting as the administrating entity.

Financial Considerations:

None as there are no costs to the City of Sacramento at this time.

Environmental Considerations:

This report concerns administrative activities that will not have any significant effect on the environment and that do not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(2)].

Policy Considerations:

Participation in the development of a solution package for a groundwater management plan in the central Sacramento County area is consistent with the City's support of the Water Forum Agreement and its groundwater management element.

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Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Approved by: 
Gary A. Reents
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:


RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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