

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works	(2) MEETING DATE 1/13/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Sylas Cranor, Utilities Division Engineer (805) 781-5260	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize execution of a Well Information Release Agreement for County-owned wells and to ratify action taken by the County Interim Director of Public Works in order to satisfy California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program Requirements. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board, acting as the Board of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorize and execute the Well Information Release Agreement, granting permission to the District to measure groundwater levels in County-owned wells (County Wells) and use and release information from the County Wells subject to certain terms and conditions. It is recommended that the Board, acting as the Board of the County: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Authorize and execute the Well Information Release Agreement granting permission to the District to measure the groundwater levels in County Wells and use and release information from the County Wells subject to certain terms and conditions, and 3. Ratify action taken by the County Interim Director of Public Works on or about October 3, 2014, authorizing the District to use ten (10) County Wells in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. 			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Flood Control General, Fund 1300000000	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP Attached	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <i>Nikki J. Schmidt</i>			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

Reference: 15JAN13-C-7

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Public Works
Sylas Cranor, Utilities Division Engineer
VIA: Dean Benedix, Utilities Division Manager
DATE: 1/13/2015

SUBJECT: Request to authorize execution of a Well Information Release Agreement for County-owned wells and to ratify action taken by the County Interim Director of Public Works in order to satisfy California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program Requirements. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board, acting as the Board of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District):

1. Authorize and execute the Well Information Release Agreement, granting permission to the District to measure groundwater levels in County-owned wells (County Wells) and use and release information from the County Wells subject to certain terms and conditions.

It is recommended that the Board, acting as the Board of the County:

2. Authorize and execute the Well Information Release Agreement granting permission to the District to measure the groundwater levels in County Wells and use and release information from the County Wells subject to certain terms and conditions, and
3. Ratify action taken by the County Interim Director of Public Works on or about October 3, 2014, authorizing the District to use ten (10) County Wells in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program.

DISCUSSION

The District has a long-standing groundwater level measuring program. County Wells such as those used for water supply for various County Service Areas are a part of the program and are measured twice a year. Today's recommended actions will authorize the District to use and disseminate the data collected from these wells per the attached agreement as well as future County Wells.

Granting this authorization is important because the District and County participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program which provides grant funding opportunities for various

water-related projects throughout California, such as the recent 2014 IRWM Drought Grant. In order to be eligible for the recent Drought Grant, applicants were required to participate in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program, a statewide program which is similar to the District's program.

Participation in the CASGEM program requires that the District present well location and well construction details in a public format (internet site). The source of this information is the State's *confidential* Well Completion Reports, and the information cannot be released to the public without written consent from the well owner. Additionally, the locations of public supply wells are not released without consent of the well owner in accordance with agreements with the California Department of Public Health and due to infrastructure security concerns. Execution of the Well Information Release Agreement gives the District the permission to use County well data as part of the District's well measuring program as well as the CASGEM program if desired, subject to certain terms and conditions.

In October, in order for the District to meet the tight timelines of the IRWM Drought Grant and in order to comply with the CASGEM program, the County, via Dave Flynn, Interim County Public Works Director, granted to the District permission to use ten (10) County Wells for this purpose (see attached letter). Mr. Flynn's action on behalf of the County was critical to assure that the District remained eligible for the 2014 IRWM Drought grant. Today's recommendation requests that your Board ratify this previous action taken by the Director as discussed above.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County departments such as General Services and Parks & Recreation, which operate water system wells, will be affected by the terms of the Well Information Release Agreement. However, Section 4 of the Agreement allows each County department to object to the use or release of the exact locations of public supply wells by the District.

The ability of the District to disseminate well data for County Wells in a public setting is not only important from an IRWM funding perspective but also allows for that data to be available to anyone for use in future groundwater efforts.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts as a result of today's recommended actions. However, had staff not taken the actions they did in September 2014, the drought grant application would have been disqualified, and the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region would not have been conditionally awarded \$6.3 million via the 2014 IRWM Drought grant.

RESULTS

Approval of these recommended actions will make County Well groundwater data available in a public setting thereby contributing to the County's goals of promoting a healthy, livable, prosperous and well-governed community.

File: CF 500.31.01
CF 1000.60.01

Reference: 15JAN 13-C-7

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Well Information Release Agreement
2. Letter from San Luis Obispo County, dated October 3, 2014