



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

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works		(2) MEETING DATE 1/23/2018		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cathy Martin, Water Resources Engineer (805) 781-5275	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution 1) approving the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (Clerk's Filed) for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin; 2) authorizing the Director of Public Works or his/her designee to submit the plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to take actions necessary to implement the plan related to monitoring and reporting; and 3) finding that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). District 2.					
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the attached Resolution approving the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin; 2. Authorizing the Director of Public Works or his/her designee to submit the plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to take actions necessary to implement the plan related to monitoring and reporting; and 3. Finding that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). 					
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Flood Control and Water Conservation District		(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A		(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	
(9) BUDGETED? Yes					
(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A				(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's 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 David E. Grim					
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 2					

Reference: 18JAN23-C-2



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works
Cathy Martin, Water Resources Engineer
Carolyn K Berg, Senior Water Resources Engineer

VIA: Courtney Howard, Water Resources Division Manager

DATE: 1/23/2018

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution 1) approving the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (Clerk's Filed) for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin; 2) authorizing the Director of Public Works or his/her designee to submit the plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to take actions necessary to implement the plan related to monitoring and reporting; and 3) finding that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). District 2.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution approving the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin;
2. Authorizing the Director of Public Works or his/her designee to submit the plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to take actions necessary to implement the plan related to monitoring and reporting; and
3. Finding that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA).

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a Recycled Water Policy (Policy) on February 3, 2009. The purpose of this Policy is to increase the use of recycled water from municipal wastewater sources that meet the definition of "recycled water" set forth in Water Code Section 13050(n). The Policy recognizes the potential for recycled water use to result in increased salt and nutrient loading to groundwater basins. Therefore, the Policy requires the development of a SNMP in all basins using

recycled water, in order to identify and manage salts, nutrients, and other significant chemical compounds, to ensure the attainment of water quality objectives, increase beneficial use of recycled water, and provide protection of groundwater resources.

Los Osos Water Recycling Facility (LOWRF)

The LOWRF produces disinfected, tertiary-treated recycled water for beneficial uses in irrigation and land disposal. As of August 2016, recycled water is being disposed of on community leachfields, and in early 2018, recycled water will be available at permitted urban and agriculture irrigation locations, pending completion of all necessary contractual negotiations. It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached Resolution to approve and submit the SNMP developed for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin pursuant to the Policy and the LOWRF Regional Water Board Waste Discharge/Recycled Water Requirement Order R3-2011-0001 (WDR Order). This SNMP will also support compliance with Special Condition 5 of the coastal development permit (CDP) A-3-SL0-09-055/069 for the LOWRF related to the Recycled Water Management Plan.¹

Los Osos Basin SNMP

County Public Works staff, with assistance from Cleath-Harris Geologists (Consultant), prepared the SNMP. County staff coordinated with the Regional Water Board and the Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC)² on required data for the plan and outreach processes during SNMP development. County staff provided presentations and updates, and sought stakeholder comments via public BMC meetings on September 21, 2016, March 15, 2017, and May 17, 2017. Stakeholders included local water agencies, agriculture and environmental interests, residents, and other interested parties.

The SNMP discusses a framework under which salt and nutrient issues can be managed, while protecting beneficial uses. The SNMP summarizes a technical analysis of known salt and nutrient issues (i.e. total dissolved solids (TDS), chlorides, and nitrates). This includes “assimilative capacity” and “antidegradation” analyses to evaluate the impacts of loading of these three listed constituents over the basin plan area (see attached Vicinity Map). The assimilative capacity analysis compares the LOWRF’s actual and future estimated groundwater quality data (under Title 22 permit requirements) with the Regional Water Board’s Central Coast Basin Plan water quality objectives. The antidegradation analysis projects each constituent over a future 25-year period under three scenarios of estimated future land uses and associated water use.

The three scenarios considered in the antidegradation analysis include the following:

1. 2012 Baseline scenario (pre-construction of the LOWRF) with no implementation of projects/programs;
2. No Further Development scenario, which includes the operation of the LOWRF and implementation of basin management projects/programs with current population; and

¹ The Recycled Water Management Plan is an annual report required by the Coastal Commission’s CDP that provides documentation of the implementation of the LOWRF project and beneficial recycled water reuse over the basin.

² The BMC consists of representatives from the Los Osos Community Services District, Golden State Water Company, S&T Mutual Water Company and the County.

3. Population Buildout scenario, which is the second scenario with a population increase and additional projects/programs.

Notable results of the antidegradation analysis include:

- Basin groundwater quality will improve over time with the operation of the LOWRF and removal of septic systems in the "Prohibition Zone" under both the No Further Development and Population Buildout scenarios.
- Beneficial use of recycled water for irrigation and land disposal will reduce groundwater pumping, potentially increase groundwater storage, and support the potential reduction of the seawater intrusion front in the basin.
- The 2012 Baseline scenario results showed the continued degradation of groundwater quality over time with no projects/programs implemented, such as the removal of septic systems, and seawater intrusion.

To track progress, the Regional Water Board will require the County to implement an SNMP monitoring program and submit a monitoring report every three years that tracks groundwater quality over time. This monitoring and reporting will include conditions of the groundwater level, water quality, seawater intrusion, nitrate contamination, and future dynamic changes to the basin. The SNMP monitoring program will leverage appropriate data collected by existing groundwater programs including the BMC's Annual Groundwater Monitoring Reports, the LOWRF groundwater data collection program, and other monitoring programs. These monitoring programs will provide the majority of information required by the Regional Water Board. Using the existing groundwater monitoring networks will provide a reasonable, cost-effective means of tracking whether the concentrations of salt, nutrients and other constituents of concern are consistent with applicable water quality objectives set in the Central Coast Basin Plan and LOWRF WDR Order.

Implementation Actions

The County Public Works Director or his/her designee, if authorized, will implement the SNMP by coordinating and reviewing appropriate groundwater data from the existing monitoring programs, such as the LOWRF Monitoring and Reporting Program, Coastal Commission's CDP Recycled Water Management Plan, and BMC Basin Plan; conducting stakeholder outreach when necessary; preparing and submitting the SNMP groundwater monitoring report for the Regional Water Board; and implementing, after the appropriate approval processes and environmental review, adaptive management strategies if needed to address future basin issues.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Regional Water Board has responsibility to review and approve the SNMP per the LOWRF WDR Order, and has discretion to adopt the Los Osos Basin SNMP and amend the Central Coast Basin Plan with approval from the State Water Board and other agencies.

The County will continue to coordinate with the Los Osos BMC in order to collect data and conduct outreach as needed for the SNMP.

County Counsel has reviewed the resolution as to legal form and effect.

The Environmental Coordinator has reviewed the project and determined it is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The costs associated with development of the Los Osos Basin SNMP and stakeholder outreach are included in both the County's Public Works LOWRF and Flood Control and Water Conservation District FY 2017-2018 approved budget.

Future implementation of the SNMP, preparation of updates to the SNMP and development of required monitoring reports will be considered as a part of the proposed budget for the LOWRF administration and operation, once the SNMP is approved by the Regional Water Board.

RESULTS

Approval of the recommended action will help to contribute to the County's goal of promoting safe, healthy and livable communities, by meeting the County's requirements under the State's Recycled Water Policy and LOWRF WDR Order, and thereby helping to protect the Los Osos Groundwater Basin.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Vicinity Map
2. Notice of Exemption
3. Resolution approving the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin; authorizing the Director of Public Works or his/her designee to submit the plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and to take actions necessary to implement the plan related to monitoring and reporting; and finding that the project is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA)
4. Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin

File: CF 310.84.01

Reference: 18 JAN23-C-2

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