



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

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works	(2) MEETING DATE 12/15/2020	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Mladen Bandov Senior Water Resources Engineer (805) 781-5116	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act efforts in eight local groundwater basins. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board receive and file a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) efforts in eight local groundwater basins.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) County General Fund- Fund Center 201	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1.3M to \$2.6M per fiscal year for SGMA efforts in eight basins	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1.3M to \$2.6M per fiscal year for SGMA efforts in eight basins	(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 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"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP Attached	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date 9/22/20, #45	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW  Kristin Eriksson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

Reference: 20.155



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works  
Mladen Bandov, Senior Water Resources Engineer

VIA: Courtney Howard, Water Resources Division Manager

DATE: 12/15/2020

SUBJECT: Submittal of a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act efforts in eight local groundwater basins. All Districts.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board receive and file a report on the implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) efforts in eight local groundwater basins.

### **DISCUSSION**

This item serves as a report on the implementation of SGMA efforts underway in eight local groundwater basins and subbasins (collectively, basins) as identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in *Bulletin 118*<sup>1</sup> (Attachment 1):

- (1) Cuyama Valley (DWR No. 3-013, "Cuyama")
- (2) Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (DWR No. 3-004.06, "Paso")
- (3) Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area (DWR No. 3-004.11, "Atascadero")
- (4) San Luis Obispo Valley (DWR No. 3-009, "San Luis Obispo")
- (5) Los Osos Valley – Los Osos Area (DWR No. 3-008.1, "Los Osos")
- (6) Los Osos Valley – Warden Creek (DWR No. 3-008.2, "Warden Creek")
- (7) Santa Maria River Valley – Santa Maria (DWR No. 3-012.01, "Santa Maria")
- (8) Santa Maria River Valley – Arroyo Grande (DWR No. 3-012.02, "Arroyo Grande")

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<sup>1</sup> As of December 18, 2019, DWR identifies the priorities and designations for the following local basins: Cuyama (high; critical conditions of overdraft), Paso Robles (high; critical conditions of overdraft), Atascadero (very low), San Luis Obispo (high), Los Osos (very low; critical conditions of overdraft), Warden Creek (very low), and Santa Maria and Arroyo Grande (very low). Additionally, SGMA does not apply to the portions of Los Osos and Santa Maria basins that are adjudicated provided that certain requirements are met (Water Code §10720.8).

Groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for both the Paso Basin and Cuyama Basin were submitted to DWR by the State's deadline of January 31, 2020<sup>2</sup>. The next SGMA deadline is for the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the remaining high or medium priority basins to develop and adopt GSPs by 2022. Given that the County is either the GSA or a member of a GSA in all eight basins, it is critical to keep the Board informed of the progress within each basin to develop a GSP. Staff provides SGMA Program updates through quarterly report items and policy related items:

- Quarterly report items provide a programmatic budget status update (see Attachment 2), basin summaries and key updates of SGMA compliance efforts for County basins (see Attachment 3), and as needed, request that the Board take specific actions in the basins.
- Policy related items (e.g. GSP adoption, implementation direction, coordination with other County authorities, etc.) are separate from the quarterly reports and brought to the Board to facilitate expanded discussion and to seek Board direction.

The current status report covers SGMA Program activities from September 11, 2020, through December 15, 2020.

Basin users and interested stakeholders are encouraged to engage in and provide input during regular and special events as described in Attachment 3, including GSA board or committee meetings, advisory committee meetings, and public workshops. Basin users and stakeholders are also encouraged to provide comments on draft GSP documents as they are developed.

#### *Recommended Actions*

It is recommended that the Board receive and file the report on implementation of SGMA efforts in the eight local groundwater basins. This includes receiving status updates on each basin's draft GSP documents available for public review as they become available.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

Implementation of SGMA involves GSAs, various County Departments, local public agencies and water companies, and basin users/landowners concerned with the management of groundwater. Although SGMA specifies that local public agencies, mutual water companies and water corporations regulated by the Public Utilities Commission are the eligible GSA participants; stakeholder outreach requirements, coordination requirements, and the practical realities of preparing a GSP require the involvement of the entire community. Attachment 3 includes the governance structure, Board representation, and websites for public engagement in each basin.

In addition to local efforts, the DWR acts as the agency in charge of developing regulations, reviewing GSAs and GSPs, and providing technical assistance to GSAs. The State Water Resources Control Board acts as the agency in charge of enforcement, in situations of non-compliance specified in SGMA.

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Water Code §10720.7(a), high or medium priority basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft shall adopt a GSP by January 31, 2020. All other high and medium priority basins shall adopt a GSP by January 31, 2022. Where there is more than one GSA, the GSAs may jointly adopt a single GSP or separate coordinated GSPs.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The costs associated with GSP development, GSA board or committee processes and engagement with groundwater users/stakeholders are included in the County Public Works (FC 201) FY 2020-21 Budget. Staff time associated with these efforts is largely included in the Flood Control District FY 2020-21 Budget. Attachment 2 presents a budget status update for the County's SGMA Program through September 30, 2020.

## **RESULTS**

This SGMA progress update provides information and transparency related to SGMA compliance efforts to both the Board and the public, and thereby contributes to a well-governed community.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Vicinity Map
- 2 Budget Status Update for SGMA Program
- 3 County Groundwater Basin Summaries and Key Updates on SGMA Efforts

File: CF 900.100.01 SGMA

Reference: 20.155

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