

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES *SLY*

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-7

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE April 14, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Submit an Application for the Use of United States Environmental Protection Agency Contract Funds for Implementing the Underground Injection Control Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources, or her designee, to submit an application for local groundwater protection contract funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This contract does not require any monies to be matched by Stanislaus County. Funding up to \$50,000 per contract is available through the United States Environmental Protection Agency. If successful, the Department of Environmental Resources will bring this item back to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance of award and to make the necessary adjustments to budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-223

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa  
and approved by the following vote,  
Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini  
Noes: Supervisors: None  
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None  
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) X Approved as recommended
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST:

CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the population of Stanislaus County is dependent on wells for drinking water. As the population of Stanislaus County continues to increase, maintaining a safe water supply is of primary concern. The Underground Injection Control Program (UICP) 2009 is designed to increase the accuracy of the inventory of Class V injection wells in Stanislaus County and expand field presence of the UICP through inspections. Class V injection wells are typically shallow disposal systems that are used to place a variety of fluids below the land surface.

The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources has recently completed two phases of the UICP. In the initial phase, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) grant funds were utilized. The groundwork was first laid by creating a map layer that was appended to the County's local Geographic Information System (GIS). Data regarding groundwater vulnerability to surrounding, potentially contaminating activities is documented on this map layer. Included in this data is information on land use, sewage disposal methods, presence of underground or above ground storage tanks, monitoring wells, and other activities. The UICP database was also developed as part of this effort. This database provides the above-cited information in table form. Data can be printed in a report format, making it possible to share information with other regulatory agencies. The second phase expanded the UICP to include California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) inventory and provided the USEPA with an updated Class V Injection Well inventory list.

The information collected through the UICP, benefits the County by identifying areas that are vulnerable to potentially contaminating activities. The information could be used to determine the most environmentally safe locations for the future drilling of drinking water or Class V injection wells. Other benefits include the ability to share this data with other regulatory agencies and promoting more effective service to the general public. Implementing the 2009 phase of the UICP would allow the Department to continue efforts in maintaining safe groundwater sources within Stanislaus County.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency currently has funding, available up to \$50,000 per contract, to assist local governments to manage injection wells. The deadline for submission of applications is April 17, 2009. If successful in its application, the Department will bring this item back to the Board for formal acceptance of these funds and to make any budgetary adjustments that may be required.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

The Board of Supervisor's approval of this request will allow the Department of Environmental Resources and Stanislaus County to continue participating in the Underground Injection Control Program, as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This program will allow the Department to further efforts in protecting groundwater sources from potentially contaminating activities. The Board should determine if the recommendation is consistent with the County's priorities of ensuring a safe community, a healthy community, a well-planned infrastructure system, effective partnerships, and the efficient delivery of public services.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.



## **EPA seeks proposals from local governments to help identify and manage Shallow Injection Wells**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 Ground Water Office (EPA) has multiple requirements for city and county environmental health/water quality regulators to identify and prevent ground water contamination, which sometimes occurs through the misuse of septic systems, drywells, and other types of onsite disposal. Last offered to California local agencies in 2005, these requirements use funds appropriated pursuant to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Tasks and activities to be performed include inspection, site investigation, and management of data related to shallow injection wells. In 2009, EPA is seeking proposals for two types of projects.

### **1. UIC Inventory and Inspection Support**

EPA seeks to increase the accuracy of its inventory of injection wells in California, and expand the field presence of the UIC program by funding local inspection hours. Each project will provide a fixed term of part-time or full time inspection support of up to three months to EPA in federal FY10 (beginning October 2009.)

Particular types of injection wells for which EPA seeks inventory are prohibited wells which include motor vehicle waste disposal wells, industrially used septic systems or sumps, and large capacity cesspools. EPA is also concerned with maintaining an accurate inventory of drinking water treatment residuals injection and aquifer recharge wells.<sup>1</sup>

Working with EPA UIC inventory data, Regional Water Quality Control Board sites (CIWQS) and local hazardous materials/onsite sewage/UST program data, identify inspection candidates within your jurisdiction, **conduct inspections<sup>2</sup>**, and return inspection reports to EPA on the presence/absence and type of injection well(s) identified or suspected at specific addresses. Locally conducted cross-program, cross-agency **training for inspectors** on the identification of injection wells is encouraged to be included in these proposals.

Suggested deliverables: spreadsheet or database of inspection sites/results/corrected federal UIC inventory data; training curriculum and attendee evaluations; captioned inspection photos.

### **2. Source Water Protection through UIC**

Historically, shallow injection wells were more prevalent in unsewered and unincorporated areas, where onsite disposal is a necessity. As municipal sewage treatment plants implement stricter pretreatment and stormwater controls, it is likely that more onsite disposal will be used in sewer areas, particularly for stormwater. EPA therefore seeks proposals for projects that quantify, through direct observation, mapping/modeling, or a combination,

- the occurrence of a particular type of injection within a recharge area;
- the typical construction design of such injection wells;
- potential pollutants discharged to those injection wells
- the occurrence of any of those pollutants in area source water
- the mechanisms for pollutant removal, in the injection wells or subsurface.

Projects should evaluate what regulatory and non-regulatory controls exist, and what additional controls are needed, to prevent degradation and maximize the recharge benefit. Collaboration and discussion with municipal stormwater, flood control, transportation, sewage and other government entities operating in the targeted area will be expected as a project component to

<sup>1</sup> EPA funds may not be used by water supply agencies to cover the costs of their own UIC compliance.

<sup>2</sup> Only personnel authorized for field work and meeting all local requirements for field preparedness may conduct field investigations.

determine if local, state and federal constraints are potentially contributing to greater use of onsite infiltration, and if so, what mechanisms are available to ensure that the infiltration does not cause or exacerbate watershed problems.

The deliverable must include a narrative report that details study questions and findings, and provides a bibliography of sources consulted. Additionally, EPA encourages the local publication of the finished report, such that consumers of area ground water will be alerted to potential contamination and associated costs of contaminant removal (through remedial action and/or drinking water supply treatment.)

**Who is eligible to participate?** Due to the field components expected from each project, EPA is limiting this opportunity to regulators and other California public agencies with the legal authority to conduct inspections.

**Costs and duration of projects.** EPA will consider proposals from \$3,000 to \$50,000. Small proposals (for example, to cover inspector billable hours for one week of joint inspections with EPA) are welcome. The maximum performance period for each project will be no more than one year.

**Can I have a copy of the inventory data EPA currently holds for my jurisdiction?** Please send an email request for an Excel spreadsheet copy, [janes.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:janes.elizabeth@epa.gov).

**Can I build a local database or GIS with these funds?** No, however, transcription of paper records of various onsite disposal activities (such as septic systems, stormwater drainage wells, or improperly abandoned drinking water wells) to electronic records can be integrated as a component of either type of project, as long as the activity supports the long-term goal of predicting and preventing contamination of underground sources of drinking water.

Interested agencies must e-mail or mail draft proposals to EPA not later than April 17, 2009, with up to five pages, describing your agency's project, the population served by the agency, the area's dependence on ground water for drinking water supply, the role and regulatory authorities of the agency, the estimated project budget, hours and amount, deliverables, qualifications of project staff and estimated project period. E-mails of support from cooperating agencies, or agencies that have historically collaborated with your agency on similar projects, are encouraged. All received proposals will be evaluated to determine which project(s) are most likely to build on EPA's UIC program and enhance prevention of ground water contamination. EPA expects to reply to all proposals received by May 29.

Any selected proposals will ultimately require signature of a local official legally authorized to accept payment for services on behalf of your agency (which in some cases has been the County Board of Supervisors.) The time needed to obtain such a signature should be noted in your proposal. Further, in order to accept payments, local agencies will need to have a DUNS number in advance of award, see [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov). EPA intends to award contracts for selected proposals by September 30, 2009.

For more information or to submit a proposal, contact Elizabeth Janes at [janes.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:janes.elizabeth@epa.gov), call (415) 972-3537 or address regular mail to her at USEPA Region 9 WTR9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.