

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

DEPT: Environmental Resources *MS*

BOARD AGENDA # *B-4

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE October 6, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
ent
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Fund the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's Preparation of a Grant Application under the California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve funding in the amount of \$2,000, for the preparation of a grant application by the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association to develop a basin wide groundwater monitoring program.
2. Authorize the Director of Environmental Resources, or her designee, to fund additional requests of up to \$300, or 15 % of total project amount.
3. Approve a Resolution in support of the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's grant application to the California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If approved, the funding of \$2,000 will be provided to the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association from the existing Department of Environmental Resources Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget for costs associated with the Association's contract with Todd Engineers to prepare a grant application under the California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program on behalf of the Association for the development of a groundwater-monitoring program.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-670

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

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.

Approval to Fund the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's Preparation of a Grant Application under the California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program

DISCUSSION:

The Turlock Groundwater Basin (Basin) lies between the Tuolumne River to the north and Merced River to the south, and between the San Joaquin River on the west and the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills on the east (Attachment 1). The groundwater within the Basin plays a vital role in meeting the needs of many different uses; agriculture, municipal and industrial, and contributes to the overall economy of the Basin area.

Groundwater use is expected to increase in the Basin. To efficiently manage water resources to ensure an adequate water supply during drought conditions, additional data related to groundwater levels and quality is needed.

On September 24, 2002, the Board of Supervisors authorized the signing and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing Stanislaus County to continue membership with the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association. The Cities of Turlock, Hughson, Ceres, and Modesto, along with the Eastside Water District, Ballico-Cortez Water District, Hilmar County Water District, Merced Irrigation District, Denair Community Services District, Turlock Irrigation District, and Merced County have also joined the Association. One of the goals of the Association is to provide information and guidance for the management, preservation, protection, and enhancement of the Basin.

The Turlock Groundwater Basin Association developed a Basin-Wide Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) in 1997, which was updated in March 2008. To implement elements of the updated plan and monitor groundwater conditions and management actions, the Association would like to develop and implement a coordinated groundwater monitoring plan (Monitoring Plan) for the Basin.

The Association has solicited Todd Engineers to prepare a grant application under the California Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Grant Program. The LGA Grant Program, which is funded by Proposition 84, provides grants up to \$250,000 for projects that support activities being implemented under a GWMP. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Division of Planning and Local Assistance (DPLA) administers the grant agreements. The grant application would be to develop a coordinated Monitoring Plan for the basin.

At this time, the scope of the monitoring plan is undefined. If the Association is awarded funding from the LGA grant program, a scope of work will be defined based on the development of the Basin's monitoring plan. At that time, the Department will return to the Board to consider the implementation of the groundwater monitoring program and its associated costs.

In addition to the County's funding portion of \$2,000, the Department would be required to provide background information on recent groundwater management activities and

Approval to Fund the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's Preparation of a Grant Application under the California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program

solicit local agencies for letters of support for the Association's grant application. A Resolution of Support from the Board of Supervisors for a groundwater monitoring program with the Turlock Basin is included with this report.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors should determine if the recommendations are consistent with the Board's priorities of ensuring a healthy community, a strong agricultural economy/heritage, and a well planned infrastructure system.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are minimal staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director. Telephone: 209-525-6770

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: October 6, 2009

No. 2009-670

On motion of Supervisor Monteith Seconded by Supervisor Grover
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

Item # *B-4

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE TURLOCK GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSOCIATION
GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Turlock Groundwater Basin is a major source of water for the following agencies: City of Ceres, Keyes Community Services District, Denair Community Service District, City of Turlock, Hilmar County Water District, Delhi County Water District, City of Hughson, City of Modesto, Merced Irrigation District, Ballico Community Services District, County of Merced, County of Stanislaus, Eastside Water District, Ballico-Cortez Water District, and Turlock Irrigation District (the "Agencies").

WHEREAS, Pursuant to AB-3030, the Agencies drafted, and most have adopted, the Turlock Groundwater Basin Management Plan.

WHEREAS, The Agencies created the Turlock Groundwater Basin (TGBA) to monitor groundwater conditions, develop solutions and coordinate actions within the Turlock Groundwater Basin.

WHEREAS, The TGBA is pursuing a project which would develop a coordinated, basin-wide monitoring plan which will provide critical data for strengthening long-term planning tools such as the Turlock Groundwater Basin Groundwater Model and allow for additional evaluation of groundwater conditions.

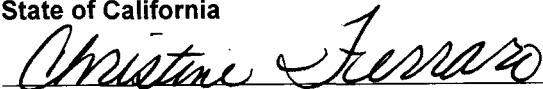
WHEREAS, The TGBA is submitting an application for a grant to develop the groundwater monitoring program for the Turlock Groundwater Basin.

WHEREAS, The Turlock Groundwater Basin is the source of water supply for municipal, agricultural, industrial, and rural residential users in Merced and Stanislaus counties.

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County strongly supports the efforts of the TGBA to improve and coordinate groundwater monitoring in the Turlock Groundwater Basin. We believe that grant assistance will provide much-needed support to meet the overall goal of the TGBA to preserve and protect the quantity and quality of local groundwater resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes and congratulate; the TGBA for its efforts to manage the groundwater in the Turlock Groundwater Basin, and encourages the Agencies to continue their leadership in this area. **FURTHERMORE**, that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors encourages the State of California to give favorable consideration to the TGBA's grant application.

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California



File No.

Turlock Groundwater Basin location and local agency boundaries (Durbin, 2008)

