

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control and Water Conservation District

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SCOTT VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting MINUTES, July 20th, 2018

The special meeting of the Scott Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:34pm at the Ft Jones Community Hall by Siskiyou County Natural Resources specialist Matt Parker

Committee members present: Tom Menne, Jason Finley, Brandon Fawaz

Committee members absent: Tom Jopson, Michael Stapleton

Public Comments:

- Warren Farnham – Expressed displeasure in the current process and actions of the groundwater advisory committee. Concerned about the valley not knowing the regulatory approach of SGMA. Concern about using SGMA to cover the issues in the adjudicated zone. Concerned over the structure of the District and potential of lawsuits tying up all three basins under the District into one lawsuit. Concerned about the RFP not being designed well enough for planning and meeting the water user's needs. Wants more unification between all water users, both ground and surface water users.
- Jim Patterson, NRCS – Is following the SGMA process closely and the impacts on local agriculture. He also struggles with how to account for water use efficiency improvements and the effects both positive and negative on groundwater. Would invite members of the advisory committee to attend and participate in the upcoming NRCS working group meeting on September 11th.

County Staff Update – Matt Parker

- The responsibilities of the committee would be to provide recommendations to the Flood Control board of directors. The committee is a place for the public to weigh in on the SGMA process for the valley. Additional advisory committee seats that were approved by the board (Tribal, Environmental/Conservation, City/Municipal, At-large water user) would likely be appointed at the August 7th board meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

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- Elizabeth Nielsen, County Project Coordinator provided an overview of the RFP process. The purpose of the RFP was to determine a consultant to hire for the technical work required of developing the GSP. The Prop 1 grant award is the funding used to pay the consultants. There was one submittal received from Larry Walker and Associates in conjunction with UC Davis. Committee members expressed comfortableness knowing the UC Davis staff who has previously worked in the valley. Warren Farnham wants the adjudicated zone included in the RFP process to help delineate the zone vs. non-adjudicated zone water users. Elizabeth and Matt answered that SGMA limits the amount of work that can be done inside the adjudicated zone. Preston Harris brought up paragraph 44 of the decree and how it would apply to GSP development. Discussion was held but it is still unclear how SGMA would address paragraph 44. Warren Farnham wants to improve well location standards through the use of GIS to get a better prioritization of the number of wells in the valley. Tom Menne asked if the “old” model would still be used for the GSP process. Elizabeth answered that the “old” model would be used and that further work by the consultant would be to further build off of it. Preston Harris asked if people could still dialogue with UC Davis staff regarding questions about work on the previous model. Elizabeth answered that people could still contact the UC Davis staff regarding the model, provided it didn’t interfere with SGMA related activities. Further discussion was held regarding approving the submitted RFP. Tom Menne made the motion to approve the Larry Walker submittal; motion was 2nd by Jason Finley. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.