

**SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
CALIFORNIA**

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For the Agenda of:
October 11, 2006

APPROVED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Date 10/11/06

From: Staff

By Mihelle Fiorino
Clerk of the Board

Subject: Public Hearing For Adoption Of The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan

Contact: Darrell Eck, Senior Civil Engineer, 874-5039

Overview

The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan (CSCGMP) is the result of negotiations and agreements between stakeholders in the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Basin. The CSCGMP reviews current and future water supply and demands, contains basin management objectives (BMO) addressing rate of groundwater extraction, groundwater elevations, land subsidence, surface water flows and groundwater contamination. The CSCGMP also contains "trigger points" and remedies to ensure full implementation of the BMOs. It also provides for the protection of groundwater wells and establishes cooperative relationships with Sacramento County's Environmental Management Department and other regulatory agencies to addresses groundwater contamination. Adoption of a Groundwater Management Plan must follow guidelines set forth in Section 10753 et seq. of the California Water Code.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that your Board:

1. Open the scheduled public hearing and consider any testimony or objections which the public desires to make.
2. Close the public hearing.
3. Direct staff to incorporate public comments into the draft GMP.

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BACKGROUND:

The January 2000 Water Forum Agreement contained seven major elements, one of which is groundwater management. In 2001, the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum (Groundwater Forum) was created to establish a groundwater management governance mechanism that would implement and administer a groundwater management plan for the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Basin (Central Basin).

On February 26, 2002, the first meeting of the Groundwater Forum was held including 40 stakeholder participants representing agriculture, agriculture/residential users, business, environmental/community organizations, local governments/public agencies and water purveyors.

In March 2004 the stakeholders completed negotiations on 28 agreements-in-principle to guide development of the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan (Central Basin GMP) and recommendations on governance. These were presented to the Water Forum Successor Effort and were reviewed and approved by all stakeholder organizations.

In November 2004 the Groundwater Forum appointed a stakeholder Task Force to work out the details of the Central Basin GMP.

On April 19, 2005, the Sacramento County Water Agency's Board of Directors held a public hearing and adopted a Resolution of Intention to draft a groundwater management plan for the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Basin.

In February 2006 the Central Basin GMP was completed and accepted by the Groundwater Forum. The Central Basin GMP reviews current and future water supply and demands and contains basin management objectives (BMOs) that address the rate of groundwater extraction, groundwater elevation, land surface subsidence, surface water flows and groundwater contamination. The Central Basin GMP also contains "trigger points" and remedies to ensure full implementation of the BMOs. It also provides for the protection of groundwater wells and establishes cooperative relationships with Sacramento County's Environmental Management Department and other regulatory agencies to address groundwater contamination.

DISCUSSION:

Section 10753 et seq. of the Water Code requires that an agency adopting a GMP do so in a prescribed manner. These steps include publishing a notice of intent, adoption by the Board of the Resolution of Intent, public outreach (consisting of public meetings, project newsletters, and a project website), publishing a notice of the Resolution to Adopt, conducting public hearings and ultimately adopting the GMP by your Board.

Notices of public hearing for this GMP were published in a newspaper of general circulation on both September 27, 2006 and October 4, 2006 in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code (10753.5).