

**SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
CALIFORNIA**

5

For the Agenda of:
November 8, 2006

APPROVED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Date 11/8/06

From: Staff

By Michelle Fiorino
Clerk of the Board

Subject: Second Public Hearing On The Adoption Of The Central Sacramento County
Groundwater Management Plan, Dated February 2006
Environmental Documentation: Notice of Exemption (Revised)
(Control No. 06-PWE-0728)

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 address groundwater contamination. Adoption of a Groundwater Management Plan must follow guidelines set forth in § 10753 et seq. of the California Water Code (Water Code).

Recommendations

Staff recommends that your Board:

1. Certify the Categorical Exemption (§ 15308 Class 8) for the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan prepared by Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment.
2. Adopt the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan, dated February 2006.

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.

On October 11, 2006 a public hearing for the Central Basin GMP was held to consider and testimony or objections which the public desired to make. No public comments were received during the public hearing or during the period of time between the public hearing and this Board meeting.

DISCUSSION:

§ 10753 et seq. of the CWC 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.

Second Public Hearing On The Adoption Of The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan, Dated February 2006

Page 3

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

The Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment has issued a Notice of Exemption for the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan based on § 15308 (Class 8) of the California Environmental Quality Act.

In accordance with § 10753.7(b)(2) of the Water Code, upon adoption of the Central Basin GMP an electronic copy of the document will be provided to the California State Department of Water Resources.

Attachments:

Notice of Exemption (06-PWE-0728)

Final Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan

cc:

Walt Pettit, Water Forum



RECORDING REQUESTED
WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

County of Sacramento
Department of Environmental
Review and Assessment
827 Seventh Street, Room 220
Sacramento, CA 95814

CONTACT PERSON: Joyce Horizumi
TELEPHONE: (916) 874-7914

SPACE ABOVE RESERVED FOR RECORDER'S USE

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (REVISED)

Project Title:

CENTRAL SACRAMENTO COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Control Number:

06-PWE-0728

Project Location:

The project is located in the Central Basin groundwater management area which is generally bordered by the American River to the north, the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers to the south, the Sacramento River/Interstate 5 to the west and by the Sierra Nevada Range to the east, in Sacramento County.

APN:

N/A

Description of Project:

The proposed project's management objectives include maintaining or improving groundwater quality, maintaining groundwater elevations, protecting against subsidence, protecting against adverse surface water flows, and protecting against adverse impacts to surface water or groundwater flows. No construction activities are proposed by the plan.

Name of public agency approving project:

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Name, address and phone number of person or agency carrying out project:

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
c/o Sacramento County Water Agency
827 7th Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 874-6851

Exempt Status:

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION – 15308, Class 8

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed groundwater management plan is an action taken by a regulatory agency for the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of the environment. No construction activities are proposed. The project is therefore exempt from CEQA.

Joyce Horizumi

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR OF
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Copy To:

County of Sacramento
County Clerk
600 Eighth Street, Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

OPR:

State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814