

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**

Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department:
 Sonoma County Water Agency

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact: **Phone:** **Board Date:**
 Marcus Trotta (707)547-1978 04-28-09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:
 Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program – 2008 Annual Report

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):
 No Action. Informational Presentation.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ -0-	Contingencies	\$
		(Fund Name:)	
Amount Budgeted	\$ -0-	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
		(Source:)	
Other Avail Approp	\$	Other Transfer(s)	\$
(Explain below)		(Source:)	
Additional Requested:	\$ _____ -0-	Add'l Funds Requested:	\$ _____ -0-

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):
 2007 Board Approval of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and Direction to Implement Plan.
 2006 Board Workshop on Groundwater Management whereby Board directed staff to begin non-regulatory groundwater management planning process in Sonoma Valley.
 2004 Board Workshop on Water Supply and Reliability whereby Board directed staff to develop a work plan for a non-regulatory groundwater management plan in Sonoma Valley.
 2001 Board Action to initiate Sonoma County Water Agency/United States Geological Survey Cooperative Study of Groundwater Basins in Sonoma County.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Background: Report on file with the Clerk

The objective of this Agenda item is to provide the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors with a summary of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program (GMP) activities in Sonoma Valley to date and present planned activities for implementing the program in 2009.

Summary of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Activities

In June 2006, the Agency's Board of Directors (Board) and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors directed Agency staff to begin a Groundwater Management Planning process in compliance with AB 3030 in the Sonoma Valley. At that time, the Board approved a work plan to develop a Groundwater Management Plan (Plan). After approval, Agency staff and consultants worked with a Basin Advisory Panel (BAP), a collection of Sonoma Valley stakeholders, to develop a groundwater management plan for Sonoma Valley that was approved by the Agency's Board of Directors on November 6, 2007. The BAP, in development of the Plan, identified a number of primary areas to focus Plan implementation activities including:

- Protection of groundwater quality and quantity;
- Groundwater sustainability;
- Continued monitoring and assessment of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin; and
- Continued stakeholder involvement as expressed through the BAP.

The 2008 Annual Report, which was developed with the participation, review and approval of BAP members, describes the substantial progress achieved during the first year of implementation of the GMP in each of these primary areas. Some of the major accomplishments achieved in 2008 include:

- Obtaining approximately \$250,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for constructing two multi-depth groundwater monitoring wells and mapping groundwater recharge areas in Sonoma Valley;
- Obtaining \$25,000 in grant funding from the North Bay Watershed Association to extend water conservation assessments to areas outside of existing conservation programs, including vineyard irrigation assessments;
- Nearly doubling the number of groundwater level measurements collected in Sonoma Valley by adding over 40 new volunteers to the Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program; and
- Constructed a new stream gage in Sonoma Creek near Kenwood to improve the understanding of surface water-groundwater interactions in Sonoma Valley.

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Continued...

Attachments:

On File With Clerk: Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program - 2008 Annual Report

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

Primary findings from the 2008 Annual Report include:

- Annual rainfall and annual discharge of Sonoma Creek was approximately 75% of average;
- Of the 57 wells for which at least 5 years of groundwater data is available, approximately 30 appear to exhibit relatively stable groundwater level trends, 21 exhibit declining trends, and 6 show upward trends; and
- Two previously identified groundwater pumping depressions remain evident – southeast of the City of Sonoma and southwest of El Verano. Groundwater levels are locally below sea level in these areas.

Planned activities developed by the BAP for implementing the program in 2009 are also described in the 2008 Annual Report and include:

- Further expanding the Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program;
- Identify and plan projects that capture or retain available stormwater from Sonoma Creek and its tributaries for recharge into the groundwater basin;
- Explore the feasibility of banking excess winter flows from the Russian River in the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin for storage and use in the summer/fall; and
- Develop a guidebook for implementing small-scale recharge, conservation and reuse projects for landowners.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTIONS:

No Action. Informational Presentation.