

ATTACHMENT B

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2010 GENERAL PLAN POLICY REVISIONS

1. PS-3.1; LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

Policy PS-3.1 as adopted requires new development for which a discretionary permit is required to show a “long-term, sustainable water supply, both in quality and quantity to serve the development.” The policy further exempts from this requirement four classes of projects. One of those classes includes agricultural related development within Zone 2C of the Salinas Valley groundwater basin provided the County prepares a report every five years that examines whether a) total water demand predicted for the year 2030 in the General Plan EIR will be reached; b) groundwater elevations and the seawater intrusion boundary have changed; and, c) other sources of water have become available. If certain defined conditions occur or are likely to occur, then the County is required to initiate a General Plan amendment process to address those conditions. The policy also exempts development in Zone 2C if it meets all the following criteria: 1) it is in a Community Area or Rural Center; 2) it is in a groundwater basin where a 75 year supply of fresh water in storage is available; and 3) the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the adverse impacts to the groundwater basin.

The revised policy expands the exemption to all development in Zone 2C but would require the County to cause a five-year study regarding Zone 2C designed to evaluate groundwater elevations and the seawater intrusion boundary, and whether total water demand predicted in the General Plan EIR is likely to be reached or exceeded. If the study concludes that total water demand is likely to be exceeded, or groundwater elevations likely to decline and the seawater intrusion boundary likely to advance inland by the year 2030, the authors shall make recommendations to address those conditions. Shortly following the completion of the study, the Board of Supervisors must hold an open public hearing on the study and its conclusions, and if the study reaches the conclusions identified above, the Board must adopt one or more of the measures identified in the study to address those conditions. The Zone 2C exemption is a rebuttable presumption of a long term, sustainable water supply that will exist unless the five-year study reaches one of the conclusions identified above. Following the completion of the five-year study, the County will report every five years on the conditions in Zone 2C as currently required in the General Plan. Finally, the revised policy would delete the exemption for development in Community Areas and Rural Centers, where the groundwater basin has a 75 year supply, and where the benefits outweigh the impacts on the groundwater basin.

2. PS-3.3; DOMESTIC WELL CRITERIA

Policy PS-3.3 requires the creation of specific criteria by ordinance to be used in the evaluation and approval of all new domestic wells. The revised policy provides clarifying language that certain factors shall be used in the creation of the criteria, and also clarifies that one of the factors is the effect of additional extractions or diversions of water on instream flows.

3. PS-3.4; HIGH CAPACITY WELLS

Policy PS-3.4, similar to PS-3.3, requires the creation of specific criteria by ordinance to be used in the evaluation and approval of all new high capacity wells (whether for domestic or agricultural use), except for replacement wells. The revised policy would make the same language changes as the revised Policy PS-3.3 described above.