



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 24-121

July 15, 2024

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Consider receiving an update on the development of a Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program and Fee and receiving an update on the Groundwater Extraction Management System expansion draft ordinance and providing direction to staff as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:

Receive an update on the development of a Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program and Fee and receiving an update on the Groundwater Extraction Management System expansion draft ordinance and providing direction to staff as appropriate.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Agency and Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVB) have been collaborating on the expansion of the Agency's 30-year-old GEMS program to meet the SVB's current regulatory requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. An initial draft of the proposed new ordinance was presented to the Agency's Personnel & Administration Committee on May 5th and has been the subject of numerous stakeholder meetings since. In response to questions and comments received, the Agency has revised the draft ordinance for initial review by the Board of Directors. The Agency is also working to establish a Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program (GMRP) Manual and Fee to more fully describe the breadth of the Agency's groundwater monitoring work, beyond the GEMS expansion that has been the primary focus of attention, and associated costs. The Agency has also initiated the GMRP regulatory fee nexus study. The draft ordinance will be again considered by the Directors at their August 19th meeting.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

FINANCING:

This effort is being financed by Fund 116 or grant funding provided by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, as appropriate.

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Attachments:

1. WRA Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program Update Presentation

2. Draft Well Registration Reporting Ordinance_7.9.24
3. Draft Groundwater Monitoring Regulatory Program Manual
4. Board Order