Introduced: 3/28/2025 **Current Status:** Agenda Ready

Version: 1 **Matter Type:** WRA FInance Item

Consider recommending that the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency recommend that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:

a. Approve and authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to accept donation of monitoring wells 180/400-GDE-1 valued at $52,797; E-DA-2 valued at $282,739; L-GWL-2 valued at $109,355; L-GWL-6 valued at $109,355; UV-GWL-1 valued at $81,540; and UV-ISW-1 valued at $63,923 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
b. Authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to enter into Agreements to Convey Ownership in Monitoring Wells 180/400-GDE-1, E-DA-2, L-GWL-2, L-GWL-6, UV-GWL-1, and UV-ISW-1; and
c. Authorize the Water Resources Agency to use monitoring wells 180/400-GDE-1, E-DA-2, L-GWL-2, L-GWL-6, UV-GWL-1, and UV-ISW-1 for implementation of its Groundwater Monitoring Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

a. Approve and authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to accept donation of monitoring wells 180/400-GDE-1 valued at $52,797; E-DA-2 valued at $282,739; L-GWL-2 valued at $109,355; L-GWL-6 valued at $109,355; UV-GWL-1 valued at $81,540; and UV-ISW-1 valued at $63,923 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
b. Authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to enter into Agreements to Convey Ownership in Monitoring Wells 180/400-GDE-1, E-DA-2, L-GWL-2, L-GWL-6, UV-GWL-1, and UV-ISW-1; and
c. Authorize the Water Resources Agency to use monitoring wells 180/400-GDE-1, E-DA-2, L-GWL-2, L-GWL-6, UV-GWL-1, and UV-ISW-1 for implementation of its Groundwater Monitoring Program.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In 2024, the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) constructed monitoring wells throughout the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin in furtherance of their regulatory activities pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) and to expand the extent of Monterey County Water Resources Agency’s (“MCWRA”) groundwater monitoring network.

Construction of the monitoring wells was funded through Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grants #4600015881 (SVBGSA). SVBGSA intends to convey ownership of six monitoring wells, referred to as "180/400-GDE-1," "E-DA-2," "L-GWL-2," "L-GWL-6," "UV-GWL-1," and "UV-ISW-1" to MCWRA. Two of the wells were constructed to monitor shallow groundwater conditions related to either groundwater dependent ecosystems (180/400-GDE-1) or the connection between groundwater and surface water (UV-ISW-1). One well (E-DA-2) was constructed to monitor the Deep Aquifers. Three wells were constructed in areas of the Langley and Upper Valley subbasins to fill data gaps in the groundwater level monitoring network: L-GWL-2 and L-GWL-6 in the Langley Subbasin and UV-GWL-1 in the Upper Valley Subbasin (Attachment 1). The SVBGSA has furnished MCWRA with Well Completion Reports for all six of the subject monitoring wells (Attachment 2).

MCWRA is agreeable to accepting ownership of 180/400-GDE-1, E-DA-2, L-GWL-2, L-GWL-6, UV-GWL-1, and UV-ISW-1 pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Agreement to Convey Ownership for each well ("Agreements"), which include maintenance and reporting responsibilities related to the wells (Attachment 3).

The MCWRA Board of Supervisors is empowered to accept this gift in order to serve a public purpose which, in this instance, is monitoring of groundwater conditions within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin to inform water resources management. If the MCWRA Board of Supervisors authorizes acceptance of the donated monitoring wells, MCWRA has an opportunity to enhance its understanding of groundwater level and groundwater quality conditions in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and provide data that the MCWDGSA and SVBGSA require to meet regulatory mandates from SGMA.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) requires, by regulation, that local officials that accept gifts for local agency purposes document the transaction and post information about the transaction on the agency website if the fair market value is worth more than $2,500. Based on information provided by the SVBGSA, fair market value of each monitoring well is as follows: 180/400-GDE-1 is $52,797; E-DA-2 is $282,739; L-GWL-2 is $109,335; L-GWL-6 is $109,335; UV-GWL-1 is $81,540; and, UV-ISW-1 is $63,923.

The recommended action is consistent with an action approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 10, 2024, wherein the donation of three monitoring wells from the SVBGSA was accepted following recommendations from the Agency's Finance Committee and Board of Directors. Additionally, the recommended action is compatible with the following strategies and goals from the MCWRA Strategic Plan: Goal B, Strategy 2 - *Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, define MCWRA's role, and implement a GSA integration plan*; Goal B, Strategy 7 - *Use data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science*; and Goal C, Strategy 6 - *Pursue grant funding and cost saving opportunities from all available sources, including collaborating with the GSA*.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
County Counsel and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency assisted with

development and review of the Agreements.

FINANCING:
It is estimated that maintenance of these monitoring wells may be required every 10 years, at a cost of $5,000 to $8,000 per well. More substantial repairs could be required periodically, with costs varying depending on the extent of the necessary repairs. Funding for maintenance of the donated monitoring wells would be included in the Groundwater Monitoring Program regulatory fee (Fund 111).

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Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831)755-4860

Attachment:

1. Well Location Maps
2. Well Completion Reports
3. Agreements to Convey Ownership