



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-169

May 28, 2026

Introduced: 5/21/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Overview of progress on the Bulletin 74 California Well Standards Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Per DWR, Bulletin 74: California Well Standards (“Bulletin 74”) “sets the minimum standards for water, monitoring, cathodic protection, and geothermal heat exchange wells, with the purpose of protecting California’s groundwater quality.”

In 2021, the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide input on an update of Bulletin 74, which was last updated in 1991. The TAC met throughout 2021 and 2022, and DWR has been preparing draft standards with consideration of the TAC’s input since spring 2022. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) has a representative on the TAC and the Agency staff have been engaged with the Bulletin 74 process because of the Agency’s role of providing subject matter expertise as part of the County of Monterey’s well permitting process.

The TAC is expected to get a preview of the updated Bulletin 74 in summer 2026 and DWR expects to release the updated Bulletin 74 for public comment in Fall 2026. Future opportunities for engagement will be available, including commenting on the public review draft once it is released.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Bulletin 74 California Well Standards Update is being led by the Department of Water Resources.

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