

COUNTY OF GLENN

AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

MEETING DATE: August 5, 2008 <u>Submitting Department(s):</u> Department of Agriculture	BRIEF SUBJECT/ISSUE DESCRIPTION: Water resources are of the highest importance in maintaining the agricultural economy of the County. Due to predictable and unforeseen changes locally, regionally, and state wide it is deemed necessary for the County to develop a long term strategic plan for this valuable resource.
Contact: Mark Black, Agricultural Commissioner Phone: 934-6501	

AGENDA PLACEMENT	ATTACHMENTS	LEGAL/PERSONNEL/FISCAL
APPOINTMENT – Appearances by: (Specify Name & Title) Mark Black, Agricultural Commissioner Lester Messina, Water Resource Coordinator Required 10 Minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Business – No Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence <input type="checkbox"/> Reports & Notices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Minute Order <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Grant App. <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Proclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Update <input type="checkbox"/> Code Update <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Planning Outline	<input type="checkbox"/> County Counsel <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> County Administrative Office CLERK INSTRUCTIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Minute Order <input type="checkbox"/> Return Certified Copy Of: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Amendment
AFFECTED DEPARTMENT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Concurrence		

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMITTEE VACANCIES	LEGISLATION	FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT	CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS
Public Hearings: <input type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit on File w/Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Affected Parties Notified Committees: <input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy Posted <input type="checkbox"/> Application Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Bill#: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Latest Version of Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Letter Attached <input type="checkbox"/> List of Supporters/Opposers <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Relevance to County Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Description Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeted <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Attached <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5ths Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> Contingency Request	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Report Date of Original Contract: Contract No.: Fiscal Year:

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:
 Request the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Provide direction to the Agricultural Commissioner and staff to proceed with developing a strategic planning process for water resources in the County

Mark Black

Department Head

Reviewed By (if applicable):

Personnel Director

Department of Finance

cc:

County Administrative Officer

COUNTY OF GLENN BOARD REPORT

**Submitted by Department of Agriculture
(Department)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glenn County Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) was adopted by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors (Board) on February 15, 2000 as Ordinance No. 1115, and engrossed in Chapter 20.03 of the Glenn County Code, Groundwater Management.

In adopting Ordinance No.1115, the Board recognized that protection of groundwater resources for use within the County is of major concern to the residents of the county for protection of their health, welfare, and safety. Furthermore, in its statement of purpose (Section 20.03.010) the Board declared that the beneficial use of groundwater and maintenance of safe yield to be of critical importance to the economy of the County. The goal of the GWMP is to ensure the continued availability of groundwater and that extraction of groundwater does not exceed safe yield. In addition, the plan is designed to protect groundwater quality and prevent land subsidence. From this process a vision was set forth *"that sufficient and affordable water of good quality be available on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of agricultural, industrial, recreational, environmental, residential, and municipal users within the County, both now and in the future."*

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is being recommended at this point in time that the Board provide direction to the Agricultural Commissioner to explore and bring forward practical options that would be necessary to develop a strategic plan for water resources in the County. (See Attachment A)

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

In November 2002, the County was awarded funds from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to seek the services of a qualified consultant to assist in the facilitation of a planning process to document and preserve the accomplishments of the County and to confirm its direction for the future. This process was also intended to define the future of groundwater and coordinated water management in the County and was expected to be the foundation for a planning process to be developed to help achieve desired goals.

In March 2004 Water Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting, WAC members voted to approve and accept the document prepared by Wood Rodgers, Inc. as the "Preliminary Plan for Groundwater and Coordinated Water Management" (Plan) in Glenn County. The Plan highlights Goals for Water Management from a historic perspective, an Organization for Water Management that further defines the role of the WAC, and outlines a Program to Facilitate Groundwater and Coordinated Water Management through 10 items, which can lead the WAC in the "next steps" necessary in the future as funding or the need becomes available.

COUNTY OF GLENN BOARD REPORT

In May 2006, the Board recognized and accepted the above mentioned Plan as the direction for the future of the County. This acceptance and recognition of this work is viewed as the foundation to build upon the significant efforts expended by numerous individuals in the County to date and facilitate improved management of water resources for the overall benefit of the county.

Prior to these events, Glenn County recognized the need for management of groundwater resources by assisting in the development of Senate Bill 867, as the Glenn County Groundwater Management District Act, which would have created the Glenn County Groundwater Management District. This bill was approved by the legislature in 1992, but was later vetoed by the Governor. Although the bill was perceived as providing the County with an authority that may have interfered with water and irrigation district legitimate operations, the answers to some of the challenges that we are faced with would have been addressed.

It is prudent for the County to recognize and take further action to fulfill the roles and responsibilities provided for in the current groundwater management plan and other regional and state wide activities. With this recognition, the time is right to formulate a plan of action and move forward with the development of a strategic planning process for water resources within the County and the surrounding region.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT(S):

In order for the County to move forward with a water resource planning process, it will be necessary to request additional funds from the Board to assist the Department in their efforts to bring the best information and alternatives forward on how to proceed. If directed by the Board, the Department will provide cost estimates at a later meeting.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION

A schedule for implementation of the GWMP was not included at the time the plan was adopted, since many aspects of the plan were unknown and unknowable. In the eight years since the plan was adopted many changes have occurred locally, regionally, and state wide creating many challenges. Locally, there has been cropping changes which in turn have meant a greater dependence on groundwater. This along with the recognition that surface water supplies, on a regional and state wide basis, may be limited in the future and will require additional consideration on the availability of these resources.

Based upon local, regional, and state wide water planning processes that are currently underway, it is an appropriate time for the County to more actively initiate and participate in a long term planning process to preserve and protect the water resource necessary for the well being of the citizens, the community, and the agricultural economy it supports.

In doing so, the County will strengthen it's commitment to the public and further its role and responsibilities of identifying and maintaining safe yield, and provide protection from overdraft as described in the Basin Management Objective process within the GWMP.

ATTACHMENT A

GLENN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR WATER RESOURCES

Objective

The intention of this attachment is to provide some background of County water resource activities and at the same time present various short and long term goals identified to proceed in the direction of water resource planning. It is recognized that a strategic plan for water resource management in the future needs to be developed in conjunction with what has been achieved in the past. In some areas, direction and leadership to the Department of Agriculture (Department) by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is essential. Through the efforts of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC), Department water resources staff, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) there is a practical technical understanding of our groundwater basin. Currently what is absent is a dedicated institutional organization with an ongoing and sustainable funding mechanism.

Background

The Glenn County Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) was adopted by the Glenn County BOS on February 15, 2000 as Ordinance No. 1115, and engrossed in Chapter 20.03 of the Glenn County Code, Groundwater Management.

In adopting Ordinance No.1115, the BOS recognized that protection of groundwater resources for use within the County is of major concern to the residents of the county for protection of their health, welfare, and safety. Furthermore, in its statement of purpose (Section 20.03.010) the BOS declared that the beneficial use of groundwater and maintenance of safe yield to be of critical importance to the economy of the County. The goal of the GWMP is to ensure the continued availability of groundwater and that extraction of groundwater does not exceed safe yield. In addition, the plan is designed to protect groundwater quality and prevent land subsidence. From this process a vision was set forth *“that sufficient and affordable water of good quality be available on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of agricultural, industrial, recreational, environmental, residential, and municipal users within the County, both now and in the future.”*

Objectives of the plan include: (1) the establishment of a monitoring program which addresses groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and land subsidence; (2) the establishment of an effective policy concerning groundwater that will assure that the overall economy and environment of the County is protected; (3) foster prudent groundwater management practices to avoid significant adverse environmental, social, and economic impacts; and (4) to work cooperatively with interested local agencies to further develop and implement joint groundwater management practices.

A schedule for implementation of the GWMP was not included at the time the plan was adopted, since many aspects of the plan were unknown and unknowable. In the eight

years since the plan was adopted many changes have occurred within our region creating many challenges. Locally, there has been cropping changes which in turn means a greater dependence on groundwater. This along with the recognition that surface water supplies may be limited in the future will require additional consideration on the availability of the resource.

Historically, Glenn County has recognized the need for management of groundwater resources by assisting in the development of Senate Bill 867, as the Glenn County Groundwater Management District Act, which was approved by the Senate and Assembly in 1991, but was vetoed by the Governor 1992.

From these efforts, an Ad Hoc committee was developed in 1995 within the county to explore ways to develop meaningful recommendations for the Board's consideration in the area of water policy development. The recognition of the roles and responsibilities of the County need to follow the intent of past efforts, while focusing on the current groundwater management plan and continue to coordinate with the WAC.

Justification for Water Policy Development

Water needs or demands are defined sufficiently by historic water use. The changes and locations of those changes can be managed with appropriate communication, coordination, and planning from the standpoint of land use, groundwater monitoring, and conjunctive management of the available supplies. Water supplies are sufficient to sustain the agricultural economy of the County; however a much better understanding of the groundwater basin and related opportunities and constraints as well as broader collaborative efforts are needed to facilitate management of the resources that provide benefits to individuals and community as a whole.

Components to be Considered in a Strategic Planning Process

Examples of tasks identified to provide a foundation for planning:

- Develop an Organizational Framework that Will Provide the Level of Involvement Envisioned by the County
 - Enforcement of Ordinance 1115
 - Staff Necessary to Achieve Desired Goals
 - Position Descriptions and Expectations
 - Financial Resources
 - Annual Operating Costs (Water Resources Association of Yolo County example)
 - Development of Secure Funding Mechanism Identify Funding Sources
 - Assessments
 - Sales Tax Increase
 - Well Permit Fees
 - Transfer Fees
 - Development Fees
 - Grant Funding

- Outreach and Education
 - Identify Necessary Outreach Components Targeting Groundwater Pumpers
 1. Land Use
 2. Water Use
 3. Well Inventory
 4. Cropping Patterns and Changes

- Monitoring
 - Further Define Monitoring
 - Water Level
 - Water Quality
 - Land Subsidence

- Water Availability and Distribution
 - Agricultural and Municipal Development
 - Modeling

- Well Construction and Placement Guidelines
 - Increased Coordination with Planning and Environmental Health Departments

The Department has also been active in regional activities on behalf of the County such as the Four County MOU process, the Multi-Party MOU process, and the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Locally, there is the ongoing cooperative effort with the Colusa Basin Drainage District and their endeavors to improve flood control while improving groundwater recharge.

Most recently, the Department has participated in an assessment to ascertain the potential feasibility of, and best approach to, assist the Northern Sacramento Valley in developing an organizational structure to successfully implement integrated regional water resource planning and management. It is hoped this process will provide momentum in the region.

Summary

The Preliminary Plan documents clearly provide support that the geographic and hydrologic setting of Glenn County and the foresight and actions of people in years past, has placed Glenn County in an enviable position in relation to many other areas of the State. Based on what is known in the area of water resources, the “needs” at this time are not water needs, but rather “management” needs. Refinements in the management of the water resources available to the County dictate having a better understanding of the groundwater basin and genuine collaborative relationships in the County and neighboring counties as well. This further highlights the fact that the reliability of water to protect these investments warrants more refined management of available water resources. The tasks outlined above would help to better facilitate the management of water resources available to Glenn County. These activities lend themselves to being addressed at a countywide level and will support the work of local entities and facilitate management of supplies for which each is responsible. Opportunities for partnerships to improve water management could emerge from the work as well.