September 15, 2020

Subject: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - Stakeholder Engagement

Dear Stakeholder:

As required by California’s historic passing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014, development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) in the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins is well underway, and are due to the California Department of Water Resources in January 2022. On April 4, 2017, the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) was approved as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the three basins, and tasked with the responsibility of developing the GSP’s.

These GSP’s will provide an important management tool to learn, understand and enable long-term groundwater sustainability for all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. These GSP’s are not intended to impede water rights or be used as the highest level of authority in terms of water law; but instead be used as an effective, locally designed management tool. The overarching goal of SGMA is for each basin to maintain or achieve sustainability as described in each GSP by 2042. Flexibility will be built into the GSPs to allow for better understanding of local hydrology, opportunities to make operational changes as needed, and to maintain or improve the economies and fisheries species that rely on groundwater.

The District has been awarded two state grants to financially assist in development of the GSP’s, and have contracted with Larry Walker Associates and the University of California at Davis, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who have vast technical and water resources experience. In addition, to help meet the goals of robust stakeholder engagement, the District approved groundwater advisory committees for each basin, consisting of a multitude of local representation from varying interests including private pumper s, irrigation districts, tribes, cities & municipal services, residential and environmental & conservation interests. These advisory committees meet regularly to discuss and provide advice regarding GSP development, under guidance and direction of Siskiyou County Natural Resources staff and the District.

Advisory committee meetings have been the central “hub” for garnering input from our various stakeholder groups and individuals; and provide the most convenient opportunity to engage with consultants and District staff. We welcome and encourage your input to this process If you are new to the SGMA process, we invite you to participate in these publically held advisory committee meetings. If you have been actively involved, we ask that you continue to participate and provide valuable input. Meeting agendas and other SGMA related material can be found at:

https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma
Staff also provides active outreach through email, to be included on the list please make a request through: SGMA@co.siskiyou.ca.us.

We thank you for your participation in this monumental and important process as we work towards long term groundwater sustainability. If you have any questions please reach out to Matt Parker, Natural Resource Specialist at mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8019.

This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on September 15, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Criss, Valenzuela, Nixon and Haupt
NOES: None
ABSENT: Director Kobseff
ABSTAIN: None

Sincerely,

Ray A. Haupt, Vice Chair
Flood Control and Water Conservation District