



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Approved by:

Keith Helmuth, Department Director

Arnaldo Rodriguez, City Manager

Council Meeting of: October 2, 2019

Agenda Number: C-1

SUBJECT:

Update on the Status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council (Council), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):

- Receive GSP status update.
- Receive public comment and provide input and suggested modifications to the draft GSP.

SUMMARY:

The City of Madera (City) is one of seven agencies that have established a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within the boundaries of Madera Groundwater Subbasin pursuant to the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Four of those GSAs, including the City, County of Madera (County), Madera Irrigation District (MID), and Madera Water District (MWD), prepared the *Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan* (Joint GSP).

The Joint GSP, now in draft form, has been prepared in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which requires GSAs to achieve groundwater sustainability in the subbasin by 2040. Combined, the Joint GSP GSAs are responsible for approximately 95 percent of the Madera Subbasin. Preparation of the Joint GSP was funded primarily through a State grant with additional staff and resources provided from each GSA.

DISCUSSION:

As noted in the last update to Council on September 4, 2019, the Joint GSP is now available for comment and continues to be available for review by the public and the Council through November 11, 2019. It can be viewed either as a hard copy at the City Clerk’s office or downloaded from:

www.maderacountywater.com/maps/madera-subbasin/.

Since the last update, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 20, 2019 to discuss proposals presented by various consulting firms for preparation of a Data Management System (DMS) as well as the coordination agreement between all seven GSAs. The review of submittals indicates there were at least two qualified firms. The TAC currently anticipates that the top two firms as ranked by TAC members will be interviewed prior to a final selection of the firm that will prepare the DMS.

As of the time this staff report was finalized, the TAC had received nine written responses to the draft GSP.

The next event of importance for the Joint GSP is the Coordination Committee meeting for the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. This meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2019. During this meeting, the GSP will be presented and the public will be provided an opportunity to provide verbal or written comments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No actions will be taken as a result of this report and there are no impacts to the General Fund at this time.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE VISION MADERA 2025 PLAN:

The recommended action supports the Well-Planned Community Vision Statement. “Sound planning helps Madera celebrate its past, balance its present with available resources and infrastructure and anticipate its future with coordinated planning and interagency cooperation guided by a shared vision.” Where Strategy 434 is directly related: “Ensure continued water supplies to meet the demands of all Madeirans through innovative reclamation, conservation and education on water-use.”

ALTERNATIVES:

This report does not include items that would be associated with possible alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.