



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: July 26, 2014
Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Dave Pine

Subject: Sustainable Groundwater Management in the San Francisquito Creek Area

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution in support of sustainable groundwater management in the San Francisquito Creek Area.

BACKGROUND:

The San Francisquito Creek area includes portions of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Most of the water supplied to this area is served by the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC). There is an increased interest in groundwater use as a result of rising SFPUC water prices, population growth, and potential water supply reductions from droughts and climate change.

DISCUSSION:

Sustainable groundwater management minimizes the risk of long-term groundwater overdraft, salt water intrusion, and land subsidence. The County is not a water provider in the San Francisquito Creek Watershed (Watershed). However, the County's Planning Department has permitting authority over land use within the unincorporated areas of the Watershed and the Environmental Health Division of the County's System approves water well applications within the County.

The other cities or towns within the Watershed have permitting authority over land use within their jurisdiction. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) manages groundwater in Santa Clara County in accordance with the 2012 Groundwater Management Plan approved by its Board of Directors.

Because there is no single groundwater management entity in the County, discussions with the District, other jurisdictions, and stakeholders have occurred regarding the potential for increased groundwater use in the San Francisquito Creek area. Collaborative discussions with the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park,

Stanford University, the District, the County, and other stakeholders resulted in a proposed Resolution supporting sustainable groundwater management in the San Francisquito Creek area.

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this action will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by working with other agencies and stakeholders to sustainably manage groundwater in the San Francisquito Creek area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact from adopting this Resolution. There is no impact to the General Fund.