



Monterey County

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Board Report

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Consider receiving a presentation on, and the Executive Summary of, the State of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin Report by the firm Brown and Caldwell in response to Board Referral 2014.01.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, the Board of Supervisors of the Water Resources Agency of Monterey County, and the Board of Directors of the Water Resources Agency receive a presentation on, and the Executive Summary of, the State of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin Report by the firm Brown and Caldwell in response to Board Referral 2014.01.

SUMMARY:

Policy PS-3.1 of the Monterey County 2010 General Plan requires the County to undertake a comprehensive study of the condition of Zone 2C of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. The study is designed to occur over a period of 5 years, and will result in a report with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Chair Calcagno submitted referral 2014.01 on February 14, 2014, the purpose of which was to commence the Salinas River Groundwater Basin Zone ZC study required by County General Plan Policy PS-3.1 and to perform a near term assessment of the groundwater basin's health and status. The firm Brown and Caldwell was retained to perform the study and the near term assessment, and the County contracted with the Water Resources Agency to manage the study on behalf of the County.

Brown and Caldwell has completed the near term assessment, entitled the State of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. A copy of the Executive Summary of the report prepared by Brown and Caldwell is enclosed as Exhibit 1.

DISCUSSION:

A verbal report will be made to the Board of Supervisors by the Water Resources Agency and Brown and Caldwell. While the executive summary has been finalized, the full body of the report is still undergoing final preparation and will be made publicly available as soon as possible.

The Report addresses the ramifications of prolonged drought by considering likely changes in groundwater head elevations, groundwater storage, and seawater intrusion in the event that the current drought continues. In addition, some steps are presented that could be taken to help alleviate the consequences of further depleting groundwater storage.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The report has been prepared by the County Counsel's Office in coordination with the Water Resources Agency.

FINANCING:

There is no financial impact with respect to the receipt of the State of the Basin report.

Prepared by:

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Attachment: Exhibit 1 Executive Summary of the Report

cc: Mike Novo, Resource Management Agency/Planning Director
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Robert Johnson, Water Resources Agency Assistant General Manager
Howard Franklin, Water Resources Agency Senior Hydrologist
Leslie L. Chau, Brown and Caldwell