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Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Working Group

Meeting 5 September 12, 2016

Slides posted at <http://www.humboldt.gov/groundwater>

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

1. Introduction

A revised agenda was presented, expanding item 2 (see slides).

2. Review current compliance approach for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and purpose/membership of Working Group

Hank reviewed the legislative framework and the current compliance approach, which is aimed toward preparing an Alternative Submittal due by January 1, 2017. Review of the identified stakeholder interests, the three conditions for being a Working Group member, and the current list of people who have requested to be members. People who choose not to become Working Group members are considered “Interested Parties” and are welcome to attend and participate in meetings. The meeting ground rules and the original purpose of the Working Group were reviewed. Hank presented revisions to the original purpose to reflect the current compliance approach and also activities completed (see slides).

Discussion

Lee Mora: Questioned whether taking out “groundwater” from item #2 in the purpose statement is an unnecessary expansion. Response: Hank stated that for complete analysis of sustainability for the Eel River basin we need to include surface water and the interactions between these water sources.

3. Review previous meeting

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

4. Update on Groundwater Basin Assessment

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

Discussion

Dave Fisch: Does the County know who at DWR will review the Alternative Submittal? Answer: Not at this time. Mary Randall (DWR representative in attendance) indicated after the meeting that Michelle Dooley is our contact for the Prop. 1 grant agreement.

Merritt Perry: Need to determine thresholds which will be critical for figuring adverse impacts and undesirable results.

Mary Randall: With respect to the apparent difference in irrigated acreage numbers, we should contact Tito Cervantes out of the DWR office in Red Bluff.

Tim Meade: Need to address the marijuana industry and impacts it has and has had on surface and groundwater in the basin in order to fully evaluate sustainability.

5. Update on Humboldt County RCD's Irrigation Water/Fertigation Management Planning Project

Frances Tjamstrom (Humboldt County Resource Conservation District) confirmed that the study was complete and will soon be available on their website. Pamphlets were made available at the meeting with brief description.

6. Review action items set next meeting date

Next meeting was set for Monday, October 17th, 1:00 – 2:00, at the Humboldt County Agricultural Center.

Working Group Members Present:

Jeff Stackhouse	UC-Cooperative Extension
Cheryl Laffranchi	Northcoast Pumphouse
Bob McPherson	HSU and LAFCO
Ryan Rice	Commercial
Tom Gast	Thomas Gast & Associates
Denver Nelson	Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Committee, dairy owner
Summer Daugherty	HCRCD
Lee Mora	Humboldt Grass Fed Beef
John Vevoda	Rancher, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Katherine Ziemer	Humboldt County Farm Bureau
David Fisch	Fisch Drilling
Doreen Hansen	HCRCD
Frances Tjanstrom	HCRCD
Ben Dolf	Humboldt County Environmental Health
Merritt Perry	City of Fortuna
Jonathon Shultz	NRCS
Chad Lake	Commercial
Estelle Fennel	Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
David Rodriguez	Hydesville County Water District
Jill Demers	HCRCD

Other Interested Parties Present:

Melissa Lema	Western United Dairymen
Kyle Knopp	City of Rio Dell
Jack Thompson	City of Rio Dell
Jasper Oshun	HSU
Jennifer Curtis	USGS
Sheila Eilers	Scotia Resident
Jason Buck	SHN Consulting Engineers
Tim Meade	Fortuna Resident
George McAneny	HSU
Adrienne Martin	USDA
Mary Randall	DWR