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Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Working Group

Meeting 8 December 20, 2016

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

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

1. Introduction

An agenda was presented and introductions made (see slides).

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

Hank reviewed some initial points regarding the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Alternative due January 1, 2017.

2. Irrigation Water Use

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

Review and discussion of differences in irrigation groundwater use estimates from five different sources developed between 1968 and 2016.

Discussion

DWR will be re-evaluating basin prioritizations state-wide in 2017. The estimates for irrigated land and irrigation water use developed by the RCD (2016) in their study are less than the numbers utilized by DWR to develop the medium priority for the Eel River Valley basin, and could be significant for the updated prioritization.

Michelle Dooley, DWR (present via phone): Confirmed that DWR will review the new information developed by the RCD, and estimated that the earliest release of new prioritization would be in July or August of 2017.

3. Alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans

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

Review of the required content of the GSP Alternative: basin setting/conceptual model, water budget, criteria for defining sustainable groundwater management, and monitoring network. Hank specifically questioned the Working Group on whether it's appropriate to provide minimum thresholds for undesirable results, based on existing data and the current understanding of groundwater conditions. The six sustainability indicators and associated evidence were reviewed.

Discussion

There was discussion amongst the group and consensus that it was not appropriate to speculate on quantitative values for minimum thresholds since no evidence exists at this time of any undesirable result for the Eel River basin.

Next meeting to discuss Alternative Submittal progress is proposed for early summer or sometime around the spring sampling event, TBD.

Working Group Members Present:

Cheryl Laffranchi	Northcoast Pumphouse
Tom Gast	Thomas Gast & Associates
Denver Nelson	Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Committee, dairy owner
Summer Daugherty	HCRC
John Vevoda	Rancher, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Katherine Ziemer	Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Doreen Hansen	HCRC
Frances Tjanstrom	HCRC
Ben Dolf	Humboldt County Environmental Health
Merritt Perry	City of Fortuna
Jill Demers	HCRC
John Corbett	RWQCB & McKinleyville CSD
Lee Mora	Humboldt Grass Fed Beef
Ryan Rice	Commercial
Dave Rodrigues	Hydesville County Water District
Kevin Farmer	Palmer Creek CSD
Marcus Drumm	Loleta CSD
Kyle Knopp	City of Rio Dell
Jeff Stackhouse	UCCE
Emily Allee	The Wildlands Conservancy

Other Interested Parties Present:

Jason Buck	SHN Consulting Engineers
Melissa Lema	Western United Dairymen

Via Phone:

Michelle Dooley	DWR
Mary Randall	DWR