



STAFF REPORT

TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Water and Resource Conservation staff on behalf of the Water Advisory Committee.

SUBJECT: Approval of Butte County Basin Management Objectives in accordance with Butte County Code, Chapter 33A.

DATE: April 10, 2007

BACKGROUND

In February 2004, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the Groundwater Management Ordinance which was codified as Chapter 33A of the Butte County Code. Chapter 33A calls for the establishment of a monitoring network and Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) to define acceptable groundwater elevations, groundwater quality, and land subsidence. In July 2006, by way of resolution number 06-114, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2006 countywide BMOs developed by the Butte County Water Advisory Committee in accordance with Chapter 33A.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Water and Resource Conservation, along with the Water Advisory Committee (WAC), is pleased to submit the enclosed 2007 Butte County BMOs pursuant to County Code, Chapter 33A. This document is being sent forward to you with full support of the Water Commission. The BMOs are the result of a great deal of volunteer time and effort by members of the WAC, with support from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Department of Water and Resource Conservation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Additionally, staff from the Administration office and Environmental Health associated with the Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Program assisted in compiling the BMO for the Chico Urban Area sub-inventory unit. Staff from Public Works, Division of Solid Waste, provided data included in the BMO for the Pentz sub-inventory unit.

The chosen groundwater level monitoring network consists of selected wells representative of each sub-inventory unit. This network will be reviewed annually by the WAC representatives and the TAC, and refined as necessary to accommodate changes in the level of understanding of the groundwater resource. The groundwater trend monitoring program in place since has recorded measurements for temperature, pH, and EC on nine wells throughout the county, and that summary data has been included for those closest respective sub-inventory units. Each sub-inventory unit has identified a process for including additional water quality monitoring wells, and when the sampling is done in August 2007, the network will prove to be significantly larger. Water and Resource Conservation recently purchased its own meter for taking the required temperature, pH and EC measurements. Monitoring for land subsidence takes place at five locations throughout the County where extensometers have been installed by the County. (See map included in cover report)

RECOMMENDATION

As stated in Chapter 33A, the intent is to develop one countywide adaptive management plan, incorporating all specific BMO determinations for the individual sub-areas within the County. This complete countywide BMO packet has been approved by the WAC and the Water Commission. We recommend the Board approve the enclosed sub-inventory BMOs as the countywide BMO for groundwater levels, groundwater quality and land subsidence. We recognize that the BMOs will change over time as we gain more data and experience. By approving the BMOs, you will be supporting the stated vision that sufficient and affordable water, of good quality, will be available on a sustainable basis to meet all needs including agricultural, industrial, recreational, environmental, residential, and municipal users within the County, both now and into the future.