



County of Santa Cruz 0091

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

November 6, 2000

AGENDA: November 14, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

STATUS REPORT ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Members of the Board:

On April 11, 2000 your Board directed staff to report back on activities related to water resources management throughout the County. Staff has appeared before your Board several times recently regarding the proposed meter ordinance, activities at the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, and regarding the Watsonville Slough Conservation and Enhancement Plan. As your Board is aware, staff is no longer pursuing efforts to meter new wells in critical areas and is beginning to evaluate other methods to approach water management. Investigating the establishment of a replenishment district in the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin is one on-going approach aimed at promoting water management. This effort is a major activity and involves a considerable commitment of staff resources.

A second approach aimed at promoting water management was the commencement of a public outreach effort on water resource management goals, objectives, and strategies countywide. This outreach began with a presentation to approximately 50 residents and concerned well owners on November 2, 2000. Those members of the public in attendance were largely residents of the mid-County area. At the conclusion of the evening, all who attended expressed appreciation for the dialogue and exchange of information on water resource issues. Your Board should also note that on October 29, 2000, staff addressed 160 concerned homeowners in the San Andreas Road area whose mutual water system is at risk to both nitrates and chlorides. Shareholders in the San Andreas Mutual Water Company need to decide whether a new well can be designed to seal out strata with poor water quality or to request annexation to the Soquel Creek Water District. The Board of Directors of the Soquel Creek Water District was set to discuss approving an agreement to investigate possible annexation at their November 7, 2000 meeting.

Another approach towards water management involves promoting conservation efforts countywide. This effort involves staff, the Water Advisory Commission and the Interagency Water Resources Working Group. County staff activity includes coordinating public outreach and the re-write of an older County ordinance pertaining to the installation of water conservation devices (retrofitting). Towards this latter effort, staff has begun a series of meetings with the Board of Realtors to discuss inspection, disclosure, self-certification or

other reporting alternatives.

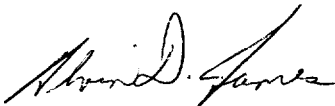
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At a recent meeting of the water conservation sub-committee of the Interagency Water Resources Working Group there was a discussion about the water agencies coordinating efforts to develop a uniform ordinance to address retrofit upon resale. In the coming months, staff will work with the other agencies to explore a more uniform retrofit ordinance.

County staff continue to explore a **wide** range of options to deal with coordination of water resource planning and management. It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that your Board:

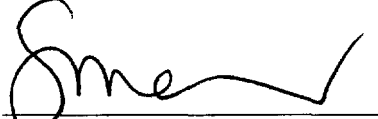
- 1) Accept and file this Status Report On Water Resources Management; and
- 2) Direct the Planning Director to return to your Board on March 6, 2001, with a comprehensive progress report on Water Resources Management.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Blc/WRM00-13