Watershed Information & Conservation Council
of Napa County

804 First Street,
Napa, CA
94559-2623

Tel: 707-259-8600

info@napawatersheds.org

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 27, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A
First Floor, Willow Conference Room, Napa CA 94558

--- Note Meeting Location/Map ---

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (Chair) *(2 min)*

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES** – November 21, 2019 (Chair) *(2 min)*

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – In this time period, anyone may address the Council regarding any subject over which the Council has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period (Chair)

4. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

a) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020 (per Bylaws§ II.A.) (Council) *(5 min)*

b) Discussion and adoption of 2020 Meeting Calendar (per Bylaws§ III.A.) (Council) *(5 min)*

5. **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

a) Presentation on the 2019 State of the Estuary Report (Caitlin Sweeney, Director, San Francisco Estuary Partnership) *(20 min)*

b) Presentation on urban biodiversity planning and Making Nature's City, along with new research to assess local opportunities for re-oaking North Bay valleys, by Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute *(20 mins)*

(cont.)

6. **UPDATES AND REPORTS**

   a) Update on the formation of a new Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Napa Valley Subbasin *(20 min)*

   b) Status report on the Napa Valley Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), a US Bureau of Reclamation grant-funded effort, including overview of DCP required elements, schedule, and current progress (Patrick Costello, City of Napa, DCP Task Force) *(15 min)*

7. **INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
   Exchange of informational announcements and events (Staff/Council/Public) *(5-10 min)*

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**
   Discussion of future agenda items (Staff/Council) *(5 min)*
   - Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) actions
   - Other items

9. **NEXT MEETING:**
   Next scheduled meeting: **April 23, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.**

   NVTA Conference Room
   625 Burnell Street, Napa CA 94559

10. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chair)

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559-2623.

Watershed Information & Conservation Council

WICC
NAPA COUNTY

Meeting Location Map

The meeting room is located on the first floor in the southwest corner of Building A (see arrow)

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A, First Floor, Conference Rooms, Napa CA 94558

WICC
Watershed Information & Conservation Council
of Napa County

804 First Street,
Napa, CA
94559-2623

Tel: 707-259-8600

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-- ACTION MINUTES --

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A
First Floor, Willow Conference Room, Napa CA 94558

--- Note Meeting Location/Map ---

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (Chair) *(2 min)*

Members Present: Barry Christian, Evelyn Denzin, Tosha Comendant, Anne Cottrell, Ryan Gregory, Marita Dorenbecher, Geoff Ellsworth, David Graves, Jason Lauritsen, Kenneth Leary, Alfredo Pedroza, Kimberly Richard, Pamela Smithers, Donald Williams
Members excused: Diane Dillon, Bill Pramuk, Scott Sedgley
Members absent: Susan Boswell
Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES** – November 21, 2019 (Chair) *(2 min)*
Approved as presented

BC	TC	AC	ED	DD	MD	GE	DG	RG	JL	KL	AP	BP	KR	SS	PS	DW
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3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – In this time period, anyone may address the Council regarding any subject over which the Council has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period (Chair)

Chris Malan asked if Notices of Violation, Cease and Desist Orders and Abatement Orders by the Water Board and Napa County issued to the Clover Flat Landfill could be posted on the WICC website. An unknown person voiced concern about physical impacts of tourism and the need to look at many sources of data to have a better understanding of impacts.

(cont.)

4. **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

a) Precipitation Outlook for 2020 - Are we heading for another drought? (Phil Miller, Deputy Director, Napa County Public Works) *(10 min)*

Phil Miller discussed the predicted precipitation and drought conditions of the region. Rainfall is projected to be below normal ranges, as outlined in a 90 day forecast released by The National Weather Service. Drought conditions are similar to last year, however future storms could change the region's precipitation outlook. The North Bay is not expected to be above normal rainfall rates this year's condition. The Federal State Water Project's reservoirs are high from last year's rainfall, and water will be moved from northern to southern locations to make room for this winter's water collection. On December 1st, an initial allocation will be released by the Department of Water Resources outlining water availability for the year. At this time, detailed data concerning the allocation cannot be confirmed until the Director of Water Resources releases the information. The public voiced concerns about fire preparedness and what happens if state water allocations are very low and if there is prolonged drought. It was noted that a Drought Contingency Plan is being developed which will examine this issue. Others asked questions about water quality monitoring proposed by Napa County/Napa City for the Hennessy watershed and if that data would be publically available. It was noted that annual updates on the water quality monitoring effort will be presented publically at the Board of Supervisors.

b) Countywide Stormwater Program – overview, inspections and monitoring (Jamison Crosby, Stormwater Program Manager, Napa County Flood Control Dist.) *(15 min)*

Jamison Crosby provided a presentation on storm drain outfall monitoring and why it is done. The purpose of outfall monitoring is to track illicit discharges of pollutants into city and county storm drains. Jamison outlined examples and recent incidents of illicit discharges, as well as how they are measured and monitored. The public asked questions about the analyses and what investigations are being done. Jamison explained that analyses don't necessary need a lot of parameters as some illicit discharges can sometimes be distinguished by color, odor, and flow strength. There are about 308 outfalls in all of the jurisdictions combined. Throughout the program, there is the possibility of discovering new or decommissioning old outfalls. The outfalls were assessed and prioritized by those discharging to Class 1 or Class 2 water bodies that are known to have fish habitat (about 152 sites). Monitoring is only done during the dry season – to catch illicit flows/dumping. In the case of a discharge, samples, if taken, are analyzed in the field. If results are above established thresholds the County is required to investigate. If the results are less than the action levels, the County still investigates to determine the source of the pollutants, even though it is not required under the County's stormwater permit. In the first year, 304 outfalls were assessed and only 1 was reported as an illicit discharge due to high turbidity – from a construction site, which was subsequently addressed. Last year 162 priority outfalls were assessed and no illicit discharges were identified above established action levels. Over the past 6 years, out of 1100 assessments, only 3 had illicit discharges. The monitoring has costed $138,000 dollars over the course of 6 years, and allowed the County to become more familiar with the outfalls located throughout the jurisdictions. Ms. Crosby shared that the public can also report illicit discharges via the County website www.countyofnapa/stormwater or via phone. The Council and pubic asked questions about the program and timing of sampling for illicit discharges. Wineries are required to test runoff from their processing facilities as part of their separate industrial stormwater permit. The Department of Pesticide Regulation is in charge of testing runoff from agricultural fields.

c) Water Board's General Permit for Vineyard Properties: update about required actions in 2020 and resources to facilitate compliance (Michael Napolitano, Engineering Geologist, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board) *(15 min)*

Michael Napolitano provided a presentation about the Water Board's General Permit for Vineyard Properties and the regulation of vineyards in the watershed. The Water Board's General Permit

was adopted 2.5 years ago. It outlines that any parcel in the Napa River watershed of 5 acres or more planted in grapes is typically subject to this permit. Mr. Napolitano explained that the program is largely focused on controlling sediment runoff from vineyard lands in the watershed. About 1 in 6 acres of land in the Napa River watershed is planted in grapes; portions of those lands also contain unpaved roads. If conservation practices are not in place, these areas can be significant sources of sediment discharge. The goal of the General Permit is to ensure that conservation practices are in place to control the discharge of sediment into waterways to protect fish habitat. The permit builds largely on the work of Napa County's Conservation Regulations that apply to vineyard construction on 5% slopes or greater. Mr. Napolitano provided a fact sheet that described the permit and outlined the fees associated with it. By July of 2020, areas that require the permit will need to enroll, pay the permit fee, develop a farm plan that is independently verified, submit annual reports outlining what has been done on the land, and lastly, submit a water quality monitoring plan. Four local non-profits and conservation organizations exist to help property owners with preparing a farm plan. The Napa and Sonoma County Farm Bureaus have been actively engaged in the water quality monitoring process to move the permit process forward. Farm plan templates are available to those interested. There are also public workshops that the public can attend to learn what a farm plan is, and how it is developed. There will be an audit of farm plans every 3-5 years. The list of the properties that have been verified independently will be available to the public. Farm plan annual reports are used to track the progress of vineyards reaching the 2028 deadline of completing their permit adherence. It was asked what the violation process is if a vineyard is not compliant with standards. The RWQCB has a database that tracks violations, and will send out notices to those properties that have not met the deadlines. After the July of 2020 deadline, properties that don't comply with the permit will receive a letter from RWQCB. There is a state policy for enforcement actions if there is a violation. The permit does have a standard for the control of pesticides and nutrients. Questions were asked about the impact of the permit on the conservation of steelhead and salmon populations/habitats. Mr. Napolitano noted that this permit is only one element of the conservation and protection of the many stressors on the local endangered species. 20 years of data would be needed to assess the change of watershed's steelhead population. The current population is likely low, but the species is resilient. There is a lot more work to do to help improve population levels such as habitat improvements and increased water supply for fish.

5. **UPDATES AND REPORTS**

a) Update on Napa County's Groundwater Sustainability Program; Department of Water Resources decision on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan/Alternative, preliminary Fall 2019 monitoring results and next steps in groundwater model development *(15 min)*

Patrick Lowe provided updates on the Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) decision to reject the County's Groundwater Sustainability Plan/Alternative that was submitted in December of 2016. DWR's letter regarding the Plan can be read on their website. DWR stated that their decision is not a judgement on the health or the management of the basin, and no concerns were raised about the current management of the Napa Valley basin. The decision to reject the Alternative Plan was based upon DWR's interpretation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations. The County will continue to consult with DWR and the State Board to adhere to regulations, and has 6 months from the receipt of the letter to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The Alternative Plan will largely be the foundation moving forward for completing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Board of Supervisors will meet in December to discuss DWR's decision, discuss options and provide direction on next steps. The deadline to prepare a GSP for the Napa Valley Subbasin is January 31, 2022. As the GSP tasks form over the next 2 years, elements of the GSP and its technical components related to a groundwater model will be shared with the public for comment and input. Paul Wells from DWR noted that DWR's letter is available on their website. Mr. Wells also offered DWR's support/resources for developing a GSP, including technical support for monitoring well drilling and facilitation support services to assist with public

involvement and outreach. Mr Lowe noted that the County will likely be seeking grant funding to help with the GSA and GSP work effort. Steve Lederer said that there are three options at this time: form a GSA and submit a GSP by January 2022, reject DWR's decision and file a lawsuit, or do nothing and let the State Water Board mange the Subbasin. The Board of Supervisors will provide their direction on what steps to take in December. Members of the public noted that this provides an opportunity for the County to move forward with more knowledge on how best to manage local groundwater resources and do a better job with public outreach and information. The timing also allows for use of DWR's recently published guidance and best management practices on how to develop a GSA and GSP process over the next two years. A GSP has a 20-year implementation period after the January 31, 2022 plan deadline. Annual reports will be provided to DWR and the public to keep the implementation on track.

b) Update on 2020 Watershed Education Calendar (Ashley Kvitek, Napa County Resource Conservation District) *(5 min)*

Patrick Lowe introduced the 2020 Watershed Calendar. Ashley Kvitek provided a preview of the calendar via a slideshow. Each month displays a watershed image and educational facts. Calendars can be picked up at the RCD and WICC offices. Calendars will also be distributed throughout the community. One can contact the RCD directly for more copies if needed.

c) Update on WICC Meeting Calendar for 2020 (Staff) *(5 min)*

Jeff Sharp provided an overview of the WICC's 2020 meeting calendar. In 2020 the WICC will meet on the even-numbered months to help with City/Town member attendance, holidays and grape harvest schedules. The WICC will adopt the 2020 meeting calendar at their first meeting of the year. A draft calendar is included in the agenda packet.

6. **INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Exchange of informational announcements and events (Staff/Council/Public) *(5-10 min)*

Tosha Comendant announced the Bay Area Open Space Council's Conservation Lands Network noting information about protected areas and areas needing protection that can be found on the Bay Area Open Space Council website.

Barry Christian announced the removal of an upper Richey Creek fish barrier– a project lead be State Parks.

Marita Dorenbecher suggested that there be discussion about Disaster Preparedness and watershed protection - maybe a topic for the WICC next year.

Kenneth Leary announced a regional water legislative workshop on December 13th, from 11:30a-1:30p in Calistoga.

Tosha Comendant announced that the Newell Preserve will be hosting a Fire Ecology Walk at 10:00a-12:00p on November, 29th. More information about the Walk can be found on American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation website.

7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Discussion of future agenda items (Staff/Council) *(5 min)*

- Election of 2020 Chair and Vice Chair
- Adoption of 2020 Meeting Calendar
- State of the Estuary Report by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- Napa County Climate Action Plan
- Nature's City, a framework for building urban biodiversity
- Other items

Drought Contingency Plan update
Water Quality Monitoring efforts of Napa County and the City of Napa for Lake Hennessy
Report on local fisheries from Napa RCD

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

Next scheduled meeting: **February 27, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.**
2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A
First Floor, Conference Room, Napa CA 94558

9. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chair)

Motion and approval to adjourn.

BC	*TC*	*AC*	*ED*	*DD*	*MD*	*GE*	*DG*	*RG*	*JL*	*KL*	*AP*	*BP*	*KR*	*SS*	*PS*	*DW*
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Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559-2623.

Voting Key

If not unanimous, votes will be tallied (N = No; A = Abstained, E = Excused) using the following Board Member abbreviations: SB = Susan Boswell; BC = Barry Christian; TC = Tosha Comendant; AC = Anne Cottrell; ED = Evelyn Denzin; DD = Diane Dillon; MD = Marita Dorenbecher; GE = Geoff Ellsworth; DG = David Graves; JL = Jason Lauritsen; KL = Kenneth Leary; AP = Alfredo Pedroza; BP = Bill Pramuk; KR = Kimberly Richard; SS = Scott Sedgley; PS = Pamela Smithers; DW = Donald Williams; Alternates: MA = Mariam Aboundamous, JD = Jeffrey Durham, DG2 = Doris Gentry, RG = Ryan Gregory, ILO = Irais Lopez-Ortega, BR = Brent Randol.

Example Key:

SB	*BC*	*TC*	*AC*	*ED*	*DD*	*MD*	*GE*	*DG*	*JL*	*KL*	*AP*	*BP*	*KR*	*SS*	*PS*	*DW*
	N				*A*			*A*							*E*	

Item #4 - DISCUSSION AND ACTION

a) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020 (per Bylaws§ II.A.) (Board) *(5 min)*

b) Discussion and adoption of 2020 Meeting Calendar (per Bylaws§ III.A.) (Board) *(5 min)*

EXCERPT FROM THE WICC BYLAWS

Excerpt regarding election of officers:

II. OFFICERS. The officers of the WICC Board shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, chosen as follows:

A. Time of Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
At the first organizational meeting and thereafter at the WICC's annual organizational meeting, the membership of the WICC shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair from among themselves.

Excerpt regarding adoption of yearly calendar:

III. MEETINGS

A. Date of Regular Meetings.
… the WICC shall adopt at the first meeting of the WICC, of each calendar year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any regularly scheduled meeting of the WICC may be canceled by majority vote or, if there is not a quorum, be adjourned by the Chair or Secretary in the manner set forth in Section III(G) of these by-laws.

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Watershed Information & Conservation Council

WICC

2020 Meeting Calendar

Members:
Susan Boswell
Barry Christian
Tosha Comendant
Anne Cottrell
Evelyn Denzin
Diane Dillon
Marita Dorenbecher
Geoff Ellsworth
David Graves
Jason Lauritsen
Kenneth Leary
Alfredo Pedroza
Bill Pramuk
Kimberly Richard
Scott Sedgley
Pamela Smithers
Donald Williams

Alternates:
Mariam Aboudamous
Jeffrey Durham
Doris Gentry
Ryan Gregory
Mary Koberstein
Irais Lopez-Ortega
Brent Randol

Staff:
Patrick Lowe
Nat. Resources Conservation Manager, Public Works

Jeff Sharp
Principal Planner, Public Works

— Meeting Details —

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 625 Burnell St. Napa CA 94558

These are public meetings
All are welcome to attend

Time and location may change as directed by the Council

January

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November

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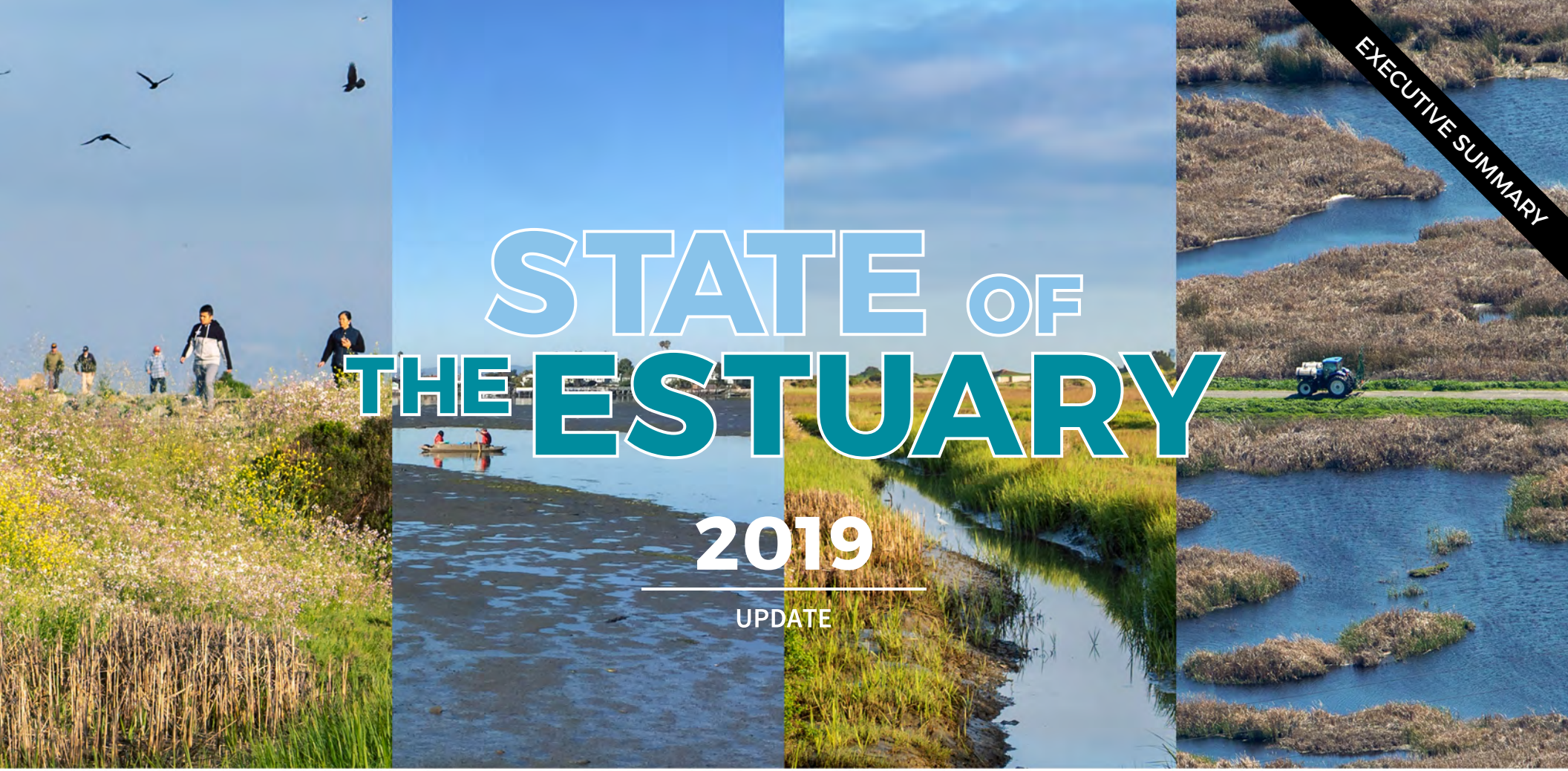
○ - Regular Meeting Dates

www.napawatersheds.org

"Improving the health of Napa County's watersheds by informing, engaging and fostering partnerships within the community"



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STATE OF THE ESTUARY

2019

UPDATE

STATUS AND TRENDS OF INDICATORS OF ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

THE ESTUARY

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AND SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DELTA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

J. LETITIA GRENIER, LEAD SCIENTIST

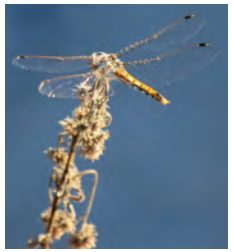


Photo: Amber Manfree

The San Francisco Estuary is a large and diverse system. Hundreds of miles of coastline stretch from the wide valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to the steep headlands of the Golden Gate, with vast agricultural fields in the Delta and urbanized shorelines in Silicon Valley and many of the region's cities. The complexity and scale of this system means it can take years to detect and assess changes. This interim **State of the Estuary Report** checks in on a few indicators of health and explores where the assessment should head over time.

In the four years since the **2015 State of the Estuary Report**, two issues have emerged as critical to how we assess the health of the estuarine ecosystem at the heart of the Bay Area and the Delta. First, the health of the Estuary and of the people who live near it and depend on it are inextricably linked. We need a healthy Bay and Delta to protect our shorelines from sea level rise, help keep our waters clean, provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife, and give people a place to enjoy nature. We also need to think more about human communities as we assess the health of natural communities. This focus means addressing environmental injustices that are deeply embedded in our culture and patterns of development. The second critical issue to emerge is the need for a greater focus on landscape resilience—how well the Bay and the Delta are equipped to respond to change—so that people and wildlife can thrive as climate change progresses. Taking these two ideas together, this report focuses on the nexus of social and ecological resilience as we look toward the future.

The first section of the Report updates indicators of ecological health that span the entire extent of the San Francisco Estuary (Bay and Delta). Recent data show continued progress along the trajectories of the past decade. Tidal marsh restoration is proceeding at a brisk pace in the Bay and gaining traction in the Delta, while urban water conservation continues to meet mandated benchmarks, even during the drought. On the other hand, flows through the Estuary and across its floodplains continue to be well below levels that could increase and restore ecosystem health. Freshwater flows are a lynchpin of ecosystem processes that sustain physical habitats, fuel the food web, and regulate water quality. Creative approaches to using and re-using fresh water for environmental purposes are needed. Long-term trend analysis shows that fish communities in the Bay are declining. This analysis scores an index of 10 attributes of a healthy fish community. The index focuses on fish in offshore areas, and may not capture benefits to fish from near-shore wetland restoration projects. Despite this slow decline, fish communities in the saltier parts of the Estuary remain in good condition, while those in the brackish and freshwater areas are in poor condition.

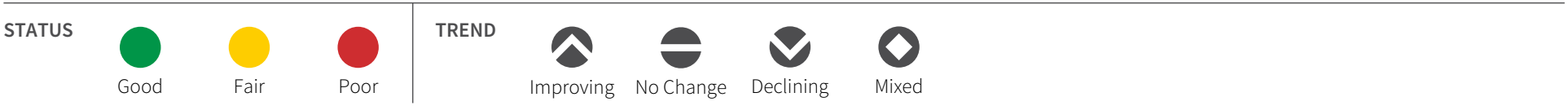
The next section of the report discusses three emerging indicators of Estuary health, offering options for how to assess resilience in future reports. Here, for the first time, the resilience of the Estuary's shores is evaluated through the lens of subsidence and nature-based features. Elevation relative to sea level is a basic currency that must be tracked as the Pacific Ocean rises into the Estuary. The potential for the Estuary shore to be resilient to climate change and continue to provide benefits to people is related to how much of the shore zone is nature-based. The final emerging indicator, urban green space, is a first attempt to assess how access to nature is distributed across more and less advantaged communities. More work is needed to finalize all these emerging indicators before they can be included in any future quantitative assessment of the State of the Estuary.

These emerging and updated indicators will help focus efforts to restore the Estuary's health. In addition to continuing the successful aspects of restoration and conservation that this report describes, we need more investment in creative ways to use and restore flows for environmental health, to expand and build resilient shorelines and to weave considerations of social equity more strongly into efforts to improve environmental health.

ESTUARY HEALTH UPDATE 2019

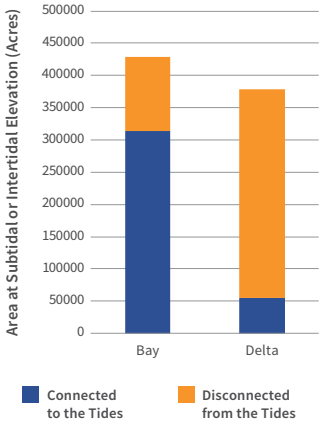
INDICATOR	STATUS AND TREND	AT A GLANCE
FRESHWATER FLOW		Freshwater flows in the Estuary have been highly altered, causing reductions in inter-annual and seasonal variability, and peak-flows. Freshwater flows into the Estuary in recent years reflect chronic artificial drought conditions, in sharp contrast to unimpaired flows.
TIDAL MARSH		Tidal marsh acreage throughout the Estuary has declined significantly from the historical amount, but restoration efforts are bringing back this critical ecosystem and associated benefits. Projects in the Bay are making extensive contributions to tidal marsh area, while efforts in the Delta are beginning to make progress towards regional goals.
FISH		The condition of fish communities varies across the Estuary. In the lower Estuary, fish communities are abundant, diverse, and dominated by native species. However, in the brackish and freshwater upper Estuary, native fish communities are in poor condition. Based on long-term monitoring data, native fish communities across the Bay are declining. In San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, this long-term data set is from sampling only the offshore areas of the Bay and may not reflect benefits to fish populations from recent wetland restoration.
BENEFICIAL FLOODS		The frequency, magnitude, and duration of floodplain inundation in both the Bay and the Delta are too low to support healthy estuarine habitats and sustain important ecological processes. While conditions have been variable over time, they have, in general, remained poor in the Delta and have declined in the Bay.
URBAN WATER USE		In both the Bay and Delta, total and per-capita urban water use have declined over the last several decades, despite growing populations. More efficient urban water use means that both regions met and exceeded benchmarks for per-capita use and drought-reduction targets. The regions have modestly increased water use since the end of the drought but still maintained improvements over their 2020 benchmarks for reductions in per-capita use.

LEGEND



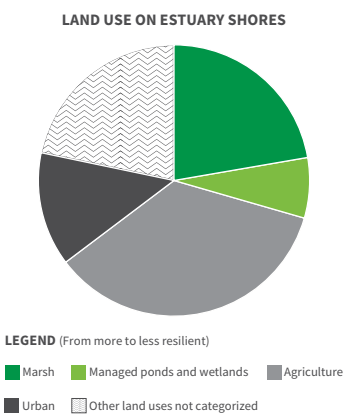
EMERGING INDICATORS

SUBSIDED LANDS



Significant portions of previously tidal areas in the Bay and Delta have been diked off and disconnected from tidal action to accommodate agriculture, urban development, duck ponds, salt ponds, and a diverse set of other land uses. The low elevation of these areas places them at increased risk of flooding as sea level rises and intense rainstorms become more common. In addition, many of these former tidal marshes and mudflats have subsided significantly below sea level as a result of sediment oxidation and compaction. Subsidence and these accompanying processes exacerbate flood risk, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce the potential for restoring important intertidal habitat types.

SHORE RESILIENCE



Levees and seawalls line many miles of the shorelines of San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. By hardening the Estuary's once soft and absorbent shores, early developers intended to keep people and property safe from flooding. These engineered structures do not provide good habitat for native species, however. Nor are they designed to accommodate the kind of flooding projected for our future, flooding produced by a combination of rapid sea level rise, higher groundwater tables, storm surge, and more rainfall over shorter periods.

URBAN GREEN SPACE

Open spaces within urban areas provide a diverse set of benefits for wild animals, plants, and people that live nearby. Green spaces decrease urban runoff, improve downstream water quality, and provide habitat for native wildlife, while also benefiting human health and wellbeing. Urban parks improve local air quality and reduce local temperatures, contributing to lowered rates of childhood asthma and heat-related deaths in nearby areas. Exposure to urban parks is also associated with improved mood, increased physical activity, lower heart rate, and additional human health benefits.

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership collaborates with partners throughout the Bay and Delta on regional, science-based programs to increase the health and resilience of the San Francisco Estuary.

More information can be found at **sfestuary.org**

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
375 Beale Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94105

Please cite as The State of the Estuary 2019, San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

Access the full report at **sfestuary.org/our-estuary/soter/**

The Delta Stewardship Council was created in 2009 by the California Legislature to advance the state's coequal goals for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through the development and enforcement of a long-term sustainable management plan.

More information can be found at **deltacouncil.ca.gov**

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San Francisco Estuary Institute

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Left to right: Shira Bezalel; Don Yee; Shira Bezalel; Ken James

MAKING NATURE'S CITY

A science-based framework for building urban biodiversity

SFEI San Francisco Estuary Institute

MAKING NATURE'S CITY

A science-based framework for building urban biodiversity

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SFEI San Francisco Estuary Institute

SFEI PUBLICATION #947
July 2019

A product of the Healthy Watersheds, Resilient Baylands project
Funded by the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, EPA Region IX,
with additional funding from the Google Ecology Program and the Peninsula Open Space Trust

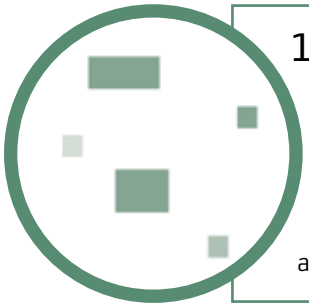
ABSTRACT

Cities will face many challenges over the coming decades, from adapting to a changing climate to accommodating rapid population growth. A related suite of challenges threatens global biodiversity, and many species face potential extinction. While urban planners and conservationists have long treated these issues as distinct, there is growing evidence that cities not only harbor a significant fraction of the world's biodiversity, but that they can also be made more livable and resilient for people, plants, and animals through nature-friendly urban design.

Urban ecological science can provide a powerful tool to guide cities towards more biodiversity-friendly design. However, current research remains scattered across thousands of journal articles and largely inaccessible to practitioners. ***Making Nature's City*** fills this gap, synthesizing global research to develop a science-based approach for supporting nature in cities. We identify seven key elements of urban form and function that work together to maximize biodiversity, and we illustrate these elements through a case study in California's Silicon Valley.

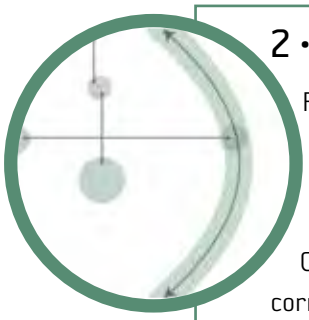
Using the framework developed in this report, urban designers and local residents can work together to link local parks, greenways, green roofs, street trees, stormwater basins, commercial landscaping, and backyards to support biodiversity while making cities better places to live. As we envision the healthier, and more resilient cities, ***Making Nature's City*** provides practical guidance for the many actors who together will shape the nature of cities. §

ELEMENTS THAT SUPPORT URBAN BIODIVERSITY



1 • PATCH SIZE

The size of a contiguous patch of greenspace in a city. We define patches as contiguous greenspaces of at least 2 acres in size.

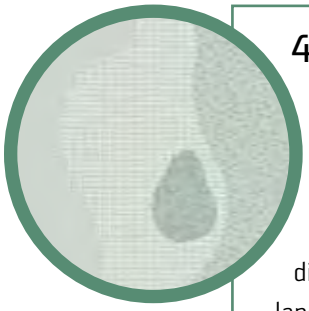


2 • CONNECTIONS

Features in the urban landscape that facilitate the movement of plants and animals. Connections include corridors (thin stretches of greenspace that promote linear movement) and stepping stones (sets of discrete but nearby patches that together promote connectivity across the landscape).

3 • MATRIX QUALITY

Habitat elements that support ecological process and movement in the urban matrix between patches of greenspace and corridors.

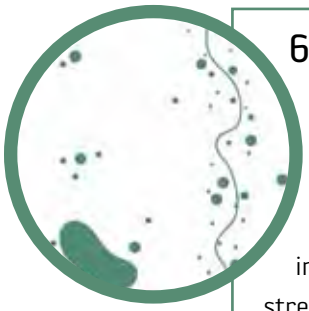


4 • HABITAT DIVERSITY

The type, number, and spatial distribution of habitat types within an urban area. Together, mosaics of habitats create diversity in habitat types at the landscape scale.

5 • NATIVE PLANT VEGETATION

Plant species long evolved in a specific geography (including nearby species that may be appropriate in the near future, given anticipated range shifts with climate change).



6 • SPECIAL RESOURCES

Unique habitat features necessary to support species' life history requirements, including large trees, wetlands, streams, and rivers.

7 • MANAGEMENT

Human activities and planning that promote positive biodiversity outcomes.

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 12/17/2019
Agenda Placement: 9A
Set Time: 9:15 AM PUBLIC HEARING
Estimated Report Time: 1 Hour

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Letter

TO:	Board of Supervisors
FROM:	Steven Lederer - Director of Public Works Public Works
REPORT BY:	Steven Lederer, Director, Public Works - 259-8228
SUBJECT:	Creation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Napa Valley Subbasin

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests adoption of a resolution forming the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Napa Valley Subbasin pursuant to Sections 10723.8 and 10724 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County submitted an Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in December 2016. The County's proactive effort was intended to support the legislative intent of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) through implementing local groundwater sustainability efforts well in advance of the January 31, 2022 deadline for submittal of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. After nearly three years, DWR notified Napa County on November 13, 2019 that it had completed its review of the County's Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the County's comprehensive responses to DWR's July 17, 2019 letter recommending that the County's Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan not be approved.

While recognizing and acknowledging that Napa County is proactively managing groundwater, DWR nonetheless elected not to approve the County's Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The DWR decision was not a judgment on the health or management of the basin, as DWR noted in its findings. DWR also clarified that its decision is not an indication that the Napa Valley Subbasin is being managed unsustainably and commended the County for proactively managing groundwater.

As a result of DWR's decision, a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) must be formed for the Napa Valley Subbasin in order to be in compliance with SGMA and DWR regulations, as the basin is now deemed "unmanaged". If a GSA is not formed, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is obligated to step in to monitor and manage the basin and groundwater users. The item before the Board today is to conduct a public

hearing under Water Code section 10723, and to adopt a resolution affirming the County's intention to manage groundwater in the Napa Valley Subbasin, to form the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to Water Code Sections 10723.8 and 10724, and to authorize staff to inform DWR of the County's decision and take other steps necessary to comply with SGMA and DWR requirements.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Open Public Hearing.
2. Staff reports.
3. Public comment.
4. Close Public Hearing.
5. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Public Works-Ground Water Sustainability-Watershed Program Sub-Division - Fund 1000, Subdivision 1220003
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	No additional funding need is anticipated at this time. On-going funding consistent with current expenditures is expected to be needed in future fiscal years to continue to meet SGMA requirements. New grant funding revenue is anticipated in FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22 to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and Groundwater Model development, which will offset County costs in these areas.
Consequences if not approved:	The County would not be in compliance with SGMA and related State regulations and the SWRCB would step in to regulate the Napa Valley subbasin in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Napa County.
County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:	Vibrant and Sustainable Environment - Provide greater environmental protection for environmental resources, particularly agricultural land, forests, air, and water.
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not result in the any direct or indirect physical change in the environment. Adoption of this Resolution is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations

(CCR) sections 15306, 15307, and 15308 as an action taken by a regulatory agency to collect information and assure the maintenance and protection and natural resources and the environment, and pursuant to 14 CCR section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that adoption of this Resolution may have a significant effect on the environment.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

Napa County has taken progressive actions to protect and manage groundwater since the mid-1960s through careful land use zoning policies, attention to groundwater monitoring, and permitting processes.

Since 2008, Napa County has been instrumental in implementing groundwater management actions to better understand groundwater conditions, establishing monitoring to track conditions, conducting education and outreach, and developing programs to assess and maintain groundwater sustainability. These efforts included adopting Goals and Policies in Napa County's 2008 General Plan related to groundwater, commencing new studies of the county's groundwater resources in 2009, and creating a Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC; 2011 to 2014) to spearhead groundwater sustainability planning, management, implementation, and community outreach.

A Napa County Groundwater Monitoring Plan was prepared in 2013 (Plan; LSCE 2013) to formalize and augment groundwater monitoring efforts as part of a Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Program. The Plan recommended annual reports on groundwater conditions and modification to the countywide groundwater monitoring program as needed. Annual Monitoring Reports have been prepared since 2014, and the reports prepared for water years 2017 and 2018 incorporated additional content required for the Napa Valley Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

SGMA and Napa County Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan

SGMA established a Sustainability Goal for groundwater basins in the state and authorized local agencies to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to ensure that basins are operated within their sustainable yield, or to develop alternative GSPs where basins could demonstrate on-going successful groundwater management programs.

In December 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the 2016 Napa Valley Subbasin Basin Analysis Report (BAR) which was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as an Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan pursuant to Water Code Section 10733.6. The 2016 BAR included a long-term analysis of groundwater and surface water conditions in the Napa Valley Subbasin using best available data and a water budget analysis for a 28-year period to demonstrate that groundwater use had not resulted in any basin-wide undesirable results.

In October 2017, the Board of Supervisors received a report on groundwater conditions in a portion of the Napa Valley Subbasin known as the northeast Napa Study Area. Napa County initiated the report, Northeast Napa Area: Special Groundwater Study (Special Study Report), to understand recent historical changes in water level trends in a small portion of the Napa Valley Subbasin. The Board of Supervisors supported the findings and recommendations of the Special Study Report and directed staff to develop documentation to formally establish the Northeast Napa Management Area covering approximately 1,960 acres within the 45,298-acre Napa Valley Subbasin.

In March 2018, the Board of Supervisors considered and approved an amendment to the 2016 Basin Analysis Report to establish the Northeast Napa Management Area and submitted it to DWR pursuant to GSP Regulations Section 355.10. The Board of Supervisors also received the Annual Report on Groundwater Conditions for Water

Year 2017 and authorized its submittal to DWR pursuant to Water Code Section 10728 and GSP Regulations Section 356.2. The water year 2017 annual report found that the Napa Valley Subbasin continued to satisfy its basin-specific sustainability criteria in 2017, with groundwater extraction remaining within the range of sustainable yield.

In March 2019, the Board of Supervisors received the Annual Report on Groundwater Conditions for Water Year 2018 and authorized its submittal to DWR pursuant to Water Code Section 10728 and GSP regulations Section 356.2. The water year 2018 annual report found that the Napa Valley Subbasin continued to satisfy its basin-specific sustainability criteria in 2018, with groundwater extraction remaining within the range of sustainable yield.

On July 17, 2019, the County received a tentative determination from DWR not to approve the 2016 Napa Valley Subbasin Basin Analysis Report (BAR) that was submitted as an alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan pursuant to Water Code Section 10733.6 in December 2016. The County had 30 days to respond to the tentative determination.

On August 13, 2019 the County received a 45-day extension of time, until September 30, 2019, to respond to the July 17, 2019 tentative determination. The extension of time was later amended by DWR to October 11, 2019.

On October 11, 2019 the County submitted a comprehensive response to DWR's initial determination providing additional clarifications and requesting approval of the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan as it meets SGMA requirements to provide for continued sustainable groundwater management of the Napa Valley Subbasin.

On November 13, 2019 the County received notification from DWR that it had completed its review of the County's Alternative-Groundwater Sustainability Plan and comprehensive responses to DWR's July 17, 2019 letter.

While recognizing and acknowledging that Napa County is proactively managing groundwater, DWR nonetheless elected not to approve the County's Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The DWR decision was not a judgement on the health or management of the basin, as they noted in their findings. DWR also clarified that its decision is not an indication that the Napa Valley Subbasin is being managed unsustainably and commended the County for proactively managing groundwater.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation
As a result of DWR's decision, a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) must be formed for the Napa Valley Subbasin in order to be in compliance with SGMA and DWR regulations, as the entire subbasin is now considered "unmanaged." If a GSA is not formed, then the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has an obligation to step in to monitor and manage the subbasin, which includes incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. The SWRCB could require all groundwater users within the subbasin to install meters, report extractions, and pay fees to cover state costs.

The item before the Board today is to conduct a public hearing under Water Code section 10723, to consider adoption of a resolution affirming Napa County's intention to manage groundwater in the Napa Valley Subbasin and form the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to Water Code section 10724, and to authorize submittal of GSA Formation Information to DWR.

Water Code section 10724 provides that the County is presumed to be the GSA for the areas in the Subbasin that are "unmanaged" (i.e., not within the management area of a groundwater sustainability agency). However, while Napa County is the presumed GSA, SGMA still requires the County to give notice to the DWR that it intends to undertake sustainable groundwater management and serve as the GSA in the "unmanaged" areas following the procedures of sections 10723 and 10723.8.

There are several steps the County must complete in order to declare its intention to serve as the GSA. The County

must hold a public hearing, adopt a resolution forming the GSA, and submit a notice of intent to DWR. The notice to DWR must be filed within 30 days after Board adoption of the resolution and must include the following:

- The service area boundary, the boundaries of the basin (or portion of the basin) the County is managing, and the other agencies managing or proposing to manage groundwater within the basin (Exhibit A);
- A copy of the resolution declaring the County's intent to serve as a GSA (Exhibit B);
- A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the County as the GSA (there are none yet);
- A list of interested parties developed pursuant to Water Code, Section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the County's GSP; and
- A Geographic Information System (GIS) shape file that shows the County service area boundary and the basin the GSA has elected to manage.

If your Board approves the recommended actions, the County would file notice of its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management and serve as the GSA for the Napa Valley Subbasin (Exhibit A). With your Board's approval, Department staff would notify DWR of the County's intent to form a GSA and provide the required notification items.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Napa County GSA - Napa Valley Subbasin

B . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Leigh Sharp

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-152

RESOLUTION OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FORMING THE NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has adopted, and the Governor has signed into law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), which requires the sustainable management of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins, enhance local management of groundwater, and establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management; and

WHEREAS, in order to exercise the authority granted in SGMA, a local agency may decide to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA); and

WHEREAS, Napa County (County) is a local agency, as SGMA defines that term; and

WHEREAS, the County is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, the County overlies the Napa Valley Subbasin (designated basin number 2-002.01 in the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) groundwater basin system), which has been designated by DWR as a high-priority basin; and

WHEREAS, Sections 10723.8 and 10724 of SGMA require that a local agency deciding to be a GSA must notify DWR of its decision and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within the agency's jurisdictional boundary; and

WHEREAS, Section 10724 of SGMA provides that the County is presumed to be the GSA for the Napa Valley Subbasin, which is both a high-priority basin and an unmanaged area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notice of a public hearing on the County decision to form the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been published as required by law; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, the County held a public hearing to consider adoption of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County has compiled much of the information and technical data necessary to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and plans to work toward continuing to develop the GSP pursuant to the SGMA requirements; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not result in the any direct or indirect physical change in the environment. Adoption of this Resolution is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 15306, 15307, and 15308, and 15061(b)(3) as an action taken by a regulatory agency to collect information and assure the maintenance and protection

and natural resources and the environment, and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that adoption of this Resolution may have a significant effect on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Napa County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The County hereby finds that the facts set forth in the recitals to this Resolution are true and correct, and establish the factual basis for the County adoption of this Resolution.

2. The County hereby notifies DWR of its intent to manage groundwater within the boundaries of the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency as defined in the attached Exhibit A.

3. The Board authorizes County staff to inform DWR of the County's decision to form the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency and take such other and further steps as necessary to comply with SGMA and DWR requirements.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Napa County Board of Supervisors, State of California, at a regular meeting of the Board held on the 17th day of December, 2019, by the following vote:

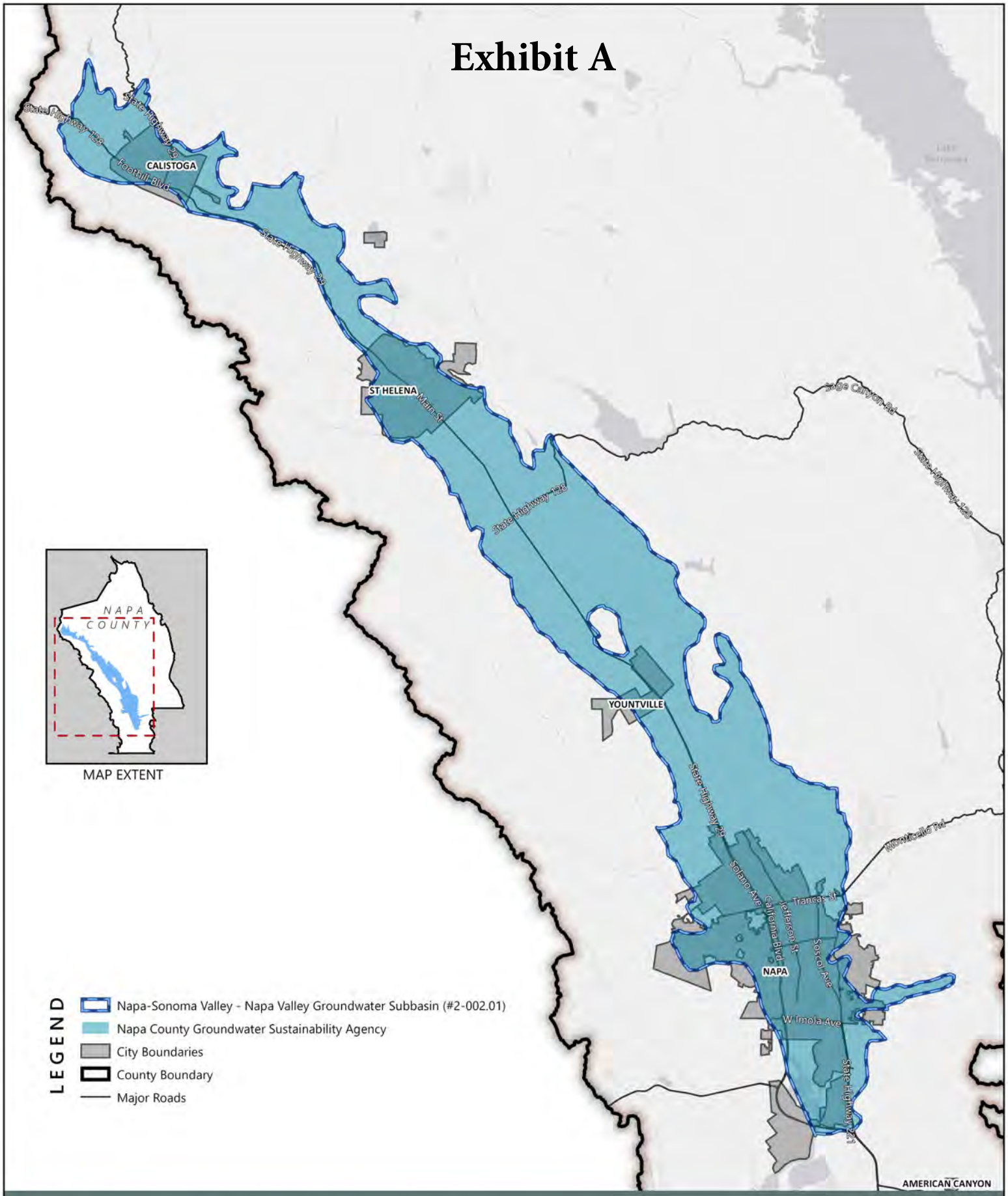
AYES:	SUPERVISORS	WAGENKNECHT, DILLON, PEDROZA, RAMOS and GREGORY
NOES:	SUPERVISORS	NONE
ABSTAIN:	SUPERVISORS	NONE
ABSENT:	SUPERVISORS	NONE

NAPA COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of California

By: _____
RYAN GREGORY, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM Office of County Counsel	APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTEST: JOSE LUIS VALDEZ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
By: *Jeffrey M. Brax* County Counsel Date: December 11, 2019	Date: December 17, 2019 Processed By: Deputy Clerk of the Board	By:

Exhibit A



NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Napa-Sonoma Valley - Napa Valley Subbasin (#2-002.01), per CA DWR Bulletin 118

DATE: 2019-12-17

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