



DISCUSSION:

Operation of a dry cleaner and gas station at the location of the Humboldt County Courthouse parcels prior to construction of the Courthouse have resulted in soil contamination and groundwater contamination.

The State Water Resources Control Board has issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program outlining required actions the county must undertake because of the soil and groundwater contamination at the Courthouse parcels (site).

Groundwater monitoring and reporting is required twice per year in accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program. Groundwater monitoring is required once annually during the rainy season months while groundwater levels are high and once annually during dry season months while groundwater levels are low. Each round of groundwater monitoring includes measuring depth-to-groundwater and collecting groundwater samples in site monitoring wells. Groundwater samples are submitted to a State-Certified laboratory for chemical analyses. A report of findings is required for each round of groundwater monitoring. Groundwater monitoring reports must include a summary of groundwater sampling field activities; laboratory results and groundwater flow patterns presented in tables and on maps; and a discussion of monitoring results. Groundwater monitoring and reporting activities must be overseen by Engineers or Geologists Licensed in the State of California and experienced in the scope of work.

The county will seek consultant services to implement groundwater monitoring and reporting in accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program. One round of groundwater monitoring and reporting will be completed through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2017-18. Two additional rounds of groundwater monitoring and reporting will be required during FY 2018-19 in approximately September/October 2018 and April/May 2019. Additional consultant services for the evaluation of cleanup alternatives of the contaminated soil and groundwater associated with the site will be required in FY 2018-19 in accordance with the Cleanup and Abatement Order.

Consultant services, to be monitored by Public Works, for FY 2017-18 will include: collection of groundwater samples from sixteen groundwater monitoring wells and the courthouse garage de-watering sump; laboratory analyses of groundwater samples; disposal of investigation derived waste; report of findings; and submittal of the monitoring data and report to a State database.

Non-compliance with the Cleanup and Abatement Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program could lead to fines and penalties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding of \$10,150 to obtain the services of a consultant to conduct water sampling field activities is available through unanticipated Timber Yield Tax revenue.

The recommendations included in this agenda item support the Board's strategic framework by managing county resources to ensure sustainability of services.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could deny the requested supplemental budget. However, this alternative is not recommended as non-compliance with the Cleanup and Abatement Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program could result in fines and penalties.

ATTACHMENTS:

None