



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-22

For the meeting of: December 8, 2015

Date: November 20, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Thomas K. Mattson, Public Works Director

Subject: Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Application for Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors adopts the attached resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to submit an application to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program for the Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin, and directs the clerk of the Board to provide the signed resolution to Public Works as soon as possible to allow application submittal before the deadline (5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2015).

SOURCE OF FUNDING: State of California, Department of Water Resources, Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program.

DISCUSSION:

In October 2015, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final guidelines and proposal solicitation package for the Counties with Stressed Basins Grant Solicitation under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program, with applications due by 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2015. Although the Board previously authorized staff to apply for groundwater planning funds from this anticipated grant program, the October 2015 solicitation

Prepared by Hank Seemann

CAO Approval Chester Dillingham

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel Sm Human Resources _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent
☐ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. E-1

Meeting of: February 24, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Lovelace Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Dec. 8, 2015

By: Kathy Hayes
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

specifies language that must be included in the authorizing documentation of the governing body. This language has been incorporated into the attached resolution.

The funding solicitation associated with this resolution is intended exclusively for county governments, with a maximum award amount of \$250,000. According to DWR, awards will be announced in February 2016 and applicants should assume a project start date of July 1, 2016. Humboldt County is eligible to request a waiver of the local cost share requirement because the County is considered a disadvantaged community (median household income less than 80% of statewide average). The attached resolution authorizes Public Works to execute a grant agreement with DWR and any amendments thereto without subsequent Board approval.

Submittal of the grant application does not imply that the Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin is stressed or in overdraft, or that undesirable results from groundwater use are present. Rather, the limited available information indicates that the basin has the potential to be stressed. Further data and evaluation are needed to determine whether the basin is being managed sustainably for beneficial uses. If funding is awarded, the results of the technical studies will support the determination whether a Groundwater Sustainability Plan must be prepared for compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or whether there is sufficient evidence to support preparation of an Alternative Submittal. An Alternative Submittal demonstrates that the basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years and does not include the management components of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Costs for Public Works to implement the requested action will be funded through the Water Management budget unit (251). The Fiscal Year 2015-16 Water Management budget contains sufficient funds to prepare the grant application. Public Works will apply for full waiver of the local cost share requirement. If awarded, the grant funds will be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget.

The requested action will advance two of the County's core roles (enforcing laws and regulations to protect residents, and creating opportunities for improved safety and health). In addition, the Board's priorities for new initiatives include managing our resources to ensure sustainability of services; seeking outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs; facilitating public/private partnerships to solve problems; and building interjurisdictional and regional cooperation.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

California Department of Water Resources, Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health, Planning and Building Department, Agricultural Commissioner, UC-Cooperative Extension, City of Fortuna, City of Rio Dell, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Hydesville Community Services District, Loleta Community Services District, Palmer Creek Community Services District, Riverside Community Services District, Scotia Community Services District.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution 15-122 authorizing the Director of Public Works to submit an application to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a Counties with Stressed Basins Grant under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) for the Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of December 8, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-122

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO OBTAIN A COUNTIES WITH STRESSED BASINS GRANT UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014 (PROPOSITION 1) FOR THE EEL RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources has designated the Eel River Valley groundwater basin as a medium-priority basin for the initial prioritization under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public outreach, coordination, data collection, and technical evaluation are necessary to determine whether groundwater levels within the Eel River Valley groundwater basin are declining or fluctuating to the point of causing impacts such as reduced groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, threatening or degrading water quality, land subsidence, and/or surface water depletion; and

WHEREAS, planning efforts are needed to ensure the protection and sustainable management of the Eel River Valley groundwater basin for beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of an Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group to consist of stakeholders representing agricultural, municipal, and environmental interests and provide input on organizing the local response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for the Eel River Valley; and

WHEREAS, in October 2015 the Department of Water Resources released guidelines and proposal solicitation package for the Counties with Stressed Basins Grant Solicitation with applications due by 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt is eligible to submit an application to the aforementioned grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT:

1. Application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a Counties with Stressed Basins Grant under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) (Water Code Section 79700 et seq.), and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Planning and Technical Evaluation Project. The Director of the County of Humboldt Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto (after review and approval by County Counsel and Risk Management) with the California Department of Water Resources.

Dated: December 8, 2015



ESTELLE FENNELL, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of December 8, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-122

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Lovelace, seconded by Supervisor Bass, and the following vote:

AYES:	Supervisors	Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass
NAYS:	Supervisors	--
ABSENT:	Supervisors	--
ABSTAIN:	Supervisors	--

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



By ANA HARTWELL

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California