



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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TO: Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Elizabeth Nielsen, Project Coordinator and Matt Parker, Natural Resource Specialist

DATE: July 03, 2018

SUBJECT: Application for the Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services

County staff has developed this report for the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Shasta Valley Groundwater Basin, to provide background and recommendations regarding technical support services provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) related activities.

Application to DWR for Technical Support Services:

The DWR is offering Technical Support Services (TSS) to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies throughout California, where the goal is to provide technical support pertaining to Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. The specific services offered consist of; monitoring well installation including geophysical or geological logging, groundwater level monitoring training, and downhole video logging.

These services are only available to GSA's who agree to share any data generated through the services, comply with the applicable laws, agree to work in an open and inclusive manner with DWR staff, agree to complete requested responsibilities, and support DWR staff or contractors providing services. Applications received by DWR are evaluated on a continuous basis with first priority given to critically over-drafted basins.

This initial application, if approved by the District, is a general submittal that describes specific services that the District would request, which will assist in providing detailed information regarding groundwater level monitoring and provide borehole geological information. The information collected will provide valuable data for GSP development and help fill much needed data gaps. These services include; drilling 2-4 boreholes and installing monitoring wells with data loggers, costing approximately \$25k per well (funding provided by DWR); providing groundwater level monitoring training provided by DWR staff at no cost to the District; and downhole video logging conducted by DWR staff at no cost to the District.

Natural Resource's staff has identified potential locations in the Shasta Valley Groundwater Basin where new monitoring well information would be beneficial for GSP development. One location consists of a county owned property in Gazelle, and another location(s) include a willing landowner in the Shasta Valley. Upon initial application approval our request will be added to DWR's priority list; a second application is required later to specifically identify well monitoring sites and draft subsequent permission agreements. Our DWR point of contact has recommended submitting an application as early as possible in order to get our request on the list. Additional applications, including those for Scott and Butte Valley Groundwater Basins, may be considered in the future, which will be brought before the District for consideration.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends proceeding with completing the initial TSS application and continuing to dialogue with DWR regarding the TSS application process.