



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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TO: Siskiyou County Flood Control District Board of Directors

FROM: Matt Parker, Natural Resources Specialist

DATE: October 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Shasta Valley Basin Boundary Modification Proposal Revision

County staff has developed this report to provide an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and recommendations to the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District regarding current activities related to SGMA.

Shasta Valley Basin Boundary Modification Proposal Revision

In early July, staff submitted a District Board approved application to modify the Shasta Valley Groundwater Basin boundary. In the last week of September, the final week of DWR's Basin Boundary Modification (BBM) period, DWR informed the County that it did not use the appropriate geological map resource when developing the BBM. DWR advised that the County must use the *California Geologic Survey's 1:250,000 scale 1987 Geologic Map of the Weed Quadrangle* to draft our boundary modification.

The intent of our original proposed modification was to include the majority of the watersheds volcanic groundwater hydrology and use, and we created our boundary line from some geologic boundaries (the *California Geologic Survey's 1:750,000 scale 2010 Geologic Map of CA*), as well as simple boundaries to follow like watershed regions, highways and city limits. The basis behind developing a BBM was to provide a long-term plan that adequately addresses groundwater resources within the Shasta Valley watershed and effectively manages the resource from a sustainability aspect. Professional review and opinion, which includes DWR, and our SGMA consulting team from Larry Walker and Associates (UC Davis and CSU Chico), combined with local applied knowledge of the watershed, implies that the current boundary does not accurately reflect the entire watershed function from a holistic approach and may not result in the most applicable GSP.

Because our boundary modification proposal is classified as *Scientific* it must strictly coincide with geologic and hydrologic boundaries and characteristics within the watershed. The attached map identifies the boundary that best coincides with the basin's geologic and hydrologic features. The most notable difference is the inclusion of more area to the south around the North Old Stage Rd including residential, small surface water diverters, the Hammond Ranch subdivision and a small portion within the City of Weed limits. Staff notes the City of Weed's desire to be excluded from the BBM and that there was no opportunity to conduct outreach with those other communities. Staff will begin to reach out to those communities to provide clarity and answer any SGMA questions. Of note, the newly added area is primarily residential or smaller surface water irrigators. SGMA specifically excludes residential properties or *de minimis extractors* (less than 2 acre-feet) from extraction reporting, well measurement devices, and fees can only be assessed after the GSP is approved and has gone through a public process. SGMA also does not grant authority to the GSA to alter, in anyway, surface water or groundwater rights.

Staff has scheduled a Shasta Groundwater Advisory Committee (SGAC) meeting for October 11th and will report on

their recommendation at the October 16th Board meeting.

Summary

DWR has advised that our “Scientific” BBM must align with the geologic and hydrologic features of the watershed. The GSA must determine if it would like to modify the July 2018 BBM to this edited version or withdrawal their application.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the GSA approved the edited and submitted Shasta Basin proposed boundary modification as identified in the attached map.