**County Of Sonoma**
**Agenda Item**
**Summary Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department:</th>
<th>Sonoma County Water Agency</th>
<th>4/5 Vote Not Required</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and Phone Number: Marcus Trotta – (707) 547-1978</td>
<td>Board Date: 12/13/2011</td>
<td>Deadline for Board Action:</td>
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</tbody>
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**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**
Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Development.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**
Please see Supplemental page.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES:</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Cost $240,000</td>
<td>Contingencies $0 (Fund Name:)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount Budgeted $150,000</td>
<td>Unanticipated Revenue $0 (Source:)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Available Appropriations $150,000</td>
<td>Other Transfers $90,000 (Source:)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Requested $90,000</td>
<td>Additional Funds Requested $90,000</td>
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**Explanation (if required):** Additional FY 11/12 appropriation in 675736-6570 is required to process consultant services for the CCP Amended Agreement ($107,000) and the Parker Agreement ($133,000) in the Recycled Water and Local Supply Fund. $150,000 in budgeted funding is available in the FY11/12 Recycled Water and Local Supply Fund (675736-6570). Fund balance in the amount of $90,000 from FY 11/12 Recycled Water and Local Supply Fund (675736) will be appropriated with Board approval. These funds needed to support this agreement in FY 11/12 will be included in the mid-year consolidated adjustments. Remaining costs consisting of $58,000 for the CCP Amended Agreement and $72,000 for the Parker Agreement will be included in the FY12/13 budget.

The original CCP Agreement was for $47,000 and was amended in 2010 to add $24,725 to the agreement. The subject Second Amended Agreement would add an additional $165,000 to the agreement, which would result in a total agreement cost of $236,725.

**Prior Board Action:**
- **10/18/11** Board approval for Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Development;
- **5/3/11** Board authorization to develop a work plan and funding agreement for developing a voluntary AB303 Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain;
- **1/12/10** Board authorization to implement 2010 Work Plan for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Preliminary Planning;
- **8/2005 – 6/2010** Board approval for Cooperative Agreement to Provide...
REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

a) Authorize Chair to execute the Second Amendment to Agreement with California State University, Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy for Assessment and Potential Design of a Stakeholder Process for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan (CCP Agreement) ($165,000; agreement terminates on December 31, 2014)

b) Authorize the Water Agency’s General Manager to further amend the CCP Agreement provided the amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Water Agency by more than $15,000.

c) Authorize Chair to execute the Agreement for Technical Consultation Services for Development of Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan between Sonoma County Water Agency and Parker Groundwater Technology, Innovation, Management, Inc. (Parker Agreement) ($205,000; agreement terminates on December 31, 2014)

d) Authorize the Water Agency’s General Manager to amend the Parker Agreement provided the amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Water Agency by more than $20,000.

### Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:
A groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain will not be developed. Non-approval of this item could result in the Water Agency losing $250,000 in funds recently awarded for the project by the California Department of Water Resources and reduce the ability of the Water Agency and other water purveyors in the region to receive future grant funds.

### Background:
This item seeks Board approval of two consulting agreements in support of developing a groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain through a collaborative and consensus-based stakeholder process. The agreements consist of an amended consulting agreement with the Center for Collaborative Policy for facilitation of Basin Advisory Panel (BAP) meetings, facilitation of technical meetings, and outreach and a consulting agreement with Parker Groundwater for technical support in developing the groundwater management plan.

### Overview
The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin (Basin) covers an area of approximately 80,000 acres and is home to approximately half of the population of Sonoma County. The groundwater system beneath the Santa Rosa Plain provides numerous benefits to the region, including rural residential and municipal water supplies, irrigation water for agriculture, and baseflow to streams and surface water bodies.

Statewide, many local agencies are developing and implementing non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plans in compliance with the 1992 Assembly Bill 3030 (AB3030) and the 2002 Senate Bill 1938 (SB1938). These plans include public involvement, groundwater level and quality monitoring, and management strategies. Such a plan has been successfully developed and implemented in Sonoma Valley, and development of a similar plan for the Santa Rosa Plain is one of the immediate actions identified in the Sonoma County Water Agency’s (Water Agency) Water Supply Strategy No. Five (Work with Stakeholders to Promote Sound, Information-Based Water Supply Planning Programs) of the Water Supply Strategies Action Plan. The multiple potential benefits from developing and implementing a groundwater management plan include increased water supply reliability, minimized adverse impacts to groundwater, enhanced local management of groundwater resources, and economic opportunities through available state grant funding programs.

Based on the outcome of a stakeholder assessment conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) in 2009, the Water Agency’s Board directed staff in January 2010 to convene a Steering Committee to guide preliminary planning and education for groundwater management planning and develop recommendations on whether groundwater planning should proceed based on these activities. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from a diverse range of stakeholder constituency groups including business, environmental, and community organizations; government; municipal water supply; agriculture; and rural residential well owners.

The Steering Committee met six times in 2010, held three educational public workshops involving approximately 200 members of the public, and conducted briefings with over 20 organizations. Based on understanding and input gained through these outreach activities, in January 2011 the Steering Committee recommended that stakeholders collaboratively develop a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plan for the Basin under AB 3030.

The cost to fund technical consultants and facilitation to develop a groundwater management plan is
estimated to be approximately $400,000 over a period of two years. On October 18, 2011, the Board approved the Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Development (Cooperative Agreement) between the Water Agency, County of Sonoma, City of Cotati, City of Santa Rosa, City of Sebastopol, City of Rohnert Park, Town of Windsor, and California-American Water Company (Cooperating Participants).

One of the purposes of the Cooperative Agreement is to provide a funding mechanism for Participants to pay $260,000 of the subject consulting agreements. The Water Agency is also contributing $110,000 from a California Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant awarded to the Water Agency as part of a Proposition 84 Planning Grant through the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to fund the subject consulting agreements (the remaining $110,000 from the Proposition 84 Planning Grant is funding Water Agency staff costs to develop the groundwater management plan). Additionally, costs associated with the organization and facilitation of the initial four organizational meetings ($30,000) are being funded by DWR through its Division of Integrated Regional Water Management Facilitation Support Services.

Second Amendment to Agreement for Assessment and Potential Design of a Stakeholder Process for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan

On February 4, 2009, the Board authorized the Water Agency’s General Manager to enter into an agreement with California State University, Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) for a stakeholder assessment of groundwater users and those interested in groundwater issues to explore the possibility of initiating a groundwater management planning process for the Basin. The original agreement amount was for $47,000. As part of the assessment, CCP developed a list of potential stakeholders for interviews, developed an interview questionnaire, conducted stakeholder interviews, analyzed the findings of the interviews, and prepared an assessment report. On April 27, 2010, the agreement was amended to add additional tasks and increase the agreement amount by $24,725 for the additional work. Additional tasks under the First Amended Agreement included organizing a Steering Committee, facilitating the Steering Committee meetings, and project planning.

The proposed Second Amended Agreement adds additional tasks to the scope of work and increases the agreement amount by $165,000 for the additional work, bringing the total agreement amount to $236,725. The proposed Second Amended Agreement terminates on December 31, 2014. It is anticipated that funding for this agreement will be shared by the Cooperating Participants ($55,800) through the Cooperative Funding Agreement and DWR ($49,000) through the Proposition 84 Planning Grant, however the agreement and funds associated with the Proposition 84 Planning Grant have not yet been finalized. Additional Board action will be brought forth to appropriate these funds once confirmed. Additional tasks include facilitation of Basin Advisory Panel (BAP) meetings, facilitation of technical meetings, and outreach to include development of a communication plan with the goal of developing an AB3030 groundwater management plan through a collaborative and consensus-based process.

CCP was the only organization contacted for this work and was selected because they have significant experience conducting this type of work throughout California and are considered a leader in the field of facilitating stakeholder processes. In addition, CCP was funded $30,000 from DWR to initiate facilitation on this project and the Agency may seek additional funding from the DWR for future phases of this work. In distributing stakeholder process funding, the DWR requires fund recipients to use CCP to conduct stakeholder process work.

Agreement for Technical Consultation Services for Development of Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan

Under the proposed Agreement, Parker Groundwater Technology, Innovation, Management, Inc. (Consultant) will provide technical assistance and coordinate with program stakeholders in developing a
groundwater management plan. Consultant will assist in conducting organizational meetings, assist with public outreach efforts, develop groundwater management goals and basin management objectives, assist in developing a resolution to prepare a Groundwater Management Plan, develop a Basin monitoring program and data collection protocol, develop management components and strategies and conduct alternatives analysis, and develop an implementation approach and compile and prepare the groundwater management plan. The agreement amount is for $205,000 and terminates on December 31, 2014. It is anticipated that this agreement will be funded collectively with the other Cooperating Participants ($69,000) through the Cooperative Funding Agreement and DWR ($61,000) through the Proposition 84 Planning Grant, however the agreement and funds associated with the Proposition 84 Planning Grant have not yet been finalized. Additional Board action will be brought forth to appropriate these funds once confirmed.

Consultant was the only firm contacted to perform this work. Consultant was determined to be the most-qualified firm based on its skill and expertise in the subject work area and direct professional experience with local stakeholders, which is anticipated to be critical to successfully developing a consensus-based groundwater management plan. Timothy Parker (owner and sole employee of Parker Groundwater Technology, Innovation, Management, Inc.) has been the primary technical consultant for the preliminary activities associated with the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater management planning and has developed positive relationships with the local stakeholders and Steering Committee members. Based on the exemplary work completed to date and ongoing positive working relationship with stakeholders and Steering Committee members, staff recommends continuing to use Mr. Parker to implement the program. Mr. Parker is a former California Department of Water Resources Manager who has extensive experience developing groundwater management plans throughout the state and has intimate knowledge of state regulations and policies regarding the groundwater management planning process. He is very familiar with state funding opportunities in association with groundwater management plans and has already been instrumental in the Water Agency receiving over $500,000 in funding from the Department of Water Resources for facilitation, groundwater management planning and technical studies for the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater planning efforts and Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program.

Consultant is a consulting firm specializing in the development of groundwater management plans. Water Agency does not have the expertise and resources to conduct this work with in-house staff due to the specialized nature of the work.

Attachments:

On File With Clerk:
CCP Agreement (4 copies)
Parker Agreement (4 copies)