

ORDINANCE NO. 1527

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA
ADOPTING A GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, California law requires local agencies wishing to be eligible for certain types of state funding for water-related improvements to adopt groundwater management plans; and

WHEREAS, the State of California encourages local agencies to develop integrated regional solutions for water management and to coordinate the management of surface and groundwater to work together toward improving regional water supply reliability and quality; and

WHEREAS, adoption of a groundwater management plan will provide a framework for coordinating groundwater management activities among stakeholders, and will identify the basin management goals and objectives needed to guide efforts to effectively manage the groundwater basin as a safe and sustainable water supply;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council adopts the recitals set forth above as its findings in connection with the adoption of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby adopts the 2011 Groundwater Management Plan prepared for the City by West Yost Associates.

SECTION 3. The City Council has reviewed and considered the information in and regarding the 2011 Groundwater Management Plan and hereby determines that the implementation of the plan and adoption of this ordinance are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Title 14, sections 15262, 15306, 15307, and 15308 of the California Code of Regulations, which exempt from CEQA feasibility and planning studies; information collection; activities taken to maintain, restore, or enhance a natural resource; and activities to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. The City Council further finds that the 2011 Groundwater Management Plan meets the requirements of these exemptions because it includes consideration of environmental factors, including the impacts of global climate change, and includes no construction activities or relaxation or environmental standards. Implementation of the 2011 Groundwater Management Plan and adoption of this ordinance are also categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) because they will cause no serious or major disturbance of any environmental resource. The City Clerk shall file a Notice of Exemption with the County of Yolo.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption and, within fifteen (15) days after its passage, shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated within the City of Woodland.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council this 15th day of March, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Davies, Dote, Marble, Stallard and Pimentel

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Artemio Pimentel, Mayor

ATTEST:

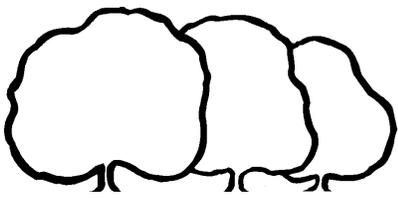


Ana B. Gonzalez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Andrew J. Morris, City Attorney



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Adopt the Groundwater Management Plan

Report in Brief

The proposed Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) addresses measures to monitor and manage groundwater within the service area of the City including: groundwater quality degradation, land surface subsidence, and changes in surface water flow and surface water quality that directly affect the City's groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater pumping in the basin.

An executive summary of the GWMP is attached as Exhibit A for Council consideration. Staff recommends City Council adopt this GWMP which, under SB 1938, establishes the framework for working cooperatively with local agencies in managing local groundwater resources and establishes grant funding eligibility for construction and groundwater projects administered by the California Department of Water Resources.

Background

In 1992, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 3030, which was designated to provide local public agencies increased management authority over their groundwater resources. In September 2002, new legislation, Senate Bill (SB) 1938, expanded AB 3030 by requiring GWMPs to include certain specific components in order to be eligible for grant funding for various types of groundwater related projects.

Recently, there has been an emphasis by the State for agencies to develop integrated regional solutions for water management (SB 1672), and to coordinate the management of surface and groundwater to work together toward improving regional water supply reliability and quality.

The GWMP provides the framework for coordinating groundwater management activities among stakeholders. The plan identifies the basin management goals and objectives needed to guide efforts to effectively manage the groundwater basin as a safe and sustainable water supply.

Discussion

The City of Woodland currently relies entirely on groundwater obtained from twenty wells located throughout the City and meets future water demands by drilling new wells. The City also has one newly built above ground tank which is approximately 135 feet tall. This tank is used to improve and stabilize water system pressure.

The City is experiencing a gradual decline in groundwater quality at a number of well sites, and this has resulted in a couple of wells being taken out of service. In December 2005, the City developed an Urban Water Management Plan to address existing City water supply sources, reliability planning and water demand management measures. It, however, did not adequately address the potential threat and extent of nitrate contamination.

Best management objectives, identification of natural recharge areas, management and optimization of well field operations, and identification and feasibility study of conjunctive use projects were investigated as part of this study.

The GWMP will also qualify the City for grant funding opportunities administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Health Services. Preference for these funds are given to proposals that include integrated projects with multiple benefits, improve local and regional water supply reliability, contribute towards improving water quality standards, reduce pollution, and improve groundwater management. A copy of the GWMP is available at the Library, Public Works Department, and the City Manager's office. The following potential future projects could qualify for grant application if the GWMP is adopted:

- Well rehabilitation/blending
- Installation of groundwater monitoring wells
- New ground level tank project
- Surface water project

Staff received questions on the Draft GWMP, answers were provided, the questions and answers are attached as Exhibit B.

Fiscal Impact

There are no costs associated with the adoption of this GWMP. The cost of developing the GWMP was budgeted in the Public Works Operations and Maintenance fiscal year 2007/2008. Fiscal impacts have been identified and developed as a result of implementing groundwater management activities, such as studies and projects to mitigate groundwater contamination. If grant funding is pursued and received, the amount can be used to offset the cost of implementation of these water management activities.

Interdepartmental Coordination

Project initiatives from the GWMP will be closely coordinated with the Community Development Department for related coordination of development and redevelopment initiatives and with the Finance Department prior to seeking Council approval for potential grant funding opportunities.

Public Participation

This public hearing was published in the newspaper on February 9 & 16, 2011 pursuant to section 10753.5 of the Water Code. The Statement of Work for preparing the GWMP includes public outreach and stakeholder coordination including the preparation of written statements describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in development of the GWMP. This was published pursuant to section 6066 of the Government Code.

Interagency coordination with Yolo County and the Water Resources Association of Yolo County and its member agencies were part of the study development. A copy of the GWMP is available at the Library, Public Works Department, the City Manager’s office, and can be currently found online at www.cityofwoodland.org.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. The Council adopts this GWMP in accordance with the provision of SB 1938 and pursue future grant funding.
2. The Council could decide not to adopt this GWMP and give directions to staff on changes to be made to the GWMP.

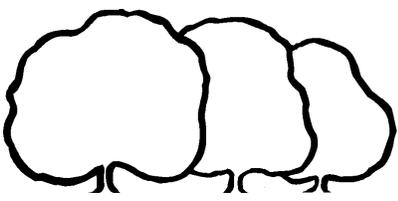
Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that City Council approve Alternative No.1:
The Council should adopt this GWMP in accordance with the provision of SB 1938 and pursue future grant funding.

Prepared by: Akin Okupe
Senior Civil Engineer
Reviewed by: Doug Baxter
Principal Civil Engineer
Reviewed by: Greg Meyer
Director of Public Works

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachments: Exhibit A – Executive Summary
Exhibit B – Questions & Answers from Citizens



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Groundwater Management Plan

Report in Brief

The proposed Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) addresses measures to monitor and manage groundwater within the service area of the City including: groundwater quality degradation, land surface subsidence, and changes in surface water flow and surface water quality that directly affect the City's groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater pumping in the basin.

This item came before the City Council at the March 1 meeting. The Council conducted a Public Hearing and introduced the ordinance by waiving the first reading and reading by title only. Comments regarding the proposed ordinance were received from Christine Casey, chair of the Water Rate Advisory Committee; these comments have been addressed through a letter from West Yost Associates included as Exhibit 2.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. _____, adopting the GWMP which, under SB 1938, establishes the framework for working cooperatively with local agencies in managing local groundwater resources and establishes grant funding eligibility for construction and groundwater projects administered by the California Department of Water Resources. The preparation and adoption of the GWMP are statutorily and categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA," Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.).

Background

The GWMP has been prepared in order to comply with three pieces of legislation (AB 3030, SB 1938, and SB 1672) which encourage local agencies to prepare groundwater management plans, require certain components to be included, and encourage regional cooperation between public agencies in managing groundwater. The GWMP provides the framework for coordinating groundwater management activities among stakeholders. The plan identifies the basin management goals and objectives needed to guide efforts to effectively manage the groundwater basin as a safe and sustainable water supply. Staff has included the Executive Summary as Exhibit A.

On March 1, the City Council conducted a Public Hearing and introduced the ordinance. Christine Casey, chair of the Water Rate Advisory Committee, presented comments regarding the GWMP and requested a response. These comments focused on the need for a strong conservation plan, actions necessary to educate citizens regarding water quality, improved system management and the need for the GWMP to include an Executive Summary. Staff has worked with West Yost Associates to provide a complete response to Ms. Casey's comments which is included as Exhibit 2. The response references sections of the GWMP as well as other water resource management documents that address these very important issues.

Discussion

The City of Woodland currently relies entirely on groundwater obtained from twenty wells located throughout the City. The decline in the quality of the groundwater and new regulatory requirements are requiring the City to plan to partially shift its source of potable water from groundwater to surface water. The GWMP addresses how to manage the groundwater in light of this shift and will also qualify the City for grant funding opportunities administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and other state agencies.

Fiscal Impact

There are no costs associated with the adoption of this GWMP. The cost of developing the GWMP was budgeted in the Public Works Operations and Maintenance fiscal year 2007/2008. Fiscal impacts have been identified in connection with potential implementation of groundwater management activities. If grant funding is pursued and received, the amount can be used to offset the cost of implementation of these water management activities.

Public Contact

The first draft of the GWMP was circulated in early December 2010 for public comment. Comments were received and have been previously addressed by staff. A notice for the public hearing conducted on March 1st was published in the Woodland Daily Democrat on February 9 and 16, 2011 pursuant to section 10753.5 of the Water Code, and further notice was published pursuant to section 6066 of the Government Code. A copy of the GWMP is available at the Library, Public Works Department, the City Manager's Office, and can be currently found online at:

www.cityofwoodland.org.

As stated previously, a response has been provided to the comments received from Christine Casey as a representative of the Water Rates Advisory Committee (WRAC). The response is included as Exhibit 2.

CEQA Compliance

If approved, the GWMP would entail a discretionary action by the City. However, the GWMP is exempt from review pursuant to CEQA under multiple exemptions, including the following:

The GWMP is statutorily exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14 (“State CEQA Guidelines”), section 15262, because it entails identification of best management objectives, identification of potential natural recharge areas, management and optimization of well field operations, and identification and feasibility study of potential conjunctive use projects, and therefore entails feasibility and planning studies. The GWMP includes the consideration of environmental factors, including the impacts of global climate change.

It is categorically exempt under the State CEQA Guidelines section 15306 exemption for information collection, because it entails monitoring of groundwater quality and quantities within the basin and development of monitoring protocols, and will have no serious or major disturbance of any environmental resource. While well rehabilitation/blending, the installation of groundwater monitoring wells, a new ground level tank project, and surface water projects are discussed, these actions are not part of the GWMP. Instead, they entail past activities that have already been the subject of CEQA review, or possible future activities that are currently only speculative, but, once identified, are separate projects that will be the subject of appropriate CEQA review.

The GWMP is also categorically exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15307 exemption for activities taken to maintain, restore, or enhance a natural resource and section 15308 exemption for activities taken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment, because the GWMP’s purpose is to create a monitoring program, groundwater sustainability, groundwater protection, and planning integration.

In order to protect and enhance the environment and the natural resources of groundwater and surface water, the GWMP creates Basin Management Objectives and a program for monitoring and managing the basin’s groundwater levels and preventing groundwater quality degradation, inelastic land subsidence, and changes in surface water flow and quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or that are caused by groundwater pumping in the basin. It also includes monitoring protocols designed to detect such changes, such that a net benefit to basin groundwater users will result. It describes potential future groundwater management actions that could be implemented in order to develop integrated regional solutions for water management and to coordinate conjunctive management of surface and groundwater to improve regional supply, reliability, and quality of water.

The GWMP does not include construction activities or relaxation of environmental standards, and no expansion of capacity will be created by the steps taken to manage groundwater. There is no possibility that implementation of the GWMP may cause a direct physical change in the environment, a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, or a significant impact on the environment.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. Adopt Ordinance No. _____, adopting the GWMP which, under SB 1938, establishes the framework for working cooperatively with local agencies in managing local groundwater resources and establishes grant funding eligibility for construction and groundwater projects administered by the California Department of Water Resources. The preparation and adoption of the GWMP are statutorily and categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA,” Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.).
2. Do not to adopt this GWMP and give direction to staff on changes to be made to the GWMP.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Alternative No.1.

Prepared by: Akin Okupe
Senior Civil Engineer

Reviewed by: Doug Baxter
Principal Civil Engineer

Reviewed by: Greg Meyer
Director of Public Works

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Executive Summary
Exhibit 2 – Response to WRAC Comments.