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## Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Working Group

Meeting 3 February 22, 2016

Slides posted at <http://www.humboldt.gov.org/groundwater>

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

### 1. Introductions

Review of Working Group Ground Rules (see slides)

### 2. Update on DWR Guidelines, Compliance Timeline, and Alternative Submittals

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

### 3. Proposition 1 Grant Program – Update

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

#### Discussion

Lee Mora: Would like to see the use of existing data as much as possible to reduce the cost that the County would pay a consultant to collect any new data. Can we then use the savings in costs and spread the long term costs of compliance under the \$250,000 grant? Response: Funds from the Prop. 1 grant can only be used for specific studies and activities leading to final work products, with an end-date sometime in 2017.

The grant will not fund ongoing activities or allow banking for future use.

Hank expressed a goal of going to the Board of Supervisors in April for approval of the grant agreement from DWR and a Request for Proposals for consulting assistance. Hank identified the need to form a selection committee to help review proposals.

### 4. Summary of Water Supplier Information

Presentation by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

#### Discussion

Jeff Stackhouse: How recent is the groundwater level monitoring data? Response: Some of the water level data goes back to the 1990's while others are from August 2015 to present.

### 5. Presentation of monitoring data from Cheryl Laffranchi (Northcoast Pumphouse)

Presentation included review of historic watershed conditions and changes, Eel River flow data at Scotia and Fernbridge, variability in flow and water level data, and a recommendation to use of data sources such as gas and oil industry exploratory drilling and a recent USGS study (Status and Understanding of Groundwater Quality in the Northern Coast Ranges Study Unit, 2009: California GAMA Priority Basin

Project). Cheryl summarized groundwater level data she has been collecting over the winter and provided the results of her estimate of irrigated acreage (13,450 acres) and annual water use (26,900 to 35,777 acre-feet) in the Eel River Valley.

## **6. Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Irrigation/Fertigation Study – Update**

Presentation by Summer Daugherty, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

The study will consider the sustainable use of groundwater and irrigation efficiencies. The District will continue to work with landowners to analyze their irrigation methods and the results will be used to provide useful water management information for the landowners operations.

## **7. Next meeting Date**

The next meeting is Monday, April 25, 2016, 1-2 pm at the Humboldt County Agricultural Center. The agenda will include initial discussions regarding formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and how to fund compliance efforts. GSA formation and funding will be ongoing topics over the next several meetings.

### **Working Group Members Present:**

Jeff Stackhouse	UC-Cooperative Extension
Patrick Sullivan	GHD Consulting Engineers
Cheryl Laffranchi	Northcoast Pumphouse
Bob McPherson	HSU and LAFCO
Ryan Rice	Commercial
Tom Gast	Thomas Gast & Associates
Denver Nelson	Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Committee, dairy owner
Summer Daugherty	HCRC
Lee Mora	Humboldt Grass Fed Beef
John Vevoda	Rancher, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Katherine Ziemer	Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Michael Wheeler	Humboldt County Building and Planning
David Fisch	Fisch Drilling
Doreen Hansen	HCRC
Estelle Fennel	County Board of Supervisors
Chad Lake	Domestic/General Public
Troy Hubner	Del Oro Water Company
David Rodrigues	Hydesville County Water District
Kevin Farmer	Palmer Creek Community Services District

### **Other Interested Parties Present:**

Leslie Marshall	Plan West Partners
Orrin Plocher	Freshwater Environmental Services
Melissa Lema	Western United Dairyman
Joseph Alexandre	Alexandre Acres
Kyle Knopp	City of Rio Dell
Jack Thompson	City of Rio Dell

Mark Verhey	Environmental Health
Nancy Trujillo	Riverside CSD
Curtis Ihle	HCRCD
Jasper Oshun	HSU
Frank Bickner	LACO Associates
Jennifer Curtis	USGS
Isaac Mikus	CDFW
Maggie Groff	CDFW
Dave Heaton	Property owner
Johanna Rodoni	Rancher