

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
(Including Summary of MOU and Funding)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego will hold a public hearing on whether to approve the Funding and Memorandum of Understanding for sustainable groundwater management – Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin.

HEARING INFORMATION:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: October 19, 2016
Time: 9:00 A.M. (at or after)
Location: County Administration Center, Room 310, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: On January 6, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a Resolution authorizing the County to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) over the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin (Borrego Valley) and to conduct negotiations with Borrego Water District (BWD) in developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This item is a request for the Board to consider that MOU and funding to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan). The MOU serves to memorialize each agency’s role and responsibilities for developing a single Plan that complies with the requirements of the State of California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The primary purpose of a GSA under SGMA is to develop a Plan to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.

SUMMARY OF MOU: Although the County and BWD remained separate GSAs, the agreed-upon MOU serves to eliminate overlap of the two jurisdictions on the basin by ensuring that each agency works collaboratively to prepare the Plan while providing a basis for stakeholder involvement that includes the establishment of an advisory committee to aid in developing and implementing the Plan. The proposed Borrego Valley SGMA Advisory Committee comprises the following members:

- Borrego Water Coalition - 1 agricultural member; 1 recreation member; 1 independent pumper (e.g., Air Ranch); 1 at large member,
- 1 member Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group,
- 1 member Borrego Valley Stewardship Council,
- 1 member BWD representative for ratepayers/property owners,
- 1 member San Diego County Farm Bureau, and
- 1 member California State Parks, Colorado Desert Region.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING: Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in costs of \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The funding source is available prior year General Fund fund balance. Future costs of \$700,000 to complete the Plan will be included in future Operational Plans in PDS. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: This requested action is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(1) because Water Code Section 10728.6 states that Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code does not apply to the preparation and adoption of plans pursuant to the implementation of SGMA. However, the implementation of actions pursuant to an adopted Plan and any relevant changes in land use regulations may be subject to future CEQA review.

GENERAL INFORMATION: This public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If interpreter services for the hearing impaired are needed, please call the Americans With Disabilities Coordinator at (619) 531-5205 or California Relay Service, if notifying by TDD, no later than seven days prior to the date of the hearing.

If you challenge the Board's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Hearing Body at or before the hearing. Rules of the Hearing Body may limit or impose requirements on the submittal of such written correspondence.

A copy of the full text of the MOU is posted at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Room 402 of County Administration Center.

For additional information regarding this proposal, contact Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist, at (858) 694-3820.