



COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: March 8th, 2010

CITY COUNCIL

Anthony Cannella, Mayor
Chris Vierra Ken Lane
Guillermo Ochoa Bret Durossette

Report Preparation Date: February 25, 2010

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Michael Brinton, Assistant City Engineer

SUBJECT: Approve support for submittal of a grant application with the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA) for federal funding for a basin-wide monitoring program and authorizing submittal of a letter of support.

CONTACT: Jeremy Damas, Water System Superintendent
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Phone (209) 538-5717

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Approve Resolution No. 2010- ___ Supporting a grant application with the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA) for federal funding for a basin-wide monitoring program and authorizing submittal of a letter of support.

I. BACKGROUND:

The Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA) was formed in 1997. The association was formed to better understand all entities position on groundwater issues within the Turlock Basin. In 1997 a basin-wide Groundwater Management Plan was developed and updated in March of 2008. To implement elements of the plan such as monitoring groundwater quality, levels and management actions, the TGBA would like to develop and implement a coordinated groundwater monitoring plan for the Turlock sub-basin. The City of Ceres is within the sub-basin area.

II. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

There are several agencies that are members of the association that are not currently monitoring groundwater quality and levels within their groundwater wells. The Grant Program, funded by Proposition 84, will provide the TGBA funding to have an engineering firm develop the monitoring plan that works for each agency and the funding to implement the monitoring plan. This program will provide data needed to develop long-term planning needs and allow the each agency to evaluate changing groundwater conditions in order to determine appropriate actions needed for managing the vital groundwater resource.

III. EXISTING POLICY / RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

The City of Ceres has adopted a Basin-Wide Groundwater Management Plan; this grant funding project will allow the implementation of several pieces of the plan.

IV. POLICY ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative would be to not proceed with the grant application. This alternative would not give staff a clear idea of the future of groundwater supply.

V. FISCAL IMPACTS:

Council approved a Water Operations Budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Within the Water Operations budget, an appropriation in the amount of \$35,100 was approved for Fixed Charges which will be used to fund this process. The cost to participate in the grant application is \$15,500 and this is split amongst all the members, and the City's cost is \$1,200. If we are approved for the grant funding, the funding will pay for the engineered monitoring plan and the implementation of groundwater level monitoring and water quality testing.

VI. INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

There has not been any interdepartmental coordination as part of this project.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There has not been any public participation as part of this project.

VIII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

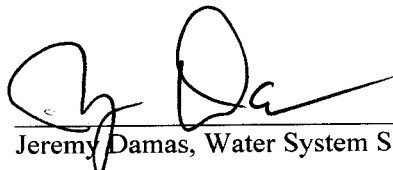
There have not been any committees assigned to this project.

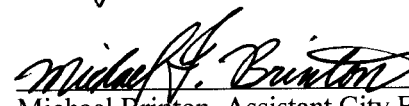
IX. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

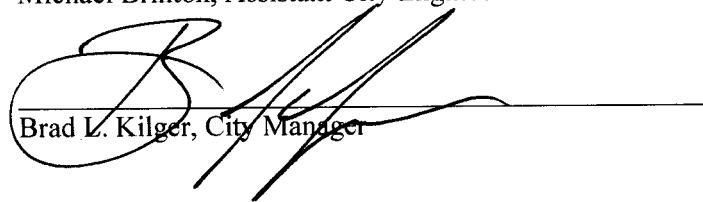
This project is Categorically Exempt in accordance with CEQA Article 19. Categorical Exemptions. Class 1 exemptions include operation and maintenance of existing public and private facilities.

X. STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL:

1. Work with TGBA to develop grant application
2. Execute a letter of support from the City Manager

Prepared and Reviewed by: 
 Jeremy Damas, Water System Superintendent jeremy.damas@ci.ceres.ca.us; 538-5717

Reviewed by: 
 Michael Brinton, Assistant City Engineer

Submitted by: 
 Brad L. Kilger, City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-_____

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE TURLOCK
GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSOCIATION (TGBA) FOR A BASIN WIDE MONITORING
PROGRAM AND TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TURLOCK
GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSOCIATION'S (TGBA) GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
FUNDING**

THE CITY COUNCIL
Ceres, California

WHEREAS, the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA), of which the City of Ceres is a member, is submitting an application to the State of California Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program for the funding of a groundwater monitoring program; and,

WHEREAS, many cities like Ceres extensively monitor their groundwater and provide data to the Association, however many Irrigation Districts and unincorporated agencies do not monitor their groundwater since their water is used for irrigation; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Association to monitor groundwater throughout the basin and get a more comprehensive basin-wide picture of groundwater levels and groundwater quality; and

WHEREAS, as specified in the TGBA Groundwater Management Plan, adopted by the City of Ceres on October 13, 2008, a better understanding of groundwater levels and water quality is needed to preserve and protect our local groundwater resource; and,

WHEREAS, the Association plans to use this grant funding to develop a coordinated groundwater monitoring program for the Turlock Basin.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ceres does hereby authorize the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's filing of a grant application for a basin wide monitoring program and also authorizes the City Manager to execute the letter of support of the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association's grant application.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Ceres City Council at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 8th day of March, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES

ABSENT:

Anthony Cannella, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Heidorn, CMC
City Clerk



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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March 8, 2010

CITY COUNCIL

Anthony Cannella, Mayor
Chris Vierra Ken Lane
Guillermo Ochoa Bret Durossette

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On behalf of the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association, the Turlock Irrigation District is applying for grant funding through the Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program to put together a groundwater monitoring program. The Turlock Subbasin is located between the Tuolumne, Merced and San Joaquin rivers on the north, south, and west, respectively, and the Sierra Nevada foothills on the east.

Groundwater is the primary source of municipal water for Turlock, Ceres, South Modesto, Hilmar, Hickman, Hughson, Denair, Delhi, Keyes, Ballico, and rural residences in the Turlock Subbasin. Agriculture throughout the Subbasin also relies heavily on groundwater for irrigation. Agencies and stakeholders have been cooperating on groundwater management issues in the Turlock Subbasin through the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (Association) since the 1990's. The Association developed a Basin-wide Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) in 1997, which was updated in March 2008.

Work done by the Association has shown that groundwater elevations have declined in some areas. This suggests that basin groundwater pumping may locally exceed a sustainable yield. As specified in the updated GWMP, a better understanding of groundwater levels and water quality is needed to help design a program to preserve and protect the local groundwater resource. Such a program will help insure that water continues to be available to the businesses and residents of this area.

We ask that you do all you can to provide the requested funding.

Regards,

Brad Kilger
City Manager