

CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
PUBLIC DRAFT REVIEW
ALAB Comments – March 2, 2009

WATER RESOURCES

Page 10.2 Relationship to Other Elements, Plans and Programs

Third paragraph, last sentence ADD: For lands used in production agriculture, refer to AGP 10 and AGP 11 of the AG Element for groundwater matters involving water supply, demand, quality, and basin/resource capacity.

Page 10.3 Water Supply

4th Bullet – ADD: There is a need to secure water supplies to protect environmental resources while at the same time protect groundwater supplies for agriculture. (AGP 11).

Page 10.4 2nd bullet – ADD: Water management programs (e.g., ground water management plans) may be needed in or around non-agricultural land ~~are needed~~ to adequately manage water resources, but they require additional funding.

Page 10.4 Goal WR 4

ADD: Per capitata potable water use for human consumption in the county will decline by 20 percent by 2020.

Page 10.4 Goal WR 6

ADD: Damage to life, structures, agricultural and natural resources from floods will be avoided.

Page 10.5 WR 1.1

ADD: reference to APG 10-11 to first paragraph.

WR 1.1.1 c.

Establish a water demand monitoring program in coordination with the Co Planning Depts Resource Management System to monitor municipal, industrial, ~~agricultural~~, recreational, and environmental demand

Page 10.6 WR 1.3.3

Identify potential partners for advanced tertiary treatment projects (i.e., ~~agriculture~~, park fields, etc). (IRWM)

WR 1.3.4 missing?

WR 1.3.5

ADD: Explore opportunities for groundwater recharge with reclaimed water. Opportunities include but are not limited to recharge through use of reclaimed water for *landscape* irrigation, dust control, and fire suppression. (IRWM)

Page 10.6

ADD: WR 1.3.6

Explore opportunities for agricultural use of recycled water that meets water recycling criteria adopted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH, §60303-60303, 2009)

Page 10.8

WR 1.7

ADD: Surface water will only be used to serve development within urban and village reserve lines and will not be used to serve development in rural areas, with the exception of surface water collected for agricultural use. (AGP II).

Page 10.9

WR 1.11

ADD: Accurately assess and mitigate the impacts of new *non-ag* development on water supply.

Page 10.9

WR 1.13

~~Place limitations on further land divisions in these areas until plans are in place and funded to ensure that the safe yield will not be exceeded.~~
(Division of ag land does not always lead to increased water consumption. For example grazing land divided that remains in grazing).

Page 10.10

General comment:

Including agriculture in the Groundwater Monitoring Management Goal 2 and its related policies in this Element may not be acceptable to the vast majority of the agricultural community. Securing right of access to ag wells, the resulting government system mapping of ag well water locations, and the resulting public knowledge of these sites and access create serious trespass and food safety concerns. AGP11 addresses agricultural water supply issues in the new Ag Element. Therefore, add the following accordingly:

WR 2.1.1

Insert *non-agricultural* after “funding for”

WR 2.1.2

Insert *non-agricultural* after “govern”

WR 2.1.3

Insert *non-agricultural* after “overlying”

WR 2.2.2

Insert non-agricultural before “well permit”

Page 10.10 WR 2.2.3

Revise as follows: Secure right of access to all new key wells together with retaining voluntary access to existing wells having useful histories to ensure that the County’s investment in these records is protected. The county ~~should~~ shall obtain ~~unlimited~~ permission from each of the well owners for only county use with identification of the landowner protected from public or other uses and all ~~releasing or publishing~~ groundwater data shall remain confidential.

Define key wells.

If not inserting “non-agricultural” after “key”, delete: ~~The County should obtain unlimited permission from each of the well owners for releasing or publishing groundwater data.~~

Page 10.11 WR 2.3.1

ADD: Revise non-agricultural well permit procedures to address adopted groundwater management plan objectives.

WR 2.5

ADD: Investigate the ramifications of ~~Encourage~~ ground water-banking programs.

Page 10.12 Figure WR-2

Hydrologic Units – what is purpose of map and is this map geological units instead of hydrological units?

Page 10.13 WR 3.2

ADD: Protect watersheds, groundwater and aquifer recharge areas and natural drainage systems from potential adverse impacts of non-agricultural development projects. (GM1, AGP 10 and 11)

Page 10.15 WR 3.5

ADD: Continue support of and partnerships with *Resource Conservation Districts* to encourage education and technical assistance regarding erosion and sediment control in ~~agricultural~~ land management practices. (AGP 9-10)

WR 3.6

ADD: AGP10 at end of sentence

WR 3.6.1

Delete this strategy. It is already implemented by the RWQCB so this is a duplication of effort and funding.

WR 3.7

Capitalize Resource Conservation Districts

GOAL 4

ADD: at end of sentence: For ag lands, see AGP 10.

Page 10.18 WR 4.8

Capitalize Resource Conservation Districts

Page 10.18 WR 5.1.1

ADD: Support development and implementation of watershed *wide* management plans for all key watersheds in the county in collaboration with Resource Conservation Districts, water purveyors, cities, agricultural operations and landowners.

Page 10.25 ADD: WR 6.6.1

Stream channelization and alteration practices should be referred to the Resource Conservation Districts and other appropriate agencies for technical assistance and compliance with laws and regulations.