

ITEM:

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SUBJECT:

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

The Staff Report provides the following:

- An overview of ASR projects,
- Discuss the initial concerns of Water Board staff for ASR projects,
- Summarize the initial regulatory approach and requirements the City was required to meet during its pilot ASR Project,
- Summarize the results and findings of the City's ASR Project
- Discuss the outstanding issues or concerns of Board staff regarding ASR Projects, and finally,
- Discuss proposed alternatives for Water Board regulatory actions in the future for these ASR Projects.

During the Workshop, Roseville and its consultant MWH, as well as other experts in the field of ASR will give presentations to the Board.

BOARD ACTION:

This is an informational item. No Board action will be taken.

BACKGROUND:

California faces an increasing demand for water supplies due to current and projected population growth. Building dams and reservoirs to store natural runoff is expensive and has associated environmental impacts. The California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) has been working to further conjunctive water management projects throughout the state. Conjunctive water management generally improves regional water supply reliability by increasing the coordinated use of surface and ground water.

Since 2003, the City of Roseville (City) has implemented a conjunctive use ASR project, by injecting treated surface water obtained from Folsom Lake into the groundwater basin underlying Placer County. The City conducted a phased study of the ASR Project within the limits of the City's jurisdictional area. The phased pilot project allowed the Board to evaluate and assess the potential or actual impacts of ASR Projects on groundwater quality. The Board issued a waiver of waste discharge requirements for both phases of the project.

The following presents various alternative approaches to regulating ASR Projects that staff would like the Board to discuss during the workshop. 1) In a 2005 staff report to the Board regarding ASR projects, staff envisioned the that the future regulatory mechanism to authorize ASR Projects would be through a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements with a monitoring and reporting program (MRP) adopted by the Board;

2) Waive the submittal of reports of waste discharge for all ASR projects; 3) Waive the submittal of reports of waste discharge for selected types of ASR projects that have lower water quality concerns; 4) Require submittal of reports of waste discharge for all ASR projects, injection and infiltration; 5) Develop a general conditional waiver or general waste discharge requirements that could expedite permitting for all ASR Projects; 6) Regulate ASR projects through the Basin Plan; and 7) Develop Unified Statewide ASR Guidelines that would be implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Water Board, DWR and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction for further staff work on ASR Projects.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

24 April 2008
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