



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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TO: Siskiyou County Flood Control District Board of Directors

FROM: Matt Parker, Natural Resources Specialist

DATE: May 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Tribal Groundwater Advisory Committee

Background:

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Shasta, Scott and Butte Valley Groundwater Basins, has appointed a Tribal representative to each of the advisory committees for the three basins. These advisory committees reflect agriculture (water user), tribal, environmental, irrigation district and municipal interest for a given basin. Tribal representation was selected based on multiple factors including the Tribes cultural relationship, ancestral territory and land held in trust or reservation within a given basin. Due to the need to keep these advisory committees to a manageable size and to reflect a broad range of interest, representation numbers were limited. Several other Tribes have expressed interest in serving in advisory roles for the purposes of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Shasta, Scott and Butte Valley Basins; including the Yurok, Shasta, Karuk, and Modoc Tribes. Most notably, the Karuk Tribe has been in continued contact with the District and staff, expressing their interest in staying engaged and providing input throughout the SGMA process, concerning all three basins. In order to provide opportunities for Tribal engagement and to meet the public engagement intent of SGMA, a high priority of the District, staff has coordinated with the Department of Water Resources, the County's facilitator, and County Counsel to conceptually develop a District appointed Tribal Advisory Committee. This advisory committee would serve in a purely advisory role to the District, similar to the other advisory committees, for the Shasta, Scott and Butte Valley Groundwater Basins.

Staff seeks to coordinate with local Tribes to gauge their interest in serving on an advisory board for the three basins, gain an understating of how the advisory board should be structured, who should serve, and what protocols should be developed. Understanding that this would be an advisory committee made up solely of tribal representatives, and that Tribes have unique approaches to conducting business and coordination with other Tribes, staff seeks to develop an advisory board that beneficially serves the purposes of SGMA and meets the needs of the Tribes. In addition, in order to ensure that the Tribal advisory committee reflects those tribes with a vested interest in the three basins, staff needs to further assess those Tribes that would best serve on the committee, whether this is determined by the boundaries of the Klamath River Watershed, or other means.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is seeking District direction to further develop background information with the goal of developing a Tribal Advisory Committee, and to reach out to the Yurok, Shasta, Modoc and Hoopa Valley Tribes to gain a further understating of their interest and to seek feedback regarding the structure and protocols of a Tribal Advisory Committee. Staff is also seeking direction to continue to coordinate with the Karuk Tribe in a similar manner. Staff will provide an update to the District in June 2019, and a possible resolution to form a Tribal Advisory Committee.