

ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2012
TO: Walt Wadlow
FROM: Robert Shaver
SUBJECT: STAFF REPORTS, ACTION CALENDAR ITEMS FOR JUNE 14, 2012

5.8* AUTHORIZATION TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A GRANT FOR THE NILES CONE SALTWATER INTRUSION AND AQUIFER CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT

SUMMARY: On May 3, 2012, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for the Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program, which was established by the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000. The intent of the grant is to provide up to \$250,000 in funding to local public agencies to conduct groundwater studies or to carry out groundwater monitoring and management activities.

RECOMMENDATION: By motion, adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to file an application and enter into an agreement for a grant from the Department of Water Resources for the "Niles Cone Saltwater Intrusion and Aquifer Characterization Project."

DISCUSSION: Due to over pumping of the Niles Cone Groundwater Basin in the early 1900's, saltwater from San Francisco Bay and adjacent salt ponds moved inland almost to the Hayward Fault. Although there has been substantial improvement in the basin as a result of the District's recharge and Aquifer Reclamation Program efforts, a large volume of brackish water still remains in the aquifers. One area of brackish water of special significance is in the Centerville and Fremont Aquifers near the Mowry Wellfield. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed in an attempt to better define and identify the brackish water zones in these two aquifers, but due to the variable nature of the geologic deposition of the Niles Cone, additional wells are needed to define the limitations along the western and southern boundaries. Further, due to the possible intertwining of the Centerville and Fremont Aquifers in this sensitive area, aquifer data is needed to identify where the Centerville and Fremont Aquifers are separate and where they are interconnected. Understanding the extent of the brackish water areas and how the aquifers interact is critical in addressing the brackish water intrusion issue.

The installation of monitoring wells and collection of water quality data is planned to be included in a project proposal to DWR titled, "Niles Cone Saltwater Intrusion and Aquifer Characterization Project." The estimated amount to construct monitoring wells, collect data for aquifer characterization, and analytical testing will be slightly higher than the \$250,000 maximum grant award and staff costs will be used to demonstrate cost sharing for the project.

The grant proposal package is due by July 13, 2012. One requirement of DWR's grant proposal package is that a copy of a resolution designating an authorized representative to file an application and enter into a grant agreement must be included.