



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 8/16/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-August-20.

SACOG Board of Directors

Subject: Sustainable Groundwater Management Strategy Project (Est. time: 0 minutes)

Receive and File

Prepared by: Renee DeVere-Okie

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments:

1. Issue:

The SACOG Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) program has completed work on the "Sustainable Water Management Strategy for Specialty Crop Expansion in the Sacramento Valley Project."

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

In 2015, SACOG's Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) program received a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Specialty Crop Block Grant to conduct a study on sustainable groundwater management strategies for specialty crop expansion in the Sacramento Valley. Technical findings and outreach on this project were finalized in June 2018.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The CDFA grant-funded project examined scenarios to consider optimal locations for strategic flooding of cropland to maximize groundwater infiltration and improve water supply reliability for continued specialty crop production and related economic activities. The project also examined ways these flooding scenarios may provide habitat benefits. The grant project included a contractual study component to complement RUCS staff work and build upon in-kind services from industry stakeholders, including specialty crop stakeholders, and water resource managers. The contractual work provided technical support and subject-area expertise in groundwater recharge science. This included the collection of environmental data to underpin scenario analysis and enhance the RUCS toolkit; including regional water balances and other factors that impact recharge (e.g., soil type permeability).

The completed work has identified attributes in our region's open space land that facilitate infiltration and those that limit groundwater recharge potential. Project data have been integrated into the RUCS spatial analysis platform. Drawing on this work and stakeholder input, SACOG staff examined scenarios that strategically choose locations with good crop-soil combinations for winter flooding, or flood irrigation, to provide habitat and maximize potential for recharge to maintain adequate groundwater supplies for specialty crop production.

The final report, including technical findings and scenario analysis, is available at www.sacog.org/rural-urban-connections-strategy. For more information on this project, data, and technical findings please contact SACOG RUCS staff.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This CDFA-funded project was included in SACOG's adopted budget.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

9. Better Connect and Communicate with Members and Regional Electeds