



**Washoe County
Department of
Water Resources**

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DATE: March 9, 2011
TO: Mt. Rose-Galena Fan Domestic Well Owners
FROM: Rosemary Menard, Director,
Washoe County Department of Water Resources
SUBJECT: Proposed Approach for Follow-Up Community Engagement
Activities on Domestic Well Mitigation Plan for the Mt. Rose-
Galena Fan Area

Following our February 15th community meeting on a proposed approach to mitigating the unreasonable impacts of municipal pumping on domestic wells and our presentation and discussion of this topic with the Board of County Commissioners on February 22nd, I agreed to work with community interests to further consider approaches to domestic well mitigation issues.

This memo provides my proposal for how we might work together on this issue and includes some proposed objectives, a suggested process and a proposed timeline.

Proposed Objectives:

- Conduct additional community engagement activities that provide an opportunity for community members to suggest additional approaches to mitigating the unreasonable impacts of municipal pumping on domestic wells;
- Develop and provide additional information to community interests and the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on the private and public costs of possible mitigation plans;
- Engage the community in discussing elements of the policy framework that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will use in selecting a mitigation approach to recommend to the Board; and
- Complete the community engagement process and bring the matter back to the Board for a decision or further direction within a reasonable time-frame.

In light of these proposed objectives, I suggest the process outlined below.

Suggested Approach:

Hold two community workshops to do the following:

Workshop 1 –

- Brainstorm additional approaches to providing mitigation for the unreasonable impacts of municipal pumping to domestic well owners. Develop as complete a list of possible options as is feasible within the established time frame. Include on the list any and all options identified, excluding no options based on any criteria.

- Between Workshop 1 and Workshop 2, DWR staff would develop information about the private costs (to a typical property owner) of each option and the public cost of each option. Private costs may include both up front costs for things like well abandonment as well as things like annualized costs of water bills. Public costs would include the accumulated cost that would have to be borne by DWR's customers in some form. In some instances, for example where the public costs are large, DWR would also develop rate impact information and identify which rate payers would be affected by those rate impacts.
- Initiate a discussion about the possible elements of the policy framework DWR will use in developing its recommendation to the Board and discuss possible opportunities for creating an on-line community dialogue about the policy framework between Workshop 1 and Workshop 2.

Workshop 2 –

- Present and discuss public and private cost analysis. Identify any follow-up work needing to be prepared for inclusion in presentation to the Board.
- Discuss the policy framework DWR is considering using to develop its recommendations to the Board, providing an additional opportunity for community interests to weigh in on policy issues that should be considered by DWR in developing its recommendations.
- Provide an opportunity for Workshop 2 participants to indicate which mitigation option they personally favor, using a dot exercise, for example and, if there is an interest, providing Workshop 2 participants an opportunity to indicate which mitigation option they believe best meets the policy framework that has been discussed.

Note: All products from Workshops 1 and 2 and any on-line community dialogue about the policy framework for decision-making would be provided as part of the Staff Report DWR would prepare for the Board.

Proposed Timeline:

Workshop 1 – **Tuesday, April 5th, 5:30 to 8:00 pm**

Workshop 2 – Early May

Target Date for Report to the Board – June 21st,

Tentative Schedule for Implementation of Board direction – if the Board makes a decision on June 21st. First Reading of Implementing Ordinance on July 26th and Second Reading and Public Hearing on August 9th.

Proposed Workshop Locations: DWR Community Meeting Room, 4930 Energy Way, Reno, 89502

Possible Dates and Times for Workshops: To be determined

DWR staff is available to meet evenings or Saturday's as need be. Possible April dates/times would be Saturday, April 2nd from 10 am to 12:30 pm or 1:00 to 3:30 pm, or Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday April 5th, 6th or 7th from 5 to 7:30 pm or 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Please contact me at rmenard@washoecounty.us with feedback or suggestions.