



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County Department of Public Works

Water Availability Analysis Potential Modifications

Workshop Presentation
November 5, 2014



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Evolution of the Water Availability Analysis

- 1991—Initial report; response to drought; Initiates useful and regularly used Phase 1 concept (also Phases 2&3, though less successfully)
- 1999 BOS declares a ‘groundwater deficient basin’ and passes Groundwater Ordinance requiring permitting of new uses and establishing “Fair Share”
- 2007 WAA revised and updated
- Present: Update needed to reflect current understanding; particularly for hillside parcels and how to do well to well analysis



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Key Points in Current WAA

- Phase 1
 - Applicant estimates proposed uses based on rules of thumb
 - Valley Floor=1.0 acre-ft/acre; Hillside 0.5; MST 0.3;
 - If threshold is exceeded, then Phase 2 (pump tests) and Phase 3 (other tests) kick in
- Multiple Departments review
- “Phase 1” concept has worked well on valley floor and MST; not so much for hillside parcels and for Phases 2 and 3
- Understanding site specific intricacies has evolved



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The Major Changes

- Move away from Phase 1, 2, 3 terminology;
 - Tier 1: Water Use Volume
 - Tier 2: Well to Well
 - Tier 3: Groundwater to Surface Water
- Parcel specific analysis is required for hillside parcels (Tiers 1 and 2)
- Method of performing Tier 2 defined, including distance screening criteria that can determine which wells need no further analysis
- Method of performing Tier 3 developed



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The Major Changes (Cont'd)

- Define PBES as lead department (previously 3 departments acted in parallel)
- Require project specific (more current and accurate) water estimates as opposed to the thumb rules used now



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Next Steps

- Receive, incorporate workshop comments
- Planning Commission December 17
- Board of Supervisors hearing in Mid-January