



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AGENCY**

**DATE:** November 29, 2004

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** December 14, 2004

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Marcia Raines, Director of Environmental Services *MR*

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to Extend the Agreement with Kleinfelder for the Preparation of the Midcoast Groundwater Study, Phase 2

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Kleinfelder to provide services for the preparation of the Midcoast Groundwater Study, Phase 2, to extend the term from December 31, 2004 to January 31, 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2001, the Board appropriated funds for and directed staff to undertake a Midcoast Groundwater Study in two phases. Phase 1, completed by Balance Hydrologics in 2002, was a literature and data review summarizing all known information about groundwater in the urban Midcoast area of San Mateo County. Following completion of Phase 1, the Board adopted several revisions to the well regulations for the Midcoast. On February 4, 2003, the Board adopted Resolution 65815 approving an agreement in the amount of \$336,968 with Kleinfelder to complete Phase 2 of the Groundwater Study, a technical effort to gather missing data necessary to determine safe yield of Midcoast aquifers and their ability to support further development. Once the safe yield analysis is complete, we will evaluate the need for further work, such as analyzing the environmental impacts of development relying on safe yield.

**DISCUSSION**

The agreement with Kleinfelder for completion of Phase 2 of the Midcoast Groundwater Study expires on December 31, 2004. The proposed amendment to the agreement

would extend the term to January 31, 2006, to allow Kleinfelder sufficient time to complete Phase 2. The products to be completed as part of the study are not proposed to change, nor will additional costs be incurred. Rather, completion of the study is simply expected to take longer than originally projected.

A number of unanticipated conditions have caused the delay. Specifically, the well data provided by the County as a beginning point in the study was incomplete, and the digital elevation model (DEM) of the Midcoast was not available as expected. Also, the decision was made to secure permission from individual well owners to test groundwater levels in existing wells rather than to drill and measure test wells. While measuring existing wells will ultimately take less time and have less environmental impact than the permitting and construction of test wells, it has nevertheless been a slow process to obtain the cooperation of a sufficient number of Midcoast well owners. Kleinfelder advises that this effort is now nearly complete, however, and they will be continuing to collect groundwater level data throughout the rainy season. A second Technical Status Memorandum summarizing the results of the field investigation will be released and a public meeting scheduled early next year.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution and amendment as to form.

### **VISION ALIGNMENT**

The Midcoast Groundwater Study, Phase 2, will serve the following County commitments and goals by providing a detailed analysis of groundwater resources in the Midcoast to facilitate establishing a proper balance between use of those resources to support new development and protection of coastal resources dependent on adequate groundwater supplies: (1) Commitment – Redesign our urban environment to increase vitality, expand variety, and reduce congestion; Goal – Land use decisions consider transportation and other infrastructure needs as well as impacts on the environment and on surrounding communities; (2) Commitment – Preserve and provide access to our natural environment; Goal – Important natural resources are preserved and enhanced through environmental stewardship; and (3) Commitment – Responsive, effective, and collaborative government; Goal – Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for the Midcoast Groundwater Study has been provided from General Fund Non-Departmental Reserves in the Planning Division budget. The proposed amendment extending the term of the agreement with Kleinfelder from December 31, 2004 to January 31, 2006 results in no further General Fund impact, and the cost for Phase 2 remains at \$336,968.

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**RECOMMENDED**  
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*J. M. M.*  
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**COUNTY MANAGER**