Agenda Language – Consideration and Approval of Exceedance Policy and Action Plans Version 3.0 and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions Version 2.0

Background

The 2025 Plan includes an Exceedance Policy and associated Action Plans for each Sustainability Indicator (Appendix K). The Action Plans were intended to function as iterative, adaptive management documents that may be reviewed and revised as needed based on new information, data, tools, or technical analyses, without requiring an amendment to the overarching 2025 Plan (see Appendix K, pp. 1-2).

Version 3.0 (August 2026) reflects the following revisions across all Action Plans:

- Clarifies that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will provide other Subbasin GSAs a summary of the Exceedance Investigation Reports including a tabulation of minimum threshold (MT) exceedances related to GSA groundwater management activities, and notifications mailed (if applicable), during Annual Report production.

Version 3.0 (August 2026) also reflects the following revisions specific to the Action Plan for Degraded Water Quality, based on lessons learned from the Spring 2026 sampling event:

- Specifies notifications to domestic well owners will be mailed once per water year.
- Revises the timeline for the exceedance investigation to 90 days from the confirmed sample result.
- Details that for cases where there is a recurring exceedance at a RMW-WQ for the same constituent of concern, an abbreviated exceedance investigation will be conducted to confirm the original investigation findings. If conditions remain similar, confirming conclusions from the prior investigation, the results will be presented in an abbreviated Exceedance Investigation Report. If conditions have changed, a complete exceedance investigation and Report will be completed.
- Revises the timeline of non-nitrate notifications to be within 10 days after the completion of the Exceedance Investigation Report.
- Specifies the GSA should consider initiating Projects and Management Actions if the Exceedance Investigation Report concludes that the exceedance is due to GSA groundwater management activities.

The Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions (Appendix K-2) have been updated with the revisions detailed above for consistency.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approving the new versions of the Exceedance Policy, Action Plans, and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions.

Attachments:

- Exceedance Policy and Action Plan Version 3.0 (August 2026) and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions – Version 2.0 (August 2026) – Redline
- Exceedance Policy and Action Plan Version 3.0 (August 2026) and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provisions – Version 2.0 (August 2026) – Clean