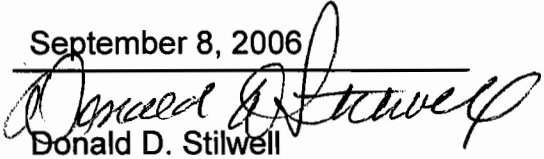


MEMORANDUM
FROM
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: September 8, 2006

FROM: 
Donald D. Stilwell

County Manager

To: BoCC

RE: Compilation of DR/GR Studies

Commissioners:

Per your discussion on Aug. 15 regarding the many studies that have been commissioned on the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource Area (DR/GR), we committed to come back with a plan for "compiling" those studies.

We currently are doing a nationwide search for an outside, unbiased expert – in environmental sciences, systems ecology, or a similar discipline – who can consolidate the numerous that exist.

Two staff members currently are researching the Internet, Lexus/Nexus, academia, symposium speaker lists, journals and articles, etc., in an attempt to identify potential experts, with the following parameters:

- The person should have no vested interest in the DR/GR, and preferably be from outside our area, or even the state (similar to the consultant we retained for the blasting study).
- The person should be non-partisan and objective.
- The person should have the appropriate credentials.
- The person should be highly recommended by colleagues.

We have identified a number of firms/candidates. Once we have a short list, the County Manager and his designees will interview finalists and make a selection.

The preliminary charge of the expert will be to take all of the studies and:

- Enumerate the commonalities and consistencies in the studies.
- Enumerate the differences or inconsistencies.
- Give an indication of which data is most current, and which is outdated.
- Provide an objective, professional opinion on the studies' conclusions and, hopefully, provide a singular conclusion.

We hope to have the expert on board within a month and then project a six-month study, with results in spring 2007.

We will keep you apprised throughout the process.

Please let me know if you have further thoughts or concerns.

Thank you.

Cc: David Owen, County Attorney