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## **NEWSLINES**

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Nevertheless, Paul Gosselin, director of the county's Department of Water and Resource Conservation, told the board that in hindsight, he didn't do an adequate job of explaining the concept behind the study of the pipeline project. It wasn't meant to be an exhaustive examination of a pipeline, just an initial "first phase" look

Gosselin added that the study did start the discussion about incounty use of Table A water, of which it pays for 27,500 acre-feet per year. He said the county had been funding the pipeline feasibility study with grant money earmarked for exploring groundwater sustainability projects. The county, he said, is principally interested in reducing groundwater pumping in groundwater-dependent areas, such as Chico. A pipeline from Paradise to Chico could move surface water—whether it be Table A or other available water in the county—to the basin to help curb over-pumping.

To avoid confusion raised by the pipeline study in the future, County Counsel Bruce Alpert suggested that the board direct staff to bring forward for discussion any ideas or projects that would use Table A water. The suggestion appeared to be met with approval by the supervisors.

## In the final water-related action

taken Tuesday, the board unanimously approved a motion by Ritter that directed staff to explore water conservation in the county. Ritter said efforts to sustain groundwater basins shouldn't look only at ways to refill them.

"When we are looking at conservation efforts, we have to start thinking differently," she said. "We should be looking at other jurisdictions, what they have done. Look at places that have similar climates and how they xeriscape and how they use native species, and how that cuts down on water use."

Gosselin said conservation techniques could fit nicely within the county's sustainability goals, and he would report his findings to the board on a regular basis.

—ANDRE BYIK

andreb@newsreview.com