



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Kim Fritz-Ogren, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Manager  
Steven Parrett, Planning Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item L, June 17, 2022  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### **Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative Planning Update**

#### **I. Introduction**

Mark Owens, Farmer and State Representative, District 60; Brenda Smith, Executive Director, High Desert Partnership; Holly Mondo, Planning Project Manager; Kim Fritz-Ogren, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section Manager; and Steve Parrett, Planning Coordinator; will present an update on the Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative's planning progress and the groundwater portion of their integrated plan. This is an informational report.

#### **II. Background**

Since 2016, the Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative (Collaborative) has been conducting place-based integrated water planning in partnership with the state, following the 2015 Draft Place-Based Planning Guidelines. The Collaborative is working to complete the groundwater portion of their integrated water resources plan, outlining their planning progress to date, key findings, and more than two dozen strategies developed by the Collaborative to help address groundwater declines and related issues in the planning area.

Concurrent with this planning effort, the Department and the U.S. Geological Survey conducted a groundwater study to better understand groundwater resources and issues of the Harney Basin. The groundwater study results were published in April 2022. More information is included in Agenda Item J.

#### **III. Discussion**

Based on results of the groundwater study, the Department will need to work with basin interests to reduce groundwater use. The Collaborative's plan will be an important source of information about the community's desired future conditions and strategies for achieving a more sustainable use of groundwater. The Department is committed to working with the Collaborative to

complete development of the groundwater portion of this plan and will work to incorporate principles and actions from the plan into Department efforts as appropriate.

#### **IV. Summary**

The Department will continue to engage with the Collaborative and people in the basin to chart a pathway forward to prioritize work and address groundwater declines and other issues in the basin.

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