SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-F**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: February 2, 2017

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT ON EFFECT AND RESPONSE TO JANUARY FLOODING

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive a report on the effects of the January flooding on District facilities and operations and provide direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

DISCUSSION:

For the past few months we have been periodically discussing the District's flooding plan for the Guerneville System because of State Division of Drinking Water concerns about System water quality when the El Bonita Well Field becomes inundated by Russian River flooding. The well field is relative low lying and flooding by the Russian River can be expected on a frequent basis. The District had negotiated a flooding plan the included sealing the well vaults, operational changes at the Highland Treatment Plant, and customer notifications.

The first week of January it became apparent that flooding of the El Bonita Well Field was likely and by January 6 it appeared imminent. On Sunday, January 8, District staff came into the office to do the automated phone calling that provided the customer notice of the precautionary warning. In the early morning of January 9 the well field became inundated and stayed that way until Thursday, January 12. The Flooding Plan requires two days of clear samples post flood and the sample results are not available until approximately 24 hours after the samples are taken, so the end of the precautionary warning period happened on Saturday afternoon. Because that was a weekend and the following Monday was a holiday (Martin Luther King Day), notice to our customers canceling the precautionary warning was provided on Tuesday, January 17. The River has stayed high since then with peaks from following storms but the well field has stayed above any flooding. Observations:

This was the first time for this kind of customer notification. We got many call backs and have edited our call out message for better clarity for what we are trying to convey. Many of the call backs (and maybe not call backs) thought it was a boil water notice.

The Flooding Plan worked mostly as expected. We would like to discuss with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) about the sampling requirements - it makes more sense to use to be sampling water quality during the flooding event, rather than after it is over. The delay prolongs the precautionary warning period unnecessarily and the concern for water quality impairment should be during the flooding more than after it is over.

The well vault seals worked well. Well 4 had 19 inches in the vault post flood but that was from leakage along a distribution line seal. Well 5 apparently had no leakage anywhere and

Well 6 had 2 inches of water which leaked through the seal - that has been fixed as well as the distribution line seal failure in the Well 4 vault.

The flooding caused no major damage to El Bonita Well Field or other District facilities. Operations went smoothly. A major impact of the Flooding Plan is the necessity to manually operate Highland tanks and the wells. On-call staff have to work in the middle of the night to keep the system going during flooding events.

The District has property involved in the Santa Rosa Avenue landslide. No District facilities or water lines were affected; we know of at least one residential meter that has been buried. We will provide you with more details when we know more.