



BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

## AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 3, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Southern Deschutes County Groundwater Protection Program / Annual Report

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Information only.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The La Pine subbasin serves as the primary drinking water source for thousands of residents south of Sunriver. However, groundwater investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) indicate that this sole source aquifer is vulnerable to nitrate loading from onsite wastewater systems, posing a long-term threat to public health and the environment.

The *Southern Deschutes County Groundwater Protection Program Annual Report* provides an update on the status, progress, and challenges related to protecting the groundwater in this subbasin. The Community Development Department will update the report annually to identify changes in environmental conditions, development patterns, emerging opportunities, and/or the outcomes of ongoing initiatives. By documenting these efforts, Deschutes County is showcasing its commitment to mitigating the impacts from nitrate pollution.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None

**ATTENDANCE:**

Peter Gutowsky, CDD Director

Todd Cleveland, Onsite Wastewater Manager