

county of ventura



JEFF PRATT
Agency Director

Central Services Department
J. Tabin Coslo, Director

Engineering Services Department
Christopher Cooper, Director

Transportation Department
David Felsch, Director

Water & Sanitation Department
Michaela Brown, Director

Watershed Protection District
Glenn Shephard, Director

June 19, 2018

Board of Directors
Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency
PO Box 1110
Fillmore, CA 93016

SUBJECT: Support of Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Proposed Basin Boundary Modifications relating to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Dear Directors:

On behalf of the County of Ventura, we have reviewed the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's proposed Basin Boundary Modification. The County supports and recommends the California Department of Water Resources' approval of the proposed basin boundary adjustments.

In addition, the County would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency for its collaboration and inclusive approach as it relates to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Ventura County remains committed to working cooperatively with its partner agencies through the SGMA implementation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pratt".

Jeff Pratt, P.E.
Director

Cc: Ventura County Board of Supervisors





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June 19, 2018

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Letters of Support to the Fillmore and Piru Basins and the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for the Proposed Basin Boundary Modifications for the Mound, Fillmore and Piru Sub-Basins of the Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin Adjacent to the Santa Paula Sub-Basin of the Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin.**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that your Board authorize the Director of Public Works to sign letters of support for the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency Basin Boundary Modification Requests.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Discussion:

The Santa Paula Sub-Basin of the Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin (Santa Paula Basin) is an adjudicated groundwater basin. Adjudicated groundwater basins are exempt from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) requirement under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). However, the adjudicated area boundaries are not coterminous with the State Department of Water Resource's (DWR) Bulletin 118 basin boundaries. The discrepancy results in what DWR has described as "fringe areas" – areas that lie outside the adjudicated basin boundaries but within DWR's "Bulletin 118" boundaries. This is most likely the result of a more detailed analysis of better available data for the development of the Santa Paula Basin's adjudicated basin boundary.

On June, 20, 2017, the County became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for those portions of the Santa Paula Basin that lie beyond the adjudicated area. Becoming the GSA for these areas was necessary to avoid having DWR step in to manage the areas.



SGMA established a process for local agencies to ask DWR to revise the boundaries of existing groundwater basins. Boundary modification requests can be a scientific modification, based on the geologic or hydrologic conditions that define a groundwater basin, or a jurisdictional modification which promotes sustainable groundwater management.

The majority of the Santa Paula Basin fringe areas are identified by the Mound Basin GSA to the west, and the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA (FPB GSA) to the east in basin boundary modification initial notifications to DWR. If successful, the vast majority of wells in the Santa Paula Basin fringe areas will be managed under the respective Groundwater Sustainability Plans adopted by those GSAs. Letters of support (Exhibit 1) for these basin boundary modifications are requested to facilitate DWR's evaluation of the proposed changes.

Fillmore Sub-Basin

The FPB GSA has worked with stakeholders to develop a proposal for adjusting the western boundary of the Fillmore Basin adjacent to the down-gradient Santa Paula Basin. The boundary is to be aligned with the Santa Paula Basin adjudicated basin boundary, thus eliminating the part of the fringe area. The FPB GSA is also requesting a general refinement of their basin boundaries to better reflect the scientific understanding of the geology. This includes moving the internal basin boundary between Fillmore and Piru Basins approximately one mile west to align more precisely with the area of rising groundwater near the Fillmore Fish Hatchery.

Mound Sub-Basin

The Mound Basin GSA is requesting alignment on the north and south edges of the Santa Paula Basin boundary in the areas hydrologically connected to the Mound Basin.

Santa Paula Basin

With these changes, there still remains several small areas within the Santa Paula Basin where the DWR Bulletin 118 Basin Boundary does not match the boundary of the adjudicated basin. The County is the GSA for these areas, and subject to SGMA requirements. However, on May 18, 2018 DWR released a draft basin prioritization and reduced the Santa Paula Basin to very low priority. As a very low priority basin, the requirement under SGMA to develop a GSP would no longer apply, but the County would still have authority to manage these areas as the GSA.

The south east fringe area not requested to be included in the Mound Basin can be managed in coordination with the Oxnard Basin. This small area has only one well and borders a fringe area of the Oxnard Basin; the County is the GSA for the Oxnard Basin fringe areas. The majority of the Oxnard Basin is within the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA). FCGMA is identified as the exclusive local agency in SGMA to manage basins within their jurisdiction and a Ground Water Sustainability Plan is being developed for the entire basin, including the fringe areas. For the areas outside of

FCGMA jurisdiction coordination agreements can be used for consistent management when there are multiple GSAs.

The remaining fringe areas within the Santa Paula Basin in the foothills and far up Santa Paula Creek, include two domestic, three irrigation, and three municipal wells. Together these wells have historically pumped less than 100 acre feet per year. Due to the geology of these areas they were not considered part of the Santa Paula Basin when the adjudicated basin boundary was created. The County, as the Santa Paula Basin GSA, may choose to manage these areas with a GSP or alternative GSP. If DWR's Draft 2018 Basin Prioritization is finalized without changes, the SGMA requirements will not apply, and the County will be in compliance with SGMA if no action is taken.

Approval of this item allows the Director of Public Works to sign letters of support for the Mound Basin GSA and the FPB GSA Basin Boundary Modification Requests. This item has been reviewed by the Auditor-Controller's Office, County Executive Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Arne Anselm at (805) 654-3942 or me at (805) 654-2040.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Shephard', with a stylized, flowing script.

Glenn Shephard, P.E.
Director, Watershed Protection District

Attachments:

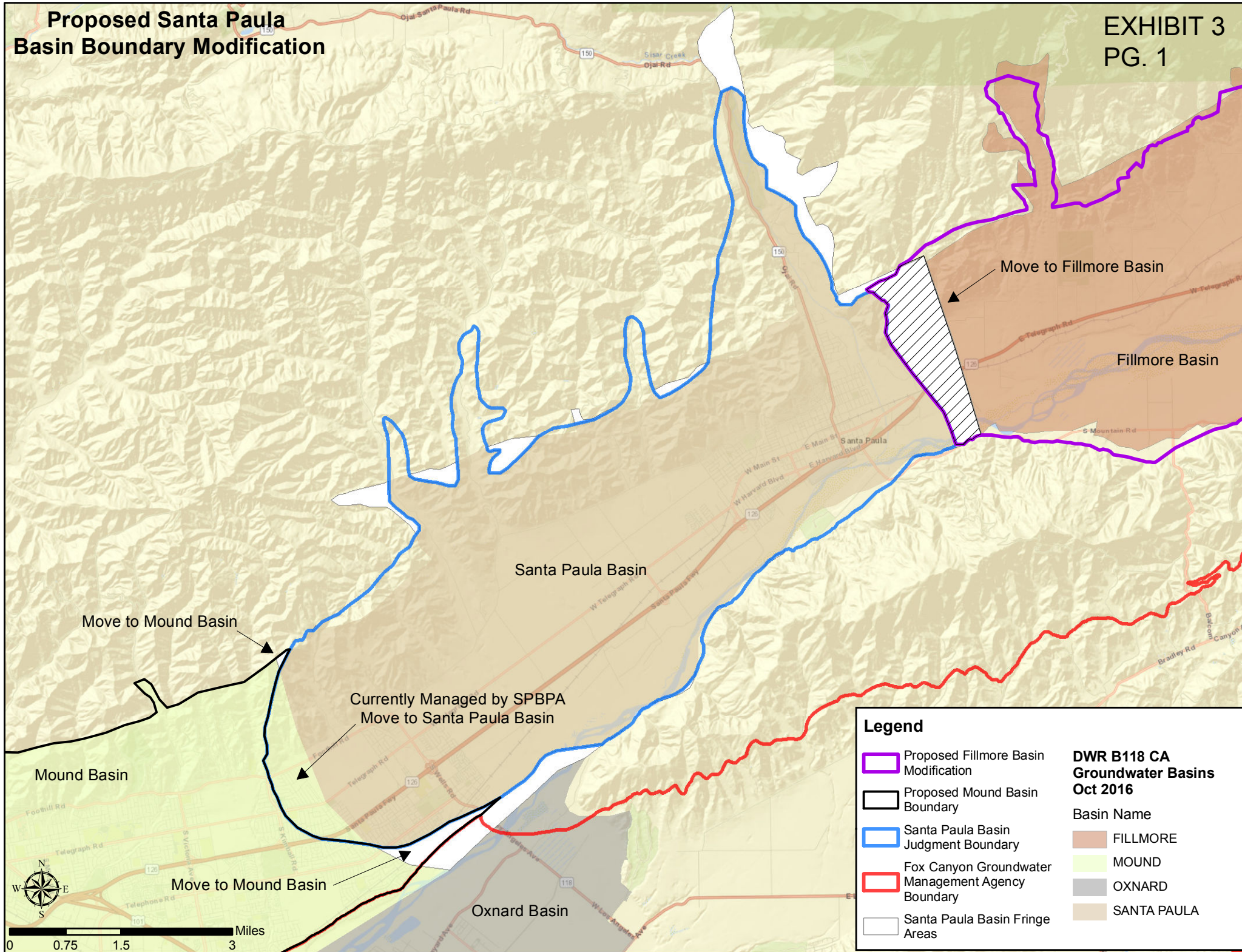
- Exhibit 1 – Draft Letters of Support for Basin Boundary Modification Requests
- Exhibit 2 – Santa Paula Basin Fringe Area Map
- Exhibit 3 – Proposed Fillmore Basin and Piru Basin Boundary Modification
- Exhibit 4 – Proposed Mound Basin Boundary Modification

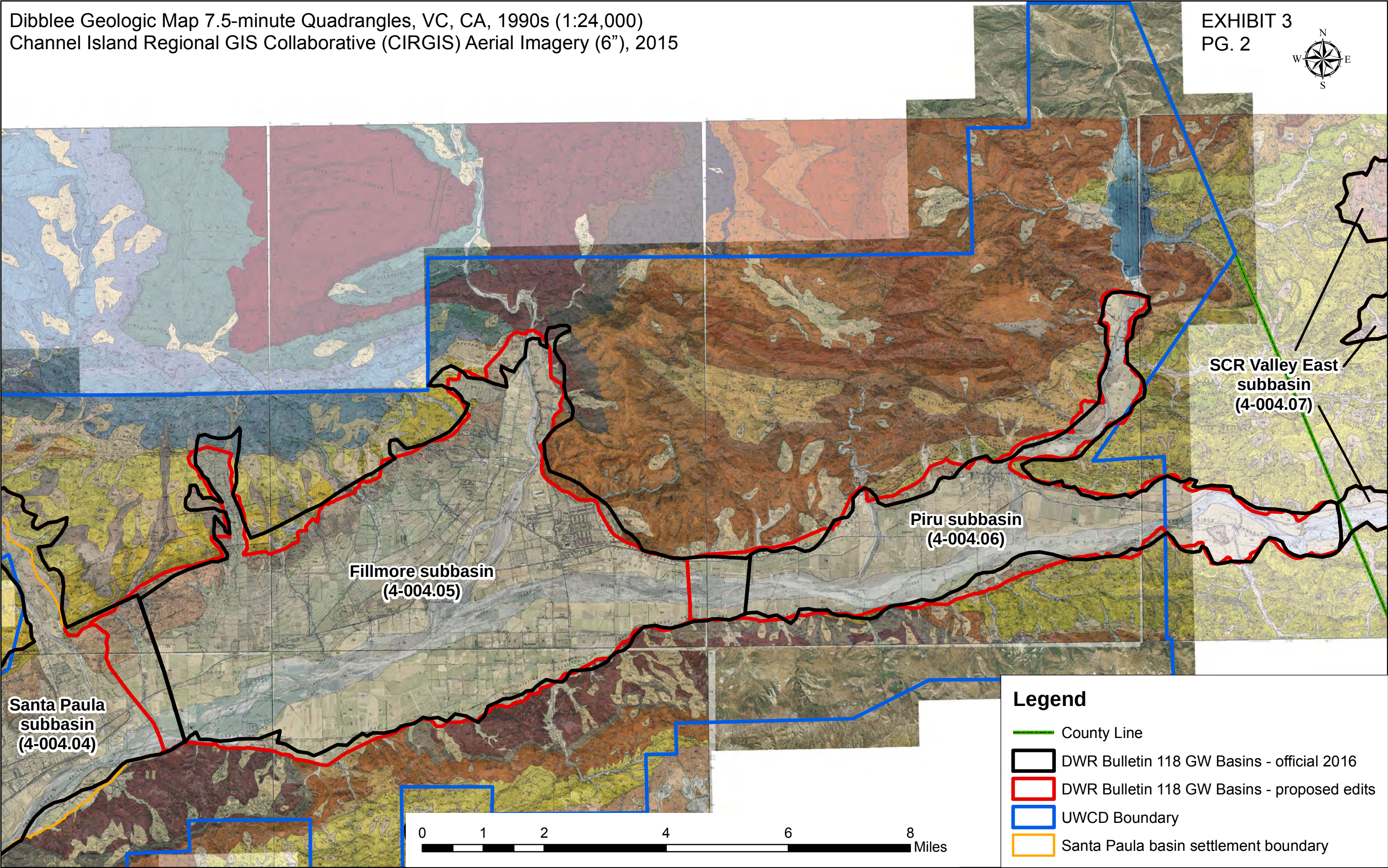
 All Other B118 Basins
 Santa Paula Basin Judgment Boundary

 SANTA PAULA
 DWR B118 Santa Paula Fringe Areas

Proposed Santa Paula Basin Boundary Modification

EXHIBIT 3
PG. 1





Proposed Mound Basin Boundary Modification

EXHIBIT 4

