

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I do hereby certify that at its meeting held December 21, 2016, the Orange County Water District Board of Directors approved and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
TO SUPPORT SUBMISSION OF BASIN 8-1 ALTERNATIVE TO THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO COMPLY WITH THE SUSTAINABLE
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT.

(CCR, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 1)

WHEREAS, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, collectively comprising the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which took effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the SGMA requires all high and medium priority groundwater basins as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a process that will lead to or ensure continuation of sustainable groundwater management; and,

WHEREAS, the SGMA has designated the Orange County Water District (OCWD) as the exclusive local agency within its statutory boundaries to comply with SGMA per Water Code Section 10723 (c)(1); and,

WHEREAS, the SGMA allows local agencies to submit an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative) by January 1, 2017 that shows an entire basin has been sustainably managed for 10 years or more and otherwise satisfies the objectives of SGMA (Water Code Section 10733.6 (b)(3)); and,

WHEREAS, OCWD has consulted with and has been working with other affected Counties, local agencies, public water systems, and stakeholders that are within or adjacent to the Coastal Plain of Orange County Groundwater Basin, a medium priority basin, designated in DWR Bulletin 118 as Basin 8-1 (Basin 8-1); and,

WHEREAS, to be approved by DWR an Alternative must demonstrate management of an entire Bulletin 118 basin; and

WHEREAS, OCWD's boundaries cover a majority of, but not all of the area within Basin 8-1; and,

WHEREAS, a number of local agencies overlies areas of Basin 8-1 that fall outside of OCWD's boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, OCWD, in collaboration with other agencies, principally the City of La Habra and Irvine Ranch Water District, has prepared and compiled an Alternative that will facilitate and ensure sustainable management in the entirety of the Basin 8-1; and,

WHEREAS, OCWD, the City of La Habra, and the Irvine Ranch Water District have agreed to jointly submit the Alternative to DWR and are referred to in the Alternative submission as 'submitting agencies'; and,

WHEREAS, the Alternative does not authorize (or otherwise empower) the other submitting agencies to require OCWD to take any action, or refrain from taking any action; and,

WHEREAS, the Alternative discusses Basin 8-1's physical features, the OCWD's facilities and monitoring and operating programs, and the management tools available to manage the basin for each of the submitting agencies, but does not bind, commit, or predispose OCWD to further consideration, approval or implementation of any potential project; and,

WHEREAS, Submission of the Alternative to DWR does not have the effect of approving any current or future project but instead describes a continuing process of groundwater management that OCWD has utilized in largely the same manner since prior to the enactment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 1970; and,

WHEREAS, If any individual future project discussed in the Alternative is carried forward by the District for approval, an Engineer's Report will be prepared for that potential project for consideration by the Board of Directors, as required by Section 20.7 of the District Act. The District will also concurrently conduct appropriate environmental analysis in accordance with CEQA with respect to each potential project that is carried forward for consideration and possible approval by the OCWD Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, submission of the Alternative will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not a "project" regulated by CEQA. To the extent it could be considered a "project" for purposes of CEQA, the Alternative is exempt from CEQA per State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15261 (Ongoing Project), 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), and 15306 (Information Collection and Management); and,

WHEREAS, DWR has a statutory deadline of January 1, 2017 by which the Alternative for all of Basin 8-1, must be submitted to DWR; and,

WHEREAS, the submitting agencies are prepared to submit the Alternative covering all of Basin 8-1 to DWR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND HEREBY ORDERED that the Orange County Water District Board of Directors approves the following:

1. The Orange County Water District authorizes the General Manager or his designee to submit the Basin 8-1 Alternative to DWR.
2. The General Manager or his designee is authorized to submit other required information associated with the Alternative to DWR and/or make minor modifications to the Alternative in response to comments on the Alternative.

3. District staff is authorized and directed to file a notice of exemption in accordance with CEQA regarding OCWD's submission of the Alternative.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on December 21, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRK', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judy-Rae Karlsen, Assistant District Secretary