

ETS GSA JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
P O BOX 280  
DENAIR, CA 95316

March 31, 2017

Mr. Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Section  
California Department of Water Resources  
Post Office Box 94286  
901 P Street, Room 213A  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001  
[Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov)

RE: EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA FORMATION

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

This letter serves as notification to the California Department of Water Resources that the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (ETS GSA JPA), a joint powers agency created on March 7, 2017 has elected to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8, and its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for that portion of the Turlock Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 5-22.03) (Basin) that lies within the boundaries of the ETS GSA JPA (GSA Basin).

A map and shapefile showing the Basin, the GSA Basin, and the proposed area of the GSA is attached in **Exhibit A**. The ETS GSA JPA was formed, and is governed by, the Governance Agreement attached as **Exhibit B**.

The ETS GSA JPA is in discussions with other agencies overlying the Basin, and is interested in working cooperatively with them. To its best knowledge, the other entities considering formation of a GSA within the Basin boundaries currently include:

West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

A copy of the resolution electing to become a GSA for the GSA Basin is attached in **Exhibit C**.

Prior to the election to become a GSA, public hearings were held on March 30, 2017 in Stanislaus County, and on March 31, 2017 in Merced County, pursuant to Water Code section 10723(b).

As required by Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4), ETS GSA JPA has developed a list of interested parties, and this list will continue to be amended as necessary during the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process. As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the ETS GSA JPA will consider all beneficial uses and users of

groundwater within the Basin, as well as those responsible for developing GSPs. The ETS GSA JPA will solicit feedback and participate in discussions with interested parties during GSP development. These interests include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:*

- *Agriculture users.*

Three members of the ETS GSA JPA are agricultural water districts, who represent the majority of irrigated agriculture within the GSA Basin. Therefore, agricultural users are exclusively represented on the ETSGSA JPA governing board.

- *Domestic well owners.*

There are domestic wells within the GSA, however, based on the understanding of groundwater conditions that currently exist, or are likely to exist in the foreseeable future, the GSA anticipates that the plan will exclude domestic wells.

- *Municipal well operators.*

The City of Turlock operates municipal wells within the GSA Basin, and is a proposed associate member of the ETS GSA JPA.

- *Public water systems.*

The ETS GSA JPA will work through its members to identify any public water systems within the GSA Basin relying on groundwater supplies.

- *Local land use planning agencies.*

The City of Turlock is a proposed associate member and Stanislaus County is a members of the ETS GSA JPA, and constitute the local land use planning agencies within the GSA Basin.

- *Environmental users of groundwater.*

The ETS GSA JPA will work through its members to identify agencies advocating for environmental uses within the GSA Basin and will work with those entities in developing the GSA.

- *Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater flows.*

All surface water providers within the GSA Basin are members of the ETS GSA JPA.

- *The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.*

The ETS GSA JPA will work with the federal government in development of the GSP for the GSA Basin.

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- *California Native American tribes.* N/A
- *Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.* The ETS GSA JPA has identified disadvantaged communities within the basin from DWR's web page, and will cooperate with Stanislaus and Merced Counties to work with any disadvantaged communities within the GSA relying on groundwater supplies.
- *Entities listed in Water Code section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA.* Members of the ETS GSA JPA have groundwater management plans adopted under Water Code Section 10750, et seq., and many of those members have existing programs to collect and monitor groundwater data. The ETS GSA JPA will continue to coordinate with those entities regarding the GSP.

The ETS GSA JPA intends to work cooperatively with other agencies, water providers, and other interested stakeholders within Stanislaus and Merced Counties and the State of California regarding the sustainable management of groundwater within the Basin.

If the Department of Water Resources requires additional information, please contact Kevin Kauffman at (209) 478-4940.

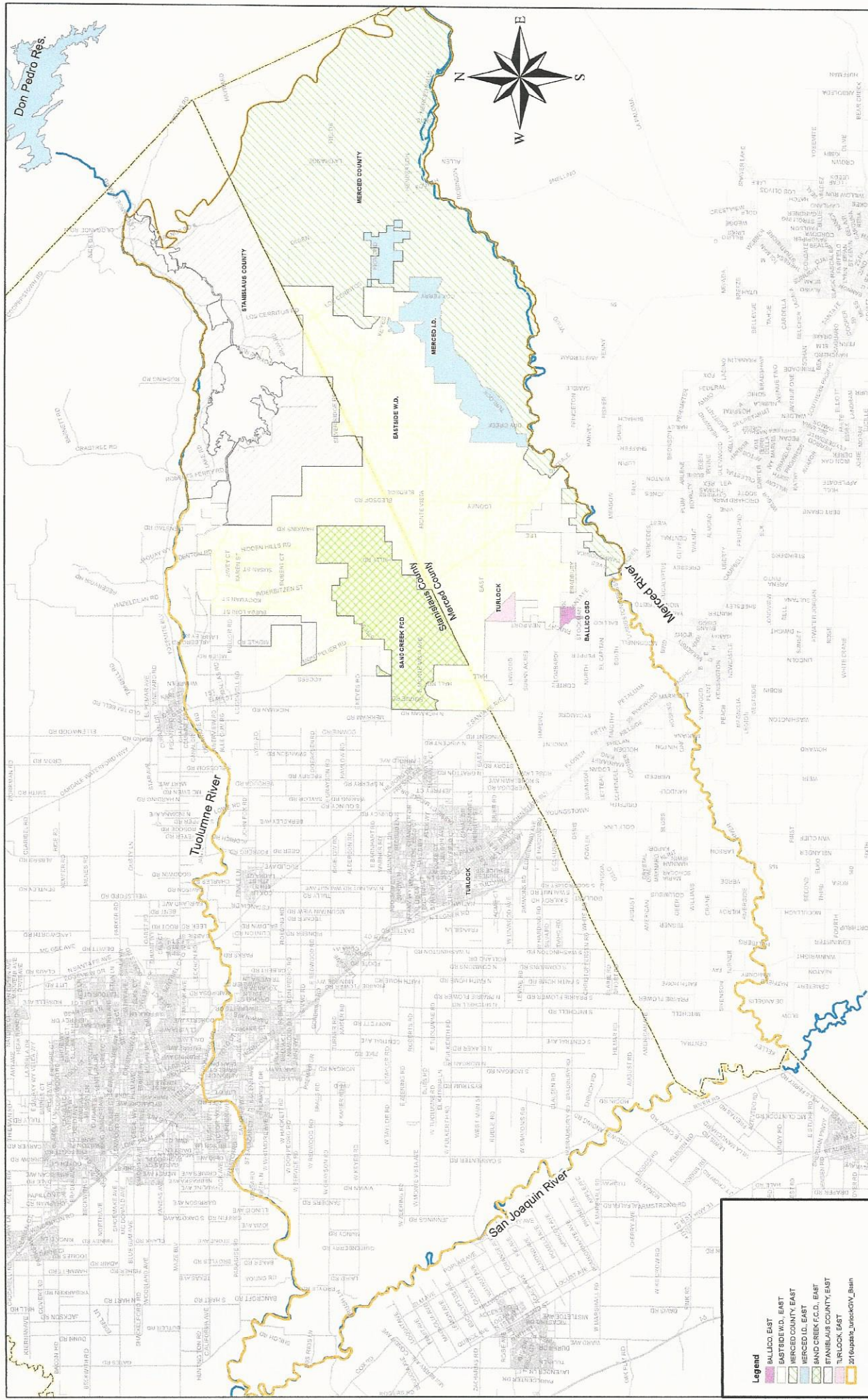
Very truly yours,



Al Rossini  
ETS GSA JPA CHAIR

Attachments:

- Exhibit A – Map/GIS shape file of the GSA Basin
- Exhibit B – Governance Agreement
- Exhibit C – Resolution of election to become a GSA



East Turlock Subbasin Agencies

14 Miles

Exhibit A

**East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETS GSA)  
Joint Powers Agreement**

This Joint Powers Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and among the agencies that have executed the Agreement, as identified in Exhibit A, which are referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, each of the Parties to this Agreement is a local government entity with either water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within Turlock Subbasin (DWR# 5-22.03) and over and within the boundary of its eastern portion known as the East Turlock Subbasin (ETS); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5, commencing with Section 6500 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code), two or more public agencies may by agreement jointly exercise any power held in common by agencies entering into such an agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (the Act); and

**WHEREAS**, the Act went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act (i) requires sustainable management of certain groundwater basins, (ii) enhances local management of groundwater, (iii) requires local government to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and (iv) provides local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties intend for the joint powers agency formed pursuant to this Agreement to become the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETS GSA) prior to July 1, 2017 within the boundaries provided in Exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, at or following the first meeting of the ETS GSA, this agency will hold a public hearing and consider a resolution to elect to become a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to California Water Code section 10723(b); and

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code section 10720.7 requires all basins designated as high-or-medium priority basins by California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program (CASGEM) to be managed under groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, this joint powers agency's service area overlies portions of the Turlock Subbasin (DWR# 5-22.03), a CASGEM designated medium priority basin; and

**EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-17-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE EAST TURLOCK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO  
BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UNDER THE  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT FOR THE TURLOCK  
SUBBASIN**

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA requires all high and medium priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin; and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA authorizes any local agency overlying the Basin to elect to become a GSA within the Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (ETS GSA JPA) was formed on March 7, 2017 by and through that Governance Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the ETS GSA JPA is comprised of local agencies as defined under the SGMA and are therefore eligible to serve as a GSA within the Basin, or to form an independent Joint Powers Agency to serve as a GSA within the Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10723.2 of the SGMA requires that a GSA consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10723.8 of the SGMA requires that a local agency electing to be a GSA to notify the DWR of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the ETS GSA JPA held a public hearing on March 30 and March 31, 2017 in Stanislaus and Merced Counties, respectively, and on March 31, 2017 in Merced County, after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider the adoption of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the ETS GSA JPA wishes to exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA granted by the SGMA;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the ETS GSA JPA hereby elects to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that portion of the Turlock Subbasin lying within its boundaries; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the ETS GSA JPA will develop an outreach program to include all stakeholders to ensure that all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are considered; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the ETS GSA JPA has been authorized to submit to the DWR a notice of intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management in accordance with the SGMA (Part 2.74 of the Water Code); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such notification shall include the boundaries of the Turlock Subbasin that the ETSGSA JPA intends to manage, a copy of this resolution, a list of interested parties developed pursuant to Section 10723.2 of the SGMA, and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the ETSGSA JPA's groundwater sustainability plan.

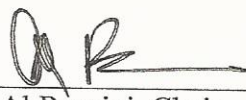
On motion by Member CHIESA and seconded by Member ULRICH, the forgoing resolution was passed and adopted on March 31, 2017 by the following vote.

AYES – Members Rossini, ~~Pereira~~, Chiesa, Ulrich, and ElTal

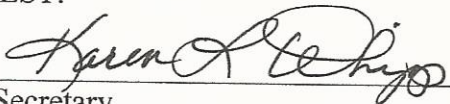
NOES – none

ABSTAINS – none

ABSENT – ~~none~~ PEREIRA

By:   
Al Rossini, Chair

ATTEST:

By:   
Secretary