

Chowchilla Water District

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Board of Directors

Dan Maddalena ♦ Michael Mandala ♦ Vince Taylor ♦ Kole M. Upton ♦ Russell Harris

December 22, 2016

Via Email & U.S. Mail

Mr. Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Mr. Dane Mathis
Sup. Engineering Geologist
3374 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
Dane.Mathis@water.ca.gov

RE: ***Notice of the Chowchilla Water District Intent to Serve as Groundwater
Sustainability Agency for a Portion of the Chowchilla Groundwater Subbasin***

Gentlemen:

This letter constitutes notice to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), pursuant to Water Code sections 10723(d) and 10723.8, of the Chowchilla Water District's (CWD or District) intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management of a portion of the Chowchilla Subbasin (the Basin) as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The District is a public agency with water supply and water management responsibilities in over half of the surface acreage of the Basin.

The proposed Chowchilla Water District GSA management area is about 86,000 acres, or about 59% of the entire Basin (145,940 acres). The GSA will include that portion of the City of Chowchilla that falls within the District service area in the Basin. The District will coordinate with the City of Chowchilla in the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The District has been actively coordinating efforts with other local agencies¹ and other interests² in the Basin and intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding or other form of agreement with these parties to coordinate preparation of a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Basin.

The District has held several public meetings to receive input on whether the District should serve as the GSA.³ On December 14, 2016, the District held a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed GSA. Notice of this hearing was provided in compliance with Water Code Section 10723(b) and Government Code Section 6066.

There were no comments submitted prior to or during the hearing on December 14, 2016,

At the conclusion of the December 14, 2016 hearing, the District Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2016-17, electing to serve as the GSA. This notice of intent is timely filed within 30 days of the date of that action.

Copies of the Resolution and a map showing the proposed Chowchilla Water District GSA management area are attached. No new bylaws, ordinances, or other new authorities were adopted in connection with this resolution to serve as GSA.

Interested Parties

Pursuant to Sections 10723.2 and 10723.8(a)(4) of the Water Code, the following is a list of “interested parties” in the Basin, followed by an explanation on how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and development and implementation of the GSP:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users

The District encompasses about 86,000 acres of which about 75,000 acres are irrigated agriculture. The District’s agricultural users receive surface water through the District from the Friant Dam via the Madera Canal and the Buchanan Dam via the Chowchilla River and are also groundwater users.

¹ City of Chowchilla, County of Madera, County of Merced, Clayton Water District, and landowners forming the Triangle T Water District.

² Sierra Vista Mutual Water Company, Madera County Farm Bureau

³ June 15, 2016, October 12, 2016, November 9, 2016, December 13, 2016, December 14, 2016

(2) Domestic well owners

There are over 600 domestic wells within the proposed GSA management area.

(b) Municipal well operators

City of Chowchilla, MD 33 Fairmead, MD85 Valeta

(c) Public water systems

See Municipal well operators, above. Additional public water systems within the proposed GSA management area may be identified during the SGMA implementation process.

(d) Local land use planning agencies

Madera and Merced Counties

(e) Environmental users of groundwater

N/A. None within the proposed GSA management area.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies

The District manages the delivery of surface water used within the proposed management area. The interests of other nearby holders of surface water rights will be considered in the development of the GSP.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands

N/A.

(h) California Native American tribes

N/A. None within the proposed GSA management area.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems

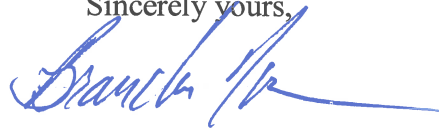
There are disadvantaged communities near and adjacent to the proposed management area: Fairmead, Chowchilla

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency

Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI)
Madera-Chowchilla CASGEM Group

The interests of the interested parties identified above will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSP. The District is committed to an open and inclusive process to implement SGMA. Interested parties will have opportunities, both formal and informal, to provide input to the District throughout the process of developing, operating, and implementing the GSA and GSP. Such opportunities may include, but are not limited to, public workshops and comment periods required by SGMA (e.g., Water Code section 10728.4); opportunities for public comment during the District regular and special board meetings; and at other times to be determined and noticed pursuant to Water Code section 10727.8(a)).

Sincerely yours,



Brandon Tomlinson
Acting General Manager
Chowchilla Water District

Enclosures

CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-17

RESOLUTION ELECTING TO ESTABLISH CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT AS A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THOSE PORTIONS OF THE CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code § 10720 *et seq.*) pursuant to Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, which was approved by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the SGMA went into 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) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or multiple GSAs; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowchilla Groundwater Sub-basin has been designated by DWR as a high-priority basin and in critical groundwater overdraft; and,

WHEREAS, the SGMA authorizes a local public agency overlying a groundwater sub-basin to elect to become a GSA; and,

WHEREAS, Chowchilla Water District (the "District") is a local public agency as defined under the SGMA and is therefore eligible to serve as a GSA; 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 public agency electing to be a GSA to notify the DWR of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a sub-basin; and,

WHEREAS, the District is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notices of a public hearing regarding whether to adopt a Resolution to elect to become a GSA were published on November 30th and December 7th, 2016 in the Chowchilla News; and Merced Sun Star.

WHEREAS, the District held a public hearing on December 14, 2016, after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider adoption of this Resolution; and,

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Directors of Chowchilla Water District hereby elects to become a GSA for those portions of Chowchilla subbasin shown in the map attached hereto as **Exhibit A**; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District authorizes the General Manager to, within 30 days from the date of this Resolution, provide notification of this election to the DWR, including a copy of this Resolution and additional information required by Water Code Section 10723.8, in the manner required by law.

AYES: Upton, Mandala, Taylor, Harris, and Maddalena

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

Brandon Tomlinson



General Manager

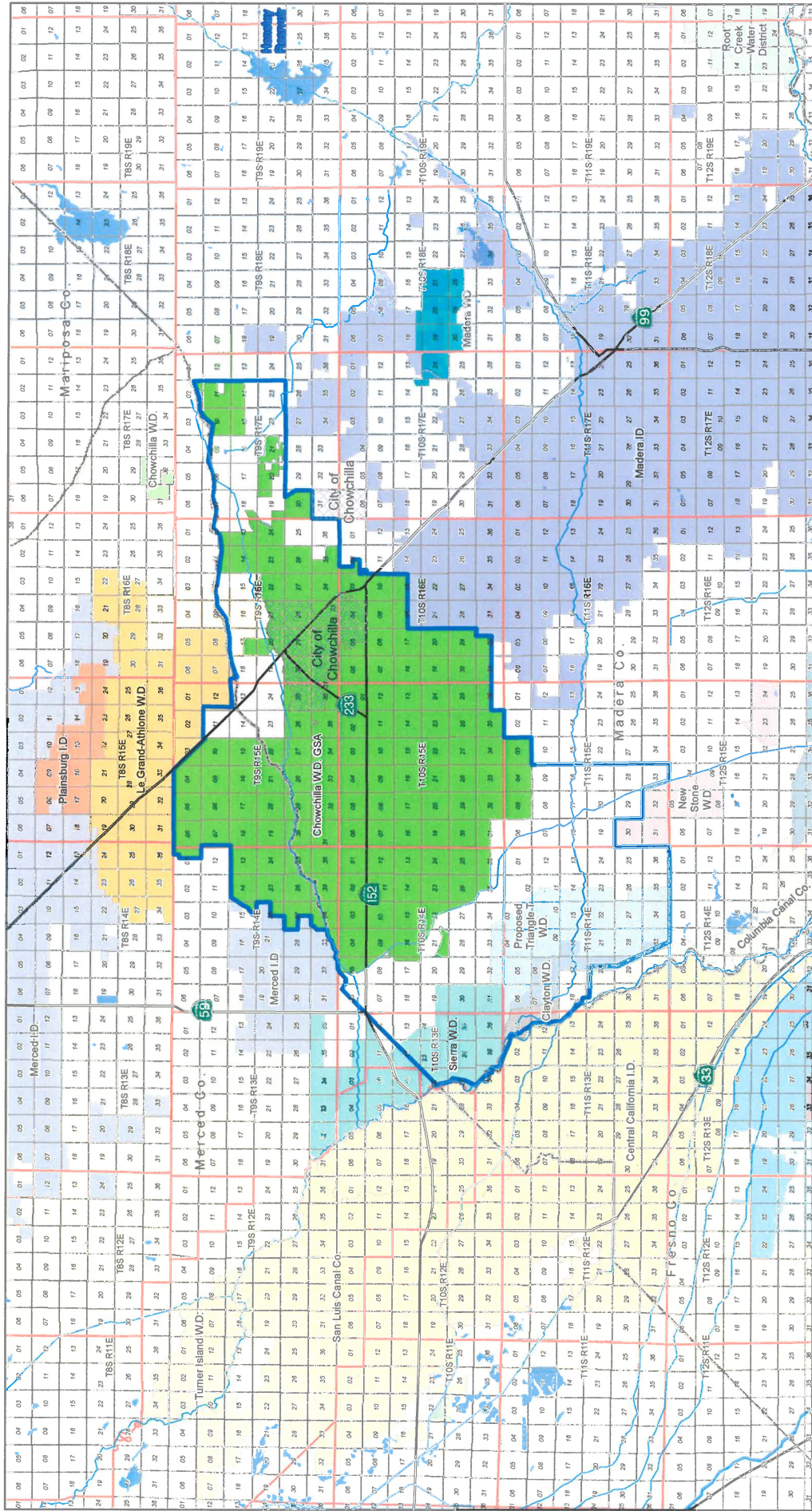
CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

The undersigned, Secretary of the Chowchilla Water District, hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a meeting thereof, duly and specially held on December 14th, 2016 at which meeting a quorum of the Board of Directors was at all times present and acting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 14th day of December, 2016.



Secretary



Chowchilla Water District GSA



County Line

PLS Townships

Chowchilla W.D. GSA

Chowchilla Subbasin



PROVOST & PRITCHARD
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
An Employee Owned Company

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(559) 449-2700

*Groundwater Subbasin boundaries are considered approximate.