

RESOLUTION 2978

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO
BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY FOR UNADJUDICATED PORTIONS OF
THE RIVERSIDE-ARLINGTON SUBBASIN

WHEREAS, The Western Municipal Water District (District) is a special district, created to provide water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in both a wholesale and retail capacity, serving approximately 900,000 people, in western Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014 the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law, with an effective date of January 1, 2015, and codified at California Water Code, Section 10720 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of SGMA is to, among other goals, provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins and subbasins defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide specified local agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that California groundwater basins and subbasins designated by DWR as high priority or medium priority be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and that such management be accomplished pursuant to one or more approved Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the basin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10721(j) defines a GSA as one

or more local agencies that implement the provisions of SGMA; and

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin may decide to become a GSA over that basin (Water Code Sections 10721(n) and 10723); and

WHEREAS, the service area of the District overlies a portion of the Riverside-Arlington Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 8-2.03) (Arlington Subbasin), which is unadjudicated and designated as a high priority basin by DWR; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10723.8 requires that a local agency deciding to serve as a GSA notify DWR within 30 days of the local agency's decision to become a GSA authorized to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723.8 mandates that 90 days following the posting by DWR of the local agency's notice of decision to become a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for the area within the basin the agency is managing as described in the notice, provided that no other GSA formation notice covering the same area has been submitted to DWR; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code and Section 6066 of the California Government Code, a notice of public hearing was published in newspapers of general circulation in Riverside County regarding the District's intent to consider becoming a GSA for the Arlington Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act because it is an organizational activity that will not result in any

direct or indirect physical change in the environment (Title 14, Cal. Code Regs., § 15378(b)(5)); and

WHEREAS, becoming a GSA supports the District's ongoing efforts to ensure water supply sustainability for the Arlington Subbasin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County as follows:

Section 1. The District hereby elects to be the "Western MWD Riverside-Arlington Subbasin GSA" for all of those portions of the Arlington Subbasin underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries of the District.

Section 2. District staff is directed to submit to DWR, within thirty (30) days of the approval of this Resolution, the notice and supporting documentation required by Water Code section 10723.8 and any other documentation required by SGMA to support the District's formation of a GSA.

Section 3. This GSA will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans in the subbasin and will develop an outreach program for all stakeholders.

ADOPTED, this 19th day of April, 2017, by the Board of Directors of the Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County, California.



THOMAS P. EVANS
President

April 19, 2017

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution 2978 adopted by the Board of Directors of Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County at its regular meeting held April 19, 2017.



ROBERT STOCKTON
Secretary-Treasurer