

**Alpaugh Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

5458 Rd. 38  
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Alpaugh, CA 93201  
(559) 949-8323

May 31, 2016

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL ONLY**

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

**RE: NOTICE OF THE ALPAUGH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY'S  
ELECTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
FOR A PORTION OF THE TULE SUBBASIN**

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.8, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("**SGMA**"), the Alpaugh Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the "**GSA**") provides this notice to the Department of Water Resources ("**DWR**") of its election to become a groundwater sustainability agency and to undertake sustainable groundwater management in the portion of the Tule Subbasin (DWR Subbasin 5-22.13) underlying the GSA's boundaries<sup>1</sup>. The Tri-County Water Authority is the only other GSA in the basin.

The GSA was formed through a legal agreement by and between three local public agencies – Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District and Alpaugh Community Services District. The legal agreement for the formation of the GSA is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Please note that the members to the GSA anticipate forming a Joint Power Authority to include the same three agencies to operate as the GSA. Upon such formation, the GSA's application will be updated with DWR by submission of the Joint Powers Authority Agreement.

Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(1) requires that this GSA notification include information regarding the service area boundaries of the GSA and the boundaries of the basin the GSA intends to manage. Exhibit 2 hereto includes three (3) maps to satisfy the requirements of Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(1). The first map shows the GSA boundaries in relation to the entire Subbasin. The second map shows the GSA with the boundaries of each member of the GSA identified. Please note that the second map

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<sup>1</sup> Boundaries overlap with the boundaries of the Tri-County Water Authority (GSA Notice posted 3/18/16)

identifies certain lands that are in the process of being annexed into Alpaugh Irrigation District through Tulare County LAFCO. The third map also identifies the entirety of the GSA boundaries.

On May 31, 2016, the GSA held a noticed public hearing in accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b). Proof of publication in accordance with Government Code Section 6066 is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

After holding the public hearing, the GSA's Board of Directors adopted Resolution Number 16-1, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 4, electing to become a GSA over the portion of the Tule Subbasin within the GSA's boundary. The GSA will work collaboratively with other duly formed GSA's in the Tule Subbasin to jointly manage groundwater and to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("**GSP**") or GSPs. The GSA's Board of Directors is planning to negotiate a memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement(s), or other forms of agreements with other duly formed GSA's within the Tule Subbasin for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated structure for the management of groundwater and the development of a GSP or GSPs.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2, the GSA shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a GSP. An initial list of stakeholders and interested parties include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
  - 1) Agricultural users – The GSA area is composed almost entirely of agricultural users within the GSA's boundaries.
  - 2) Domestic well owners – There are domestic wells within the proposed GSA management area. However, because SGMA excludes "de minimis extractors" it is anticipated that the GSP will exclude most (if not all) domestic wells from such requirements.
- b) Municipal well operators – No incorporated cities within the GSA boundary.
- c) Public Water Systems – Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, and Alpaugh Community Services District.
- d) Local land use planning agencies – County of Tulare.
- e) Environmental users of groundwater – U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies – None.

- g) The Federal Government, including, but not limited to, the military, and managers of federal lands – U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- h) California Native American tribes – None.
- i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems – The community of Alpaugh.
- j) 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 groundwater sustainability agency - None.

The GSA intends to work cooperatively with stakeholders to develop and implement a GSP by collaborating with other qualified GSA's in the Tule Subbasin. The GSA shall maintain a list of interested parties to be included in the formation of a GSP. Interested parties will have opportunities, both formal and informal, to provide input to the GSA throughout the process of developing, operating, and implementing the GSA and GSP. Such opportunities may include, but are not limited to, public comment during the GSA's regular and special meetings, and at other times to be determined and noticed pursuant to Water Code Section 10727.8(a), or otherwise. By this notification, the GSA has provided DWR with all applicable information in California Water Code Section 10723.8(a).

Sincerely,

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Ranveig Magden, Chairman  
Alpaugh Groundwater Sustainability Agency

EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit 1: Legal Agreement (MOU)
- Exhibit 2: Maps
- Exhibit 3: Proof of Publication of Public Hearing Notice
- Exhibit 4: Resolution 16-1