

June 28, 2017

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

Subject: Notice of Decision to Serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for Portions of the South American Subbasin

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

Reclamation District No. 369 (“District”) provides this notice of its decision to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) pursuant to California Water Code § 10723.8. The District intends to undertake sustainable groundwater management of the South American groundwater subbasin, part of the Sacramento Valley Basin (DWR Basin No. 5-021.65) located within the Reclamation District’s existing service area in Sacramento County. A map and shapefile showing the basin boundaries and proposed area of the GSA is also attached as an Exhibit to this letter.

The District is a California Reclamation District formed and operating under the provisions of the Water Code § 50000, et seq. Under this law, the District provides water delivery, drainage, and water management functions within its service area. As a California Reclamation District, RD 369 qualifies as an eligible agency for the purposes of GSA formation under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

The District is outside of the proposed boundaries of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA but is within the Alternative Plan area proposed by that entity as reflected on the DWR’s GSA maps. If this Alternative is not approved by DWR, a groundwater sustainability plan (“GSP”) will be required. In any event, the District has established communication with local officials and will cooperatively work with this local agency as well as other local stakeholders to resolve any GSA overlap and establish a suitable governance structure for the entire subbasin in order to achieve sustainability.

In June the District held a public hearing to solicit input on the potential to become a GSA and to consider its decision to serve as a GSA for the portions of the groundwater basin within its boundaries. Notice of this hearing was published in *The Sacramento Bee*, a paper of general circulation in the basin, as required by Water Code § 10723 and Government Code § 6066. This notice is included as an Exhibit to this letter. Furthermore, an agenda was posted at the meeting place more than 24 hours prior to the District’s meeting pursuant to the Brown Act (Government Code § 54954 et seq.). Following this public hearing the District adopted a resolution form a GSA. No other bylaws, regulations, or ordinances relevant to SGMA have been adopted at this time.

While RD 369 is currently forming an independent GSA, the Reclamation District is interested in joining with several other independent GSAs in the surrounding region to form the Northern Delta GSA, which would facilitate collaborative management the local groundwater resources. If this option is pursued, the GSAs would likely enter into Memorandum of Agreement as contemplated by California Water Code

§ 10723.6. The specific makeup of this collaborative GSA, both in terms of the member GSAs and management structure, is being formulated at this time. RD 369 will take all necessary steps to realize this cooperative GSA and communicate with DWR staff to ensure effective coordination.

The District has communicated with parties interested in the sustainable management of groundwater within the basin and will actively engage with, and solicit feedback from, those parties as the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is developed. As required by Water Code § 10723.8(a)(4), the District will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for developing GSPs. These interests include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Holders of overlying groundwater rights:**
 - *Agricultural users:* The basin area is largely composed of agricultural users, most of whom have an existing relationship with the District. The District will communicate with the landowners to guarantee that they understand their ongoing opportunity to participate in the development of a GSP for the basin, should a GSP be pursued.
 - *Domestic well owners:* There are domestic wells within the GSA. The District will communicate with these landowners to guarantee that they understand their on-going opportunity to participate in the development of a GSP for the basin.
- **Municipal Well Operators:** The community of Locke is located at the south edge of the District's Service area. Locke is served by the Locke Water Works Company, which has a groundwater well. The District will collaborate with this entity, and will also seek input from neighboring GSAs and Sacramento County regarding municipal well operations in other portions of the South American Subbasin to ensure coordination with those entities.
- **Public Water Systems:** The District will work directly with public water systems within the GSA relying on groundwater supplies. The District has not identified any public water systems within its boundaries but will coordinate with Sacramento County and the State Water Resources Control Board to identify any public water systems potentially impacted by GSA actions.
- **Local land use planning agencies:**
 - Sacramento: The District has communicated with the County related to its intention to serve as a GSA for the portions of the basin within the District's boundaries. The District will continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from the County throughout the GSP development and implementation process.
 - Other Water, Irrigation, and Reclamation Districts outside of the GSA Boundaries: The District has communicated with neighboring local resource agencies in the basin as a courtesy. The District will continue to communicate with, solicit feedback from, and foster cooperation among the neighboring agencies throughout the GSP development and implementation process.
 - North Delta Water Agency: This Agency, formed by a special act of the California Legislature, represents northern Delta interests to assure the lands within its boundaries receive a dependable water supply to meet current and future needs. The District has communicated with the North Delta Water Agency regarding that entity's decision not to become a GSA. RD 369 will continue to communicate with this entity during the GSP formation process.

- ***Environmental users of groundwater:*** The District will cooperate with any environmental users of groundwater in developing a GSP should such users arise. The Delta Meadows State Park, operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, is located partially within the District. Therefore, the Delta Meadows State Park management will be consulted to ensure its interests are protected. The Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge managers will also be consulted, as the Refuge is adjacent to the District.
- ***Surface water users, if a hydrological connection between surface water and groundwater resources exists:*** The District will coordinate with local surface water users to ensure their interests are considered during the GSP development and implementation process. Many of the surface water users have an existing relationship with the District.
- ***The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands:*** There are no federal government lands within the District. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, which is adjacent to the District. The managers of the refuge have been in conversations with the District regarding SGMA. This ongoing collaboration will ensure that the refuge's interests are protected during the SGMA implementation process. Similarly, the Cosumnes River Preserve, which is owned and jointly managed by a group of nonprofits and state and federal agencies will be consulted to ensure the Preserve is protected as it is near the District's service area.
- ***California Native American tribes:*** There are no identified Native American tribes within the District's proposed GSA boundaries. Nevertheless, the District will coordinate with the appropriate state and federal agencies to ensure the interests of any tribes are represented.
- ***Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems:*** The District has not identified disadvantaged communities within the basin using DWR's web-based tools. Even still, the District will cooperate with Sacramento County to work with any disadvantaged communities within the basin relying on groundwater supplies in order to protect that group's interests.
- ***Entities listed in Water Code § 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of the groundwater basin managed by the GSA:*** The County of Sacramento is currently the CASGEM monitoring entity within the District's service area. The District will continue to collaborate with this entity as well as any other entities within the basin that collect groundwater data in order to coordinate on GSP development and implementation.

The District and other stakeholders' roles and responsibilities will be further defined in the GSP. The District welcomes feedback throughout this process from the state and any other agencies, organizations, or persons that have a vested interest in the management of this groundwater basin. Future meetings will be publicly noticed to encourage greater stakeholder participation and the list of interested parties will be continually updated as additional entities are identified. If the DWR requires any additional information, please contact the undersigned at (916) 668-7345 or email at Erik@thefreshwatertrust.org.

Thank You,

Erik Ringelberg



SOUTH AMERICAN SUBBASIN

160

160



RD



Ground Water Subbasin

Locke

Delta Channel

0

0.15

0.3

Miles

SOLANO SUBBASIN

A RESOLUTION OF THE RECLAMATION DISTRICT 369 LIBBY McNEIL ELECTING TO BE A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE PORTIONS OF THE SOLANO, SOUTH AMERICAN, EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN and YOLO SUBBASINS WITHIN YOLO, SOLANO, and SACRAMENTO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("SGMA") went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Water Code Section 10735, unless a local public agency or combination of local public agencies form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies ("GSA") by June 30, 2017 to create a groundwater management plan in certain high or medium priority groundwater basins, SGMA presumes the overlying county will become the GSA and requires the State Water Resources Control Board to intervene if no other governmental entity has become a GSA; and,

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater subbasin may elect to be a GSA under Water Code Sections 10721 and 10723(a); and,

WHEREAS, Reclamation Districts are eligible to become GSAs for their respective service areas, and the respective Counties have released or may soon release their overlapping SGMA authority; and,

WHEREAS, within ninety days of an entity giving notice to the Department of Water Resources of the intent to form, or having formed, a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area unless another entity provides notice to the Department of Water Resources of their intent to form, or notice that the entity formed, a GSA pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8; and,

WHEREAS, Reclamation District 369 Libby McNeil believes that retaining local jurisdiction over water management and land use through the formation of a multi-agency GSA is essential to sustainably manage groundwater and to the vitality of Delta's economy, communities, and environment; and,

WHEREAS, establishing the Northern Delta GSA ("NDGSA") as a GSA will enable Reclamation District 369 Libby McNeil and other member agencies to work with other GSAs and Joint Power Agreement agencies in the preparation and implementation of an effective and mutually beneficial groundwater sustainability plan for the sustainable groundwater management in these subbasins; and,

WHEREAS, the NDGSA intends to work cooperatively with other local public agencies to manage the aforementioned groundwater basins in a sustainable manner; and,

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "Project" under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15378(a) and (b)(5), because this Resolution does not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Reclamation District 369 Libby McNeil held a public hearing on this date after publication of notice in compliance with California Government Code Section 6066 to consider an election to become a GSA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reclamation District 369 Libby McNeil hereby elects to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the NDGSA for the portions of the subbasin as

depicted by the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118-03. Within thirty days of this date, the NDGSA is directed to provide notice of this election and intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for the aforementioned subbasins to the Department of Water Resources in a manner required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDGSA shall continue discussions with other local public agencies in order to begin the process of developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the aforementioned subbasins.

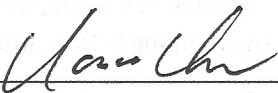
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Reclamation District 369 Libby McNeil this 21 day of June 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: 1

NOES: 0

ABSENT:

NOT VOTING: _____

Signed  Date 6/21/17

Board Position Trustee

The Sacramento Bee

P.O. Box 15779 • 2100 Q Street • Sacramento, CA 95852

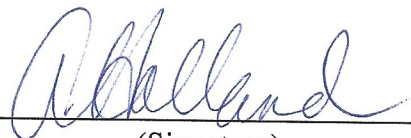
**THE FRESHWATER TRUST
1717 I STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95811**

**DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION
(C.C.P. 2015.5)**

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interest ed in the above entitled matter. I am the printer and principal clerk of the publisher of The Sacramento Bee, printed and published in the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, State of California, daily, for which said newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Sacramento, State of California, under the date of September 26, 1994, Action No. 379071; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each issue thereof and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:
MAY 27, 2017
JUNE 2, 2017

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed at Sacramento, California, on **JUNE 9, 2017**


(Signature)

NO 506 PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO FORM GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to California Water Code section 10723, that Sacramento County Reclamation Districts 3, 317, 349, 369, 407, 551, 554, 556, 744, 755, 813, 1002, 2110, 2111, & 2067 will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday June 13, 2017 at 11am-12pm, 14177 Market Street, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. San Joaquin Reclamation Districts 38 & 348 will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday June 13, 2017 at 1pm to 2pm, 26341 N. Thornton Road, Thornton, CA 95686. Yolo County Reclamation District 307 will hold a joint public hearing on Monday June 12, 2017 at 8 am to 9 am, 52915 Netherlands Road, Clarksburg, CA 95612. Solano County Reclamation District 501 will hold a joint public hearing on Monday June 12, 2017 at 11am to 12pm, 1170 N. Lincoln Street #110 Dixon, CA 95620.

The Purpose of this hearing is to consider whether the above entities should decide to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within the Northern Delta area in the South American subbasin and Solano subbasin in Sacramento County; in the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin in San Joaquin County; in the Solano subbasin in Yolo County, and in the Solano subbasin in Solano County. The GSA would take joint actions to achieve compliance under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

The Hearing is open to the public and any person present will have the opportunity to speak. For further information regarding, please contact the NDGSA coordinator (916) 668-7345. Written comments may be submitted by mail to 1717 I Street, Sacramento CA 95811 or email anna@thefreshwatertrust.org. Written comments are due no later than 6/14/17 by 5pm.