

OLCESE WATER DISTRICT

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NOTICE OF DECISION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

OLCESE WATER DISTRICT hereby gives notice, pursuant to California Water Code §10723.8, of its decision and intention to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and to undertake sustainable groundwater management.

Olcese Water District (sometimes referred to herein as “District”) is a California Water District formed and operating pursuant to and in accordance with Division 13 of the California Water Code (commencing with Water Code §34000) and overlies a portion of the Kern County Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin portion of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, as defined in Bulletin 118 of the California Department of Water Resources, and is therefore a “Local Agency” as defined within California Water Code §10721 (m); and

The District held a public hearing on November 28, 2016, pursuant to California Water Code §10723(b), after publication of notice of such hearing pursuant to California Government Code §6066. A copy of the notice and proof of publication is attached as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by reference.

At the public hearing, the District Board of Directors considered oral and written comments to the extent provided by the public, and upon consideration of the matter before it, decided to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

As required by California Water Code §10723.4, the District will establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. Any person may request in writing to be included on the list of interested persons.

Pursuant to California Water Code §10723.8(a), this notification to the Department of Water Resources by Olcese Water District of its determination to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), is provided to the Department within thirty (30) days of the District’s decision to be a GSA, which occurred on November 28, 2016, and includes the following information:

1. §10723.8(a)(1): The service area boundaries, the basin the agency is managing, and the other groundwater sustainability agencies operating within the basin:

The Olcese Water District service area is comprised of approximately 4,855 acres, primarily consisting of agricultural lands east of the City of Bakersfield, in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The District is generally bordered on the west and southwest by the City of Bakersfield. The portion of the groundwater basin that the District shall manage shall be that portion of the Kern County Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin portion of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, as defined in Bulletin 118 of the California Department of Water Resources' basin underlying Olcese Water District's boundaries ("Olcese GSA Area"). Such District boundaries, and the boundaries of the GSA formed hereby are depicted on Exhibit "B", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Agency intends to manage the portion of the subbasin adjacent to the Olcese GSA Area. Additionally, Greenfield County Water District, Buena Vista Water Storage District, West Kern Water District, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, and the County of Kern have all filed notices to manage a portion of the above-referenced subbasin. The Olcese GSA Area does not overlap with any of the aforementioned GSAs. At present, it is not known with certainty which other agencies will manage or will propose to manage the balance of the above-referenced subbasin. However, the Kern Groundwater Authority, a joint powers authority created pursuant to a joint powers authority agreement, presently intends to manage some or all of the balance of such subbasin. Other agencies that could possibly manage all or portions of the balance of the subbasin include, but may not be limited to, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Cawelo Water District, East Niles Community Services District, Henry Miller Water District, Kern County Water Agency, Lost Hills Water District, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Semitropic Water Storage District, Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District, Tejon-Castac Water District, and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

2. §10723.8(a)(2): A copy of the resolution forming the new agency:

A copy of the resolution by which the District decided to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Resolution) is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference.

3. §10723.8(a)(3): A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the local agency:

Except for the authorities granted to a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the California Water Code (the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act), no new bylaws, ordinances, or authorities have been adopted by the District.

4. §10723.8(a)(3): A list of interested parties developed pursuant to §10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the groundwater sustainability agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.

As required by Water Code §10723.2, the District will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the

following interests and users. If additional interested parties are discovered, they too will be included in the development and operation of the groundwater sustainability agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.

§ 10723.2. (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users. The lands located within the District are used almost exclusively for agricultural purposes. The District maintains a landowner list of such users, with contact information.

(2) Domestic well owners. After diligent research and investigation, the District is informed and believes that there are no domestic well owners within the District boundaries.

(b) Municipal well operators. There no wells used for municipal purposes within the District boundaries.

(c) Public water systems. There is one small public water system located partially or fully within the District boundaries. This system is operated by Anne Sippi Clinic. The District has had and continues to have ongoing conversations with Anne Sippi Clinic including them in the development of the Olcese GSA.

(d) Local land use planning agencies. Local land use planning agencies include the City of Bakersfield, the County of Kern, and the Kern County Planning and Community Development Department. The District and the County of Kern are in ongoing conversation regarding the County of Kern's participation in the Olcese GSA. It is anticipated that the District and County of Kern will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing these discussions.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater. At this time, other than the District itself, there are no known environmental users of groundwater within the District boundaries.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies. The District, which is a conjunctive use district, owns certain surface water rights and supplies, including Kern River rights. The District typically uses such water supplies for deliveries to landowners within the District boundaries. While the District does not believe a hydrologic connection exists, other users of Kern River surface water include City of Bakersfield, Kern Delta Water District, Buena Vista Water Storage District, and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands. There are no known lands owned by the federal government within the District boundaries.

(h) California Native American Tribes. There are no known lands belonging to California Native American Tribes within the District boundaries.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems. There are no known disadvantaged communities with the District boundaries.

(j) Entities listed in §10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency. There are no known entities that monitor and report groundwater levels within the District boundaries, other than the District itself.

The District will consider the interests of the foregoing beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. In this effort, the District will (1) continue to meet with the identified interested parties, (2) continue to meet with the Kern Groundwater Authority and its members, (3) meet with other local GSAs that are or may be formed and endeavor to coordinate with such agencies pursuant to §§ 10727 and 10727.6, (4) have open and public meetings of the District's Board of Directors, and (5) solicit feedback in the adoption of its groundwater sustainability plan and any subsequent amendments.

In addition to the foregoing, and pursuant to Water Code §10727.8, prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the District will make available to the public and the Department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. The District will provide the written statement to the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county located within the geographic area to be covered by the plan. The District may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan. The District will encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within that portion of the groundwater basin to be managed prior to and during the development and implementation of its groundwater sustainability plan.

Furthermore, and pursuant to Water Code §10728.4, the District will adopt or amend its groundwater sustainability plan only after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to any city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. The District will review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to the above-referenced Water Code section and will consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice.

The District will encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within its management area, prior to and during the development and implementation of its groundwater sustainability plan.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the information required by California Water Code 10728.3 is included within this notice and that the notification process is complete.

Dated: 12/23/16

By: 

James L. Nickel
President of the Board of Directors,
Olcese Water District