

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of

RESOLUTION ELECTING TO FORM THE	)	
MERCED COUNTY GROUNDWATER	)	
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY WITHIN THE	)	RESOLUTION NO. 2017-15
CHOWCHILLA GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN	)	

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014 and adopted as California Water Code, section 10720, et. seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of SGMA is to provide sustainable management of groundwater basins and enhance local management of groundwater through empowering local management agencies with authority, technical, and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires high and medium priority basins to be managed by one or more groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) and such agency/agencies must be formed by June 30, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723(a) authorizes any local agency with water or land management authority overlying a basin to elect to be the GSA for that basin; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10724(a) presumes that any area not within the management area of a GSA will be managed by the county, as the GSA for that area; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10735.2(a) provides that the State Water Resources Control Board may designate the basin as probationary if any portion of the basin is not covered by a GSA before June 30, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Merced is located in the Chowchilla Subbasin as defined in the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Merced is a local agency that is eligible to elect to become a GSA pursuant to SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723.2 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, the County of Merced is committed to working with regional partners to sustainably manage the groundwater resources; and,

WHEREAS, retaining local jurisdiction and control over groundwater management is beneficial to the health, safety, and water supply reliability of the County of Merced and its customers and constituents; and,

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

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723.8 requires a local public agency electing to be a GSA to notify the California Department of Water Resources of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a subbasin; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723(b) requires a public hearing be held before to the decision to become a GSA and the publication of notice pursuant to section 6066 of the Government Code; 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 in the Merced Sun Star; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Merced held a public hearing on February 21, 2017 to consider adoption of this Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act because it does not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Merced hereby elects to become a GSA for those portions of the Chowchilla Subbasin shown in the map attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Merced County GSA hereby created shall 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; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Merced authorizes its staff to, within 30 days from the date of this Resolution, provide notification of this election to the California Department of Water Resources, including a copy of this Resolution and additional information required by Water Code section 10723.8, in the manner required by law.

I, JAMES L. BROWN, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Merced, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on this 21st day of February, 2017 by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

AYES: Daron McDaniel, Rodrigo Espinoza, Lee Lor, Lloyd Pareira, Jerry O'Banion

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of this Board this 21st day of February, 2017.



JAMES L. BROWN, CLERK

By: 

Deputy

Exhibit A

