

**MERCED IRRIGATION-URBAN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF REVISED GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
PLAN FOR THE MERCED GROUNDWATER BASIN, AND AUTHORIZING OTHER ACTIONS
RELATING THERETO**

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014 then-Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); and

WHEREAS, SGMA generally requires sustainable management of groundwater basins within California through the development of groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs), which can be a single plan developed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or multiple coordinated plans within the basin or subbasin; and

WHEREAS, SGMA allows for local control of groundwater resources by authorizing the creation of GSAs that govern implementation and enforcement of SGMA within their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved the creation of 3 GSAs to govern the Merced Groundwater Subbasin, namely: Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA (MIUGSA), the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MSGSA), and the Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (TIWD GSA-1), collectively referred to herein as the 'Merced Subbasin GSAs'; and

WHEREAS, MIUGSA, as well as the remaining Merced Subbasin GSAs overlying the Merced Subbasin has the authority to draft, adopt, and implement a GSP (Wat. Code, § 10725 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSAs have elected to develop and implement a single GSP covering the entire basin (Wat. Code, §10725 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSAs submitted a Notification of Intent to DWR to jointly develop a GSP for the Merced Groundwater Subbasin on January 4, 2018 in accordance with California Water Code §10727.8 and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 353.6; and

WHEREAS, the Merced GSAs collectively submitted a GSP to DWR in January 2020, and MIUGSA has been actively and in good faith implementing the plan since that date; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, DWR provided a determination that the Merced GSP was incomplete, and provided a comment letter identifying certain deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the DWR determination initiated a 180 day period for the Merced Subbasin GSAs to address the identified deficiencies and submit a revised GSP to DWR for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSAs addressed DWRs comments and identified deficiencies through revisions in the revised Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP dated July 2022; and

WHEREAS, the revised Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP dated July 2022 was approved by DWR in August 2023 and said approval included recommended corrective actions to be considered for inclusion in future GSP updates; and

WHEREAS, GSPs are generally required to be reviewed and updated every five (5) years, and in anticipation of the first required review and revision of the GSP for the Merced Subbasin, staff for the Merced Subbasin GSAs have collectively and cooperatively engaged to prepare appropriate updates and revisions, which take into account and incorporate DWR's recommended corrective actions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a revised draft GSP, staff and consultants for the Merced Subbasin GSAs have also prepared a related Periodic Evaluation of the GSP, which serves to assess the effectiveness of the GSP in achieving sustainability goals. Said Periodic Evaluation evaluates and reports on the progress of the GSP, and is required to be prepared and submitted to DWR at least once every five (5) years after the GSP's adoption; and

WHEREAS, the public review process for development of the revised GSP and Periodic Evaluation has been robust, which includes among other things, detailed discussions of the proposed updates at no less than four (4) meetings of the Board of Directors for MIUGSA (the Board). This is in addition to several meetings and discussions by the Boards of Directors for the other Merced Subbasin GSAs, the Coordination Committee and Stakeholder Guidance Committee; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Board's action to adopt the revised GSP, a public hearing was appropriately and timely noticed and held, during which public comments were received on the GSP and related Periodic Evaluation, and all comments have been considered by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board has had the opportunity to review the final draft revised Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP, the Periodic Evaluation, and after thorough review the Board believes it is in the best interest of MIUGSA to adopt the updated GSP as presented, and authorize submittal of said GSP and Periodic Evaluation to DWR.

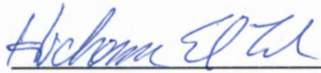
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The recitals set forth hereinabove are true and correct and are incorporated herein.
2. The Board hereby adopts the updated Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP in the substantial form presented.
3. The Board authorizes staff, its consultants and the Plan Manager to execute such documents and to take such other actions as may be reasonably necessary to submit the Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP and Periodic Evaluation to DWR by January 28, 2025.

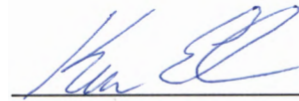
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Chair, staff, counsel or either of their designees as may be appropriate given the applicable circumstances, is authorized to execute such other documents that may be necessary or appropriate, and is authorized to take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution, said execution to provide conclusive evidence of the Board's approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board Members of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 8th day January 2025, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Members:	Elwin, Eltal, Chavez, Vinson, Benavidez, Valencia, Vera
Noes:	Members:	None
Abstain:	Members:	None
Absent:	Members:	None



Hicham Eltal
Chair
Merced Irrigation District



Ken Elwin
Vice Chair
City of Merced