

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN INCLUDING PORTIONS OF
FRESNO COUNTY IN THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN AND AUTHORIZE THE WESTSIDE
SUBBASIN, ACTING AS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN MANAGER FOR THE
SUBBASIN, TO SUBMIT THE AMENDED GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), California Water Code
section 10720, et seq., authorizes local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage
groundwater basins in a sustainable manner and pursuant to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP);
and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of SGMA is to provide for sustainable management of
groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish standards for
sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local agencies with the authority to sustainably
manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) designated the Westside
Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (Subbasin No. 5-22.09) (Westside Subbasin)
as a high-priority basin experiencing critical overdraft; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2016, Westlands Water District (District) Board of Directors (Board)
adopted Resolution No. 111-16, electing to become the GSA for the Westside Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2016, the District and County of Fresno (Fresno) entered into a
Memorandum of Understanding to ensure areas within the Westside Subbasin outside of the District's
Service Area are covered by a Westside Subbasin GSP; and

1 WHEREAS, on November 1, 2016, DWR deemed the District the GSA for the Westside
2 Subbasin, authorizing the District to exercise the powers and authorities described in Water Code
3 Sections 10725 to 10726.9 and to prepare a Westside Subbasin GSP consistent with Water Code
4 Sections 10727 to 10728.6 and DWR's GSP Regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit 23, § 350 et seq.) (GSP
5 Regulations); and
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7 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, following the public process required by SGMA and the GSP
8 Regulations and adoption of the Westside Subbasin GSP by Fresno and the District, the District
9 submitted Westside Subbasin GSP to DWR to commence the public and DWR review period; and

10 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2022, DWR issued a determination letter finding the Westside
11 Subbasin GSP "Incomplete" (Incomplete Letter) and recommended potential corrective actions to
12 address DWR's identified deficiencies; and

13 WHEREAS, the District prepared revisions to the Westside Subbasin GSP to clarify and amend
14 the Westside Subbasin GSP in response to DWR's Incomplete Letter (Revised Westside Subbasin
15 GSP) and adopted the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP in accordance with SGMA and the GSP
16 Regulations; and
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18 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2023, DWR issued an "Approved Determination of the Revised
19 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Westside Subbasin" with
20 accompanying findings (DWR Revised Westside Subbasin GSP Approval) that determined the Revised
21 Westside Subbasin GSP complied with SGMA and GSP Regulations; and

22 WHEREAS, the DWR Revised Westside Subbasin GSP Approval recommended additional
23 corrective actions for the GSAs to address as part of the 2025 GSP Periodic Evaluation (Periodic
24 Evaluation) required by Water Code Section 10728.2 and GSP Regulations Section 356.4; and

25 WHEREAS, the DWR Revised Westside Subbasin GSP Approval established that the Periodic
26 Evaluation for the Westside Subbasin was set to begin on January 21, 2025; and
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1 WHEREAS, the District implemented the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP, including, but, not
2 limited to, adoption of the District's Article 1 Regulations for the Groundwater Allocation Program and
3 Use of Groundwater within the Westside Subbasin; and

4 WHEREAS, in advance of the Periodic Evaluation, the District evaluated DWR's recommended
5 corrective actions, gathered additional information as part of implementation of the Revised Westside
6 Subbasin GSP, evaluated the effectiveness of the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP, and prepared
7 amendments to the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP responsive to DWR's recommended corrective
8 actions; and
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10 WHEREAS, the District provided notice to the cities and counties within the Westside Subbasin
11 on August 14, 2024 to provide these agencies with 90 days' notice of the proposed Westside Subbasin
12 GSP amendments for the Periodic Evaluation (2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update) for the purposes
13 of consultation consistent with Water Code Section 10728.4; and

14 WHEREAS, the District published a draft of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update for public
15 review on November 20, 2024 and solicited public comments on the draft 2025 Westside Subbasin
16 GSP Update through December 6, 2024; and
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18 WHEREAS, the District considered public comments on the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP
19 Update received during public meetings of the District, GSA Technical Advisory Committee, and GSA
20 Advisory Committee, and during the written public comment period; and

21 WHEREAS, the District noticed a public hearing, as required by Water Code Section 10728.4,
22 for the purposes of considering adoption of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update; and

23 WHEREAS, at the public hearing on December 17, 2024, the District Board of Directors
24 considered the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update and the comments from the public thereon; and

25 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update contains all the elements required by
26 Water Code sections 10727.2 and 10727.4, and the GSP Regulations; and
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1 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update, among other things, addresses DWR's
2 recommended corrective actions identified in the DWR Revised Westside Subbasin GSP Approval; and

3 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update is consistent with the purposes and
4 intent of SGMA and the GSP Regulations to avoid the occurrence of undesirable results defined in
5 Water Code Section 10721(x) in the Westside Subbasin; and

6 WHEREAS, implementation of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update, based on the best
7 available information and best available science, shall achieve sustainable groundwater management,
8 as defined in Water Code Section 10721(v), during the 50 year planning and implementation horizon;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update establishes a groundwater sustainability
12 plan that facilitates the reasonable and beneficial use of the maximum quantity of groundwater in the
13 basin, including temporary surplus, that may be annually withdrawn from the Westside Subbasin over
14 long-term conditions without causing undesirable results in accordance with Article X, section 2 of the
15 California Constitution; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update does not declare, determine, or alter
17 common law water rights and is consistent with the requirements of Water Code Section 10720.5; and

18 WHEREAS, from time to time, implementation of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update
19 may require the imposition of management measures that maximize the reasonable and beneficial use
20 of groundwater and avoid undesirable results by requiring reasonable accommodations among
21 groundwater users; and
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23 WHEREAS, after its filing with DWR, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update shall be subject
24 to further public review through the DWR comment process and shall undergo review by DWR; and

25 WHEREAS, the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update shall be updated and amended,
26 periodically, as deemed necessary by the District and/or Fresno to respond to changing conditions and
27 new information; and
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1 WHEREAS, Fresno shall consider adoption of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update at a
2 public meeting on or about January 7, 2025 and, if adopted, implement the plan within the portions of
3 the Westside Subbasin outside of the District's Service Area; and

4 WHEREAS, adoption of the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update is statutorily exempt from
5 review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Board determined that it is in the best interest of the District, its landowners,
8 and beneficial water uses and users in the Westside Subbasin to adopt the 2025 Westside Subbasin
9 GSP Update.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

11 1. All the Recitals in this resolution are true and correct, and supported by findings and
12 substantial evidence in the record, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as
13 Exhibit A.

14 2. The Board adopts the 2025 Westside Subbasin GSP Update, attached hereto and
15 incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B, to implement sustainable groundwater
16 management in the Westside Subbasin pursuant to SGMA, GSP Regulations, and California
17 law.
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19 3. The Districts General Manager or designee shall submit the 2025 Westside Subbasin
20 GSP Update to DWR, pursuant to Water Code Section 10733.4.

21 4. The Districts General Manager or designee shall submit the Periodic Evaluation to DWR,
22 pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.2 and GSP Regulations Section 356.4.

23 5. The Districts General Manager and General Counsel are authorized and directed to take
24 such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purposes of
25 this resolution, including but not limited to, making further clarifications and revisions to the 2025
26 Westside Subbasin GSP Update and Periodic Evaluation consistent with the Board's direction
27 through this resolution.
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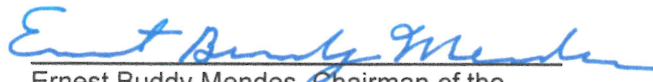
1 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors
2 of the County of Fresno this 7th day of January, 2025, to wit:

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4 AYES: Supervisors Bredefeld, Chavez, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco

5 NOES: None

6 ABSENT: None

7 ABSTAINED: None
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13 Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman of the
14 Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

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16 **ATTEST:**
17 Bernice E. Seidel
18 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
19 County of Fresno, State of California

20 BY 
21 Deputy
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