

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

IN THE MATTER OF:
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN 2025
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
REVISIONS BY THE MERCED COUNTY
CHOWCHILLA GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. **2025-15**

WHEREAS, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code §10720 et seq.), pursuant to Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, which was approved by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 16, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each groundwater basin be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"), or multiple GSPs; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowchilla Groundwater Subbasin ("Chowchilla Subbasin") has been designated by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") as a high-priority basin and in critical groundwater overdraft (DWR Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin: 5-022.05); and,

WHEREAS, the Merced County Chowchilla GSA is a GSA under SGMA for certain portions of the Chowchilla Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code section 10727 SGMA requires that a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or multiple GSPs be developed and implemented by January 31, 2020 for each high-priority basin; and,

WHEREAS, Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA have collaboratively prepared a single GSP for the Chowchilla Subbasin ("Chowchilla Subbasin GSP") in accordance with Water Code section 10727.2 to include all the components required by SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, on or about December 17, 2019, the Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA adopted the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP; and,

WHEREAS, on or about January 29, 2020, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR for review, public comment, and approval; and,

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2021, DWR completed a review of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP and released an incomplete determination of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP, initiating a 180-day consultation period between January 28, 2022, and July 27, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA completed the first revision of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP in response to the incomplete determination made by DWR; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 27, 2022, the first revision of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR for review, public comment, and approval; and,

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2023, DWR completed a review of the first revision of the Chowchilla GSP submitted July 27, 2022 and released an inadequate determination of the first revision of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP; and,

WHEREAS, Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA acted quickly whereby seeking to eliminate the need for a probationary hearing before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through informal submission of a Revised GSP to the SWRCB on May 5, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, since May 5, 2023, Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA have consulted on numerous occasions with SWRCB staff; and,

WHEREAS, Chowchilla Water District GSA, Madera County Chowchilla GSA, Triangle T Water District GSA, and Merced County Chowchilla GSA have completed additional revisions to the Chowchilla GSP consistent with the direction provided by SWRCB staff; and,

WHEREAS, the revisions completed in January of 2025 are commonly referred to as the 2025 Revised GSP, and,

WHEREAS, a public notice was prepared pursuant to California Water Code Section 10728.4; and,

WHEREAS, Madera County, Merced County, and the City of Chowchilla provided the GSAs a notice waiving the 90-day notice requirements pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4; and,

WHEREAS, a public meeting of the Chowchilla GSP Advisory Committee was held on August 7, 2024 at Chowchilla Water District to describe and solicit public input on the 2025 Revised GSP; and,

WHEREAS, public workshop webinars were held on August 16, 2024 and January 24, 2025 to describe and solicit public input on the 2025 Revised GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Merced County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The foregoing is true and correct.
2. The 2025 Revised GSP in the form presented at the Hearing is hereby approved and adopted.
3. The Director of Community and Economic Development is authorized and directed to timely provide notification of this approval and adoption to DWR, including a copy of this Resolution, the approved additional revisions to the Revised GSP, and any additional information required by law.

I, RAUL LOMELI MENDEZ, 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 the 11th of March, 2025 by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

AYES: Joshua M. Pedrozo, Jim Pacheco, Daron McDaniel, Lloyd Pareira, Jr,
Scott M. Silveira

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of this Board this 11th day of March, 2025.

Raul Lomeli Mendez, Clerk of the Board

By: Andrea Hamilton

Name: Andrea Hamilton
Title: Deputy Board Clerk

