

Board of Directors

June 16, 2021

SUBJECT:

Set Time and Place for Public Hearing Regarding the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014. The purpose of SGMA is to promote sustainable management of the State's groundwater basins. Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) became the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the non-adjudicated portion of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin on April 24, 2017.

SGMA requires that medium and high priority basins be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin 8-005) as a high priority basin. However, since the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin is not critically over-drafted, the deadline for submittal of the GSP to DWR is January 30, 2022.

EMWD, acting as the GSA, has developed a GSP in compliance with SGMA, which is codified in the California Water Code (CWC), Part 2.75 (Sustainable Groundwater Management), Section 10720 et seq. The GSP has been developed in accordance with DWR's GSP Regulations to apply to the entirety of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin that is not adjudicated (Plan Area) and incorporates data and conditions in the adjudicated portions of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin, as appropriate, to provide an understanding of the groundwater conditions within the Plan Area. Approximately 95 percent of the Plan Area lies within EMWD's service area, while the remaining five percent of the Plan Area is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, and therefore is not subject to SGMA.

EMWD released the draft GSP for a 90-day public review period (April 16, 2021 – July 15, 2021) and intends to address public comments. The EMWD Board of Directors, acting as the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin GSA, will hold a public hearing and adoption of the GSP on September 15, 2021. Exhibit A is a calendar establishing the process for the adoption of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin GSP.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for this item is provided for in the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 and reimbursement from the grant funding from State Department of Water Resources Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program in the amount of

\$1,166,500.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE:

Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local and recycled water sources.

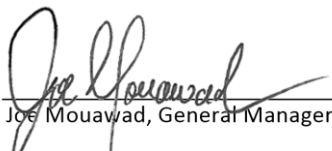
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

This item is not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15378.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize Eastern Municipal Water District headquarters as the location of the public hearing for the adoption of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan to be held on September 15, 2021, at 9:00 am, or as soon as possible thereafter.

SUBMITTED BY:



Joe Mouawad, General Manager

6/4/2021



Nick Kanetis, Deputy General Manager

6/1/2021

Attachment(s):

Exhibit A - Calendar
Presentation

History:

06/10/21	Board Planning Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
06/16/21	Board Meeting	

Staff Contact: Rachel Gray