

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF
SOUTH AMERICAN SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITH
THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT
ACT**

APPROVED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BACKGROUND:

DEC 08 2021

By *Fluence Evans*
Clerk of the Board

In 2014 the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requiring sustainable management through the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) developed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies is required in all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a medium or high priority, including the South American Subbasin (SASb). The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) overlays a portion of the SASb and at its Board meeting on July 13, 2016 formed as a GSA within its jurisdictional boundaries.

On May 13, 2020, the SCGA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with four other GSAs within the South American Subbasin and formed the South American Subbasin GSP Working Group (Working Group) for the purpose of jointly developing a single GSP for the South American Subbasin and coordinating sustainable groundwater management in the subbasin. As stated in the final draft GSP Executive Summary, the SASb GSAs have:

(U)ndertaken a thorough and timely review of past, current and projected future water resources needs and groundwater conditions to meet SGMA requirements for GSP development. Throughout the development of the South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (SASb GSP), regular communication and engagement activities were conducted to inform and receive input from local stakeholders and the general public. The SASb GSP includes a comprehensive groundwater subbasin description, which was used in the development of a regional surface and ground water model that quantifies current water budgets and projects future conditions associated with population growth, land use changes, water conservation, climate change, and consideration of beneficial projects that are planned to occur over the next five to ten years. The SASb GSP also includes a thorough assessment of the impacts of predicted future groundwater levels on beneficial users, including groundwater-dependent ecosystems, shallow wells, and interconnected surface water. Importantly, these assessments are used to develop measurable sustainable management criteria that avoid significant and

unreasonable impacts to these beneficial users, and that can be monitored and adjusted throughout plan implementation.

The key finding of the SASb GSP, based on thorough analysis of the best available information, is that the basin will be sustainable over the next twenty years as long as planned recycled water, recharge and other projects are implemented. These projects will raise groundwater levels above current levels, maintain storage volumes, and protect ecosystems, interconnected surface water, and shallow well users. Although projected climate change conditions will increase groundwater use, these effects are not expected to cause the SASb to become unsustainable or to cause significant decreasing trends in groundwater conditions. A groundwater monitoring network comprised of more than 50 wells will be used to track groundwater levels and groundwater quality. Management criteria set at each well in the network will be implemented to assess these conditions over time and ensure that levels and within a range that avoids significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Once approved by the GSAs, the activities identified and developed through the SASb GSP development process will be implemented, including:

- Ongoing monitoring and annual reporting on conditions in the SASb;*
- Ongoing public engagement and outreach;*
- Coordination among the GSAs and with neighboring subbasins;*
- Development and implementation of a shallow well protection and monitoring program;*
- Coordination with regional entities to develop a regional water bank;*
- Coordination with land use agencies and water supply agencies to promote consistency with the GSP;*
- Coordination with regional agencies in the development of updated climate change projections; and,*
- Preparation of a five-year update to the GSP to be submitted in 2027.*

The Working Group released the final draft GSP on November 5, 2021. The complete final draft GSP is currently accessible via the internet at <http://sasbgroundwater.org/resources.html>. SGMA requires formal adoption of the GSP by each of the respective subbasin GSAs prior to submittal to the California Department of Water Resources by the January 31, 2022 deadline. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear and consider any oral and

written testimony regarding the final draft GSP prior to SCGA's consideration of formally adopting the GSP.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Conduct a public hearing regarding adoption of the South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan;***
- 2. Hear and consider any oral and written testimony and close the public hearing; and***
- 3. Adopt the attached Resolution adopting the South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.***

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SOUTH AMERICAN SUBBASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

WHEREAS, in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires sustainable management 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 coordinate plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires a GSA be formed to manage groundwater in all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") as a medium or high priority, including the South American Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority ("SCGA") was formed as a GSA on July 13, 2016 for the purposes of sustainably managing groundwater in the South American Subbasin within its jurisdictional boundaries, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA; and

WHEREAS, SCGA has the authority to draft, adopt, and implement a GSP (Wat. Code, § 10725 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, the SCGA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with four GSAs within the South American Subbasin and formed a Working Group for the purpose of jointly developing a single GSP for the South American Subbasin and coordinating sustainable groundwater management in the subbasin (Wat. Code, §10727(a)(2)); and

WHEREAS, through the MOU, the GSAs delegated to the Working Group the responsibility for preparing the draft GSP on behalf of the GSAs; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group, through its designated representative, submitted an Initial Notification to DWR on behalf of its members to jointly develop a GSP for the Subbasin on July 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, SCGA has coordinated with the Working Group and/or its designated representative and all other GSAs in the Subbasin to draft a single GSP for its members; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the GSAs, the Working Group developed the draft GSP and released the draft GSP for public and local agency comment on June 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, SCGA and the Working Group have conducted public outreach throughout the subbasin to encourage the involvement of diverse interests in development of the draft GSP; and

WHEREAS, SCGA and the Working Group have held numerous public meetings where elements of the GSP have been presented and discussed, and where the general public has been provided an opportunity to comment on the various elements of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, SCGA and the Working Group have received a significant amount of oral and written public comment on the various elements of the GSP, which have been reviewed and responded to, where appropriate, as part of the development of the draft GSP; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, SCGA and the Working Group provided a Notice of Intent to the cities and county within the boundary of the proposed GSP on behalf of the GSAs pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group released the final draft GSP on November 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2021 the Working Group recommended each of the Subbasin GSAs adopt the final GSP for their respective jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, SCGA noticed a public hearing for December 8, 2021 for the purpose of considering the adoption of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, SCGA considered the final draft GSP and public comments received prior to and during the public hearing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the SCGA finds as follows:

1. SCGA hereby approves and adopts the South American Subbasin GSP.
2. SCGA delegates to the Interim Executive Director and staff the responsibility and the authority to take such other actions on its behalf as may be reasonably necessary or appropriate to submit the GSP to DWR by January 31, 2022, and implement the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

On a motion by Director **Ewart**, seconded by Director **Kamilos**, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority Board of Directors, State of California this 8th day of December 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Director, Eising, Ewart, Fadl, Kamilos, Ramirez, Schubert,
Thandi, Thompson, Williams Jr., Oneto, Trask

NOES: Director, Rauh

ABSENT: Director, Goulart, Hennig, Jacobs, Vacant

ABSTAIN: Director,

RECUSAL: Director,
(PER POLITICAL REFORM ACT (§ 18702.5.))

FILED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DEC 08 2021
BY *Florence Evans*
CLERK OF THE BOARD



Paul T. Schubert

PAUL SCHUBERT, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, a duly formed Joint Powers Authority

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

Clerk of the Board of Directors of
the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

In accordance with Section 25103 of the Government Code of the State of California a copy of the document has been delivered to the Chairman on **12-8-21**

By *[Signature]*
Deputy Clerk, Board of Directors