



January 19, 2022

**TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Brenda Dennstedt, President  
Gracie Torres, Vice President  
Mike Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer  
Fauzia Rizvi  
Laura Roughton

**Approved  
by the**

**JAN 19 2022**

**Board**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennstedt", written over the word "Board".

**FROM:** Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager

**CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE ARLINGTON GROUNDWATER BASIN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AS REQUIRED UNDER THE 2014 CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Engineering, Operations, and Water Resources Committee and Staff recommend the Board of Directors:

1. Conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the Arlington Groundwater Basin Sustainability Plan.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law on September 16, 2014. Its purpose is to promote sustainable management of the State's groundwater basins. Western Municipal Water District became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Arlington portion of the Riverside-Arlington Groundwater Basin on March 15, 2017. Western Municipal Water District developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in compliance with the Act. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires Board approval and adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and submittal to the Department of Water Resources prior to the January 31, 2022 deadline.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the budget.

**DETAIL:**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), in concert with amendments made in 2015, seeks to ensure that all of California's groundwater basins are managed sustainably. SGMA provides local agencies with the authority to sustainably manage groundwater basins within their respective jurisdictions and allows for state intervention if it becomes necessary for the protection of groundwater resources. SGMA requires that California groundwater basins and subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as high priority or medium priority be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and that such management be accomplished pursuant to one or more approved Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the basin.

SGMA defines a Local Agency as a "local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin." Only local agencies meeting the SGMA's definition can manage a groundwater basin. Western Municipal Water District (Western) meets the definition of a Local Agency and its general service area overlies the Riverside-Arlington Groundwater Subbasin (Basin No. 8-02.03) as defined by the DWR's Bulletin 118.

On March 15, 2017, Western became the GSA for the Arlington portion of the Riverside-Arlington Basin, as it is not considered by DWR to be adjudicated (adjudicated basins are exempt from SGMA). After becoming the GSA for the Arlington subbasin, Western has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements of SGMA, including the formation of a public stakeholder group with all interested parties within the basin to receive input on the development and implementation of the GSP. Western hosted four public stakeholder workshops and received valuable feedback and input that have been incorporated into the GSP.

**Reason for Action:**

Under SGMA, Board adoption of a GSP is required in advance of the January 31, 2022 deadline.

**Solution:**

Conduct a public hearing and adopt the Arlington GSP.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:**

This effort is consistent with Western's Strategic Priorities of Resource Management.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW:**

Legal counsel has reviewed.

Regular Board Meeting  
January 19, 2022  
Page 3

Respectfully submitted by:

Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution 3204
2. Exhibit A GSP Draft
3. Arlington GSP Presentation