

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA GSA

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION NO. GSA-2022-01

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH OF KERN RIVER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND
KERN COUNTY SUBBASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, in March 2022, the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (District) was officially recognized as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the purposes of sustainably managing groundwater in the Kern County Subbasin (Subbasin) for lands substantially coincident with its district boundaries, pursuant to the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code § 10720 *et seq.*) (SGMA);

WHEREAS, prior to forming a GSA, the District participated in sustainable management of groundwater for lands substantially coincident with its district boundaries as a member agency of the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA), and prepared and adopted a Management Area Plan (MAP) for inclusion in the KGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2020 as one of the multiple coordinated GSPs that collectively cover the Subbasin;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2022, the District, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Tejon Castac Water District, and Arvin Community Services District (collectively, South of Kern River districts) provided notice of their intent to withdraw from the KGA Joint Powers Agreement upon their adoption of an amended GSP for lands within their GSA boundaries overlying the Subbasin;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2022, the South of Kern River districts also notified DWR, County of Kern, City of Arvin, and other interested parties of their intent to jointly develop an amended GSP for lands within their GSA boundaries overlying the Subbasin as required by SGMA (Water Code § 10728.4);

WHEREAS, on or about June 14, 2022, the South of Kern River districts entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to coordinate and cooperate in the development and implementation of an amended GSP for the South of Kern River management areas to satisfy the requirements of SGMA;

WHEREAS, the South of Kern River GSP has been developed based on the MAPs previously adopted by the South of Kern River districts and included in the KGA GSP and covers all the lands within their management areas;

WHEREAS, the South of Kern River districts have conducted significant technical analysis using the best available information and science to develop the South of Kern River GSP to meet the requirements of SGMA (Water Code § 10727.2);

WHEREAS, the South of Kern River districts have developed the GSP in

accordance with the Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement (Coordination Agreement) and in consultation with the Basin Coordination Committee created by that agreement;

WHEREAS, the Basin Coordination Committee has proposed the Coordination Agreement be amended, in part, to include the South of Kern River GSP and add a representative appointed from the South of Kern River GSP to the Basin Coordination Committee;

WHEREAS, the South of Kern River districts have worked to facilitate stakeholder engagement and to consider all beneficial users of groundwater in the development of the South of Kern River GSP, as described in their Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plans as required by SGMA (Water Code § 10727.8);

WHEREAS, following such stakeholder engagement and associated outreach, the District's Board of Directors reviewed and evaluated the South of Kern River GSP and the Coordination Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the District provided notice of and conducted a public hearing and considered any public comments made regarding the South of the River GSP prior to considering adoption of the GSP as required by SGMA (Water Code § 10728.4).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, acting as the exclusive GSA for its management area pursuant to SGMA, does hereby resolve, declare, and order as follows:

- 1) Each of the matters set forth above is true and correct and the Board so finds and determines.
- 2) The Board adopts and approves the South of Kern River GSP and the District's MAP included therein.
- 3) The Board approves the Kern County Basin Coordination Agreement, as amended, subject to District Engineer-Manager's and counsel's review of the final version as to content and form, and the appointment of a representative for the South of Kern River GSP to the Basin Coordination Committee.
- 4) The Board hereby authorizes District staff to undertake such actions as are necessary and appropriate to transmit the South of Kern River GSP, and the Kern County Basin Coordination Agreement executed by the representative appointed for the South of Kern River GSP, to DWR in coordination with the Subbasin Plan Manager.
- 5) The Board approves withdrawal of the District's management area from the amended KGA GSP.

All the foregoing being on motion of Director Lyda, seconded by Director Mettler, and authorized by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Fry, Lyda, Mettler, Reiter, Richardson, Valpredo.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Reiter.

ABSENT: Atkinson, Blaine, Marin.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 20th day of July 2022.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Board of Directors this 20th day of July 2022.

(District Seal)


Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors