

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR PORTIONS OF FRESNO COUNTY
IN THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE
WESTSIDE SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), California Water Code section 10720, et seq., authorizes local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater basins in a sustainable manner and pursuant to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP); and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of SGMA is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local agencies with the authority to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the Westside Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.09) (Westside Subbasin) as a high-priority basin experiencing critical overdraft; and

WHEREAS, the County is the GSA for those portions of the Westside Subbasin that are within the County's jurisdictional boundaries, including the areas within the City of Huron's jurisdictional boundaries, but outside the boundaries of the Westlands Water District (District), while the District is the GSA for those portions of the Westside Subbasin that are within the District's jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2020, after following the public process required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations, Fresno County approved Resolution No. 20-014, adopting the Westside Subbasin GSP for portions of Fresno County in the Westside Subbasin where the Fresno County serves as the GSA; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2020, after following the public process required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations, the District Board approved Resolution No. GSA 101-20, adopting the Westside Subbasin GSP and authorizing submission of the Westside Subbasin GSP to DWR; and

1 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, the District submitted Westside Subbasin GSP
2 to DWR to commence the public and DWR review period; and

3 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2022, DWR issued an “‘Incomplete’ Determination of
4 the 2020 Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan” (Incomplete Letter), which
5 stated that the Westside Subbasin GSP does not satisfy the objectives of the SGMA nor
6 substantially comply with the GSP Regulations, and recommended corrective actions to
address DWR’s identified deficiencies; and

7 WHEREAS, the District prepared revisions to the Westside Subbasin GSP to
8 clarify and amend the Westside Subbasin GSP (Revised Westside Subbasin GSP) in
response to DWR’s Incomplete Letter; and

9 WHEREAS, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP adds clarifying text to further
10 describe the process to set the sustainable management criteria for chronic lowering of
11 groundwater levels and incorporates additional monitoring and sustainable management
12 criteria for domestic and municipal and industrial wells that avoid impacts to these
beneficial uses; and

13 WHEREAS, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP adds clarifying text and
14 proposes amendments to the sustainable management criteria for groundwater quality
15 degradation and land subsidence to address DWR’s identified deficiencies; and

16 WHEREAS, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP adds text to Chapter 4 Project
17 and Management Action No. 2 (Groundwater Allocation Program) and No. 4 (Subsidence
18 Prone Area) to clarify the GSA’s discretion to not implement an aquifer-specific allocation
19 in certain areas where additional Upper Aquifer pumping may cause or contribute to
subsidence until data gaps can be addressed; and

20 WHEREAS, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP revises Chapter 6
21 (Governance) to clarify and harmonize certain provisions with the District’s adopted Rules
and Regulations, consistent with SGMA; and

22 WHEREAS, after its filing with DWR, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP will be
23 subject to further public review through the DWR comment process and will undergo
24 review by DWR; and

25 WHEREAS, the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP must be updated and amended,
26 periodically, as deemed necessary by the Subbasin to respond to changing conditions
and new information; and

1 WHEREAS, the District determined, by resolution of its board of directors on June
2 21, 2022, that it is in the best interest of the District, its landowners, and beneficial water
3 uses and users in the Westside Subbasin to adopt the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing recitals are
5 true and correct; and

6 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Fresno hereby adopts
7 the Revised Westside Subbasin GSP for those portions of Fresno County within the
8 Westside Subbasin where the County serves as the GSA, and will support its continuing
9 development and implementation; and

10 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Fresno hereby
11 authorizes the District's General Manager or his designee to submit the Revised
12 Westside Subbasin GSP to the California Department of Water Resources, pursuant to
13 Water Code Section 10733.4.

14 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of
15 Supervisors of the County of Fresno on this 12th day of July, 2022,
16 to wit:

17 AYES: Supervisors Brandau, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco, Quintero
18 NOES: None
19 ABSENT: None
20 ABSTAINED: None

21 

22 Brian Pacheco, Chairman of the Board of
23 Supervisors of the County of Fresno

24 ATTEST:
25 Bernice E. Seidel
26 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
27 County of Fresno, State of California

28 By 
Deputy