

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDED SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS
GSP GROUP GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR PORTIONS OF THE DELTA-
MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN INCLUDING PORTIONS OF THE FRESNO COUNTY
MANAGEMENT AREA B GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AND AUTHORIZING
SUBMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS GROUP
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES

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 agencies ("GSAs") or multiple coordinated plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires a GSP to be developed and implemented to manage groundwater in all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") as medium or high priority, including the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.07); and

WHEREAS, the County, for Fresno County Management Areas A and B (FCMAAB), serves as the exclusive GSA for a portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, the County as the GSA for FCAAB has the authority to draft, adopt, amend, and implement a GSP (Wat. Code, § 10725 et seq.; § 10728.4); and

WHEREAS, the County executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor's Water Authority (SJRECWA) on March 15, 2016, which, among other things, memorialized an agreement pursuant to which the County agreed to work with the SJRECWA in the development of a GSP that would cover portions FCMAAB; and

1 WHEREAS, other GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin prepared separate GSPs for other
2 regions of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin for a total of six GSPs covering the entire Delta-Mendota
3 Subbasin (each, a “GSP Group”); and

4 WHEREAS, the GSAs from all six GSP Groups entered into a Coordination Agreement effective
5 December 12, 2018 (the “Coordination Agreement”) to comply with SGMA and ensure that the multiple
6 GSPs within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin would be developed and implemented utilizing the same
7 methodologies and assumptions, that the elements of the GSPs are appropriately coordinated to support
8 sustainable management, and to show how the multiple GSPs will achieve the sustainability goal for the
9 Subbasin. The Coordination Agreement also established a Coordination Committee composed of
10 representatives from each GSP Group, outlined information sharing obligations, procedures for resolving
11 conflicts, and designated the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority as the Plan Manager for the
12 Delta-Mendota Subbasin; and

13 WHEREAS, SGMA states that a GSA “may adopt or amend a GSP after a public hearing, held at
14 least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment”
15 (Wat. Code, § 10728.4); and

16 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor’s
17 GSP Group GSP on December 10, 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, the Plan Manager submitted the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor’s GSP
19 Group GSP and the Coordination Agreement to DWR on January 23, 2020; and

20 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2022, DWR completed its review of all the GSPs in the Delta-Mendota
21 Subbasin and released a letter determining that the GSPs for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin as a whole
22 were “Incomplete” and identified deficiencies and corrective actions for the GSAs in the Delta-Mendota
23 Subbasin to take. Amended or modified GSPs addressing the corrective actions from each GSP Group
24 must be submitted to DWR by July 20, 2022; and

25 WHEREAS, the County for FCMAAB and the Coordination Committee have, in order to address
26 the deficiencies and to effect the corrective actions identified by DWR, continued to coordinate to develop
27 the draft of the amended San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor’s GSP Group GSP; and

28 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing recitals are true and correct.

1 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that County of Fresno hereby approves and adopts the
2 final draft San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor's GSP Group GSP, dated June 2022, in substantially
3 the form presented, subject to such modifications as the executing officer shall approve, said execution
4 to provide conclusive proof of approval of any such modifications.

5 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Fresno authorizes the San Luis &
6 Delta-Mendota Water Authority, acting as Plan Manager for the Subbasin, to take such other action as
7 may be reasonably necessary to submit the Amended San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor's GSP
8 Group GSP to DWR by July 20, 2022, and implement the purpose of this Resolution.

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

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12 AYES: Supervisors Brandau, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco, Quintero

13 NOES: None

14 ABSENT: None

15 ABSTAINED: None
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20 Brian Pacheco, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
21 of the County of Fresno

22 **ATTEST:**
23 Bernice E. Seidel
24 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
25 County of Fresno, State of California

26 By Staname
27 Deputy
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