



Board Agenda Item 49

DATE: May 1, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning

SUBJECT: Proposed Modification to Fresno County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Working Group Membership

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Consider and approve proposed modification to the Fresno County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Working Group membership.

Approval of the recommended action would modify the membership of the Fresno County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Working Group (SGMA Working Group) to reflect Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) representatives located within Fresno County. This item comes to your Board with a recommendation for approval by the SGMA Working Group. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Your Board may determine not to approve the recommend action in which case the SGMA Working Group's membership would remain unchanged.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended action. Sufficient appropriations to fund staff activities associated with the SGMA Working Group are included in the Public Works and Planning, Org 43600200, FY 2017-2018 budget.

DISCUSSION:

On March 10, 2015, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved formation of the SGMA Working Group. On March 24, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved the SGMA Working Group membership as follows:

Fresno County	Consolidated Irrigation District
Fresno County	Alta Irrigation District
Kings County	Westlands Water District
Tulare County	Central California Irrigation District
Merced County	Panoche Water District
Madera County	Raisin City Water District
City of Fresno	Riverdale Public Utilities District
City of Clovis	Biola Community Services District
City of Reedley	Mendota Pool Group
Kings River Conservation District	Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission
Fresno Irrigation District	

The SGMA Working Group was formed with the intent of utilizing the group's expertise to advise regarding items related to SGMA, to provide a forum to discuss and decipher the requirements of SGMA, and to foster the collaboration necessary for successful implementation of SGMA. The group has met 11 times since formation and has made several recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, including approval of Memorandums of Understanding (Kings Subbasin as a whole, East Kings Subbasin, and Lower Kings Subbasin), each with the fundamental purpose of facilitating a cooperative and ongoing working relationship between the parties.

By way of background, under the current Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, the County overlies four groundwater Subbasins of the Tulare Lake and San Joaquin River Hydrologic Regions. Three of the four Subbasins are identified by the Final California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Basin Prioritization report of June 2014, as high priority basins subject to a critical condition of overdraft: Kings, Westside, and Delta Mendota. Although the fourth basin, Pleasant Valley, is identified as a low priority basin, the Pleasant Valley Water District filed as the GSA for the subbasin and will be preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Since the formation of the SGMA Working Group, GSAs have been formed covering all four subbasins within Fresno County as follows:

Kings Subbasin	Westside Subbasin	Delta Mendota Subbasin	Pleasant Valley Subbasin
North Kings	Westlands Water District	Fresno County "A" and "B"	Pleasant Valley Water District
Central Kings	Fresno County	Oro Loma Water District	
Kings River East		City of Firebaugh	
James Irrigation District		City of Mendota	
McMullin Area		Widren Water District	
North Fork Kings		Farmers Water District	
South Kings		Central Delta Mendota Regional Multi-Agency	
		San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority	

Since all the required GSAs have now been formed and preparation of the required GSPs are underway, staff is recommending that membership of the Working Group be modified to reflect GSA representatives. As the SGMA Working Group moves forward, one key component of SGMA implementation that will need to be addressed is inter-basin coordination. This SGMA Working Group could provide a forum to discuss and address inter-basin issues including coordination agreements and/or inter-basin GSP review. Staff believes that would be a logical evolution of the SGMA Working Group as it continues to be move forward with SGMA implementation.

On March 1, 2018, the SGMA Working Group voted unanimously to recommend to your Board approval of the proposed modification to the SGMA Working Group membership.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #10 March 24, 2015
BAI #8, March 10, 2015

CAO ANALYST:

Sonia M. De La Rosa