
STAFF REPORT

Public Hearing

Sustainable Ground Water Management Act

Joint Powers Agreement for formation of a

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Requested Action:

Hold public hearing on Water Agency's proposed formation of a joint powers agency with Amador County and JVID to act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to govern the portion of the Cosumnes Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin underlying Amador County in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). At conclusion of the public hearing, the Board will discuss and consider approving Resolution 2017-03, approving the attached agreement to create a Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of establishing a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to govern the portion of the Cosumnes Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin underlying Amador County in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and directing the General Manager to provide notice to the Department of Water Resources of the Authority's election to become the County GSA as soon as the County and JVID approve the agreement.

Background:

As discussed in previous board meetings, SGMA requires the formation of GSA(s) prior to June 30, 2017. Failure to establish one or more GSAs for the entire recognized groundwater subbasin will trigger intervention by the State and perhaps result in the state acting as the GSA and imposing fees for its operation. Ad hoc subcommittees from Amador County, JVID and the Water Agency agree that it is in the best interest of Amador County to form a GSA representing the portion of the Consumes Subbasin underlying Amador County to ensure local control of the portion of the subbasin underlying the county. GSAs are being formed in other portions of the subbasin in Sacramento County. In the future, the Authority would be required to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) as set forth in the SGMA. There is funding available from the State to support preparation of GSPs.

Alternatives:

1. Direction to decline to participate in a JPA regarding SGMA
 2. Create a GSA separate from Amador County and JVID.
 3. Provide recommended revisions to the JPA
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Fiscal Impact:

Not yet determined.

Reviewed by Committee:

Yes, the GSA Ad Hoc Committee recommends approval of the JPA agreement.

Reviewed by Legal Counsel: Yes

Recommendation:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2017-13 approving a joint exercise of powers agreement between Amador County, Jackson Valley Irrigation District and the Water Agency to form a groundwater sustainability agency, electing to participate in that agency to implement SGMA in Amador County, and directing staff to file a notice with the Department of Water Resources of the Authority's election to become the County GSA as soon as the County and JVID approve the agreement.

Prepared by: Gene Mancebo, General Manager