

SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 22-01

A Resolution Adopting the Sierra Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), which went into effect on January 1, 2015, and has been amended from time-to-time thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the stated intent of SGMA, as set forth in California Water Code Section 10720.1, is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins; to enhance local management of groundwater consistent with rights to use or store groundwater and Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution; to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management; to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; to avoid or minimize subsidence; to improve data collection and understanding about groundwater; to increase groundwater storage and remove impediments to recharge; to manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies to the greatest extent feasible, while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary to ensure that local agencies manage groundwater in a sustainable manner; and to provide a more efficient and cost-effective groundwater adjudication process that protects water rights, ensures due process, prevents unnecessary delay, and furthers the objectives of this part; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires local agencies to form a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) for the purpose of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan (“GSP”) to achieve demonstrated groundwater sustainability by 2042, considering the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing the GSP; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing, the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (“District”) GSA was formed on March 13, 2017 (Resolution No. 17-02), for the purpose of sustainably managing the groundwater in the Sierra Valley Subbasin, within its jurisdictional boundaries, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing, the County of Plumas (“County”) GSA was formed on March 21, 2017 (Resolution No. 17-8237), for the purpose of sustainably managing the groundwater in the Sierra Valley Subbasin, within its jurisdictional boundaries, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2017, the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) granted the District GSA authority over the portion of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Subbasin within the District’s boundaries; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2017, DWR granted the County GSA authority of over the small area of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Subbasin outside of the District boundary and within the County; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723.6 authorizes a combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to form a joint GSA through several methods, including a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”); and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2018, the District and County GSAs submitted an Initial Notification to DWR of the intent to jointly develop a single Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2019, the County and District GSAs entered into a MOU to facilitate the cooperative and ongoing working relationship to prepare and adopt a single Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP that is compliant with SGMA, with the primary goals of the MOU being to eliminating overlap between the GSAs and establishing a working partnership to cover all portions of the Sierra Valley Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires the adoption of a GSP no later than January 31, 2022, in basins designated in the DWR California’s Groundwater (Bulletin 118) publication as a medium or high priority, including the Sierra Valley Subbasin (No. 5-012.01), which is designated as medium priority; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021, and pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.4, the GSAs released a 90-day Notice to Adopt the Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP; and

WHEREAS, the GSAs prepared a Public Review Draft Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP and circulated it for public review and comment for a period of 35 days from October 11, 2021, to November 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the GSAs received numerous comments from the public and the GSP Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) on the Public Review Draft Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP, which were reviewed and to which responses to comments were prepared, and the Public Review Draft Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP was subsequently revised; and

WHEREAS, the District and County, on December 20, 2021, and December 21, 2021, respectively, held public hearings on the subsequently revised Public Review Draft Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP, discussing TAC, public, District, and County comments; and on January 10, 2022, the District held a special meeting to further discuss District comments; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2022, the District made the Final Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP available for viewing on its website and the County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors made available the Final Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP for viewing at its office; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2022, the District’s Board of Directors held a public hearing to consider public comments on and the adoption of the Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2022, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to consider public comments on and the adoption of the Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District GSA adopts the Final Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP in accordance with SGMA; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District GSA hereby authorizes the Chair of the Board of Directors to take such actions as may be reasonably necessary to submit the Final Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP to DWR, as required, by January 31, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of a GSP.

The foregoing **RESOLUTION** was duly **PASSED** and **ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District GSA, State of California, on **January 17, 2022**, by the following roll call vote:

AYES DIRECTORS:

NOES DIRECTORS:

ABSENT DIRECTORS:

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ATTEST:

BOARD CLERK