

ORDINANCE NO. 92-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ESTABLISHING A PILOT GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District ("District") was created by special act of the Legislature as embodied in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin Act, Stats. 1980 Chapter 449, as amended ("Act") for the purpose of management of groundwater within the Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin ("Basin"); and

WHEREAS, severe drought conditions exist within the State of California, created by five consecutive years of below average rainfall; and

WHEREAS, available data concerning groundwater conditions in the Basin indicate that groundwater levels in the Basin have undergone a long-term decline, indicating that the Basin may be in a state of overdraft; and

WHEREAS, available data indicate that, by the end of each irrigation season, there exist in portions of the Basin large areas where groundwater levels are lower than in surrounding areas due to heavy pumpage, which areas are referred to herein as pumping depressions; and

WHEREAS, the District has identified four proposed sub-basins within the Basin where declines in groundwater levels are particularly acute, the largest two of which are in the Vinton and Loyaltan areas and the others being in Chilcoot and near Beckwourth; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to adopt a pilot groundwater management program as the initial step toward a long-term strategy to manage and conserve groundwater within the Basin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Valley Groundwater District as follows:

Section 1: Purpose and Findings.

Based upon information submitted and testimony received at the public hearing held on April 13, 1992, this Board of Directors finds that portions of the Basin are in a state of overdraft and that, in portions of the Basin, large pumping depressions exist as a result of extensive groundwater pumping. These conditions create a potential threat to the public health, safety and welfare because of a reduced water supply for human

consumption, sanitation, fire protection and irrigation. In order to conserve the water supply for the greatest public benefit, it is necessary to adopt a pilot program for the management and conservation of groundwater in the Basin, during which data will be collected to serve as the basis for the adoption and implementation of a long-term groundwater management program.

Section 2: Voluntary Reductions in Groundwater Extractions.

During the irrigation seasons of 1992, 1993 and 1994, all operators of Large Capacity Groundwater Wells within the Vinton, Loyalton, Chilcoat and Beckwourth sub-basins (as delineated on maps on file with the District) are requested to reduce, on a voluntary basis, aggregate groundwater extractions from each operator by a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) from the Baseline Groundwater Use figure as hereinafter defined. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Large Capacity Groundwater Well" shall mean a well having a pump capacity of 100 gallons per minute, or greater.
- (b) "Baseline Groundwater Use" shall be the mean average of all pumping from each Large Capacity Groundwater Well during the period 1987 through and including 1991.

Any operator of a Large Capacity Groundwater Well who declines to reduce aggregate groundwater extractions by a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) is requested to provide the District with a detailed explanation as to why such reduction is not feasible.

Section 3: Availability of Data on Reduced Pumping.

The District shall, on an annual basis, compile and make available to the general public data regarding the reductions, if any, achieved by each operator of a Large Capacity Groundwater Well within the Basin.

Section 4: Well Spacing for New Wells.

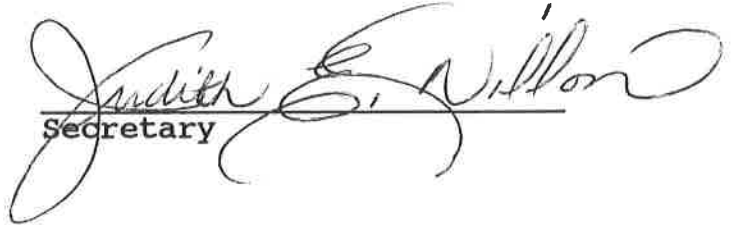
Pursuant to Section 703 of the Act, for all new Large Capacity Groundwater Wells proposed to be drilled in the Basin on or after June 01, 1992, the owner of land on which the proposed new Large Capacity Groundwater Well is to be drilled shall obtain from the District a well spacing permit approving the location of the proposed new well.

Section 5: Information Required.

Pursuant to Section 602 of the Act, each owner of land on which a Large Capacity Groundwater Well is located shall submit the following information to the District on an annual basis:

- (a) A general description of the equipment associated with such well; and
- (b) the location of each well.

ADOPTED this 13th day of April, 1992.


Secretary

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