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ATTEST: OCT 24 2012

VERONICA A. FERGUSON, Clerk/Secretary
BY C Woodson
DEPUTY CLERK/ASST SECRETARY

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Resolution No. 12-0507

County of Sonoma
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Date: 10/23/2012

Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Water Agency Of Intention To Prepare A Groundwater Management Plan For The Santa Rosa Plain Of Sonoma County. (4/5 Vote Required.)

Whereas, for purposes of this Resolution and the development of a groundwater management plan, the Santa Rosa Plain includes the Santa Rosa Plain watershed as defined by the United States Geological Survey, which includes the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin (Department of Water Resources groundwater subbasin 1-55.01), the Rincon Valley groundwater subbasin (Department of Water Resources groundwater subbasin 1-55.03) located on the eastern side of the city of Santa Rosa, the northern half of the Kenwood Valley groundwater basin (Department of Water Resources groundwater basin 2-19) located along the eastern boundary of the United States Geological Survey study area, and eastern portions of the Wilson Grove Formation Highlands groundwater basin (Department of Water Resources groundwater basin 1-59); and

Whereas, the groundwater system beneath the Santa Rosa Plain provides numerous benefits to the region, including rural residential and municipal water supplies, irrigation water for agriculture, and baseflow to streams and surface water bodies; and

Whereas, an integrated strategy being undertaken statewide by many local agencies to manage groundwater resources is to develop and implement non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plans in compliance with the 1992 Assembly Bill 3030 and 2002 Senate Bill 1938. Such plans typically include public involvement, groundwater level and quality monitoring, and management strategies; and

Whereas, active public participation is critical to the success of development of any groundwater planning effort; and

Whereas, based on the outcome of a stakeholder assessment conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy in 2009, the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Water Agency) Board of Directors directed staff in January 2010 to convene a Steering Committee to guide preliminary planning, conduct outreach to solicit input regarding groundwater management planning, and to develop recommendations on whether groundwater planning should proceed based on these activities; and

Whereas, the Steering Committee met six times in 2010, held three public workshops, and conducted briefings with over 20 organizations. Based on these efforts, the Steering Committee unanimously recommended that the Water Agency Board of Directors authorize the development of an Assembly Bill 3030 groundwater management plan; and

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Whereas, on May 3, 2011 the Water Agency's Board of Directors authorized staff to develop a workplan for developing an Assembly Bill 3030 groundwater management plan and to develop an agreement with partners to fund development of a groundwater management plan; and

Whereas, on October 18, 2011, the Water Agency's Board authorized staff to enter a cooperative agreement with County of Sonoma Permit and Resources Management Department, City of Cotati, City of Rohnert Park, City of Santa Rosa, City of Sebastopol, Town of Windsor and California American Water Company to fund development of a groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain compliant with Assembly Bill 3030 and Senate Bill 1938; and

Whereas, as part of initiating a groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain, a Basin Advisory Panel (Panel) was formed to lead development of the groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain; and

Whereas, the Panel includes stakeholders from throughout the Santa Rosa Plain representing agricultural interests, local citizen groups, environmental groups, business interests, local well owners and government interests; and

Whereas, the Panel has been meeting since December 2011 to begin the groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

Whereas, development of a groundwater management plan would provide for the effective management of groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

Whereas, the California Water Code requires that before a groundwater management plan can be prepared, a local public agency must provide notice and hold a hearing regarding the local public agency's intent to prepare a groundwater management plan; and

Whereas, the Water Agency was formed in 1949 by a special legislative act of the State of California (Agency Act) and is a stakeholder of the Basin Advisory Panel; and

Whereas, under the Agency Act, the Water Agency may provide for the protection and preservation of groundwater resources in Sonoma County for current and future beneficial uses and may develop, adopt, and implement a plan to manage groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

Whereas, by completing a groundwater management plan, existing and future State funding may be available for plan implementation; and

Whereas, a hearing has been duly noticed and held as required by law.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency hereby finds, determines, and declares as follows:

1. All of the above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Water Agency intends to prepare a groundwater management plan in collaboration with the Panel for the Santa Rosa Plain of Sonoma County. The groundwater management plan will be developed and implemented under the governance structure described in Attachment A.
3. The General Manager is authorized and directed to take such steps as are necessary to develop the groundwater management plan in collaboration with the Panel for the Santa Rosa Plain, for Board consideration, and to publish a copy of this Resolution as required by law.
4. Upon completion of a groundwater management plan, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency will consider adopting and implementing the groundwater management plan in accordance with the process required by law.
5. The General Manager shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain complies with all requirements of Water Code Sections 10750 – 10755.4.
6. The General Manager shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure active public participation in the groundwater management planning process and shall coordinate and staff the Basin Advisory Panel meetings which will serve to provide a forum for public involvement in the development of the groundwater management plan. To support the groundwater management planning process, the Water Agency shall develop a plan for public involvement which shall be consistent with Attachment A and include at least the following:

   a) The formulation of a Technical Advisory Committee to guide development of the groundwater management plan;
   b) Preparation of a Communication & Outreach Plan;
   c) Provision of public review and comment periods, and public hearings pursuant to Water Code Section 10753 et seq.

7. The General Manager is authorized to terminate preparation of the groundwater management plan if determined to be in the best interest of the Water Agency. Should the preparation of the groundwater management plan be terminated, the General Manager is directed to publish a public notice of the termination.

Directors:

Brown: Aye	Rabbitt: Aye	McGuire: Aye	Carrillo: Aye	Zane: Aye
Ayes: 5	Noes: 0	Absent: 0	Abstain: 0	

So Ordered.