STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
PROVIDING SERVICE SINCE 1948
www.sewd.net

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September 29, 2015

Mr. Mark Nordberg
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

RE: STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

This letter serves as notification to the California Department of Water Resources that Stockton East Water District (**Stockton East**) has elected to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**GSA**) pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8, and its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for that portion of the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater subbasin (DWR Basin No. 5.22-01) (**Basin**) that lies within the boundaries of Stockton East. A map and shapefile showing the Basin, Stockton East's service area, and the proposed area of the GSA is attached in "**Exhibit A**".

The District is in discussions with other agencies overlying the Basin, and is interested in working cooperatively with them. The other entities that could be a GSA within the Basin boundaries currently include, but are not limited to:

City of Stockton
San Joaquin County
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Woodbridge Irrigation District
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Calaveras County Water District
Stanislaus County
Calaveras County

A copy of the Resolution electing to become a GSA for the Basin is attached in "**Exhibit B**".

The District did not adopt any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities to elect to become a GSA.

Prior to the election to become a GSA, a public hearing was held on September 29, 2015 pursuant to Water Code section 10723(b).

As required by Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4), Stockton East developed a list of interested parties, and this list will continue to be amended as necessary during the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process. As required by the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Stockton East Water District will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Basin, as well as those responsible for developing GSPs. Stockton East will solicit feedback and participate in discussions with interested parties during GSP development. These interests include, but are not limited to the following:

- ***Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including*:**
  - *Agriculture users.*

  The Stockton East Board of Directors is comprised of seven members, with each member representing a separate division within the District. Three divisions are designated from the agricultural portion of the District, three divisions are designated from the municipal area of the District, and the third represents a division straddling the two areas. Therefore, agricultural users are well represented on the Stockton East governing board. In addition, Stockton East has an Agricultural Advisory Committee that will be utilized to provide feedback to the District.

  - *Domestic well owners.*

  There are domestic wells within the GSA, however, based on the understanding of groundwater conditions that currently exist, or are likely to exist in the foreseeable future, the GSA anticipates that the plan will exclude domestic wells.

- ***Municipal well operators.***

  The Stockton East Board of Directors is comprised of seven members, with each member representing a separate division within the District. Three divisions are designated from the agricultural portion of the District, three divisions are designated from the municipal area of the District, and the third represents a division straddling the two areas. Therefore, municipal users are well represented on the Stockton East governing board. In addition, Stockton East participates in a Stockton Area Water Suppliers Group, comprised of municipal well operators, and this group will participate to provide feedback to the District.

- ***Public water systems.***

  Stockton East will work with San Joaquin County to identify any public water systems within the GSA relying on groundwater supplies.

- ***Local land use planning agencies.***
  - City of Stockton: The City of Stockton contracts with Stockton East and has a close and ongoing working relationship that will be used to solicit feedback from them to the GSA.

- San Joaquin County: San Joaquin County contracts with Stockton East and has a close and ongoing working relationship that will be used to solicit feedback from them to the GSA.
- Stanislaus County
- Calaveras County

- ***Environmental users of groundwater.***
  Stockton East has, and will continue to work cooperatively with the following agencies, along with state and federal government regulatory agencies, to address groundwater issues in developing the GSA:
  Friends of the Lower Calaveras River
  Calaveras River Watershed Stewardship Group
  Calaveras River Fish Group
  Fishery Foundation

  In addition, Stockton East is finalizing a Habitat Conservation Plan for the lower Calaveras River.

- ***Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater flows.***
  Stockton East provides surface water within the GSA boundaries, and has existing contractual relationships with other surface water users within the GSA boundaries, as well as wholesale contractual relationship with the following surface water retailers:
  City of Stockton
  California Water Service Company
  San Joaquin County

  In addition, Stockton East will continue to work with surface water users immediately adjacent to the GSA, but within the Basin:
  Calaveras County Water District
  South San Joaquin Irrigation District
  Oakdale Irrigation District
  Woodbridge Irrigation District
  North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
  Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District

- ***The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.***
  Stockton East has a contractual relationship with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and works closely with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to operate the New Hogan Reservoir within the GSA.

- ***California Native American tribes.*** N/A

- ***Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.*** Stockton East has identified disadvantaged communities within the Basin from DWR's web page, and will cooperate with San Joaquin County to work with any disadvantaged communities within the GSA relying on groundwater supplies.

- ***Entities listed in Water Code section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater Basin managed by the GSA.*** Stockton East has a groundwater management plan adopted under Water Code Section 10750, et seq. San Joaquin County collects groundwater data, as part of the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Authority, the CASGEM monitoring entity, and the GSA will continue to coordinate with the county regarding the plan.

The District intends to work cooperatively with other agencies, water providers, and other interested stakeholders within San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County, Calaveras County, and the State of California, regarding the sustainable management of groundwater within the Basin. Stockton East intends to use its existing Board of Directors for governance purposes.

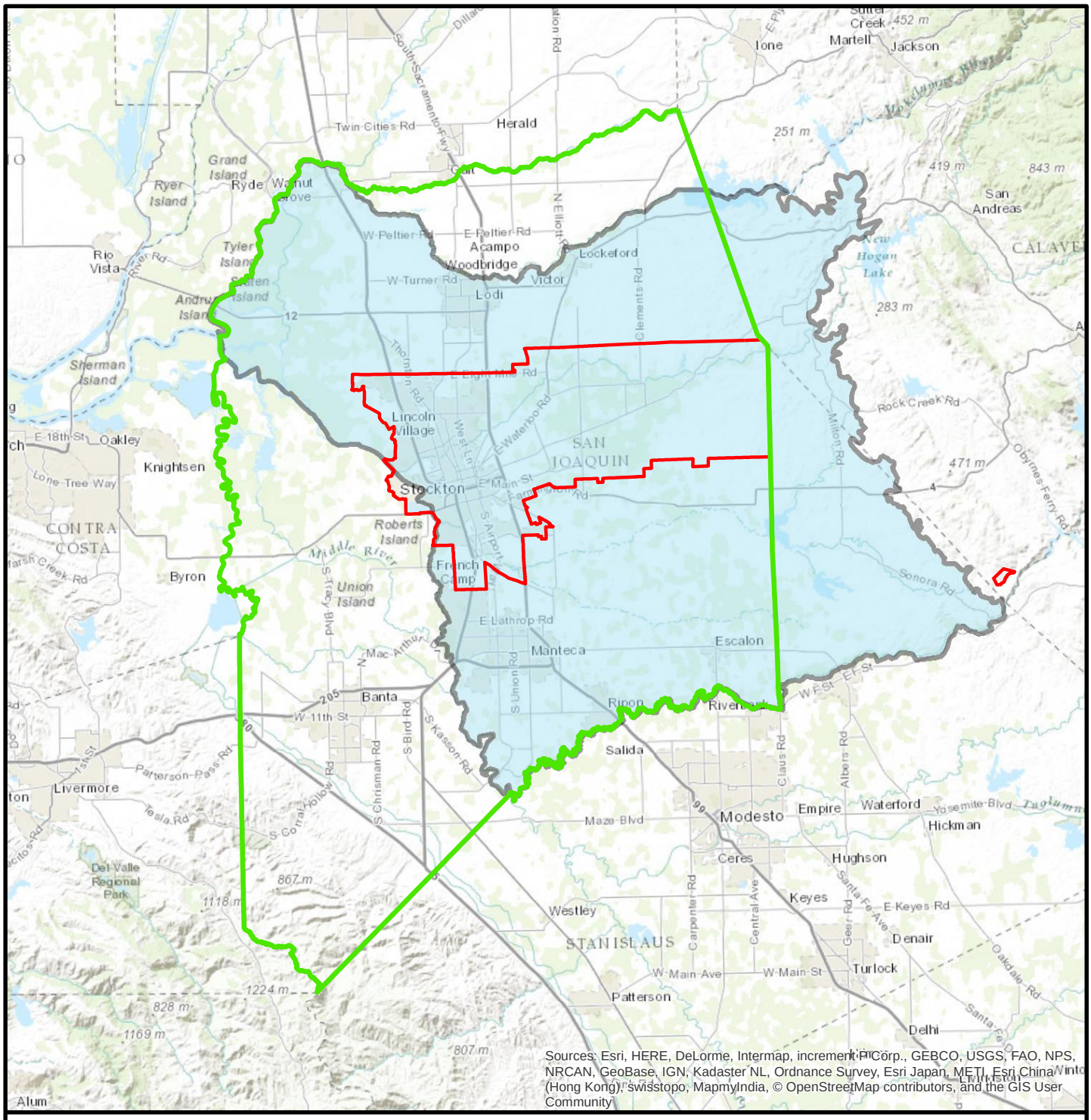
If the Department of Water Resources requires additional information, please contact: District Engineer Cathy Lee at (209) 948-0537.

Sincerely,

Scot A. Moody
General Manager

Attachments:
Exhibit A – Map/GIS shape file of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin and Stockton East's Service Area
Exhibit B – Copy of Resolution of Declaration to Become a GSA

Exhibit A



Stockton East Water District

Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

San Joaquin County Boundary

Stockton East Water District Boundary – GSA Boundary

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin

STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 15-16-11

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT ELECTING TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT FOR THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, the California Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); and

WHEREAS, the SGMA went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the SGMA requires all high and medium priority groundwater Basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA); and

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Subbasin (Basin) has been designated by DWR as a high priority Basin; and

WHEREAS, the SGMA authorizes any local agency overlying the Basin to elect to become a GSA within the Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton East Water District (District) is a local agency as defined under the SGMA and is therefore eligible to serve as a GSA within the Basin; and

WHEREAS, Section 10723.2 of the SGMA requires that a GSA consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans; and

WHEREAS, Section 10723.8 of the SGMA requires that a local agency electing to be a GSA to notify the DWR of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a Basin; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notices of a public hearing on whether to adopt a resolution to establish and become a GSA were published on September 10, 2015 and September 17, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the District held a public hearing on September 29, 2015 after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider the adoption of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA granted by the SGMA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stockton East Water District Board of Directors hereby elects to become a GSA for the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boundaries of the GSA for which Stockton East Water District intends to manage shall be the boundaries of the portion of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin within its jurisdiction until further action or notice by the Stockton East Water District. A copy of a map of the management area is attached as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Members of the Stockton East Water District authorizes the General Manager or his designee to, within 30 days of the date of this resolution, provide notification of this election to the DWR, including a copy of this resolution and additional information required by Water Code Section 10723.8, in the manner required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such notification shall include the boundaries of the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin that the District intends to manage, which shall include the lands within the District boundaries, a copy of this resolution, a list of interested parties developed pursuant to Section 10723.2 of the SGMA, and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSA's groundwater sustainability plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District will develop an outreach program to include all stakeholders to ensure that all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are considered.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Stockton East Water District at a regular meeting on this 29th day of September 2015, by the following vote of the members thereof:

Ayes: McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Watkins
Nayes: None
Absent: Atkins, Cortopassi, Sanguinetti
Abstain: None

Paul Sanguinetti, President
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Scot A. Moody, Secretary