

TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT
1269 W. I Street, Los Banos, CA 93635, Phone: (209) 827-7700

December 3, 2015

Mr. Mark Nordberg
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

This letter serves as notification to the California Department of Water Resources that Turner Island Water District (TIWD) has elected to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to Water Code Section 10723(a). Information in this letter is intended to comply with the requirements for notification under Section 10723.8(a).

Applicable Bulletin 118 Subbasin and Resolution to become a GSA

TIWD intends to undertake sustainable groundwater management for that portion of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.04) that lies within its service area. A map showing the Merced Subbasin and TIWD service area is attached as **Exhibit 1**. A copy of the Resolution electing to become a GSA for the Merced Subbasin is attached as **Exhibit 2**. The Resolution was adopted on November 10, 2015.

Intention to Engage and Manage Groundwater Sustainably under SGMA

Turner Island Water District has engaged and is seeking to work cooperatively with other local agencies overlying the Merced Subbasin to meet the requirements of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) including preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in accordance with Section 10727. TIWD acknowledges that SGMA requires groundwater management to be conducted on a basin-wide scale according to a 50-year planning and implementation horizon.

Other local agencies eligible to form a GSA within the Merced Subbasin include, but are not limited to, Merced County, the City of Merced, and Merced Irrigation District. These entities are members of a long-term Regional Water Management Group formed through the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2013). The IRWMP listed numerous other water interests in the region including TIWD. There are no local agencies with service areas overlapping those of TIWD other than Merced County.

TIWD's service area lies wholly within the Merced Subbasin. However, as shown in **Exhibit 1**, TIWD's western boundary abuts a portion of the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin

boundary (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.07). TIWD has determined that groundwater may flow across this boundary, and as such, it will seek to engage GSAs that may be formed in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. These include, but are not limited to, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and its members; TIWD is also a member of the Authority.

TIWD anticipates the need to enter into intra- and inter-basin agreements to ensure that GSPs are coordinated and satisfy applicable regulations developed under SGMA.

As of December 3, 2015, no other agencies within the Merced or Delta-Mendota Subbasins have been posted by DWR as providing notification to become a GSA.

GSA Notification Requirements

In accordance with GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies¹, Turner Island Water District submits the following information:

Information Submitted within 30 Days

TIWD conducted a public hearing on November 10, 2012 pursuant to Water Code section 10723(b), to elect to become a GSA.

Map and Description of Service Area Boundaries

TIWD's service area is shown on **Exhibit 1**. The service area is located on the western edge of the Merced Subbasin and is bounded by the Mariposa Bypass along the northern border, the Eastside Bypass along the eastern border, and the San Joaquin River along the southern border. The western boundary consists of various property lines and canals.

There are no other local agencies with overlapping service area boundaries other than Merced County.

Resolution

A copy of the Resolution electing to become a GSA for the Merced Subbasin is attached in **Exhibit 2** and includes the Government Code 6066 notification and evidence of a public hearing regarding TIWD's intent to become a GSA.

New Bylaws, Ordinances, or New Authorities

TIWD did not adopt any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities in electing to become a GSA.

¹ http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSA_Notification_Requirements_2015-10-27.pdf
Accessed November 25, 2015

Interested Parties

TIWD has identified the following interested parties as defined in Water Code Section 10723.2. It is anticipated that the list may be modified and amended during GSP development. TIWD will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Merced Subbasin, as well as others responsible for developing GSPs within the Subbasin and, as appropriate, within adjacent subbasins that are hydrogeologically connected. TIWD will solicit feedback and engage with interested parties during GSP development. Interested parties include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

○ *Agriculture users*

- TIWD is comprised of several agriculture landowners that rely on groundwater for irrigation. Landowners within TIWD's service area include Turner Island Farms, McNamara Farms, Butts Farms, and Iest Farms.
- Outside of TIWD's service area, other agricultural interests with groundwater rights include private landowners, the Stevinson Water District, San Luis Canal Company, which is a member agency of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, and Lone Tree Mutual Water Company. TIWD expects to coordinate local conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater through a single or multiple GSPs in the Merced and Delta-Mendota Subbasins where these interests occur.

○ *Domestic users*

There are domestic wells within TIWD's service area located at residences of landowners and landowner employees.

(b) Municipal well operators.

- There are no municipal well operators within TIWD's service area and there are no lands adjacent to TIWD's service area served by municipal wells.

(c) Public water systems.

- There are no public water systems within TIWD's service area.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

- Merced County is the local planning agency with authority covering TIWD's service area.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

- There are no environmental users of groundwater with TIWD's service area, nor does TIWD provide groundwater for environmental purposes outside of its service area.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater flows.

- There are several surface water features adjacent to TIWD's service area: the San Joaquin River runs along the southern boundary of the GSA; the Mariposa Bypass runs through the northern boundary portion of the GSA; and the Eastside Bypass runs along the eastern portion of the GSA.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

- TIWD's service area will be affected by the San Joaquin River restoration project, which is part of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. When completed, the project is expected to increase underflow and recharge to shallow groundwater.

(h) California Native American Tribes

- There are no California Native American Tribes within TIWD's service area.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

- There are no disadvantaged communities within TIWD's service area. There are disadvantaged communities elsewhere within the Merced Subbasin as detailed in the Merced IRWMP (2013).

(j) 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.

- The Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) is the CASGEM monitoring entity for the Merced Subbasin. MAGPI performs and reports on groundwater conditions in the Merced Subbasin and prepared an AB3030 groundwater management plan in 2008. TIWD is a member of MAGPI.
- The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is the CASGEM monitoring entity for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.
- TIWD and Lone Tree Mutual Water Company conduct groundwater monitoring within their adjoining service areas under a 1997 MOU. The monitoring program was implemented under AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan prepared and adopted in 1997 by TIWD.

Mr. Mark Nordberg
December 3, 2015
Page 5

This GSA formation notification along with GIS shape files is being sent electronically to Mark.Norberg@water.ca.gov.

All Applicable Information Submitted in this Notification

The undersigned, as representative of Turner Island Water District, asserts that this notification includes all applicable GSA Notification Requirements in Water Code Section 10723.8(a).

Sincerely,



Donald C. Skinner, President
Turner Island Water District

Cc: Mr. Ron Rowe
Director Of Division Of Environmental Health
Merced County
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

Dane Mathis
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
South Central Region Office
3374 E Shields Office
Fresno, CA 93726

Attachments

Exhibit 1: Map of Turner Island Water District Service Area
Exhibit 2: Copy of Resolution of Declaration to Become a GSA and Notices

TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT
1269 W. I Street, Los Banos, CA 93635, Phone: (209) 827-7700

Exhibit 1

- Map of Turner Island Water District Service Area

Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

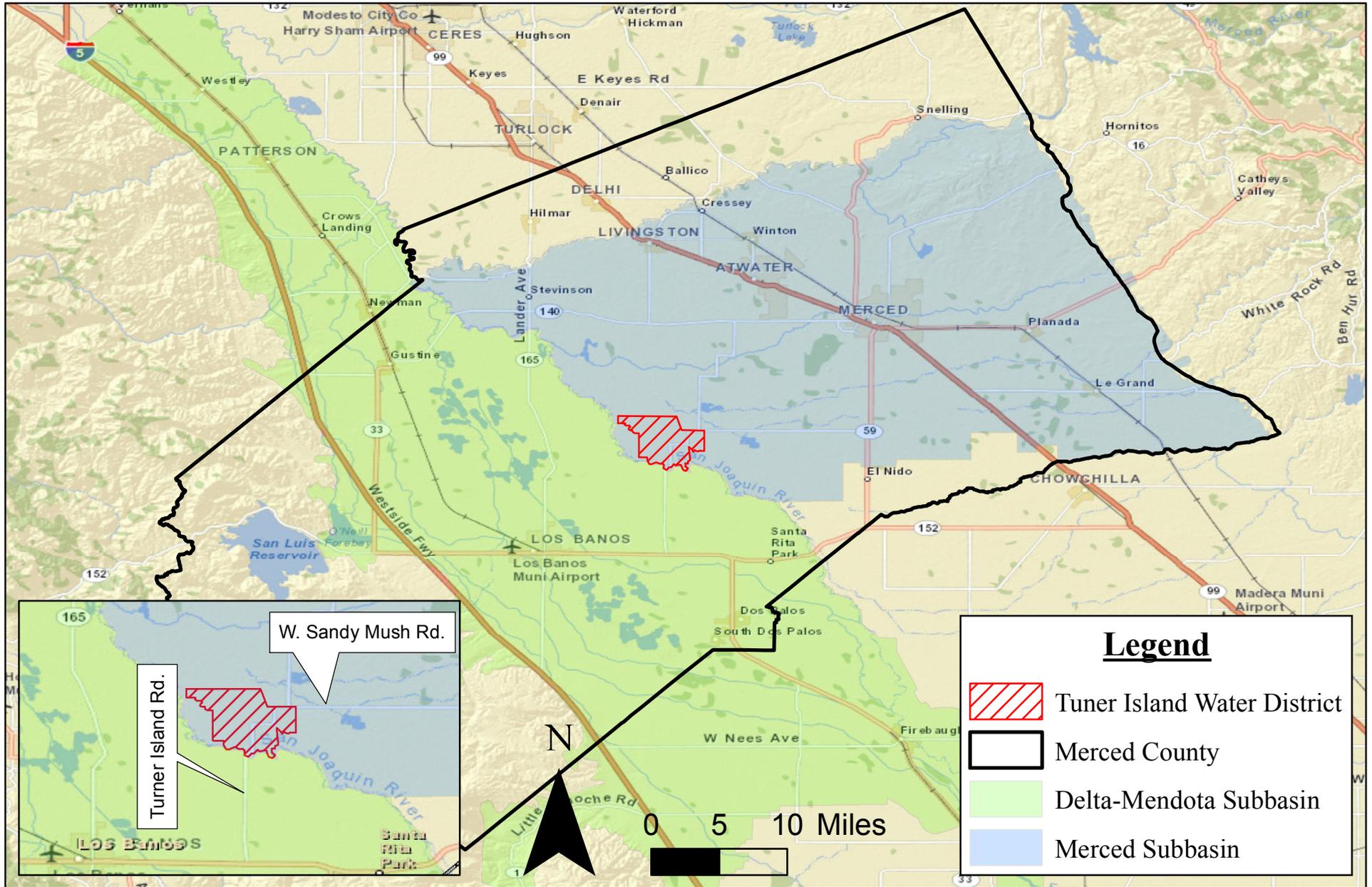


Exhibit 2

- GSA Resolution
- Evidence of Public Hearing

**TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT
RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT
OF ELECTION TO FORM A
GROUND WATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Turner Island Water District is a local agency which may elect to be a Ground Water Sustainability Agency under the California Water Code; and

WHEREAS, the Turner Island Water District wishes to proceed with the steps necessary for the formation of a Ground Water Sustainability Agency (GSA); and

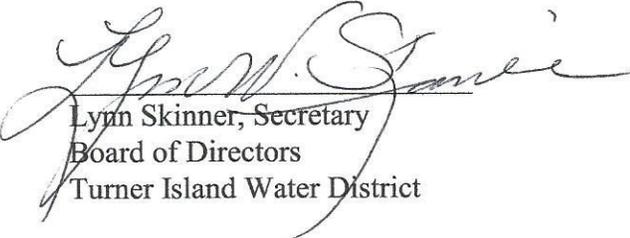
WHEREAS, in order to become a GSA, as outlined in the California Water Code, a public hearing must take place after which the District can adopt a Resolution of Intension to form a GSA; and

WHEREAS, the District has published a Notice pursuant to the requirements of California Government Code Section 6066 and has held a public hearing regarding the adoption of a Resolution of Intention to form a GSA,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Turner Island Water District as follows:

The Turner Island Water District hereby adopts a Resolution that it elects to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as outlined in the California Water Code, Part 2.74, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Section 10723, and further directs that its Secretary submit a Notice of the District's intent to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to the California Department of Water Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Turner Island Water District held on November 10, 2015.


Lynn Skinner, Secretary
Board of Directors
Turner Island Water District

