

City of Gridley

685 Kentucky Street

Gridley, CA 95948

December 8, 2015

Mr. Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: City of Gridley - Notification of Election to Become a
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, the City of Gridley hereby notifies the California Department of Water Resources of its election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), and its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for a portion of the East Butte and North Yuba Subbasins lying within the incorporated limit and the Sphere of Influence boundary(ies) of the City of Gridley which has water supply, water management, and land use responsibilities and authority.

Other GSAs operating within the East Butte subbasin include:

- Richvale Irrigation District (East Butte)
- Biggs West Gridley Water District (East Butte)
- Butte Water District (East Butte)
- Western Canal Water District (East Butte and West Butte)
- Butte County

Prior to the election to become a GSA, a study session was held on October 19, 2015, and public hearings were held on November 16, 2015 and December 7, 2015 in accordance with Water Code Section 10723(b) and noticed in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.

As required by Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), a list of interested parties has been developed and will continue to be revised as necessary. The City intends to work cooperatively with other agencies, water providers, interested stakeholders, and other GSAs within Butte County and the State of California concerning sustainable groundwater management.

Page 2
Mr. Mark Nordberg
December 8, 2015

The City of Gridley will be participating in the groundwater assessment process hosted by the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation in an effort to move forward with the development of a coordinated groundwater sustainability/management plan.

Attached to this correspondence is a certified copy of Resolution No. 2015-R-034 of the City Council of the City of Gridley dated December 7, 2015. Please contact me at (530) 846-5695 should you wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Price', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dean Price
Interim City Administrator

Cc: Matt Michaelis

Enclosure



CITY OF GRIDLEY

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor, City Council
FROM: Donna Decker, Planning Department
MEETING DATE: December 7, 2015
SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution No. 2015-R-034 electing to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the City of Gridley located within the East Butte Ground water Sub basin in Butte County, California.

SUMMARY

On October 19, 2015 the City Council held a study session with Vickie Newlin, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation, who introduced the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA 2014) and how it relates to public agencies within Butte County. She outlined the process, the reasons the City may choose to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and the status of other applications in the Butte County area and how it may affect Gridley.

On November 16, 2015 the City Council considered electing to become a Groundwater Sustainable Agency after a presentation by staff and Ms. Newlin who presented additional information. Ms. Newlin described the efforts underway to create an inclusive process for agencies who are GSAs to discuss next steps of the process and the development of a ground water management plan.

Staff is returning to the City Council recommending the city elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to Water Code Section 10723. After adoption of Resolution Number 2015-R-034, a letter will be sent to the State requesting the City of Gridley be accepted as a GSA.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) went into effect on January 1, 2015. One of the near-term actions is to establish one or more Ground water Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to take responsibility for developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) for the four sub-basins in Butte County.

The legislation is considered just one part of a statewide, comprehensive water plan for California that includes investments in water conservation, water recycling, expanded water storage, safe drinking water, wetlands and watershed restoration. The plan is intended to ensure a reliable water supply for California for years to come. The State Water Resources Control Board may intervene if a GSA is not formed or it fails to adopt or implement compliant plans by certain dates.

Key Implementation Dates

- **June 30, 2017:** Local ground water sustainability agencies formed.
- **Jan. 31, 2020:** Ground water sustainability plans adopted for critically over drafted basins.
- **Jan. 31, 2022:** Ground water sustainability plans adopted for high- and medium-priority basins not currently in overdraft.
- **20 years after adoption:** All high- and medium-priority ground water basins must achieve sustainability.

Status of the formation of GSAs in Butte County Sub-basins

Counties are presumed to be the GSA for areas that do not have any other local agency. Local public agencies intending to be a GSA for all, or a portion, of a basin must notify the Department of Water Resources by June 30, 2017, as noted above.

Once a local agency elects to be a GSA, a 90-day period begins for other local public agencies in the sub-basin to decide whether to be a GSA. If no other GSA is formed in the sub-basin area, the GSA will be presumed the exclusive GSA for that portion of the sub-basin (Water Code §10723.8(b)). The City Council directed staff to return with a resolution for the City of Gridley to elect to become a GSA in order to be considered by the State that would fall within the 90 day filing period. The City of Gridley will request the formation of the GSA to include the incorporated limits of the City as well as the adopted Sphere of Influence boundary. This boundary is the limits that the City of Gridley has land use decision-making authority over.

Whether a basin contains one GSA or many, a wide variety of options are allowed for the development and implementation of a Ground water Sustainability Plan within the basin. Basins could be covered by a single Plan submitted by one GSA, a single Plan submitted on behalf of multiple GSAs, or multiple Plans submitted by multiple GSAs. The scope and requirements of Plans will not be determined until DWR adopts regulations by June 1, 2016. In circumstances when multiple Plans are submitted by multiple GSAs, the GSAs must have a "Coordinated Agreement". The "Coordinated Agreements" require that the GSAs in a basin coordinate and utilize the same data and methodologies (e.g., ground water elevation data, ground water extraction data, surface water supply, total water use, change in ground water storage, water budget, sustainable yield) for their Plan. The regulations regarding "Coordinated Agreements" will not be in place until June 1, 2016.

CONCLUSION

The steps being taken by local agencies to form GSAs are occurring throughout the region. The formation of GSA is an important step in a long implementation process. The election of the City of Gridley to be a GSA will advance the discussion and dialogue on the implementation of SGMA 2014. It is important at this time for the City of Gridley to effect formation of a GSA. The City can be a GSA because it has land use authority and this will provide the City with the

opportunity to participate with other GSAs in the development of a GMP or to decide to create and implement its own.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice was posted at City Hall, and available at the Administration Counter, and placed on the City website. At the time this report was prepared, no additional public comment had been received.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15061(b) (3), Review for Exemption, General Rule.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is a fiscal impact to the City for the management of the GSA, the creation and adoption of a GMP and dedicated staff to monitor and provide the required reporting to the state. These costs are unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2015-R-034 electing to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the City of Gridley located within the East Butte Ground water Sub basin in Butte County, California; and,
2. Find the proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15061(b) (3), Review for Exemption, General Rule.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Decker
Planning Department

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution number 2015-R-034

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL ELECTING TO BE A
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR A PORTION OF THE EAST
BUTTE SUBBASIN LYING UNDER THE CITY OF GRIDLEY INCORPORATED
LIMITS AND ITS ADOPTED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE BOUNDARY, BUTTE
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

THIS DOCUMENT IS A FULL, TRUE AND
CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ON
FILE IN THIS OFFICE.
ATTEST:
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY

12/16/15
DATE

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 enables the State Water Resources Control Board to intervene in groundwater basins unless a local public agency or combination of local public agencies form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies (GSAS) by June 30, 2017 (Water Code §10735); and,

WHEREAS, retaining local jurisdiction over water management and land use is essential to sustainably manage groundwater for the economy, community and its environment in the City of Gridley; and,

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a subbasin may elect to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Water Code §10721 and §10723(a)); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley provides water, water management, and land use responsibility within its incorporated boundary and adopted Sphere of Influence boundary and therefore, is eligible and presumed to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for a portion of the East Butte subbasin in Butte County; and,

WHEREAS, other local public agencies in Butte County have elected to be a GSA and have notified the Department of Water Resources of its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management; and,

WHEREAS, within 90-days of an entity giving notice to the Department of Water Resources of the intent to form, or having formed, a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area unless another entity provides notice to the Department of Water Resources of their intent to form, or notice that the entity formed, a GSA (Water Code §10723.8); and,

WHEREAS, establishing the City of Gridley as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will enable the City to work with other GSAs in the preparation and implementation of an effective and mutually beneficial Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for the sustainable groundwater management in Butte County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley intends to work cooperatively with other local public agencies to manage the aforementioned groundwater basin in a sustainable fashion; and,

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "Project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(a) and (b) of Title 14 of the California Code of regulations because this Resolution does not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley held a study session on October 19, 2015 and public hearings on November 16, 2015 and on this date after the publication of notices for these dates pursuant to Government Code Section 6066 to consider the election to become a GSA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City Council of the City of Gridley hereby elects to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the portion of the East Butte Subbasin lying under the incorporated boundary of the City of Gridley and its adopted Sphere of Influence

RESOLUTION NO.
2015-R-034

boundary as passed and adopted by LAFCo on December 2, 2010, Resolution number 05 2010/11 depicted by Attachment 1 to this resolution, lying over a portion of the East Butte Subbasin as depicted by Attachment 2, the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (Update 2003);

2. The City Council hereby directs staff to notify the Department of Water Resources of the election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency within thirty (30) days of this date, and the intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for the aforementioned portion of the East Butte Subbasin; and,
3. The City Council directs staff to continue discussions with other local public agencies in order to begin the process of developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the aforementioned subbasin that underlie the City of Gridley and its Sphere of Influence boundaries as described herein.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Gridley at a regular meeting held on the 7th day of December, 2015 by the following vote:

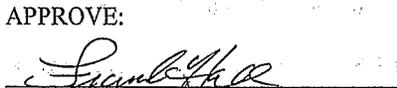
AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Draper, Stiles, Borges, Johnson, Hall

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS none

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS none

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS none

ATTEST: 
Dean Price, Interim City Clerk

APPROVE: 
Frank Hall, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL ELECTING TO BE A
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR A PORTION OF THE EAST
BUTTE SUBBASIN LYING UNDER THE CITY OF GRIDLEY INCORPORATED
LIMITS AND ITS ADOPTED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE BOUNDARY, BUTTE
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 enables the State Water Resources Control Board to intervene in groundwater basins unless a local public agency or combination of local public agencies form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies (GSAS) by June 30, 2017 (Water Code §10735); and,

WHEREAS, retaining local jurisdiction over water management and land use is essential to sustainably manage groundwater for the economy, community and its environment in the City of Gridley; and,

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a subbasin may elect to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Water Code §10721 and §10723(a)); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley provides water, water management, and land use responsibility within its incorporated boundary and adopted Sphere of Influence boundary and therefore, is eligible and presumed to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for a portion of the East Butte subbasin in Butte County; and,

WHEREAS, other local public agencies in Butte County have elected to be a GSA and have notified the Department of Water Resources of its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management; and,

WHEREAS, within 90-days of an entity giving notice to the Department of Water Resources of the intent to form, or having formed, a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area unless another entity provides notice to the Department of Water Resources of their intent to form, or notice that the entity formed, a GSA (Water Code §10723.8); and,

WHEREAS, establishing the City of Gridley as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will enable the City to work with other GSAs in the preparation and implementation of an effective and mutually beneficial Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for the sustainable groundwater management in Butte County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley intends to work cooperatively with other local public agencies to manage the aforementioned groundwater basin in a sustainable fashion; and,

**RESOLUTION NO.
2015-R-034**

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "Project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(a) and (b) of Title 14 of the California Code of regulations because this Resolution does not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gridley held a study session on October 19, 2015 and public hearings on November 16, 2015 and on this date after the publication of notices for these dates pursuant to Government Code Section 6066 to consider the election to become a GSA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City Council of the City of Gridley hereby elects to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the portion of the East Butte Subbasin lying under the incorporated boundary of the City of Gridley and its adopted Sphere of Influence boundary as passed and adopted by LAFCo on December 2, 2010, Resolution number 05 2010/11 depicted by Attachment 1 to this resolution, lying over a portion of the East Butte Subbasin as depicted by Attachment 2, the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (Update 2003);
2. The City Council hereby directs staff to notify the Department of Water Resources of the election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency within thirty (30) days of this date, and the intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for the aforementioned portion of the East Butte Subbasin; and,
3. The City Council directs staff to continue discussions with other local public agencies in order to begin the process of developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the aforementioned subbasin that underlie the City of Gridley and its Sphere of Influence boundaries as described herein.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Gridley at a regular meeting held on the 7th day of December, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS _____

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS _____

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS _____

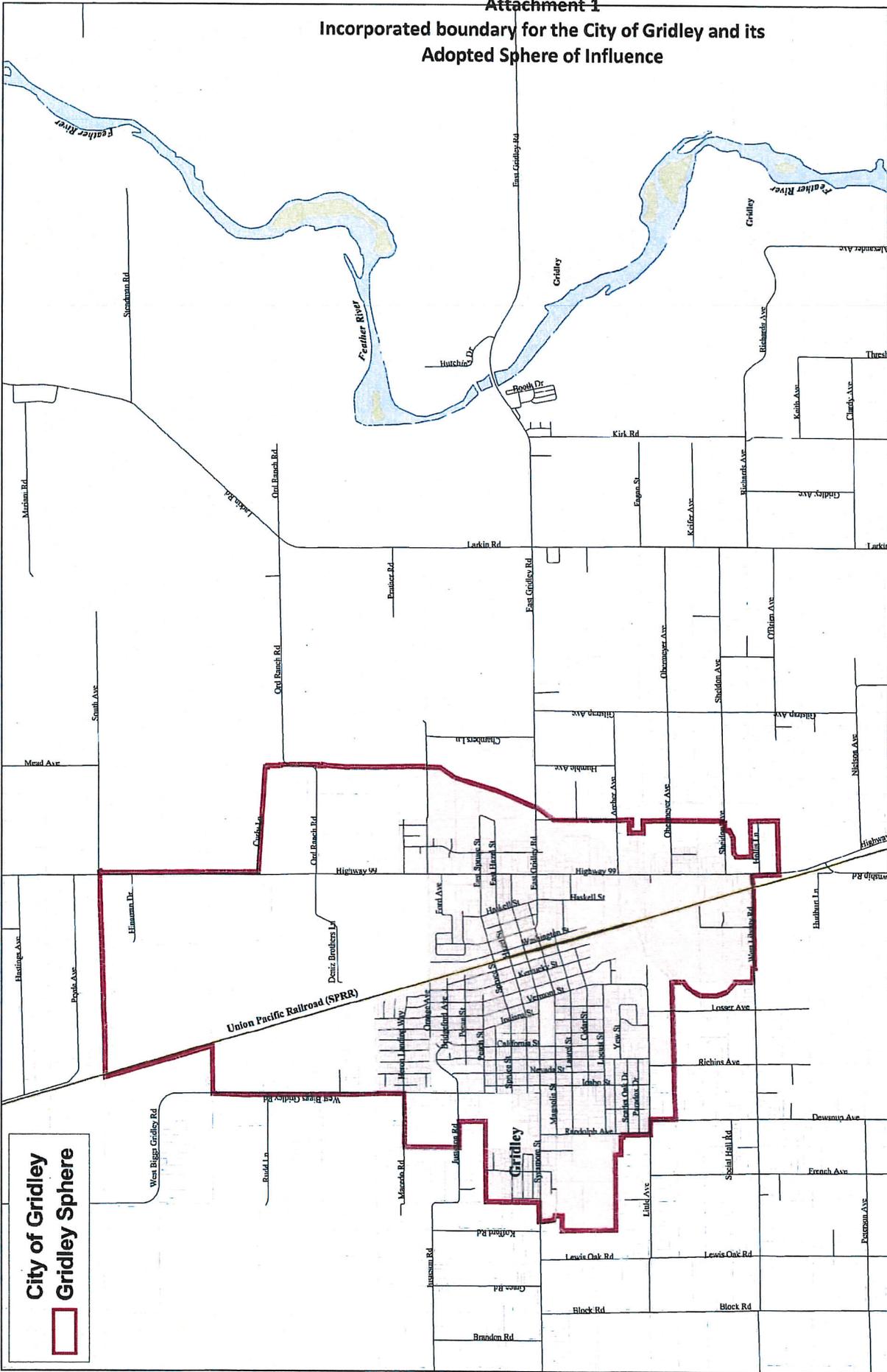
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS _____

ATTEST: APPROVE:

Dean Price, Interim City Clerk

Frank Hall, Mayor

**Attachment 1
Incorporated boundary for the City of Gridley and its
Adopted Sphere of Influence**



City of Gridley
 **Gridley Sphere**

BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

City of Gridley Sphere of Influence Plan/Update

City of Gridley Sphere



0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Date: Butte County & LAFCO
 C:\projects\lafoo_projects\lafoo_annexations
 gridley_sphere.apr. Updated: 01/12/11

Agent: Steve Lucas

Res.: 05 2010/11

Date: December 2, 2010

Action: Passed and Adopted

