



83-101 AVENUE 45, INDIO, CA 92201

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March 7, 2016

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Re: Notice of Election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

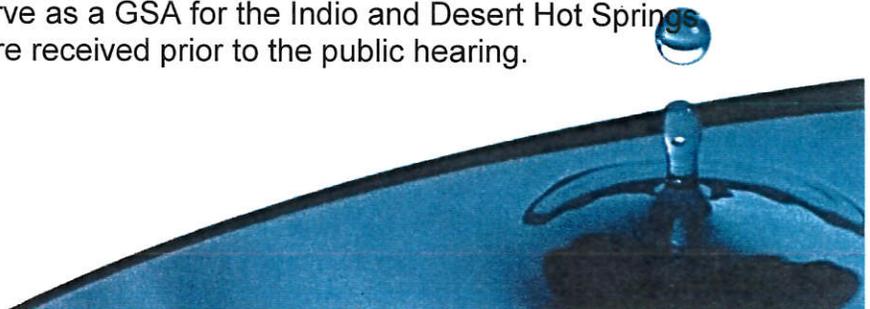
Dear Mr. Nordberg,

Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.8 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), The City of Indio (Indio) provides this notice of its election to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), for the portions of the Indio Sub-Basin (DWR Sub-Basin No. 7-21.01) and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basin (DWR Sub-Basin No. 7-21.03) underlying the Indio Water Authority service area and sphere of influence boundaries as shown in **Exhibit 1**. Both sub-basins are unadjudicated. Indio Sub-Basin is designated as medium priority sub-basin, and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basin is a low priority sub-basin by DWR.

Indio is a public agency of the State of California operating as a general law city. Indio has groundwater management powers under its enabling legislation and other applicable laws. Indio relies on the Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins to help meet the water related needs of its existing and future customers. Becoming a GSA supports Indio's participation in the efforts (groundwater replenishment) to eliminate overdraft and ensure water supply sustainability for the Coachella Valley.

In accordance with Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code and Section 6066 of the California Government Code, a notice of public hearing was published in newspapers of general circulation in Riverside Counties regarding IWA's intent to consider becoming a GSA for the Indio Sub-Basin and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basin. The two notices are enclosed as **Exhibit 2**.

On March 2, 2016, the City of Indio Council/Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to consider the decision to serve as a GSA for the Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins. No written comments were received prior to the public hearing.



March 7, 2016

Following the public hearing, Indio's Council/Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 9841, enclosed as **Exhibit 3**, electing to become a GSA for all of those portions of the Indio Sub-Basin and the Mission Creek Sub-Basin underlying the jurisdictional and sphere of influence boundaries of Indio except as noted in the next paragraph. Indio is not proposing any new bylaws, ordinances, or other new authorities associated with this GSA formation.

Indio is not electing to be the GSA for those portions of the two sub-basins within the water service boundaries of Coachella Valley Water District (IWA), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Coachella Water Authority (CWA). Indio attended periodic coordination meetings with agencies above and supports their efforts to become GSAs. It is understood that IWA and DWA have submitted their notices of intent with DWR to become GSA's within their respective boundaries and it is anticipated that within the next 90 days CWA will file a Notice of Election to become GSA for the portions of Indio and Mission Creek Sub-basin underlying their respective service areas, thus covering the sub-basins and leaving no gaps.

The Indio Council/Board of Commissioners authorized the General Manager to negotiate an MOU, other necessary cooperative agreements, or other forms of agreement with DWA, IWA, and CWA, or other agencies or entities utilizing groundwater in the Indio and Mission Creek Sub-Basins, as necessary for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated governing structure for the management of the Indio Sub-Basin and Mission Creek Sub-Basin under SGMA.

An initial list of interested parties is included as **Exhibit 4**, and will be used to ensure that Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.2, Indio will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Scott Rogers at (760) 625-1870.

Sincerely,



Brian Macy, P.E.
IWA General Manager

cc:

Honorable Glenn Miller
City of Indio Mayor/IWA Board President

Mr. Dan Martinez
City Manager/Executive Director

Mr. David Garcia
City Manager
City of Coachella
1515 6th Street
Coachella, CA 92236

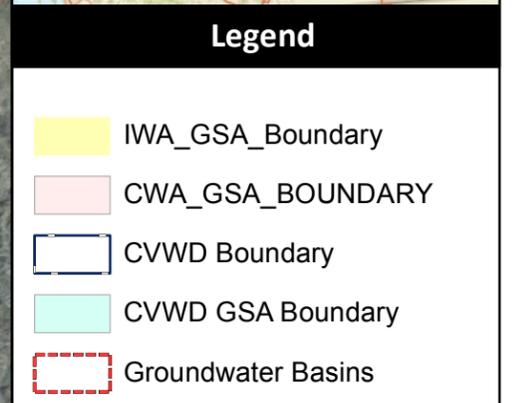
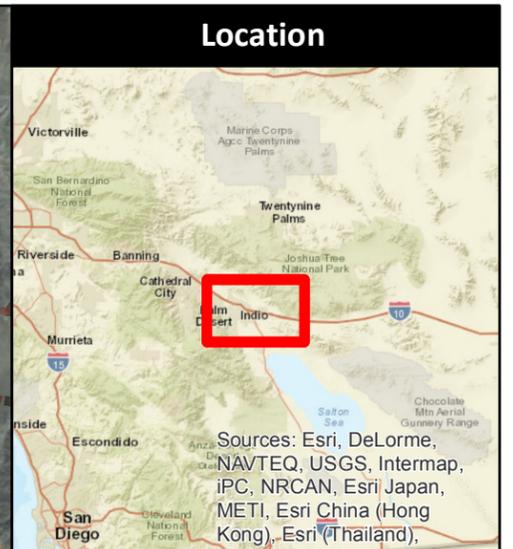
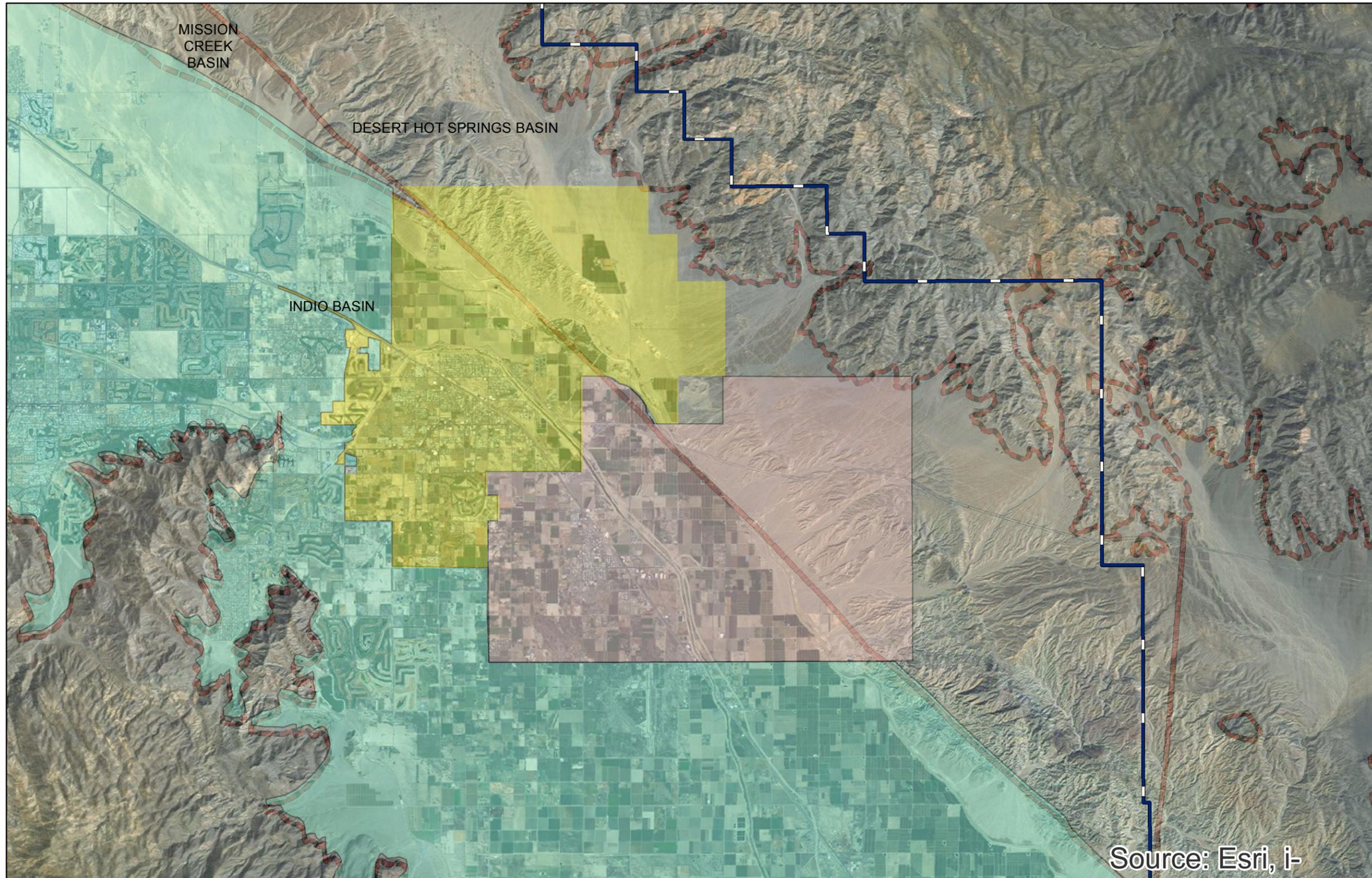
Mr. Jim Barrett,
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

Mr. Mark Krause
General Manager
Desert Water Agency
P.O. Box 1710
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Mr. Eric Gorman
Engineering Geologist
CA Department of Water Resources
Southern Region – Ground Water Section
770 Fairmont Ave., Ste 102
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Arden Wallum
General Manager
Mission Springs Water District
66575 Second Street
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

Mark
General Manager
Myoma Dunes Water Company



Indio Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

File Name: IWA-GSAMapPak.mxd
 File Location: L:\IWA Engineering\GIS\Service Area\IWA_GSA_Boundary\
 Date Updated: Thursday, April 07, 2016 @ 10:32:34 AM
 Updated By: jvalderas
 Department: IWA Engineering - GIS/CAD

Exhibit 2
Public Notice

The Desert Sun
750 N Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-778-4578 / Fax 760-778-4731

Certificate of Publication

State Of California ss:
County of Riverside

Advertiser: CITY OF INDIO/LEGALS
PO BOX 1788
INDIO, CA 92202
Order # 0001051521

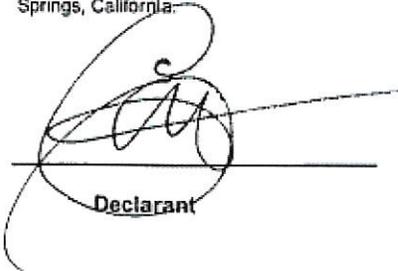
I am over the age of 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and not a party to, or have interest in this matter. I hereby certify that the attached advertisement appeared in said newspaper (set in type not smaller than non pariel) in each and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

Newspaper: The Desert Sun

2/13/2016 2/18/2016

I acknowledge that I am a principal clerk of the printer of The Desert Sun, printed and published weekly in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. The Desert Sun was adjudicated a Newspaper of general circulation on March 24, 1988 by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California Case No. 191236.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 18th day of FEBRUARY, 2016 in Palm Springs, California.


Declarant

No 0234:
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the City Council of the City of Indio, California, At the Joint Indio Water Authority meeting to be held on March 1, 2016, at 4:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the Council Chambers located at 100 Civic Center Mall, Indio, California 92201, will consider:
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIO, TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR PORTIONS OF THE INDIO AND DESERT HOT SPRINGS SUB-BASINS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES/SPHERE OF INFLUENCE OF THE CITY OF INDIO AND OF INDIO WATER AUTHORITY.
Pursuant to California Water Code Section 1072.2(a), the City of Indio elects to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for all of those portions of the Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries and sphere of influence of the City of Indio. Accordingly, this Resolution will affirm the election of City of Indio to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter. Written comments are also invited and should be addressed to Biller May, s/s City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Mall, Indio, California 92201, and should be received prior to the City Council Meeting.
Please remember, if you challenge the City Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the hearing before the City Council or in written correspondence referred to the City, either at or prior to the meeting.
DATE: February 11, 2016
CITY OF INDIO
CYNTHIA HERNANDEZ, CMC
CITY CLERK, Pub 2/18, 2/18/2016

Exhibit 3
Resolution 9841

RESOLUTION NO. 9841

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIO, CALIFORNIA, TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR A PORTION OF THE INDIO AND DESERT HOT SPRINGS SUB-BASINS WITHIN THE BOUNDRIES AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR CITY OF INDIO AND INDIO WATER AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law, with an effective date of January 1, 2015, and codified at California Water Code, Section 10720 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of SGMA is to, among other goals, provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins and sub-basins defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide specified local agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723(a) authorizes a local agency with water supply, water management or local land use responsibilities, or a combination of local agencies, overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under SGMA; and

WHEREAS, groundwater management of high and medium priority basins as designated by DWR is now required; and

WHEREAS, the services area of Indio Water Authority (IWA) overlies portions of the Indio sub-basins (DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 7-21.01,) ("Indio and Sub-Basin"), which are unadjudicated and designated as a medium priority sub-basin by DWR; and

WHEREAS, the services area of Indio Water Authority (IWA) overlies portions of the Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basin (DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 7--21.03) ("Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins"), which is unadjudicated and designated as a low priority sub-basin by DWR; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10723.8 requires that a local agency electing to serve as a GSA notify DWR within 30 days of the local agency's election to become a GSA authorized to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10723.8 mandates that 90 days following the posting by DWR of the local agency's notice of election to become a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for the area within the basin the agency is managing as described in the notice, provided that no other GSA formation notice covering the same area has been submitted to DWR; and

Exhibit 3
Resolution 9841 (continued)

Section 2. The City hereby elects to be the GSA for all of those portions of the Indio Sub-Basin underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries of the City and IWA, except that the City shall not be the GSA for those portions of the sub-basin within the water service boundaries of CVWD, which boundaries have been set in the January 2, 2003 Settlement Agreement between IWA and CVWD, as further amended by the First Amendment in 2003 and the Second Amendment in 2009 and related agreements.

Section 3. The City hereby elects to be the GSA for all of those portions of the Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries/sphere of influence of the City of Indio and IWA, except that the City shall not be the GSA for those portions of the sub-basins within the water service boundaries of CVWD, CWA, DWA, and MSWD.

Section 4. Staff is directed to submit to DWR, within thirty (30) days of the approval of this Resolution, the notice and supporting documentation required by Water Code section 10723.8 and any other documentation required by SGMA to support the City's formation of a GSA.

Section 5. The City Manager/Executive Director of the IWA is authorized to negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding, other necessary cooperative agreement or other forms of agreement with the Partners, or other agencies or entities utilizing groundwater in the Indio, and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins, for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated governing structure for the management of aforementioned Sub-Basins under SGMA and to enter agreements as needed to satisfy the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements

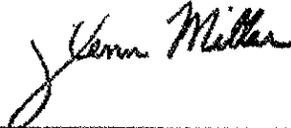
Section 6. The approval of this Resolution and the actions described herein are categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since: (1) they constitute a reorganization of local governmental agencies which does not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15320); (2) the Resolution results in the formation of an agency only and not the approval of any project or proposal containing enough "meaningful information for environmental assessment" (State CEQA Guidelines 15004); and (3) it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3).) Staff is directed to file and post within five (5) business days the attached Notice of Exemption with the Clerks of the Boards of Supervisors of Riverside County, San Diego County and Imperial County.

Section 7. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution.

Exhibit 3
Resolution 9841 (continued)

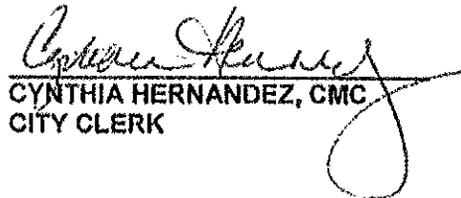
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of March, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Holmes, Strange, Wilson, Miller
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ramos Watson



GLENN MILLER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CYNTHIA HERNANDEZ, CMC
CITY CLERK

Exhibit 4 – Interested Parties

Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub-Basins Initial List of Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater for the Indio Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (IWA GSA)

As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), IWA will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). An initial list of interested parties is provided in accordance with California Water Code sections 10723.2 and 10723.8(a)(4). This list will continue to be updated during the implementation of IWA's GSPs for the Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub- Basins.

- i. CVWD levies and collects replenishment assessment fees for the purpose of replenishing groundwater supplies within IWA boundaries. These overlying users include the following:
 - Domestic Users
 - Agricultural Users
 - Resort Industry Users such as Golf Courses and Homeowners Associations
 - Institutional Users
 - Public and Private Land Owners
- ii. Municipal well operators:
 - Desert Water Agency (DWA) (exclusive local agency per code section 10723(c)(1))
 - Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (within DWA Boundary)
 - Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) (Noticed Intent GSA)
 - Coachella Water Authority (CWA) (planning to become a GSA)
 - Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company
 - Boe Del Heights Mutual Water Company
 - Carver Tract Mutual Water Company
 - Waller Tract Mutual Water Company
 - Various State Small Systems regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board and Riverside County Department of Public Health

- iii. Public water systems: All public water systems within the sub-basins rely on groundwater and are listed under (b) Municipal well operators.
- iv. Local land use planning agencies:
 - County of Riverside
 - County of Imperial
 - City of Indio
 - City of Palm Desert
 - City of La Quinta
- v. Environmental users of groundwater: CVWD is a signatory to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the IWA GSA will coordinate with any users of groundwater for environmental purposes including but not limited to, species and habitat conservation.
- vi. Surface water users: Sources and users of surface water include the following:
 - Imported Colorado River water for irrigation and recharge,
 - Local stream flow from several mostly ephemeral rivers and streams, all of which naturally recharge the groundwater basin.
- vii. The federal government: The IWA GSA will coordinate with federal agencies that hold or manage land overlying the groundwater basins including, but not limited to the following:
 - U.S. Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- viii. California Native American Tribes: The IWA GSA will coordinate with the two federally recognized Native American tribes located within the IWA GSA boundary.
 - Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
 - Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- ix. Disadvantaged Communities: Several Disadvantaged Communities exist within the IWA GSA boundary. IWA actively works with these communities via the

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group and will coordinate with these and other Disadvantaged Communities within the IWA GSA boundary.

- x. Entities listed in California Water Code Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA: CVWD, DWA, CWA, and MSWD participate in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program.