

June 16, 2016

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,
FARMERS WATER DISTRICT**

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

This letter is provided as notification to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that Farmers Water District, a California water district (FWD), has elected to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to Water Code Section 10723(a). The information provided herein, and the documents enclosed herewith, are provided in compliance with the requirements for notification under Section 10723.8(a).

Applicable Bulletin 118 Subbasin and Resolution to become a GSA

A copy of the Resolution electing to become a GSA for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is attached as **Attachment 1**. The Resolution was adopted on June 14, 2016 and includes the notice of public hearing (**Exhibit A**) and a map depicting the FWD service area boundary and Delta-Mendota Subbasin boundary (**Exhibit B**). FWD intends to undertake sustainable groundwater management for that portion of the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.07) (the “**Subbasin**”) that lies within the FWD service area (the “**Service Area**”). The map depicting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and FWD Service Area included in **Attachment 1** as **Exhibit B** includes the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and adjacent subbasin boundaries described in Bulletin 118 (update 2003). There were discrepancies between shapefiles available from the DWR website and the written description of the subbasin boundaries in Bulletin 118. As a result, the subbasin boundaries shown in **Exhibit B** reflect the written description of the boundaries.

Intention to Engage and Manage Groundwater Sustainably under SGMA

FWD has engaged and is seeking to work cooperatively with other local agencies overlying the Subbasin as required by the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) including preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in accordance with California Water Code Section 10727.

Other local agencies eligible to form a GSA within (or near) the southern portion of the Subbasin include Fresno Slough Water District, Tranquility Irrigation District, Fresno County, City of Mendota, the Aliso Water District and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors. There are no local agencies with service areas overlapping those of FWD other than Fresno County. FWD and Fresno County will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide, among other things,

cooperation between Fresno County and FWD in the management of the groundwater within the Service Area, and implementation of FWD's GSP.

FWD's service area lies wholly within the Subbasin. However, as shown in **Attachment 1, Exhibit B**, FWD's eastern boundary abuts a portion of the Kings Groundwater Subbasin boundary (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.08). FWD recognizes that groundwater may flow across this shared boundary, and as such, may elect to enter into interbasin agreements with GSAs formed within the Kings Subbasin. These include, but are not limited to, the West Kings Subbasin MOU GSA Group and its members.

FWD will enter into intra-basin coordinating agreements to ensure that GSPs are coordinated and satisfy applicable regulations developed under SGMA.

As of June 9, 2016, FWD is informed and believes that the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority and Aliso Water District are the only agencies within the southern portion of the Subbasin that have provided notification to DWR of their intention to become a GSA.

GSA Notification Requirements

In accordance with GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies¹, FWD submits the following information:

Information Submitted within 30 Days

FWD conducted a public hearing on June 14, 2016 in accordance with Water Code section 10723(b), to elect to become a GSA.

Map and Description of Service Area Boundaries

FWD's service area is depicted on **Attachment 1, Exhibit B**. The service area is located in the southern portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and is bounded by the San Joaquin River along the northern border and the Kings Subbasin along the eastern border. The southern and western boundary consists of various property lines and canals.

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

Resolution

A copy of Resolution No. 2016-05 electing to become a GSA for the Subbasin is attached as **Attachment 1** and includes the Government Code 6066 notification and evidence of a public hearing regarding FWD's intent to become a GSA (**Exhibit A**).

¹ http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSA_Notification_Requirements_2015-10-27.pdf

New Bylaws, Ordinances, or New Authorities

FWD has not adopted any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities in electing to become a GSA.

Interested Parties

FWD has identified the following interested parties as defined in Water Code Section 10723.2. The list of interested parties may be modified and amended during GSP development. FWD will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Subbasin, as well as others responsible for developing GSPs within the Subbasin. FWD will solicit feedback and engage with interested parties during GSP development. Interested parties within the proposed FWD GSA management area include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Holders of overlaying groundwater rights
 - 1) Agricultural Users- The proposed FWD GSA management area is comprised of several agricultural landowners that rely, at least in part, on groundwater for irrigation. These users have an existing relationship with FWD.
 - 2) Domestic Well Owners- There are domestic wells within the proposed FWD GSA management area. However, SGMA excludes “de minimis extractors” (groundwater users that extract less than two acre-feet per year) therefore, it is anticipated that the GSP will exclude domestic wells from regulatory requirements.
- b) Municipal Well Operators- There are no municipal well operators within FWD’s proposed GSA management area.
- c) Public Water Systems- There are no public water systems within FWD’s proposed GSA management area.
- d) Local Land Use Planning Agencies- Fresno County is the local planning agency with authority covering FWD’s proposed GSA management area.
- e) Environmental Users of Groundwater- There are no environmental users of groundwater within the proposed FWD GSA management area.
- f) Surface Water Users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies- FWD has no surface water rights.
- g) Federal Government, including but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands- None within the FWD proposed GSA management area.
- h) California Native American Tribes- None within the FWD proposed GSA management area.
- i) Disadvantaged Communities, including but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems- The proposed FWD GSA management area has a Disadvantaged Community Block Group and Tract (Nos.

060190039002 and 06019003900 respectively). The area is not a Disadvantaged Community Place.

- j) Entities Listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of the groundwater basin managed by the GSA- None within the FWD proposed FWD GSA management area.

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

All Applicable Information Submitted in this Notification

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

Sincerely,

Jim Stilwell, President
Farmers Water District

Cc:

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

Attachment 1: Farmers Water District Resolution No. 2016-05

Exhibit A: Notice of Public Hearing and Proof of Publication

Exhibit B: Map of Farmers Water District Service Area

Attachment 1

- Farmers Water District Resolution No. 2016-05

FARMERS WATER DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 2016-05

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Farmers Water District for an Election to Serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("**SGMA**") was signed into law on September 16, 2014 and became effective January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each California groundwater basin or sub-basin be managed by a groundwater sustainability agency ("**GSA**"), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be implemented pursuant to an approved groundwater sustainability plan ("**GSP**") or multiple GSPs; and

WHEREAS, Farmers Water District overlies a sub-basin known as the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sub-Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.07), located in Fresno County, California (the "**Subbasin**"); and

WHEREAS, the District, as a local public agency overlying the Subbasin, is authorized and qualified under SGMA to be a GSA for the Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing to consider whether the District would elect to be a GSA in the Subbasin, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**, was published in the Firebaugh-Mendota Journal newspaper on May 25, 2016 and again on June 1, 2016, pursuant to California Government Code Section 6066, and as required by California Water Code Section 10723(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of Farmers Water District as follows:

1. The District hereby elects to be the exclusive GSA for that portion of the Subbasin over which it lies, and within the District's jurisdictional boundaries, as depicted on the map attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**.

2. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution, the Chairman of the Board of the District is directed to submit a notice of the District's intent to be a GSA to the Department of Water Resources pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.8(a).

3. The District Board shall thereafter begin the process of development of the District's GSP for the Subbasin in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

4. The Chairman of the Board shall create and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices concerning the District's SGMA processes pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.4.


5. The Chairman of the Board shall provide regular progress reports on SMGA related matters, including development and implementation of a GSP, to the Board.

This Resolution was passed and adopted this 14th day of June, 2016.



Jim Stilwell, Chairman of the
Board of Directors

Attest:



Barry Baker, Secretary

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2016-05 was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of Farmers Water District at a special meeting held on June 14, 2016, on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Peracchi
Stilwell
Baker

Noes: Abstain absent.

FARMERS WATER DISTRICT

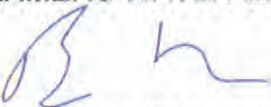

Barry Baker, Secretary

EXHIBIT A

FIREBAUGH-MENDOTA JOURNAL
(and) **THE MENDOTA TIMES**
14693 W. Whitesbridge Ave.
P.O. Box 336
Kerman, CA 93630
Telephone: 559-846-6689

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

PROOF OF PUBLICATION (2015.5 C.C.P.)

Proof of Publication

Farmers Water District

Notice of Public Hearing

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Fresno,

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the **Firebaugh-Mendota Journal and The Mendota Times**, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published weekly in the City of Kerman, County of Fresno, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of 1949, Case Number 135831; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following date, to-wit:

May 25, June 1

all in the year 20 16. I Certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Kerman, California
this _____ 1st

day of _____ June _____, 2016

Kathy Matthews

Signature

FARMERS WATER DISTRICT

Notice of Public Hearing
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that, pursuant to
California water Code Sec-
tion

10723(b), the Board of Directors of Farmers Water District (the "District") will hold a public hearing on June 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the District's office located at 7567 Road 28, Madera, CA 93637 to consider and decide whether the District shall become a groundwater sustainability agency for a portion of the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sub-Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-22.07). Written comments should be submitted to the District, to the attention of Jim Stilwell, Chairman of the Board of Directors, no later than 5:00 pm.. on June 8, 2016 at 4460 W. Shaw Ave. #219, Fresno, CA 93722. During the hearing, the district will receive oral and written comments before making a decision.

Dated: May 12, 2016.
Farmers Water District, a
California water district Jim
Stilwell, Chairman of Board
of Directors

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