

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NEWHALL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO FORM THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, California Water Code section 10720 et. seq. (SGMA), went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of SGMA is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies to the greatest extent feasible while minimizing state intervention; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that California groundwater basins and subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources as high priority or medium priority be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and that such management be accomplished pursuant to one or more approved Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the basin; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10721(j) defines a GSA as one or more local agencies that implement the provisions of SGMA; and

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin may decide to become a GSA over that basin (California Water Code Sections 10721 and 10723); and

WHEREAS, SGMA provides that a combination of local agencies may form a GSA by a joint powers agreement, a memorandum of agreement, or other legal agreement (Water Code Section 10723.6); and

WHEREAS, Newhall County Water District overlies a portion of the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin, groundwater basin number 4-4.07 per the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Groundwater Bulletin 118, which has been designated by the State of California as a high priority basin; and

WHEREAS, Newhall County Water District has water supply and water management responsibilities within the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to the health, safety, and water supply reliability of the Santa Clarita Valley for Newhall County Water District to retain local jurisdiction and control over groundwater resources within the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, Newhall County Water District has been working cooperatively with other local agencies that also plan to manage groundwater in compliance with SGMA, including Castaic Lake Water Agency, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36, the Santa Clarita Water Division, the City of Santa Clarita, and the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Newhall County Water District, along with its regional partners Castaic Lake Water Agency, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36, the Santa Clarita Water Division, the City of Santa Clarita, and the County of Los Angeles intend to jointly form the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) through a

Memorandum of Understanding (Exhibit A) to work collaboratively to manage groundwater resources within their respective service areas in the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin and to comply with SGMA; and

WHEREAS, prior to adopting a resolution of intent to establish Newhall County Water District as a member of the SCV-GSA, Water Code Section 10723 requires Newhall County Water District to hold a public hearing, after publication of notice pursuant to California Government Code Section 6066, on whether to become a GSA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notices of a public hearing on whether or not to adopt a resolution to establish the SCV-GSA through a Memorandum of Understanding were published on [May 4, 2017] and [May 11, 2017];

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newhall County Water District approves the Memorandum of Understanding creating the SCV-GSA and establishing the District as a member of the GSA.

FURTHER RESOLVED, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act because it does not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Newhall County Water District held on May 18, 2017, Resolution No. 2017-4 was approved by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Maria Gutzeit
President of Board of Directors of Newhall
County Water District

ATTEST:

Rochelle Patterson
Secretary of the Board of Directors of
Newhall County Water District