

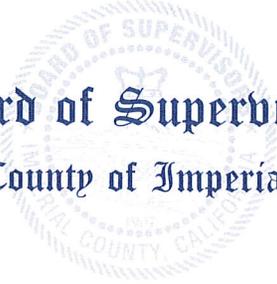
DISTRICT 1
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JACK TERRAZAS

DISTRICT 3
MICHAEL W. KELLEY

DISTRICT 4
RYAN E. KELLEY

DISTRICT 5
RAY CASTILLO



Board of Supervisors
County of Imperial

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

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EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2871
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September 3, 2015

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

**Subject: Notice of Election to Become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for
All Groundwater Basins Within Imperial County**

Dear. Mr. Nordberg,

Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.8 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the County of Imperial (County), a political subdivision of the State of California, gives notice to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) of its election to assume the role of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to undertake sustainable groundwater management within County boundaries of all groundwater basins and sub-basins underlying the County, including but not limited to the following fifteen (15) DWR-identified unadjudicated basins and sub-basins as shown on the enclosed Exhibit 1 (Basins):

- Chuckwalla Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-05)
- Coachella Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-21);
- West Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-22);
- Borrego Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-24);
- Ocotillo Clark Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-25);
- Vallecito-Carrizo (DWR Basin No. 7-28);
- Coyote Wells Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-29);
- Imperial Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-30);
- East Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-33);
- Amos Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-34);
- Ogilby Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-35);
- Yuma Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-36);
- Arroyo Seco Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-37);
- Palo Verde Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-38); and

- Palo Verde Mesa (DWR Basin No. 7-39)

The County overlies, either completely or partially, all of the Basins. No other entities have provided notice to DWR of their intent to form GSAs for any of the Basins within the County's proposed GSA boundaries.

On August 11, 2015, after giving notice as required by California Government Code section 6066 and California Water Code section 10723, the County held a public hearing in accordance with California Water Code section 10723(b). Following the hearing, the County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2015-122, attached as Exhibit 2, electing to become the GSA pursuant to California Water Code section 10723 for all Basins underlying the County. No new bylaws or ordinances were adopted in conjunction with the Resolution. The County's existing Board of Supervisors will serve for governance purposes of the GSA.

The County will continue to work cooperatively with local agencies, water providers and other interested stakeholders within the County, surrounding areas, and the State of California, as well as other GSAs that may be formed to manage portions of Basins extending outside of the County, concerning groundwater projects and management. The County will enter into coordinated efforts and agreements as needed to ensure the coordinated implementation of any Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for the Basins.

Per California Water Code section 10723.2, the County shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing GSPs. An initial list of such interested parties, including an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSPs, is included as Exhibit 3.

If you have any questions, or require further information regarding any of these matters, please contact Ralph Cordova Jr., County Executive Officer, at 442-265-1001.

Sincerely,



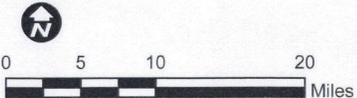
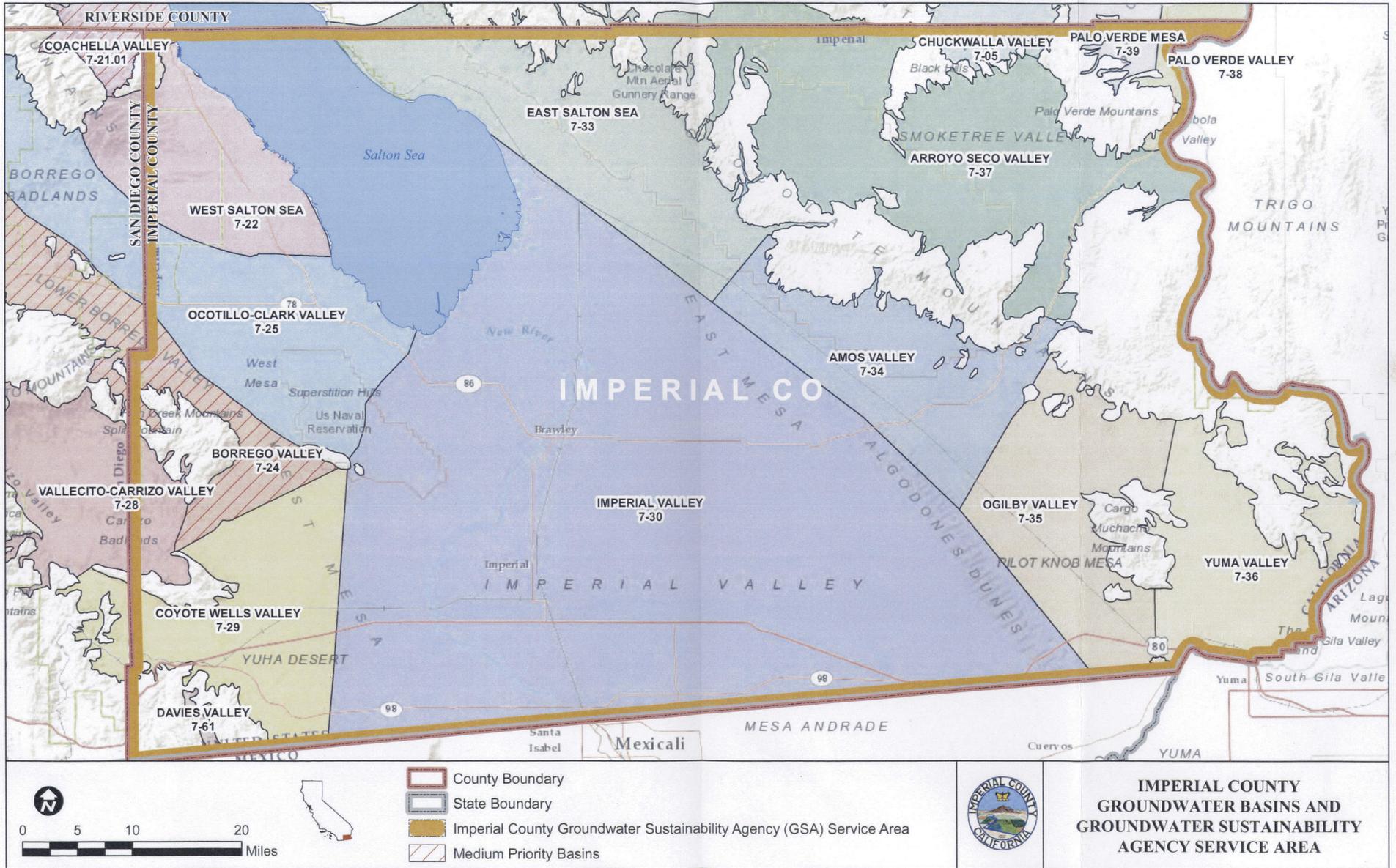
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman
Imperial County Board of Supervisors

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Map of the Imperial County GSA service area boundaries and the Basins (in pdf and a GIS shape file formats);
- Exhibit 2 – Resolution 2015-122 approving the County to become the GSA for the Basins;
- Exhibit 3 – Initial list of beneficial uses and users of groundwater

cc: Brian Moniz, Regional Coordinator
California Department of Water Resources Southern Region
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 102
Glendale, CA 91203

Bob Pierotti, Supervising Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources Southern Region
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 102
Glendale, CA 91203



- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- Imperial County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Service Area
- Medium Priority Basins



Exhibit 2

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL TO BECOME THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY FOR ALL GROUNDWATER BASINS AND SUB-BASINS WITHIN THE
BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY**

Resolution No. 2015-122



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL TO BECOME THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY FOR ALL GROUNDWATER BASINS AND SUB-BASINS WITHIN THE
BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-122

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720, and became effective on January 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of the SGMA is to 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 local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater;

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723(a) authorizes local land use authorities, water suppliers, and certain other local agencies, or a combination of local agencies, overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the basin;

WHEREAS, Imperial County is a local agency qualified to become a GSA under SGMA;

WHEREAS, the County of Imperial (County) overlies portions of fifteen (15) DWR-identified unadjudicated groundwater basins and sub-basins, as follows: Chuckwalla Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-05); Coachella Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-21); West Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-22); Borrego Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-24); Ocotillo Clark Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-25); Vallecito-Carrizo (DWR Basin No. 7-28); Coyote Wells Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-29); Imperial Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-30); East Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-33); Amos Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-34); Ogilby Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-35); Yuma Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-36); Arroyo Seco Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-37); Palo Verde Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-38); and Palo Verde Mesa (DWR Basin No. 7-39), as shown on the map at Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution (Basins);

WHEREAS, the Borrego Valley Basin (Basin No. 7-24) and Coachella Valley Basin (Basin No. 7-21) have been designated by DWR as Medium-Priority basins; the remaining basins within the boundaries of the County have been designated as Low-Priority or Very Low-Priority basins by DWR;

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10723.8 requires that a local agency electing to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) notify DWR of its election to become the GSA and undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin;

WHEREAS, California Water Code section 107218 mandates that within 90 days of an entity giving notice to DWR of its election to become a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area unless another entity provides notice to DWR of its intent to form a GSA, or notice that the entity has formed, a GSA;

WHEREAS, no other entities have provided notice to DWR of their formation of, or intent to form, a GSA for any of the Basins within the County's proposed GSA management area;

WHEREAS, the County is uniquely qualified to become the GSA for all fifteen (15) groundwater basins and sub-basins located within the County as a result of:

- its current jurisdiction which extends throughout the County and overlies the above-referenced groundwater basins and sub-basins (reference Exhibit "A");
- its longstanding experience and background in groundwater management and monitoring by way of the County's role in permitting well construction, modification and destruction (County Code of Ordinances, Title 9, Division 21, Water Well Regulations), and in protecting and managing groundwater resources (reference County Code of Ordinances, Title 9, Division 22, County Groundwater Management Ordinance);
- its Board of Supervisors that is comprised of elected officials representing the entire County and the broadest spectrum of beneficial uses and users of surface water and groundwater within the County, including, without limitation, agricultural water users, domestic well owners, municipal well operators, public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental water uses, state and federal government landowners, California Native American tribes, and disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells and small community water systems (reference Water Code, § 10723.2); and
- its jurisdictional authority over flood control, stormwater management, and land use as necessary to implement stormwater capture and recharge projects (reference October 2012, Imperial County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Sections 9.1.1, 11.8, pp. 9-4, 11-26.)

WHEREAS, establishing the County as a GSA will enable the County to streamline and coordinate permitting for wells and pumper allocations within the Basins, implement consistent rules for governance of the Basins, and ensure consideration of diverse social, cultural and economic interests in managing the Basins, which authority is vital to the economic sustainability, public health, and quality of life throughout Imperial County and beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of Imperial County's residents;

WHEREAS, the County is committed to the management of its groundwater resources so as to create and promote sustainable groundwater use for the residents of Imperial County and the State of California;

WHEREAS, the County held a public hearing on this date after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider adoption of this Resolution; 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 any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Imperial does hereby approve the County to become the GSA, pursuant to California Water Code section 10723, for those portions of all groundwater basins and sub-basins underlying the County, including, but not limited to, the following: Chuckwalla Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-05); Coachella Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-21); West Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-22); Borrego Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-24); Ocotillo Clark Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-25); Vallecito-Carrizo (DWR Basin No. 7-28); Coyote Wells Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-29); Imperial Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-30); East Salton Sea (DWR Basin No. 7-33); Amos Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-34); Ogilby Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-35); Yuma Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-36); Arroyo Seco Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-37); Palo Verde Valley (DWR Basin No. 7-38); and Palo Verde Mesa (DWR Basin No. 7-39), as shown on Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the service area boundaries of the Imperial County GSA shall be coterminous with the boundaries of Imperial County, as shown on Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County develop an outreach program to ensure that all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to submit to DWR on behalf of the County a notice of this action approving the County to become the GSA and undertake sustainable groundwater management in accordance with SGMA for those portions of all groundwater basins and sub-basins underlying the County;

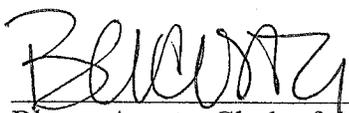
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the notification to DWR shall include the boundaries of all groundwater basins and sub-basins underlying the County that the County intends to manage as shown on the attached Exhibit "A", a copy of this Resolution, and the initial list of interested parties developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2, including an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and implementation of the GSPs, attached as Exhibit "B".

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, County of Imperial, State of California, on this 11th day of August, 2015, by the following vote:

Renison, M. Kelley, R. Kelley, Castillo



Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman
Imperial County Board of Supervisors



Blanca Acosta, Clerk of the Board
County of Imperial, State of California

Exhibit 3

INITIAL LIST OF BENEFICIAL USES AND USERS OF GROUNDWATER

In accordance with California Water Code sections 10723.2 and 10723.8(a)(4), a list of interested parties has been developed and will continue to be updated throughout the County's development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for all groundwater basins and sub-basins within the County. As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code section 10720, et seq.), Imperial County will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing GSPs. These beneficial interests and parties include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

1. Local Water and Irrigation Districts.
 - a. Imperial Irrigation District
 - b. Coachella Valley Water District
 - c. Palo Verde Irrigation District
 - d. Palo Verde County Water District
 - e. Bard Water District
2. Holders of Overlying Groundwater Rights: The majority of individuals and entities exercising overlying groundwater rights within the County have an existing relationship with the County via compliance with the County's Groundwater Management Ordinance and well permitting requirements.
 - a. Overlying Domestic Users
 - b. Agricultural Users
 - c. Other Overlying Groundwater Users
 - d. Public and Private Owners of Overlying Lands
3. Historical County Uses.
 - a. Off-Basin Groundwater Uses defined by section 92204(A)(3) of the County Groundwater Ordinance
 - b. CUP Holding Uses defined by section 92204(A)(3) of the County Groundwater Ordinance
4. Other County Off-Basin Groundwater Uses described in section 92204(A)(4) of the County Groundwater Ordinance.

5. Exports from the County described in section 92204(A)(5) of the County Groundwater Ordinance.
6. Municipal Well Operators: Municipal well operators within the County have an existing relationship with the County via compliance with the County's Groundwater Management Ordinance and well permitting requirements.
7. Public Water Systems: There are several public water systems operating within the County that utilize groundwater and have an existing relationship with the County via compliance with the County's Groundwater Management Ordinance and well permitting requirements.
8. Local Land Use Planning Agencies: There are several local land use planning agencies located within the County, including, without limitation, the cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial and Westmorland.
9. Environmental Users of Groundwater. The Imperial County GSA will coordinate and work closely with any users of groundwater for environmental, parks, species and habitat purposes.
10. Surface Water Users, If There is a Hydrologic Connection Between Surface and Groundwater Bodies. The Imperial County GSA will coordinate and work closely with any users of surface water hydrologically connected to groundwater throughout the development and implementation of GSPs.
11. Federal Government: There are several federal agencies which may hold or manage land overlying groundwater basins within the jurisdictional boundary of the Imperial County GSA, including, without limitation, the following:
 - a. U.S. Bureau of Land Management
 - b. U.S. Navy (Naval Air Facility El Centro)
 - c. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - d. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - e. U.S. General Services Administration
 - f. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
12. California Native American Tribes: There are several Native American tribes located within the boundaries of the County, some of which may hold land overlying groundwater basins within the jurisdictional boundary of the Imperial County GSA. Contacts for these Native American tribes include, without limitation, the following:
 - a. AH-MUT-PIPA Foundation

- b. Campo Band of Mission Indians
- c. Colorado River Indian Tribe
- d. Inter-Tribal Cultural Resource Protection Council
- e. Inter-Tribal Cultural Resource Protection Council
- f. La Posta Band of Mission Indians
- g. Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- h. Torres-Martinez Indian Tribe
- i. Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
- j. Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office
- k. Chemehuevi Reservation
- l. Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee
- m. Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
- n. Kyaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
- o. Native American Heritage Commission
- p. Cocopah Indian Tribe
- q. Fort Yuma – Quechan Indian Tribe

13. Disadvantaged Communities: There are several qualified Disadvantaged Communities located within the County, including:

- a. The Cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville and Westmorland
- b. The following census designated places: Desert Shores, Heber, Niland, Ocotillo, Palo Verde, Salton City, Salton Sea Beach, and Seeley

14. Entities listed in California Water Code Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of the basins to be managed by the County as the designated GSA:

- a. United States Geological Services (USGS)

15. Other Entities:

- a. GSAs that may be formed to manage portions of Basins extending into San Diego County and Riverside County
- b. The neighboring counties of San Diego and Riverside

The above-referenced agencies, water providers and other interested stakeholders will be contacted to determine how best to consider and protect their interests, and invited to participate in evaluating and defining roles and responsibilities during the GSP planning and implementation processes.