

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 18, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Mark Martin, General Manager
Subject: Confirmation of District Preference for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within RMCS D Portion of the South American Sub-basin

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Confirm RMCS D Board preference for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) over RMCS D lands within the South American Groundwater Sub-basin. Staff recommends RMCS D remain with the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) as GSA over RMCS D lands within the South American Sub-basin.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the State of California adopted legislation to help manage its groundwater, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). According to the act, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be formed for all high and medium priority basins in the state. These GSAs must develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for managing and using groundwater without causing undesirable results: significant groundwater-level declines, groundwater-storage reductions, seawater intrusion, water-quality degradation, land subsidence, and surface-water depletions; these are also referred to as sustainability indicators.

RMCS D is unique in that it sits in three distinct areas for the purpose of groundwater management. These areas are 1) South American Sub-basin (west/southwest RMCS D); 2) Cosumnes Sub-basin (south/southeast); with the remainder area of the District not within a key sub-basin as it lies in areas of fractured rock without a major underlying groundwater basin. Please see **Attachment A** for a map of the South American Sub-basin and current groundwater agency boundaries within the South American Sub-basin. **Attachment B** reflects staff recommendation and RMCS D's long-standing membership with the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA). The alternative is to have Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) assume the role of GSA.

RMCS D has participated as a voting Board member of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) for over a decade. In late December of 2019, the Executive Director of the SCGA, Darrell Eck, contacted me to bring to my attention the fact that RMCS D sits within the potentially negotiated GSA jurisdictions of either the SCGA or SRCD. Mr. Eck conveyed that RMCS D would have the option of selecting which GSA would govern for preparation and administration of the Sub-basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

This action focuses on RMCS D Board confirmation of what agency it prefers to assume GSA responsibility for RMCS D's portion of the South American Sub-basin.

There are multiple GSAs within the South American Sub-basin. For over a year, staff from the Water Forum have moderated negotiations between the SCGA and other GSAs within the South American groundwater sub-basin, including Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, to define the boundaries of GSA for the purpose

of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the overall South American sub-basin. The group is more formally called the South American Sub-basin Working Group and consists of 12 representatives including representatives from SRCD, Sacramento County, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), North Delta (reclamation district), and seven SCGA agencies including water systems, commercial industrial self-supplied, or sanitation. An MOU between the parties of the working group has been finalized with a statement simply saying the parties would agree to whichever GSA RMCS D prefers. This item has been agenda d in response to the Working Group having asked RMCS D to formalize its intent.

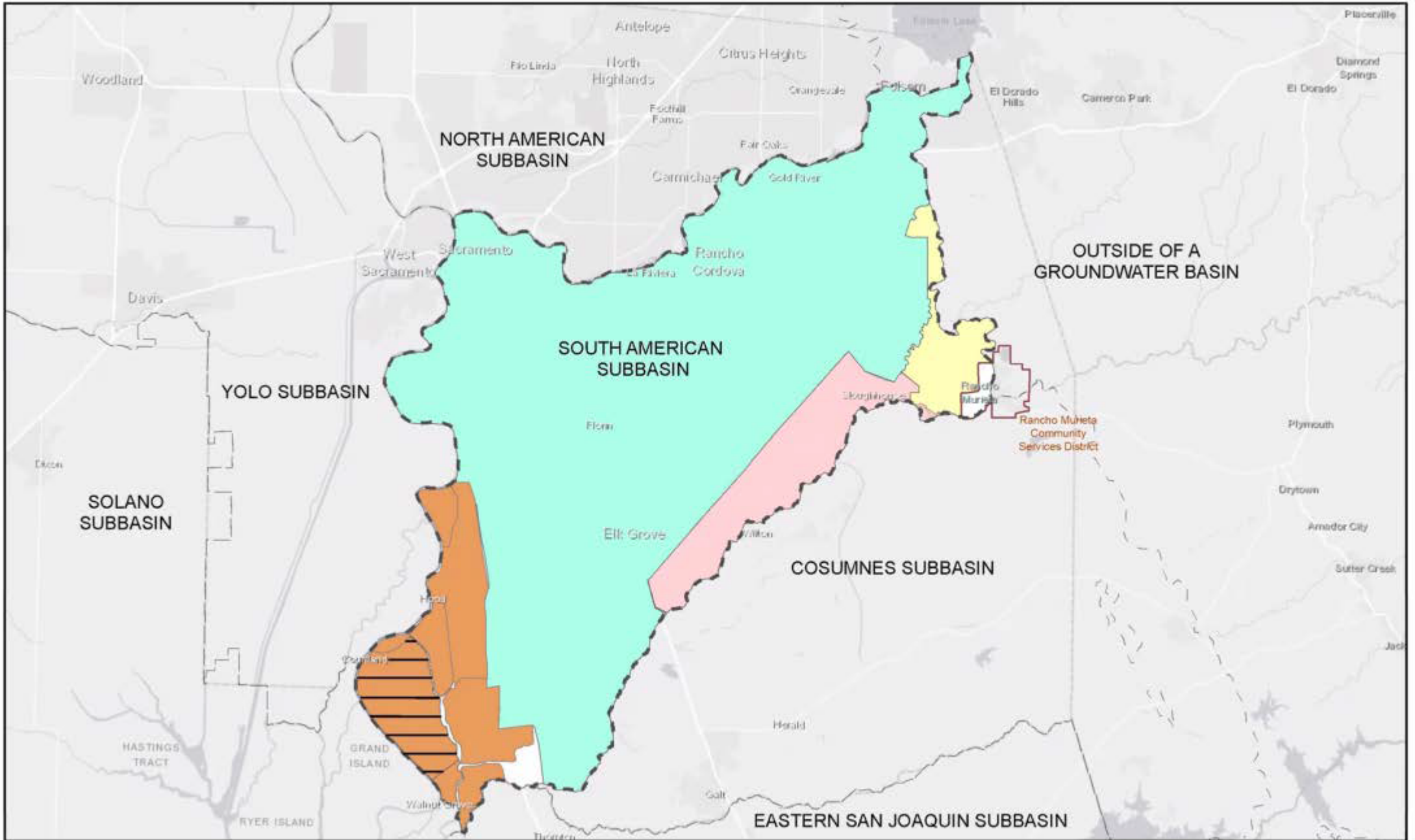
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends RMCS D remain with SCGA as GSA for the following reasons:







- 1) Right now, SCGA is the RMCS D's logically designated GSA as the RMCS D already participates and sits on and therefore has direct representation as a Board member of the SCGA. RMCS D has no direct representation on the SRCD board. It would be illogical to create a board role for RMCS D on SRCD because SRCD performs other functions unrelated to its GSA role.
- 2) If RMCS D cedes the GSA responsibility to SRCD, RMCS D's Board seat on the SCGA would be called into question. In fact, at the January SRCD board meeting, one SRCD director mentioned possibly having SRCD assume RMCS D's board seat on the SCGA. It is acknowledged this was an informal comment, but such an action would mean RMCS D would no longer have direct representation of the District's interests at SCGA. Remaining fully engaged with SCGA is critical for RMCS D, because RMCS D utilizes surface water extracted from the Cosumnes to meet user demands, and all sources of groundwater are evermore being considered by the State as interrelated to surface and riparian water sources. This means that consideration is being given to Cosumnes River flow impacts to downstream interests including groundwater recharge, extraction from the Cosumnes for agricultural interests, and even flows to the Delta under the Bay-Delta Plan to preserve water quality for agriculture, bio-diversity and exports south. In staff's opinion, it is critical that RMCS D remain at the SCGA table to remain involved in these issues and decisions impacting the future water supply of Rancho Murieta.
- 3) Potential Groundwater Well Site. The well site, identified as likely the most productive groundwater well site within the entire District, is located at the western-most extent of the District within the agricultural portion of the District. Under one proposal, SRCD has proposed to assume just the 200-acre agricultural lands portion of RMCS D. The remainder of the South American sub-basin would fall under SCGA. Staff believes it preferable for the interests of the District to retain the agricultural portion of the District under the same GSA as the more urbanized areas of the District within the sub-basin, and better yet under a GSA where RMCS D retains direct board representation - SCGA. **(See Attachment C).**

Over the past months, SRCD has made different proposals from 1) SRCD assumption of the full role of GSA over RMCS D in the South American Sub-basin; 2) SRCD assumption of the GSA role for just the agricultural portion of RMCS D, approximately 200 acres in the southwestern portion of the district **(See Attachment D)**; 3) A recommendation made a week ago, that RMCS D act as its own GSA. Options 1 and 2 are not recommended for the reasons stated above. Option 3 is not advisable in that it is very late in the game to define an entirely new GSA and RMCS D does not have the staffing or resources to function in this role. Staff is cautious about underestimating the long-term cost and efforts to perform as a GSA given the current regulatory requirements, not to mention further staffing and cost impacts as regulatory requirements expand.

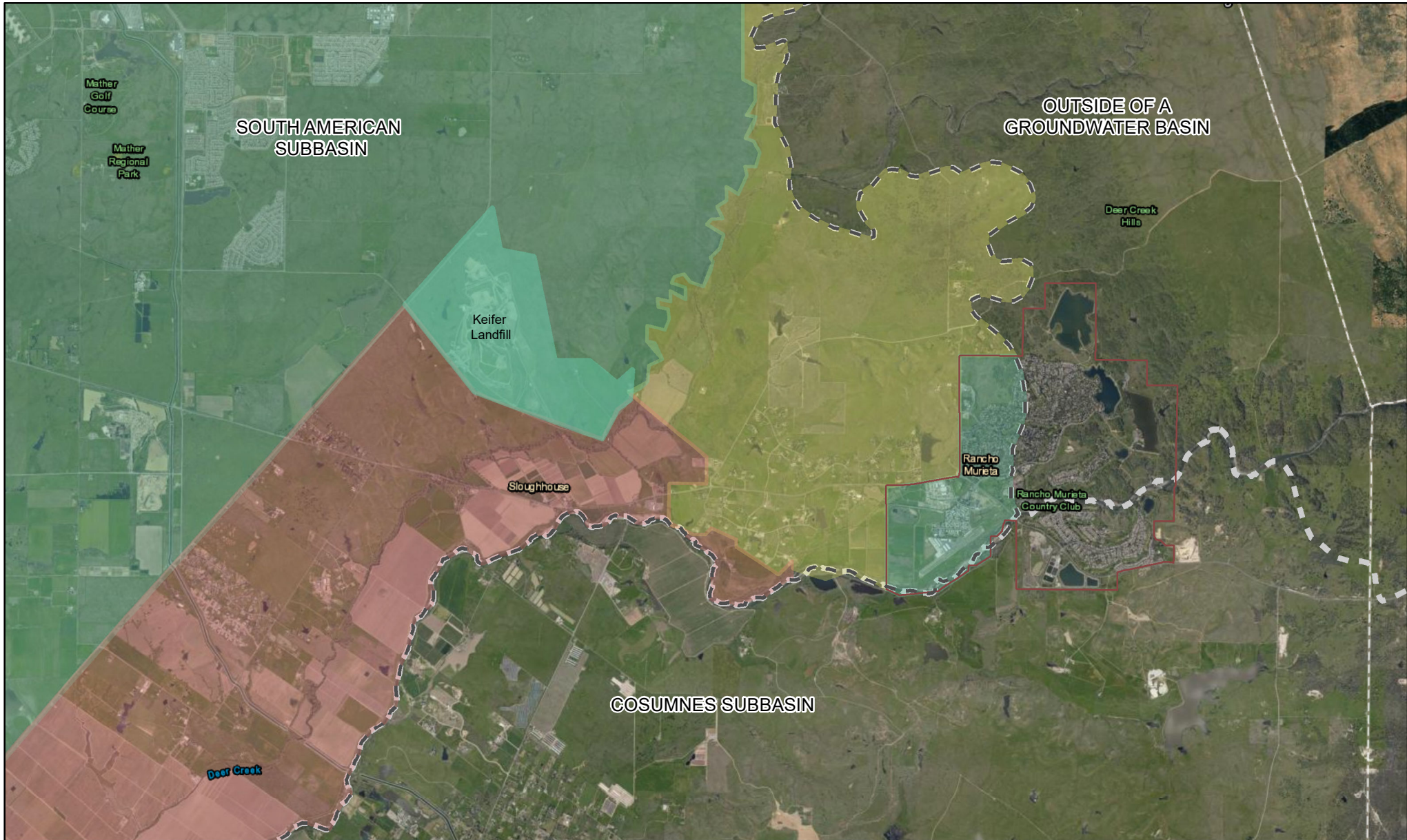
Map of South American Subbasin - Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Boundaries










Legend

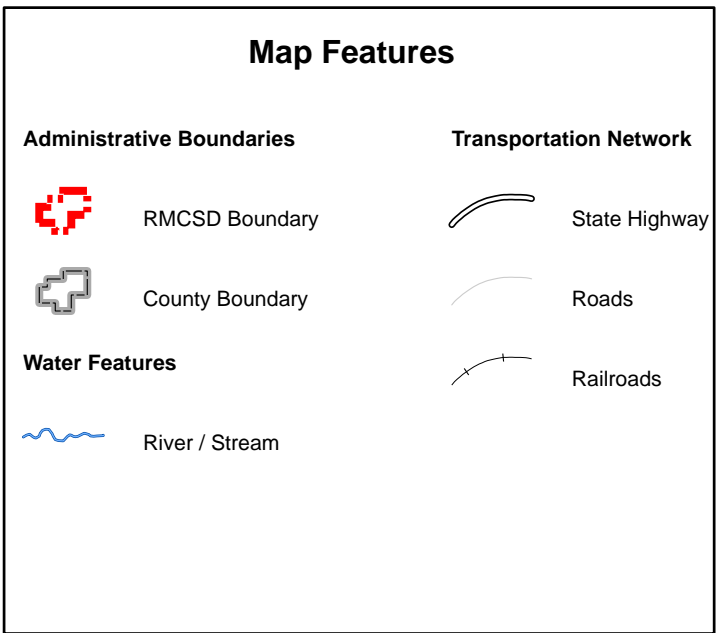
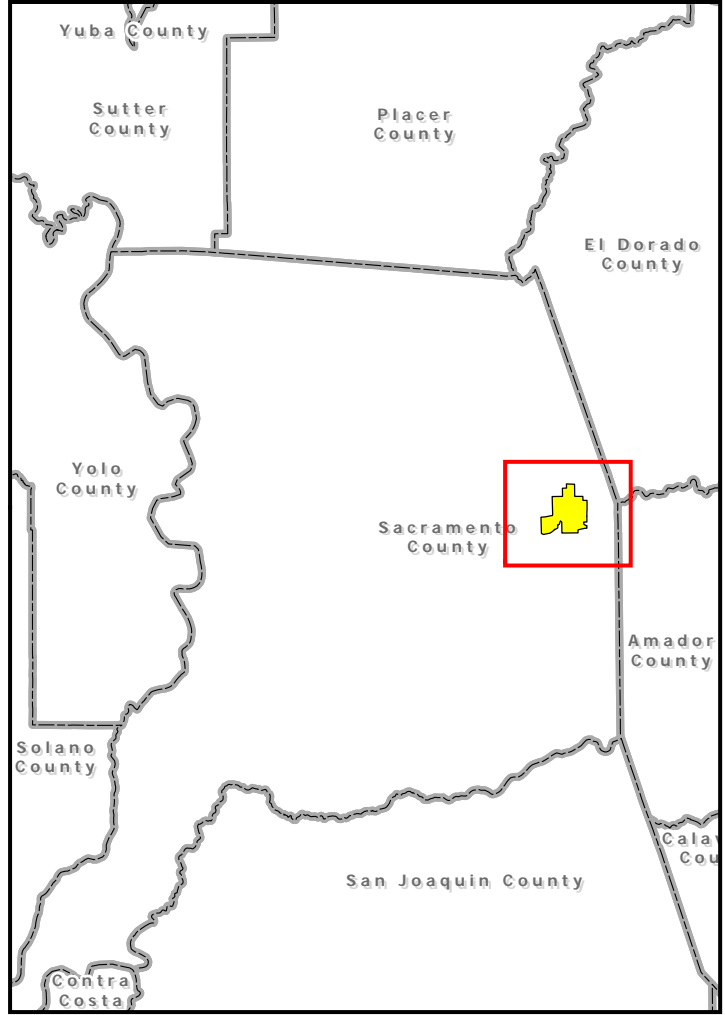
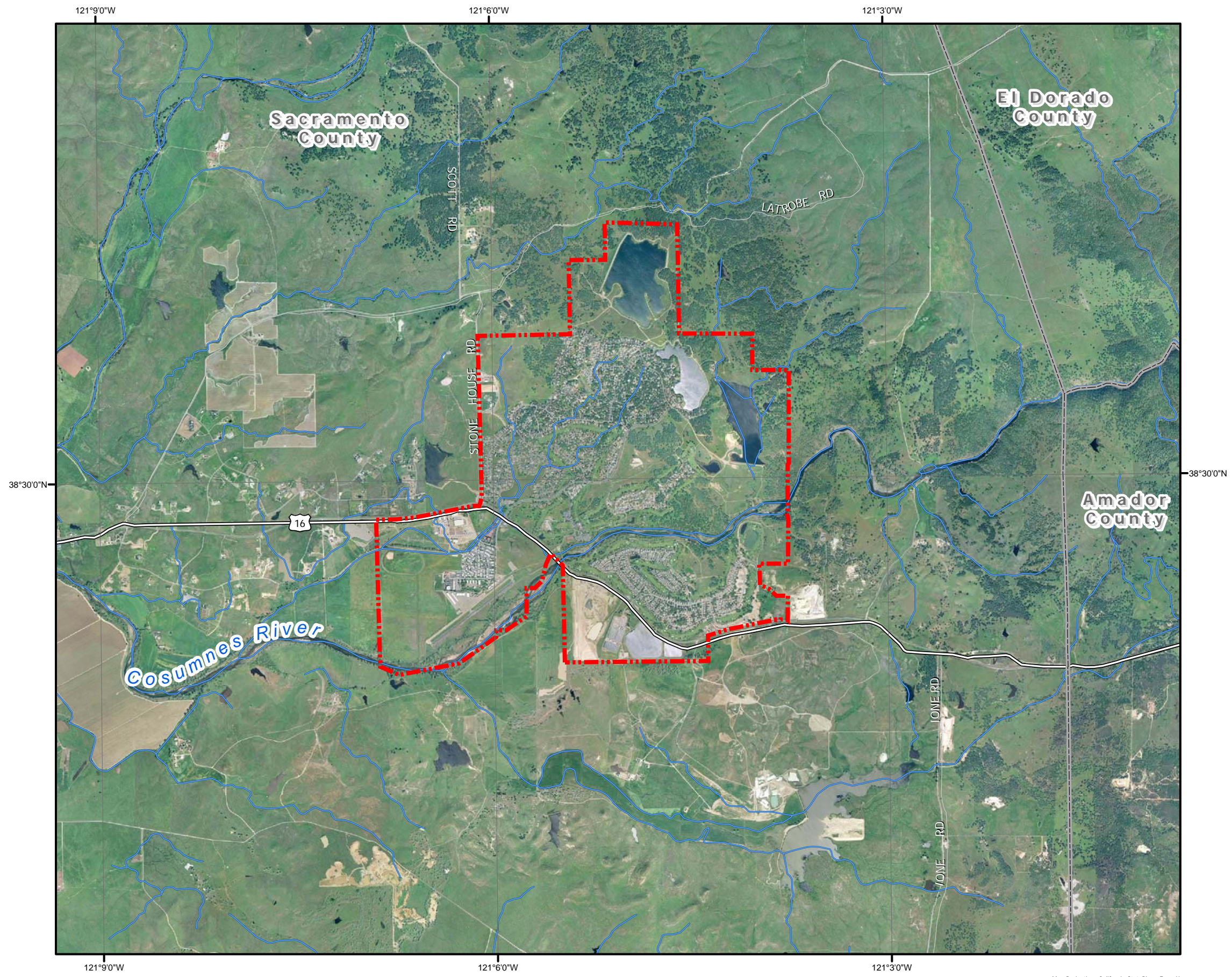
-  Reclamation District GSAs (RD 551, Northern Delta)
-  County of Sacramento GSA
-  Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA
-  Omochumne Hartnell Water District GSA
-  Sloughouse Resource Conservation District GSA
-  Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basins

South American Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Boundaries



Legend

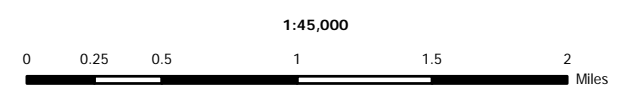
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|--|--|---|--|
|  | North Delta GSAs |  | Omochumne Hartnell Water District GSA - South American |
|  | County of Sacramento GSA - South American |  | Sloughouse Resource Conservation District GSA - South American |
|  | Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA |  | Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basins |
| | |  | Rancho Murieta CSD |



File Location: J:\GIS_Maps\2005-223_Rancho_Muretta_CSD\Area_Map.mxd

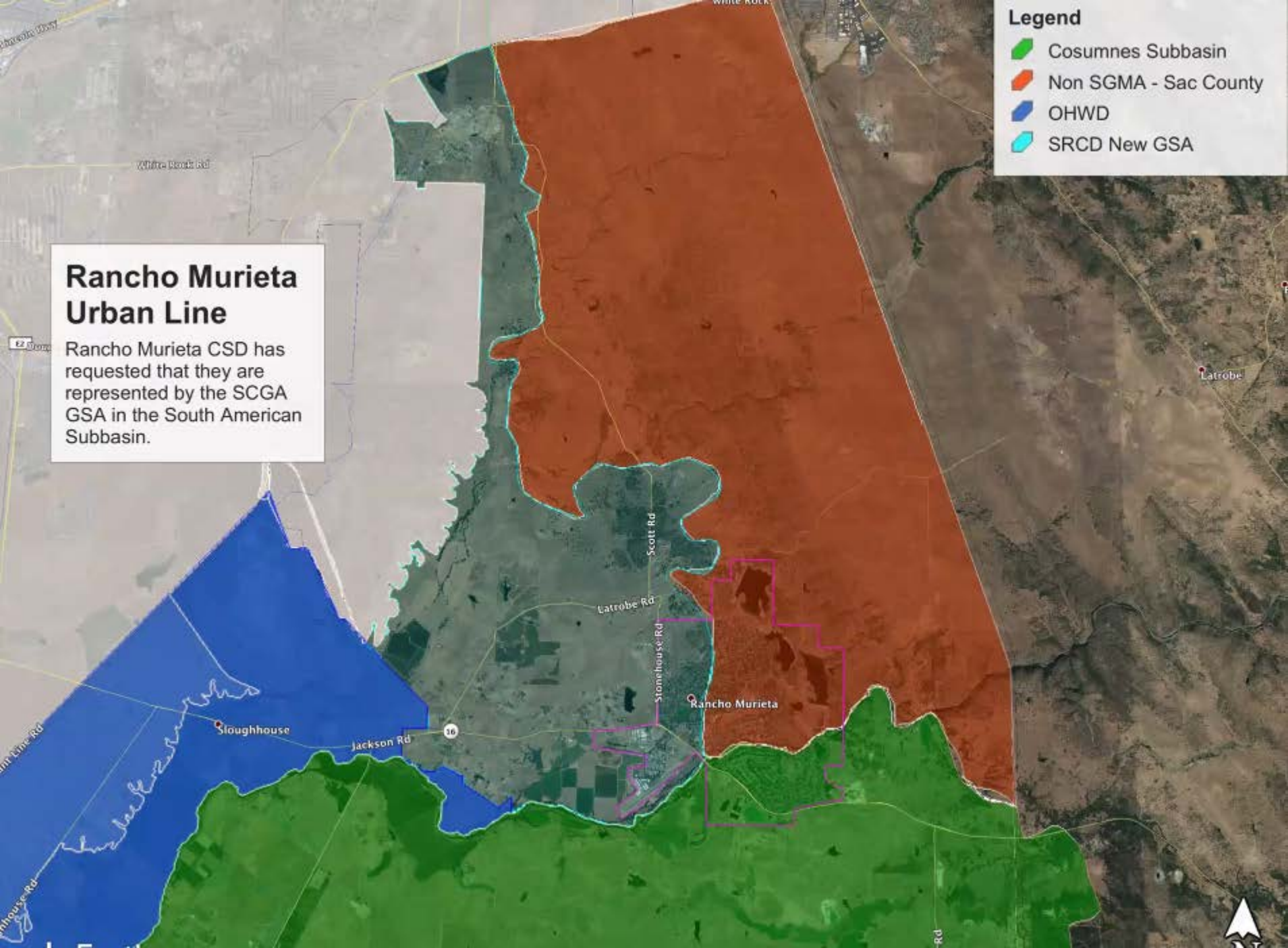
Map Projection: California StatePlane Zone 11
 Datum: North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)
 Graticules: World Geodesic Survey 1984 (WGS84)
 3° 00" Lat/Long

FIGURE 1. Rancho Murieta CSD Site and Vicinity
 2005-223 Rancho Murieta CSD









Well Site



Legend

-  Cosumnes Subbasin
-  Non SGMA - Sac County
-  OHWD
-  SRCD New GSA

Rancho Murieta Urban Line
Rancho Murieta CSD has requested that they are represented by the SCGA GSA in the South American Subbasin.



Scott Rd

Latrobe Rd

Stonehouse Rd

Rancho Murieta

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