

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 14, 2016
To: Board of Directors
From: Darlene J. Thiel Gillum, General Manager
Subject: Discussion and Consideration of Board Direction Regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation in the Groundwater Sub-Basins Affecting Rancho Murieta

RECOMMENDED ACTION.

No, action. Information update only.

BACKGROUND

On January 1, 2015, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became effective. The SGMA requires the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017 to manage groundwater in a sustainable manner in high-priority and medium-priority groundwater basins, as identified by the Department of Water Resources (bulletin 118).

The Cosumnes River serves as the boundary between the South American River Sub-basin (high-priority basin; north of the Cosumnes River) and the Cosumnes Sub-basin (medium-priority basin, south of the Cosumnes River). As the Cosumnes River flows through Rancho Murieta, a portion of the District falls into each of these sub-basins.

The Sacramento Central Groundwater Agency, of which the District is a member, is the recognized GSA for the South American Sub-basin. There are four (4) local agencies within the Cosumnes Sub-basin currently considering becoming the GSA for their service area within the Cosumnes Sub-basin. They are Galt Irrigation District, Clay Water District, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), and the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD). Currently, the portion of the District service area that is south of the Cosumnes River is included in the SRCD proposed GSA area.

Staff will continue to monitor the activities in both sub-basins as it relates to the SGMA and impacts to the District, if any.