

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
SETTING A WATER YEAR 2025 OBJECTIVE FOR REDUCING THE CONSUMPTIVE USE
OF GROUNDWATER**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014 and adopted as California Water Code, section 10720, *et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SGMA is to provide sustainable management of groundwater basins and enhance local management of groundwater through empowering local management agencies with authority necessarily to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was formed on March 15, 2017 as a joint powers authority pursuant to Government Code section 6500, *et seq.*, by agencies that qualify to be groundwater sustainability agencies; and

WHEREAS, three GSAs in the Merced Groundwater Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.04) have coordinated on the development of a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) pursuant to Water Code section 10727(a); and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSP was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, GSP development and implementation is coordinated among the Merced Subbasin GSA, the Merced Irrigation Urban GSA and the Turner Island Water District GSA #1 through a Coordination Agreement effective on October 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, DWR has designated the Merced Subbasin as in critical condition of overdraft and the consumptive use of groundwater in the basin exceeds the available sustainable yield (Merced Subbasin GSP Section 2.3.5); and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSP identifies a Merced Subbasin GSA Groundwater Demand Reduction Management Action (Merced Subbasin GSP Section 6.2.2) to “gradually reduce pumping at a consistent annual rate during the 20-year implementation period in order to reach the Native Groundwater allocation objective by 2040”; and

WHEREAS, reduction of consumptive use of groundwater within the Merced Subbasin GSA may be achieved through multiple available methods including, but not limited to, additional surface water use, land repurposing or fallowing, establishing pumping allocations or extraction fees; and

WHEREAS, through the Coordination Committee, the three GSAs in the Subbasin have agreed to identify five-year objectives for working toward achieving the Sustainability Goal of the GSP; and

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WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSA Governing Board will work to develop how the Water Year 2025 objective will be implemented within the jurisdiction of the Merced Subbasin GSA; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSA Governing Board will continue to coordinate with the Merced Irrigation Urban GSA and the Turner Island Water District GSA #1 through a Coordination Agreement to refine the Water Year 2025 objective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Merced Subbasin GSA that, by Water Year 2025, the consumptive use of groundwater within the Merced Subbasin GSA will be reduced by a minimum of 15,000 acre feet annually, with this minimum to be increased annually thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Merced Subbasin GSA Governing Board that while SGMA allows 20 years for implementation of the GSP, sustainability in the Merced Subbasin cannot wait and actions to reduce consumptive use of groundwater must take place. The five-year objective is the first step toward reduced groundwater consumptive use in the Merced Subbasin GSA and future years will require steeper reductions in consumptive use of groundwater in order to achieve the Sustainability Goal of the GSP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Merced Subbasin GSA Governing Board to direct staff to develop methods of implementation to achieve the Water Year 2025 objective.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Governing Board at Merced, California, this 8th day of July 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Marchini, Pareira, Pedretti, Swenson, Upton

NOES: Gallo

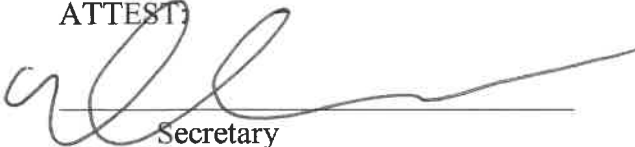
ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

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By: 
Chair

ATTEST:


Secretary