MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

RESOLUTION OF THE MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A MULTI-BENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM GRANT ROUND 2 (FY 2022/23) APPLICATION

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

WHEREAS, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) is administering the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Program using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 and the Public Resources Trailer Bill (AB 211, Ch. 574, Stat. of 2022); and

WHEREAS, the DOC Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Solicitation and Application requires eligible block grant applicants to be GSAs or partnering with GSAs, in a critically overdrafted basin managed under an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or a high- or medium-priority groundwater basin where a state of emergency drought declaration has been declared; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSA is currently implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in the critically overdrafted Merced Groundwater Subbasin (DWR Subbasin No. 5-22.04), which is also a high-priority basin under the Governor's May 10, 2021 proclamation of a state of emergency due to drought; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSP Section 2.3.5 states the consumptive use of groundwater in the basin exceeds the available sustainable yield of the basin; and

WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSA has identified 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, the Merced Subbasin GSA has identified a Two-Phased GSP Implementation Approach (Resolution 2021-02) that pursues a Water Year 2025 Objective to reduce consumptive use of groundwater by 15,000 acre-feet per year (Resolution 2021-01), focusing primarily on land repurposing/fallowing and importing surface water into the GSA area; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022 the Merced Subbasin GSA adopted Resolution 2022-06 establishing a "Phase 1 Land Repurposing Program" and approved a local funding mechanism to achieve the Phase 1 objective in the above stated resolutions; and

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WHEREAS, the Merced Subbasin GSA intends to submit a Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Round 2 application to complement and expand the Phase 1 Land Repurposing Program the GSA is currently implementing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Merced Subbasin GSA that an application be made to the California Department of Conservation for a Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Round 2 grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Merced Subbasin GSA authorizes entrance into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation for the project and acceptance of the template terms and conditions, if the project is awarded funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Merced Subbasin GSA authorizes the Chairman, or his designee, to, as agent, accept the award of grant funding and to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, reimbursement requests, if the project is awarded funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Governing Board at Merced, California, this 9th day of March 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Gallo, Giampaoli, Marchini, Pedretti, Swenson

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Pareira

MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____
Lloyd Pareira, Jr.
Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Mark Hendrickson
Secretary