

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: March 21, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council

From: Public Works Department

Presentation by: Benjamin Moody, Deputy Public Works Director – Engineering

Summary

Subject: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

Recommendation: A. Conduct a Public Hearing and after consideration of the item:

B. Adopt a Resolution electing to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin within the limits of the City of Yuba City

Fiscal Impact: Minimal formation costs with ongoing costs to meet State requirements

Purpose:

To manage groundwater resources and comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Background:

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed SB 1168, SB 1319, and AB 1739, which are collectively referred to as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Effective January 1, 2015, SGMA requires local and regional agencies to sustain and manage groundwater resources within their jurisdictions.

Local agencies subject to SGMA include any agency which has water-supply, water-management, or land-use responsibilities within a groundwater basin. The City of Yuba City overlies a portion of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin, which is subject to SGMA.

Local agencies may designate themselves as a GSA or agree to form a GSA in conjunction with other local agencies. In addition, groundwater basins may be covered by a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted by multiple GSAs in conjunction. Agencies must submit their intent to become a GSA by June 30, 2017 in order to use the authority granted by SGMA.

Analysis:

The formation of a GSA within the City limits of the City of Yuba City is essential for the City to maintain control over the decision-making process for groundwater sustainability issues within our jurisdiction. If the City of Yuba City chooses not to become a GSA, Sutter County is automatically designated as the GSA for the area. This would mean that the City would be required to follow the decisions made by Sutter County for all groundwater sustainability issues.

The City of Yuba City has been coordinating with Sutter County and other local agencies to determine and establish GSA boundaries within our subbasin.

In order to become a GSA, the City is required to hold a public hearing prior to adoption of a resolution electing that the City become a GSA, which requires at least two notifications informing the public. The City posted a notice of public hearing regarding the formation of a GSA on March 7, 2017 and March 14, 2017 in the Appeal Democrat. After the resolution adoption, the City will be required to submit its intent to become a GSA to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review within thirty (30) days, after which the DWR will review the submittal for overlapping GSA boundaries and inform the City within ninety (90) days regarding approval.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of the formation of a GSA is minimal.

Future costs regarding the implementation of SGMA and GSA requirements are difficult to determine and will be dependent upon the approval of submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans by the DWR. Costs for the development of subbasin wide plans are shared among agencies within the basin to help minimize costs.

A GSA may impose fees, including, but not limited to, permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the cost of a groundwater sustainability program, per Water Code 10730.

Alternatives:

Do not form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and allow the City to, by default, fall under Sutter County's jurisdiction for groundwater sustainability issues.

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution electing to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin within the limits of the City of Yuba City.

Attachments:

1. Resolution – Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation
2. City of Yuba City GSA Boundary Map
3. Sutter County GSAs Map

Prepared by:

[/s/ Manu Dhaliwal](#)

Manu Dhaliwal
Assistant Engineer

Submitted by:

[/s/ Steven C. Kroeger](#)

Steven C. Kroeger
City Manager

Reviewed by:

Department Head

[DL](#)

Finance

[RB](#)

City Attorney

[BY EMAIL](#)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUBA CITY
ELECTING TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY FOR THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN,
SUTTER SUBBASIN WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF YUBA
CITY.**

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law, with an effective date of January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of SGMA, as set forth in California Water Code Section 10720.1, is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins at a local level by providing local groundwater agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary, to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723(a) authorizes a local agency, or a combination of local agencies, with water supply, water management or local land use responsibilities, overlaying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under SGMA; and

WHEREAS, in order to use the authority granted by SGMA, a local agency or combination of local agencies must elect to become a GSA; and

WHEREAS, the City overlies a portion of an unadjudicated basin, the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin, where it is appropriate for the City to be a GSA; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to work cooperatively with other water agencies, cities and counties, as may be appropriate, to manage the Sacramento Valley Sutter Subbasin in a sustainable manner; and

WHEREAS, Section 10723.8 of SGMA requires that a GSA consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as, those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Water Code Section 10723(b) and Government Code Section 6066, a notice of public hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation regarding the City's intent to become a GSA for a portion of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin; 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 the CEQA Guideline, because this Resolution does not result in direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2017, the City held a public hearing to consider adoption of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the City Council of the City of Yuba City hereby elects to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for

the portion of the City that overlies the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin as depicted in Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that within thirty (30) days of this date, the City of Yuba City Public Works Department is directed to provide notice of this election and intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management for the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin to the Department of Water Resources in a manner required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the City of Yuba City Public Works Department shall begin development of a groundwater sustainability plan in coordination with other local public agencies for the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Sutter Subbasin that underlies the City of Yuba City.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Yuba City at a regular meeting thereof held on the 21st day of March 2017.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

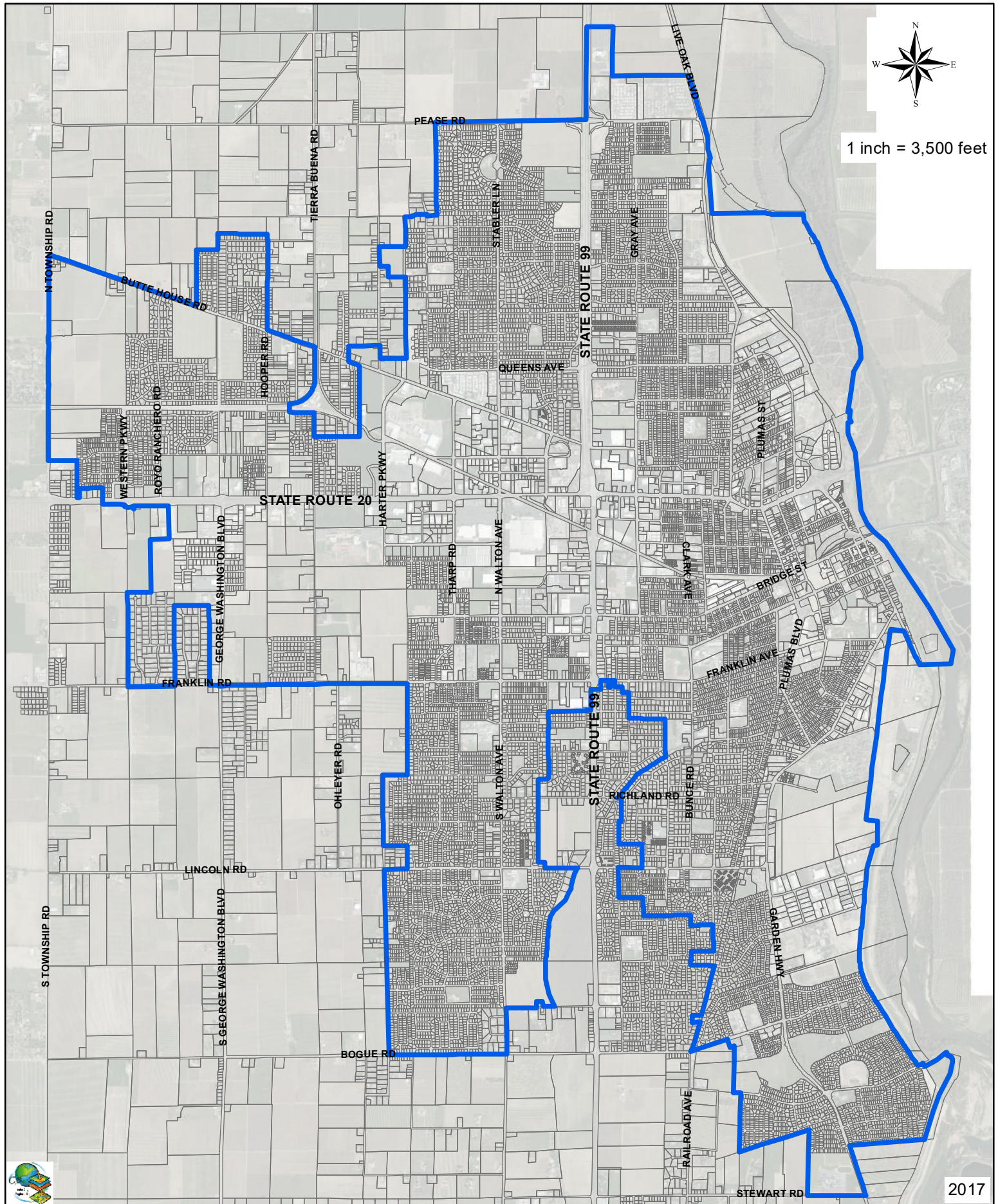
Stanley Cleveland Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia Buckland, City Clerk

City of Yuba City GSA Boundary within the Sutter Subbasin

EXHIBIT A



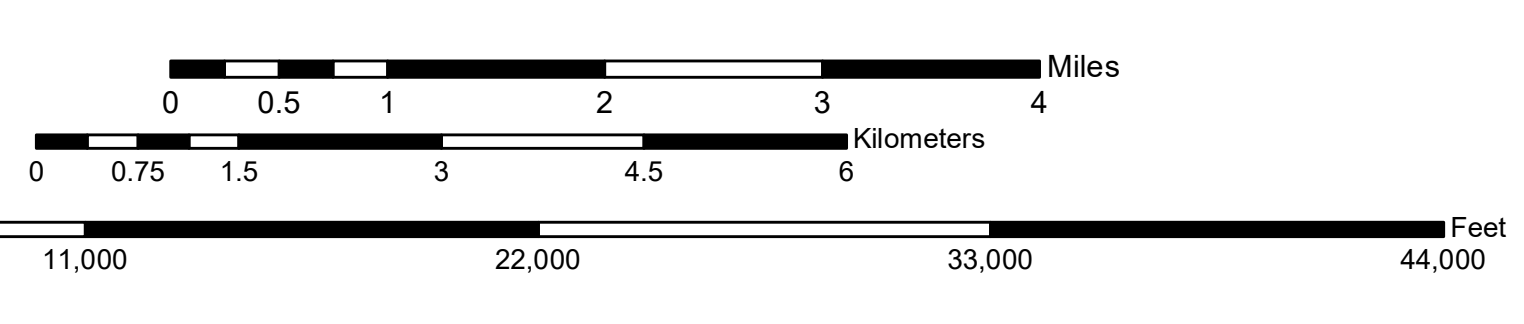
SUTTER COUNTY

SGMA GROUND WATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
(GSA)s

- Minor Roads
- Major Roads
- Highways
- Railways
- Levees
- Waterways**
 - Rivers
 - Drainage Ditch
 - Irrigation Canal
 - Natural Waterways or Creek
 - State Drain
 - Ground Water Basin Boundary

Incorporated Cities
Sutter County GSA

1:56,000



February 2017

Created by the Sutter County Community Services Department
California State Plane Zone 2 Projection, North American Datum 83 Coordinate System

COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICTS
SUTTER COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

INCORPORATED CITIES
CITY OF LIVE OAK
CITY OF YUBA CITY

RECLAMATION DISTRICTS
RECLAMATION DISTRICT 70
RECLAMATION DISTRICT 883/1004
RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1500
RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1660
RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2054

WATER PURVEYORS
PUBLIC
BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER DISTRICT
BUTTE WATER DISTRICT
SOUTH SUTTER WATER DISTRICT
SUTTER COUNTY WATER WORKS DISTRICT NO. 1
SUTTER EXTENSION WATER DISTRICT

