



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds
PHONE (858) 694-2962 FAX (858) 694-2555

March 22, 2017

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Delivery via E-Mail
(Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov)

GSA NOTIFICATION (AMENDED): MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE BORREGO VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) Section 10723.8, the County of San Diego (County) provided notice on January 13, 2016 to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) of the County's decision to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin (BVGB) [Attachment 1]. Since Borrego Water District (BWD) also provided notice to become a GSA for BVGB (DWR Basin No. 7-24), the County and BWD collaborated on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to eliminate any overlap in the areas proposed to be managed. This MOU (Attachment 2) was approved by BWD on September 20, 2016 and by the County Board of Supervisors on October 19, 2016 and establishes the Borrego Valley GSA, which is a multi-agency GSA for the BVGB.

In October 2016, DWR released final 2016 modifications to California's basin boundaries (Bulletin 118 Basins [2016 Edits]), which included the subdivision of the BVGB into two separate subbasins (Borrego Springs and Ocotillo Wells). As such, this notification includes a map and GIS files of the proposed Borrego Valley GSA boundary within the limits of the revised basin in San Diego County (Attachment 1).

In addition to eliminating the overlap, the MOU serves to memorialize each agency's roles and responsibilities for developing a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to sustainably manage groundwater in the BVGB. As indicated in the initial notices, the County and BWD intend to work cooperatively to jointly manage groundwater in the basin.

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Both agencies remain committed to considering the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a GSP. Each agency further anticipates working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop and implement the GSP for the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin. To aid this effort, the County and BWD established an advisory committee in spring 2017. In accordance with Water Code Section 10727.8(a), interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the GSP by attending advisory committee meetings in Borrego Valley and may sign up to receive information about GSP development at the County's SGMA webpage located at: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/SGMA.html>.

The County and BWD concur that this agreement does not involve a material change from the information in the posted notices from BWD and the County, yet eliminates the overlap as required by California Water Code Section 10723.8(c).

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact the County Groundwater Geologist, Jim Bennett, at (858) 694-3820.

Sincerely,



MARK WARDLAW, Director
Planning & Development Services

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin Map

Attachment 2 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE BORREGO VALLEY
GROUNDWATER SUSTABILITY AGENCY

cc.

Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist, County of San Diego

jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

Geoff Poole, General Manager, Borrego Water District

geoff@borregowd.org