



Board of Supervisors

May 23, 2017

Mr. Reggie Lamson
General Manager
City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power
P.O. Box 1929
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Re: Support for Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Mr. Lamson:

On May 23, 2017, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors voted to communicate the County's support of the cooperative efforts of the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, a joint powers authority, to manage groundwater in the Bear Valley Basin (No. 8-9) in compliance with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The County appreciates the commitment of the City of Big Bear Lake, the Big Bear City Community Services District and the Big Bear Municipal Water District to maintain local control of the Bear Valley Basin and to work together to sustainably manage the Basin's groundwater resources in a way that considers the interests of all beneficial uses and users.

As the County is also eligible to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Bear Valley Basin, the County wishes to assure you that the County does not intend to adopt a competing Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation resolution and notification of the California Department of Water Resources. To that end, on March 7, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution that the County would not be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for 11 groundwater basins and sub-basins in the county, including Bear Valley Basin. A copy of this resolution is attached.

If you should have any questions, please contact Bob Page, Principal Management Analyst, at (909) 387-4384 or by email at bp@ca0.sbc0unt0.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
Chairman and First District Supervisor
Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino

Cc: Steve Anderson, Partner, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Interim Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

May 23, 2017

**FROM: DENA M. SMITH, Interim Chief Executive Officer
County Administrative Office**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BEAR VALLEY BASIN AND YUCAIPA BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES**

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approve and authorize submission of letters of support for the cooperative efforts of cities, water districts and water companies to manage groundwater in compliance with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the following groundwater basins:
 - a. Bear Valley Basin (No. 8-9)
 - b. Yucaipa Sub-Basin (No. 8-2.07)
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or the Chief Executive Officer to execute similar letters of support, subject to review by County Counsel, for local agency efforts to manage other groundwater basins in San Bernardino County that must comply with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for which the County has previously notified the California Department of Water Resources that the County will not serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

(Presenter: Bob Page, Principal Management Analyst, 387-5425)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Ensure Development of a Well-Planned, Balanced, and Sustainable County.
Pursue County Goals and Objectives by Working with Other Agencies.**

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Providing letters of support to local agencies forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) will not result in the use of additional Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Effective January 1, 2015, the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires local water and land use agencies to sustainably manage 127 groundwater basins and sub-basins (basins) that have been designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as medium or high priority. SGMA mandates that one eligible local agency or multiple eligible local agencies form a GSA for each of these basins by June 30, 2017 with the responsibility of developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

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cc: CAO-Smith
CAO-Page w/Letters of Support
CAO-Shea
File - Administrative Office w/copy
of Letters

jr 5/24/17

ITEM 55

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

**APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
Board of Supervisors**

MOTION	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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LAURA H. WELCH, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY _____

DATED: May 23, 2017

**SUPPORT FOR BEAR VALLEY BASIN AND YUCAIPA BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
MAY 23, 2017
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DWR has designated Bear Valley Basin as medium priority. DWR has also defined the boundaries of the Bear Valley Basin in its Bulletin 118 and assigned it No. 8-9. The City of Big Bear Lake, the Big Bear City Community Services District and the Big Bear Municipal Water District have formed the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Bear Valley Basin GSA), a joint powers authority that became effective on April 26, 2017, with the purpose to become the exclusive GSA for the Bear Valley Basin.

DWR has designated Yucaipa Sub-Basin as medium priority. DWR has also defined the boundaries of the Yucaipa Sub-Basin in its Bulletin 118 and assigned it No. 8-2.07. Negotiations of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the formation of a GSA for the Yucaipa Sub-Basin completed in April. The MOA was circulated for approval by June from the governing bodies of the following parties to the MOA: the cities of Calimesa, Redlands and Yucaipa; San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; San Geronimo Pass Water Agency; Yucaipa Valley Water District; South Mesa Water Company; South Mountain Water Company; and Western Heights Water Company.

Before either GSA can be the exclusive GSA for their respective basin, SGMA requires that they hold a noticed public hearing to adopt a resolution to become the exclusive GSA. The Bear Valley Basin GSA hearing is scheduled for May 25, 2017. The parties to Yucaipa Sub-Basin GSA MOA will hold separate public hearings on various dates before June 30, 2017. The GSAs will then have 30 days to notify DWR of their decisions, providing among other things a map of the service areas of the parties within each basin (attached) and a list of all beneficial uses and users of the groundwater and how their interests will be considered in the operation of the GSAs and the development and implementation of their GSPs.

DWR will post the notices on its SGMA Portal on its website (sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#intro). Other eligible local agencies in each basin, including the County, will then have 90 days to file a competing GSA notice. If no competing notices are filed with DWR, the Bear Valley Basin GSA and Yucaipa Sub-Basin GSA will become the exclusive GSAs for their basins. On March 7, 2017 (Item No. 20), the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a resolution that the County would not be the GSA for 11 groundwater basins and sub-basins in the county, including Bear Valley Basin and Yucaipa Sub-Basin. The Board adopted a similar resolution covering five other basins on January 10, 2017 (Item No. 21).

The parties to these GSAs requested that the County support their efforts. If approved by the Board, the recommended letters will be provided to the Bear Valley Basin GSA and Yucaipa Sub-Basin GSA.

If local agencies in any of the other 14 basins covered by the Board's January 10 and March 7 resolutions request support of their GSA, approval of Recommendation No. 2 will authorize the Chairman of the Board or the Chief Executive Officer to execute similar letters of support, subject to review by County Counsel.

**SUPPORT FOR BEAR VALLEY BASIN AND YUCAIPA BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
MAY 23, 2017
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PROCUREMENT

N/A.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Sophie A. Akins, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5001) on May 5, 2017; Finance (Stephenie Shea, Administrative Analyst, 387-4919) on May 8, 2017; and County Finance and Administration (Katrina Turturro, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on May 8, 2017.