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WOODBRIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
18750 N. LOWER SACRAMENTO ROAD
P.O. BOX 580
WOODBRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 95258
PHONE: (209) 625-8438
FAX: (209) 625-8663

August 14, 2015

F. Wally Sandelin
Director of Public Works
City of Lodi
221 West Pine Street
PO Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95241-1910

Joe Valente,
President
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
5490 E. Bear Creek Road
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Wally and Joe,

The Woodbridge Irrigation District Board of Directors met yesterday in regular session and discussed the agenda item of Woodbridge Irrigation District forming its own Ground Water Sustainability Agency (GSA) to adopt its own Ground Water Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet the three legislative bills that propose to regulate ground water in California, via the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The WID's Board proposal to form its own GSA and develop its own GSP is considered to be the best way to protect our District growers who depend on their groundwater for 2/3rds of all the water used within the Woodbridge Irrigation District boundaries. Growers within our District desire a locally responsible water agency (not the County or the State), to represent their property right interests in their ground water supply, while maintaining local control and meeting the minimal mandates of the legislation. Our 40,000 acre District has consistently served approximately 13,000 acres with its Mokelumne River surface water supplies while approximately 27,000 acres are served by ground water. Nearly all the lands in the District are irrigable lands and have a long history of surface and ground water usage. In recent years, more efficient irrigation methods and considerable infrastructure investments have reduced the total demand of water that has allowed us to serve Lodi and even Stockton with conserved surface water. This has helped grow the local agricultural economy and has helped to stabilize ground water levels in a short time, beneath Lodi and Stockton and reduced the overall reliance on ground water.

The Lodi-Woodbridge area is blessed with the water supplies that we have available by past actions taken by both agencies to build facilities to utilize surface water to the maximum amount possible and by conserving the groundwater. The huge investments made by Woodbridge ID and Lodi in facilities to divert

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and treat surface water need to be protected. Woodbridge Irrigation has spent over \$18 million in its dam and fish screen projects alone. Lodi recently has invested 3 to 4 times as much in its system to treat and distribute surface water within the City.


The SGMA laws give authority first to local water agencies (WID, NSJWCD and Lodi) to develop the GSP. If the local agency does not respond, the responsibility then falls upon the county, if the county does not act to implement a GSP, then the State of California will take control of the groundwater. We feel that local control of the most important regulatory powers governing the use of ground water in the legislation should be retained by our local jurisdictions such as Lodi, NSJWCD and WID.

WID urges the City of Lodi and the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District to join together with WID and form its own GSA. This GSA will retain the most important regulatory powers of a GSP for our areas under our local control. We will plan to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Eastern San Joaquin Ground Water Basin Authority (GBA) for a GSP for the entire Eastern San Joaquin Ground Water Basin. Our three agencies share a common interest in the Mokelumne River and have invested heavily in our Mokelumne water systems. The formation of our small GSA would act together with the Ground Water Basin Authority (GBA) and develop a shared GSP, since SGMA permits the sharing of powers between our proposed GSA and the County.

The County Flood Control Agency has proposed that the County be the GSA to develop the GSP. The GBA has already been given authority by its members to hire consultants and advisors to begin develop of a GSP. We must act now to protect our jurisdictional interests in our ground water basins or it will be decided by others. A GSA is required to announce its intentions before January 1, 2016 and develop its plan by mid-2016. WID will take up the matter at its September 10, 2015 Board meeting and if passed, file a notice of intent with the State.

I have enclosed a July 23, 2015 memo and a power point presentation on requirements and implications of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) that was prepared for our Board.

Sincerely,


Anders Christensen, Manager

Enc: PPT on SGMA
July 23rd Memo on SGMA

Cc: Roger Masuda, NSJWCD Counsel
WID Board of Directors