



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

901 P Street, Room 313-B | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

February 21, 2020

Bryan Thoreson
Davids Engineering, Inc.
1772 Picasso Avenue, Suite A
Davis, CA 95618-0550
bryan@davidsengineering.com

Dear Mr. Thoreson,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is writing this letter to you as the designated point of contact for multiple groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) in the Madera Groundwater Subbasin (Madera Subbasin). You submitted a coordination agreement to DWR for those multiple GSPs on January 31, 2020. Prior to submitting the coordination agreement, four adopted GSPs for the Madera Subbasin were submitted to DWR:

1. A GSP with local ID "Madera_RCWD_Adopted" prepared by the Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
2. A GSP with local ID "Madera Subbasin Joint GSP" prepared by the Madera Irrigation District GSA, the County of Madera GSA, the City of Madera GSA, and the Madera Water District GSA.
3. A GSP with local ID "Madera Basin - GFWD GSA" prepared by the Gravelly Ford Water District GSA.
4. A GSP with local ID "Madera_NewStone_Adopted" prepared by the New Stone Water District GSA.

DWR staff have reviewed the coordination agreement and determined that the New Stone Water District GSA, the sole GSA responsible for preparing the Madera_NewStone_Adopted GSP, did not sign the agreement. Our understanding, based on communications between staff and representatives from various GSAs in the subbasin, is that the missing signature is intentional and that local efforts to coordinate all GSPs in the subbasin were not successful.

SGMA requires that basins preparing multiple GSPs prepare a coordination agreement for the entire basin (Water Code § 10727(b)(3)). The lack of a fully-signed coordination agreement fails to satisfy the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) or the GSP Regulations (Water Code § 10733.4; 23 CCR § 355.4(a)(2-3); 23 CCR 357.4). In accordance with the GSP Regulations, DWR will initiate consultation with the State Water Board (23 CCR § 355.2(e)(3)(A); see attachment). After the consultation process is complete, DWR will notify you of our

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final determination for the GSPs in the Madera Subbasin. In the interim, DWR is not posting the GSPs for public review and is not initiating a public comment period.

DWR is committed to providing assistance to local agencies and GSAs during the implementation of SGMA. Please let me know if there is any information, assistance, or guidance we can provide during this period. Contact me at craig.altare@water.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Altare
Chief, GSP Review Section

Attachment

cc: Julia Berry, Root Creek Water District GSA
Thomas Greci, Madera Irrigation District GSA
Stephanie Anagnoson, County of Madera GSA
Keith Helmuth, City of Madera GSA
Eric Abrahamsen, Madera Water District GSA
Don Roberts, Gravelly Ford Water District GSA
Roger Skinner, New Stone Water District GSA
Natalie Stork, State Water Resources Control Board



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February 21, 2020

Natalie Stork
Chief, Groundwater Management Program
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance
State Water Resources Control Board
Phone: (916) 341-5336
Natalie.Stork@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Stork,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on the status of groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) submission in the Madera Groundwater Subbasin (Madera Subbasin) and to request the initiation of consultation between the State Water Board and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Critically overdrafted groundwater basins were required to submit GSPs to DWR by January 31, 2020. Four adopted GSPs for the Madera Subbasin were submitted by the statutory deadline:

1. A GSP with local ID "Madera_RCWD_Adopted" prepared by the Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
2. A GSP with local ID "Madera Subbasin Joint GSP" prepared by the Madera Irrigation District GSA, the County of Madera GSA, the City of Madera GSA, and the Madera Water District GSA.
3. A GSP with local ID "Madera Basin - GFWD GSA" prepared by the Gravelly Ford Water District GSA.
4. A GSP with local ID "Madera_NewStone_Adopted" prepared by the New Stone Water District GSA.

Basins preparing multiple GSPs are also required to submit a coordination agreement for the entire basin (Water Code § 10727(b)(3)). GSAs in the Madera Subbasin submitted a coordination agreement to DWR on January 31, 2020. DWR staff have reviewed the coordination agreement and determined that the New Stone Water District GSA, the sole GSA responsible for preparing the Madera_NewStone_Adopted GSP, did not sign the agreement. Our understanding, based on communications between staff and representatives from various GSAs in the subbasin, is that the missing signature is intentional and that local efforts to coordinate all GSPs in the subbasin were not successful.

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The lack of a fully-signed coordination agreement fails to satisfy the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or the GSP Regulations (Water Code § 10733.4; 23 CCR § 355.4(a)(2-3); 23 CCR 357.4). In accordance with the GSP Regulations, I am writing to request the initiation of consultation with the State Water Board (23 CCR § 355.2(e)(3)(A)). I will follow up with you shortly to determine a mutually agreeable time for representatives from our agencies to meet as part of the consultation process. Please contact me at craig.altare@water.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Altare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Altare".

Craig Altare
Chief, GSP Review Section