

R-24-04

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FINAL DRAFT 2024 EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AMENDMENT AND PERIODIC EVALUATION
AND AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE AUTHORITY TO
SUBMIT TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2015 ("SGMA") "to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the Authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater" (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires sustainable management of high priority groundwater basins through the development of groundwater sustainability plans ("GSPs"), which can be a single plan developed by one or more groundwater sustainability agencies ("GSAs") or multiple coordinated plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and,

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority ("Authority") as formed for the purpose developing a single GSP and coordinating certain activities towards sustainable groundwater management in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10723.6(i)); and,

WHEREAS, SGMA and its implementing regulations require and authorize a GSA to periodically evaluate its GSP at least every five years, and whenever the GSP is amended, and to provide a written assessment to DWR that describes GSP implementation, including progress on projects and management actions (Wat. Code, § 10728.2; 23 Cal. Code Regs., § 356.4); and

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin GSP was adopted by all GSA Members of the Authority and was submitted to DWR on January 29, 2020 in accordance with SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) completed its two-year review and, by letter dated January 28, 2022, determined the Eastern San Joaquin GSP to be "incomplete," citing certain alleged deficiencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority revised the Eastern San Joaquin GSP to address the deficiencies identified by DWR's "incomplete" determination letter; and,

WHEREAS, the revised Eastern San Joaquin GSP was adopted by all GSA Members and submitted to DWR on July 27, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2023, DWR approved, by letter, the revised Eastern San Joaquin GSP, and included a list of eight "Recommended Corrective Actions" to be addressed in an

amendment to the Eastern San Joaquin GSP due January 31, 2025, as required by SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority prepared the 2024 Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Amendment (“2024 ESJ GSP Amendment”) in response to DWR’s “Recommended Corrective Actions” and prepared the first Periodic Evaluation of the Eastern San Joaquin GSP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Authority hereby accepts the final draft of the 2024 ESJ GSP Amendment and Periodic Evaluation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Authority Secretary is hereby authorized to submit the 2024 ESJ GSP Amendment and Periodic Evaluation to DWR no later than January 31, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of December 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: David Breitenbucher, Mike Henry, Jason Colomini, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Keith Bussman, Mel Panizza, Robert Rickman, Craig Stevens, and Christy McKinnon.

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Anthony Carrasco, George Biagi, Grant Thompson, Alan Nakanishi, Gary Tofanelli, and Myron Blanton

ATTEST:



ATTEST: FRITZ BUCHMAN, C.E., T.E., CFM
Secretary



ROBERT RICKMAN
Chairman