



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resources Programs Manager

DATE: October 10, 2024

RE: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Execution of Agreement with EKI Environment & Water, Inc. for SGMA Support Services and \$120,000 Increase to Activity Agreement (Fund 63) Budget, Pending Ratification by the Coordination Committee

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“Water Authority”) executed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination and Cost-Sharing Agreements, which established the Water Authority’s role as a coordinating partner for the 23 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and 6 Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (D-M Subbasin). Since that time, the Water Authority staff has served as the SGMA Point of Contact for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and as a facilitator and program management entity for coordinated activities in the D-M Subbasin, including GSP submittal, grant preparation and coordination, and fiscal agent.

In December 2020, the D-M Subbasin parties submitted 6 Groundwater Sustainability Plans to DWR for review and approval. In March 2023, DWR provided a letter to the D-M Subbasin GSP Regions indicating that DWR deemed the GSPs “Inadequate” for a number of reasons detailed in the letter transmitting the determination. In response to the Inadequate determination, the regulatory authority for approving the GSPs has shifted from DWR to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). On April 4, 2024 the SWRCB held an informational hearing on the SWRCB’s process to address the six basins that have been deemed inadequate, with a second meeting of the SWRCB to set the dates of potential probationary hearings for the 6 subbasins deemed “inadequate”. The potential probationary hearing for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is now anticipated for June of 2025. In response to the inadequate determination and the probationary hearing date, the D-M Coordination Committee has developed a single, Subbasin-wide GSP. That single GSP has been adopted or will be adopted by all 23 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Subbasin.

The Coordination Committee will meet on October 14, 2024, and will be voting to recommend that the Authority Board approve a budget increase to the Fund 63 budget and to issue a new task order for EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) in the amount of \$120,000 to continue

working with Subbasin GSAs on refinement and implementation of the GSP, and assist the responses to the SWRCB draft staff report expected at the end of the 2024 calendar year.

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Board of Directors should approve the D-M Subbasin Coordination Committee recommendation to increase the Fund 63 budget by \$120,000 and authorize Task Order F25-AA-005-TO06-63 to provide support to the D-M Subbasin on the single GSP.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the budget increase and Task Order.

ANALYSIS

The Coordination Committee began developing the single GSP in June 2023 with EKI serving in the lead role for consolidating the six original GSPs into one. Since then, EKI participated with Committee members in numerous meetings with SWRCB staff as the single GSP was developed.

This new task order will provide scope and budget for EKI to continue discussing the single GSP with SWRCB staff, responding to an expected SWRCB draft staff report on the single GSP, and participate in public outreach efforts on the GSP. There is also a provision for EKI to participate in meetings with the Water Authority, the United States Geological Survey, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation on the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Mitigation Project to share modeling information used to inform the GSP and how the occurrence of future subsidence will be eliminated by the GSP.

BUDGET

The Coordination Committee will be meeting to take action to increase the budget of Fund 63 by \$120,000 to accommodate funding for increased services by EKI to the D-M subbasin.