



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resources Programs Manager

DATE: December 7, 2023

RE: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Execution of Memorandum of Agreement, Not as a Party, for Coordination of Implementation of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“Water Authority”) executed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Agreement and Cost-Sharing Agreement, which established the Water Authority’s role as a coordinating partner for the 23 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and 6 Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (D-M Subbasin). The Coordination Agreement was required under SGMA Legislation (Wat. Code 10727(b)(3)) for subbasins with multiple GSPs. 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.

A Coordination Agreement is not required in a subbasin seeking to comply with SGMA by implementing a single GSP. However, the parties wish to develop a framework for cooperation and achieving groundwater sustainability in the D-M Subbasin. On November 13, 2023 the Coordination Committee approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for implementation of the single GSP. The MOA will become effective upon adoption of the single GSP by all 23 GSAs.

Similar to the Coordination Agreement, the MOA establishes Water Authority’s role as a coordinating partner for the GSAs. Under the MOA, the Water Authority will continue to serve as the SGMA Point of Contact for DWR under the single GSP. The Water Authority’s role as facilitator and program management entity for coordinated activities in the D-M Subbasin including Annual Report Submittal, grant preparation and coordination, and fiscal agent will continue.

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Board of Directors should authorize executing the MOA, not as a party, for implementation of a single GSP for the 23 GSAs in the D-M Subbasin.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board authorize execution of the MOA, not as a party, and continue SLDMWA's role as Point of Contact and program management entity for coordinated activities related to SGMA.

ANALYSIS

Six Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) including a Common Chapter and Coordination Agreement were submitted to DWR from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in January, 2020. The submission was designed to meet the Subbasin's requirements under SGMA. On January 21, 2022 DWR determined the Subbasin's GSPs to be incomplete, triggering a 180-day deadline for the 23 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to address the deficiencies identified by DWR. The revised GSPs and Common Chapter were submitted to DWR on July 20, 2022.

DWR reviewed the revisions made by the GSAs and on March 2, 2023 issued a final determination for the Subbasin's plans as "inadequate." The determination transfers oversight of the Subbasin and GSP development to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as the GSAs work toward amending the GSPs to reach "approved" status. The Subbasin Coordination Committee determined the best option to achieve "approved" status is to combine the six GSPs into one, with a focus on Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) and a Subbasin-wide water budget.

The original Coordination Agreement provided a framework for the 23 D-M Subbasin GSAs to cooperate on writing and implementing the original and amended six GSPs. The MOA provides the framework for continued cooperation in the implementation of a single GSP and achieving groundwater sustainability for the D-M Subbasin.

BUDGET

The MOA will not affect adopted budgets.

EXHIBITS

2018 Coordination Agreement

2023 Memorandum of Agreement

DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT

THIS DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT is made effective as of December 12, 2018 by and among the groundwater sustainability agencies within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (each a “**Party**” and collectively the “**Parties**”) and is made with reference to the following facts:

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“**SGMA**”);

WHEREAS, SGMA requires all groundwater subbasins designated as high or medium priority by the California Department of Water Resources (“**DWR**”) to manage groundwater in a sustainable manner;

WHEREAS, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.07, DWR Bulletin 118) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (“**Subbasin**”), has been designated as a high-priority basin by DWR;

WHEREAS, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin includes multiple groundwater sustainability agencies that intend to manage the Subbasin through the development and implementation of multiple different groundwater sustainability plans (“**GSP**”);

WHEREAS, SGMA allows local agencies to engage in the sustainable management of groundwater, but requires groundwater sustainability agencies in all basins that are managed by more than one groundwater sustainability plan to enter into a coordination agreement to coordinate the multiple groundwater sustainability plans to sustainably manage the Subbasin pursuant to SGMA;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA, and the California Code of Regulations, and in recognition of the need to sustainably manage the groundwater within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, the Parties desire to enter into this Agreement between their individual groundwater sustainability agencies;

WHEREAS, in order to efficiently coordinate among the large number of groundwater sustainability agencies (“**GSA**”) in the Subbasin, the Parties intend to organize themselves into “**GSP Groups**” and to be represented by the “**GSP Group Representatives**,” on terms

to be developed and implemented by separate Agreements between each GSP Group and the Parties within such GSP Group; and

WHEREAS, this Coordination Agreement is being executed before the respective GSPs have been prepared, and the Parties anticipate attaching and incorporating technical reports covering such additional required information before submittal of this Agreement to DWR with the Parties' respective GSPs without separate amendment being required.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the facts recited above and of the covenants, terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

1.1 Compliance with SGMA

In subbasins with multiple GSPs, SGMA requires the GSPs to be coordinated through a coordination agreement. The purpose of this Coordination Agreement including the anticipated attachment and incorporation of technical reports to be developed after the initial execution of this Agreement, is to comply with that SGMA requirement and ensure that the multiple GSPs within the Subbasin are developed and implemented utilizing the same methodologies and assumptions, that the elements of the GSPs are appropriately coordinated to support sustainable management, and to ultimately set forth the information necessary to show how the multiple GSPs in the Subbasin will achieve the sustainability goal, as determined for the Subbasin in compliance with SGMA and its associated regulations.

1.2 Description of Criteria & Function

An additional purpose of this Coordination Agreement is to describe the criteria for establishing the responsibilities of each Party for meeting the terms of this Coordination Agreement, the procedure for the exchange of information between the Parties, and procedures for resolving conflicts between the Parties. The goal of the coordination is to ensure that the Subbasin GSPs utilize the same data and methodologies, including but not limited to, groundwater elevation data, groundwater extraction data, surface water supply, total water use, changes in groundwater storage, water budgets, and sustainable yield during their development as required by SGMA and associated regulations. Additionally, this Coordination Agreement sets out the process for identifying a Plan Manager.

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

2.1 “Coordinated Plan Expenses” shall mean any expenses incurred by the Secretary and the Plan Manager for purposes of developing and implementing the Coordination Agreement.

2.2 “Coordination Agreement” shall mean this Coordination Agreement.

2.3 “Coordination Committee” shall mean the committee of GSP Group Representatives established pursuant to this Coordination Agreement.

2.4 “Group Contact” shall mean one Party designated on Exhibit “A” attached hereto and by reference incorporated herein as responsible to supply notices and to circulate information and invoices for its respective Exhibit “A” GSP Group, as said Exhibit may be updated from time to time.

2.5 “GSA” shall mean a groundwater sustainability agency established in accordance with SGMA and its associated regulations, and “GSAs” shall mean more than one such groundwater sustainability agency. Each Party is a GSA.

2.6 “GSP” shall mean a groundwater sustainability plan as defined by SGMA and its regulations, and “GSPs” shall mean more than one such plan.

2.7 “GSP Group” shall mean a grouping of Parties, stakeholders, and interested parties developing an individual GSP within the Subbasin, as shown in Exhibit “A,” who are combined for purposes of representation and voting on the Coordination Committee and for purposes of sharing Coordinated Plan Expenses as set forth in this Coordination Agreement.

2.8 “GSP Group Alternate Representative,” “Alternate Representative,” or “Alternate” and their plural forms shall mean an alternate member of the Coordination Committee selected to represent the GSP Groups in accordance with Exhibit “A” and Section 5.1.2-5.1.4 of this Coordination Agreement who shall serve in the absence of the respective GSP Group Representative and shall be entitled to cast the vote for the absent GSP Representative.

2.9 “GSP Group Representative” or “Representative” and their plural forms as appropriate shall mean a member or members of the Coordination Committee selected to represent the GSP Groups in accordance with Exhibit “A” and Section 5.1.2 – 5.1.4 this Coordination Agreement.

2.10 “Participation Percentages” shall mean that percentage of Coordinated Plan Expenses allocated to each GSP Group as described on Exhibit “A” to this Coordination Agreement, which is attached and incorporated by reference herein, as updated from time to time.

2.11 “**Party**” or “**Parties**” shall mean a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or in the plural, two or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

2.12 “**Plan Manager**” shall mean an entity or individual, appointed at the pleasure of the Coordination Committee, or as provided in section 4.1.2 of this Coordination Agreement, to perform the role of the Plan Manager to serve as the point of contact to DWR as set forth in Section 5.2.3 of this Coordination Agreement.

2.13 “**Seasonal High**” shall mean the highest annual static groundwater elevation associated with stable aquifer conditions following a period of lowest annual groundwater demand.

2.14 “**Seasonal Low**” shall mean the lowest annual static groundwater elevation associated with a period of stable aquifer conditions following a period of highest annual groundwater demand.

2.15 “**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority**” or “**SLDMWA**” shall mean the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, a California joint powers agency.

2.16 “**SGMA**” shall mean the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as amended from time to time, commencing at Water Code section 10720, together with its implementing regulations applicable to Groundwater Sustainability Plans, set forth at California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2.

2.17 “**SGMA Definitions**” shall mean those SGMA-specific definitions provided by statute or regulation and attached in the Appendix to this Coordination Agreement; in the event of any inconsistency between a term defined in this Section and a SGMA-specific definition, the definition contained in this Coordination Agreement shall prevail.

2.18 “**Subbasin**” shall mean the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.07, DWR Bulletin 118) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin.

2.19 “**Technical Memoranda**” shall mean the memoranda prepared by the Coordination Committee that include the data and methodologies for assumptions described in Water Code section 10727.6 to prepare coordinated plans. Individually, the memoranda shall be referred to as a “**Technical Memorandum.**”

2.20 “**Water Year**” shall mean the period from October 1 through the following September 30 as defined by SGMA.

2.21 “**Water Year Type**” shall mean the classification provided by DWR to assess the amount of annual precipitation in a basin and as defined by SGMA.

SECTION 3 – GENERAL GUIDELINES

3.1 Responsibilities of the Parties

3.1.1 Obligation to Coordinate

The Parties to this Coordination Agreement agree to work collaboratively to meet the objectives of SGMA and this Coordination Agreement. Each Party to this Coordination Agreement is a GSA and acknowledges that it is bound by the terms of this Coordination Agreement as an individual Party.

3.1.2 Obligations Outside of Coordination Agreement Regarding GSP Groups

a) **Representation and Voting.** Each Party understands its participation, as more fully set forth in Section 5 of this Coordination Agreement, is based on representation through and by its GSP Group Representative(s). It is the responsibility and obligation of each Party under this Coordination Agreement to develop its own arrangements for how its respective GSP Group Representative and Alternate Representative are selected and how required actions of GSAs within the GSP Group under its respective GSP are identified and implemented.

b) The Coordination Committee and its members shall have no requirement to recognize a voting status or other decisional authority of any Party to this Coordination Agreement other than through the designated GSP Group Representative(s). For purposes of this Coordination Agreement, it is assumed that GSP Group Representatives have been authorized by the Parties in their GSP Groups to participate as described herein.

c) By signing this Coordination Agreement, each Party commits to provide documentation to the Secretary and the Coordination Committee of the authorization of its GSP Group Representative(s). Provided, that the Secretary shall not be obligated to evaluate or provide an opinion on the legal sufficiency of the documentation.

d) It is the responsibility and obligation of each Party under this Coordination Agreement that is included on Exhibit “A” as part of a multi-party GSP Group to provide documentation to the Secretary and to the Coordination Committee establishing that such GSP Group has a binding agreement or mechanism assuring that the GSP Group will pay its Participation Percentage set forth on Exhibit “A,” as said Exhibit “A” may be modified from time to time. Provided, that the Secretary shall not be obligated to evaluate or provide an opinion on the legal sufficiency of the documentation.

3.1.3 Non-Entity Status

The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Coordination Agreement does not create a legal entity with power to sue or be sued, to enter into contract, or to enjoy the benefits or accept the obligations of a legal entity.

3.1.4 Implementation of Individual GSPs

This Coordination Agreement does not otherwise affect each Party's responsibility to implement the terms of its respective GSP in accordance with SGMA. Rather, this Coordination Agreement is the mechanism through which the Parties will coordinate their respective GSPs to the extent necessary to ensure that such GSP coordination complies with SGMA.

3.2 Adjudicated or Alternate Plans in the Subbasin

As of the date of this Coordination Agreement, there are no portions of the Subbasin that have been adjudicated or approved to submit an alternative plan as defined by SGMA.

SECTION 4 – ROLE OF SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

4.1 Agreement to Serve

By executing this Agreement, and not as a Party, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority agrees to carry out the functions described in this Section 4 and its subparts consistent with the terms of this Section and under the direction and supervision of the Coordination Committee, subject to the reimbursement and the termination provisions contained in this Section.

4.1.1 Secretary

The SLDMWA agrees to perform the obligations of the Secretary described in this Coordination Agreement, by delegation to one or more of its employees or to a consultant under contract to the SLDMWA.

4.1.2 Plan Manager

The SLDMWA agrees to perform the obligations of the Plan Manager described in this Coordination Agreement, by delegation to one or more of its employees or to a consultant under contract to the SLDMWA.

4.2 Reimbursement of SLDMWA

The commitment of the SLDMWA to perform the designated functions under this Section is contingent upon the execution and performance of a separate cost sharing agreement between the SLDMWA and the Parties.

4.3 Termination of SLDMWA's Services

Either the Parties acting through the Coordination Committee or the SLDMWA at any time may terminate the services being provided by the SLDMWA under this Coordination Agreement upon thirty (30) days' written notice, if from the SLDMWA, to the Coordination Committee and each GSP Group Representative; and if from the Coordination Committee, to the SLDMWA and each GSP Group Representative.

SECTION 5 – RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KEY FUNCTIONS

5.1 Coordination Committee

5.1.1 The Parties agree to establish a Coordination Committee to provide the forum for the Parties to accomplish the coordination obligation of SGMA pursuant to this Coordination Agreement.

5.1.2 The Coordination Committee will consist of the GSP Group Representatives identified on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, as said Exhibit "A" may be modified from time to time pursuant to Section 13 of this Agreement. Each GSP Group Representative shall have one Alternate Representative authorized to vote in the absence of the GSP Group Representative.

5.1.3 Individuals serving as GSP Group Representatives and Alternate Representatives shall be selected by each respective GSP Group in the discretion of the respective GSP Group, and such appointments shall be effective upon providing written notice to the Secretary and to each Group Contact listed on Exhibit "A".

5.1.4 The Coordination Committee will recognize each GSP Group Representative and GSP Group Alternate Representative until such time as the Group Contact provides written notice of removal and replacement to the Secretary and to every other Group Contact designated on Exhibit "A." Each GSP Group or GSP Subgroup shall promptly fill any vacancy created by the removal of such Representative or Alternate Representative so that each GSP

Group shall have the number of validly designated Representatives and Alternate Representatives specified on Exhibit “A”.

5.1.5. Minutes of the Coordination Committee will be prepared and maintained as set forth in Section 5.5.4.

5.2 Coordination Committee Officers

The Officers of the Coordination Committee will include a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Plan Manager. Except where the Parties have named such Officers pursuant to Section 4 of this Coordination Agreement, Officers shall be selected at the initial meeting of the Committee or as soon thereafter as reasonably can be accomplished.

5.2.1 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

a) A GSP Group Representative shall serve as Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson, who shall also be a GSP Group Representative, shall serve in the absence of the Chairperson. In the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, a meeting may be led by an Acting Chairperson selected on an ad hoc basis.

b) The positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall rotate among the GSP Groups on an annual basis according to alphabetical order, with the first rotation beginning on the date the first Chairperson is selected. The schedule for rotation among the GSP Groups will be set at the first meeting after the Chairperson is appointed and reviewed and adjusted annually. A GSP Group Representative may waive designation as Chairperson. In such a case the Chairperson office would rotate to the next designated entity.

5.2.2 Secretary

The Coordination Committee shall select a Secretary to carry out the functions described in this subsection, to serve at the pleasure of the Coordination Committee. The Secretary shall be a public agency who may be, but need not be a Party to this Coordination Agreement. The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is hereby designated as the initial Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Coordination Committee.

a) The Secretary shall select an appointee to implement the Secretary’s responsibilities under this Coordination Agreement, for example, to coordinate meetings; prepare agendas; circulate notices and agendas; provide written notice to all Parties that the Coordination Committee has made a recommendation requiring approval by the Parties; prepare and maintain minutes of meetings of the Coordination Committee; receive notices on

behalf of the Coordination Committee and call to the Coordination Committee's attention the need for responding; and provide such other assistance in coordination as may be appropriate.

b) The Secretary shall assume primary responsibility for Brown Act compliance, including without limitation, the responsibility to: prepare an agenda and notice, publicly post, and distribute agendas to all GSP Group or Subgroup Representatives, the Parties, and any other interested persons who requests, in writing, such notices. The Agenda shall be of adequate detail to inform the public and the parties of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed, and shall be posted in a public location and distributed to each of the parties to this Coordination Agreement at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to every regular meeting and at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to every special meeting.

5.2.3 Plan Manager

If the SLDMWA ceases to serve as Plan Manager as agreed under Section 4.1.2 of this coordination Agreement, then the Coordination Committee shall name a successor Plan Manager, who may be a consultant hired by the Secretary pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, the representative of an entity that has been selected as Secretary, or a public agency serving as or participating in a GSA that is a Party to this Coordination Agreement, and who shall serve as the point of contact for DWR as specified by SGMA. The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is hereby designated as the initial Plan Manager, to serve at the pleasure of the Coordination Committee.

a) The Plan Manager shall carry out the duties of a "plan manager" as provided in Title 23, division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2, California Code of Regulations.

b) The Plan Manager has no authority to make policy decisions or represent the Coordination Committee without the specific direction of the Coordination Committee. The Plan Manager is obligated to disclose all substantive communications he/she transmits and receives in his/her capacity as Plan Manager to the Coordination Committee.

5.3 Coordination Committee Authorized Actions and Limitations

5.3.1 Authorized Actions

The Coordination Committee is authorized to act upon the following enumerated items:

a) The Coordination Committee shall review, and consistent with the requirements of SGMA, approve the Technical Memoranda described in Sections 8-12 of this Coordination Agreement.

b) Once GSP Plans have been submitted to and approved by DWR, the Coordination Committee shall be responsible for ongoing review and updating of the Technical Memoranda as needed; assuring submittal of annual reports; providing five-year assessments and recommending any needed revisions to the Coordination Agreement; and providing review and assistance with coordinated projects and programs.

c) The Coordination Committee shall review and approve work plans, and in accordance with the budgetary requirements of the respective Parties, approve annual estimates of Coordinated Plan Expenses presented by the Secretary and any updates to such estimates; provided, that such estimates or updates with supporting documentation shall be circulated to all Parties for comment at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which the Coordination Committee will consider approval of the annual estimate.

d) Pursuant to Section 13, the Coordination Committee is authorized to approve changes to Exhibit “A” to this Coordination Agreement and to recommend amendments to terms of this Coordination Agreement.

e) The Coordination Committee shall assign work to subcommittees and workgroups as needed, provide guidance and feedback and ensure that subcommittees and workgroups prepare work products in a timely manner.

f) The Coordination Committee shall direct the Plan Manager in the performance of its duties under SGMA.

g) The Coordination Committee shall provide direction to its Officers concerning other administrative and ministerial issues necessary for the fulfillment of the above-enumerated tasks.

5.3.2 Limitations

When the terms of this Coordination Agreement or applicable law require the approval of a Party, that approval shall be required and evidenced as indicated in Section 6 of this Agreement.

5.4 Subcommittees and Workgroups

The Coordination Committee may appoint subcommittees, workgroups, or otherwise direct staff made available by the Parties. Such subcommittees or workgroups may include qualified individuals possessing the knowledge and expertise to advance the goals of the Coordination

Agreement on the topics being addressed by the subcommittee, whether or not such individuals are GSP Group Representatives or Alternate Representatives.

5.4.1 Work of Subcommittees and Workgroups

Tasks assigned to subcommittees, workgroups, or staff made available by the Parties may include developing technical data, supporting information, and/or recommendations on matters including, but not limited to:

a) Developing a process to update the Coordination Committee on the activities of the respective Parties, including the development, planning, financing, environmental review, permitting, implementation, and long-term monitoring of the multiple GSPs in the Subbasin;

b) Subject to the oversight of the Coordination Committee, scheduling meetings of the subcommittee or workgroup as necessary to coordinate development and implementation of the Technical Memoranda and Coordination Agreement. Attendance at these meetings may be augmented to include staff or consultants of all Parties to ensure that the appropriate expertise is available;

c) Determining common methodologies for GSP development;

d) Developing a Subbasin-wide monitoring network;

e) Preparing a coordinated water budget;

f) Developing a coordinated data management system;

g) Providing an explanation of how the respective GSPs implemented together satisfy the requirements of SGMA and are in substantial compliance with SGMA; and

h) Such other tasks as may be referred by the Coordination Committee from time to time.

5.4.2 Subcommittee Voting

One GSP Group Representative or Alternate Representative shall vote on behalf of the GSP Group at the subcommittee level; if no GSP Group Representative or Alternate Representative is present, one individual working on a subcommittee on behalf of the Parties in a GSP Group shall vote on behalf of the GSP Group. Subcommittees shall report voting results and provide

information to the Coordination Committee but shall not be entitled to make determinations or determinations that are binding on the Parties.

5.5 Coordination Committee Meetings

5.5.1 Timing and Notice

The Chairperson of the Coordination Committee, any two GSP Group Representatives, or the Secretary may call meetings of the Coordination Committee as needed to carry out the activities described in this Coordination Agreement. The Coordination Committee may, but is not required to, set a date for regular meetings for the purposes described in this Coordination Agreement. All Coordination Committee Meetings shall be held in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.*).

5.5.2 Quorum

A majority of the GSP Group Representative(s) from every GSP Group listed on Exhibit “A” shall constitute a quorum of the Coordination Committee for purposes of holding a Coordination Committee meeting; provided, that the GSP Group Representative(s) from every GSP Group listed on Exhibit “A” must be present at a meeting for any Coordination Committee vote on a matter described in section 5.3.1 a) through 5.3 d) and 5.3.1 f) to take place. The GSP Group Alternate Representative(s) of each GSP Group shall be counted towards a quorum and as the voting representative(s) in the absence of the GSP Group Representative for which the GSP Group Alternate has been appointed. If less than a quorum is present, the GSP Group Representatives and Alternate Representatives may hear reports and discuss items on the agenda, but no action may be taken.

5.5.3 Open Attendance

Members of the public, stakeholders, and representatives of the Parties who are not appointed as GSP Group Representatives may attend all meetings and shall be provided with an opportunity to comment on matters on the meeting agenda, but shall have no vote.

5.5.4 Minutes

The Secretary’s appointee shall keep and prepare minutes of all Coordination Committee meetings. Notes of subcommittee and workgroup meetings shall be kept by the Secretary’s appointee or an assistant to the appointee. All minutes and subcommittee and workgroup meeting notes shall be maintained by the Secretary as Coordination Agreement records and shall be available to the Parties and the public upon request.

5.6 Voting by Coordination Committee

5.6.1. Each GSP Group Representative shall be entitled to one vote at the Coordination Committee. It shall be up to the Parties in each GSP Group to determine how the GSP Group vote(s) will be cast.

5.6.2 Except as set forth in Section 5.6.3, the unanimous vote of the GSP Representatives from all GSP Groups is required on all items upon which the Coordination Committee is authorized to act as identified in Section 5.3.1 a) through 5.3.1 d) and 5.3.1 f); the vote of a majority of a quorum shall be required for all other matters on which the Coordination Committee is authorized to act.

5.6.3 Voting Procedures to Address Lack of Unanimity

When it appears likely that the Coordination Committee will not be able to come to unanimous decision on any matter upon for which a unanimous decision is required, upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Coordination Committee, the matter may be subjected to the following additional procedures.

a) Straw Polls

Straw poll votes may be taken for the purpose of refining ideas and providing guidance to the Coordination Committee, subcommittees, or both.

b) Provisional Voting

Provisional votes may occur prior to final votes. This will be done when an initial vote is needed to refine a proposal but the GSP Group Representatives wish to consult with their respective GSP Group(s) before making a final vote.

c) A vote shall be delayed if any GSP Group Representative declares its intention to propose an alternative or modified recommended action, to be proposed at the next meeting, or as soon thereafter as the GSP Group Representative can obtain any further information or clarifying direction from its GSP Group or governing body, or both, as needed to proposed its alternative or modified recommended action.

d) If the process outlined in subsection 5.6.3(c) fails to result in a unanimous vote, any GSP Group Representative not voting in favor of the recommended action may request that the vote be delayed so that the Coordination Committee can obtain further information on the recommended action (for example, by directing a subcommittee established under this

Coordination Agreement), so the GSP Group Representative can obtain clarifying direction from its GSP Group or governing body, or both, as needed.

e) Each of the Parties acknowledges the limited time provided by SGMA to complete the GSP preparation process, and agrees to make its best efforts to cooperate through the Coordinating Committee in coming to require a unanimous vote.

SECTION 6 – APPROVAL BY INDIVIDUAL PARTIES

6.1 Where law or this Coordination Agreement require separate written approval by each of the Parties, such approval shall be evidenced in writing by providing the resolution, Motion, or Minutes of their respective Boards of Directors to the Secretary of the Coordination Committee.

SECTION 7 – EXCHANGE OF DATA AND INFORMATION

7.1 Exchange of Information

The Parties acknowledge and recognize pursuant to this Coordination Agreement that the Parties may need to exchange information amongst and between the Parties.

7.2 Procedure for Exchange of Information

7.2.1 The Parties shall exchange public and non-privileged information through collaboration and/or informal requests made at the Coordination Committee level or through subcommittees designated by the Coordination Committee. However, to the extent it is necessary to make a written request for information to another Party, each Party shall designate a representative to respond to information requests and provide the name and contact information of the designee to the Coordination Committee. Requests may be communicated in writing and transmitted in person or by mail, facsimile machine, or other electronic means to the appropriate representative as named in this Coordination Agreement. The designated representative shall respond in a reasonably timely manner.

7.2.2 Nothing in this Coordination Agreement shall be construed to prohibit any Party from voluntarily exchanging information with any other Party by any other mechanism separate from the Coordination Committee.

7.2.3 The Parties agree that each GSP Group shall provide the data required to develop the Subbasin-wide coordinated water budget but unless required by law, will not be required to provide individual well or parcel-level information in order to preserve

confidentiality of individuals to the extent authorized by law, including but not limited to Water Code Section 10730.8, subdivision (b).

7.2.4 To the extent that a court order, subpoena, or the California Public Records Act is applicable to a Party, such Party in responding to a request made pursuant to that Act for release of information exchanged from another Party shall notify each other Party in writing of its proposed release of information in order to provide the other Parties with the opportunity to seek a court order preventing such release of information.

SECTION 8 – METHODOLOGIES AND ASSUMPTIONS

8.1 SGMA Coordination Requirements

Pursuant to SGMA, this Coordination Agreement must ensure that the individual GSPs utilize the same data and methodologies for developing assumptions used to determine: 1) groundwater elevation; 2) groundwater extraction data; 3) surface water supply; 4) total water use; 5) changes in groundwater storage; 6) water budgets; and 7) sustainable yield.

8.2 Pre-GSP Coordination

Prior to the individual development of GSPs, the Parties agree to develop agreed-upon methodologies and assumptions for 1) groundwater elevation; 2) groundwater extraction data; 3) surface water supply; 4) total water use; 5) changes in groundwater storage; 6) water budgets; and 7) sustainable yield. This development may be facilitated through the Coordination Committee's delegation to a sub-committee or workgroup of the technical staff provided by some or all of the Parties. The basis upon which the methodologies and assumptions will be developed includes existing data/information, best management practices, and/or best modeled or projected data available and may include consultation with the DWR as appropriate.

8.3 Technical Memoranda Required

The data and methodologies for assumptions described in Water Code section 10727.6 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 357.4 to prepare coordinated plans shall be set forth in Technical Memoranda prepared by the Coordination Committee for each of the elements discussed in Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 of this Coordination Agreement. The Technical Memoranda shall be subject to the unanimous approval of the Coordination Committee and once approved, shall be attached to and incorporated by reference into this Coordination Agreement without

formal amendment of the Coordination Agreement being required. The Parties agree that they shall not submit this Coordination Agreement to DWR until the Technical Memoranda described herein have been added to the Coordination Agreement. The Technical Memoranda created pursuant to this Agreement shall be utilized by the Parties during the development and implementation of their GSPs in order to assure coordination of the GSPs in compliance with SGMA.

SECTION 9 – MONITORING NETWORK

9.1 In accordance with SGMA, the Parties hereby agree to coordinate the development and maintenance of a monitoring network at a Subbasin level through the coordination of the respective monitoring networks established pursuant to the GSPs in which each of the Parties hereto are participating. The Subbasin monitoring network description shall include monitoring objectives, protocols, and data reporting requirements specific to enumerated sustainability indicators. Each GSP Group's network shall facilitate the collection of data in order to characterize groundwater and related surface water conditions in the Subbasin and evaluate changing conditions that occur from implementation of the individual GSPs. Each Party's GSP will describe the monitoring network's objectives for the Subbasin, including an explanation of network development and implementation to monitor groundwater and related surface conditions, and the interconnection of surface water and groundwater.

9.2 Each GSP Group shall provide the Coordination Committee all relevant data and information for their respective representative monitoring sites established in accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 354.36, as amended from time to time.

SECTION 10 – COORDINATED WATER BUDGET

10.1 In accordance with SGMA, the Parties hereby agree to prepare a single coordinated water budget for the Subbasin as described in this subsection for use in the respective GSP in which each of the Parties hereto are participating. The water budget will provide an estimate of the total annual volume of groundwater and surface water entering and leaving the Subbasin, including historical, current and projected water budget conditions, and the change in the volume of water stored and the safe yield for differing aquifers.

10.2 To the extent feasible, the Parties will consider the best available information and best available science to quantify the water budget for the Subbasin in order to provide an

understanding of historical and projected hydrology, water demand, water supply, land use, population, climate change, sea level rise, groundwater and surface water interaction, and subsurface groundwater flow.

SECTION 11 – COORDINATED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

11.1 The Parties will develop and maintain a coordinated data management system that is capable of storing and reporting information relevant to the reporting requirements and/or implementation of the GSPs and monitoring network of the Subbasin.

11.2 The Parties also will develop and maintain separate data management systems. Each separate data management system developed for each GSP will store information related to implementation of each individual GSP, monitoring network data and monitoring sites requirements, and water budget data requirements. Each system will be capable of reporting all pertinent information to the Coordination Committee. After providing the Coordination Committee with data from the individual GSPs, the Coordination Committee will ensure the data is stored and managed in a coordinated manner throughout the Subbasin and reported to DWR annually as required.

SECTION 12 – ADOPTION AND USE OF THE COORDINATION AGREEMENT

12.1 Coordination of GSPs

Each Party is responsible to ensure that its own GSP complies with the statutory requirements of SGMA, including but not limited to the filing deadline. The Parties to this Coordination Agreement intend that their individual GSPs be coordinated together in order to satisfy the requirements of SGMA and to be in substantial compliance with the California Code of Regulations. The collective GSPs will satisfy the requirements of sections 10727.2 and 10727.4 of the Water Code by providing a description of the physical setting and characteristics of the separate aquifer systems within the Subbasin, the measurable objectives for each such GSP, interim milestones, and monitoring protocols that together provide a detailed description of how the Basin as a whole will be sustainably managed.

12.2 GSP and Coordination Agreement Submission

The Parties agree to submit their respective GSPs to DWR through the Coordination Committee and Plan Manager, in accordance with all applicable requirements. Subject to the subsequent attachment of the Technical Memoranda described in Sections 8-12, the Parties intend that this Coordination Agreement fulfill the requirements of providing an explanation of how the GSPs implemented together satisfy the requirements SGMA for the entire Subbasin.

SECTION 13 – MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION OF THE COORDINATION AGREEMENT

13.1 Modification or Amendment of Exhibit “A”

The Parties agree that Exhibit “A,” except for the withdrawal or addition of Parties to this Agreement, may be updated by unanimous vote of the Coordination Committee from time to time. Upon such modification, the updated Exhibit “A” shall be attached to this Agreement as a replacement to the previously existing Exhibit “A.” Upon such attachment, the updated “Exhibit “A” shall become a part of this Coordination Agreement without further Amendment of the Coordination Agreement being required. The Secretary shall provide notice of such change to all Group Contacts.

13.1.1 Addition of a Party

A Party may be added to this Coordination Agreement only upon its execution of a counterpart of this Agreement and its provision of any additional documentation required by Sections 3.1.2 a) through 3.1.2 d) of this Coordination Agreement. No Party may be added that is not within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin or that fails to execute an agreement to share in Coordinated Plan Expenses, unless such payment is waived by consent of all Parties.

13.2 Modification or Amendment of Coordination Agreement

Except as provided in Sections 13.1 and 13.3, the Parties hereby agree that this Coordination Agreement may be supplemented, amended, or modified only by a writing signed by all Parties.

13.3 Amendment for Compliance with Law

Should any provision of this Coordination Agreement be determined to be not in compliance with legal requirements under circumstances where amendment of the Agreement to include a provision addressing the legal requirement will cure the non-compliance, the Parties agree to promptly prepare and approve such amendment.

SECTION 14 – WITHDRAWAL, TERM, AND TERMINATION

14.1 Withdrawal

Subject to the requirements identified in SGMA and the any coordination guidelines or regulations issued by DWR, a Party may unilaterally withdraw from this Coordination Agreement without causing or requiring termination of this Coordination Agreement, effective upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Secretary and all other Parties. The Plan Coordinator shall report any such withdrawal to DWR within five (5) days of receipt of the written notice.

14.1.1 Any Party who withdraws shall remain obligated for Coordinated Plan Expenses as provided in a separate Cost Sharing Agreement. If no separate Cost Sharing Agreement is then in effect or enforceable against the withdrawing Party, the Party is obligated to pay its share of all debts, liabilities, and obligations the Party incurred or accrued under the Coordination Agreement prior to the effective date of such withdrawal, as established under its separate GSP Group agreement concerning such share of obligations.

14.1.2 Upon withdrawal, a Party agrees that it has a continuing obligation to comply with SGMA and any coordination guidelines or regulations issued by DWR, which require a coordination agreement if there are multiple GSPs in the Subbasin. This obligation shall survive the withdrawal from this Coordination Agreement and is for the express benefit of the remaining Parties.

14.1.3 In the event any GSP Group Representative(s) prevents/prevent a required unanimous vote of the Coordination Committee after following all procedures described in 5.3.1 or Section 15 of this Agreement, the Parties in such GSP Group agree to provide notice that such GSP Group has unilaterally withdrawn from this Agreement in accordance with this Section.

14.2 Term

As modified pursuant to Section 13 and unless terminated in accordance with Section 14.2.3, this Coordination Agreement shall continue for a term that is coterminous with the requirements of SGMA for the existence of a Coordination Agreement.

14.3 Termination

This Coordination Agreement may be terminated or rescinded and the coordinated implementation of GSPs terminated by unanimous written consent of all the Parties. Nothing

in this Coordination Agreement shall prevent the Parties from entering into another coordination agreement for coordination with any other subbasin.

SECTION 15 – PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICTS

In the event of any dispute arising from or relating to this Agreement, the disputing Party shall, within thirty (30) calendar days of discovery of the events giving rise to the dispute, notify all Parties to this Agreement in writing of the basis for the dispute. Within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of said notice, all interested Parties shall meet and confer in a good-faith attempt to informally resolve the dispute. All disputes that are not resolved informally shall be settled by arbitration. Within ten (10) days following the failed informal proceedings, each interested Party shall nominate and circulate to all other interested Parties the name of one arbitrator. Within ten (10) days following the nominations, the interested Parties shall rank their top three among all nominated arbitrators, awarding three points to the top choice, two points to the second choice, one point to the third choice and zero points to all others. Each interested Party shall forward its tally to the Secretary, who shall tabulate the points and notify the interested Parties of the arbitrator with the highest cumulative score, who shall be the selected arbitrator. The Secretary may also develop procedures for approval by the Parties, for selection in the case of tie votes or in order to replace the selected arbitrator in the event such arbitrator declines to act. The arbitration shall be administered in accordance with the procedures set forth in the California Code of Civil Procedure, section 1280, et seq., and of any state or local rules then in effect for arbitration pursuant to said section. Upon completion of arbitration, if the controversy has not been resolved, any Party may exercise all rights to bring a legal action relating to the controversy.

SECTION 16 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

16.1 Authority of Signers

The individuals executing this Coordination Agreement represent and warrant that they have the authority to enter into this Coordination Agreement and to legally bind the Party for whom they are signing to the terms and conditions of this Coordination Agreement.

16.2 Governing Law

The validity and interpretation of this Coordination Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of California without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws, with venue for all purposes to be proper only in the County of Merced, State of California.

16.3 Severability

Except as provided for cure by amendment in Section 13.3, if any term, provision, covenant, or condition of this Coordination Agreement is determined to be unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the Parties' intent that the remaining provisions of this Coordination Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected, impaired, or invalidated by such a determination.

16.4 Counterparts


This Coordination Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, but all of which will constitute one and the same agreement.

16.5 Good Faith

The Parties agree to exercise their best efforts and utmost good faith to effectuate all the terms and conditions of this Coordination Agreement and to execute such further instruments and documents as are reasonably necessary, appropriate, expedient, or proper to carry out the intent and purposes of this Coordination Agreement.

SECTION 17 – SIGNATORIES

PARTIES:

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT GSA			
Patterson Irrigation District		Date: 05/22/2018	
Signature 			
Name of Representative: Vince Lucchesi			
WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT GSA 1			
West Stanislaus Irrigation District		Date:	
Signature			
Name of Representative:			
DM II GSA			
Del Puerto Water District		Date:	Oak Flat Water District
Signature			Signature
Name of Representative:		Name of Representative:	
CITY OF PATTERSON GSA			
City of Patterson		Date:	
Signature			
Name of Representative:			

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (this “**MOA**”) is entered into and shall be effective as of the date of full execution below (the “**Effective Date**”), by and among the groundwater sustainability agencies within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin listed in Exhibit “A” (each a “**Party**” and collectively the “**Parties**”) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which would be executing not as a Party, and is made with reference to the following facts:

RECITALS

A. **WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“**SGMA**”); and

B. **WHEREAS**, SGMA requires all groundwater subbasins designated as high- or medium-priority by the California Department of Water Resources (“**DWR**”) to manage groundwater in a sustainable manner; and

C. **WHEREAS**, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.07, DWR Bulletin 118) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (“**Subbasin**”), has been designated as a high-priority, critically overdrafted basin by DWR; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the Subbasin includes multiple groundwater sustainability agencies (each a “**GSA**” and collectively, the “**GSAs**”) that initially managed the Subbasin through the development and implementation of six different groundwater sustainability plans; and

E. **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA (Wat. Code §§ 10720, *et seq.*) and DWR’s SGMA regulations (23 Cal. Code Regs., §§ 350, *et seq.*), and in recognition of the need to sustainably manage the groundwater within the Subbasin, the Parties entered into that certain Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Agreement effective December 12, 2018 (“**Coordination Agreement**”), to outline the Parties’ obligations and responsibilities regarding SGMA coordination in the Subbasin among the multiple GSAs and multiple groundwater sustainability plans; and

F. **WHEREAS**, after an approximately two-year review, DWR determined that the coordinated groundwater sustainability plans in the Subbasin were “incomplete” on January 21, 2022, and required that the groundwater sustainability plans be revised to address certain corrective actions by July 20, 2022; and

G. **WHEREAS**, the Parties did so timely revise and re-submit the amended groundwater sustainability plans to DWR; however, those groundwater sustainability plans, even after revision, were deemed “inadequate” under SGMA by DWR on March 2, 2023; and

H. **WHEREAS**, the Parties understand that upon DWR’s determination that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate, SGMA authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (“**State Water Board**”) to seek to intervene and exercise jurisdiction over the affected subbasin; and

I. **WHEREAS**, the Parties would like to be able to continue to manage the Subbasin locally in lieu of intervention by the State Water Board if possible; and

J. **WHEREAS**, in order to efficiently coordinate among the large number of GSAs in the Subbasin, the GSAs now desire to adopt one groundwater sustainability plan (“**GSP**”) for the Subbasin; and

K. **WHEREAS**, if there is only one GSP for the Subbasin, then the GSAs no longer need the Coordination Agreement, as defined by SGMA; and

L. **WHEREAS**, the GSAs desire to enter into this MOA to coordinate the work and management of the Subbasin and clarify responsibilities of the respective GSAs, in accordance with SGMA; and

M. **WHEREAS**, the Coordination Agreement shall remain binding and in effect until all Parties have approved a single GSP for the Subbasin, at which time the Coordination Agreement shall automatically terminate, and this MOA shall become operative as provided in Section 12.2.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the Recitals, which are deemed true and correct and incorporated herein, and of the covenants, terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I– DEFINITIONS

1.1 “**Coordination Committee**” shall mean the committee of GSA Representatives or GSA Group Representatives established pursuant to this MOA.

1.2 “**Coordinated Plan Expenses**” are those Subbasin-wide Activities expenses that are shared equally amongst the Coordination Committee members, in accordance with the Participation Percentages.

1.3 “**DWR**” shall mean the California Department of Water Resources.

1.4 “**Effective Date**” shall be as set forth in the Preamble.

1.5 “**GSA**” shall mean a groundwater sustainability agency established in accordance with SGMA and its associated regulations, and “**GSAs**” shall mean more than one such groundwater sustainability agency. Each Party is a GSA.

1.6 “**GSA Representative**” shall refer to the representative of a single GSA that holds a single seat on the Coordination Committee.

1.7 “**GSA Group Representative**” shall refer to the representative of a group of GSAs that share a single seat on the Coordination Committee.

1.8 “**GSP**” shall mean the single Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

1.9 “**MOA**” shall mean this Memorandum of Agreement by and among the Parties.

1.10 “**Participation Percentages**” shall mean that percentage of Coordinated Plan Expenses allocated to each GSA or GSA Group as described on Exhibit “B” to this MOA, which is attached and incorporated by reference herein, as updated from time to time, but not more frequently than annually.

1.11 “**Party**” or “**Parties**” shall mean a GSA or in the plural, two or more GSAs within the Subbasin, who are signatories to this MOA.

1.12 “**Plan Manager**” shall mean an entity or individual, appointed at the pleasure of the Coordination Committee, or as provided in Article III of this MOA, to perform the role of the Plan Manager to serve as the point of contact to DWR and/or the State Water Board.

1.13 “**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority**” or “**SLDMWA**” shall mean the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, a California joint powers agency.

1.14 “**SGMA**” shall mean the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as amended from time to time, commencing at Water Code section 10720, together with its implementing regulations applicable to groundwater sustainability plans, set forth at California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2.

1.15 “**SGMA Definitions**” shall mean those SGMA-specific definitions provided by statute or regulation; in the event of any inconsistency between a term defined in this MOA and a SGMA-specific definition, the definition contained in this MOA shall prevail.

1.16 “**State Water Board**” shall mean the California State Water Resources Control Board.

1.17 “**Subbasin**” shall mean the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin Number 5-22.07, DWR Bulletin 118) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin.

1.18 “**Subbasin-wide Activities**” shall mean those activities or actions that affect the Subbasin as a whole or are otherwise required by SGMA to be determined at the Subbasin level and as defined by a unanimous vote of the Coordination Committee. An initial list of Subbasin-wide Activities is identified in Exhibit “D”.

1.19 “**Water Year**” shall mean the period from October 1 through the following September 30.

ARTICLE II– PURPOSE & KEY PRINCIPLES

2.1 **Purpose.** The Parties shall continue to work together in mutual cooperation to develop the GSP in compliance with SGMA, for the sustainable management of the Subbasin. Once adopted, each Party hereto shall implement the terms and conditions of the GSP within their respective GSA territories.

2.2 **Collaboration.** The Parties intend to mutually cooperate to adopt a single GSP for the Subbasin, and to implement the GSP within their respective GSA territories.

2.3 **Each Party’s Rights.** This MOA shall not limit or interfere with any Party’s rights or authorities over its own internal matters, including, but not limited to, a Party’s legal rights to surface water supplies and assets, groundwater supplies and assets, facilities, operations, water management and water supply matters. Nothing in this MOA is intended to modify or limit a Party’s police powers, land use authorities, or any other authority, including the authority to pursue a comprehensive groundwater adjudication or other alternative SGMA compliance strategy, should the Party deem it to be in its best interest to do so.

2.4 **Participation Percentage.** Each Party shall pay its proportionate share of the Participation Percentage, to cover coordinated Subbasin-wide Activities, set forth on Exhibit “B,” as said Exhibit “B” may be modified from time to time in accordance with Section 4.6(b). Participation Percentage financial contributions shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Article III.

2.5 **Management and GSP Implementation.** It is the responsibility and obligation of each Party to this MOA, and any applicable separate agreements, to manage its own GSA and implement the GSP within its GSA’s boundaries. It is further the responsibility and obligation of each Party to pay its proportionate share of the Participation Percentage and other payments required as part of implementation of SGMA Subbasin-wide Activities, as may arise from time to time.

ARTICLE III– ROLE OF SLDMWA

3.1 **Agreement to Serve.** By executing this MOA, not as a Party, SLDMWA agrees to carry out the functions described in this Article III and its subparts consistent with the terms of this Article and under the direction and supervision of the Coordination Committee, subject to the reimbursement and the termination provisions contained in this Article.

(a) **Secretary.** SLDMWA agrees to perform the obligations of the Secretary described in this MOA, by delegation to one or more of its employees or to a consultant under contract to the SLDMWA.

(b) **Plan Manager.** SLDMWA agrees to perform the obligations of the Plan Manager described in this MOA, by delegation to one or more of its employees or to a consultant under contract to SLDMWA.

3.2 **Fiscal Management by SLDMWA and Reimbursement to SLDMWA.** SLDMWA will provide necessary financial and administrative support services contemplated by

this MOA, including, but not limited to: holding financial contributions made in accordance with the Participation Percentages, accounting for funds held by SLDMWA, reports as requested by the Coordination Committee members concerning funds held, and disbursing said funds for authorized purposes.

(a) Coordination Committee members shall make Participation Percentage contributions required pursuant to this MOA directly to SLDMWA.

(b) SLDMWA shall maintain a strict accountability of all funds contributed pursuant to this MOA. SLDMWA shall establish and maintain such accounts to provide for segregation of funds as may be required by good accounting practice. The books and records of SLDMWA pertaining to funds held and expended pursuant to this MOA shall be open to inspection at reasonable times by any entity that has made a contribution. SLDMWA shall provide an unaudited report of all financial activities for each fiscal year to each Party that has made a contribution during that fiscal year within 60 days after the close of each fiscal year.

(c) SLDMWA shall be authorized to expend funds upon authorization of the Coordination Committee, as provided for in this MOA.

(d) Upon mutual agreement of SLDMWA and each entity obligated to contribute funds pursuant to the Participation Percentages, SLDMWA and the Parties may execute a further agreement concerning fiscal responsibilities not inconsistent with the terms described herein.

3.3 **Termination of SLDMWA's Services.** Either the Parties acting through the Coordination Committee or SLDMWA, at any time, may terminate the services being provided by SLDMWA pursuant to this MOA upon thirty (30) days' written notice, if from SLDMWA, to the Coordination Committee; and if from the Coordination Committee, to SLDMWA.

ARTICLE IV– COORDINATION COMMITTEE

4.1 Coordination Committee.

(a) The Parties agree to establish a Coordination Committee to perform the functions set forth in this Section 4 in accordance with the voting procedures and requirements set forth herein. Recommendations from the Coordination Committee that require approval or action of each GSA within the Subbasin shall be provided to each Party's respective governing boards for adoption, approval or other recommended action.

(b) The Coordination Committee will consist of a total of seven (7) voting members to represent the Subbasin and shall be comprised of the representative of a GSA (“**GSA Representative**”) or a group of GSAs (a “**GSA Group Representative**”), as identified on Exhibit “B.” Each GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative shall have one Alternate Representative authorized to vote in the absence of the GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative, as applicable.

(c) Individuals serving on the Coordination Committee as a GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative shall be selected by each respective GSA or GSA Group at the discretion of that particular GSA or GSA Group, and such appointments shall be effective upon providing written notice to the Secretary.

(d) The Coordination Committee will recognize each GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative and their applicable Alternative Representatives until such time as the Secretary is provided written notice of removal and replacement of said Representative.

(e) Minutes of the Coordination Committee will be prepared and maintained by the Secretary as set forth in Article 4.4(b).

4.2 **Representation.** Each Party understands its participation, as more fully set forth in Article IV of this MOA, is based on representation on the Coordination Committee. It is the responsibility and obligation of each Party under this MOA to develop its manner of selecting its respective Coordination Committee Representative and Alternate Representative. For purposes of this MOA, it is assumed that each Coordination Committee Representative has been authorized by the Parties in their respective GSA or GSA Group to participate as described herein.

4.3 **Non-Entity Status.** The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Coordination Committee created by this MOA does not create a legal entity with power to sue or be sued, to enter into contracts, to enjoy the benefits or accept the obligations of a legal entity, or to exercise any legal authority. The Coordination Committee is not a GSA.

4.4 **Coordination Committee Officers.** The Officers of the Coordination Committee will include a Chair, Vice Chair, and the Secretary. Except where the Parties have named such Officer in Article III of this MOA, Officers shall be selected at the initial meeting of the Coordination Committee or as soon thereafter as reasonably can be accomplished.

(a) **Chair and Vice Chair.** Any GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative may serve as the Chair. The Vice Chair, who shall also be a GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative, shall serve in the absence of the Chair. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, a meeting may be led by an Acting Chair, selected on an ad hoc basis, who is a member of the Coordination Committee.

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall rotate among the GSA Representative and GSA Group Representatives on the Coordination Committee on an annual basis according to alphabetical order, by name of the GSA or GSA Group, with the first rotation beginning on the date the first Chair is selected. The schedule for annual rotation of Chair and Vice Chair will be set at the first meeting after the Chair is appointed and reviewed and rotated annually at the first meeting of the Water Year. Any GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative may waive designation as Chair. In such a case, the office of Chair would rotate to the next designated entity.

(b) **Secretary.** By a simple majority vote, the Coordination Committee shall select a Secretary to carry out the functions described in this Article 4.4(b), to serve at the

pleasure of the Coordination Committee. The Secretary may, but need not, be a Party to this MOA. Notwithstanding the requirement for a majority vote of the Coordination Committee to appoint a Secretary, SLDMWA is hereby designated to serve as the initial Secretary. Termination of SLDMWA's services is subject to Article 3.3.

The Secretary shall select an appointee (who may be SLDMWA staff or a consultant contracting with SLDMWA) to implement the Secretary's responsibilities under this MOA, for example, to coordinate meetings; prepare agendas; circulate notices and agendas; provide written notice to all Parties that the Coordination Committee has made a recommendation requiring approval by the Parties; prepare and maintain minutes of meetings of the Coordination Committee; receive notices on behalf of the Coordination Committee and call to the Coordination Committee's attention the need for responding; and provide such other assistance in coordination as may be appropriate.

The Secretary shall assume primary responsibility for Ralph M. Brown Act compliance, including without limitation, the responsibility to prepare an agenda and notices, publicly post and distribute agendas to all Coordination Committee Representatives and Alternate Representatives, the Parties, and any other person who requests, in writing, such notices. The agenda shall be of adequate detail to inform the public and the Parties of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed and shall be posted in a public location and distributed to each of the Parties to this MOA in compliance with the noticing requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

4.5 **Plan Manager.** By a simple majority vote of Coordination Committee members present, the Coordination Committee shall select a Plan Manager, who may be a consultant hired by the Secretary, as directed by the action of the Coordination Committee pursuant to this MOA, the representative of an entity that has been selected as Secretary, or a public agency serving as or participating in a GSA that is a Party to this MOA, and who shall serve as the point of contact for DWR as specified by SGMA. Notwithstanding the requirement for a majority vote of the Coordination Committee to appoint a Plan Manager, SLDMWA is hereby designated as the initial Plan Manager, to serve at the pleasure and direction of the Coordination Committee, pursuant to Article III above.

The Plan Manager shall carry out the duties of a "plan manager" as provided in Title 23, division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2, California Code of Regulations.

The Plan Manager has no authority to make policy decisions or represent the Coordination Committee without the specific direction of the Coordination Committee. The Plan Manager is obligated to disclose all substantive communications he/she transmits and receives in his/her capacity as Plan Manager to the Coordination Committee.

4.6 **Coordination Committee Authorized Actions.** The Coordination Committee is authorized to act upon the following enumerated items:

(a) By a simple majority vote of Coordination Committee members present at a regular or special meeting, the Coordination Committee shall review and approve:

- (i) recommendation(s) to the GSAs for approving any technical analyses;
- (ii) updating of technical analyses as needed;
- (iii) developing budgets for Subbasin-wide Activities;
- (iv) providing assistance with grants and with coordinated projects and programs;
- (v) assigning work to subcommittees and workgroups as needed, providing guidance and feedback, and ensuring that subcommittees and workgroups prepare work products in a timely manner; and
- (vi) providing direction to its Officers concerning other administrative and ministerial issues necessary for the fulfillment of the above-enumerated tasks.

(b) By a unanimous vote of Coordination Committee members, the Coordination Committee shall review and approve:

- (i) determination of Subbasin-wide Activities, which are initially described in Exhibit “D”, but may be modified by the Coordination Committee from time to time;
- (ii) submittal of annual reports;
- (iii) a representative monitoring network;
- (iv) final budgets;
- (v) submittal of five-year updates;
- (vi) revisions to this MOA;
- (vii) adding new Parties to this MOA;**
- (viii) work plans;
- (ix) annual estimates of Coordinated Plan Expenses presented by the Secretary and any updates to such estimates, in accordance with the budgetary requirements of the respective Parties; provided, that such estimates or updates with supporting documentation shall be circulated to all Parties for comment at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which the Coordination Committee will consider approval of the annual estimate;
- (x) directing the Plan Manager in the performance of its duties under SGMA; and
- (xi) the hiring of consultants for Subbasin-wide Activities, providing direction to and supervision over consultants engaged to assist in acquiring and processing technical data, conducting monitoring and reporting, and all other activities in support of Subbasin-wide Activities.

4.7 **Coordination Committee Limitations.** When the terms of this MOA or applicable law require the approval of a GSA (such as approval of the GSP, acceptance of an annual report, or approval of a five-year update), that approval shall be required and evidenced as indicated in Article V of this MOA. The Coordination Committee is not a separate GSA and shall not be responsible for approving the GSP, any annual report, or any five-year update thereto; each GSA retains responsibility for such approvals. The Coordination Committee may make recommendations to the Parties for approval of the GSP, an annual report, or any five-year update of the GSP.

4.8 **Subcommittees and Workgroups.** The Coordination Committee may appoint ad hoc or standing subcommittees, workgroups, or otherwise direct staff made available by the Parties. Such subcommittees or workgroups may include qualified individuals possessing the knowledge and expertise to advance the goals of the GSP on the topics being addressed by the subcommittee, whether or not such individuals are GSA Representatives, GSA Group Representatives or Alternate Representatives.

4.9 **Coordination Committee Meetings.**

(a) **Timing and Notice.** The Chair of the Coordination Committee, any two GSA Representatives or GSA Group Representatives, or the Secretary may call meetings of the Coordination Committee as needed to carry out the activities described in this MOA. The Coordination Committee may, but is not required to, set a date for regular meetings for the purposes described in this MOA. All Coordination Committee meetings shall be held in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 *et seq.*).

(b) **Quorum.** A majority of the Coordination Committee members, as listed on Exhibit “B”, shall constitute a quorum of the Coordination Committee for purposes of holding a meeting. The Alternate Representative of each GSA or GSA Group shall be counted towards a quorum and as the voting representative(s) in absence of the Coordination Committee GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative for which the Alternate Representative was appointed. If less than a quorum is present, no action may be taken.

(c) **Open Attendance.** Members of the public, stakeholders, and representatives of the Parties who are not appointed as a GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative on the Coordination Committee may attend all Coordination Committee meetings and shall be provided with an opportunity to comment on matters on the meeting agenda, but shall have no vote.

(d) **Minutes.** The Secretary’s appointee shall keep and prepare minutes of all Coordination Committee meetings. Notes of subcommittee and workgroup meetings shall be kept by the Secretary’s appointee or an assistant to the appointee. All minutes and subcommittee and workgroup meeting notes shall be maintained by the Secretary as Subbasin records and shall be available to the Parties and the public upon request.

4.10 Voting by Coordination Committee.

(a) Each GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative that is a member of the Coordination Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote at the Coordination Committee meetings. For GSAs represented by a GSA Group Representative, it shall be up to the Parties in that GSA Group to determine how the GSA Group vote will be cast. The Coordination Committee shall not be obligated to honor the vote of an individual Party and will only accept the vote of the GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative or Alternate Representative, as identified on Exhibit “B”.

(b) Except as expressly set forth in Articles 4.6 above and 4.11 and 11.1 below, the vote of a majority of a quorum present at a regular or special meeting of the Coordination Committee shall be required for all other matters on which the Coordination Committee is authorized to act.

4.11 Voting Procedures to Address Lack of Unanimity. When it appears likely that the Coordination Committee will not be able to come to a unanimous decision of Coordination Committee members on any matter for which a unanimous decision is required, upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Coordination Committee, the matter may be subjected to any or all of the following additional procedures.

(a) Straw Polls. Straw poll votes may be taken for the purpose of refining ideas and providing guidance to the Coordination Committee, subcommittees, or both.

(b) Provisional Voting. Provisional votes may occur prior to final votes. This will be done when an initial vote is needed to refine a proposal, but the GSA Representatives or GSA Group Representatives wish to consult with their respective GSA or GSA Group(s) before making a final vote.

(c) A vote shall be delayed if any GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative declares its intention to propose an alternative or modified recommended action, to be proposed at the next meeting, or as soon thereafter as the GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative can obtain any further information or clarifying direction from its GSA Group or governing body, or both, as needed to propose its alternative or modified recommended action.

(d) If the process outlined in Article 4.11(a)-(c) fails to result in a unanimous vote of the GSA Representatives and GSA Group Representatives, any GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative not voting in favor of the recommended action may request that the vote be delayed so that the Coordination Committee can obtain further information on the recommended action (for example, by directing a subcommittee established under this MOA), so the GSA Representative or GSA Group Representative can obtain clarifying direction from its GSA Group or governing body, or both, as needed.

(e) Each Party acknowledges that time is of the essence with respect to SGMA compliance and GSP implementation and agrees to make its best efforts to cooperate

through the Coordination Committee in coming to a unanimous vote of representatives at a regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE V – APPROVAL BY INDIVIDUAL PARTIES

5.1 Where law or this MOA require separate written approval by each of the Parties, such approval shall be evidenced in writing by providing the adopted resolution or minutes of the respective GSA’s Board of Directors’ meeting to the Secretary of the Coordination Committee.

ARTICLE VI – POWERS RESERVED TO PARTIES

6.1 Nothing in this MOA shall be interpreted to deprive any Party of its right to:

- (a) Act as a GSA within its boundaries;
- (b) Exercise authorities granted to each of the Parties as a GSA under SGMA in a manner consistent with the adopted GSP;
- (c) Exercise authority to implement SGMA and any GSP adopted pursuant to this MOA consistent with the terms and conditions set forth therein; and
- (d) Defend, with legal counsel of its own choosing, any challenge to the adoption or implementation of a GSP developed pursuant to this MOA.

ARTICLE VII – EXCHANGE OF DATA AND INFORMATION

7.1 **Exchange of Data and Information.** The Parties acknowledge and recognize pursuant to this MOA that the Parties will need to exchange data and information among and between the Parties.

7.2 **Procedure for Exchange of Data and Information.**

(a) The Parties shall exchange public and non-privileged information through collaboration and/or informal requests made at the Coordination Committee level or through subcommittees designated by the Coordination Committee. However, to the extent it is necessary to make a written request for information to another Party, each Party shall designate a representative to respond to information requests and provide the name and contact information of the designee to the Coordination Committee. Requests may be communicated in writing and transmitted in person or by mail, facsimile, or other electronic means to the appropriate representative as named in this MOA. The designated representative shall respond in a reasonably timely manner.

(b) Nothing in this MOA shall be construed to prohibit any Party from voluntarily exchanging information with any other Party by any other mechanism separate from the Coordination Committee.

(c) The Parties agree that each GSA shall provide the data required to develop the Subbasin-wide coordinated water budget.

(d) To the extent that a court order, subpoena, or the California Public Records Act is applicable to a Party, such Party in responding to a request made pursuant to the California Public Records Act for release of information exchanged from another Party shall timely notify the Coordination Committee in writing of its proposed release of information in order to provide the other Parties with the opportunity to seek a court order preventing such release of information.

ARTICLE VIII – MONITORING NETWORK

8.1 In accordance with SGMA, the Parties hereby agree to coordinate the development and maintenance of a monitoring network at a Subbasin level. The Subbasin monitoring network description shall include monitoring objectives, protocols, and data reporting requirements specific to enumerated sustainability indicators. Each GSA is responsible for the following:

- (a) Operating and maintaining the representative monitoring network within its boundary;
- (b) Filling data gaps in its GSA on a defined schedule;
- (c) Collecting data per the approved Subbasin-wide monitoring protocol;
- (d) Considering developing and maintaining a supplementary network for collecting data in excess of the minimum need, for the purposes of supporting local management decisions (since the level of detail necessary may not be sufficient in a Subbasin level network); and
- (e) Each GSA shall have a minimum of one representative monitoring well (measuring water level and water quality) from each aquifer (above the Corcoran Clay layer – shallow aquifer, or below the Corcoran Clay layer – deep aquifer) in which it has groundwater pumping either within its GSA boundaries or within the area of influence of the pumping that is occurring, sufficient to meet the recommendations of the Subbasin-wide GSP consultant.

8.2 The minimum monitoring network shall be based on the evaluation performed by the Subbasin-wide GSP consultant and may change from time to time. The Subbasin-wide GSP consultant shall evaluate the monitoring network to ensure:

- (a) There is a proper spatial and temporal coverage to inform a groundwater model;
- (b) The level of monitoring is commensurate with the use in an area (e.g., limited monitoring well(s) in areas that do not pump or higher density of survey benchmarks in areas that have numerous deep wells); and
- (c) The network is balanced, so that should an exceedance occur, it is not biased or weighted as a function of a poorly distributed monitoring network.

ARTICLE IX – COORDINATED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

9.1 The Parties developed and currently maintain a coordinated data management system that is capable of storing and reporting information relevant to the reporting requirements and/or implementation of the GSP and monitoring network of the Subbasin. After providing the Coordination Committee with data from the individual GSAs, the Plan Manager will ensure the data is stored and managed in a coordinated manner throughout the Subbasin and reported to DWR annually as required.

ARTICLE X – ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

10.1 The Coordination Committee established a “Adaptive Management Framework” applicable to all GSAs in the Subbasin, which is attached hereto as Exhibit “C” and incorporated herein by this reference. This Adaptive Management Framework shall be further refined as part of the GSP development and implementation.

10.2 If and when required pursuant to Exhibit “C”, each Party to this Agreement shall participate in the procedures discussed therein without regard to whether the Party is represented by another entity on the Coordination Committee

10.3 As part of the Adaptive Management Framework, each Party commits to continue to evaluate and implement projects and management actions (“P&MAs”) within its boundaries to reach sustainability in compliance with SGMA.

ARTICLE XI – MODIFICATION OF THIS MOA

11.1 **Addition of a Party.** A Party may be added to this MOA only upon the unanimous vote of Coordination Committee members at a regular or special meeting, the Party’s execution of a counterpart of this MOA, and its provision of any additional documentation required by this MOA. No Party may be added that is not a GSA within the Subbasin or that fails to share in GSP coordinated expenses.

11.2 **Modification or Amendment of this MOA.** The Parties hereby agree that this MOA may be supplemented, amended, or modified only by a writing signed by all Parties.

11.3 **Amendment for Compliance with Law.** Should any provision of this MOA be determined to not be in compliance with legal requirements under circumstances where amendment of the MOA to include a provision addressing the legal requirement will cure the non-compliance, the Parties agree to promptly prepare and shall not unreasonably withhold approval of such amendment.

ARTICLE XII – WITHDRAWAL, TERM, AND TERMINATION

12.1 **Withdrawal.** A Party may unilaterally withdraw from this MOA without causing or requiring termination of this MOA, effective upon one (1) year written notice to the Secretary and all other Parties. The Plan Manager shall report any such withdrawal to DWR and/or the State Water Board within five (5) days of receipt of the written notice.

Any Party who withdraws shall remain obligated for GSP coordinated expenses as provided in a separate Cost Sharing Agreement. If no separate Cost Sharing Agreement is then in effect or enforceable against the withdrawing Party, the Party is obligated to pay its share of all debts, liabilities, and obligations the Party incurred or accrued under the MOA prior to the effective date of such withdrawal, which is one (1) year after providing written notice to the Secretary and all other Parties, and as also may be established under its separate GSA Group agreement, as applicable, concerning such share of obligations.

Upon withdrawal, a Party agrees that it has a continuing obligation to comply with SGMA and any coordination guidelines and regulations issued by DWR, which require a coordination agreement if there are multiple groundwater sustainability plans in the Subbasin. This obligation shall survive the withdrawal from this MOA and is for the express benefit of the remaining Parties.

12.2 **Term; Termination of Coordination Agreement.** This MOA shall take effect on the Effective Date. Provisions requiring compliance with, and implementation of, the GSP, shall become operative and binding upon the adoption of the GSP. Unless modified as provided in Article 11.2 or terminated as provided in Article 12.3, this MOA shall continue for a term that is coterminous with the requirements of SGMA for the existence of the GSP for the Subbasin. At the time the GSP is adopted by all Parties and this MOA is operative and binding upon the Parties, the Coordination Agreement shall automatically terminate.

12.3 **Termination.** This MOA may be terminated or rescinded by the unanimous written consent of all Parties. Nothing in this MOA shall prevent the Parties from entering into a coordination agreement for coordination with any other subbasin.

12.4 **Indemnification.** No Party nor SLDMWA, nor any director, officer or employee of a Party or SLDMWA, shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by another Party or SLDMWA under or in connection with this MOA. Each Party shall fully indemnify and hold harmless each other Party and SLDMWA and its agents, directors, officers, employees and contractors from and against all claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses and other costs, including litigation costs and attorney fees, arising out of, resulting from, or in connection with any work delegated to or action taken or omitted to be taken by such Party pursuant to this MOA.

ARTICLE XIII – PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICTS

13.1 In the event of any dispute arising from or relating to this MOA, except for disputes arising from the inability of the Coordination Committee to reach a unanimous decision, the disputing Party shall, within thirty (30) calendar days of discovery of the events giving rise to the dispute, notify all Parties to this MOA in writing of the basis for the dispute. Within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of said notice, all interested Parties shall meet and confer in a good-faith attempt to informally resolve the dispute. All disputes that are not resolved informally shall be submitted to arbitration. Within ten (10) days following the failed informal proceedings, each interested Party shall nominate and circulate to all other interested Parties the name of one arbitrator. Within ten (10) days following the nominations, the interested Parties shall rank their top three (3) among all nominated arbitrators, awarding three points to the top choice, two points

to the second choice, one point to the third choice and zero points to all others. Each interested Party shall forward its tally to the Secretary, who shall tabulate the points and notify the interested Parties of the arbitrator with the highest cumulative score, who shall be the selected arbitrator. The Secretary may also develop procedures for approval by the Parties, for selection in the case of tie votes or in order to replace the selected arbitrator in the event such arbitrator declines to act. The arbitration shall be administered in accordance with the procedures set forth in the California Code of Civil Procedure, section 1280, *et seq.*, and of any state or local rules then in effect for arbitration pursuant to said section. Upon completion of arbitration, if the controversy has not been resolved, any Party may exercise all rights to bring a legal action relating to the controversy.

ARTICLE XIV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

14.1 **Authority of Signers.** The individuals executing this MOA represent and warrant that they have the authority to enter into this MOA and to legally bind the Party for whom they are signing to the terms and conditions of this MOA.

14.2 **Governing Law.** The validity and interpretation of this MOA will be governed by the laws of the State of California without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws, with venue for all purposes to be proper only in the County of Merced, State of California.

14.3 **Severability.** Except as provided for cure by amendment in Articles 11.2 and 11.3, if any term, provision, covenant, or condition of this MOA is determined to be unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the Parties' intent that the remaining provisions of this MOA will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected, impaired, or invalidated by such a determination.

14.4 **Counterparts.** This MOA may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, but all of which will constitute one and the same agreement.

14.5 **Good Faith.** The Parties agree to exercise their best efforts and utmost good faith to effectuate all the terms and conditions of this MOA and to execute such further instruments and documents as are reasonably necessary, appropriate, expedient, or proper to carry out the intent and purposes of this MOA.

Signatures on following page

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOA as of the Effective Date.

Dated: _____

ALISO WATER DISTRICT GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF DOS PALOS GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF FIREBAUGH GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF GUSTINE GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF LOS BANOS GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF MENDOTA GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF NEWMAN GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

CITY OF PATTERSON GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

COUNTY OF MADERA-3 GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

**COUNTY OF MERCED DELTA-MENDOTA
GSA**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

DM II GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

FARMERS WATER DISTRICT GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

**FRESNO COUNTY MANAGEMENT AREA A
GSA**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

**FRESNO COUNTY MANAGEMENT AREA B
GSA**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

GRASSLAND GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

NORTHWESTERN DELTA-MENDOTA GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

ORO LOMA WATER DISTRICT GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE
CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY GSA**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT-2 GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

**WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GSA 1**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Dated: _____

WIDREN WATER DISTRICT GSA

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

EXECUTING NOT AS A PARTY:

Dated: _____

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER
AUTHORITY**

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

EXHIBIT “A”

Parties to the MOA

1. Aliso Water District GSA
2. Central Delta-Mendota GSA
(Includes: San Luis Water District, Panoche Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Fresno Slough Water District, Eagle Field Water District, Pacheco Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, County of Merced, and County of Fresno)
3. City of Dos Palos GSA
4. City of Firebaugh GSA
5. City of Gustine GSA
6. City of Los Banos GSA
7. City of Mendota GSA
8. City of Newman GSA
9. City of Patterson GSA
10. County of Madera–3 GSA
11. County of Merced Delta-Mendota GSA
12. DM II GSA
13. Farmers Water District GSA
14. Fresno County Management Area A GSA
15. Fresno County Management Area B GSA
16. Grassland GSA
17. Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA
18. Oro Loma Water District GSA
19. Patterson Irrigation District GSA
20. San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA
(Includes: Central California Irrigation District, San Luis Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and Columbia Canal Company)

21. Turner Island Water District-2 GSA
22. West Stanislaus Irrigation District GSA 1
23. Widren Water District GSA

EXHIBIT “B”

Coordination Committee Representatives & Participation Percentages

Coordination Committee Representatives		Group Contact Agency	Participation Percentage
1	Aliso Water District GSA Aliso Water District GSA	Aliso Water District GSA	1/7
2	Farmers Water District GSA Farmers Water District GSA	Farmers Water District GSA	1/7
3	Fresno County Management Area A and B GSAs Group Fresno County Management Area A GSA Fresno County Management Area B GSA	Fresno County	1/7
4	Central Delta-Mendota GSAs Group Central Delta-Mendota GSA Oro Loma Water District GSA Widren Water District GSA	Central Delta-Mendota GSA	1/7
5	Northern Delta-Mendota GSAs Group City of Patterson GSA DM-II GSA Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA Patterson Irrigation District GSA West Stanislaus Irrigation District GSA	West Stanislaus Irrigation District	1/7
6	Grassland GSAs Group Grassland GSA Merced County Delta-Mendota GSA	Grassland Water District	1/7
7	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSAs Group City of Dos Palos GSA City of Firebaugh GSA City of Gustine GSA City of Los Banos GSA City of Mendota GSA City of Newman GSA Madera County GSA Merced County Delta-Mendota GSA San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA Turner Island Water District-2 GSA	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA	1/7

EXHIBIT “C”

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUBBASIN

The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (the “Subbasin”) acknowledge that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) has a long-term horizon to achieve sustainability and that management of the Subbasin will require an iterative process on the part of the GSAs and the Coordination Committee to review groundwater conditions at least annually and propose revisions to underlying data, methodologies, assumptions, sustainable management criteria, projects, management actions, and other Subbasin-wide coordinated information as necessary to meet changing conditions. Accordingly, the GSAs in the Subbasin establish the following framework for addressing MT exceedances in the SGMA implementation period, as will be further described in the adopted GSP:

1. As a Subbasin-wide Activity, the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant shall initiate a review of Subbasin-wide data within sixty (60) days after that data is due to be submitted by each GSA (the “Review”). As reporting dates vary based upon the Sustainable Management Criteria (“SMC”), this Review will be done on a regular basis and will be a regular agenda item on the Coordination Committee agendas.

2. The Review shall take into account all matters to be considered in the Annual Report pursuant to the DWR Regulations, section 356.2, including, but not limited to, changes in groundwater elevation, groundwater storage, subsidence, water quality and the status of minimum thresholds (“MTs”) and interim milestones in the Subbasin GSP.

3. Should GSA activities result in either a) a pattern of data showing a downward trend (towards a MT exceedance), or b) a MT exceedance, the Coordination Committee (at the recommendation of the Plan Manager, a designated subcommittee, or the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant) shall immediately notify the GSA and add the downward trend or exceedance information to the next Coordination Committee agenda packet. That GSA shall also be provided with a checklist to help evaluate possible causes of the MT downward trend or exceedance.

4. The GSA may request the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant to coordinate such trend or exceedance information with that GSA’s own consultant, as applicable. Within thirty (30) days of said notice, the GSA shall present a plan of action to the Coordination Committee to address how the GSA will mitigate any downward trend or exceedance and in what timeframe. The intent is for the Coordination Committee to discuss the mitigation plan in an effort to provide helpful ideas to the GSA. However, the GSA is solely responsible for the management actions within its boundaries and the costs to remedy the cause of the MT exceedance if it is attributed to activities occurring within such GSA’s jurisdictional boundaries and/or that GSA is not operating within its Sustainable Yield (the “Responsible GSA”). At its sole cost and expense, the Responsible GSA may ask the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant to further determine: (a) what caused the exceedance; (b) whether or not the Responsible GSA has control over the cause of the MT downward trend or exceedance; (c) whether it is an intra-basin impact from another GSA or an inter-basin impact by a neighboring subbasin; and (d) whether or not the MT exceedance caused injury.

5. If there is a determination by the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant that any MT downward trend or exceedance was caused by intra-basin impacts from another GSA within the Subbasin, such determination will be brought back to the Coordination Committee for further discussion and potential Subbasin-wide action. The Coordination Committee will work with other GSAs to increase existing GSA coordination to remedy the issues causing the downward trend or exceedance and to remedy the responsibility of costs associated with identifying and mitigating the exceedance.

6. If there is a determination that any MT exceedance was caused by a neighboring subbasin, this should be brought back to the Coordination Committee for further discussion and potential Subbasin-wide action. Costs for initial investigation by the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant of a MT downward trend or exceedance across Subbasin boundary lines (such as water quality issues, subsidence, or depletion of interconnected surface waters) shall be shared amongst the Coordination Committee equally between Coordination Committee members (i.e. 1/7th each). The Coordination Committee will work with other subbasins to expand existing inter-basin coordination to remedy the issues causing the downward trends or exceedances.

7. In the event that the GSA is unable to mitigate or avoid future MT exceedances with its existing projects and management actions (“P&MAs”) and within the timeframe presented to the Coordination Committee, the GSA may seek assistance from the Coordination Committee. The Coordination Committee may recommend policies or programs to the GSA that the GSA could, in its discretion, adopt to remedy the existence of a MT exceedance and to avoid undesirable results. Furthermore, the Coordination Committee may consider setting triggers in the GSP for GSAs to implement management actions [e.g., sequencing P&MAs] or work on alternative options.



EXHIBIT “D”

SUBBASIN-WIDE ACTIVITIES

(Initial List)

- Preparation of and submittal of annual reports
- Preparation of annual estimates of Coordinated Plan Expenses presented by the Secretary and any updates to such estimates, in accordance with the budgetary requirements of the respective Parties
- Plan Manager costs and expenses for the work directed by the Coordination Committee
- Subbasin-wide Consultant costs and expenses, including, but not limited to, collecting information from the Subbasin GSAs, processing technical data, and those identified in Exhibit “C” for the Adaptive Management Framework for the Subbasin
- Preparation of and submittal of five-year updates to the GSP
- Revisions to this MOA
- Subbasin-wide outreach
- Litigation costs for an attorney coordinating the GSAs for litigation filed against the entire Subbasin
- Costs for initial investigation by the Subbasin-wide GSP Consultant of a MT downward trend or MT exceedance across Subbasin boundary lines