

RESOLUTION 2022-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE VERBENIA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ADOPTING THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE SAN GORGONIO PASS SUBBASIN

WHEREAS, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code Section 10720 *et seq.*), pursuant to Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, which was approved by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires all high and medium-priority basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 to be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's); and

WHEREAS, the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin has been designated by DWR as a medium-priority basin (Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin: 7-021.04); and

WHEREAS, on or about May 16, 2017, the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Mission Springs Water District formed the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Verbenia GSA) and notified the DWR on June 9, 2017, of its decision to become the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Verbenia GSA) for that portion of the Subbasin within its jurisdictional boundaries, as one of three GSA's in the Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, each forming member of the Verbenia GSA has appointed a representative to serve as its respective representative to the Verbenia GSA board; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires, pursuant to Water Code Sections 10720.7 and 10727, that a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or multiple GSP's be developed and implemented by January 31, 2022 for each medium-priority basin; and

WHEREAS, the Verbenia GSA, in concert with the San Gorgonio Pass GSA and the Desert Water Agency GSA, has prepared a GSP for the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin in accordance with Water Code Section 10727.2, as required by SGMA; and

WHEREAS, the Verbenia GSA Board of Directors has had the opportunity to review the most current version of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, the San Gorgonio Pass GSA, the Verbenia GSA, and the Desert Water Agency GSA gave notice on September 17, 2021, pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.4, to the County of Riverside and the City of Banning regarding their intent to adopt a GSP; and

WHEREAS, the Verbenia GSA held a public hearing on January 11, 2022 for the purpose of receiving public comment and considering adoption of a GSP for the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of a GSP, Water Code Section 10733.4 requires that GSP to be submitted by an authorized plan manager to DWR for review; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, Sections 351(z) and 353.4, the Verbenia GSA hereby authorizes Provost and Pritchard (Plan Manager), or designee, as the authorized representative of the Verbenia GSA to do the following on behalf of the Verbenia GSA: (a) submit the GSP to DWR; (b) submit the First Annual Report; and (c) to otherwise serve as the point of contact with DWR on behalf of the Verbenia GSA with respect the San Gorgonio Pass GSP and First Annual Report; and

WHEREAS, The Verbenia GSA Board finds that pursuant to Public Resources Code § 20165 and CEQA Guidelines § 15378(a), the adoption of the GSP is not a “project” subject to CEQA. The Board further finds that even if the adoption is a project, the adoption is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15300.2. The Board hereby directs that all documents and other materials constituting the record of proceedings related to the adoption of the GSP be maintained by the General Manager of the Verbenia GSA, or his designee, on file at the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA. The Board of Directors directs Staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk for the County of Riverside.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

1. The forgoing is true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The GSP in the form presented this day to the Verbenia GSA is hereby approved and adopted.
3. The Plan Manager named above, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to submit the GSP to DWR and to serve as the point of contact with DWR on behalf of the Verbenia GSA consistent with the authorization described above and the requirements contained within the GSP Regulations. Without limiting the foregoing, the Plan Manager is hereby authorized to provide to DWR all information required by SGMA and necessary for DWR’s evaluation of the San Gorgonio Pass GSP thereunder, to submit the Annual Report required under SGMA, and to take such further actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.
4. The Verbenia GSA Board finds that pursuant to Public Resources Code § 20165 and CEQA Guidelines § 15378(a), the adoption of the GSP is not a “project” subject to CEQA. The Board further finds that even if the adoption is a project, the adoption is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15300.2. The Board hereby directs that all documents and other materials constituting the record of proceedings related to the adoption of the GSP be maintained by the General Manager of the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency, or his designee, on file at the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA. The Board of Directors directs Staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk for the County of Riverside.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Verbenia Groundwater Sustainability Agency, this 11th day of January, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Chair