

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PARTIES IN THE SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN AS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into on January 8, 2019 by and between the County of Plumas ("County" herein) and the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District ("District" herein), each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties").

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1139 and Assembly Bill 1739 known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SGMA is to create a comprehensive management system in California by creating a structure to manage groundwater at the local level, while providing authority to the State to oversee and regulate, if necessary, the local groundwater management system; and

WHEREAS, SGMA empowers and requires local agencies to develop and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSP") that are tailored to the resources and needs of their communities, provide a buffer against drought and contribute to reliable water supply for the future; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723.6 authorizes a combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") by using a memorandum of agreement or other agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) granted the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District GSA authority over the portion of Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin within the District's boundaries on 4-1-2017; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) granted Plumas County GSA authority over portions of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin outside of the District boundary and within Plumas County on 4-14-2017; and

NOW THEREFORE, incorporating the above recitals herein it is mutually understood and agreed as follows:

1. PURPOSE. This MOU is entered into by and between the Parties to facilitate a cooperative and ongoing working relationship to develop a single Sierra Valley GSP that will allow compliance with SGMA and State law, both as amended from time to time. The primary goal of the MOU is to eliminate overlap between the GSAs and to establish a working partnership to move toward a multi-GSA agreement to cover all portions of the Sierra Valley Goundwater Basin designated in DWR Bulletin 118 and to prepare and adopt a SGMA compliant GSP prior to the January 31, 2022 deadline set under SGMA.

All Parties agree that all actions taken and/or contemplated under the GSP will be based on sound groundwater science and local expertise that will drive the development of the sustainability goals of the basin as outlined under SGMA.

2. TERM. This MOU shall remain in effect unless terminated by the mutual consent of the Parties and as allowed by State law.

3. AMENDING THE MOU. This MOU hereto may only be amended by subsequent writing, approved and signed by all Parties.

4. HOLD HARMLESS. No Party, not any officer or employees of a Party, shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by another Party in connection with this MOU.

SIERRA VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

COUNTY OF PLUMAS

By: 

By: 

DATE: 2/11/19

DATE: 1/8/19

Approved as to form:

  
R. Craig Settlemyre  
Plumas County Counsel

AGREEMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_