



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

June 19, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Darron Poulsen, Water and Wastewater Operations Director

Subject: **Public Hearing - Adopt a Resolution to Form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Un-adjudicated Portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM Groundwater Basin System)**

OVERVIEW

Recommendations - That the City Council:

1. After conducting a public hearing and receiving public comment, adopt a resolution to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Un-adjudicated portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM groundwater basin system) (Attachment 1); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute any other documents required to effectuate the intent of the agreement to form a GSA, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact – Adoption of the resolution to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the un-adjudicated portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM groundwater basin system) does not have a direct fiscal impact to the City. However, by forming the GSA the City will be positioned to protect itself from liabilities/costs initiated by the State.

Public Noticing – Public Hearing is held pursuant to California Water Code subsection 10723(b), after publication of notice of such hearing pursuant to California Government Code Section 6066. A notice of the public hearing was published on June 5, 2017 and June 12, 2017 in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

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Previous Council Action – There is no previous Council action for this item. However, a resolution forming a GSA was similarly created for Spadra Basin on February 27, 2017.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 5 and June 12, 2017, a public notice was sent to the City Clerk for public notification of the City of Pomona's intent to hold a public hearing prior to approval of a resolution to form a Groundwater Sustainable Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act went into effect on January 1, 2015. The GSA boundaries are delineated by the un-adjudicated portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County, Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Department of Water Resources, identified in the attached map (Attachment 2). The purpose of the public hearing is to listen to public comment regarding the City's election to form the GSA for the un-adjudicated portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM groundwater basin system).

DISCUSSION

The State of California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014 which focuses on achieving sustainable groundwater basins, enhancing local groundwater management in a manner consistent with rights to use or store groundwater, and establishing standards for effective and continuous groundwater management. As such, on February 27, 2017 City Council heard and approved the formation of a GSA for the Spadra Basin.

The recommended action differs from the Spadra Basin's GSA public hearing in that the un-adjudicated portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM groundwater basin system) does not necessitate a Memorandum of Agreement with other parties. This fringe area has no groundwater production, and due to the underground configuration it has little chance to be a groundwater bearing area. (Map: Attachment 2) The primary reason for this proposed action is that the State has identified this area outside the Chino Basin adjudicated boundary as an unmanaged area needing oversight. If left unresolved, the Chino Basin members, which include the City, could be harmed due to restrictions imposed by the State to withhold or disallow grant funding for Chino Basin projects.

The formation of a GSA for the Un-adjudicated Portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County and forthcoming communication to the State to exempt the area from needing a Groundwater Sustainable Plan (GSP) are necessary formalities to avoid future obligations and conflicts with the State. The City will receive full support from the Chino Basin Watermaster in providing the documentation for the exemption request. If the City does not form this new GSA within the required timeframe, the State has the authority to develop and implement an interim plan until the City assumes management over the un-adjudicated Pomona fringe area of the Chino Basin.

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Attachments: 1. Resolution

2. Attachment A to the Resolution - Map of the Un-adjudicated Portion of the Chino Groundwater Basin within Los Angeles County (Basin No. 8-2.01 in the California Department of Water Resources CASGEM groundwater basin system)

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