

RESOLUTION NO. 9

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ADOPTING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, in September 2014 legislation was enacted creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) recognizing that groundwater provides a significant portion of California’s water supply and that groundwater resources are most effectively managed at the local or regional level [Water Code §§10720 – 10738] and SGMA went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the intent of SGMA is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins through the actions of local government agencies to the greatest extent possible while minimizing state intervention, and to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management. [Water Code §10720.1]; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires all medium and high priority non-adjudicated groundwater basins, as designated in Bulletin 118 issued by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”), to be managed by groundwater sustainability agencies and that such management be accomplished pursuant to groundwater sustainability plans. [Water Code §10727]; and

WHEREAS, the Montecito Groundwater Basin, DWR Basin Number 3049 (“Basin”) was designated by DWR as a medium priority basin in its 2018 draft prioritization process, thereby requiring the implementation of SGMA for the Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Montecito GSA”) is organized and existing under and pursuant to SGMA and was declared by DWR as the exclusive GSA for the Basin in late 2018; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Montecito GSA is to ensure a reliable and sustainable groundwater supply for the community through effective basin management pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SGMA, the Montecito GSA is required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Basin [Water Code §10727]; and

WHEREAS, between 2019 and 2023, the Montecito GSA developed a GSP for the Basin in accordance with SGMA requirements [Water Code §§10727 – 10728.6]; and

WHEREAS, GSP development was achieved through a collaborative, knowledge based process informed by monitoring and modeling to ensure that the GSP includes the best available science and information, and considers the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the GSP includes and supports the Montecito GSA’s Sustainability Goal which is to prevent undesirable results and optimize long-term use of the groundwater basin for the benefit of all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, sustainability will be achieved through a collaborative, knowledge-based process informed by locally-defined quantitative criteria, ongoing monitoring and modeling, and incremental, data-supported management actions as needed to prevent seawater intrusion and ensure sustainable groundwater levels, storage, and quality; and

WHEREAS, the GSA formed Advisory Committees made up of representative stakeholders and members of the public to receive local knowledge and insight, and technical expertise during the development of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, during GSP development, the GSA released draft content for stakeholder review and comment including a complete draft GSP on March 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the GSA held Townhall meetings on February 21, 2023 and April 17, 2023, noticed in accordance with the Brown Act, to discuss the draft GSP and receive stakeholder input and comment; and

WHEREAS, the GSA has considered and responded to stakeholder input and comment during development of the GSP; and

WHEREAS, the GSA may exercise powers and perform any act necessary or proper to carry out SGMA, including the adoption of rules, regulations, ordinances and resolutions for that purpose [Water Code §10725, §10725.2 and §10726.8]; and

WHEREAS, the GSA provided notice pursuant to Water Code §10728.4 concerning the GSP; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of a GSP, Water Code §10733.4 requires that the GSP be submitted to DWR for review and approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The GSP, in the form presented this day to the Board of Directors and subject to any final non-substantive edits that may be made at the General Manager's discretion prior to submittal to DWR, is hereby approved and adopted.
2. The General Manager is authorized and directed to provide timely notification of this approval and adoption to DWR, including a copy of this Resolution, the approved GSP, and any additional information required by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 19th day of May 2023 by the following roll call vote.


AYES: Directors Coates, Goebel, Hayman, Plough, and Wicks

NOES:

ABSENT:

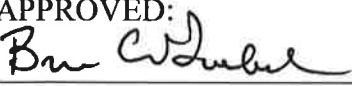
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:



Nicholas Turner, Secretary

APPROVED:



Brian Goebel, Board President