

PUBLIC NOTICE

Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Set Public Hearings to Consider Adoption of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

November 12, 2019

The three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the Merced Groundwater Subbasin will each consider adoption of the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2020. The Turner Island Water District GSA-1, Merced Subbasin GSA, and Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA will conduct public hearings on the schedule below. The public will have an opportunity to provide oral comments on the GSP. The Merced Subbasin GSP is available at mercedsgma.org.

<u>Turner Island Water District GSA-1 (TIWD GSA-1)</u>

When: November 19, 2019 at 1:30pm

Where: Turner Island Water District Meeting Room, 1269 West "I" Street, Los Banos, Ca

Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MSGSA)

When: December 9, 2019 at 2:00pm

Where: County of Merced Board Room, Third Floor, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA

Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA)

When: December 11, 2019 at 9:00am

Where: Merced Irrigation District, 744 W 20th Street, Merced, CA

For more information about the Merced Subbasin GSP, to sign-up for email updates, and to find meeting times and locations, visit http://www.mercedsgma.org.

Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) be adopted for the high priority, critically-overdrafted groundwater basins in California (including the Merced Subbasin) by January 31, 2020. The plans must detail how basins will become sustainable over a 20-year timeframe and must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources for approval. In accordance with SGMA, water management and land management agencies in the Merced Subbasin formed three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs): Turner Island Water District GSA #1, Merced Subbasin GSA, and Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA.

The three GSAs in the region collaborated over the last two years on the creation of one GSP for the entire Merced Subbasin. The GSP development process included extensive stakeholder engagement including monthly public meetings of a Stakeholder Committee and a Coordinating Committee and public workshops held throughout the basin. The GSAs held a 30-day comment period on the draft GSP ending August 19, 2019. The GSAs held a joint Board meeting on September 18, 2019 to discuss comments on the GSP and receive additional public comment. The draft GSP was revised based on comments and is now ready to be considered for adoption. Once adopted, the GSP will guide groundwater management in the Merced Subbasin.