

Special Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 4:00 p.m. City of Fillmore City Hall, Council Chambers 250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please access:} \\ \underline{ https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89456179606?pwd=EKJ3aKqs3ZgNqHyY74JhvBXWqEPK7F.1} \\ \end{tabular}$

Meeting ID: 894 5617 9606 Passcode: Special

To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into: Toll-free number: 877 853 5247 Meeting ID: 894 5617 9606

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1A Pledge of Allegiance
- 1B Directors Roll Call

1C Public Comments

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) will accept public comment concerning agenda items at the time the item is considered and on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board during the agendized Public Comment period. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per issue.

1D Approval of Agenda Motion

2. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

2A Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), one case.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

Special Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting November 7, 2024 Page 2

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of September 26, 2024, Special Board meeting.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

UWCD	\$36,503.78
Stillwater Sciences	\$10,556.12
Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 4,295.10
DBS&A	\$ 2,458.50
County of Ventura IT Services	\$ 1,293.20
Loree Snyder	\$ 130.41

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the monthly financial report for the Agency.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4A Termination of Executive Orders Requirement for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Well Permit Reviews Information

The Board will receive a presentation from staff and legal counsel on the Governor's termination of the drought-related requirement for well permitting agencies to consult with groundwater sustainability agencies prior to the issuance of well permits.

5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024,** or call of the Chair.

Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at UWCD's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street in Oxnard during normal business hours.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the UWCD Office at (805) 525-4431 or the City of Fillmore at (805) 524-1500. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved:

Board Chair Kelly Long

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Posted: (date) November 5, 2024 At: https://www.FPBGSA.org	(time) 4:30 p.m.	(attest) Eva Ibarra
Posted: (date) November 5, 2024 At: https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA	(time) 4:25 p.m.	(attest) Eva Ibarra
Posted: (date) November 5, 2024 At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard	(time) 4:35 p.m.	(attest) Eva Ibarra
Posted: (date) November 5, 2024 At: Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Avenue, F	(time) 4:45 p.m. illmore, CA	(attest) Eva Ibarra



Special Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 4:00p.m. MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Director Carole Fornoff
Director Debbie Jackson Director
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Kelly Long
Director Candice Meneghin

Directors Absent

Director Albert Mendez

Staff in Attendance

Anthony Emmert, executive director Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board Patrick O'Connell, senior hydrogeologist Steve O'Neill, legal counsel

Public in Attendance

Luis Busso, UWCD (virtual) Taylor Jones, UWCD (virtual) Tony Morgan, DBS&A Zachary Plummer, UWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER 4:00 p.m.

Director Long called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Director Long led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll. 5 Directors were present: Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin. Director Mendez was absent.

1C Public Comments

Director Long asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. None were offered.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Director Long asked Executive Director Emmert if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Emmert responded that there had been no changes to the agenda. Director Long then asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Jackson; Second, Director Meneghin. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

Special Fillmore Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
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2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board.

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson reported that the Fillmore Pumpers Association stakeholders met last week.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Fornoff said Piru Pumpers Association stakeholders met last week.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin said Coastal Cleanup was completed along bicycle trail in Fillmore, and mentioned she attended the Environmental Law Conference that had a good panel on instream flows for legal framework. She also said DWR released additional documents on interconnected groundwater and surface water.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Mendez was absent.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball had nothing to report.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long reported Coastal Cleanup events around the County went well, and mentioned a new contact person for DWR, Nancy Ojeda. She finished her update with saying her condolences to Director Kimball for his mother's passing.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director reported groundwater statements for January 1st through June 30th, 2024, have been sent out with the \$12 acre-foot rate. He said staff is working to complete final project report, grant report, and financial report, with a target completion date of September 30, 2024. He finished his report with providing slides and discussing Harvest at Limoneira Project and pumping from Fillmore subbasin.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel reported on the Sonoma County case.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Tony Morgan, representative from Daniel B Stephens & Associates, provided an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of August 15, 2024. He said GSP submittal was made on July 16, 2024, and therefore comment period ends on September 16, 2024. He said they are

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reviewing comment letter from NMFS, and mentioned he is attending Cienega project meetings with active parties. He also said he will be scheduling modeling scenarios development meetings and will be reviewing new DWR documents.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of August 15 and September 5, 2024, Special Board meeting.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

DBS&A	\$24,362.18
UWCD	11,711.20
Aleshire & Wynder LLP	1,855.70
County of Ventura IT Services	2,045.02
The Fillmore Gazette	162.00

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board received the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Motion to approve, Director Kimball; Second, Director Fornoff. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4A Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Work Plan and Schedule

Information

The Board received a presentation from staff on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Agency Work Plan and Schedule.

5. MOTION ITEMS

5A Budget Appropriation for Preparation of Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Motion

The Board approved budget appropriation of \$23,900 for work by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. for the preparation and submittal of the Agency's Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans that occurred in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; Second, Director Fornoff. Voice vote: 5 ayes

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(Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

5B Waiver of Late Fees and Interest for Sespe Agricultural Water Motion

The Board approved waiving late fees and interest for Sespe Agricultural Water for Well No. 03N20W05F01S for \$695.76.

Motion to approve, Director Fornoff; Second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

5C Chiquita Canyon Landfill Elevated Temperature Landfill Incident Status Motion

The Board received a presentation from staff regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Elevated Temperature Landfill Incident status and provided comments and direction.

6. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Well Permits Review Harvest at Limoneira Project

7. ADJOURNMENT

Director Long adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **October 24, 2024,** or call of the Chair.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Special Board of Directors meeting of September 26, 2024.

ATTEST:	
	Kelly Long, Chair, FPBGSA Board of Directors
ATTEST:	
	Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board

Check Detail Report

October-December, 2024

ACCOUNT	TRANSACTION ID	DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLEARED	AMOUNT
Citizens Business Bank								
	19755							
Citizens Business Bank	19755	10/31/2024	Check	11240	200-01431-01	Approved by Tone Emmert 09- 30-24	Uncleared	-\$130.41
Citizens Business Bank	19755	10/31/2024	Check	11240	200-01431-01	Refund of Overpayment for waved late fee		\$130.41
	19756							
Citizens Business Bank	19756	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11241	County of Ventura IT Services Department		Uncleared	-\$1,293.20
Citizens Business Bank	19756	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11241	County of Ventura IT Services Department			-\$1,293.20
	19757				·			
Citizens Business Bank	19757	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11242	United Water Conservation District		Uncleared	-\$24,792.58
Citizens Business Bank	19757	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11242	United Water Conservation District			-\$24,792.58
	19758							
Citizens Business Bank	19758	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11243	Aleshire & Wynder LLP		Uncleared	-\$4,295.10
Citizens Business Bank	19758 19759	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11243	Aleshire & Wynder LLP			-\$4,295.10
Citizens Business Bank	19759	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11244	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.		Uncleared	-\$2,458.50
Citizens Business Bank	19759	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11244	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.			-\$2,458.50
	19760							
Citizens Business Bank	19760	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11245	Stillwater Sciences Inc.		Uncleared	-\$10,556.12
Citizens Business Bank	19760	11/05/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11245	Stillwater Sciences Inc.			-\$10,556.12



ITEM NO. 3C Consent Item

DATE: November 5, 2024 (for November 07, 2024, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

VIA: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

FROM: United Water Conservation District Finance

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report

SUMMARY

The Board will receive the monthly financial reports for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

BACKGROUND

United Water Conservation District accounting staff has prepared financial reports based on the Agency revenue and expenses for the month of October 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS:

October 31, 2024, Profit and Loss Budget Performance

October 31, 2024, Balance Sheet

Budget vs. Actuals: FY_ 2024_2025 - FY25 P&L

July - October, 2024

JUL - SEP, 2024		OCT 2024		TOTAL	
ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	0.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00
4,387.95				\$4,387.95	\$0.00
4,387.95				\$4,387.95	\$0.00
\$4,387.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,387.95	\$0.00
\$4,387.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,387.95	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00
1,783.20	1,250.01	1,293.20	416.67	\$3,076.40	\$1,666.68
				\$0.00	\$0.00
22,539.43	21,908.33	1,349.00	0.00	\$23,888.43	\$21,908.33
				\$0.00	\$0.00
1,897.20	750.00		250.00	\$1,897.20	\$1,000.00
	7,500.00		2,500.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	9,249.99	535.55	3,083.33	\$535.55	\$12,333.32
	24,999.99	20,601.10	8,333.33	\$20,601.10	\$33,333.32
1,897.20	42,499.98	21,136.65	14,166.66	\$23,033.85	\$56,666.64
				\$0.00	\$0.00
	15,000.00	119.01	5,000.00	\$119.01	\$20,000.00
	15,000.00	119.01	5,000.00	\$119.01	\$20,000.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00
	24,999.99	1,352.28	8,333.33	\$1,352.28	\$33,333.32
	24,999.99	1,352.28	8,333.33	\$1,352.28	\$33,333.32
	·	·	•		\$0.00
	32,499.99	1,529.51	10.833.33	·	\$43,333.32
	32,499.99	1,529.51	10,833.33	\$1,529.51	\$43,333.32
				\$0.00	\$0.00
	8.750.01		2,916.67	·	\$11,666.68
	*		,	·	\$10,000.00
1.822.75	•	5.512.86		·	\$18,333.32
1,822.75	30,000.00	5,512.86	10,000.00	\$7,335.61	\$40,000.00
26,259.38	166,908.29	30,999.31	48,333.32	\$57,258.69	\$215,241.61
26,259.38	166,908.29	30,999.31	48,333.32	\$57,258.69	\$215,241.61
	6,249.99	2,020.83	2,083.33	\$2,020.83	\$8,333.32
			2,083.33	\$1,773.43	\$8,333.32
	*	•	*		\$16,666.68
				\$648.00	\$3,333.32
28,042.58	195,658.28			\$78,717.60	\$253,574.93
				\$0.00	\$0.00
1,855.70	7,500.00	4,295.10	2,500.00		\$10,000.00
1,855.70	7,500.00	4,295.10	2,500.00	\$6,150.80	\$10,000.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00
	249.99		83.33	\$0.00	\$333.32
35.95	249.99	2.75	83.33		\$333.32
	249.99	8.00	83.33	\$8.00	\$333.32
	125.01	125.83	41.67	\$125.83	\$166.68
35.95	874.98	136.58	291.66	\$172.53	\$1,166.64
	4,387.95 4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$1,783.20 22,539.43 1,897.20 1,897.20 1,822.75 1,822.75 26,259.38 26,259.38 28,042.58 1,855.70	ACTUAL BUDGET 0.00 4,387.95 4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 1,783.20 1,250.01 22,539.43 21,908.33 1,897.20 750.00 9,249.99 24,999.99 1,897.20 42,499.98 15,000.00 15,000.00 15,000.00 24,999.99 24,999.99 32,499.99 32,499.99 32,499.99 1,822.75 13,749.99 12,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00	ACTUAL BUDGET ACTUAL 0.00 4,387.95 4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$1,783.20 1,250.01 1,293.20 22,539.43 21,908.33 1,349.00 1,897.20 750.00 9,249.99 20,601.10 1,897.20 42,499.98 21,136.65 15,000.00 119.01 15,000.00 119.01 24,999.99 1,352.28 24,999.99 1,352.28 32,499.99 1,529.51 8,750.01 7,500.00 1,822.75 32,499.99 1,529.51 8,750.01 7,500.00 1,822.75 30,000.00 5,512.86 1,822.75 30,000.00 5,512.86 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 26,249.99 1,773.43 12,500.01 13,940.25 2,499.99 6,249.99 2,020.83 6,249.99 1,773.43 12,500.01 13,940.25 2,499.99 648.00 28,042.58 195,658.28 50,675.02 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10	ACTUAL BUDGET ACTUAL BUDGET 0.00 0.00 4,387.95 4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 1,783.20 1,250.01 1,293.20 416.67 22,539.43 21,908.33 1,349.00 0.00 1,897.20 750.00 250.00 9,249.99 535.55 3,083.33 24,999.99 20,601.10 8,333.33 1,897.20 42,499.98 21,136.65 14,166.66 15,000.00 119.01 5,000.00 15,000.00 119.01 5,000.00 24,999.99 1,352.28 8,333.33 24,999.99 1,352.28 8,333.33 24,999.99 1,352.28 8,333.33 32,499.99 1,529.51 10,833.33 32,499.99 1,529.51 10,833.33 32,499.99 1,529.51 10,833.33 1,822.75 30,000.00 5,512.86 4,583.33 1,822.75 30,000.00 5,512.86 10,000.00 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.32 26,259.38 166,908.29 30,999.31 48,333.33 28,042.58 195,658.28 50,675.02 57,916.65 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 2,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 2,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 2,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 2,500.00 1,855.70 7,500.00 4,295.10 2,500.00	ACTUAL BUDGET ACTUAL BUDGET ACTUAL 0.00 0.00 \$0.00 4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$4,387.95 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$250.00 \$1,897.20 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.499.99 \$0.55.5 3,083.33 \$535.55 \$0.90.99 \$0.601.10 \$0.333.33 \$20,601.10 \$1,897.20 \$24,999.98 \$21,36.65 \$14,166.66 \$23,033.85 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,897.

Budget vs. Actuals: FY_ 2024_2025 - FY25 P&L

July - October, 2024

	JUL - S	EP, 2024	OCT	2024	ТО	TAL
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Total Expenses	\$30,069.23	\$204,168.26	\$55,106.70	\$60,753.31	\$85,175.93	\$264,921.57
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -25,681.28	\$ -204,168.26	\$ -55,106.70	\$ -60,753.31	\$ -80,787.98	\$ -264,921.57
Other Expenses						
Depreciation	2,574.99	2,574.99	858.33	858.33	\$3,433.32	\$3,433.32
Total Other Expenses	\$2,574.99	\$2,574.99	\$858.33	\$858.33	\$3,433.32	\$3,433.32
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -2,574.99	\$ -2,574.99	\$ -858.33	\$ -858.33	\$ -3,433.32	\$ -3,433.32
NET INCOME	\$ -28,256.27	\$ -206,743.25	\$ -55,965.03	\$ -61,611.64	\$ -84,221.30	\$ -268,354.89

Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 Bank of the Sierra	486,990.91
10100 Citizens Business Bank	1,011,479.16
Total Bank Accounts	\$1,498,470.07
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	501,573.60
Total Accounts Receivable	\$501,573.60
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	5,781.50
12900 Clearing Account	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$5,781.50
Total Current Assets	\$2,005,825.17
Fixed Assets	
Fillmore Piru Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	515,000.00
Accumulated Depreciation - Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	-13,733.28
Total Fillmore Piru Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	501,266.72
Total Fixed Assets	\$501,266.72
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,507,091.89
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	43,395.50
Total Accounts Payable	\$43,395.50
Other Current Liabilities	
20001 Advance from County of Ventura	0.00
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Payable	0.00
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$43,395.50
Total Liabilities	\$43,395.50
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	515,000.00
, , ,	2,032,917.69
32000 Retained Earnings	2,002,017.00
	-84,221.30
32000 Retained Earnings	



Item No. 4A Information

DATE: November 4, 2024 (for November 7, 2024, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Termination of Executive Orders Requirement for Groundwater

Sustainability Agency Well Permit Reviews

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will receive a presentation from staff and legal counsel on the Governor's termination of the drought-related requirement for well permitting agencies to consult with groundwater sustainability agencies prior to the issuance of well permits.

DISCUSSION

On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 (attached) mandating certain actions in response to California's worsening drought conditions. Item 9 established actions that must be undertaken by the local well permitting agencies and the applicable groundwater sustainability agencies:

To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

- A. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium-or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
- B. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will

Termination of Executive Orders Requirement for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Well Permit Reviews

November 4, 2024

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exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

On February 13, 2023, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-3-23 (attached) that modified the requirements by including a third exemption category for replacement wells:

To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

- A. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
- B. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This Paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells (i) that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, (ii) that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or (iii) that are replacing existing, currently permitted wells with new wells that will produce an equivalent quantity of water as the well being replaced when the existing well is being replaced because it has been acquired by eminent domain or acquired while under threat of condemnation.

In response to these two Executive Orders, the County of Ventura (County), as the local well permitting agency, and the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) implemented the requirements, on a permit-by-permit basis. The Agency also worked to develop a well permit review policy and procedure that would provide clear directions to and equitable treatment of permittees.

Termination of Executive Orders Requirement for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Well Permit Reviews

November 4, 2024

Page 3 of 3

On September 5, 2024, Governor Newsom, in response to the end of drought conditions in much of the state, issued Executive Order N-3-24 (attached) that terminated the required actions for local well permitting agencies and local groundwater sustainability agencies to take prior to the issuance of well permits.

The following provisions of Executive Order N-3-23 are terminated:

- a. Paragraph 2; and
- b. Paragraphs 4-5, except to the extent that Paragraph 4 withdraws Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22.

The Agency's Legal Counsel coordinated with County Counsel to confirm the termination of the requirements. Agency staff also coordinated with County staff to determine the updated process. County staff will inform the Agency of all well permit applications in the Fillmore subbasin and the Piru subbasin.

Staff recommends that the Agency pause efforts to develop a well permit review policy and procedure. Staff also recommends that the Agency revisit the need for well permit reviews during its groundwater sustainability plans update process.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Executive Order N-7-22

Attachment 2 – Executive Order N-3-23

Attachment 3 – Executive Order N-3-24

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

WHEREAS on April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all the counties of California, due to extreme and expanding drought conditions; and

WHEREAS climate change continues to intensify the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a third consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in continuing drought in all parts of the State; and

WHEREAS the 21st century to date has been characterized by record warmth and predominantly dry conditions, and the 2021 meteorological summer in California and the rest of the western United States was the hottest on record; and

whereas since my October 19, 2021 Proclamation, early rains in October and December 2021 gave way to the driest January and February in recorded history for the watersheds that provide much of California's water supply; and

WHEREAS the ongoing drought will have significant, immediate impacts on communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

WHEREAS the two largest reservoirs of the Central Valley Project, which supplies water to farms and communities in the Central Valley and the Santa Clara Valley and provides critical cold-water habitat for salmon and other anadromous fish, have water storage levels that are approximately 1.1 million acre-feet below last year's low levels on this date; and

WHEREAS the record-breaking dry period in January and February and the absence of significant rains in March have required the Department of Water Resources to reduce anticipated deliveries from the State Water Project to 5 percent of requested supplies; and

WHEREAS delivery of water by bottle or truck is necessary to protect human safety and public health in those places where water supplies are disrupted; and

WHEREAS groundwater use accounts for 41 percent of the State's total water supply on an average annual basis but as much as 58 percent in a critically dry year, and approximately 85 percent of public water systems rely on groundwater as their primary supply; and

WHEREAS coordination between local entities that approve permits for new groundwater wells and local groundwater sustainability agencies is important to achieving sustainable levels of groundwater in critically overdrafted basins; and

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WHEREAS the duration of the drought, especially following a multiyear drought that abated only five years ago, underscores the need for California to redouble near-, medium-, and long-term efforts to adapt its water management and delivery systems to a changing climate, shifting precipitation patterns, and water scarcity; and

WHEREAS the most consequential, immediate action Californians can take to extend available supplies is to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels by implementing the commonsense measures identified in operative paragraph 1 of Executive Order N-10-21 (July 8, 2021); and

WHEREAS to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, and under Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- The orders and provisions contained in my April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021 Proclamations remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations and herein. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and accelerate implementation where feasible.
- 2. To help the State achieve its conservation goals and ensure sufficient water for essential indoor and outdoor use, I call on all Californians to strive to limit summertime water use and to use water more efficiently indoors and out. The statewide Save Our Water conservation campaign at SaveOurWater.com provides simple ways for Californians to reduce water use in their everyday lives. Furthermore, I encourage Californians to understand and track the amount of water they use and measure their progress toward their conservation goals.
- 3. By May 25, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall consider adopting emergency regulations that include all of the following:
 - a. A requirement that each urban water supplier, as defined in section 10617 of the Water Code, shall submit to the Department of Water Resources a preliminary annual water supply and demand assessment consistent with section 10632.1 of the Water Code no later than June 1, 2022, and submit a final annual water

supply and demand assessment to the Department of Water Resources no later than the deadline set by section 10632.1 of the Water Code;

- b. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, the shortage response actions adopted under section 10632 of the Water Code for a shortage level of up to twenty percent (Level 2), by a date to be set by the Water Board; and
- c. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has not submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, shortage response actions established by the Water Board, which shall take into consideration model actions that the Department of Water Resources shall develop for urban water supplier water shortage contingency planning for Level 2, by a date to be set by the Water Board.

To further conserve water and improve drought resiliency if the drought lasts beyond this year, I encourage urban water suppliers to conserve more than required by the emergency regulations described in this paragraph and to voluntarily activate more stringent local requirements based on a shortage level of up to thirty percent (Level 3).

- 4. To promote water conservation, the Department of Water Resources shall consult with leaders in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors to develop strategies for improving water conservation, including direct technical assistance, financial assistance, and other approaches. By May 25, 2022, the Water Board shall consider adopting emergency regulations defining "non-functional turf" (that is, a definition of turf that is ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreation purposes such as school fields, sports fields, and parks) and banning irrigation of non-functional turf in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors except as it may be required to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings.
- 5. In order to maximize the efficient use of water and to preserve water supplies critical to human health and safety and the environment, Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended, with respect to the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order and any other projects and activities for the purpose of water conservation to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought, and any permits necessary to carry out such projects or activities. Entities that desire to conduct activities under this suspension, other than the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order, shall first request that the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension. The Secretary shall use sound discretion in applying this Executive Order to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating conservation projects that are necessary to address impacts of the drought, while at the same time

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- protecting public health and the environment. The entities implementing these directives or conducting activities under this suspension shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.
- 6. To support voluntary approaches to improve fish habitat that would require change petitions under Water Code section 1707 and either Water Code sections 1425 through 1432 or Water Code sections 1725 through 1732, and where the primary purpose is to improve conditions for fish, the Water Board shall expeditiously consider petitions that add a fish and wildlife beneficial use or point of diversion and place of storage to improve conditions for anadromous fish. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1064, subdivisions (a)(1)(A)(i)-(ii) are suspended with respect to any petition that is subject to this paragraph.
- 7. To facilitate the hauling of water for domestic use by local communities and domestic water users threatened with the loss of water supply or degraded water quality resulting from drought, any ordinance, regulation, prohibition, policy, or requirement of any kind adopted by a public agency that prohibits the hauling of water out of the water's basin of origin or a public agency's jurisdiction is hereby suspended. The suspension authorized pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to the hauling of water by truck or bottle to be used for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation in communities or residences threatened with the loss of affordable safe drinking water. Nothing in this paragraph limits any public health or safety requirement to ensure the safety of hauled water.
- 8. The Water Board shall expand inspections to determine whether illegal diversions or wasteful or unreasonable use of water are occurring and bring enforcement actions against illegal diverters and those engaging in the wasteful and unreasonable use of water. When access is not granted by a property owner, the Water Board may obtain an inspection warrant pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 13 (commencing with section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the purposes of conducting an inspection pursuant to this directive.
- 9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

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a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

- 10. To address household or small community drinking water shortages dependent upon groundwater wells that have failed due to drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall work with other state agencies to investigate expedited regulatory pathways to modify, repair, or reconstruct failed household or small community or public supply wells, while recognizing the need to ensure the sustainability of such wells as provided for in paragraph 9.
- 11. State agencies shall collaborate with tribes and federal, regional, and local agencies on actions related to promoting groundwater recharge and increasing storage.
- 12. To help advance groundwater recharge projects, and to demonstrate the feasibility of projects that can use available high water flows to recharge local groundwater while minimizing flood risks, the Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards shall prioritize water right permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water right priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. For the purposes of carrying out this paragraph, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, and Chapter 3 (commencing with section 85225) of Part 3 of Division 35 of the Water Code and regulations adopted pursuant thereto are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. This suspension applies to (a) any actions taken by state agencies, (b) any actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for the implementation of the directives concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b). The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.
- 13. With respect to recharge projects under either Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge or the Department of Water Resources Sustainable

Groundwater Management Grant Program occurring on open and working lands to replenish and store water in groundwater basins that will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, for any (a) actions taken by state agencies, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Department of Water Resources concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

- 14. To increase resilience of state water supplies during prolonged drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall prepare for the potential creation and implementation of a multi-year transfer program pilot project for the purpose of acquiring water from willing partners and storing and conveying water to areas of need.
- 15. By April 15, 2022, state agencies shall submit to the Department of Finance for my consideration proposals to mitigate the worsening effects of severe drought, including emergency assistance to communities and households and others facing water shortages as a result of the drought, facilitation of groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protection of fish and wildlife, mitigation of drought-related economic or water-supply disruption, and other potential investments to support short- and long-term drought response.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of March 2022.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D. Secretary of State

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-3-23

WHEREAS on April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed States of Emergency due to drought conditions that continue today and exist across California; and

WHEREAS climate change continues to intensify the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and these impacts continue to affect groundwater basins, local water supplies, and ecosystems, resulting in continuing drought in the State; and

WHEREAS the ongoing drought continues to have significant, immediate impacts on communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

WHEREAS early, substantial rains in October and December 2021 gave way to the driest January-February-March period in over 100 years in California, leading the October 2021 to September 2022 water year to end with statewide precipitation at 76 percent of average, with statewide reservoir storage at 69 percent of average, and with Lake Oroville—the State Water Project's largest reservoir—at 64 percent of average; and

WHEREAS in January 2023, the State experienced one of the wettest three-week periods on record, yielding a snowpack that was at 205 percent of average on February 1, 2023, yet to date February has been drier than average; and

WHEREAS the current snowpack has not reduced stresses upon the State's water resources, including low storage levels, depleted aquifers, and diminished local water supplies; and

WHEREAS the State can expect continued swings between extreme wet and extreme dry periods that can present risks of severe flooding and extreme drought in the same year; and

WHEREAS California must adapt to a hotter, drier future in which a greater share of rain and snowfall during the wetter months will be absorbed by dry soils, consumed by plants, and evaporated into the air, leaving less water for communities, species, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS the frequency of hydrologic extremes experienced in the State is indicative of an overarching need to continually reexamine policies to promote resiliency in a changing climate; and

WHEREAS Californians continue to make progress conserving water, with urban water users conserving 17.1 percent statewide in December 2022 compared to December 2020 and agricultural producers continuing to invest in more efficient irrigation; and

WHEREAS despite this progress, the uncertainty of precipitation during the remainder of the winter and spring, and the potential of dry conditions next

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winter and of drought conditions extending to a fifth year, make it necessary for the State to continue water-conservation measures and drought-resilience actions to extend available supplies, protect water reserves, and maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS as directed in "California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future," the State plans to stretch water supplies by storing, recycling, de-salting, and conserving the water it will need to keep up with the increasing pace of climate change; and

WHEREAS multiple regions of the State, such as the Klamath Basin and the Colorado River system, face severe water shortage conditions, and groundwater basins in the Central Valley continue to be depleted from years of drought and overdraft; and

WHEREAS groundwater use accounts for 41 percent of the State's total water supply on an average annual basis but as much as 58 percent in a critically dry year, and approximately 85 percent of public water systems rely on groundwater as their primary supply; and

WHEREAS capturing and storing storm and snowpack runoff underground to recharge aquifers is an important strategy to help regions stabilize water supplies in the face of hydrologic extremes; and

WHEREAS state agencies have created streamlined permitting pathways to enable groundwater recharge that augments natural aquifer recharge, while protecting the environment and other water users, but more opportunities exist to facilitate groundwater recharge; and

WHEREAS coordination between local entities that approve permits for new groundwater wells and local groundwater sustainability agencies is important to achieving sustainable levels of groundwater in critically overdrafted basins; and

WHEREAS to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, and under Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The orders and provisions contained in my State of Emergency Proclamations dated April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, and Executive Orders N-10-21 (July 8, 2021) and N-7-22 (March 28, 2022), remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those proclamations and orders and herein. State agencies shall

- continue to implement all directions from those proclamations and orders and accelerate implementation where feasible.
- 2. To maximize the extent to which winter precipitation recharges underground aquifers, the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall continue to collaborate on expediting permitting of recharge projects and shall work with local water districts to facilitate recharge projects.
- 3. Paragraph 4 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated May 10, 2021 and Paragraph 4 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated July 8, 2021 are withdrawn, and each is replaced with the following text:

To ensure adequate water supplies for purposes of health, safety, the environment, or drought resilient water supplies, the Water Board shall consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations in Central Valley Project or State Water Project facilities to: (i) conserve water upstream later in the year in order to protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead, (ii) enhance instream conditions for fish and wildlife, (iii) improve water quality, (iv) protect carry-over storage, (v) ensure minimum health and safety water supplies, or (vi) provide opportunities to maintain or to expand water supplies north and south of the Delta. The Water Board shall require monitoring and evaluation of any such changes to inform future actions. For any actions taken pursuant to this paragraph and any approvals granted in furtherance of this paragraph, Water Code Section 13247 and Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended. Nothing in this Paragraph affects or limits the validity of actions already taken or ongoing under Paragraph 4 of my May 10, 2021 Proclamation or Paragraph 4 of my July 8, 2021 Proclamation.

4. Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 is withdrawn and replaced with the following text:

To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable
Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

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b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This Paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells (i) that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, (ii) that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or (iii) that are replacing existing, currently permitted wells with new wells that will produce an equivalent quantity of water as the well being replaced when the existing well is being replaced because it has been acquired by eminent domain or acquired while under threat of condemnation.

5. No later than April 28, 2023, state agencies shall send me their recommendations for what further actions, if any, are necessary for ongoing emergency drought response, and their views on whether any existing provisions in my proclamations and executive orders related to the drought emergency are no longer needed to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 13th day of February 2023.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D. Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-3-24

WHEREAS on April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed States of Emergency to exist across all counties in the State due to drought conditions; and

WHEREAS the drought emergency has required a dynamic and flexible response from the State, and several provisions in my prior Proclamations and Orders have already been terminated or superseded; and

WHEREAS drought conditions have improved substantially, and lingering effects of the drought have largely abated in several areas of the California coast, Southern California, and the eastern Sierra Nevada; and

WHEREAS today I have therefore terminated the drought State of Emergency in the Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura; and

WHEREAS the multi-year nature of this drought, which began three years after the record-setting drought of 2012-2016, continues to have ongoing, significant impacts on the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins, the Tulare Lake basin, the Scott, Shasta, and Klamath River watersheds, and the Clear Lake watershed, which include many communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

WHEREAS improved conditions have helped rehabilitate surface water supplies, but have not eliminated the effects of the drought that remain in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins, the Tulare Lake basin, the Scott, Shasta, and Klamath River watersheds, and the Clear Lake watershed, and many groundwater basins remain depleted from overreliance and successive multi-year droughts; and

WHEREAS continued action by the State is needed to address ongoing consequences of the drought emergency in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins and the Klamath River and Clear Lake watersheds, including groundwater supply shortages, domestic well failures, and drought-related harm to native fishes; and

WHEREAS improved conditions even in the counties where the drought State of Emergency remains in effect warrant a more targeted State response, and certain provisions in my prior Proclamations and Orders provide authority that is no longer needed to mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, or direct actions by state agencies, departments, and boards that have already been completed; and

WHEREAS notwithstanding the rescission of certain emergency authorities for emergency drinking water action, state agencies have existing legal authority and funding to continue expedited work to advance the human right to water, and state agencies will continue all ongoing drought resilience

planning work, including through coordination with local agencies and tribes; and

WHEREAS the coming winter's hydrology is uncertain and the most efficient way to preserve the State's improved surface water supplies is for Californians to continue their ongoing efforts to make conservation a way of life; and

WHEREAS on March 1, March 8, March 12, March 14, March 28, April 20, May 15, and June 16, 2023, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in 53 counties, cumulatively, as a result of a series of winter storms that initially struck California beginning in late February 2023; and

WHEREAS on March 31, 2023, and May 17, 2023, respectively, I issued Executive Orders N-6-23 and N-7-23 to further bolster the emergency response to the 2023 Late Winter Storms, particularly in the Tulare Lake Basin; and

WHEREAS improved conditions in the Tulare Lake Basin and other regions affected by the 2023 Late Winter Storms warrant a more targeted emergency response to the effects of those storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The orders and provisions contained in my State of Emergency Proclamations dated April 21, 2021; May 10, 2021; July 8, 2021; October 19, 2021; March 1, 2023; March 8, 2023; March 12, 2023; March 14, 2023; March 28, 2023; April 20, 2023; and May 15, 2023, and Executive Orders N-10-21 (July 8, 2021), N-7-22 (March 28, 2022), N-3-23 (February 13, 2023), N-4-23 (March 10, 2023), N-6-23 (March 31, 2023), and N-7-23 (May 17, 2023), remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations and Orders, Executive Order N-5-23, my Proclamation Terminating the Drought States of Emergency in 19 counties dated today, and this Order. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and Orders and accelerate implementation where feasible.
- 2. The following provisions of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated May 10, 2021, are terminated:
 - a. Paragraph 8; and
 - b. Paragraphs 11-13.
- 3. The following provisions of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated October 19, 2021, are terminated:
 - a. Paragraphs 6-7;
 - b. Paragraph 9; and
 - c. Paragraph 12.

- 4. The following provision of Executive Order N-10-21 is terminated:
 - a. Paragraph 2.
- 5. The following provisions of Executive Order N-7-22 are terminated:
 - a. Paragraph 4;
 - b. Paragraphs 7–8; and
 - c. Paragraph 10.
- 6. The following provisions of Executive Order N-3-23 are terminated:
 - a. Paragraph 2; and
 - b. Paragraphs 4–5, except to the extent that Paragraph 4 withdraws Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22.
- 7. The following provisions of Executive Order N-4-23 are terminated:
 - a. Paragraphs 2–7.
- 8. The following provisions of Executive Order N-6-23 are terminated:
 - a. Paragraphs 7–10.
- 9. The following provisions of Executive Order N-7-23 are terminated:
 - a. Paragraphs 2–11, except to the extent that they withdraw provisions of prior Executive Orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 5th day of September 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY IV. WEBER, PH.D. Secretary of State

