



August 22, 2017

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Michelle Greene

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101

RE: Goleta Groundwater Basin Fringe Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation, File #: 17-00603

Dear Chair Hartmann and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The City of Goleta wishes to offer comments concerning the County's proposal to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for non-adjudicated areas of the Goleta Groundwater Basin, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The County's staff report for this item acknowledges that "[t]he only other entity besides the Water Agency that is eligible to form a GSA is the City of Goleta," and notes that the City "has expressed no interest in forming, or being a part of, a GSA."

While the Goleta Water District took action in June disclaiming interest in forming a GSA, the City of Goleta was made aware of this issue only recently and has not yet taken a position. The City acknowledges the County's need to act now under the SGMA to create a GSA within the statutory timeframe. However, the City is interested in exploring the possibility of either joining the County's GSA in the future after consultation with the County or, alternatively, forming a separate GSA for those portions of the GSA within the City's jurisdiction.

The City of Goleta looks forward to working with County staff to discuss available options to ensure that the interests of Goleta residents and water users are adequately represented in the management of the Goleta Groundwater Basin.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Michelle Greene
City Manager

cc: Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager, California Department of Water Resources
John McInnes, General Manager, Goleta Water District