



April 8, 2015

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236

Re: Notice of Intent to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)  
and to Prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North Westside Basin

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), a municipal utility provider established as a City department under the charter of the City and County of San Francisco, hereby notifies the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) of its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management of the seven groundwater basins that underlie the City and County of San Francisco. The SFPUC intends to manage the following groundwater basins:

- Downtown San Francisco (DWR Basin No. 2-40)
- Marina (DWR Basin No. 2-39)
- Lobos (DWR Basin No. 2-38)
- South San Francisco (DWR Basin No. 2-37)
- Westside (DWR Basin No. 2-35 – northern portion within City)
- Islais Valley (DWR Basin No. 2-33 – northern portion within City)
- Visitation Valley (DWR Basin No. 2-32 – northern portion within City)

The boundaries of the basins are as identified in Bulletin 118, Update 2003. All of the basins are classified by DWR as very low priority basins under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The service area boundary encompassed by the seven basins is the SFPUC's retail water service area within the City and County of San Francisco. There are no other GSAs operating within the groundwater basins listed above.

After a March 10, 2015 public hearing held in accordance with Water Code Section 10723(b), the SFPUC adopted the attached Resolution No. 15-0070 establishing the SFPUC as the GSA for the seven groundwater basins described above. GIS shapefiles for the seven groundwater basins and their service area are provided on the enclosed CD. No new bylaws, ordinances, or other authorities were adopted in conjunction with the establishment of the GSA.

**Edwin M. Lee**  
Mayor

**Ann Moller Caen**  
President

**Francesca Vietor**  
Vice President

**Vince Courtney**  
Commissioner

**Anson Moran**  
Commissioner

**Ike Kwon**  
Commissioner

**Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**  
General Manager



In accordance with Water Code Section 10723.2, the SFPUC will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within its management areas. In accordance with Water Code Section 10723.4, a list of interested parties has been established and will be maintained. Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), these parties' interests will be considered in the operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) as follows:

The SFPUC and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) will continue to work together to protect groundwater quality in San Francisco and to enforce the Soil Boring and Well Regulations contained in Article 12B of the San Francisco Health Code. The SFPUC will work with the San Francisco Planning Department to implement wellhead protection areas through the zoning and building permitting processes.

The SFPUC will continue to work cooperatively with agencies and water providers in the southern portion of the Westside Basin, in northern San Mateo County, including the City of Daly City, the City of San Bruno, and California Water Service Company concerning groundwater projects in the Westside Basin, including the ongoing groundwater monitoring program, updates to the existing basin-wide groundwater flow model, and the Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, a conjunctive use project approved by the SFPUC in Resolution No. 14-0127 on August 12, 2014.

The composition of the GSA for the South Westside Basin has not yet been determined. Upon establishment of a GSA for the South Westside Basin, the SFPUC will enter into coordination agreements, as defined in Water Code Section 10721(d), with the individual agencies and water providers to ensure the coordinated implementation of GSPs for the entire Westside Basin. The agreements will be consistent with the Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project Operating Agreement among the SFPUC, California Water Service Company, and the cities of San Bruno and Daly City.

The SFPUC will also continue to work with other groundwater pumpers in the North Westside Basin, including the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) and the San Francisco Golf Club, to ensure sustainable use and management of groundwater resources.

Representatives from the San Francisco Green Party and the Tuolumne River Trust provided comments at the March 10, 2015 public hearing and have been added to the SFPUC's list of parties who are interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. The SFPUC will continue to engage with interested environmental stakeholders regarding the coordinated management of the Westside Basin and Lake Merced.



Representatives from the City of Daly City, City of San Bruno, California Water Service Company, SFDPH, SFRPD, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and DWR are members of a Technical Advisory Committee that will advise the SFPUC during the preparation and implementation of the GSP for the North Westside Groundwater Basin. Representatives from San Mateo County will additionally advise the SFPUC on groundwater management issues in the Islais Valley and Visitacion Valley Groundwater Basins that straddle the San Francisco – San Mateo county boundary.

On March 10, 2015, the SFPUC approved Resolution No. 15-0071, which directed SFPUC staff to prepare a GSP for the North Westside Groundwater Basin. A copy of the resolution is attached. Public notices published prior to the March 10, 2015 public hearing provided information regarding how interested parties can participate in the development and implementation of the GSP, in accordance with Water Code Section 10727.8. In addition, the SFPUC's groundwater website ([www.sfwater.org/groundwater](http://www.sfwater.org/groundwater)) provides information on how to participate in the process.

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10727.8, a written statement regarding how interested parties can participate in the development and implementation of the GSP has been provided to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

If you require further information regarding these matters or have any questions, please contact Carolyn Cooper of my staff at 415.554.2496 or [ccoop@sfwater.org](mailto:ccoop@sfwater.org).

Sincerely,



Steven R. Ritchie  
Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise

cc: Patrick Sweetland, City of Daly City  
Ray Razavi, City of San Bruno  
Tom Salzano, California Water Service Company

Attachments: SFPUC Resolution No. 15-0070  
SFPUC Resolution No. 15-0071

Enclosure: 1 CD

# **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 15-0070

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720; and

WHEREAS, The legislative intent of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Sections 10725 and 10726 detail additional new powers and authorities granted to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to implement sustainable groundwater management in the basins under their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723(a) authorizes any local agency overlying a groundwater basin to establish itself as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for that basin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10721(j) defines a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as one or more local agencies that implement the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is the local agency with exclusive water supply and water management responsibilities within the City and County of San Francisco under Charter section 8B.121; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco overlies seven groundwater basins: the Downtown, Marina, Lobos, and South San Francisco Groundwater Basins, and the northern portions of the Westside, Islais Valley, and Visitacion Valley Groundwater Basins; and

WHEREAS, Establishing the SFPUC as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will enable the SFPUC to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North Westside Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "project" under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) including organizational and administrative activities of government because there would be no direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and

WHEREAS, Prior to adopting a resolution of intent to establish the SFPUC as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Water Code Section 10723 requires a local agency to hold a public hearing, after publication of notice pursuant to California Government Code Section 6066, on whether or not to adopt a resolution to establish a Groundwater Sustainability Agency; and

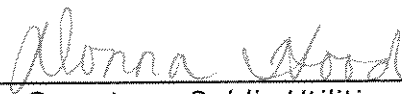
WHEREAS, Pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, notices of a public hearing on whether or not to adopt a resolution to establish a Groundwater Sustainability Agency were published on February 23, 2015 and March 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2015, this Commission held a public hearing regarding adoption of a resolution to establish the SFPUC as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Downtown, Marina, Lobos, and South San Francisco Groundwater Basins in San Francisco, and the northern portions of the Westside, Islais Valley, and Visitacion Valley Groundwater Basins in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Commission establishes the SFPUC as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Downtown, Marina, Lobos, and South San Francisco Groundwater Basins in San Francisco, as well as the northern portions of the Westside, Islais Valley, and Visitacion Valley Groundwater Basins in San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission authorizes the General Manager or his designee to provide a copy of this resolution to the California Department of Water Resources within 30 days and to otherwise comply with the requirements of Water Code Section 10723.8(a).

*I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of March 10, 2015.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alonna Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Public Utilities Commission

# **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 15-0071

WHEREAS, On January 14, 2014, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission adopted Resolution No. 14-0010 approving the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project, which contemplates the sustainable operation of the North Westside Groundwater Basin in San Francisco for domestic and municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, On January 28, 2014, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission adopted Resolution No. 14-0026, directing staff to prepare a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) for the North Westside Basin in accordance with California Water Code Sections 10750 *et seq*; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10720.7(b) encourages and authorizes basins designated by DWR as low and very low priority, such as the North Westside Basin, to be managed under Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs); and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10727 outlines the requirements for preparation of GSPs, which are inclusive of the requirements for GMPs in Water Code Section 10750 *et seq*, and contain additional requirements regarding measurable objectives and interim milestones to achieve sustainability goals for the basin; and

WHEREAS, the GSP for the North Westside Basin will encompass and supersede the GMP for the North Westside Basin that SFPUC staff started in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The preparation and adoption of GSPs is exempt from environmental review under California Water Code § 10728.6. Once a Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been prepared and adopted by this Commission, approval of projects to implement the GSP would be subject to compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Final EIR for Project Number CUW30103 Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project was certified by the San Francisco Planning Commission on August 7, 2014. This Commission approved Project No. CUW30103 and adopted CEQA findings on August 12, 2014 under Resolution No. 14-0127; and

WHEREAS, although the Westside Basin has been designated by DWR as a single basin, it has been divided administratively on the San Francisco County/San Mateo County border;

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10727.6 requires coordination with other agencies within a groundwater basin to ensure that plans utilize the same data and methodologies; and

WHEREAS, SFPUC will enter into coordination agreements with the agencies in the South Westside Basin, including the City of Daly City, California Water Service Company of California, and the City of San Bruno (Partner Agencies), to ensure the coordinated

implementation of the GSPs for the entire Westside Basin, consistent with the Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project Operating Agreement approved by the Commission in Resolution No. 14-0127 adopted August 12, 2014; and

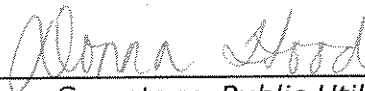
WHEREAS, SFPUC will also coordinate with other groundwater pumpers in the North Westside Basin, including the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and the San Francisco Golf Club; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2015, this Commission passed a resolution affirming SFPUC's commitment to sustainable management of its groundwater resources and establishing the SFPUC as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for all seven groundwater basins underlying the City and County of San Francisco, including the North Westside Basin; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Commission intends to draft a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North Westside Basin; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission directs staff to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North Westside Basin in accordance with California Water Code Sections 10720 *et seq* and to return to this Commission for consideration of adoption of the plan.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of March 10, 2015.*



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Secretary, Public Utilities Commission