

Resolution 2016-02

A Resolution of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Approving Submittal to the Department of Water Resources of a Report
Supporting Alternative Demonstration Pursuant to Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3)

Whereas, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (“OBGMA”) was established in 1991 pursuant to a special act of the California legislature, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act (SB 534, October 1991); and

Whereas, the OBGMA is one of fifteen (15) special act districts created by statute to manage groundwater within its statutory boundaries; and

Whereas, pursuant to its enabling legislation, the OBGMA has worked to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Groundwater Basin for sustainable long-term use since the Agency’s establishment in 1991; and

Whereas, as a result of the Agency’s management efforts, in combination with other factors, long-term average annual extractions from the Ojai Basin remain in balance with long-term average annual replenishment; and

Whereas, in 2014 Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code § 10720 et. seq.); and

Whereas, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”) requires that all groundwater basins in California be managed sustainably (Water Code § 10720.1(a)); and

Whereas, SGMA identifies OBGMA as the “exclusive local agency” within its statutory boundaries for purposes of implementing the requirements of SGMA (Water Code § 10723(c)(1)); and

Whereas, SGMA affords OBGMA the opportunity to demonstrate to the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) that the Ojai Basin is already being sustainably managed as an alternative to and in lieu of preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Water Code §§ 10723(c)(3); 10733.6(b)(3)); and

Whereas, Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3) requires an analysis of Ojai Basin conditions that demonstrates the Basin has operated within its “sustainable yield” over a period of at least 10 years; and

Whereas, the analysis must include a report prepared by a registered professional engineer or geologist who is licensed by the state (Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3)); and

Whereas, OBGMA has sanctioned preparation of a report by a state licensed hydrogeologist entitled “Report Supporting Alternative Demonstration Pursuant to Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3)” which demonstrates that the Basin has operated within its “sustainable yield” for a period of more than 10 years; and

Whereas, OBGMA finds and confirms that the Report Supporting Alternative Demonstration Pursuant to Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3) is based on empirical data and sound scientific facts, and that it meets the requirements of SGMA; and

Whereas, submittal of the Report Supporting Alternative Demonstration Pursuant to Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3) to DWR for evaluation and approval will allow OBGMA to focus its limited resources on existing and planned future Basin management actions, while avoiding the expensive, time consuming, and unnecessary process of having to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Now, therefore be it resolved, the OBGMA approved on December 8, 2016, the Report Supporting Alternative Demonstration Pursuant to Water Code § 10733.6(b)(3) for submittal to DWR consistent with the requirements of SGMA and DWR regulations Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2, commencing with Section 350 et. seq.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this December 16, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: *Conrow, Essick, Baggerly, Moore*

NOES: *Weirick*

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SIGNED: *Jerry L. Conrow*
Jerry L. Conrow, President

ATTEST: *Cece VanDerMeer*
Cece VanDerMeer, Secretary