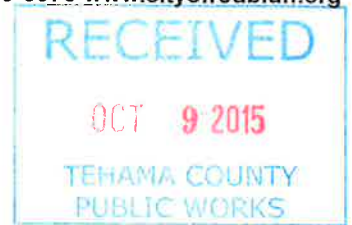




# CITY OF RED BLUFF

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October 7, 2015

Tehama County Public Works  
Attention: Gary Antone  
9380 San Benito Avenue  
Gerber, CA 96035-9701

RE: County GSA Proposal

Dear Gary:

At its meeting of October 6, 2015, the Red Bluff City Council voted to support designation of the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FCWCD) as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for Tehama County. "Funding, resources, and staffing will be the primary responsibility of FCWCD" as the GSA is created and a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is drafted and implemented. (See, 9-29-2015 FCWCD presentation to Red Bluff City Council). Nevertheless, the City will remain actively engaged on this issue to assure that the City's needs and concerns are carefully considered by the FCWCD moving forward. Please provide the undersigned with written advance notice of all meetings of the FCWCD Board, as well as copies of all agendas and back up materials.

## Background

The City of Red Bluff is the largest supplier of domestic groundwater in Tehama County. The City supplies water to 4,756 different metered water connections, serving a population of 15,000 residents. The City operates a network of 13 municipal water wells.

The City Water Department was established in 1921 and employs 7 full-time employees (not including management and administrative staff). The Water Department's operating budget for 2015/2016 is approximately \$2.1 million. The City extracts, pumps and delivers 1,178,953,000 gallons of groundwater per year.

The City routinely collects data regarding all aspects of the City's water supply and use thereof including water quality monitoring. The City brings the resources of the largest domestic water supplier in the County to the table as an active, participating member of the GSA.

## **GSA Requirements**

“Any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.” (Water Code § 10723(a).) A GSA “*shall* consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include [ ] all of the following: [ ] (b) Municipal well operators. (c) Public water systems. (d) Local land use planning agencies. [ ]” (§10723.2)

A notification of intent to form a GSA must include a list of interested parties including municipal well operators, public water systems and local land use planning agencies and “an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the groundwater sustainability agency and the development and implementation of the agency’s sustainability plan.” (§10723.8(a)(4).) A combination of local agencies may form a groundwater sustainability agency through use of a joint powers agreement or other legal agreement. (§10723.6(a))

The statutory mandate makes clear that the City’s interests as the largest supplier of domestic groundwater in the County must be considered. In fact, the notice of intent to form a GSA must explain how the City’s interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA.

## **Conclusion**

The City looks forward to working cooperatively with the FCWCD to implement the requirements of the Groundwater Sustainability Act.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me or Bruce Henz.

Very truly yours,



Richard L. Crabtree

cc: City Council  
Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel