



**CITY OF SALINAS
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

DATE: August 29, 2107

FROM: Gary Petersen, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS ON THE SALINAS VALLEY BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (“SVBGSA”)**

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the Salinas City Council approve a Resolution appointing the Mayor and alternate and a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulated water company and alternate to serve as board members on the newly formed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) board of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”).

DISCUSSION:

In the fall of 2014, the California legislature adopted, and the Governor signed into law, three bills (SB 1168, AB 1739, and SB 1319) collectively referred to as the “Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“SGMA”) that initially became effective on January 1, 2015, and are amended from time-to-time thereafter. The stated purpose of SGMA, as set forth in California Water Code section 10720.1, is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins at a local level by providing local groundwater agencies with the authority, and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater.

SGMA requires the designation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) for the purpose of achieving groundwater sustainability through the adoption and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) for all medium and high priority basins as designated by the California Department of Water Resources. SGMA also requires that basins have a designated GSA by no later than June 30, 2017.

Following extensive negotiations over a fourteen-month period a twenty-five-member stakeholder team developed a JPA agreement and governance model that was agreed to by your council on December 13, 2016. In accordance with the JPA the City of Salinas has responsibility for appointing a representative seat and an alternate to represent the City on the JPA Board. The agreement also designates the City of Salinas as the appointing authority for the CPUC regulated water company representative and alternate to serve on the JPA Board. It is important to note that the City of Salinas does not select the CPUC representative as that is accomplished by the water companies themselves.

In February of this year staff worked with the Mayor and City Manager to determine that Mayor Joe Gunter would be the interim representative the City on the board, with Councilmember Kimbley Craig serving as the alternate. In terms of the CPUC regulated water companies the two eligible companies that include California Water Service Company and Alisal Water Corporation, requested that the City

Council appoint a representative from California Water Service Company as interim CPUC water company representative and Alisal Water Corporation as the interim alternate.

ISSUE:

Should the City Council approve a resolution appointing the Mayor of the City of Salinas as SVBGSA JPA Board representative with Councilmember Kimbley Craig as alternate, and appoint a representative from California Water Service Company as CPUC water company representative and Alisal Water Corporation as the alternate?

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with these appointments.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Making these appointments will allow the formation of the JPA to take place in a timely manner which is important as a failure to implement a JPA before June 2017, could result in the State of California taking control of the Salinas Ground Water Basin.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

The Council may choose to reject to this request. This is not recommended as it could result in the City abdicating responsibility for its management of groundwater extraction adversely impacting our water supply.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

The proposal is consistent with one of the City Council 2013-2016 Five Strategic Goals and Objectives associated with Economic Diversity and Prosperity and excellent infrastructure.

CONCLUSIONS:

At its August 29th, 2017, meeting, the City Council is being asked to adopt a resolution making appointments to the SVBGSA JPA Board that will support the establishment of the SVBGSA.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution