

## HERITAGE RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Scott Duffield, General Manager  
SGMA Committee (Cousineau, Barker)

**DATE:** April 19, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Request to approve exploration of a basin boundary modification request and preparation and submittal to the California Department of Water Resources an initial notification of intent to submit a basin boundary modification request pursuant to 23 California Code of Regulations Section 343.9.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve exploration of a basin boundary modification request and direct staff to prepare and submit to the California Department of Water Resources an initial notification of intent to submit a basin boundary modification request pursuant to 23 California Code of Regulations Section 343.9.

#### **Background**

The State Legislature signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) into law effective January 1, 2015.

The SGMA established a process for local agencies to request the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to revise boundaries of existing groundwater basins or subbasins. The District submitted a Basin Boundary Modification Request (BBMR) during the first opportunity in 2016; it was denied by DWR.

The Board's direction was to further develop a scientific justification for removal of District land from the Paso Basin, gather support from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) group, and submit a BBMR at the next available date.

On January 18, 2018, your Board approved a contract with GSI Water Solutions to assist with BBMR tasks.

#### **Discussion**

DWR established a process for local agencies to request revisions to the boundaries of a basin via adoption of the Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations (23 CCR Section 340

et seq.), and associated BBMR application requirements. The regulations detail the required processes that a local agency must follow prior to submitting a BBMR.

One such regulation is that we provide an initial notification to DWR of our decision to explore a BBMR within fifteen (15) days of said decision, as a first step towards a BBMR. A summary of the BBMR process is shown below.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>BBMR Milestone</b>
April 19, 2018	Board meeting to approve preparation and submittal of an initial notification
By April 29, 2018	Staff prepares and submits the initial notification of intent to DWR
May 17, 2018	Public meeting to provide informational updates and receive public input
June 21, 2018	Board holds a public hearing to consider formal approval by resolution to submit BBMR
By June 30, 2018	Submit BBMR to DWR

Pursuant to the Boards direction at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, GSI performed an initial review, determination, and approach if the District were to pursue a BBMR. Subsequently, the SGMA Committee (Cousineau, Barker) and the Manager reviewed an initial technical memorandum regarding BBMR determination and approach prepared by GSI. GSI was given notice to proceed with and is working on the technical work for the BBMR.

The SGMA Committee supports the recommended action.

### **Fiscal Implications**

There are no direct fiscal implications associated with this item. The cost for the BBMR work is in the current FY 2017/18 budget.

### **Results**

Approval of the recommended action will allow the District to move forward with a Basin Boundary Modification Request to potentially remove the District from the requirements of SGMA. There is no guarantee that DWR will approve our request but this proposal will vet out the process and provide the District with the best opportunity. If our request is approved by DWR and the District is removed from the requirements of SGMA, it will allow the District to concentrate on other very important priorities and initiatives.

File: BBMR