

DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT

Creation of the Kings River East Groundwater Management Agency

February 22, 2015

1. The preservation of the groundwater resources within the boundaries of the proposed special act agency for agricultural, municipal and other beneficial uses is in the public interest and the creation of the agency will be for the common benefit of water users. The agency will serve as a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) as set forth in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), as well as exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA per the SGMA. The agency will enter into a cooperative arrangement with other GSAs in the Kings River Groundwater Basin to ensure a coordinated approach to sustainable groundwater management.
2. The proposed territory of the agency will be limited to the area east of the Kings River where groundwater elevation and water quality issues are similar.
3. The agency will be governed by a five-member board. Four of those members will be elected officials appointed by the governing body on which they serve representing (i) a city, (ii) a county, (iii) Alta Irrigation District, and (iv) a special district, all within the boundaries of the agency. Those four members will appoint a fifth member, who must reside and be actively and primarily engaged in agriculture within the territory of the agency.
4. No provision in the special act will be construed to impair or affect any right or power of any city, county or district within the boundaries of the agency.
5. The purpose of the agency will be to regulate, conserve, manage and control the use and extraction of groundwater from beneath the territory of the agency in order to sustainably manage the groundwater resources within the boundaries of the agency. .
6. The agency will operate in an open and transparent manner and in compliance with open meetings and public records laws. The agency will prepare, publicize and circulate an annual report to DWR, state elected representatives and interested parties.