

OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — County of Mono — Eastern Sierra CSD — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD — Keeler CSD —
Sierra Highlands CSD — Starlite CSD — Tri Valley Groundwater Management District — Wheeler Crest CSD

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Special Meeting Staff Report

Date: August 15, 2018

Subject: SGWP Grant

Discussion:

After the OVGA agenda was published, staff was informed that the Inyo County Auditor obtained a tax identification number much more quickly than expected. With that information in hand, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors determined at their 08/14/2018 meeting that it desired the OVGA to be the grantee for the SGWP grant and authorized Inyo County to accept the grant only if (1) the OVGA could not, (2) the OVGA agreed to indemnify Inyo County for any liabilities associated with the SGWP grant and (3) that the grant would be transferred to the OVGA as soon as otherwise possible.

With the above in mind this item is now presented to your Board to consider passing the required resolution and taking the necessary actions to become the grantee for the SGWP grant.

OVGA RESOLUTION NO. 2018-__

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY TO BE THE GRANTEE FOR GRANT FUNDING BY RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING A 2017 SGWP GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO BE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY, FOR THE PREPARATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND FOR THE INYO COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014 and adopted as California Water Code, section 10720, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program using funds authorized by the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1); and

WHEREAS, the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) was formed as a joint powers authority pursuant to Government Code section 6500, et seq. by agencies that qualify to be groundwater sustainability agencies, including the four prior GSAs recognized in the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and

WHEREAS, prior to the OVGA becoming recognized as the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the Basin, Inyo County was one of the four GSAs within the Basin, and Inyo County was awarded a SGWP grant to for the preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan; and

WHEREAS, the OVGA is now recognized as the exclusive GSA in the Basin; and

WHEREAS, now that the OVGA is the exclusively recognized GSA it is required to provide DWR with this resolution in order to receive and administer the SGWP grant; and

WHEREAS, the OVGA does not yet have its own staff and relies upon its members to provide staff support, including, but not limited to, the Inyo County Water Department, and

WHEREAS, the OVGA intends to utilize the Inyo County Water Department to assist in obtaining and managing the SGWP grant.

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OVGA RESOLUTION NO. 2018-__

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA), that the application made by Inyo County to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) (Water Code Section 79700 et seq.) is retroactively authorized on behalf of the OVGA, and that the OVGA, acting through the Inyo County Water Department Director, may enter into an agreement to receive and manage a grant pursuant to the SGWP.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 15th DAY OF AUGUST, 2018 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Fred Stump, Chairperson,
Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

*Attest: Dr. Bob Harrington
Acting Clerk of the OVGA*

by: _____
Laura Piper, Assistant