



MID takes major step to become a groundwater sustainability agency

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Merced Irrigation District took a significant step forward today in developing a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Establishing such an agency is a state-mandated requirement to help communities address local groundwater challenges.

Specifically, the MID Board of Directors voted to proceed with the planned Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA). In doing so, the Board authorized the proceedings and documents required to create the local Agency. MID will partner with the Cities of Merced, Atwater and Livingston, as well as Winton Water and Sanitary District, Planada Community Services District, and Le Grand Community Services District, pending their approval.

The boundary of the MIUGSA is generally the footprint of Merced Irrigation District in Eastern Merced County. It encompasses 158,000 acres located south of the Merced River and generally north of the Chowchilla River. The partnering cities and districts are included within that boundary.

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, took effect in 2015. The law requires that all high-and medium-priority groundwater basins to be managed by one or more groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA).

The MID-proposed GSA will have the authority, and obligation, to develop a groundwater sustainability plan, which must be adopted by Jan. 31, 2020.

MID and its partners in the Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency will be required to provide public notice and hold public hearings. MID will hold its public hearing at 10 a.m. on May 2 at the Merced Civic Center, 678 West 18th St. in Merced. The District will then compile all information and documentation to file as the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

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