



M E M O R A N D U M
PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: March 8, 2016
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works and Facilities
By: Kevin Bell, Engineering Program Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Basin
Boundary Modification Request

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works and Facilities, or designee, to prepare and submit a Request to the California Department of Water Resources for a Basin Boundary Modification that would align existing groundwater subbasin boundaries with the shared Yuba / Placer County line for more efficient and sustainable groundwater basin management.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires local government entities to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 2017, for certain individual groundwater basins, and to begin implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans for each basin by 2020 or 2022, depending on the severity of the basin's overdraft. The goal of SGMA is to achieve sustainable groundwater management by ensuring each subbasin is represented and managed by a GSA. However, this can become a challenge when basin boundaries extend over jurisdictional boundaries, as is the case in Placer County. As shown on Figure 1, the North American Groundwater subbasin and the adjoining South Yuba Groundwater subbasin are aligned along the Bear River. A portion of the South Yuba Groundwater subbasin (about 2 square miles) extends south into Placer County. However, the Yuba County Water Agency's proposed Groundwater Sustainability Agency boundary only extends to the County line, leaving that portion of the South Yuba Groundwater subbasin, located in Placer County, unmanaged.

Staff hereby requests authorization to submit a request to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to adjust the shared boundary between the North American Groundwater subbasin and South Yuba Groundwater subbasin to the north, to align the subbasin boundary with County boundaries. This minor change to align the subbasin boundaries with the County boundaries will allow for more efficient and sustainable groundwater management. It is not feasible to form an additional GSA to cover this area or for the Yuba County GSA to manage groundwater located in Placer County because it does not have the jurisdiction to do so.

In accordance with SGMA regulations, the DWR has created an online Basin Boundary Modification Request System for use by local agencies to submit their requests. The system also provides public access to view basin or subbasin boundary modification requests. As required by SGMA regulations, on February 3, 2016 Placer County staff submitted an Initial Notification to the DWR to inform them that Placer County is considering submission of a Request for a Basin Boundary Modification. If this action is approved, the Director, or designee, will submit the online Request by the regulatory deadline of March 31, 2016. The County has an existing agreement with a consultant that will prepare the necessary exhibits.

ENVIRONMENTAL

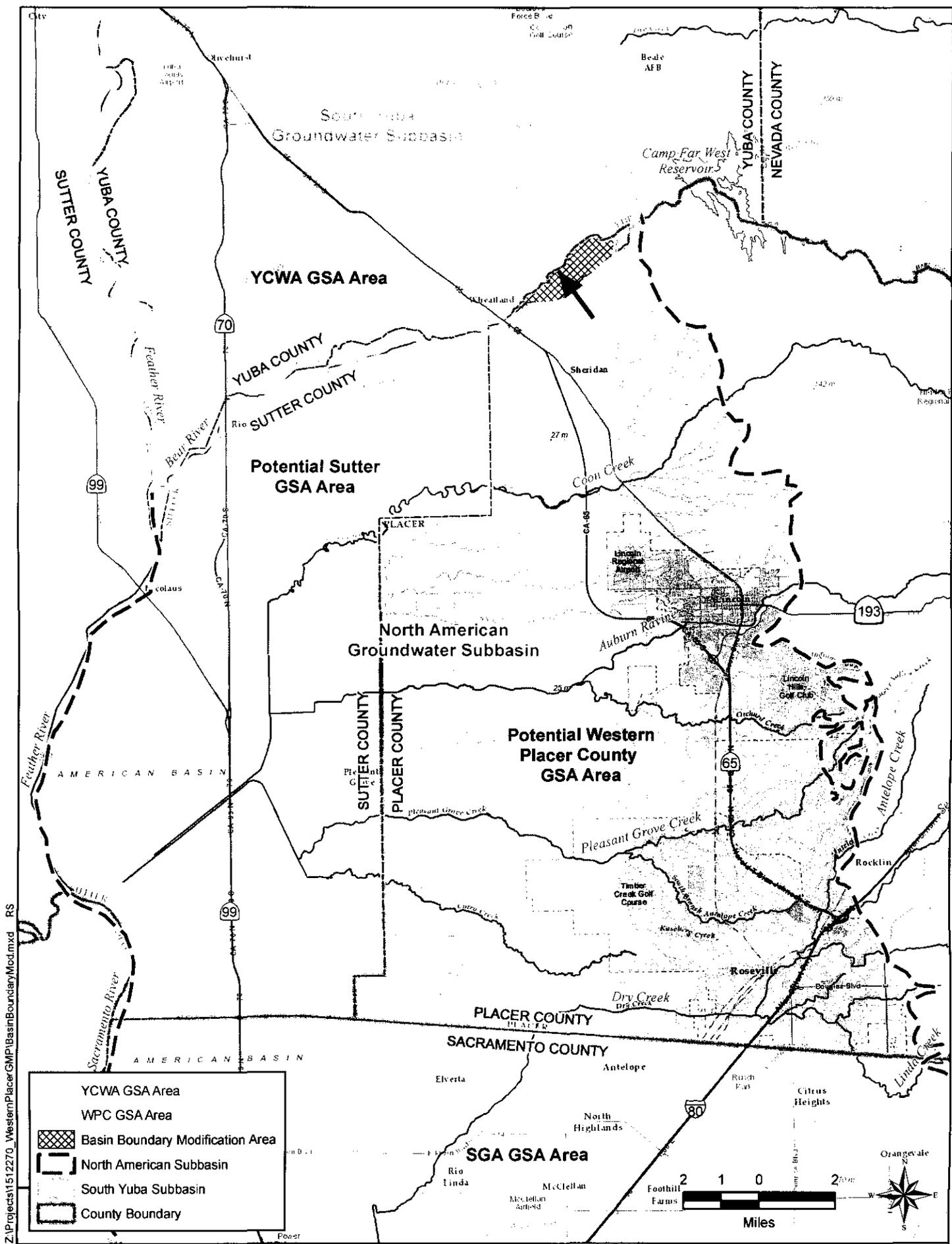
This action is exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 which pertains to actions taken by regulatory agencies where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The primary fiscal impact of this action includes one-time consultant costs of \$6,343 to prepare exhibits and staff time. There are sufficient monies in the Community Development and Resources Agency's FY 2015-16 budget to cover the consultant costs. Staffing costs are currently being absorbed in the Environmental Utilities FY 2015-16 budget.

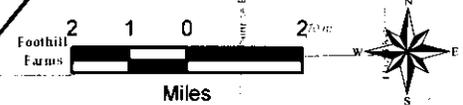
ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1
Resolution



20-Jan-2016 ZIP\projects\1512270_WesternPlacer\GMP\BasinBoundaryMod.mxd RS

- YCWA GSA Area
- WPC GSA Area
- Basin Boundary Modification Area
- North American Subbasin
- South Yuba Subbasin
- County Boundary



Location of Basin Boundary Modification



JANUARY 2016

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: A Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works and Facilities, or designee, to prepare and submit a Request to the California Department of Water Resources for a Basin Boundary Modification that would align existing groundwater subbasin boundaries with the shared Yuba and Placer County boundaries for more efficient and sustainable groundwater basin management

Resolution No.:

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Governor of California signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Act); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, in its Bulletin 118 has designated the North American Groundwater subbasin within western Placer County as a high priority basin subject to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies by June 30, 2017 to facilitate the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for each basin by January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2015, the California Department of Water Resources Basin Boundary Emergency Regulation went into effect and established a system for local agencies to request revisions to existing basin or subbasin boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Placer County has an interest in modifying the shared boundary between the North American Groundwater subbasin and South Yuba Groundwater subbasin to promote more efficient and sustainable groundwater management; and

WHEREAS, Placer County, as a local agency whose jurisdictional area lies within or borders an existing subbasin for which a boundary modification is sought, is eligible to request a Basin Boundary Modification; and

WHEREAS, requesting a Basin Boundary Modification is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because such modification is not a project under CEQA;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California,

1. The Board authorizes an application be made to the California Department of Water Resources for a Basin Boundary Modification that would align existing groundwater subbasin boundaries with the shared Yuba and Placer County boundaries for more efficient and sustainable groundwater basin management.
2. The Board authorizes the Director of Public Works and Facilities, or designee, to prepare and submit the necessary background data and information, file such request, and execute any necessary documents to support such request.

