

IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** January 16, 2020
FROM: IWVGA Staff
SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 7 – Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan

DISCUSSION

The Agenda Item before your Board is a public hearing on the proposed adoption of the SGMA required Groundwater Sustainability Plan (the “Plan”) for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

The procedural notice and comment requirements of Water Code section 10728.4 have been met and, as a courtesy, this hearing has been noticed in the local paper. The preparation and adoption of the Plan is statutorily exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to Water Code section 10728.6.

Given the significance of the Plan, Staff is requesting that your Board take a small recess immediately after the close the public hearing and prior to Board consideration so that staff may consider any comments submitted during the hearing and if, and where, appropriate prepare any responses to said comments prior to Board consideration.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION(S)

- 1) Open public hearing and take public comment,
- 2) Close public hearing and call for a brief recess,
- 3) Reconvene meeting and begin Board consideration,
- 4) Make finding that adoption of the Plan is statutorily exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to Water Code section 10728.6.
- 5) Adopt the Plan via Resolution 01-20

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 01-20

**ADOPTION OF THE GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE INDIAN
WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

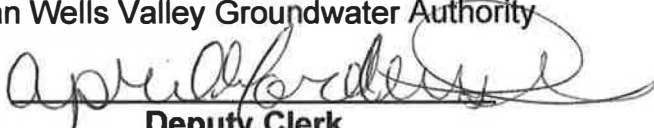
I, April Nordenstrom, Clerk of the Board of Directors for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, do certify that the following resolution, on motion of Director Page, seconded by Director Kicinski, was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors at an official meeting this 16th day of January, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Page, Kicinski, Gleason, Hayman

NOES: Vallejo

ABSENT: 0

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority


Deputy Clerk

RESOLUTION

Section 1. WHEREAS:

- (a) The comprehensive groundwater legislation referred to as the "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014 with an effective date of January 1, 2015, and codified at California Water Code sections 10720 *et seq.*; and
- (b) The stated purpose of SGMA, as set forth in California Water Code Section 10720.1, is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins at a local level; and
- (c) SGMA further provides that "high priority" basins such as the Indian Wells Valley

Groundwater Basin, designated in DWR Bulletin 118 as Basin No. 6-54, must adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by no later than January 31, 2020; and

(d) The Groundwater Authority was formed by its members for the express purpose of forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the entirety of the unadjudicated groundwater basin known as Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin; and

(e) After considerable input and review from the public, staff has prepared the attached Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin; and

(f) Staff has reviewed this matter and determined that the adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is expressly exempt from further CEQA review pursuant Water Code section 10728.6; and

(g) Staff has ensured that the notice and comment requirements of Water Code section 10728.4 have been met and/or exceeded.

Section 2. IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, as follows:

1. This Board finds that the recited facts are true and that it has the jurisdiction to consider, approve, and adopt this Resolution.

2. This Board incorporates and makes all the findings recommended by staff, whether verbally or in their written reports.

3. This Board finds and determines that the provisions of Water Code section 10728.4 have been met and/or exceeded.

4. This Board finds and determines that the adoption of the attached Groundwater Sustainability Plan is expressly exempt from further CEQA review pursuant Water Code section 10728.

5. After careful consideration and deliberation, this Board adopts the attached Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

6. In accordance with said adoption and plan, this Board hereby directs staff to prepare for, and take any actions necessary, to begin the process of proving up the groundwater pumping by entities in the Basin.

7. The Clerk of this Board shall cause a Notice of Exemption to be filed with the County Clerks in Kern County, San Bernardino County and Inyo County.