

January 4, 2018

Trevor Joseph  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Section Chief  
California Department of Water Resources  
PO Box 94236  
Sacramento, CA 94236

**Subject: Notification of Intent to Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Merced Subbasin**

Dear Mr. Joseph,

In accordance with California Water Code Section 10727.8 and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 353.6, the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA), the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MSGSA) and Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency - 1 (TIWDGSA) hereby give notice to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that they will initiate development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Merced Groundwater Subbasin.

The Merced Subbasin is one of 21 basins in the State of California identified by DWR as critically overdrafted and one of 48 basins considered high priority. The Merced Groundwater Subbasin has both significant sustainability challenges and a long history of water agencies and stakeholders working collaboratively to meet these challenges. The Merced Subbasin GSAs look forward to developing a GSP collaboratively through robust stakeholder and public outreach and in coordination with neighboring basin GSAs.

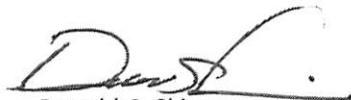
The public may participate in the planning process multiple ways. The GSAs each hold regular meetings open to the public and welcome public participation and input. In addition, the GSAs will be convening a Stakeholder Coordinating Committee for the GSP process. Public workshops specific to the development of the GSP will be conducted to encourage public participation and to provide educational outreach. Workshops will be noticed publicly via website and to the list of interested parties maintained pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.2. Additional information on SGMA and the GSP process for the Merced Subbasin will be available at the website [www.Mercedsgma.org](http://www.Mercedsgma.org).

The Merced Subbasin GSAs look forward to working with DWR on the development and implementation of the GSP. Should you have any questions, please contact Hicham Eltal at 209-722-5761.

Sincerely,



Hicham Eltal  
Merced-Irrigation-Urban GSA  
Chair



Donald C. Skinner  
Turner Island Water District GSA #1  
Chair



Bob Kelley  
Merced Subbasin GSA  
Chair