

**Omochumne-Hartnell Water District**

P. O. Box 211

Wilton, CA 95693

**December 21, 2021 @ 10 am**

8970 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove, CA

*Notice of meeting of the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District*

*Notice is hereby given that the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District calls a meeting. This meeting is open to the public. This meeting will be conducted entirely by teleconference. In Compliance with CA Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 members of the Board of Directors and members of the public will participate in this meeting by teleconference. The call-in information for the Board of Directors and the public is as follows:*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86774305120?pwd=T1YyV2RHsk9nOHViMXBmcGNFNldHdz09>

+1 669 900 9128 US

Meeting ID: 867 7430 5120

Passcode: 865005

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,86774305120#,,,,\*865005# US (San Jose)

*Any member of the public on the telephone may speak during Public Comment or may email public comments to [info@ohwd.org](mailto:info@ohwd.org) and comments will be read from each member of the public. During this period of modified Brown Act Requirements, Omochumne Hartnell Water District will use best efforts to swiftly resolve requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations with individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility. Requests for reasonable modifications under the ADA may be submitted to the same address*

**Call to Order:**

1. Introductions
2. Determine if quorum is present

**Public comments** – comments are limited to 3 minutes for each presenter

*(Comment will be received at this time for any items not on the agenda but are in purview of the Boards jurisdiction or any agenda item that does not specifically state public comment will be accepted)*

**Action Items:**

1. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB361.
2. Consent Items
  - a. Review and Approve Agenda
  - b. Minutes from November 16, 2021
  - c. Financial report
    - i. Financial statement
    - ii. Invoices
  - ❖ Public Comment
  - ❖ Board Action
3. SGMA Compliance
  - a. Sacramento Valley – South American Groundwater Sub Basin (5-21.65)
    - i. Working Group meeting update.
      - ❖ Public Comment
      - ❖ Board Action
    - ii. Update on Implementation discussions and financing
      - ❖ Public Comment
  - b. San Joaquin Valley – Cosumnes Groundwater Sub Basin (5-22.16)

- i. Consideration of Adoption of the Cosumnes Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
    - ❖ Public Comment
    - ❖ Board Action
  - ii. Update on Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
    - ❖ Public Comment
- 4. Laguna Del Sol Groundwater Recharge Site Update
  - a. SAFCA Funding Augmentation for project
    - ❖ Public Comment
- 5. Cost sharing agreement on groundwater recharge project with Freshwater Trust
  - ❖ Public Comment
  - ❖ Board Action

**Informational items:**

- 1. SSCAWA Meeting
- 2. Received communications
- 3. Water Coordinator's Report
- 4. ACWA activity

**General Managers Report:**

- 1. Meetings and Correspondences

**Directors:**

- 1. Comments

Next regular meeting scheduled for January 18, 2021 at 10 AM

**Adjourn Meeting**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COSUMNES SUBBASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) “to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater” (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA requires sustainable management through the development of groundwater sustainability plans (“GSPs”), which can be a single plan developed by one or more groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) or multiple coordinate plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA requires a GSA be formed to manage groundwater in all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) as a medium or high priority, including the Cosumnes Subbasin; and

**WHEREAS**, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (“District”) is the exclusive GSA for those portions of its jurisdiction situated in the San Joaquin Valley Cosumnes Subbasin for the purposes of SGMA; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has the authority to draft, adopt, and implement a GSP (Wat. Code, § 10725 *et seq.*); and

**WHEREAS**, the District, together with other GSAs within the Cosumnes Subbasin and formed a Working Group for the purpose of jointly developing a single GSP for the Cosumnes Subbasin and coordinating sustainable groundwater management in the subbasin (Wat. Code, §10727(a)(2)); and

**WHEREAS**, the Working Group, through its designated representative, submitted an Initial Notification to DWR on behalf of its members to jointly develop a GSP for the Subbasin; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Working Group, the District and its fellow GSAs developed a single draft GSP for the basin; released that GSP for public and local agency comment, and subsequently reviewed and responded to those comments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Draft GSP prepared by the Working Group and circulated for public comment is available at <https://cosumnes.waterforum.org/draft-gsp-comment-period>, and is incorporated into this resolution as if fully set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, on the Final Draft GSP for the Cosumnes Subbasin is now before the Board of Directors of the District, in their role as the governing body of the GSA, for their consideration and approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the preparation and adoption of a GSP is subject to a statutory exemption from CEQA, pursuant Water Code § 10728.6.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Omochumne-Hartnell Water District finds as follows:

1. Omochumne-Hartnell Water District hereby approves and adopts the final GSP, as circulated for public comment and incorporated by reference herein, for those portions of the Cosumnes Subbasin over which the District holds jurisdiction as GSA.
2. The District delegates to the Working Group, its consultants, and District staff the responsibility and the authority to take such other actions on its behalf as may be reasonably necessary to submit the GSP to DWR by January 31, 2022, and implement the purpose of this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021  
by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Attest:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Secretary

Agenda of November 18, 2021

**TO: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
Board of Directors**

**FROM: Gary Bardini, Director of Planning  
(916) 874-7606**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO AGREEMENT NO. 1482 WITH THE OMOCHUMNE-HARTNELL WATER DISTRICT FOR COOPERATION ON GROUNDWATER RECHARGE ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE COSUMNES RIVER IN SOUTH SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**OVERVIEW:**

Under SAFCA Agreement No. 1482 with the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), SAFCA contributes funding to OHWD for a groundwater recharge project that OHWD initiated along the Cosumnes River (OHWD Project) for adaptive management and data collection and reporting. Resolution No. 2021-130 would extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2027 and supplement the budget for the Agreement. OHWD's recharge efforts are contributing important information to SAFCA's long-term effort to secure State funding for improvements to the existing flood and water management system in the American River Basin (ARB).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution No. 2021-130, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 1482 with Omochumne-Hartnell Water District for cooperation on groundwater recharge activities in the vicinity of the Cosumnes River in South Sacramento County.

**MEASURES/EVALUATION:**

Agreement No. 1482 requires OHWD to provide SAFCA with quarterly reports to document how funding has been expended. These reports are a mechanism for SAFCA and OHWD to evaluate the progress of work, agree on adaptive management measures as appropriate, and ensure robust results.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

In its present form, Agreement No. 1482 provided for approximately \$635,000 in SAFCA expenses that were reimbursable under OHWD's the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Grant and another \$125,000 for adaptive management, data collection, and grant writing activities funded by SAFCA's Operations and Maintenance Assessment District No. 1 (O&M)

fund. Under the agreement, SAFCA has paid \$532,302 in invoices presented by OHWD. Those invoices have subsequently been reimbursed to OHWD by the Department of Water Resources Grant (DWR), and OHWD has now fully reimbursed SAFCA for the billed amounts. Resolution No. 2021-130 would add \$70,000 for non-reimbursable adaptive management and data collection tasks from the O&M fund, for a new not to exceed total of \$830,000. The amendment expense is covered in SAFCA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 budget.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

The environmental impacts of the OHWD Project were evaluated by OHWD in a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) adopted by the OHWD Board of Directors in September 2018. In 2019, SAFCA, acting as a responsible agency under CEQA, adopted the findings made by OHWD in connection with its adoption of the Final IS/MND (Resolution No. 2019-026). Resolution No. 2021-130 will authorize SAFCA to adopt new task orders. Those new task orders will be reviewed for CEQA applicability individually; and CEQA documentation, if required, will be prepared by OHWD and/or SAFCA in advance of physical actions authorized by the subject task orders.

**BACKGROUND**

SAFCA is working toward 200-year flood protection for the region by bolstering levees and improving Folsom Dam and its operations in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and DWR. SAFCA is also planning and coordinating with partners in the Sacramento region to provide 500-year flood protection, which includes increasing flood conveyance downstream of Folsom Dam and investigating additional flood storage in reservoirs upstream.

SAFCA's flood protection efforts rely heavily on Folsom Dam, which also plays a critical role in the operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The reservoir serves as a rapid response unit for meeting flow and water quality standards in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to support CVP water service contract deliveries.

The American River Basin Study, a collaboration among Reclamation, SAFCA and other regional water users, forecasts runoff in the basin will peak more than a month earlier by mid- to late century while the annual volume remains about the same. This suggests significantly reduced water supply and increased Folsom Lake spills during flood season. Forecast-informed reservoir operations (FIRO) was identified as one of six basin-wide adaptation portfolios to address various identified climate vulnerabilities and improve regional water resiliency. FIRO is an emerging approach to reservoir operations in which the amount of space in a reservoir devoted to the flood control pool relative to the water supply pool is adjusted using inflow forecasts. By allowing flexibility in reservoir operations, FIRO can, for example, allow early reservoir releases to maximize flood response when a major storm is predicted while minimizing the risk of the water supply pool not refilling after the flood risk has subsided. Recent advancement in weather forecasting and improved understanding of atmospheric rivers as they contribute to flood events here have increased flood forecast skills and led to the recognition of FIRO as the future of flood operations. FIRO was incorporated into the Folsom Dam and Lake Water Control Manual (WCM) with the completion of the Joint Federal Project (JFP) spillway improvements. When the Folsom Dam

Raise and Temperature Control Shutters is completed, another WCM update will be required and FIRO can be expanded. Staff are now working with the operators of three upstream reservoirs (Hell Hole, French Meadows, and Union Valley) to investigate providing flood storage during rare, extreme floods in coordination with Folsom Dam FIRO. With USBR participation, this temporary flood storage could be combined with managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR), allowing some water conserved in conditional storage to be released during the winter flood season into the Folsom South Canal for groundwater recharge projects south of the American River. This recharge would enhance sustainable groundwater management in the south county while providing multiple benefits that improve water resilience and project eligibility for grant funding, especially at the State level.

## **DISCUSSION**

SAFCA staff have worked in partnership with various agencies and organizations to promote Flood-MAR as part of an American River flood program. Large-scale Flood-MAR is in its infancy in northern California, and these partnerships are essential to align agency interests and investigate regional geological and hydrological conditions.

OHWD initiated the OHWD Project with a DWR grant. SAFCA's staff recognized that the OHWD Project aligned with SAFCA's goal to understand the physical circumstances and practical considerations related to groundwater recharge in this region. Furthermore, the future implementation of Flood-MAR could benefit OHWD as well as SAFCA. SAFCA thus supported the OHWD Project through Agreement No. 1482 (Resolution No. 2019-026), which allowed SAFCA to fund recharge-related task orders for OHWD. As OHWD was reimbursed in due time through the DWR Grant, OHWD reimbursed SAFCA. SAFCA also provided funding for tasks not covered by the Grant so that OHWD could conduct additional adaptive management and data collection that shows recharge feasibility. OHWD has undertaken the additional tasks as authorized, including retaining a subcontractor to work on a successful Proposition 68 Grant Application to fund preparation of the Cosumnes Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 1482, authorized by Resolution No. 2019-104).

Resolution No. 2021-130 would authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to augment the budget and extend the term of Agreement No. 1482 through June 30, 2027, so that SAFCA can continue to authorize adaptive management and data collection tasks. These tasks will inform and enhance the results of the OHWD Project as well as help set the stage for successful design and implementation of American River Basin Flood-MAR. Scope of the Amendment will include expanding the geography of the pilot recharge studies to areas on the south side of the Cosumnes River opposite the OHWD Project and still within OHWD boundaries. The new pilot studies may include both recharge through land application of water and testing of new injection wells ("dry wells") as an additional method of recharge. This new site is adjacent to the Folsom South Canal and may have long-term as well as short-term utility. Specific tasks may include work supporting the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP); engineering studies and design; installation of wells, pumps, and pipes; data collection and reporting; and support for associated grant submittals.

SAFCA's success with the recent State approval of Senate Bill-369 (SB-369), the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multi-Benefit Program serves as a model of how higher levels of flood

risk reduction can be achieved over time. SB-369 brings together local, State, and Federal agencies whose roles include project implementation, operation and maintenance, land use, and regulation. Those agencies form a partnership directed by the State to prioritize projects, resolve conflicts, expedite funding, identify funding mechanisms, and develop a regional strategy to achieve the goals of the law. These same ideas can be applied to the American River Basin to achieve multi-benefit objectives that combine flood protection with other water goals. SAFCA's partnership with OHWD builds a foundation for this approach.

### **CEQA Compliance**

Under Agreement No. 1482, work is conducted by OHWD upon issuance of task orders by SAFCA. Before task orders are issued for work leading to physical changes in the environment, they will be reviewed for CEQA applicability. Appropriate CEQA compliance measures will be taken as necessary. The CEQA Guidelines provide a statutory exemption to CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15306) for information collection activities which do not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource. This exemption may apply to parts of or the whole of the Amendment No. 2, but the Project will need to be further scoped under a task order before a determination can be made.

### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

Approval of the subject resolutions is consistent with SAFCA's mission and past practices and will support future actions bringing the region closer to 500-year flood readiness while fulfilling the agency mandate to provide for the optimum protection of the natural environment.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In its present form, Agreement No. 1482 provided for approximately \$635,000 in SAFCA expenses that were reimbursable under OHWD's DWR Grant and another \$125,000 for adaptive management, data collection, and grant writing activities funded by SAFCA's O&M fund. Under the agreement, SAFCA has paid \$532,302 in invoices presented by OHWD. Those invoices have subsequently been reimbursed to OHWD by the DWR Grant, and OHWD has now fully reimbursed SAFCA for the billed amounts. Resolution No. 2021-130 would add \$70,000 for non-reimbursable adaptive management and data collection tasks from the O&M fund, for a new not to exceed total of \$830,000. The amendment expense is covered in SAFCA's FY 2021-2022 budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution No. 2021-130, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 1482 with Omochumne-Hartnell Water District for cooperation on groundwater recharge activities in the vicinity of the Cosumnes River in South Sacramento County. Amendment No. 2 shall increase the amount for task orders assigned to OHWD by \$70,000, for a new not to exceed total of \$830,000, and extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2027. Staff will review task orders for CEQA applicability and conduct appropriate compliance measures before issuing any new task orders outside of the existing IS/MND to which CEQA otherwise applies.



**SAFCA Board of Directors  
Agenda November 18, 2021  
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Attachment(s)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-130**

Adopted by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT  
NO. 2 TO AGREEMENT NO. 1482 WITH THE OMOCHUMNE-HARTNELL  
WATER DISTRICT FOR COOPERATION ON GROUNDWATER RECHARGE  
ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE COSUMNES RIVER IN SOUTH  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) is a water district established in 1953 to serve agricultural water users on lands adjacent to the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek in South Sacramento County; and

WHEREAS, OHWD received funding through a Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant (Proposition 84 Grant) to conduct a pilot project (OHWD Project) to increase groundwater recharge and raise the groundwater table along Cosumnes River; and

WHEREAS, SAFCA is exploring opportunities to re-operate reservoirs in the American River Watershed with a combination of physical improvements and Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) to provide more space for flood control in the most severe flood events; and

WHEREAS, SAFCA believes that its ability to secure State funding for such reservoir re-operation will be greatly enhanced if this effort produces multiple benefits beyond flood risk reduction, including the benefit of making water stored in Folsom Reservoir available under appropriate circumstances for increasing groundwater recharge along the Cosumnes River; and

WHEREAS, the OHWD Project will help to identify and address many of the environmental and engineering challenges associated with this potentially beneficial element of the reservoir re-operation plan; and

WHEREAS, effective December 18, 2018, SAFCA and OHWD entered into a Cost-Sharing Agreement (Agreement No. 1482) pursuant to which SAFCA agreed to assist OHWD in funding activities outside the scope of the Proposition 84 Grant so as to allow OHWD to adaptively manage the OHWD Project and take advantage of opportunities to enhance the results of the OHWD Project; and

WHEREAS, the SAFCA Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-026, on February 21, 2019, in which SAFCA and OHWD amended and restated Agreement No. 1482 to address these cash flow issues and increase the funds available for adaptive management of the OHWD Project; and

WHEREAS, the SAFCA Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-104, on July 18, 2019, in which SAFCA and OHWD executed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 1482 to authorize support for a Proposition 68 Grant Application to fund preparation of the Cosumnes Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity now exists to conduct additional adaptive management, data collection, and pilot studies on groundwater recharge in a nearby area on the south side of the Cosumnes River, thus amplifying the results of work to date and further contributing to the understanding of groundwater recharge planned for future multi-benefit phases of FIRO in the American River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, OHWD prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) analyzing the environmental impacts of the OHWD Project and circulated the IS/MND for public review during the summer of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of OHWD adopted the IS/MND on September 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the SAFCA Board as a responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) considered the IS/MND, including all mitigation measures adopted and incorporated into the OHWD Project, found the IS/MND to be adequate for the OHWD Project; and made certain findings required of a responsible agency under CEQA pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15091 and 15096.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT:

1. The Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 1482 with Omochumne-Hartnell Water District. Amendment No. 2 shall increase the amount for task orders assigned to OHWD by \$70,000, for a new not to exceed Agreement total of \$830,000, and extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2027.
2. The Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to review task orders for CEQA applicability and conduct the appropriate compliance measures before authorizing any new tasks outside of the scope of the existing IS/MND and to which CEQA applies.

ON A MOTION BY Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, this 18th day of November 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Directors:

NOES: Directors:

ABSTAIN: Directors:

ABSENT: Directors:

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Chair of the Board of Directors of the  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

**Resolution No. 2021-130**

**Page No. 2**

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board of Directors

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Attachment(s)