



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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VIA EMAIL:

December 15, 2015

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213-B
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Re: City of Chico's Notice of Intent to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

As outlined in California Water Code, Part 2.74, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Section 10723.8, the City of Chico hereby declares its intention to assume the role as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for that portion of the West Butte and Vina Groundwater Sub Basins that underlie the Chico city limits.

After holding a noticed public hearing (Exhibit A) on November 17, 2015, the Chico City Council adopted Resolution No. 63-15 (Exhibit B) to elect to become a GSA for the groundwater sub basins as described above and depicted in the maps in Exhibit C (Chico GSA). Furthermore, no new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities were adopted in connection with the approval of this Resolution. Other GSAs operating within these sub basins include:

- Western Canal Water District (West Butte)
- Glenn County (West Butte)
- County of Colusa (West Butte)
- Reclamation District 1004 (West Butte)
- County of Butte (West Butte and Vina)
- Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Vina)

Pursuant to Section 10723.2 of the SGMA, the Chico GSA shall consider the interests of and work cooperatively with all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These parties include, but are not limited to:

1. Holders of overlying groundwater rights:
 - a. The Chico GSA's area of the West Butte and Vina Sub Basins are composed primarily of municipal drinking water interests.
 - b. There are domestic wells within the Chico GSA and the City anticipates that the sustainable plan will address domestic wells.

2. Municipal well operators: City of Chico wells to serve its Wastewater Treatment Plant and park facilities.
3. Public water systems: California Water Service Company, Chico. The City has a good working relationship with Cal Water and notified them of its intent to become a GSA.
4. Local land use planning agencies: The City of Chico and the County of Butte. Butte County was notified of the City's intent to be a GSA.
5. Environmental users of groundwater: There are environmental water users near the Chico GSA that take advantage of both surface and groundwater to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl and other species.
6. Surface water users where there is a hydrologic connection: The major surface water bodies that are within or could impact the Chico GSA include the Sacramento River, Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, and Butte Creek. The City will work with other GSAs and surface water users to cooperatively prepare a sustainable groundwater management plan.
7. The Federal government: Not applicable for the Chico GSA
8. California Native American Tribes: Mechoopda Indian Rancheria Tribe of Chico
9. Disadvantaged communities: Portions of the Chico city limits are considered to be disadvantaged communities.
10. Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA:
 - a. Butte County, Glenn County, Colusa County, Tehama County, and the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Please feel free to contact me at 530-896-7200, or Public Works Director-Operations & Maintenance Erik Gustafson at 530-894-4202 or erik.gustafson@chicoca.gov if you have any questions or need more information regarding the City's decision to become a GSA.

Sincerely,



Mark Orme
City Manager

cc: Bill Ehorn, DWR Northern Region
Bill.Ehorn@water.ca.gov

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Public Notice

Exhibit B: Resolution

Exhibit C: Chico GSA Boundary and Sub Basin Map

EXHIBIT A



CITY OF CHICO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Chico will hold a public hearing on **November 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** in the City Council Chamber Building at 421 Main Street, Chico CA.

The purpose of this public hearing will be to consider public testimony on whether the City should elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency(GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (CaliforniaWaterCode§10720etseq.) for the portions of the Vina and West Butte groundwater subbasins within the boundaries of the Chico city limits.

The hearing is open to the public and any person present will have the opportunity to be heard. For more information, contact Public Works Administration Manager Linda Herman, at 530-896-7241 or by email at Linda.herman@chicoca.gov.

Published: Chico Enterprise Record, 11/7/15 and 11/12/15

EXHIBIT B
RESOLUTION NO. 63-15

1 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO
2 ELECTING TO BE A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
3 FOR THE PORTIONS OF THE VINA AND WEST BUTTE GROUNDWATER
4 SUBBASINS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF CHICO JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS

5 WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) went into
6 effect on January 1, 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, the SGMA enables the State Water Resources Control Board to intervene
8 in groundwater basins unless a local public agency or combination of local public agencies
9 form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies (GSA) by June 30, 2017 (Water Code
10 §10735); and

11 WHEREAS, retaining local jurisdiction over water management and land use is
12 essential to sustainably manage groundwater and to the vitality of Butte County's economy,
13 communities and environment, and

14 WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management or land
15 use responsibilities within a subbasin may elect to be a GSA (Water Code §10721 and
16 §10723(a));

17 WHEREAS, other local public agencies in Butte County have elected to be a GSA and
18 have notified the Department of Water Resources (DWR) of its intent to undertake sustainable
19 groundwater management; and

20 WHEREAS, on October 13, 2015, the Butte County Board of Supervisors passed a
21 resolution to become a GSA for the four groundwater subbasins in Butte County, specifically
22 the Vina, West Butte, East Butte and North Yuba subbasins; and

23 WHEREAS, within 90-days of an entity giving notice to the DWR of the intent to form,
24 or having formed, a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area

EXHIBIT B

1 unless another entity provides notice to the DWR of their intent to form, or notice that the
2 entity formed, a GSA (Water Code §10723.8); and

3 WHEREAS, the City of Chico (City) has land use authority and is eligible to be a GSA
4 for the portions of the Vina, and West Butte subbasins that underlie the City of Chico
5 jurisdictional limits; and

6 WHEREAS, establishing the City as a GSA will enable the City to work with Butte
7 County and other GSAs in the preparation and implementation of an effective and mutually
8 beneficial Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for sustainable groundwater management in
9 Butte County; and

10 WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "Project" under the
11 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(a) and (b) of Title
12 14 of the California Code of regulations because this Resolution does not result in a direct or
13 indirect physical change in the environment;

14 WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on this date and after publication of
15 notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider the election to become a GSA.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Chico
17 hereby:

- 18 1. Elects to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the portions of the City that
19 overlie the Vina (5-21.57) and West Butte (5-21.58) subbasins as depicted by the
20 Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (Update 2003) (Attachment "1").
- 21 2. Directs the City Manager to provide notice within thirty (30) days of the date of this
22 Resolution to Department of Water Resources that the City intends to become a GSA
23 for portions of the aforementioned subbasins that underlie the Chico city limits, and to
24

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1 take such other action(s) as necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purpose of this
2 resolution.

3 This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Chico at its meeting held
4 on November 17, 2015, by the following vote:

5 AYES: Coolidge, Fillmer, Ritter, Schwab, Stone, Morgan, Sorensen

6 NOES: None

7 ABSENT: None

8 ABSTAIN: None

9 DISQUALIFIED: None

10

11 ATTEST:

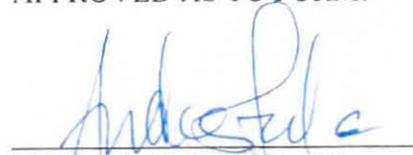
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk



Vincent C. Ewing, City Attorney

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4821-7101-5722, v. 1

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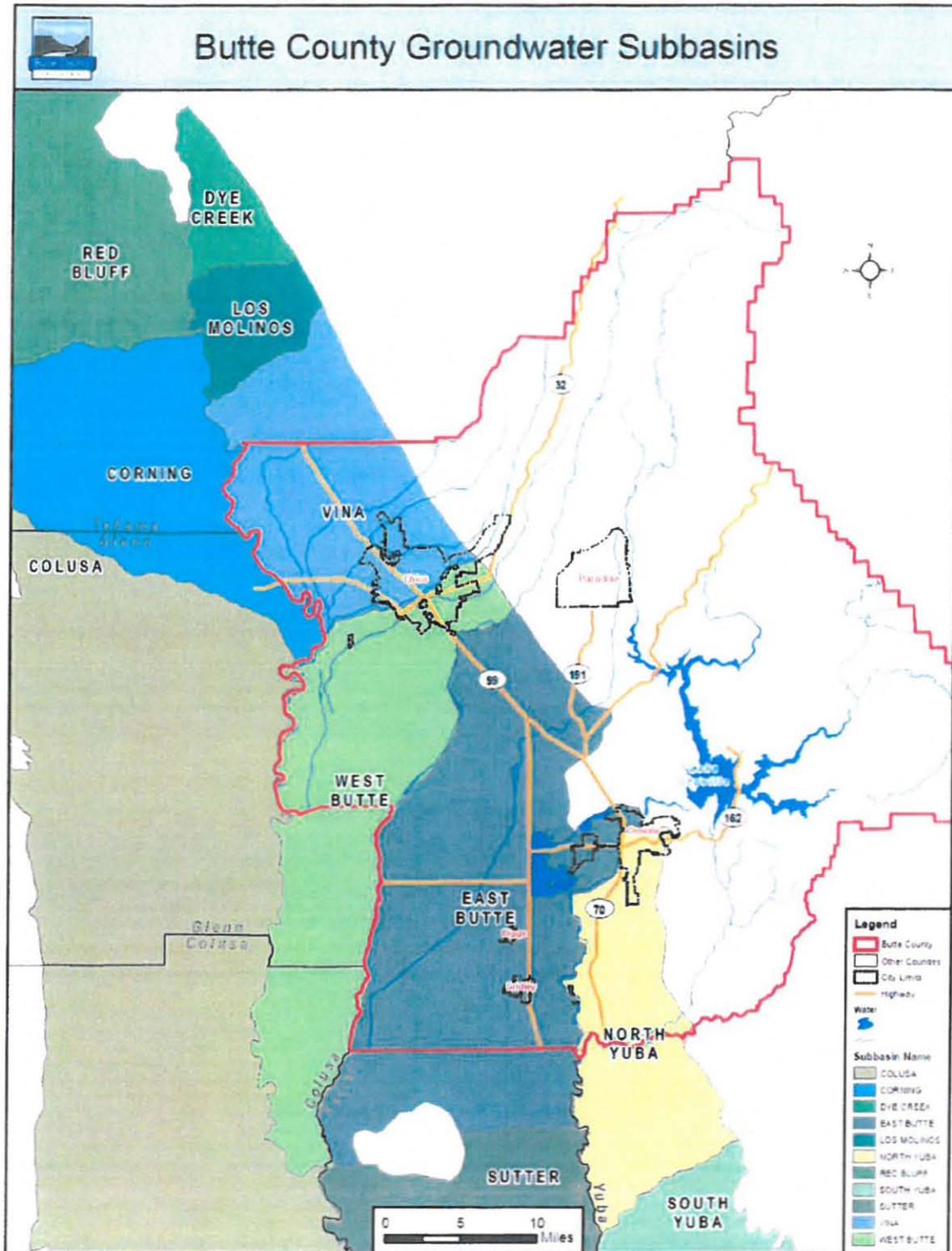
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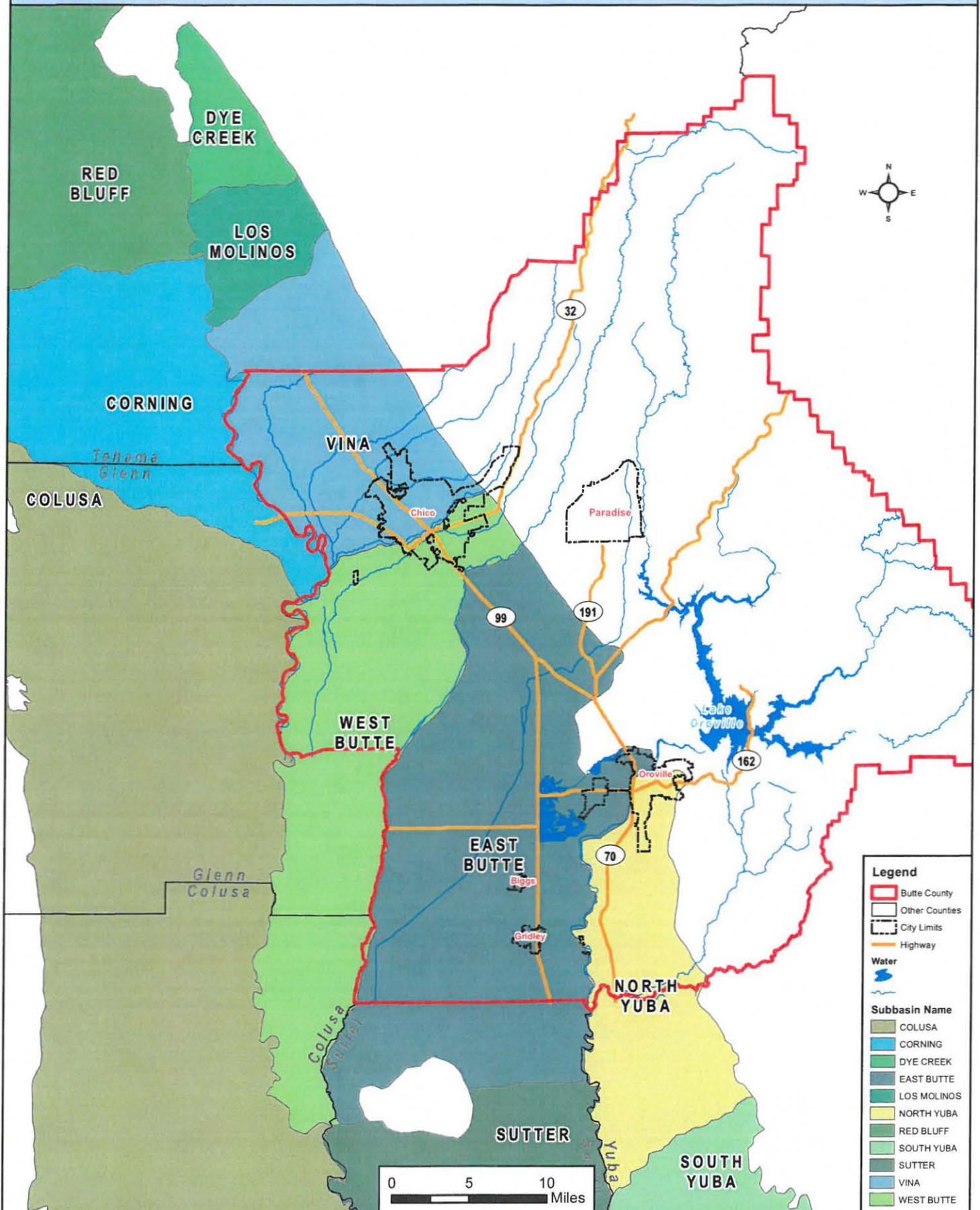
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EXHIBIT B

Attachment 1: Bulletin 118 Subbasins in Butte County



Butte County Groundwater Subbasins



Legend

- Butte County
- Other Counties
- City Limits
- Highway
- Water

Subbasin Name

- COLUSA
- CORNING
- DYE CREEK
- EAST BUTTE
- LOS MOLINOS
- NORTH YUBA
- RED BLUFF
- SOUTH YUBA
- SUTTER
- VINA
- WEST BUTTE

