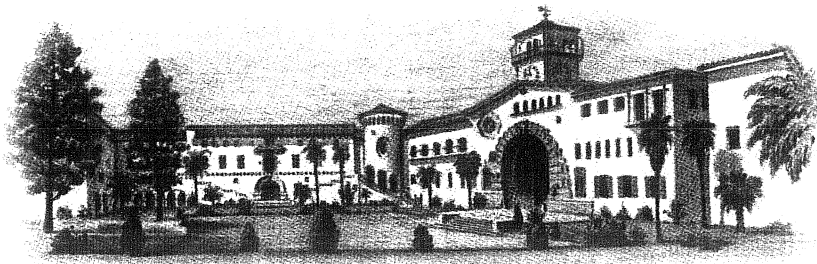


SALUD CARBAJAL
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 31, 2016

Dear Chair Geyer and LAFCO Commissioners,

At the Santa Barbara County LAFCO hearing on August 5, you suggested that the First District office conduct stakeholder outreach in the Cuyama Valley community regarding many questions raised concerning the pending proposal to form the "Cuyama Basin Water District."

To this end, the First and Fifth District Offices partnered with the Cuyama Valley Community Association to host a community informational meeting on August 24, 2016 at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. The purpose of this informational meeting was to:

- 1) Publicly address questions and provide information relevant to the proposal for the formation of the Cuyama Basin Water District, including an overview of:
 - a. California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA)
 - b. The formation of Cuyama's Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - c. The background, definition and framework of the California Water District model
 - d. The proposed Cuyama Basin Water District (CBWD)
 - e. The Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD)
- 2) Receive public input from the community and other stakeholders

Participants who presented in this collaborative informational meeting included the California State Department of Water Resources, the Counties of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Water Agencies, Cuyama Community Services District and Cuyama Basin Water District applicants.

Many detailed and complex questions were received, condensed as much as possible, and provided to participating agencies, applicants and LAFCO staff. A total of 46 questions were answered in writing and have been compiled in a "FAQ" document which is attached for your own reference.

The meeting was attended by an estimated 80-90 individuals, including residents, landowners, agricultural growers, community association members, other stakeholders as well as myself,

Fifth District Supervisor Lavagnino's Chief of Staff Cory Bantilan, and representatives from the offices of Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Das Williams.

As the First District Supervisor representing the greater Cuyama Basin area that includes this proposed district, I am committed to ensuring that all of my constituents have fair representation in the management of the groundwater basin they share. To this end, I have reviewed and analyzed the information and input gathered during this stakeholder outreach effort. Given the critical overdraft of the basin, California law, the enactment of SGMA, the structure and role of the GSA, and the underlying need for local control, I believe it is imperative that the Cuyama community of residents, growers and other stakeholders work together in moving forward with SGMA implementation as soon as possible.

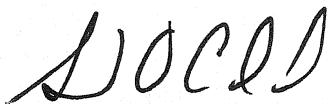
While I understand concerns about the landowner-based representation model of the proposed water district, I also see the value of how such a district could benefit the future GSA. As a public legislative body in California, the proposed water district would be subject to the Brown Act, which guarantees the public's right to access public records, attend and participate in meetings, and provides protections to ensure board decisions are being discussed and made in a public open setting. Under the terms of SGMA, such a public water district would allow agricultural Cuyama landowners to have representation and participate as a member of the GSA.

Similarly, it is my understanding that constituents represented by the CCSD or other government entities will also be represented in the GSA. I will be advocating strongly for the creation of a diverse GSA including an advisory group that could include entities such as, but not limited to, local schools, the Community Association, small and medium landowners and local businesses.

In closing, I believe that the proposed Cuyama Basin Water District could be of public benefit in the area's implementation of SGMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
First District Supervisor

Enc:

PowerPoint Presentation for the Cuyama Groundwater Information Meeting 8-24-2016
Final Questions for Cuyama Community Information Meeting 8-29-2016