



**STAFF REPORT**  
**10/14/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Cástulo R. Estrada, Utilities Manager

**SUBJECT:** Approve the Cost Share to Prepare the First Five-Year Update of the Alternative Plan for the Indio Subbasin in Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Cost Share to Prepare the First Five-Year Update of the Alternative Plan for the Indio Subbasin in Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in an amount not to exceed \$263,796.50

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, faced with declining groundwater levels (most notably in California's Central Valley), the California Legislature enacted the SGMA which was intended to provide a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources throughout California, primarily by local authorities. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) developed the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program to track seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations in California's groundwater basins. Through its CASGEM program, DWR ranked the priority of all 515 groundwater basins and subbasins in California as either very low, low, medium, or high priority. In addition, DWR, as required by SGMA, identified the basins and subbasins that are in conditions of critical overdraft.

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin has been divided into four subbasins by DWR in California Bulletin 118: they are the Indio, Mission Creek, San Gorgonio Pass, and Desert Hot Springs Subbasins. The Indio, Mission Creek, and San Gorgonio Pass Subbasins have been designated medium priority subbasins, and the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin has been designated a very low priority subbasin, by DWR in accordance with SGMA. None of the subbasins in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin have been listed as critically overdrafted.

The SGMA required local authorities in all high priority and medium priority basin and subbasins to form GSAs by June 30, 2017 to evaluate conditions in their local groundwater basins and adopt locally based Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) tailored to their regional economic and environmental needs.

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Coachella Water Authority (CWA), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Indio Water Authority (IWA) are collectively the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Indio Subbasin over their respective service areas. The Indio Subbasin GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to coordinate and cooperate on the implementation of the SGMA to ensure that the sustainability goals of the SGMA are met in the Indio Subbasin. On December 29, 2016 the Indio Subbasin GSAs collaboratively submitted the 2010 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan Update to DWR as an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative Plan) for the Indio Subbasin. DWR approved the Alternative Plan for the Indio Subbasin on July 17, 2019. In accordance with SGMA, an assessment and update of the Alternative Plan must be submitted every five years. DWR has indicated that the first five-year assessment and update is due by January 1, 2022.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The initial MOU was entered into by each partner on October 5, 2016 and established the governance of the Indio Subbasin under SGMA (Attached).

The First Supplement of the MOU was entered into by each partner on April 3, 2018 for the purpose of retaining a consultant to assist in preparing the Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s (GSA’s) Indio Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year 2016-2017 in accordance with SGMA (Attached).

The Second Supplement of the MOU was entered into by each partner on October 29, 2018 for the purpose of retaining consultants to assist in preparing the GSA’s Indio Subbasin Annual Reports by Water Year for submission to the DWR by April 1 of each year and to assist in updates and revisions identified and required by the DWR of the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative GSP) for the Indio Subbasin to satisfy SGMA requirements (Attached).

It is through the Second Supplement of the MOU that The Indio Subbasin GSAs collaboratively selected Todd Groundwater to provide on-call services for maintaining compliance with SGMA in the Indio Subbasin through CVWD’s procurement process. The GSAs solicited a proposal from Todd Groundwater to prepare the 2022 Alternative Plan Update for the Indio Subbasin (2022 Alternative Plan Update). Todd Groundwater submitted the attached proposal, schedule, and budget to complete the 2022 Alternative Plan Update (Attached).

The GSA’s also applied for Prop 68 Grant funding and received \$500,000.00. Below you have the Alternative Plan Update Cost by agency after accounting for the \$500,000 grant.

Alternative Plan Cost	\$1,555,186.00
Prop 68 Grant	(\$500,000)
Cost to be shared by GSAs	\$1,055,186.00
Total cost per GSA	\$263,796.50

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds were appropriated in FY 19/20 budget (178-21-115-10-334-000) to cover the expenses detailed on the attached invoice totaling \$148,938.21.