



Pinedale County Water District

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David Fey, AICP, Executive Officer
Fresno County LAFCo
2607 Fresno Street, Ste. B
Fresno, CA 93721

**RE: Pinedale County Water District's Response to the City of Fresno's
Comments on the Pinedale County Water District Municipal Service
Review**

Dear Mr. Fey,

The Pinedale County Water District has received and reviewed a comment letter from the City of Fresno dated May 27, 2016, related to the Municipal Service Review. The City requests that LAFCo include in the "Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies" section of the Municipal Service Review "PCWD's Proposed Plan[for groundwater sustainability], and associated costs, to provide the necessary groundwater recharge facilities" and that the "ongoing O&M costs for a recharge basis..." and/or the costs of purchasing water should be included in the Financial Ability of Agency to Provide Services section of the MSR. These requests, in light of the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) cited by the City of Fresno ("City") in its letter, are premature and unnecessary. The City bases its requests on speculation.

The SGMA requires one or more agencies within a basin to form a groundwater sustainability agency to implement the provisions of the SGMA which include the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Under the SGMA, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are required to be formed before July 1, 2017, and a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Kings Basin must be completed and approved by January 31, 2020. The North Kings Sub-basin is a sub-basin of the Kings Basin to which the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, Fresno Irrigation District, Garfield Water District, International Water District, Bateman Water Company, Biola Community Services District, California State University Fresno, City of Kerman, Malaga County Water District, Pinedale County Water District, City of Clovis, and a number of other interested persons and agencies will likely form a sustainability agency to manage

groundwater within the sub-basin where the Pinedale County Water District and City of Fresno are located. It is anticipated that the agency formed will prepare a Groundwater Management Plan which will include a number of required elements including the determination of the sustainable groundwater yield for the sub-basin and each agency within the sub-basin and set sustainability goals in order to achieve groundwater sustainability within 20 years after the adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

As a result, the Sustainable Groundwater Yield for the Pinedale County Water District will likely not be determined until at least 2020 and the Pinedale County Water District, in conjunction with the other agencies within the Basin, will have 20 years from that point to achieve groundwater sustainability, if necessary. It would be premature and inconsistent with the SGMA for Pinedale to propose a Groundwater Sustainability Plan at this time. This is the purpose for the SGMA and the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, to determine whether or not a basin, sub-basin, or agencies located therein, are extracting groundwater at a sustainable yield, and if not, to develop a plan to achieve groundwater sustainability. As such, the City's assertion that Pinedale must include a proposed plan to achieve sustainability is simply wrong.

The City's assertion that Pinedale must recharge 2400 acre feet of water per year is based solely on the fact that the Pinedale County Water District pumps 2400 acre feet of water per year. It may very well be the case, when the Groundwater Management Plan is completed, that the Pinedale may not be in a state of overdraft at all or to some lesser extent than the 2400 acre feet per year the City of Fresno suggests. Moreover, if the Pinedale County Water District is required to engage in some type of groundwater recharge project, the costs associated with such a project would be a cost of providing water and incorporated into the rates charged to Pinedale County Water District customers, pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218. Therefore, complying with the City of Fresno requests that the costs associated with a Groundwater Management Plan, including the acquisition of water, be included in the financial ability of the agency to provide services, is simply impossible at this point.

Pinedale County District requests that the Municipal Service Review for the Pinedale County Water District proceed without the amendments proposed by the City of Fresno.

Very truly yours,



Jason Franklin

C/C Bruce Rudd,
City Manager, City of Fresno