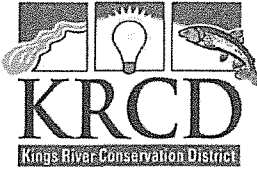


# ATTACHMENT A



## Letter of Agreement

between

Kings River Conservation District

and

Sierra Resource Conservation District

The Kings River Conservation District (KRC) and Sierra Resource Conservation District (SRCD) have entered into this Letter of Agreement (LOA) on a mutually beneficial basis that recognizes and builds upon their historic cooperation and partnership over the last several decades. The LOA recognizes that the State of California and Federal Government have recently mandated unique and complex policies and other initiatives related to the protection and enhancement of critical resources such as water, air quality, healthy soils, and other measures focused on resiliency, sustainability, and regional self-sufficiency. These include SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) in which KRC have as their highest priority to implement, and, in which SRCD has as a high priority under the California Forest Carbon Plan and other initiatives the protection and enhancement of forestlands watersheds, rangelands, and other critical natural resources. The reliable, clean supply and efficient use of water for agricultural, urban, and other uses is also of mutual interest to both KRC and SRCD.

Both KRC and SRCD recognize that no one single entity can affectively provide support on a local and/or regional basis any – nor all current or future state and federal mandates, policies, and initiatives, and are willing partners to address these and future resource challenges.

Immediate and relevant benefits to implement under execution of this LOA includes the integration of the California Department's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program as codified within the California State Water Resources Code which includes for KRC the Kings Basin Water Authority (KBWA) and the Southern Sierra IRWM with SRCD as their fiscal sponsor.

It is with these and several other areas of mutual interest and as an affirmation of their historic cooperative relationship – to support and complement each other's goals and objectives, both Districts are freely executing this LOA.

Sierra Resource Conservation District (SRCD) legally formed in 1957 as a governmental subdivision and recognized under Division 9 of the California State Constitution, Public Resources Code (PRC) 9003 as a Local State Agency, submitted to the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission a "Change of Organization/Reorganization Application," referenced under application number E201910000260 (Application). The Application reflects the following:

SRCD desires to annex unserved areas northeast of Highway 99 in Fresno County adjoining the existing SRCD boundary;

The annexation will increase SRCD's Sphere of Influence;

SRCD will provide underserved and unserved portions within Fresno County with resource conservation district support;

SRCD desires to serve communities and rural areas that are not currently being served and represented in the conservation of important natural resources, while providing technical assistance, funding, services, education and or information that can protect and enhance the natural resources for the benefit of those communities and rural areas; and

Disadvantaged Communities included in the area to be annexed are located Southeast of Fresno/Northwest of Fowler; Southeast of Fowler/Northeast of Selma; Southeast of Selma/North of Kingsburg; Del Rey and unincorporated areas outside of the city of Parlier and eastward towards the city of Orange Cove.

The Annexation Application includes SRCD's Long Range Plan 2015 to 2020, which has since been updated as the SRCD Long Range Plan 2020 to 2025

Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) was formed with the passage of The Kings River Conservation District Act in 1951 by the California Legislature. The following delineates the purpose and powers of KRCD:

The single overarching purpose for the Kings River Conservation District's creation was to establish one public agency which could act for the entire Kings River service area. When established, KRCD included all territory generally considered to be the Kings River service area, except for all cities not a part of existing irrigation districts. Later changes to the KRCD Act excluded all incorporated cities.

KRCD is empowered to provide water and electrical energy; acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and dispose of works and property; appropriate, store, distribute, sell, and conserve water; maintain actions involving water rights; develop, distribute, and sell electric power; provide for the drainage, reclamation, and protection of land; control floodwater; incur indebtedness; enter into contracts; issue bonds; and cooperate with the United States government. KRCD's authorities also include provisions for organizational, procedural, taxation, and bonding matters.

SRCD and KRCD (Parties or Party when singular) have related objectives associated with supporting constituents within the Kings River Service Area. The Parties recognize the

importance of natural resources, the wise use and management of these natural resources, and, as appropriate, the protection, enhancement and/or development of these natural resources. To avoid a conflict of authorities and purposes, SRCD and KRCD understand and agree through this Letter of Agreement (Agreement):

1. KRCD, and various other entities within and/or encompassed by KRCD's boundaries have varied and diverse powers. As pertains to this Agreement, "encompassed by" shall include incorporated cities otherwise excluded from KRCD's service territory.
2. SRCD will not infringe upon or overlap with KRCD's powers and authorities, or the powers and authorities of other entities where said other entities are within and/or encompassed by KRCD's boundaries.
3. SRCD will not expand, attempt to expand, or in any way exercise its taxing or fee authority within KRCD's boundary and/or within the boundary of other governmental entities encompassed by KRCD's boundary.
4. Although one intent of Fresno LAFCo is to ensure that the powers exercised by Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) are additive, add value, and do not overlap or infringe upon the existing powers of other entities, RCD authorities are very broad. The purpose of this Agreement is to proactively ensure that the powers exercised by SRCD are additive, add value, and do not overlap and infringe upon KRCD's powers.
5. Once this Agreement is signed by both KRCD and SRCD, KRCD will not object to SRCD's Application. As such, the Parties will provide this LOA to Fresno LAFCo as part of their November 10, 2021, Commission hearing.
6. To ensure SRCD and KRCD continue and further develop a collaborative working relationship, and to avoid SRCD infringing upon KRCD's powers, SRCD will consult with KRCD with respect to any projects or activities that SRCD intends to carry out within and encompassed by KRCD's service territory. SRCD will only proceed with said activities upon written confirmation and approval from KRCD that said activities do not infringe upon the powers and responsibilities of KRCD.
7. After signing of this Agreement, and upon future notification from KRCD if elected, the SRCD Board will designate, during their following Board meeting, the KRCD General Manager as an SRCD Board Member. The SRCD Board action will stipulate: When the KRCD General Manager is unable to attend an SRCD Board meeting, the KRCD General Manager shall delegate SRCD Board meeting attendance to an alternate from KRCD (designee). Said designee shall maintain all SRCD Board member authorities.

SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 693  
Auberry, CA 93602



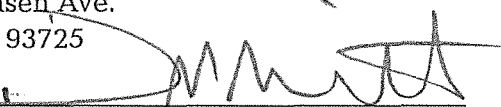
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: October 25, 2021

Name: Pete Lassotovitch

Title: President

KINGS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
4886 E. Jensen Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93725



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/26/2021

Name: DAVID M. MERRITT

Title: GENERAL MANAGER