



# South Tahoe Public Utility District

General Manager  
Richard H. Solbrig

Directors  
Chris Cefalu  
James R. Jones  
Randy Vogelgesang  
Kelly Sheehan  
Duane Wallace

1275 Meadow Crest Drive • South Lake Tahoe • CA 96150-7401  
Phone 530 544-6474 • Fax 530 541-0614 • [www.stpubd.us](http://www.stpubd.us)

August 12, 2015

## **VIA EMAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
California Department of Water Resources  
901 P Street, Room 213A  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236  
[Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov)

Bill Brewster  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
3500 Industrial Blvd.  
West Sacramento, California 95691  
[Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov](mailto:Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov)

## **RE: SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NOTICE OF ELECTION TO SERVE AS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

Dear Mr. Nordberg and Mr. Brewster:

The South Tahoe Public Utility District (“District”) provides this Notice, pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, of its election to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the portion of the Tahoe Valley South Groundwater Basin (“TVS Basin”) identified in Exhibit A. To the best of the District’s knowledge, there are no other entities desiring to serve as a GSA within this portion of the TVS Basin.

The District is a public utility district formed and operating under the provisions of the California Public Utility District Act (California Public Utility Code Section 15501, *et. seq.*) and has the authority to exercise powers related to groundwater management. The District has territory in El Dorado County and depends on the TVS Basin, an unadjudicated groundwater basin underlying the District’s service area, to help meet the water needs of its customers.

On July 16, 2015, the District’s Board of Directors held a public hearing to consider its decision to serve as a GSA for the TVS Basin. The District caused notice of this public hearing to be published in the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, as provided by Water Code Section 10723(b) and

Government Code Section 6066. Proof of publication of this notice is attached as Exhibit B. A courtesy copy of the notice was also emailed to the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County ("County"). A copy of the notice was also provided to the District's existing stakeholder advisory group ("SAG"), convened as part of the District's development of its 2014 Groundwater Management Plan ("GWMP"). All feedback and comments received prior to the public hearing were supportive of the District's election to act as the GSA for the TVS Basin. No comments were received at the public hearing.


Immediately following the public hearing, the District's Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2986-15, attached as Exhibit C, electing that the District shall be a GSA for the area described therein, and setting out a framework for the development, adoption and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan ("Plan") for the TVS Basin pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") and other applicable provisions of law. The District has not adopted any other bylaws, regulations, or ordinances in its role as GSA at this time, though the need for the same may be revisited during Plan development.

The governing board of the GSA will be the District's Board of Directors, which is made up of residents from within the District's service area, elected to their positions by other residents. Therefore, issues pertaining to the TVS Basin will be discussed and decided by elected representatives local to TVS Basin. Additionally, the District is planning to expand its existing SAG in order to also encompass development and implementation of a Plan under SGMA. This expanded SAG will be referred to herein as the GSA SAG. Pursuant to this process, the District plans to invite additional interested stakeholders to participate in the GSA SAG in order to increase the group's representation of the various beneficial uses and users of groundwater throughout the TVS Basin. The District is planning to utilize the GSA SAG to communicate with interested stakeholders in the sustainable management of groundwater in the TVS Basin and to continue to solicit feedback from those stakeholders as the Plan is developed.

Pursuant to the requirements of Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), Exhibit D further outlines how the District is planning to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in management of the GSA and implementation of the Plan.

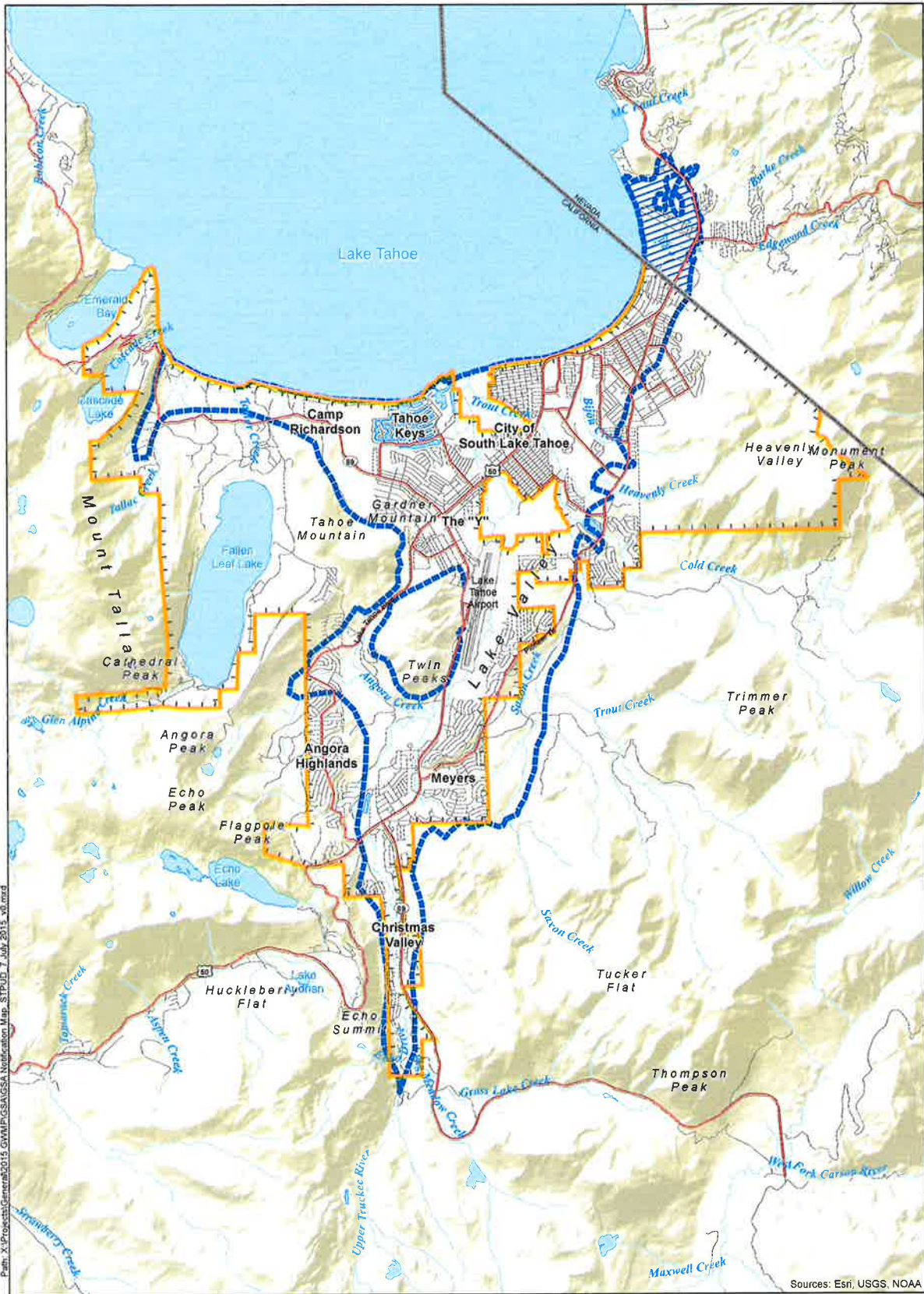
If you require further information regarding these matters or have any questions, please contact Ivo Bergsohn at 503.543.6204 or [ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us](mailto:ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us).

Sincerely,

  
Richard Solbrig  
General Manager/PE

Attachments: Map of TVS Basin (Exhibit A)  
Proof of Publication of Notice (Exhibit B)  
STPUD Resolution No. 2986-15 (Exhibit C)  
List of All Beneficial Users of Groundwater (Exhibit D)









# **EXHIBIT A**



Path: X:\Projects\General\2015 GWMP\GSA\GSA Notification Map\_STPUD\_7 July 2015\_v0.mxd

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA


**LEGEND**

-  Tahoe Valley South Groundwater Basin
-  Nevada Extension of Groundwater Basin
-  Lake
-  STPUD Service Area
-  River
-  Major Highway
-  Road
-  State Line



**South Tahoe Public Utility District**  
 Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)  
 Section 10723.6 Notification Map

**Tahoe Valley South Groundwater Basin**  
 (DWR Basin 6-5.01)



July 2015  
 Exhibit A

# **EXHIBIT B**



P.O. Box 1888  
 Carson City, NV 89702  
 Phone (775) 881-1201  
 Fax (775) 887-2408

Account Number: #1067078

Legal Acct  
 South Tahoe Public Utility District  
 1275 Meadow Crest Dr.  
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
 Attn: Heidi Baugh

**Cora Jeffreys** says:  
 That (s)he is a legal clerk of the **TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE**, a newspaper published Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, at South Lake Tahoe, in the State of California.

PH July 16th

AD# 11317995

of which a copy is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper for the full required period of **2 times** commencing on **July 1, 2015**, and ending **July 10, 2015**, all days inclusive.

Signed:

STATEMENT:

Date	Amount	Credit	Balance
07/10/15	\$58.14	\$0.00	\$58.14

## Proof and Statement of Publication

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing of the South Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors will be held:

—Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 2:30pm—  
**SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
 1275 Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe,  
 California 96150  
 530-544-6474

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to accept public comment regarding the South Tahoe Public Utility District's election to become the designated Groundwater Sustainability Agency, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, for the Tahoe Valley South Groundwater Basin. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.stpub.us>.

Ivo Bergsohn  
 Hydro-Geologist  
**SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Pub: July 1, 10, 2015

Ad#11317995

# **EXHIBIT C**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2986-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
TO BE ELECTED AS THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
FOR THE TAHOE VALLEY SOUTH BASIN PURSUANT TO THE  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the California Legislature has adopted, and the Governor has signed into law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("the Act"), which authorizes local agencies to manage groundwater in a sustainable fashion; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of the Act is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to exercise the authority granted in the Act, a local agency or combination of local agencies must elect to become a groundwater sustainability agency ("GSA"); and

**WHEREAS**, the South Tahoe Public Utility District (the "District") is a local agency, as the Act defines that term; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources as shown by, among other actions, its adoption of a Groundwater Management Plan for the Tahoe Valley South Groundwater Basin ("TVS Basin") in December 2014 and its creation of a Stakeholder Advisory Group to participate in the process; and

**WHEREAS**, the District overlies an unadjudicated basin, the TVS Basin (designated basin number 6-5.01 in the California Department of Water Resources' CASGEM groundwater basin system), and it is appropriate for the District to be a GSA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that a GSA be elected for all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources as a medium-priority basin, such as the TVS Basin, by June 30, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the TVS Basin is designated as a medium-priority basin pursuant to the Department of Water Resources' initial prioritization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that a GSA be elected for all basins designated as a medium-priority basin by June 30, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the District to work cooperatively with other local GSAs, as may be appropriate, to sustainably manage portions of the TVS Basin that fall outside the District's jurisdiction; and



1           **WHEREAS**, notice of a hearing on the District's election to become a GSA for the  
2 TVS Basin ("Notice") has been published in the Tahoe Daily Tribune as provided by law;  
3 and

4           **WHEREAS**, a courtesy copy of the Notice was also mailed to the EL Dorado  
5 County Board of Supervisors; and

6           **WHEREAS**, on this day, the District held a public hearing to consider whether it  
7 should elect to become a GSA for the TVS Basin; and

8           **WHEREAS**, it would be in the best interests of the District to become a GSA for the  
9 TVS Basin, and to begin the process of preparing a groundwater sustainability plan  
10 ("Sustainability Plan"); and

11           **WHEREAS**, the Sustainability Plan for the TVS Basin will encompass and supersede  
12 the Groundwater Management Plan for the TVS Basin that the District adopted in  
13 December 2014; and

14           **WHEREAS**, adoption of this resolution does not constitute a "project" under  
15 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), including  
16 organization and administrative activities of government, because there would be no  
17 direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

18           **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the South Tahoe Public  
19 Utility District, as follows:

- 20           1. The District hereby elects to become a GSA for the TVS Basin.
- 21           2. Within thirty days of the date of this resolution, the District's staff is directed  
22 to provide notice of the District's election to be the GSA for the TVS Basin  
23 ("Notice of GSA Election") to the California Department of Water  
24 Resources in the manner required by law.
- 25           3. One of the elements of the Notice of GSA Election is the boundaries of the  
26 area of the TVS Basin or the portion of the TVS Basin that the District intends  
27 to manage. Until further action of the District, the boundaries of the GSA  
28 shall be the boundaries of the portion of the TVS Basin that the District  
29 currently manages within its jurisdiction. A copy of a map of the  
30 management area is attached as Exhibit A.
4. The District's Staff shall begin discussions with the all interested  
stakeholders and beneficial users within the TVS in order to begin the  
process of developing a Sustainability Plan for the TVS Basin.


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- 5. The District's Staff is directed to report back to the District's Board of Directors at least quarterly on the progress toward developing the Sustainability Plan. The District's Board of Directors wishes to move forward aggressively to complete the development of the Sustainability Plan as quickly as may be feasible and to ensure that the TVS Basin is managed in a sustainable fashion at the earliest possible date.
- 6. All the recitals in this resolution are true and correct and the District so finds, determines and represents.

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED**, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. 2986-15 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the South Tahoe Public Utility District at a regularly scheduled meeting held on the 16<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Cefalu, Jones, Vogelgesang, Sheehan, Wallace  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Vogelgesang, Board President  
South Tahoe Public Utility District

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melonie Guttry, Clerk of the Board

# **EXHIBIT D**

## LIST OF ALL BENEFICIAL USES AND USERS OF GROUNDWATER

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), the District will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a Plan. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

### **Holders of Overlying Groundwater Rights, including:**

- **Agricultural Users:** N/A.
- **Domestic Well Owners:** There may be as many as 540 domestic wells within the District's boundaries. The District anticipates that the Plan will address the collective interests of domestic users of groundwater wells and plans to engage in outreach to domestic well owners within the Plan area throughout development of the Plan.

**Municipal Well Operators:** There are no municipal well operators within the District's boundaries. The City of South Lake Tahoe does not have any groundwater wells used for municipal drinking water supply within the TVS Basin.

**Public Water Systems.** The following public water systems are located within the District's boundaries:

- **Community Water Systems:**
  - Tahoe Keys Water Company
  - Lukins Brothers Water Company
  - Lakeside Mutual Water Company
  
- **Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems:**
  - Al Tahoe Elementary
  - South Shore Recreation Area
  - Station House Inn
  - Tahoe Valley Elementary School
  
- **Transient Non-Community Water Systems:**
  - A & A Lake Tahoe Inn
  - Alder Inn
  - Alpenrose Inn
  - Alpine Inn & Spa
  - Angora Lakes Resort
  - Baldwin Beach
  - Beverly Lodge
  - Deerfield Lodge at Heavenly
  - Echo Peak Water Association
  - Emerald Pines Resort Cabins
  - Heather Lake Road Tract
  - King's IV Condominiums
  - Mark Twain Motel
  - Matterhorn Motel

- Midway Motel Annex
  - National 9
  - Pinewood Inn
  - Rainbow Tract Water Association
  - Spring Creek Tract Association
  - Summit Pines Apartments
  - Sunray Tahoe Hotel
  - Tahoe Chalet Inn
  - Tahoe Valley Lodge
  - Travel Inn
  - Villa Tahoe Condominiums
- **State Small Water Systems:**
    - 47 Milestone/Aspen Creek Tract
    - Alta Mira Building
    - Aspen Apartments
    - Aspen Creek Water Association
    - Byrson Creek Water Association
    - Della Cell Cottages
    - Heavenly Valley Trailer Park
    - Huckleberry Ridge Mutual Water
    - Hunter Water Supply System
    - Johnson Fairway Water System
    - Lower Emerald Bay Tract
    - Mermaid Cove Spring
    - Morgan Center
    - Pine Cone Trailer Park
    - Pinewood Inn
    - Siesta Arms Apartments
    - Sonora Apartments
    - South Echo Summit Tract Civic
    - Stanford Hill Tract
    - Tahoe Blue Water Company
    - Tahoe Cottage Inn
    - Tahoe Shores West Annex
    - Young Street Apartments

Two of the largest water systems—Lukins Water Company and Tahoe Keys Water Company—have been involved in the SAG. The District also invited Lakeside Mutual Water Company to participate in SAG meetings, although it has not attended. The District intends to continue communicating with these entities to ensure that they understand their on-going opportunity to participate in both implementation of the GWMP and development and implementation of a SGMA-compliant Plan for the TVS Basin. The District also plans to retain a seat on the GSA SAG for a representative chosen from among all of the Public Water Companies overlying the TVS Basin.

### **Local Land Use Planning Agencies**

- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- El Dorado County
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- U.S. Forest Service

Representatives from the above entities have participated in the SAG and were provided notice of the District's intention to serve as the GSA under SGMA. The District intends to continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from these entities regarding implementation of the GSA and development and adoption of a SGMA-compliant Plan for the TVS Basin. The District also plans to invite representatives from these entities to participate on the GSA SAG.

**Environmental Users of Groundwater.** The District is not aware of any environmental users of groundwater in the TVS Basin. There are a significant number of conservation organizations that are dedicated to preserving and maintaining environmental values within the Lake Tahoe Basin. A number of these organizations are presently represented on the GWMP email communication list including; California Tahoe Conservancy ("CTC"); Sierra Club-Lake Tahoe Chapter; Tahoe Resource Conservation District; Truckee River Water shed Council and Trout Unlimited. A current SAG member is from the CTC and another member is also a Board Member for the Sierra Club-Tahoe Chapter. The District intends to continue communicating with these entities to ensure that they understand their on-going opportunity to participate in both implementation of the GWMP and development and implementation of a Plan for the TVS Basin.

**Surface Water Users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.** The District is unaware of any users of surface water that is connected to the TVS Basin. In its 2014 GWMP, the District reported that groundwater and surface water systems are connected in the TVS Basin. Groundwater discharges to stream channels along much of the Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek. These groundwater discharges account for a substantial proportion of the total streamflow during the late summer and fall when runoff from surrounding mountains has diminished. A potential consequence of this interconnection between groundwater and surface water systems is that pumping from groundwater wells has the potential of reducing base flow to streams, which could affect stream environment zones and the aquatic and biologic resources dependent on those habitats. In order to address this concern the District intends to identify critical reaches of streams, and wetland areas that may be susceptible to active groundwater pumping.

**Federal Government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.** The U.S. Forest Service manages both the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the El Dorado National Forest, both of which overlie a portion of the TVS Basin with the District's service area. Please refer to the comments above for additional information regarding the District's plans to consider the U.S. Forest Service's interests.

**California Native American Tribes.** N/A. There are no California Native American Tribes overlying the TVS Basin.

**Disadvantaged Communities, including, but not limited to those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.** N/A. No area overlying the TVS Basin is considered a disadvantaged community.

**Entities Listed in Section 10927 that are Monitoring and Reporting Groundwater Elevations in all or a part of the Groundwater Basin Managed by the GSA.** The District is a California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (“CASGEM”) entity for the TVS Basin. The District also developed and adopted a GWMP for the TVS Basin under Water Code Sections 10750, *et seq.* and monitors groundwater levels pursuant to this plan.

The District, the GSA SAG, and other stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities will be further developed and defined in the Plan. The District’s staff welcomes feedback during this process from the state, any of the agencies or organizations listed herein, and any other interested stakeholders.

If DWR requires anything further prior to the acceptance of this notification of the District’s election to serve as the GSA for the TVS Basin, please address your concerns to:

Ivo Bergsohn, P.G., CHg.  
Hydro-Geologist  
South Tahoe Public Utility District  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
Phone: 530.544.6474  
Fax: 530.541.0614  
Email: [ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us](mailto:ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us)