Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Serving Our Lands and Environment Sustainably
Water Rights Established in 1883

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GENERAL MANAGER
Thaddeus L. Bettner, P.E.

August 27, 2015

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Re: Notice of Election to Serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District ("District") provides this Notice of its election to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for the portions of the Colusa and Corning Subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Basin ("Basins") located within the District boundary identified in Exhibit A.

The District is an Irrigation District formed and operating under the provisions of the California Irrigation District Law (California Water Code section 20500 et seq.), and has the authority to exercise powers related to groundwater management. In 1993, the District adopted an AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan, and has been implementing projects consistent with that plan for more than twenty years. The District has territory in both Glenn and Colusa Counties, and the landowners within the District rely on water from the Basins to help meet their agricultural and domestic water needs.

On August 20, 2015, the District held a public hearing to consider whether to serve as a GSA for the Basins. The District noticed this hearing by publication in the Woodland Daily Democrat, Sacramento Valley Mirror, Glenn County Transcript, Colusa Sun-Herald and the Red Bluff Daily News, as required by Water Code section 10723(b) and Government Code section 6066. (See copy of Notice attached hereto as Exhibit B.)

The District mailed courtesy copies of the Notice to:

- Counties: County of Colusa, County of Glenn, County of Butte
- Cities: City of Colusa, City of Orland, City of Willows, City of Williams
- Public Utility Districts: Arbuckle PUD, Grimes PUD, Maxwell PUD, Princeton MWD

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- Irrigation and Water Districts: Reclamation District 108, Reclamation District 1004, Colusa Basin Drainage District, Colusa County Water District, Cortina Water District, Cranmore Farms, Davis Water District, Glenn Valley Water District, Glide Water District, Holthouse Water District, Kanawha Water District, La Grande Water District, M&T Chico Ranch, Maxwell Irrigation District, Orland-Artois Water District, Orland Unit Water Users Association, Princeton Codora Glenn ID, Provident ID, River Garden Farms, Roberts Ditch Irrigation Company, Sutter Mutual Water Company, Sycamore Mutual Water Company, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Western Canal Water District, Westside Water District, Myers Marsh Mutual Water Company, Carter Mutual Water Company, Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company, Eastside Mutual Water Company, and Willow Creek Mutual Water Company
- Native American Tribes: Colusa Indian Community, Cortina Rancheria
- Wildlife Refuges: Colusa, Delavan and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges
- Other: Lomo Cold Storage

The District did not receive any written comments prior to the hearing, but did receive a comment at the hearing from Lisa Hunter, Glenn County Water Resource Coordinator. Ms. Hunter requested that the District work cooperatively with Glenn County and other water districts to develop a coordinated GSA governance approach for the Colusa and Corning Subbasins.

At this time, the following entities have elected to become, and have provided notice to the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") of their formation of, or intent to form a GSA to manage portions of the Basins: Colusa County, Glenn County, Orland-Artois Water District, City of Orland, Colusa County Water District, Glide Water District, Kanawha Water District, Dunnigan Water District, and Provident Irrigation District/Princeton-Codora Glenn Irrigation District.

Immediately following the public hearing, the District adopted a resolution, attached as Exhibit C, approving the District's election to be a GSA, and directing the General Manager to facilitate and assist in commencing discussions as soon as practical with other GSAs and local agencies in order to begin the process of coordinating the development of groundwater sustainability plans ("GSP") for the Basins. At this time, the District has not adopted any bylaws, regulations, or ordinances in its role as GSA.

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 GSPs. The District has communicated with parties interested in the sustainable management of groundwater in the Basins, and will continue to solicit feedback from those parties as a GSP is developed. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- ***Holders of overlying groundwater rights:***

    - *Agricultural users*: District landowners may pump groundwater for agricultural uses on their overlying land. The District coordinates with many of these landowners on implementation of its conjunctive use programs to meet the water supply needs of its landowners, and for other reasonable and beneficial uses of water. The District undertakes these activities consistent with its Conjunctive Use Policy, which provides that the District shall, whenever feasible, develop conjunctive use programs which involve extraction of water through landowner wells. The District will continue to coordinate with these landowners throughout development and implementation of its GSP.

    - *Domestic well owners*: District landowners throughout the District service area also rely on groundwater to meet their domestic needs. The District's existing relationships with these landowners will provide an opportunity to coordinate with them on groundwater management efforts that may have an impact on domestic wells.

- ***Municipal well operators:*** Municipal water demands, as compared to agricultural water demands in the Colusa and Corning Subbasins are generally negligible primarily because there is little current and projected use. The District, however, understands the importance of coordinating with the municipal operators because the operators rely primarily on groundwater to serve local communities. The District overlays the cities of Willows (California Water Service) and Williams, as well as the town of Maxwell (Maxwell PUD), though the District does not deliver M&I water to these communities. Other municipal purveyors in the Colusa and Corning Subbasins adjacent to the District service area include the City of Orland, City of Colusa, Arbuckle PUD, Grimes PUD, and Princeton MWD. The District has provided notice of its intent to be a GSA to these entities and will coordinate in the development of its GSP with any municipal well operator that elects to develop and implement a GSP.

- ***Public water systems:*** The District will communicate and coordinate with the following public water systems: Stonyford (CSA 1 & 2), Almond Ranch (Del Oro Water Company), as well as migrant housing communities with water systems.

- ***Local land use planning agencies:***

    - Glenn and Colusa Counties: The District provided notice of its intention to serve as a GSA to Glenn, Colusa, and Butte Counties and will continue to communicate

with and solicit feedback from them as it develops its GSP to ensure groundwater resources analyses are informed by land-use plans and decisions. The District will coordinate with each county in their groundwater planning efforts, including the facilitated discussions that Glenn and Colusa County plan to undertake with local agencies to develop a coordinated GSA governance approach for the Basins. These efforts also include the groundwater monitoring and reporting programs that Glenn and Colusa Counties implement as part of the CASGEM program.

- Cities of Orland, Willows, Colusa and Williams: The District provided these cities with notice of its intention to serve as a GSA and will continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from them as it develops its GSP. The District will coordinate with each city in their groundwater planning efforts.

- ***Water, Irrigation, and Reclamation Districts:*** The District has a long history of coordinating with the other water, irrigation and reclamation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley on water management plans and programs. The District coordinated with many of these entities to develop the Sacramento River Basinwide Water Management Plan (BWMP). The BWMP is an integrated water management plan intended to ensure a sustainable water supply for the preservation of the Basin's agricultural, industrial, and municipal economies. Many of the parties to the BWMP are located within the Colusa Subbasin and the District will coordinate with these entities in the integrated management of surface and groundwater resources consistent with the BWMP and other relevant plans and programs.

- ***Environmental Users of Groundwater:*** See discussion below regarding federal National Wildlife Refuges.

- ***Surface water users where there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies:*** The predominant surface water body adjacent to the Colusa and Corning Subbasins is the Sacramento River. Tributary streams also overlie the Colusa and Corning Subbasins. The Colusa and Corning Subbasins are hydrologically connected to the Sacramento River and these various tributaries. The District, and the other local irrigation, water and reclamation districts that the District has and will continue to coordinate with through the BWMP and other efforts hold surface water rights to the Sacramento River and tributaries that are used to deliver water to lands located within the Colusa and Corning Subbasins. Thus, the District is acutely aware of the importance of this hydrologic connection and will manage ground and surface water in an integrated fashion to ensure protection of surface water resources and those that hold rights to the surface waters.

- ***Federal government, including managers of federal lands:*** The District conveys surface water to three National Wildlife Refuges (Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa). The District will coordinate its groundwater management planning efforts with these refuges.

- ***California Native American tribes:*** The District notified the Colusa Indian Community and the Cortina Rancheria of its intention to serve as a GSA and will continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from them as it develops its GSP.

- ***Disadvantaged communities, including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems:*** See discussion of public water systems above.

- ***Entities listed in Section 10927 – i.e., entities monitoring and reporting under the CASGEM program:*** Monitoring data for the Colusa and Corning Subbasins is compiled and submitted to DWR by Glenn County, Colusa County and the Water Resources Association of Yolo County. The District also monitors groundwater levels at select well sites, and as a designated monitoring entity, forwards this groundwater level data to DWR as part of the CASEGEM program. As the District develops and implements its GSP, it will coordinate with the other monitoring entities to ensure efficient data collection, management and analysis.

If DWR has any questions, or requires any additional information regarding this notification of the District's election to serve as the GSA for the identified portions of the Colusa and Corning Subbasins, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus L. Bettner
General Manager

Exhibit A

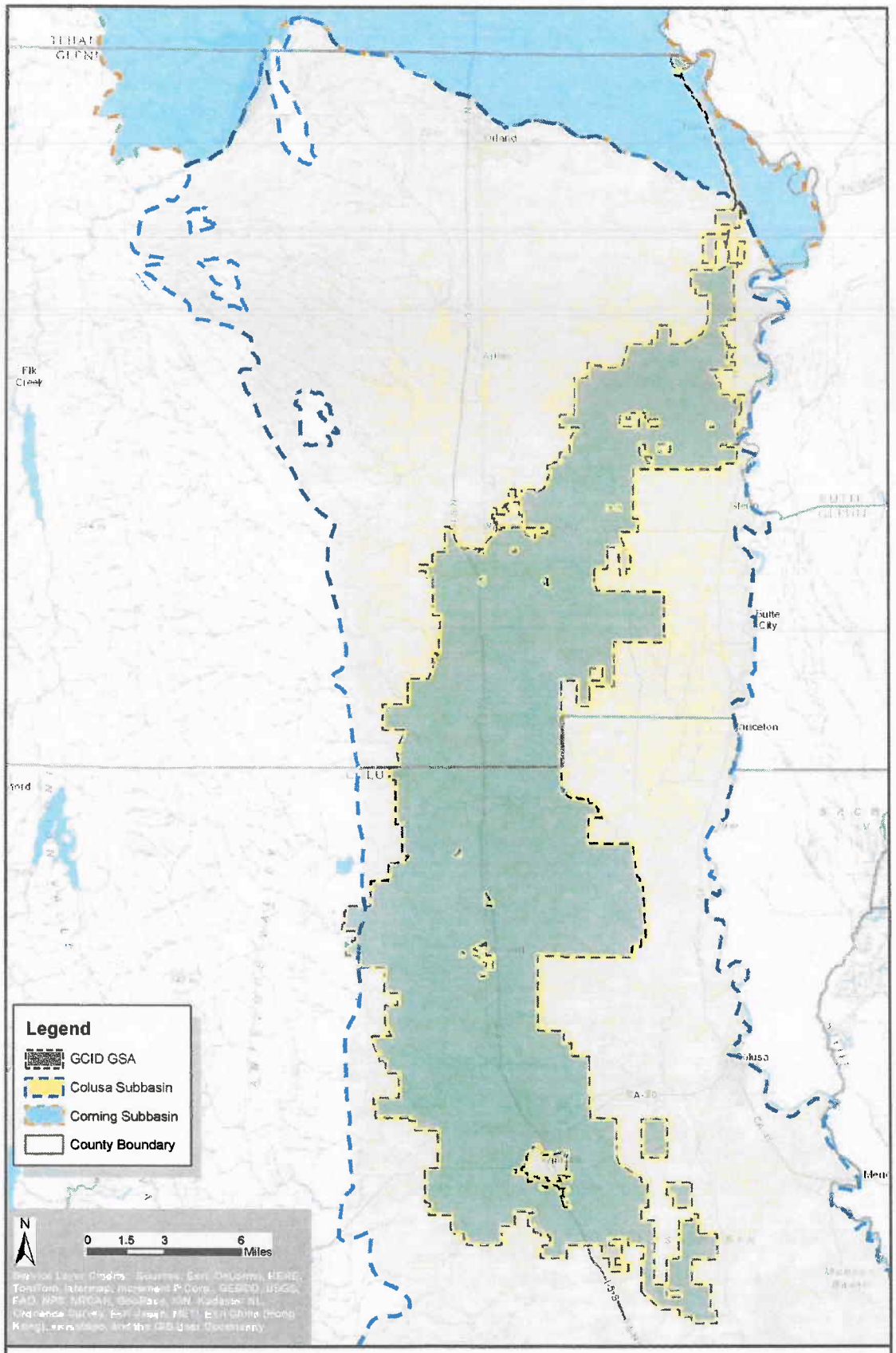

Exhibit A: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Proposed GCID Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Election

August 20, 2015 GCID Board of Directors Meeting

GCID
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
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Exhibit B

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Serving Our Lands and Environment Sustainably
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (District) will hold a public hearing on August 20, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the District office at 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, California, 95988. The purpose of this public hearing will be to consider public testimony on whether the District should elect to act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (California Water Code § 10720 et seq.) for the portions of the Colusa Subbasin and Corning Subbasin within the boundaries of the District.

Written comments should be submitted to the District to the attention of Thaddeus L. Bettner, General Manager, no later than 12:00 pm noon on August 19, 2015 (one day before the hearing), at the address above. During the hearing, the presiding officer may limit oral comments to a reasonable length of time to allow all attendees to be heard. The Board of Directors may take action to become a GSA immediately at the conclusion of the hearing.

Signed: Thaddeus L. Bettner

Thaddeus L. Bettner
General Manager

Dates to publish (July 29) & (August 5)

EXHIBIT C

GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03

RESOLUTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("the Act"), which has authorized local agencies to manage groundwater in a sustainable fashion;

WHEREAS, the Act requires all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR"), to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA");

WHEREAS, the Colusa Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Basin (designated basin number 5-21.52 in DWR's Bulletin 118), and the Corning Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Basin (designated basin number 5-21.51 in DWR's Bulletin 118) (collectively, "Basins") have been characterized by DWR as medium-priority basins;

WHEREAS, in order to exercise the authority granted in the Act, a local agency may elect to become a GSA;

WHEREAS, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District ("District") is a local agency as defined by the Act, and it is appropriate for the District to be the GSA for the portions of the Basins within the District's boundaries;

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723.8(b) provides that 90 days following DWR's posting of any GSA election notice, the GSA shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA within the area of the basin described in the notice, provided no other notice has been submitted for the same area;

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2015, the Glenn County Board of Supervisors elected to have Glenn County serve as the GSA for all the portions of the groundwater subbasins underlying Glenn County, including the Colusa and Corning Subbasins, and on July 9, 2015 DWR posted notice of Glenn County's election;

WHEREAS, on July 14 2015, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors elected to have Colusa County serve as the GSA for all or portions of the groundwater basins and subbasins underlying Colusa County, including the Colusa Subbasin, and on July 22, 2015, DWR posted notice of Colusa County's election;

WHEREAS, the District intends to work cooperatively with the Counties of Glenn and Colusa and other water agencies to manage the Basins in a sustainable fashion;

WHEREAS, the District intends to act as the GSA to manage the portions of the Basins located within the boundaries of the District. The District Board has been presented with a map of the portions of the Basins that it intends to manage. A copy of the map is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the District's land located within the Corning Subbasin is comprised of approximately 430 acres where the District's pump station and main canal properties are located;

WHEREAS, the District published notice of its election to become a GSA for the Basins in the Woodland Daily Democrat, Sacramento Valley Mirror, Glenn County Transcript, Colusa Sun Herald and the Red Bluff Daily News, and a copy is attached hereto as Exhibit B;

WHEREAS, the District has mailed courtesy copies of the public hearing notice to various water management entities, local governments, and other interested parties throughout Glenn, Colusa and Butte Counties;

WHEREAS, on this day, the District held a public hearing to consider whether it should elect to become a GSA for the Basins; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a Project under Section 15378 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because this Resolution does not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, by the District Board of Directors as follows:

1. The District hereby elects to become the GSA for the portions of the Colusa and Corning Subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Basin located within the boundaries of the District, as set forth in the map attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. Within thirty days of the date of this Resolution, the General Manager is directed to provide notice of this election to the California Department of Water Resources, as required by Water Code section 10723.8.

3. The General Manager shall facilitate and assist in commencing discussions as soon as practical with other GSAs and local agencies in order to begin the process of coordinating the development of groundwater sustainability plans for the Basins, as contemplated by the Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District on August 20, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Denn, Knight, Sutton and Bransford
NOES: None
ABSENT: Directors Rolen

Donald P. Bransford
President

ATTEST:

Secretary

EXHIBIT A OF RESOLUTION

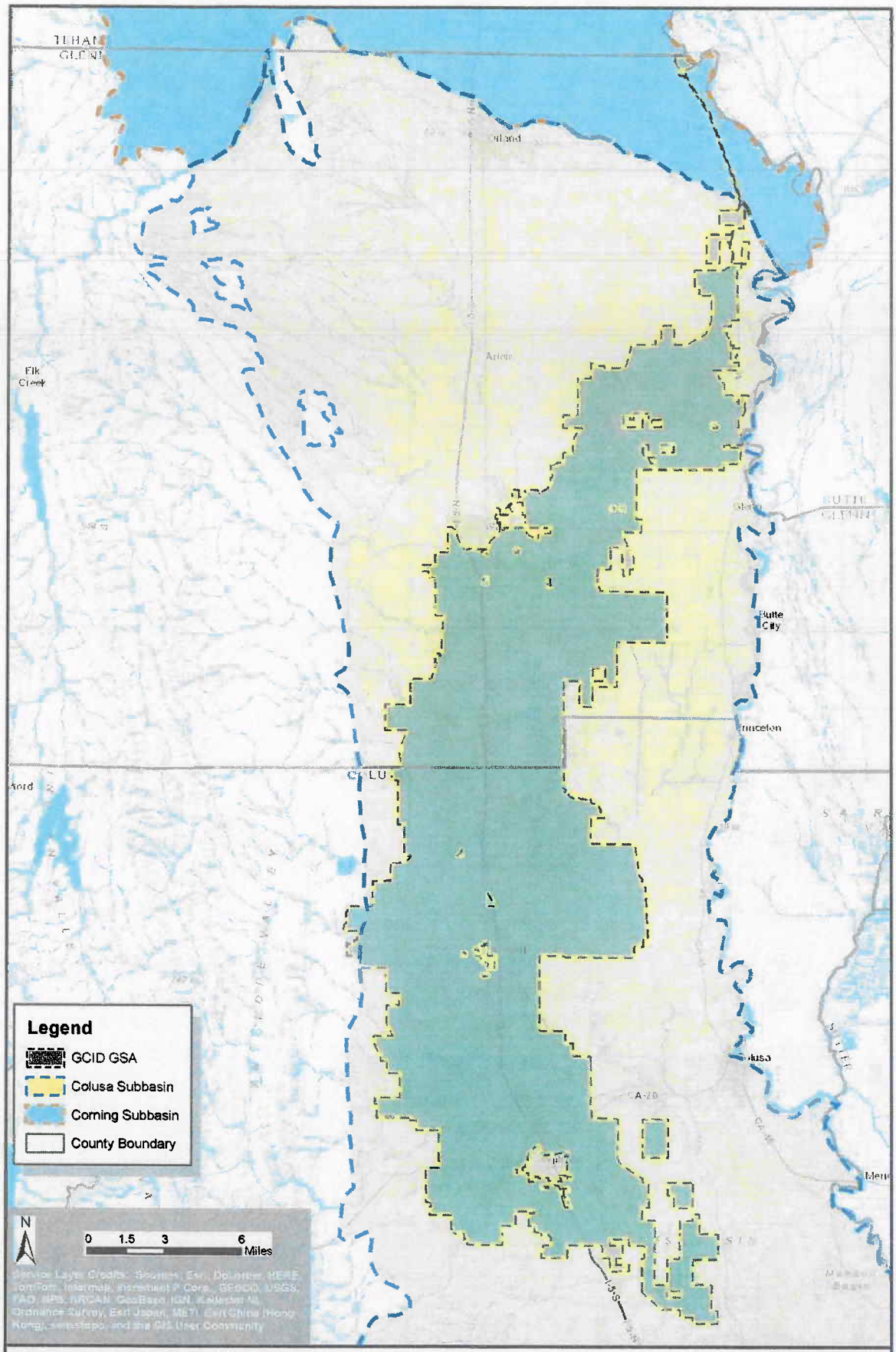

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EXHIBIT B OF RESOLUTION

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Signed: Thaddeus L. Bettner

Thaddeus L. Bettner
General Manager

Dates to publish (July 29) & (August 5)