



CITY OF COACHELLA

1515 SIXTH STREET, COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA 92236

PHONE (760) 398-3502 • FAX (760) 398-8117 • WWW.COACHELLA.ORG

March 16, 2016

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

Re: Notice of Election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Dear Mr. Nordberg,

Pursuant to California Water Code sections 10723(c)(3) and 10723.8 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), The Coachella Water Authority (CWA) provides this notice of its election to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), for the portions of the Indio Sub-Basin (DWR Sub-Basin No. 7-21.01) shown on Exhibit A. The identified sub-basin area is unadjudicated and designated as medium priority by DWR.

CWA is a public water agency of the State of California organized and operating with the City of Coachella as a general law city. CWA has groundwater management powers under its enabling legislation and other applicable law. CWA relies on the Indio Sub-Basin to help meet the water related needs of its existing and future customers. Becoming a GSA supports CWA's ongoing efforts to eliminate overdraft and ensure water supply sustainability for the Coachella Valley.

In accordance with Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code and Section 6066 of the California Government Code, a notice of public hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation in Riverside County regarding CWA's intent to consider becoming a GSA for the Indio Sub-Basin. The notice is enclosed as Exhibit B.

On March 9, 2016, the CWA Board of Directors held a public hearing to consider the decision to serve as a GSA for the Indio Sub-Basins. No written comments were received prior to the public hearing and no comments were received at the public hearing.

Following the public hearing, CWA's Board of Directors adopted Resolution NO. WA-2016-03 enclosed as Exhibit C, electing to become a GSA for all of those portions of the Indio Sub-Basin shown on Exhibit A. Thus, this notification is timely filed within 30 days of CWA's decision to become a GSA. CWA is not proposing any new bylaws, ordinances, or other new authorities associated with the GSA formation.

CWA is not electing to be the GSA for those portions of the Indio Sub-basins within the water service boundaries of Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Indio Water Authority (IWA), and Desert Water Agency (DWA). CWA participated in periodic coordination meetings with these agencies and supports their efforts to become GSAs. To CWA's knowledge, there are no unresolved boundary issues. It is understood that CVWD, DWA and IWA have already filed their notices to become GSAs for their respective service areas, thus covering the sub-basins and leaving no gaps.

The CWA Board of Directors authorized the City Manager to negotiate an MOU, other necessary cooperative agreements, or other forms of agreement with CVWD, IWA, and DWA or other agencies or entities utilizing groundwater in the Indio Sub-Basin, as necessary for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated governing structure for the management of the Indio Sub-Basin under SGMA.

An initial list of interested parties is included as Exhibit D, and will be used to ensure that CWA will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.2.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Maritza Martinez, Public Works Director at (760) 501-8111.

Sincerely,



David Garcia  
City Manager/Executive Director  
City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority

cc:

Mark Krause  
General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Desert Water Agency  
1200 S. Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Brian Macy  
General Manager  
Indio Water Authority  
83-101 Avenue 45  
Indio, CA 92201

Eric T. Gorman PG, CHG  
Engineering Geologist  
California Department of Water Resources  
Southern Region - Groundwater Section  
770 Fairmont Ave., Suite 102  
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Andy Horne  
Deputy County Executive Officer  
Natural Resources Development  
County of Imperial  
940 Main St., Suite 208  
El Centro, CA 92243

Jim Bennett  
Groundwater Geologist  
County of San Diego  
Planning and Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Third Floor  
San Diego, CA 92123

# Exhibit A

Coachella Water Agency

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

# Exhibit B

Certificate of Publication

City of Coachella Notice of Public Hearing

The Desert Sun  
750 N Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
760-778-4578 / Fax 760-778-4731

**Certificate of Publication**

State Of California ss:  
County of Riverside

Advertiser: CITY OF COACHELLA/LEGALS  
1515 6TH ST  
COACHELLA , CA 92236  
Order # 0001071171

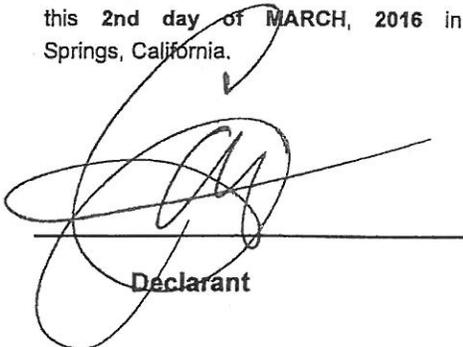
I am over the age of 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and not a party to, or have interest in this matter. I hereby certify that the attached advertisement appeared in said newspaper (set in type not smaller than non pariel) in each and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

Newspaper: The Desert Sun

2/24/2016 3/2/2016

I acknowledge that I am a principal clerk of the printer of The Desert Sun, printed and published weekly in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. The Desert Sun was adjudicated a Newspaper of general circulation on March 24, 1988 by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California Case No. 191236.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 2nd day of MARCH, 2016 in Palm Springs, California.



Declarant

**CITY OF COACHELLA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

No 0277

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA/COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR PORTIONS OF THE INDIO SUB-BASIN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA/COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority proposes to adopt a proposed Resolution to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to California Water Code section 10720 et seq for those portions of the Indio Sub-Basin underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries and sphere of influence of the City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority. This action is taken pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723(a). Accordingly, the proposed Resolution will affirm the election of the City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

The proposed Resolution is on file with the City Clerk and is available for review at City Hall; the proposed Resolution is also available for review on the city's website [www.coachella.org](http://www.coachella.org).

On Wednesday, March 9, 2016, the City will hold a public hearing to receive public comments, hear and consider all testimony at the City of Coachella Council Meeting to be held at 1515 Sixth Street, Coachella, California 92236, at 6:00 p.m. Written comments will be accepted until March 9, 2016 prior to the close of the public hearing on this issue.

Questions regarding the proposed Resolution should be directed to the Public Works Director at (760) 501-8100.  
Please send written comments to:  
City of Coachella, Attn: Public Works Director  
53 462 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236

Published: 2/24, 3/2/2016

# Exhibit C

Resolution NO. WA-2016-03

Coachella Water Authority

**RESOLUTION NO. WA-2016-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY (CWA)  
COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE PORTIONS OF THE  
INDIO/WHITEWATER SUB-BASIN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CWA**

**WHEREAS**, in September 2014 the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law, with an effective date of January 1, 2015 and codified at California Water Code, Section 10720 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of SGMA is to, among other goals, provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins and sub-basins defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide specified local agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10723(a) authorizes a local agency with water supply, water management or local land use responsibilities, or a combination of local agencies, overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA); and

**WHEREAS**, groundwater management of high and medium priority basins as designated by DWR is now required; and

**WHEREAS**, the service area of the Coachella Water Authority (CWA) overlies portions of the Indio/Whitewater sub-basin (DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 7-21.01) ("Indio Sub-Basin), which is an adjudicated basin and designated as medium priority sub-basin by DWR; and

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 10723.8 requires that a local agency electing to serve as a GSA notify DWR within 30 days of the local agency's election to become a GSA authorized to undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin; and

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 10723.8 mandates that 90 days following the posting by DWR of the local agency's notice of election to become a GSA, that the entity shall be presumed a GSA for the area within the basin the agency is managing as described in the notice, provided that no other GSA formation notice covering the same area has been submitted to DWR; and

**WHEREAS**, Coachella Valley Water District and Indio Water Authority/City of Indio both of which are located within the Indio Sub-Basin, may elect to become GSA's within their respective water service boundaries, which boundaries have been set in June 9, 2008 Agreement between CVWD and City of Coachella, amendment to those agreements and related agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Authority to jointly manage the Indio Sub-Basin with CVWD, DWA, IWA; and

**WHEREAS**, CWA intends to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or other form of agreement with the Partners to pursue the common purpose of establishing a governance structure of the Indio Sub-Basin pursuant to SGMA to maximize coordination and minimize potential areas of disagreement among the Partners; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code and Section 6066 of the California Government Code, a notice of public hearing was published in newspapers of general circulation in Riverside County regarding CWA's intent to consider becoming a GSA for the Indio Sub-Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, becoming a GSA supports CWA's ongoing efforts to eliminate overdraft and ensure water supply sustainability; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY:

1. The above recitals, and each of them, are true and correct.
2. CWA hereby elects to be the GSA for all of those portions of the Indio Sub-Basin underlying (or within) the jurisdictional boundaries of CWA, except that CWA shall not be the GSA for those portions of the sub-basin within the water service boundaries of CVWD; which boundaries have been set in the June 9, 2008 Agreement between CWA and CVWD.
3. CWA staff is directed to submit to DWR, within thirty (30) days of the approval of this Resolution, the notice and supporting documentation required by Water Code section 10723.8 and any other documentation required by SGMA to support CWA's formation of a GSA.
4. The City Manager / Executive Director of the CWA is authorized to negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding, other necessary cooperative agreements or other forms of agreement with the Partners, or other agencies of entities utilizing groundwater in the Indio Sub-Basin, for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated governing structure for the management of aforementioned Sub-Basin under SGMA and to enter agreements as needed to satisfy the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements.
5. The approval of this Resolution and the actions described herein are categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since: (1) they constitute a reorganization of local governmental agencies which does not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15320); (2) the Resolution results in the formation of an agency only and not the approval of any project of proposal containing enough

“meaningful information for environmental assessment” (State CEQA Guidelines 15004); and (3) it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (state CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3)). Staff is directed to file and post within five (5) business days the attached Notice of Exemption with the Clerks of the Boards of Supervisors of Riverside County, San Diego County and Imperial County.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Water Authority held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Authority Member Sanchez, Authority Member Perez and President Hernandez.

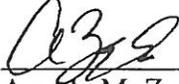
NOES: None.

ABSENT: Authority Member Bautista and Vice President Martinez.

ABSTAIN: None.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

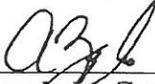
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela M. Zepeda, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlos L. Campos, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss  
CITY OF COACHELLA )

I, Angela M. Zepeda, Secretary of the Coachella Water Authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. WA-2016-03 adopted by the Board of Directors of the Coachella Water Authority at a regular meeting therefore duly held and convened on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela M. Zepeda, Secretary

# Exhibit D

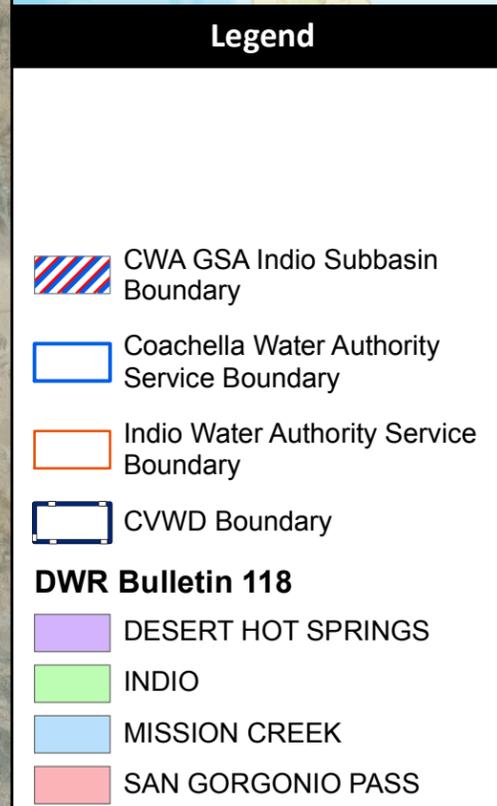
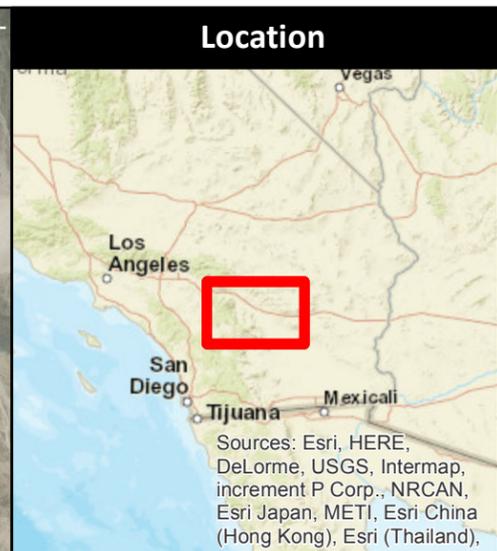
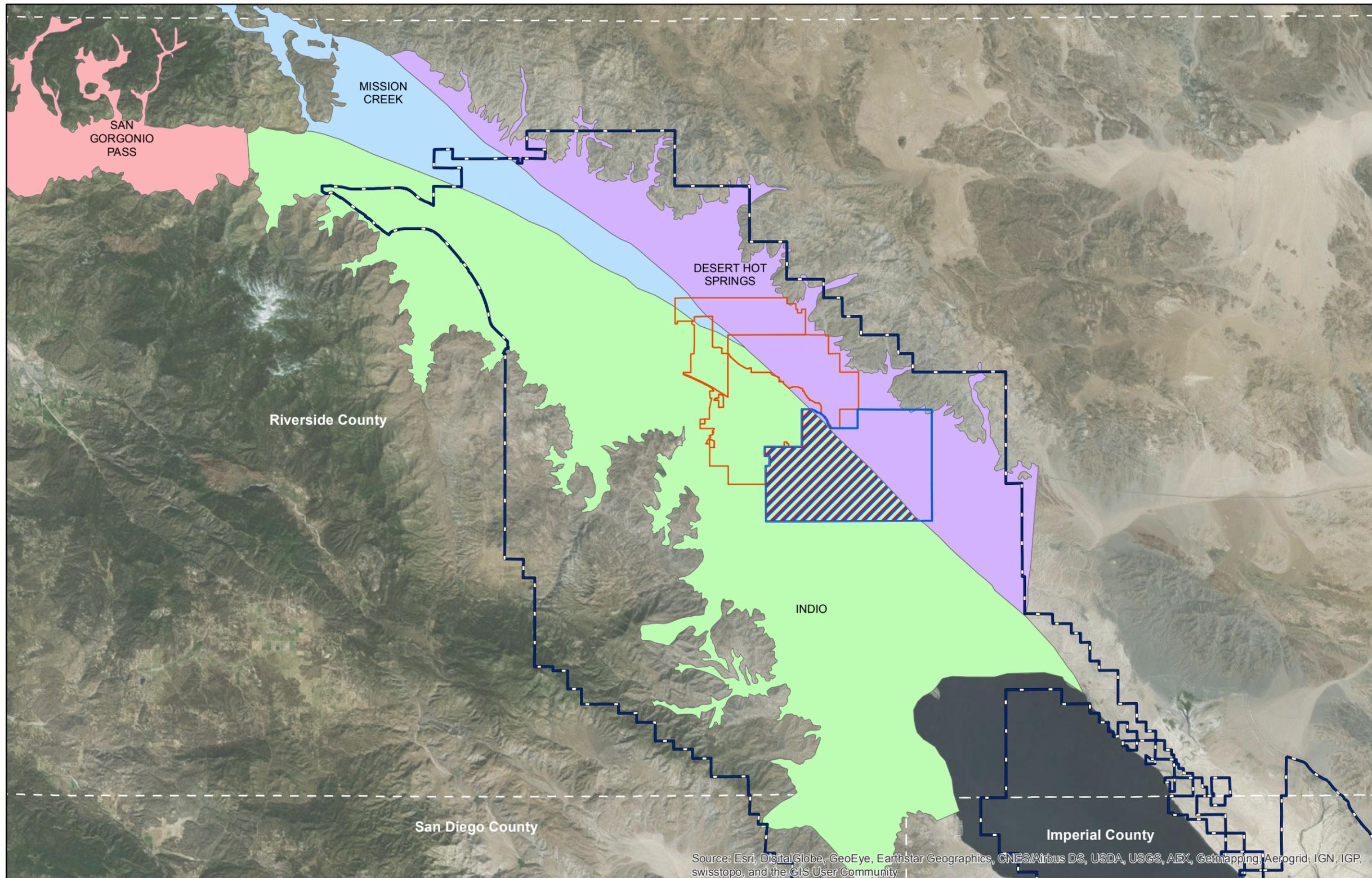
**Indio Sub-Basins  
Initial List of Beneficial Uses and Users of  
Groundwater for  
The Coachella Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
(CWA GSA)**

**Indio Sub-Basins**  
**Initial List of Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater for**  
**The Coachella Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CWA GSA)**

As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), CWA will consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). An initial list of interested parties is provided in accordance with California Water Code sections 10723.2 and 10723.8(a)(4). This list will continue to be updated during the implementation of CWA's GSPs for the Indio Sub- Basins.

1. Coachella Valley Water District levies and collects replenishment assessment fees for the purpose of replenishing groundwater supplies within CWA boundaries. These overlying users include the following:
  - Domestic Users
  - Agricultural Users
  - Resort Industry Users such as Golf Courses and Homeowners Associations
  - Institutional Users
  - Public and Private Land Owners
2. Municipal well operators:
  - Desert Water Agency (DWA) (exclusive local agency per code section 10723(c)(1))
  - Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) (planning to become a GSA)
  - Indio Water Authority (IWA) (planning to become a GSA)
  - Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (within DWA Boundary)
  - Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company
  - Boe Del Heights Mutual Water Company
  - Carver Tract Mutual Water Company
  - Waller Tract Mutual Water Company
  - Various State Small Systems regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board and Riverside County Department of Public Health
3. Public water systems: All public water systems within the sub-basins rely on groundwater and are listed under (2) Municipal well operators.
4. Local land use planning agencies:
  - County of Riverside
  - City of La Quinta
  - City of Indio
5. Environmental users of groundwater: City of Coachella is a signatory to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the CWA GSA will coordinate with any users of groundwater for environmental purposes including but not limited to, species and habitat conservation.
6. Surface water users: Sources and users of surface water include the following:
  - Imported Colorado River water for irrigation and recharge,
  - Local stream flow from several mostly ephemeral rivers and streams, all of which naturally recharge the groundwater basin.

7. The federal government: The CWA GSA will coordinate with federal agencies that hold or manage land overlying the groundwater basins including, but not limited to the following:
  - U.S. Bureau of Land Management
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
8. California Native American Tribes: The CWA GSA will coordinate with the three federally recognized Native American tribes located within the CWA GSA boundary.
  - Augustine Band of Mission Indians
  - Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
  - Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
9. Disadvantaged Communities: Several Disadvantaged Communities exist within the CWA GSA boundary including the unincorporated community of Thermal and the surrounding R of the Eastern Coachella Valley. CWA actively works with these communities via the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group and will coordinate with these and other Disadvantaged Communities within the CWA GSA boundary.
10. Entities listed in California Water Code Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA: CWA, CVWD, DWA, IWA, and MSWD participate in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



## Coachella Water Authority

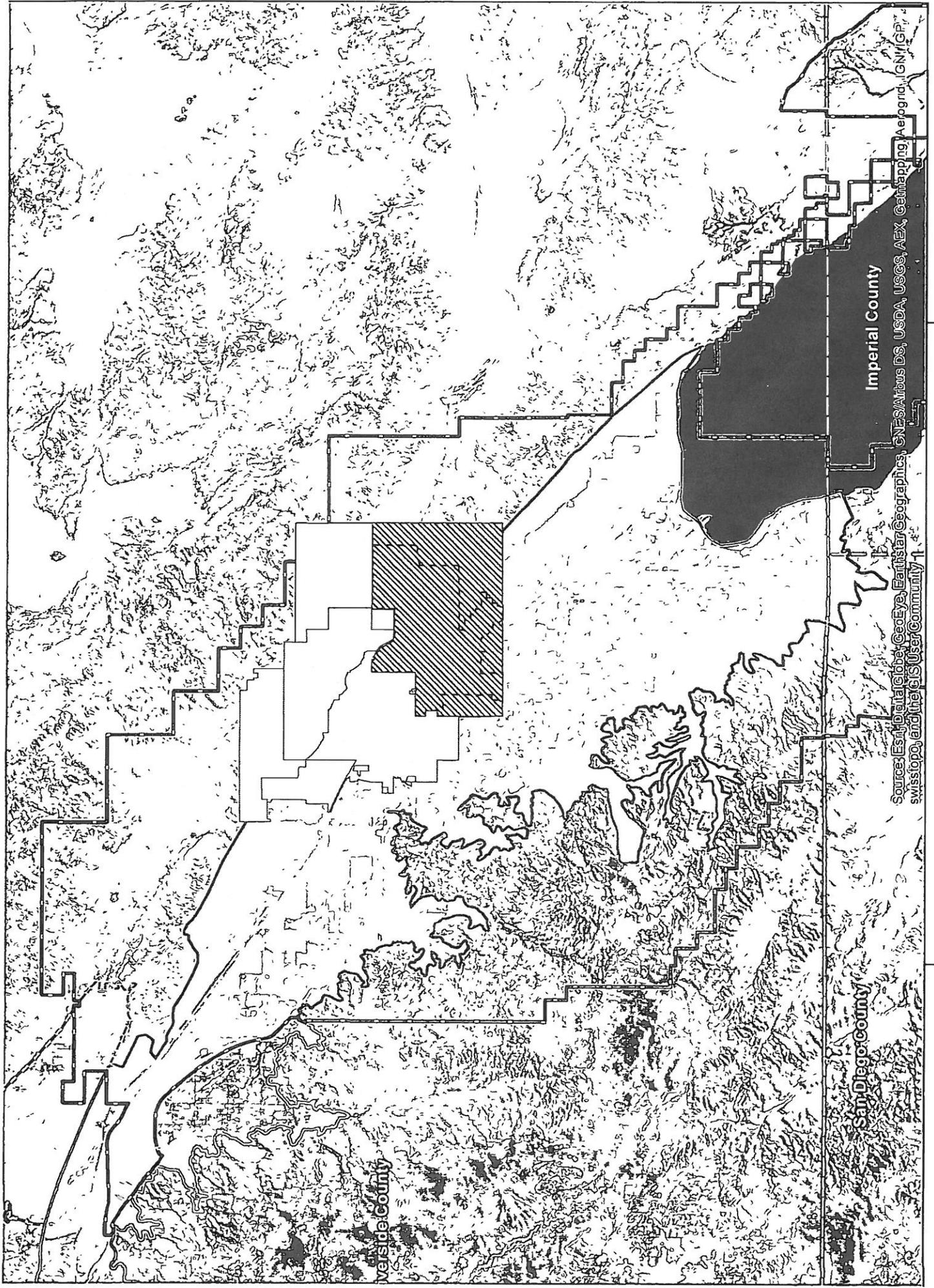
1515 Sixth Street  
 Coachella, CA 92236  
[www.coachella.org](http://www.coachella.org)  
 Ph. (760) 398-3502  
 Fx. (760) 398-8117



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

## Coachella Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

File Name: CWA\_GSAMapPak.mxd  
 Date Updated: Thursday, April 07, 2016 @ 3:42:35 PM  
 Updated By: cestrada  
 Department: Engineering - GIS/CAD



Imperial County  
San Diego County  
Riverside County

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN/IGP, swiss topo, and the GIS User Community

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** County Clerk  
County of Riverside  
2724 Gateway Drive  
P. O. Box 751  
Riverside, CA 92502-0751

**From:** City of Coachella  
1515 Sixth Street  
Coachella, California 92236

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**Project Title:**

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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**Project Location:**

City of Coachella / Coachella Water Authority as shown on Exhibit 'A' (attached)

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**Description of Project:**

The purpose of this project is for CWA to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency in order to manage a portion of the Indio/Whitewater Sub-Basin, which is adjudicated and designated as medium-priority sub-basin.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:**

Coachella Water Authority

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**Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Coachella Water Authority

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**Exempt Status:**

This project qualifies as a categorical exemption, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

City and Agency Staff have determined that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Under this section of CEQA a project is exempt from CEQA if it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. CWA is forming a GSA pursuant to its authority under SGMA. It can be seen with certainty that this action cannot have a significant effect on the environment because the powers the GSA will exercise are exempt from CEQA review.

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**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

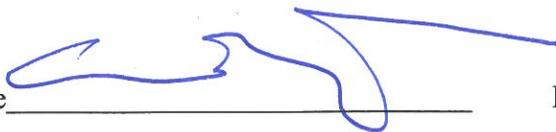
Maritza Martinez  
Public Works Director

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**Telephone**

(760) 501-8111

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

3/22/16

• Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for Filing \_\_\_\_\_