

**ACTION**

Board of Directors
April 17, 2019

SUBJECT:

Approve and Authorize West San Jacinto and Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Basins Boundary Modifications

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014. The intent of SGMA is to promote sustainable management of groundwater basins. SGMA requires that medium and high priority basins be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), and grants new and additional groundwater management authorities to GSAs. On December 7, 2016, EMWD's Board approved Resolution 2016-135 to become the GSA for the West San Jacinto Groundwater Basin. On June 7, 2017, EMWD's Board approved Resolution 2017-050 to become the GSA for the Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Sub-basin.

Groundwater basin boundaries throughout California are established based on the limits of alluvial aquifers, and are described in a publication produced by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) called "Bulletin 118 California's Groundwater" (Bulletin 118). With the passage of SGMA, the basin boundaries described in Bulletin 118 have taken on greater significance. The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin, as defined in Bulletin 118 (Basin No. 8-005), has been identified by DWR as a "high priority" basin, making it subject to more aggressive deadlines in the SGMA regulations. The San Timoteo Groundwater Sub-basin, as defined in Bulletin 118 (Basin No. 8-002.08), has recently been reassigned by DWR as a "very low priority" basin and management action is voluntary based on the SGMA regulations.

SGMA established a process for local agencies to revise the boundaries of an existing Bulletin 118 basin to better represent the local groundwater aquifer and enhance management of the basin. EMWD submitted Bulletin 118 basin boundary modification requests to DWR for both the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin and the San Timoteo Groundwater Sub-basin before the June 30, 2019, deadline. The basin boundary modification requests were based on scientific justification that most accurately defined the sedimentary basin relative to the well-consolidated bedrock within and surrounding the exiting basin boundaries.

DWR finalized the approved basin boundary results on February 11, 2019. The San Timoteo Groundwater Sub-basin boundary modification request was fully approved by DWR. As such, the area encompassing the Southwest San Timoteo GSA has been removed from the sub-basin boundary. The Board is being requested to consider withdrawal of EMWD as the Southwest San Timoteo GSA because this sub-basin is no longer within EMWD's sphere of influence. The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin boundary modification request was approved in all areas except

the area encompassing Lake Perris. As a result of the basin boundary modification approval, the West San Jacinto GSA will be revised to reflect the modifications approved by DWR. The Board is also being requested to consider approval of the revised West San Jacinto GSA area, which excludes adjudicated areas of the basin and March Air Reserve Base.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE:

Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local and recycled water sources.

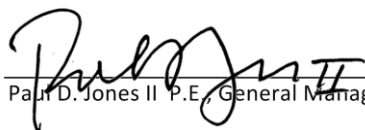
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

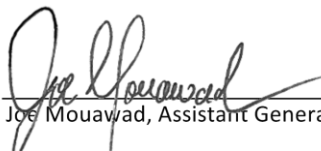
Approve and Amend Resolution 2016-135 to revise the West San Jacinto Groundwater Sustainability Agency Area to be consistent with the basin boundary modification as approved by DWR; and Rescind Resolution 2017-050 and withdraw EMWD as the Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the San Timoteo Sub-basin.

SUBMITTED BY:



Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager

4/4/2019



Joe Mouawad, Assistant General Manager

3/28/2019

Attachment(s):

Presentation

History:

04/11/19 Board Planning Committee RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
04/17/19 Board Meeting

Staff Contact: Rachel Gray



West San Jacinto and Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Basins Boundary Modifications

Rachel M. Gray
April 11, 2019

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law on September 16, 2014
 - Purpose of SGMA: Sustainable management of groundwater in a manner that does not cause undesirable results
- SGMA grants new and additional groundwater management authorities to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)
- On December 7, 2016, EMWD’s Board approved Resolution 2016-135 to become the GSA for the West San Jacinto Basin
- On June 7, 2017, EMWD’s Board approved Resolution 2017-050 to become the GSA for the Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Sub-basin

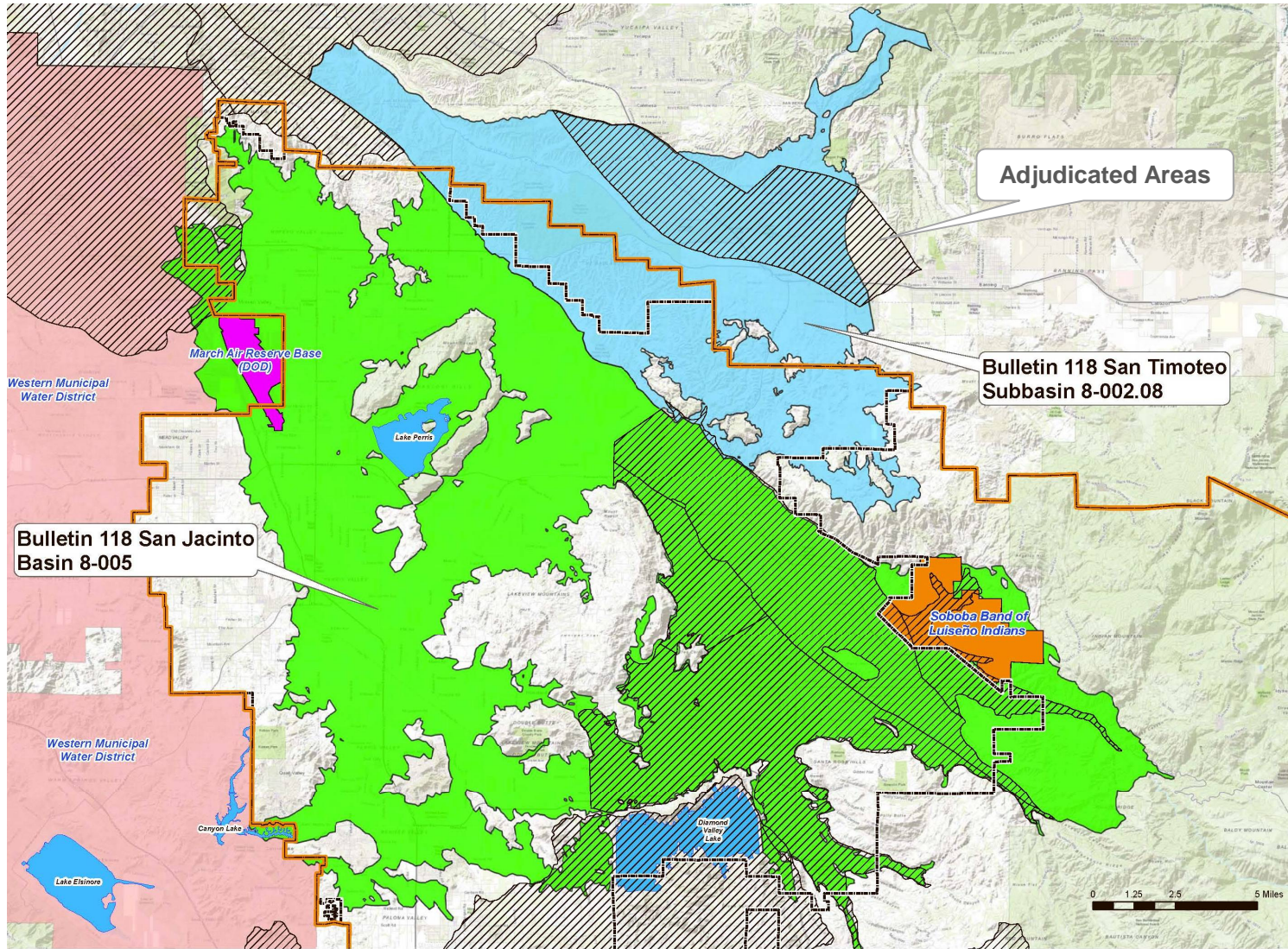


Bulletin 118 and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- Existing groundwater basin boundaries are defined in DWR’s Bulletin 118 California’s Groundwater
- The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin, as defined in Bulletin 118 (Basin No. 8-005), is a “high priority” basin
- The San Timoteo Groundwater Subbasin, as defined in Bulletin 118 (Basin No. 8-002.08), has recently been assigned as a “very low priority” basin
- SGMA established a process for local agencies to revise the boundaries of an existing Bulletin 118 basin to better represent the local groundwater aquifer
- In June 2018, EMWD submitted Bulletin 118 Boundary modifications for the San Jacinto and San Timoteo Basins

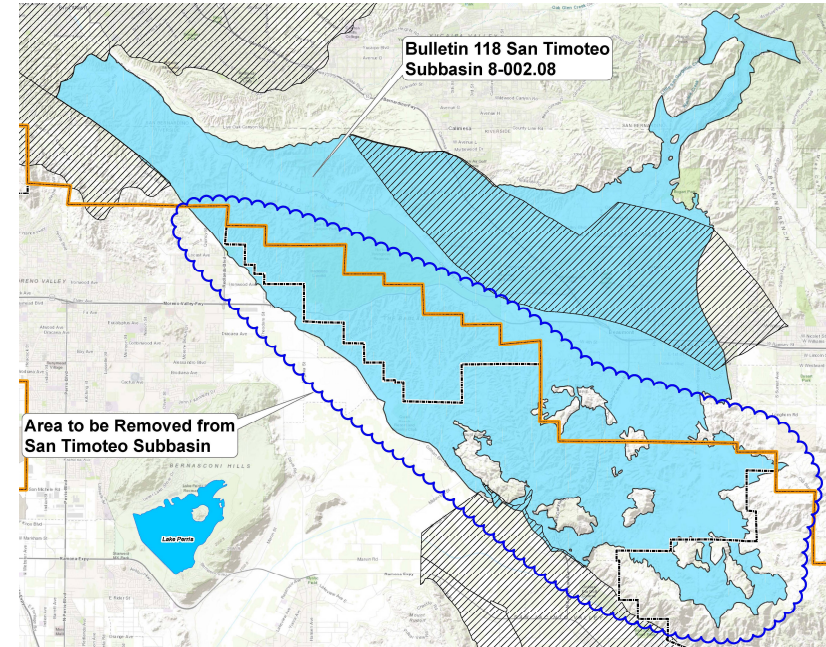
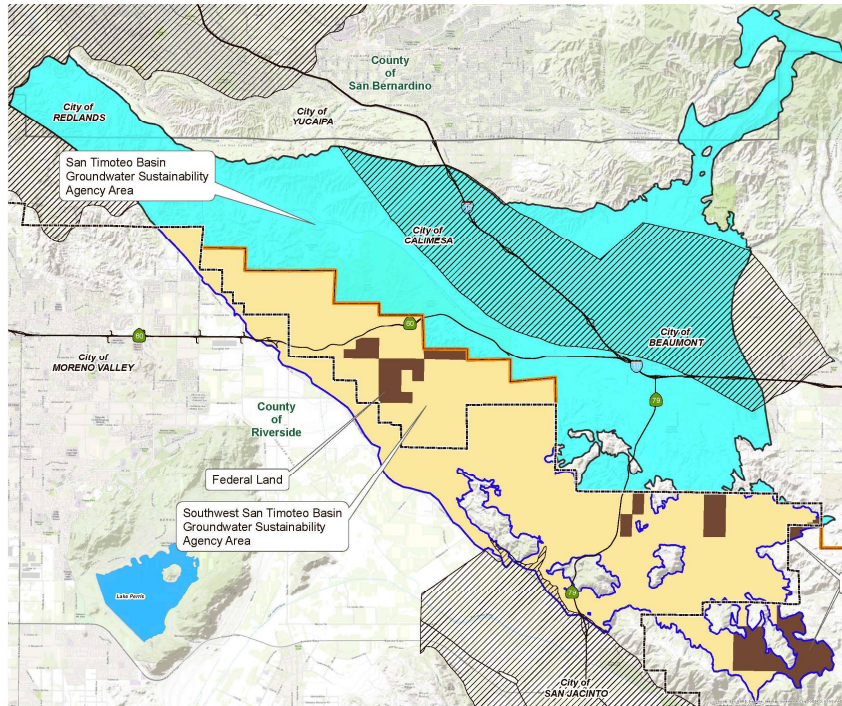


Existing San Jacinto and San Timoteo Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin Boundaries



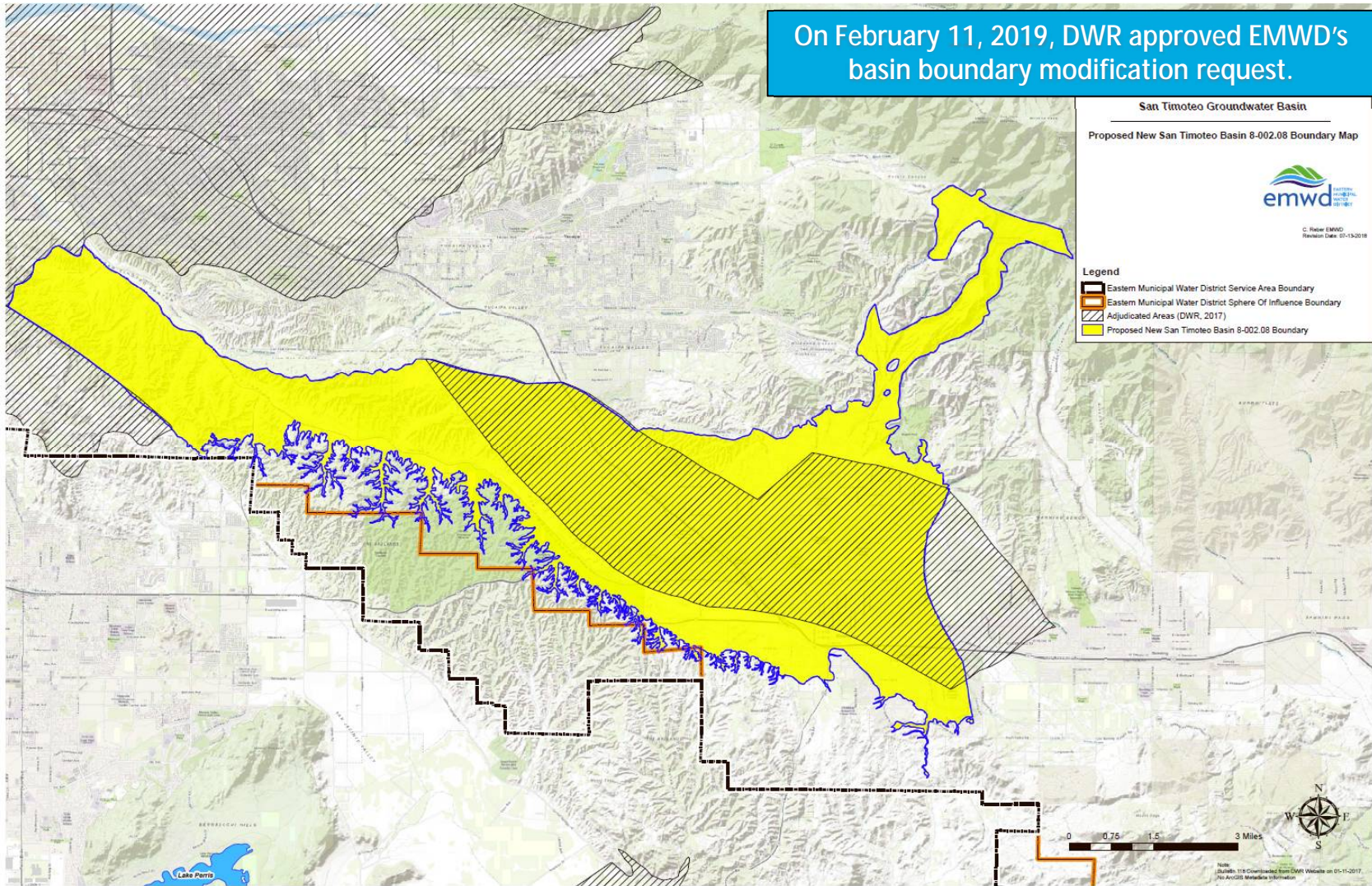
San Timoteo Groundwater Bulletin 118 Boundary Modification Basin Boundary Adjustment Area

- Given the modified boundary of the Southwest San Timoteo Sub-basin, the basin is no longer within EMWD’s sphere of influence and therefore the District can no longer be a GSA

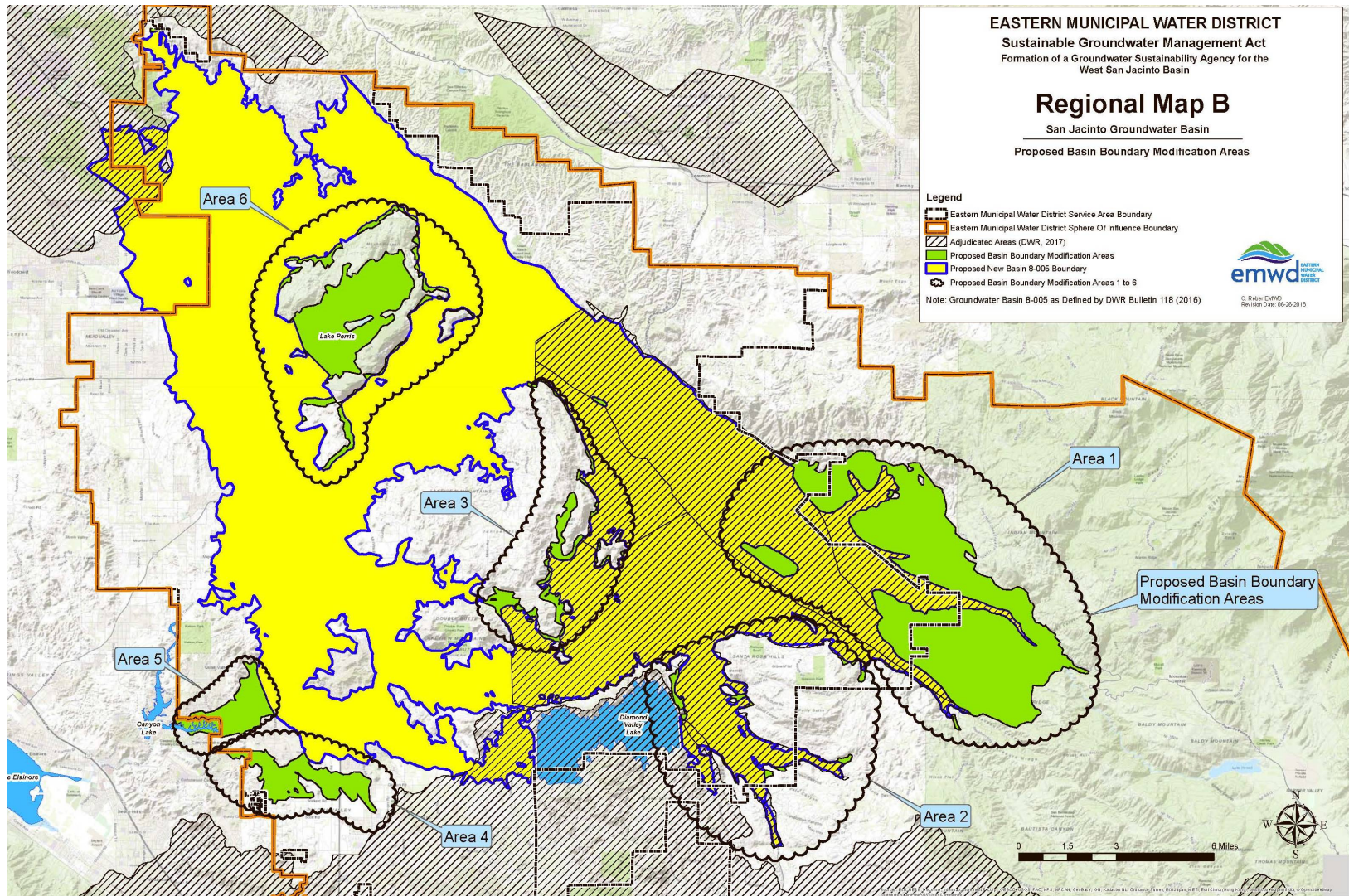


- In addition, preparation of a GSP for the Southwest San Timoteo Sub-basin is not anticipated due to a DWR ranking of “very low priority”

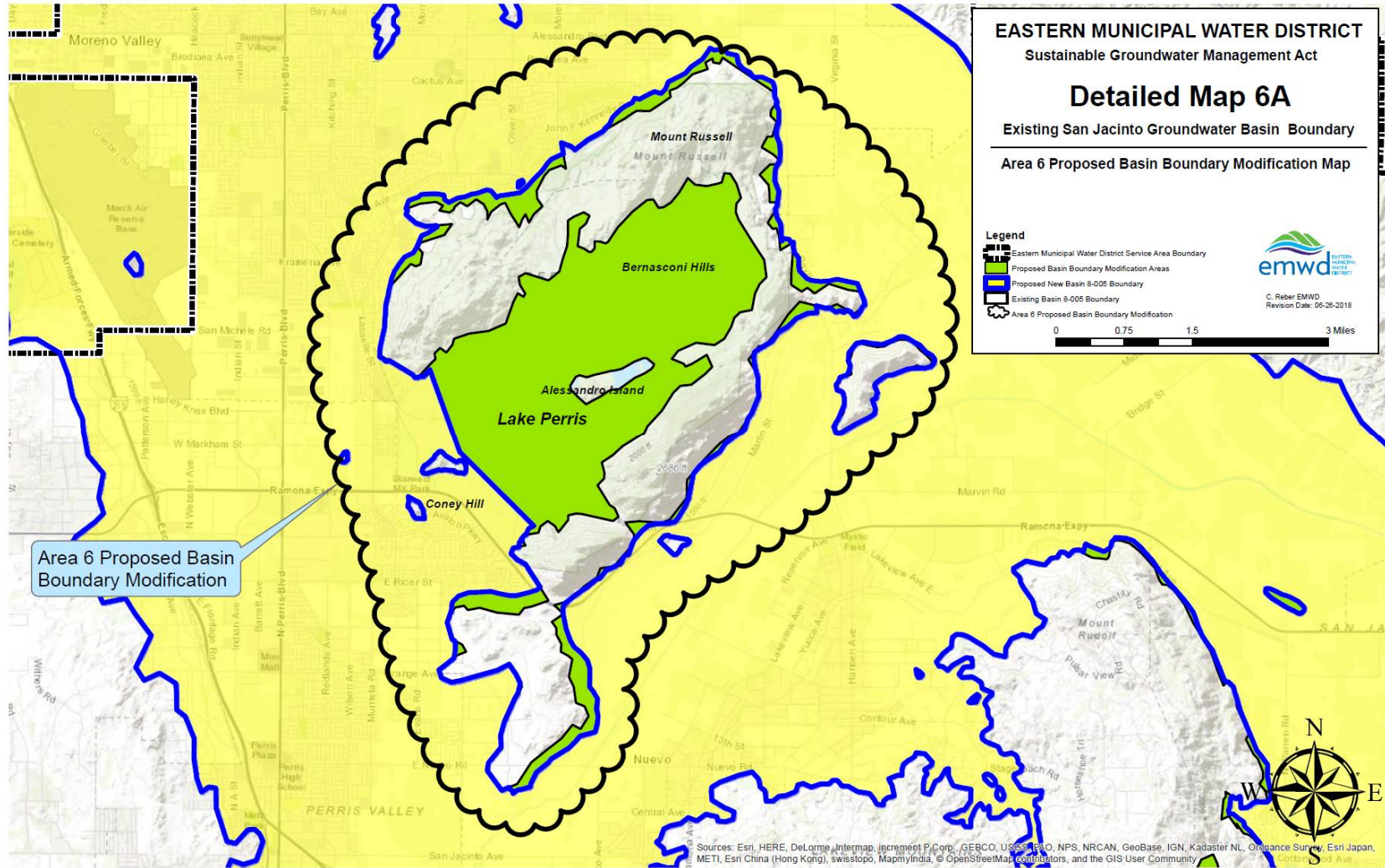
San Timoteo Groundwater Bulletin 118 Boundary Modification Revised San Timoteo Sub-basin Boundary



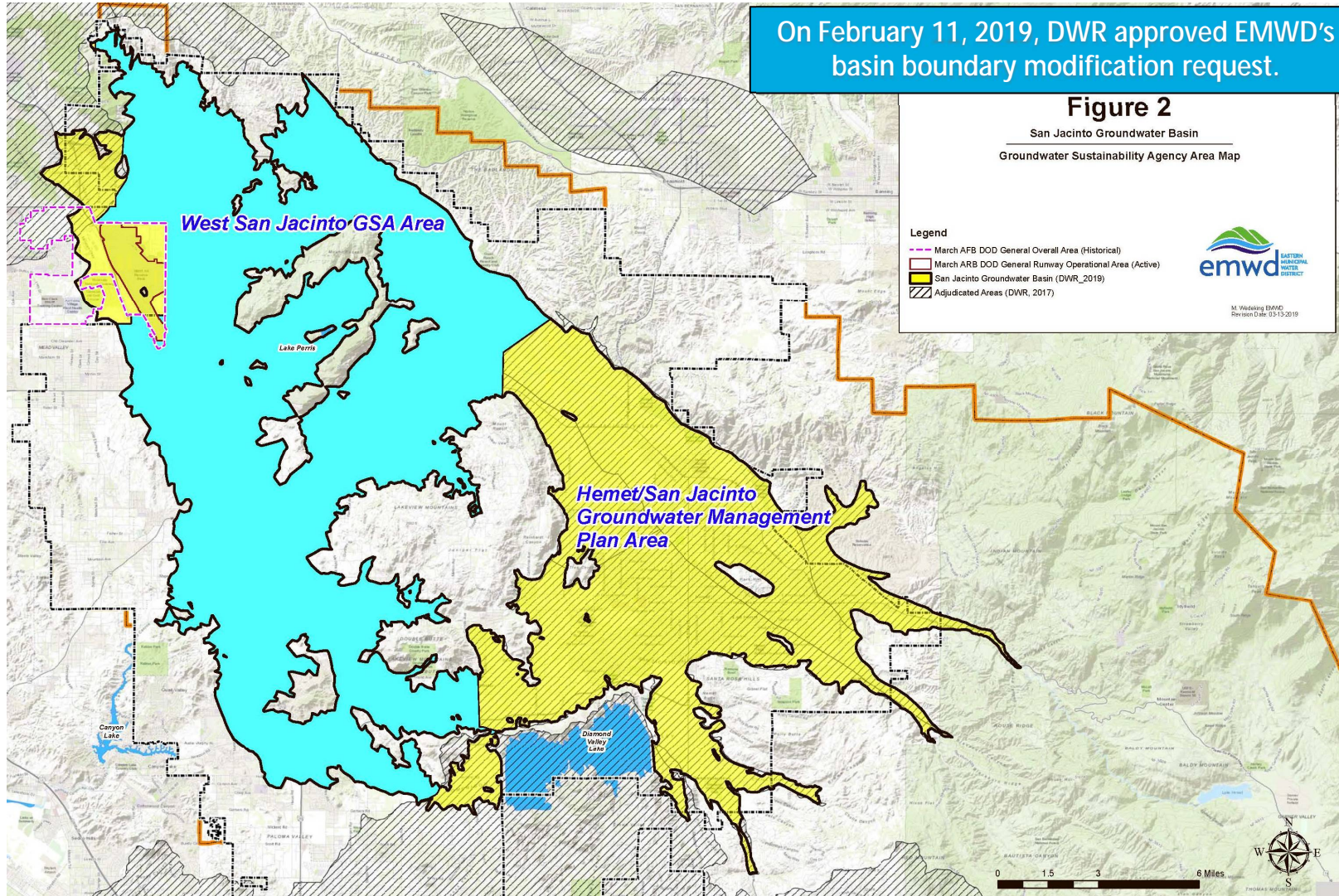
San Jacinto Groundwater Bulletin 118 Boundary Modification Basin Boundary Adjustment Areas



Area 6 – One Area was Not Approved



San Jacinto Groundwater Bulletin 118 Boundary Modification Revised San Jacinto Basin Boundary and West San Jacinto GSA Area



Recommendations

- Amend Resolution 2016-135 to revise the area shown for the West San Jacinto Groundwater Sustainability Agency Area to be consistent with the basin boundary modification as approved by DWR, excluding adjudicated areas and MARB; and
- Rescind Resolution 2017-050 and withdraw EMWD as the Southwest San Timoteo Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the San Timoteo Sub-basin.



Contact Information

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