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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

STRGBA GSA Member Agencies (strgba@mid.org)
Todd Groundwater c/o Liz Elliott (LElliott@toddengineers.com)
Woodard and Curran c/o Dominick Amador (damador@woodardcurran.com)

*Re: STRGBA GSA's Management Actions and Well Mitigation Plan
HH Matter ID: 2977-001*

Dear STRGBA GSA Member Agencies and Consultants:

On behalf of the Friends of MID, I want to thank the STRGBA GSA Member Agencies and Consultants for the information provided during the recent workshops to discuss the proposed Management Actions and Well Mitigation Plan. As you are working to further refine the details for both of these incredibly important matters, we respectfully request that the following considerations form the basis of the terms:

1. Differences in Management Area and Division of Burden – It remains important to continue to recognize that 4 Management Areas were established by the STRGBA GSA's GSP in recognition of the fact that there are drastically different groundwater conditions throughout the subbasin, the scope of which has repeatedly been supported by the ongoing monitoring by the GSA, and the Oakdale and Modesto Management Areas have already spent millions of dollars creating a sustainable conjunctive use system. For these reasons, it is necessary to disregard the fallacy that it is acceptable to have 1 set of rules for the entire Subbasin. It is also important that the costs of the Well Mitigation Plan and any costs or charges associated with the Management Actions not be divided evenly among all Member Agencies. Instead, it is indisputable that the conditions in the NDE Management Area support allocation of the greatest responsibility for costs and charges to the NDE.
2. Modesto Management Area – It is our understanding that MID has already been actively working to reduce groundwater pumping to address the miniscule reduction proposed by the Consultant during the July 16, 2025 workshop. MID and the City of Modesto both need to continue reduce unnecessary pumping of the deep groundwater wells and properly increase the use of the readily available surface water supply. Reduced pumping of deep groundwater wells, coupled with the correct reporting of deep groundwater well pumping vs. shallow groundwater pumping (which is necessary for the crops and has no negative impact on the Subbasin), should quickly resolve any potential extremely minor issue currently impacting the Modesto Management Area.
3. Increased Use of Surface Water – The NDE Management Area landowners should be required to take advantage of the surface water made available through MID and OID's groundwater replenishment programs. It is simply nonsensical to assert that the rate charged by MID and/or OID to purchase surface water is too high, as the only alternative for the NDE is to fallow land.

4. Stewards – For each Management Area, the Stewards must apply sound judgment and respect the legal rights of the landowners in making decisions regarding groundwater allocation, credits, trading programs, etc. While the decisions that are made may be delegated to each individual Management Area, the ultimate decisions and the structure, terms and conditions of any programs implemented by the Stewards should be reported to the public and all GSA Member Agency representatives to ensure transparency.

We look forward to continuing to work with the GSA to ensure the decisions that are made regarding the proposed Management Actions and Well Mitigation Plan are logical, reasonable and equitable when considering the drastically different conditions within the Modesto Subbasin.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Henderson

Stacy L. Henderson
Attorney at Law

Cc: Friends of MID

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