COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2014

Public Hearing Required	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Published Notice Required	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	☒	N/A	☐
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	☐	N/A	☒
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	☐	N/A	☒

CONTACT PERSON: Denise England PHONE: 636-5005

SUBJECT: Letter of Opposition to Assembly Bill 793

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve sending a letter of opposition to Assembly Bill 793 Creation of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Conservancy

SUMMARY:

On June 26, 2014 Assembly Bill 793 was amended in the Senate to create the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Conservancy. The bill proposes an unmanageable and inefficient Conservancy that lacks technical groundwater management expertise. AB 793 appears to be constructed out of panic and distress caused by the current drought crisis. As such, the bill lacks a thorough consideration of groundwater management strategies already in place, a sustainable funding mechanism, and the technical expertise to determine a safe groundwater yield for the region.

At their July 14, 2014 the Tulare County Water Commission discussed the bill at length. The concerns of the Commissioners are summarized in the attached letter of opposition that is recommended to be sent to the bill's author and the Tulare County delegation.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

N/A

SUBJECT: Letter of Opposition to Assembly Bill 793
DATE: August 12, 2014

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to provide for the safety and security of the public which includes the goal of providing an adequate and safe water supply.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

_____
Denise England
Sr. Administrative Analyst- Water Resources

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment: Letter

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF LETTER OF	)	
OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY BILL 793	)	**Resolution No. _____**
		Agreement No. _____

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____ _____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

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Approved sending a letter of opposition to Assembly Bill 793 Creation of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Conservancy

August 12, 2014

To The Honorable Adam Gray
State Capitol, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors opposes AB 793 Creation of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Conservancy because the bill proposes an unwieldy and inefficient governance structure for groundwater management for the San Joaquin Valley. The proposed region encompasses eight counties, several groundwater basins, and numerous sub-basins. The bill would circumvent local groundwater management efforts and necessary authorities at the county and local water district level.

AB 793 proposes a governance structure comprised of 15 voting directors to lead the Conservancy and make groundwater management policy and regulation for the entire San Joaquin Valley. The proposed governance structure includes very little local representation and zero technical expertise relative to groundwater management. This approach would no doubt become politically charged and stymie long standing local groundwater management configurations. In Tulare County local water agencies have undertaken many programs and projects aimed at addressing groundwater management including overdraft, storage, and banking. These programs and projects were designed with industry expertise, and negotiated via longstanding relationships within the water supply and delivery industry in conjunction with local stakeholders.

AB 793 intends to be a large scale solution for sustainability; unfortunately, it is premature and not well thought out. The bill was born in the pandemonium of the current drought crisis and does not propose a solution that would ameliorate sustainable groundwater practices in Tulare County.

Finally, AB 793 does not propose a valid source of funding to carry out its goals and objectives. Managing groundwater locally is expensive and creating a larger bureaucracy will prove even more costly. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors firmly opposes the creation of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Allen R. Ishida
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Philip A. Cox
District Three

J. Steven Worthley
District Four

Mike Ennis
District Five

CC: Tulare County Delegation,
The Honorable Tom Berryhill,
The Honorable Anthony Cannella