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SLO LAFCO - Serving the Area of San Luis Obispo County

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TO: MEMBERS, FORMATION COMMISSION

FROM: DAVID CHURCH, AICP, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE: MARCH 17, 2016

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT-CUYAMA BASIN WATER DISTRICT FORMATION

Recommendation. It is respectfully recommended that the Commission receive and file this report.

Summary. The Cuyama Groundwater Basin is located across four Counties (Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Kern) with the majority of the basin in Santa Barbara County. The Cuyama Groundwater Basin is ranked as a medium priority basin by DWR and provides groundwater to a significant agricultural area that is not currently managed by a local agency. The purpose for forming the District would be to enable a public agency with the powers to:

- administer, develop, construct and operate projects and programs to enhance water supplies to help stabilize the groundwater conditions in the Basin; and
- advance groundwater management and conservation programs and thereby pursue stabilizing the Basin and sustaining its resources for the beneficial use of all who use water within the proposed District.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2015 (Water Code Section 10720, "SGMA"), requires that basins ranked medium and high by DWR submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by 2020. This District (within its boundaries) would provide a governmental structure for local control and compliance with SGMA.

For the formation of a Multi-County District, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act defines the "principal county" as the one that has the greatest portion of the assessed value of the properties within the proposed boundary. In this case Santa Barbara County is the principal county.

Multi-County District. Acreage within the Bulletin 118 boundary is broken down as follows: Santa Barbara-107,628, Ventura-76,624, San Luis Obispo-49,106, Kern-8,372. Please see the attached map. CKH Act gives the Commission of the principal county exclusive jurisdiction. GC 56123 allows for the principal county to complete all actions associated with the formation:

Any notices, proceedings, orders, or any other acts authorized or required to be given, taken, or made by the commission, board of supervisors, clerk of a county, or any other county official, shall be given, taken, or made by the persons holding those offices in the principal county. The commission of the principal county shall provide notice to the legislative body and the executive officer of all affected agencies of any proceedings, actions, or reports on the proposed change of organization or reorganization.

The CKH Act also directs the officials in other affected counties to cooperate with the principal county commission. Again, GC 56123 is helpful in this regard:

Any officer of a county other than the principal county shall cooperate with the commission of the principal county and shall furnish the commission of the principal county with any certificates, records, or certified copies of records as may be necessary to enable the commission of the principal county to comply with this division.

The CKH Act also provides a process for an affected county to become the principal county (GC 56124). This can only happen if: 1) the principal county approves giving exclusive jurisdiction to another affected county; 2) the principal county commission designates the affected county; and 3) the affected county commission accepts the exclusive jurisdiction. This option has not been considered or proposed by Santa Barbara County. Santa Barbara LAFCO is currently the principal county.

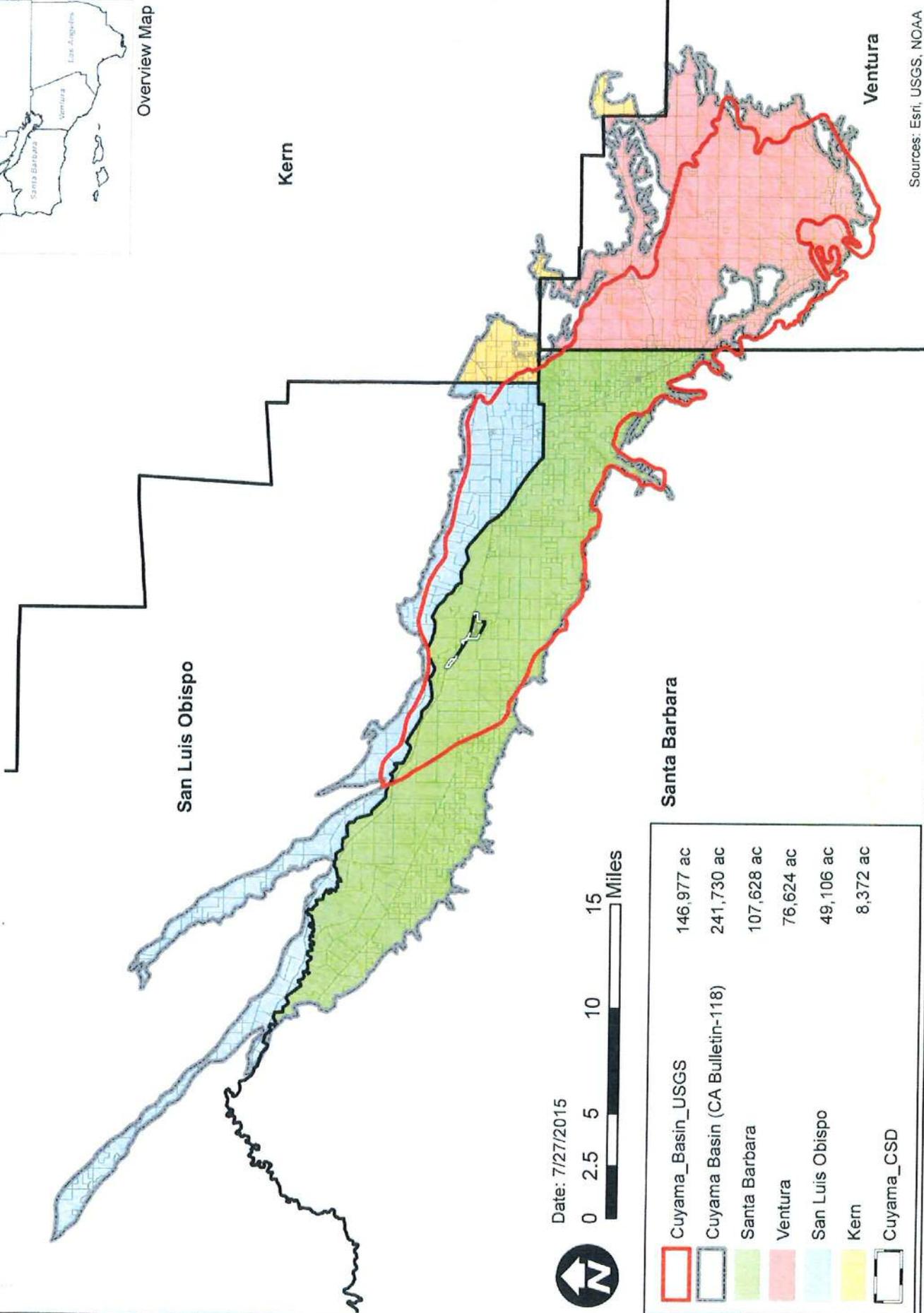
USGS Study of the Cuyama Basin. The United States Geological Survey has prepared studies and continues to study the Cuyama Groundwater Basin. Based on the USGS analysis and ongoing studies, the Santa Barbara County Water Resources Agency has submitted a request for a boundary modification of the Bulletin 118 boundary to DWR. This boundary is shown in red on the attached map. If granted, this change would decrease the size of the basin by about 95,000 acres. DWR is considering this request.

Other Matters. The petition is being prepared by the land owners in the area. It must be submitted to SB LAFCO before signatures can be gathered. A successful petition must be signed by a majority of the holders of title to a majority of the area of land which is capable of using water beneficially for irrigation, domestic, industrial or municipal purposes and which can be serviced from common sources of supply and by the same system of works.

CUYAMA GROUNDWATER BASIN



Overview Map



San Luis Obispo

Kern

Santa Barbara

Ventura

Date: 7/27/2015



	Cuyama_Basin_USGS	146,977 ac
	Cuyama Basin (CA Bulletin-118)	241,730 ac
	Santa Barbara	107,628 ac
	Ventura	76,624 ac
	San Luis Obispo	49,106 ac
	Kern	8,372 ac
	Cuyama_CSD	

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA