



AMSTERDAM WATER DISTRICT

2941 South State Hwy 59 - Merced, CA 95341
209-829-9914

August 15, 2019

Merced Irrigation District
Attention: Mr. Hicham Eltal
GSP Contact
744 W. 20th St.
Merced, CA 95340
mercedsgma@woodardcurran.com

Dear Mr. Eltal,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) dated July 19, 2019. Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Merced Subbasin is of upmost important to Amsterdam Water District (AWD), and the agricultural community in whole. We appreciate the effort your team as put forth.

The landowners within the Amsterdam Water District have been preparing for the implementation of SGMA by: 1) organizing; 2) purchasing out-of-district Merced Irrigation District (MID) surface water when available; 3) conducting a Water Supply Study; and 4) creating a data management plan. In the near future, we would like to partner with MID on a groundwater recharge project.

The GSP describes several demand management tools, including allocations, water markets, fallowing programs, and groundwater extraction fees. We understand there is overdraft and SGMA requires a change in farming practices. Changes in farming practices can't happen overnight so any demand management program that is considered must fully utilize the 20-year transition period from 2020 to 2040.

Once again, we appreciate your efforts thus far and are willing partners moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Bert Crane, Jr.
President, Amsterdam Water District