

# HARVEST WATER PROGRAM - CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS WITH LAFCO PROVISIONS

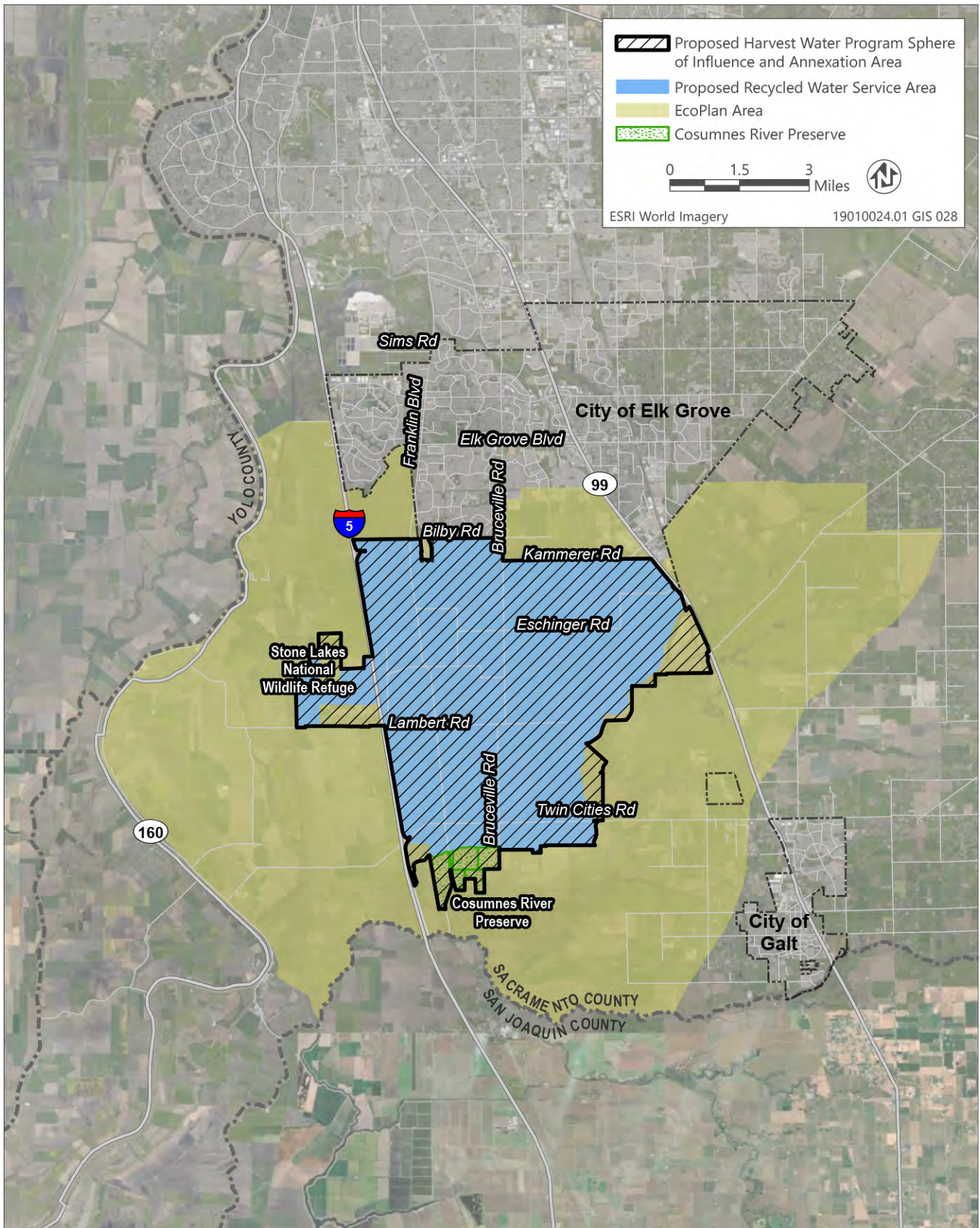
## Overview of Annexation Request

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) proposes to implement the Harvest Water Program, which would provide a safe and reliable supply of tertiary-treated recycled water for agricultural uses, reduce groundwater pumping, support habitat enhancement efforts, and provide near-term benefits to the region. The project consists of the following elements:

- ▲ Lateral pipelines and on-farm connections,
- ▲ Wintertime application of recycled water to agricultural lands, and
- ▲ Ecosystem improvements.

The Harvest Water Program includes expanding Regional San’s recycled water system to serve the South County, and consists of pumping Title 22 tertiary-treated, disinfected recycled water from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) through new pipelines to potential to up to approximately 16,000 acres of irrigated lands, 400 acres of managed wetlands within the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and a potential recharge area. This proposed reorganization would include an amendment to its sphere of influence (SOIA) and annexation of an approximately 26,000 acres into Regional San’s service area for recycled water service, only, including unincorporated irrigated lands in the South County and managed wetlands within the South Stone Lake area of the Stone Lakes NWR. The only exception is that as part of the wintertime application of recycled water, Regional San would provide recycled water to the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve) via a new proposed pipeline that would extend from the intersection of Twin Cities Road and Franklin Boulevard south to the Preserve south of the proposed recycled water service area where it would be located on Preserve lands and connect to an existing Preserve operated water intake. The proposed recycled water service area is located in Sacramento County and includes portions of the City of Elk Grove approved Sphere of Influence, unincorporated Sacramento County, and the Stone Lakes NWR. The recycled water service area is bounded to the south by Twin Cities Road, to the north primarily by Bilby Road and Kammerer Road, and lies mostly between Interstate 5 (I-5) and Highway 99, both of which traverse in a north-south direction (see Figure 1). A portion of the service area is bisected by I-5. While the project area is located close to the SRWTP, it is outside the current Regional San service area. The proposed annexation of the project area is for extension of recycled water service only. Figure 2 identifies anticipated pipeline alignments.

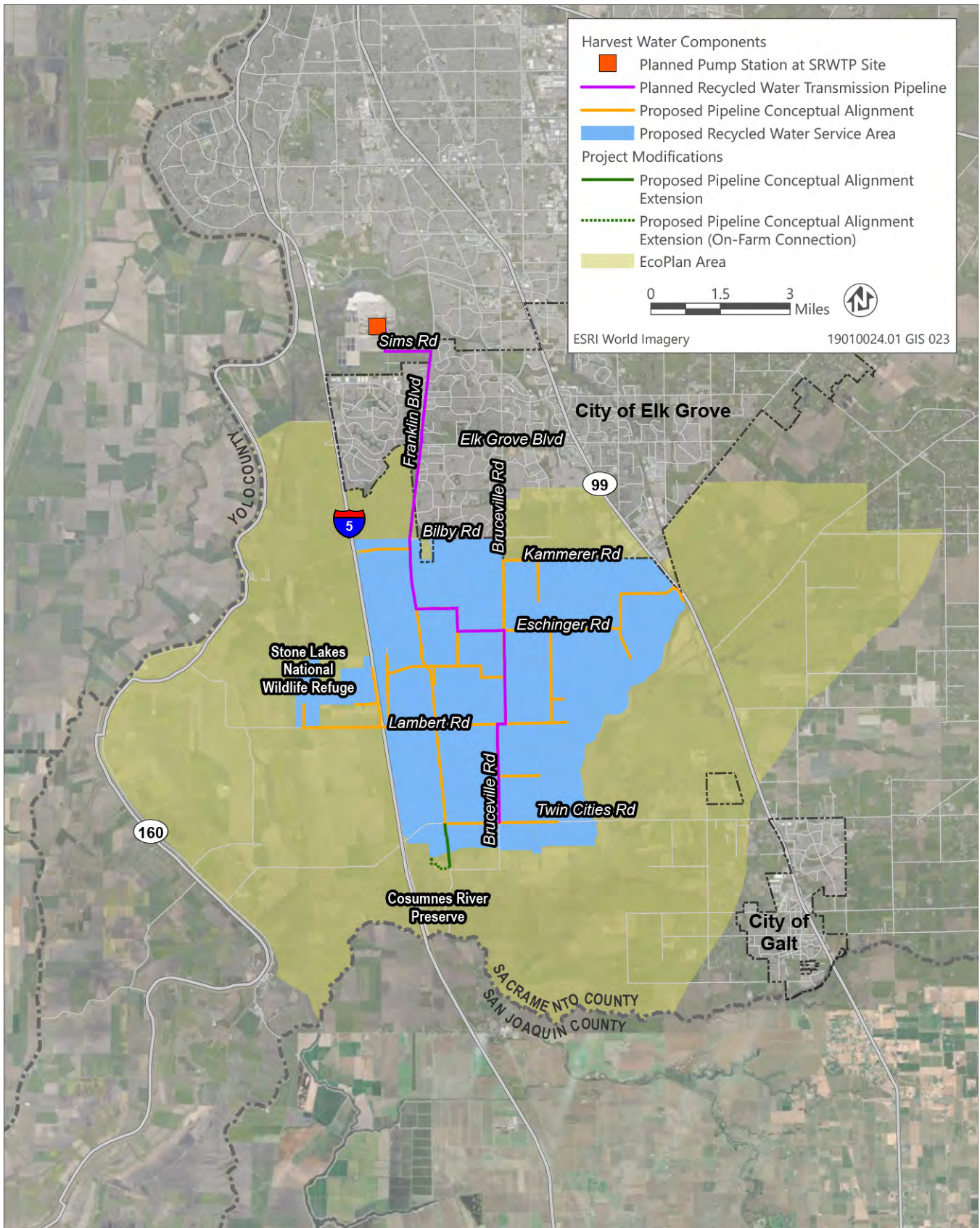
This project description summarizes setting information and describes the proposed reorganization’s consistency with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, as well as applicable Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Policies Standards and Procedures, as well as applicable City of Elk Grove and Sacramento County General Plans policies.



Source: Data received from Woodard & Curran in 2019 and 2020; adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

**Figure 1 Proposed SOIA and Annexation Area**





Source: Data received from Woodard & Curran in 2019 and 2020; adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

**Figure 2 Proposed Pipeline Alignments**

## Project Description

In 2023, with the completion of the EchoWater Project construction, the SRWTP will produce “disinfected tertiary recycled water,” meeting California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3, Article 7 (Title 22) standards. The SRWTP discharge permit is available at: <https://www.regionalsan.com/permit/wastewater-discharge-permit>

). Utilizing the disinfected tertiary recycled water produced as a result of the EchoWater Project, Regional San is undertaking the Harvest Water Program (formerly the South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program). Harvest Water will facilitate the beneficial reuse of highly treated recycled water that would otherwise be discharged to the Sacramento River. Regional San will provide up to 45 MGD (average annual delivery rate with higher peaks in summer months) or 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Title 22 disinfected treated tertiary recycled water from the SRWTP to 16,000 acres of currently irrigated agricultural land in the Harvest Water service area and 400 acres of managed wetlands at the Stone Lakes NWR and the Preserve. Regional San will continue to support existing recycled water demands while implementing Harvest Water.

Proposed facilities include distribution mains, service connection laterals, and appurtenant facilities. Distribution mains would be located on County and city streets and rural roads, primarily within public road rights-of-way (ROW), although some distribution mains may also be constructed on private agricultural lands. Most service laterals will be located on private agricultural lands, providing connections between distribution mains and a landowner’s agricultural irrigation systems. Some service laterals will also deliver recycled water for wetlands, habitat enhancement, and similar ecosystem uses.

An element of Harvest Water is the Lateral Pipelines and On-Farm Connections Project, which includes the installation of new distribution mains, service connection laterals, and appurtenant facilities that would connect the transmission pipeline to individual customers. Figure 2 shows the conceptual alignments for pipelines in public road rights-of-way as well as the proposed recycled water service area. The Lateral Pipelines and On-Farm Connections Project focusses on irrigation during the growing season, which would use an average of 32,500 AFY of recycled water and up to 37,000 AFY in higher demand (drier) years.

To maximize use of recycled water, the area proposed for summertime crop irrigation could also be used for wintertime habitat application for both ecosystem enhancement (primarily for Sand Hill Crane roosting and foraging) and wintertime cover crop irrigation (primarily orchards and vineyards) where agreements can be reached with willing landowners. Similarly, the potential delivery of recycled water to the Stone Lakes NWR and delivery to a potential recharge area are also components of Harvest Water.

Implementation of Harvest Water also includes groundwater recharge (including in-lieu and incidental passive recharge) and storage that would be accomplished in a manner that prioritizes meeting the groundwater basin elevation goals and related ecosystem benefits. Water would be delivered to agricultural users in the South County for irrigation use in lieu of groundwater and would be applied to agricultural fields in the wintertime for ecosystem benefits, including Sandhill crane foraging and roosting habitat (which would passively recharge the groundwater basin) and for cover crop irrigation. Modeling indicates that the groundwater storage could increase by approximately 245,000 acre-feet (AF) within 10 years and 320,000 AF within 25 years (2030 hydrologic scenarios, modeled following California Water Commission technical guidance).

When the groundwater basin in the Recycled Water Delivery Area is in a sustainable balance and ecosystem benefits have been established and maintained (which is estimated to be approximately 20 years following initiation of Harvest Water), Harvest Water partners may collaborate to develop groundwater banking and withdrawal arrangements for use of the water locally during droughts. Regional San could make stored groundwater available to local agricultural users, local domestic users, and local municipal users during drought conditions (anticipated to occur approximately 3 years in 10 based upon historic hydrology). However, as described further below, there are also limited circumstances where groundwater may be used before ecosystem benefits being fully established and maintained (i.e., during the first 20 years after initiation of Harvest Water).

Approximately 70 percent of recharged groundwater attributable to Harvest Water is assumed to be unavailable for extraction, as it is intended to benefit ecosystems through the elevation of groundwater levels, provide groundwater to enable surface water outflow from the basin, and contribute to overall basin sustainability. The remaining 30 percent of recharged water would be banked and available for future extraction after the first approximately 20 years of project operation. Extraction is projected to occur during the driest 30 percent of years and would recover an average amount of banked water equivalent to the annual average in-lieu recharged volume (approximately 32,500 AFY) in roughly 3 out of 10 years. Extracted water would replace water supplies that have been adversely affected by drought and would not constitute a new water supply available every year.

Future banked groundwater extraction scenarios may include:

- ▲ Banked groundwater is extracted locally by participating farmers or using new infrastructure owned by Regional San for agricultural irrigation to supplement the reduced recycled water supply and meet irrigation demands in dry years.
- ▲ Banked groundwater is extracted locally by participating farmers or using infrastructure owned by Regional San for agricultural irrigation. Farmers agree to receive reduced recycled water deliveries from planned recycled water distribution facilities. Regional San discharges additional treated water to the Sacramento River through the existing outfall. Recipients of the discharged treated water (either environmental user, agricultural user, or municipal water agency) diverts water downstream from the vicinity of the existing Regional San Sacramento River outfall using existing infrastructure.
- ▲ Banked groundwater is extracted locally using existing infrastructure owned by a third party (such as a municipal water agency) to supplement water supplies during drought.

Under Harvest Water, groundwater would be available to growers receiving recycled water in all years. Growers are anticipated to receive their full demand during non-peak demand months, and approximately 2/3 of the maximum (peak) month water demand from Regional San recycled water during peak demand months and any demand above that would be met by groundwater delivered to crops using grower-owned groundwater wells. This use of combined recycled water and groundwater may include meeting peak demands and blending of irrigation water sources to meet crop water quality objectives. The project includes a scenario where this “accounted for” groundwater that could be extracted by growers could also be extracted by Regional San wells included as part of the project modifications to provide the supplemental groundwater to growers through the recycled water distribution system. This use of Regional San operated wells to draw groundwater that would otherwise be extracted by grower’s wells may occur during any year once the wells are in place (i.e. during the first 20-years of project operation and beyond).

Groundwater could also be used during very brief (anticipated to be hours or a day or two) periods when the recycled water treatment or distribution system is shut down for maintenance. The groundwater could be extracted by a combination of existing grower-owned wells and proposed Regional San wells. These short term and intermittent withdrawals could occur during any year.

During the first approximately 20 years, Regional San would cutback deliveries of recycled water during “Shasta critical and critically dry years” (as defined below). These delivery cutbacks would occur, as applicable, until Regional San’s integrated surface water-groundwater modeling demonstrates that 50 percent or more of the in-lieu recharged groundwater (by volume) is returned to the downstream surface water environment, which is estimated to be during the first approximately 20 years of operation of Harvest Water. Functionally, to comply with this condition under Regional San’s approved Water Rights Petition, Regional San would cut back recycled water deliveries in critically dry years during those first 20 years and growers would use higher volumes of groundwater to meet agricultural irrigation demands during those periods. Under the project modifications, the groundwater used during these conditions could also be provided by the wells included in the project modifications. Restrictions on recycled water deliveries during the irrigation season (April – October), and hence periods where groundwater could be used to supplement deliveries, would include:

- ▲ During Shasta Critical water years (as defined in the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts), irrigation season recycled water deliveries shall not exceed 16,250 AFY (50 percent cutbacks at full operation of Harvest Water).
- ▲ During dry or critically dry years (as defined in the Sacramento Valley 40-30-30 Index, but not Shasta Critical years), irrigation season recycled water deliveries under Harvest Water shall not exceed 24,375 AFY (25 percent cutbacks).

After the 50 percent return demonstration (after the approximately 20 years), groundwater would no longer be needed to meet summertime irrigation “cutbacks” described above because they would not be occurring. There would still be potential irrigation reductions in the spring to meet cold water pool requirements associated with extended droughts (and negotiated by Regional San with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), addressed in adopted Mitigation Measure HYD-4 (April and May months only). Groundwater could also be drawn from wells and delivered to growers under this scenario.

## Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

In 2011, Senate Bill (SB) 244 was enacted, resulting in changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act). LAFCos are required to deny any application to annex to a city territory that is contiguous to a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC) unless a second application is submitted to annex the disadvantaged community as well and LAFCos are required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities in a municipal service review. SB 244 defines “disadvantaged unincorporated community” as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median. This project would result in changes to Regional San’s service boundary and would not include annexation of any identified DUCs to a city; therefore, the project would not result in any land use changes within said communities.

## Agricultural Lands

Public Resources Code Section 21060.1 defines “agricultural land” as: prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California. This definition is based on the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). NRCS through the FMMP uses two systems to determine a soil’s agricultural productivity: The Soil Capability Classification System and the Storie Index Rating System.

LAFCo has also established provisions for the consideration of proposed actions which uses a definition of agricultural lands that differs from those used under CEQA. Section 56064 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act defines “prime agricultural land” as follows:

"Prime agricultural land" means an area of land, whether a single parcel or contiguous parcels, that has not been developed for a use other than an agricultural use and that meets any of the following qualifications:

(a) Land that qualifies, if irrigated, for rating as class I or class II in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) land use capability classification, whether or not land is actually irrigated, provided that irrigation is feasible.

(b) Land that qualifies for rating 80 through 100 Storie Index Rating.

(c) Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and that has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture in the National Range and Pasture Handbook, Revision 1, December 2003.

(d) Land planted with fruit or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops that have a nonbearing period of less than five years and that will return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre.

(e) Land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre for three of the previous five calendar years.

Large portions of the proposed service area would meet both the CEQA definition of important farmland and Section 56064 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act definition of prime agricultural land. The proposed service area also includes preserved habitat areas associated with the Stone Lakes NWF and the Cosumnes River Preserve that would meet the definition of “open space land” under Section 65560 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act.

Over the long term, agricultural land use in the area would be unaffected as a result of the installation of proposed infrastructure such as pipelines. The project and extension of the service area would provide a benefit to agricultural and open space lands in the project area and would not involve changes that could result in conversion of these areas.

## Environmental Justice

Government Code Section 65040.12 (e) defines environmental justice as: “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.” The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg



Local Government Reorganization Act Section 56668(o) further defines environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the location of public facilities and the provision of public services. Environmental justice addresses issues concerning whether an activity could expose minority or disadvantaged populations to proportionately greater impacts compared with those borne by other individuals. As noted above, the project would result in changes to Regional San's service boundary and would not include annexation of land to a city; therefore, the project would not result in any changes in land use designations which may adversely impact said communities.

## Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

Reorganization of the project area is subject to Sacramento LAFCo's *Policy, Standards and Procedures Manual*. The following discussion includes a list of applicable LAFCo policies along with a discussion of the proposed reorganization's consistency with these policies (in *italics*). Construction and operation of the project would not result in any changes to land use. The project does not include residential, commercial, or agricultural-support development and would not alter land use designations of existing land uses. The project would also not introduce new uses or result in changes to the functions of the Cosumnes River Preserve or result in the conversion of prime farmland. Finally, the project would not result in the annexation of land into an incorporated city. Sacramento LAFCo policies related to these issues have been considered, and the proposal is not in conflict with such.. The following discussion includes a list of Sacramento LAFCo policies that are applicable to the proposed reorganization, along with a discussion of the proposed reorganization's consistency with these policies (in *italics*).

### SACRAMENTO LAFCO GENERAL POLICIES

1. CEQA requires that LAFCo assess the environmental consequences of its actions and decisions, and take actions to avoid or minimize a project's adverse environmental impacts, if feasible, or approve a project despite significant effects because it finds overriding considerations exist. To comply with CEQA, the LAFCo will take one or more of the following actions:
  - a. At its discretion, approve a project without changes if environmental impacts are insignificant;
  - b. Require an applicant to modify a project;
  - c. Establish mitigating measures as a condition of its approval of the proposal, (note the Commission may also impose terms and conditions of project approval other than CEQA identified mitigation measures.);
  - d. Modify and approve to avoid or lessen environmental impacts, or disapprove the proposal because of unacceptable adverse environmental impacts;
  - e. Approve the project despite its significant effects by making findings of overriding concern.

Consistency: *An addendum has been prepared under CEQA for the proposed reorganization. Regional San is the Lead Agency under CEQA, and Sacramento LAFCo is a Responsible Agency.*

2. LAFCo will favorably consider those applications that do not shift the cost for services and infrastructure benefits to other service areas.



*Consistency: Operations under the proposed reorganization would continue to be conducted by Regional San and would not result in a shift of costs to another agency.*

3. The LAFCo encourages the use of service providers which are governed by officials elected by the citizens.

*Consistency: Regional San's Directors are made up of elected officials or their designees. The Board of Directors consists of the five Sacramento County Supervisors, five city councilmembers from the City of Sacramento, two councilmembers from the City of Elk Grove, and single representatives from Yolo County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and West Sacramento.*

## **SACRAMENTO LAFCO GENERAL STANDARDS**

### **B. Conformance with applicable general and specific plans**

1. LAFCo will approve changes of organization or reorganization only if the proposal is consistent with the General Plan and applicable Specific Plans of the applicable planning jurisdiction.
2. For purposes of the above policy, the applicable planning jurisdiction is as follows:
  - a. For annexations to a city, the applicable jurisdiction is the city to which annexation is proposed;
  - b. For applications for annexation to or detachment from a district all of whose territory lies within an adopted Sphere of Influence of a city, the General Plan of the city;
  - c. For an application for annexation to a special district for lands outside an adopted city Sphere of Influence, the Sacramento County General Plan;
  - d. For an application for annexation or detachment from a district whose territory lies in both the city and the unincorporated area of the county, the General Plan of the city unless the project lies outside of the city's Sphere of Influence; and
  - e. For applications for incorporations, this standard is inapplicable.
3. For purposes of this standard, the proposal shall be deemed consistent if the proposed use is consistent with the applicable General Plan designation and text, the applicable General Plan is legally adequate and internally consistent and the anticipated types of services to be provided are appropriate to the land use designated for the area.
4. The governing body of the applicable planning jurisdiction shall recommend by resolution whether the proposal meets all applicable consistency requirements of state law, including internal consistency. LAFCo shall retain jurisdiction to determine consistency pursuant to its jurisdiction to approve, disapprove or condition changes of organization or reorganization and may require additional information if necessary.

*Consistency: Construction and operation of the project would not result in any changes to land use. The proposed pipelines and appurtenances would be located underground, primarily within public ROWs, although construction could temporarily occur on adjacent agricultural land. The project does not include residential, commercial, or agricultural ibid development and would not alter land use designations of existing land uses. The project would also not introduce new uses or result in*

*changes to the functions of the Cosumnes River Preserve or Stone Lakes Natural Wildlife Refuge. Providing recycled water to agricultural customers in the South County would contribute to Sacramento County's goals and objective of protecting farmland, enhancing the viability of the agricultural economy, and reducing or eliminating groundwater cones of depression in farming areas. In addition, the use of recycled water in an area currently relying primarily on groundwater would be consistent with groundwater management policies in the area. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the Land Use Elements of the Sacramento County General Plan and the Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan.*

### **C. Boundaries**

1. The LAFCo will not approve applications within boundaries which:
  - a. Result in islands, corridors or peninsulas or incorporated or unincorporated territory or otherwise cause or further the distortion of existing boundaries.
2. LAFCo will make exceptions to the requirements of this standard only if the exception:
  - a. Is rendered necessary because of unique circumstances;
  - b. Results in improved quality or lower cost of service available to the affected parties; or
  - c. There exists no feasible and logical alternative.

*Consistency: The proposed service area boundaries were drawn as a logical extension of the existing Regional San service area, which currently terminates at Bilby Road and Kammerer Road at its southern border, and specifically, to target agricultural groundwater users. By providing recycled water for seasonal agricultural irrigation to current groundwater users, the project will result in in-lieu groundwater recharge in the area. West of I-5 and south of Twin Cities Road, agricultural irrigation is mainly sourced from surface water. East of Highway 99 and the Cosumnes River Preserve, a crossing under the Cosumnes River and an additional booster pump station would be needed to support the distribution system. Hence, at this time, the service area lies to the East of the Cosumnes River, and resides solely in the South American Groundwater Basin, and within the purview of the Sacramento County Groundwater Authority (SCGA).*

## **Sacramento County 2030 General Plan**

The following discussion includes a list of Sacramento County 2030 General Plan goals, objectives, and policies that are applicable to the proposed reorganization, along with a discussion of the proposed reorganization's consistency with these policies (in *italics*).

### **SACRAMENTO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AGRICULTURAL ELEMENT**

#### **Groundwater Depletion, Water Quality And Water Conservation**

- ▲ Objective: Reduce or eliminate groundwater cones of depression in farming areas by encouraging water conservation. Intent: Groundwater depletion has caused pumping costs to increase in some farming areas south of the American River in the South County. Increasing pumping costs have reduced the viability of farming in these areas where substantial urban development is planned. Such developments could increase demands on local aquifers unless alternative surface water supplies are made available to them. The California Department of

Public Health has established California water recycling criteria (known as Title 22) for various purposes, including agriculture.

- ▲ Policy:AG-27.The County shall actively encourage groundwater recharge, water conservation and water recycling by both agricultural and urban water users.
- ▲ Implementation Measures:
  - A. Promote, through educational and technical assistance programs, adoption of water conservation and water recycling measures, including programs established in the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District’s Water Recycling Master Plan. (DWR, SACDOT)
  - B. In cooperation with SRCSD, the County shall explore innovative ways to encourage groundwater recharge in agricultural areas. (DWR, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW)

*Consistency: Construction and operation of the project would provide recycled water to agricultural customers in the South County, which would contribute to Sacramento County’s goals and objective of protecting farmland, enhancing the viability of the agricultural economy, and reducing or eliminating groundwater cones of depression in farming areas. In addition, the use of recycled water in an area currently relying primarily on groundwater would be consistent with groundwater management policies in the area. The project would serve the dual purpose of reducing groundwater usage in the area while also enhancing habitat for a variety of species, including Swainson’s hawk and sandhill crane.*

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### Efficient Use of Urban and Agricultural Water

- ▲ Objective: Ensure the most efficient use of water in urban and agricultural areas.

Efficient water use is essential to address the limited volume of safe, reliable water supplies available for beneficial use in Sacramento County. Water available for beneficial use is limited by precipitation patterns, water rights limitations, sustainable groundwater yield, and water required for the preservation of important environmental resources.

- ▲ Policy:CO-13. Support the WFA Conservation Element and the California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices for Water Conservation.
- ▲ Policy CO-14. Support the use of recycled wastewater to meet non-potable water demands where financially feasible.
- ▲ Policy CO-15. Support effective agricultural water conservation practices, including the use of recycled wastewater where financially feasible.

*Consistency: Construction and operation of the project would provide recycled water to agricultural customers in the South County, which would contribute to Sacramento County’s objective and policies of using water efficiently in agricultural areas. In addition, the use of recycled water in an area currently relying primarily on groundwater would be consistent with groundwater management policies in the area.*

## Manage Water to Protect Ecosystems

- ▲ Objective: Manage water supply to protect valuable water-supported ecosystems.

The beneficial use of water for urban development and agriculture changes patterns of river and stream flow and water quality, which have impacts on valuable water-supported ecosystems, including riparian and stream ecology and the Sacramento River Delta.

- ▲ Policy:CO-20. Support preservation and restoration of the Cosumnes River riparian ecosystem.

*Consistency: The overall objective of the Harvest Water Program is to provide a reliable source of nonpotable water in the South County. Specifically, the objectives of the program include the following:*

- *Improve environmental resources in the area by:*
  - *enhancing the riparian corridor along the Cosumnes River by raising groundwater levels,*
  - *reducing streamflow losses in the Cosumnes River during critical fall periods by raising groundwater levels,*
  - *providing drought-resistant water supplies to agricultural users to encourage long-term agricultural uses in the Cosumnes River area, and*
  - *providing a reliable water supply to managed wetlands and sandhill crane roosting and foraging habitat throughout the recycled water delivery area.*

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN DELTA PROTECTION ELEMENT

Utilities and Infrastructure Goal: Support construction of new utilities and infrastructure facilities appropriate to the Delta which avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of such new construction on the integrity of levees, wildlife, recreation, agriculture.

- ▲ Policy DP-65. Encourage the provision of infrastructure for new water, recycled water and recreational and scientific research facilities.

*Consistency: The project involves the installation of distribution mains, service connection laterals, and customer turnouts. The distribution mains would convey water from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP)—via a new pump station and transmission pipeline to proposed service connection laterals, which would provide water directly to individual customers in south Sacramento County. The project would facilitate the delivery of up to 50,000 AFY of disinfected, tertiary-treated recycled water to approximately 16,000 acres of agricultural land, 400 acres of managed wetlands within the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and potentially, wildlife ponds in the Cosumnes River Preserve. Thus, the project would contribute to maximize the use of recycled water; reduce groundwater pumping in the Central Sacramento Groundwater Basin and contribute to long-term basin sustainability by supplying recycled water to agricultural customers that normally irrigate with groundwater; minimize conveyance costs (pipeline and pumping) while maximizing demand served; improve environmental resources in the area; and assist in long-term fulfillment of the Water Forum Agreement for conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater supplies in the county.*



## Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Act) establishes procedures for local government changes of organization, including city incorporations, annexations to a city or special district, and city and special district consolidations. Local agency formation commissions (LAFCOs) have numerous powers under the Act, but those of primary concern are the power to act on local agency boundary changes and to adopt spheres of influence (SOI) for local agencies. Among the purposes of LAFCOs are the discouragement of urban sprawl and the encouragement of the orderly formation and development of local agencies. The Act includes the following provisions:

**56425.** (a) In order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies subject to the jurisdiction of the commission to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the county and its communities, the commission shall develop and determine the sphere of influence of each city and each special district, as defined by Section 56036, within the county and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere.

**56428.** (a) Any person or local agency may file a written request with the executive officer requesting amendments to a sphere of influence or urban service area adopted by the commission. The request shall state the nature of the proposed amendment, state the reasons for the request, include a map of the proposed amendment, and contain any additional data and information as may be required by the executive officer. (b) After complying with the California Environmental Quality Act, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code, the executive officer shall place the request on the agenda of the next meeting of the commission for which notice can be given. The executive officer shall give notice in the manner provided by Section 56427. On the date and time provided in the notice, the commission may do either of the following: (1) Without further notice, consider the amendments to a sphere of influence. (2) Set a future date for the hearing on the request.

**56653.** (a) If a proposal for a change of organization or reorganization is submitted pursuant to this part, the applicant shall submit a plan for providing services within the affected territory. (b) The plan for providing services shall include all of the following information and any additional information required by the commission or the executive officer: (1) An enumeration and description of the services currently provided or to be extended to the affected territory. (2) The level and range of those services. (3) An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory if new services are proposed. (4) An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed. (5) Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

*Consistency:* In compliance with the Act, Regional San completed the application, a draft Financing Plan, and a draft Municipal Services Review (MSR). As noted in those documents, the reasons for the proposal are for Regional San to provide up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to currently irrigated lands in southern Sacramento County for agricultural uses and potentially to conservation lands at the Stone Lakes NWR and the Cosumnes River Preserve in the future. The project will not induce population growth in the proposed Harvest Water service area, as no new residential or commercial development projects would be served by the proposed Project and the project will not

*require new permanent employees who will generate a demand for new housing. The extension of service to this project area by Regional San will be for recycled water service, only. Extension of wastewater collection or treatment is not included in this project. The project will extend recycled water service to South Sacramento County and will conserve existing groundwater and potable supplies in the project area. The EchoWater Project is scheduled for completion and start-up in 2023, presenting Regional San with the opportunity to diversify its discharge options with the Harvest Water Program and recycled water delivery to South Sacramento County. With discharge limits continuing to be strengthened, and the list of water quality constituents to be monitored and eventually regulated, the Harvest Water Program is an essential part of Regional San's long-term effluent management options, and therefore a fundamental service and value to all Regional San ratepayers. Consequently, financing of capital debt service and operational costs of this Program will be supported by user rates and fees. This approach for the Harvest Water Program is similar to Regional San's financing of the collection system interceptors and the SRWTP and its Biosolids reuse and disposal program.*