

**AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
FOR  
WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY**

THIS AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (**Agreement**) is made and effective as of June 3, 2020, by and between BELRIDGE WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, a California water storage district (**Belridge**), BERRENDA MESA WATER DISTRICT, a California water district (**Berrenda Mesa**), and LOST HILLS WATER DISTRICT, a California water district (**Lost Hills**) for the purpose of allowing the Members<sup>1</sup> of the Authority and their landowners to comply with SGMA.

**RECITALS**

**A.** The Members entered into a joint powers agreement (the “Joint Powers Agreement”) effective of January 1, 2012 to create the Westside District Water Authority. Section 14.00 of the Joint Powers Agreement provides that the Joint Powers Agreement can be amended by the concurrence of the Members. The Members amended the Joint Powers Agreement as of February 5, 2014 and again as of June 1, 2016.

**B.** The initial purpose of the Joint Powers Agreement was to provide for the common management and operation of the Members. Effective as of January 1, 2020, the Members entered into a new and separate joint powers agreement pursuant to which those four entities formed the Westside Water Authority and agreed to their common management and operation through the Westside Water Authority.

**C.** On August 29, 2014, the California Legislature passed comprehensive groundwater legislation known as the "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" ("SGMA"). In adopting SGMA, the Legislature intended "[t]o provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater." (Wat. Code, § 10720(d).)

**D.** SGMA anticipates that each affected groundwater basin or subbasin will be regulated separately by one or more Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (each, a "GSA"). A local agency or combination of local agencies may elect to be the GSA for a basin or sub-basin. SGMA generally provides that a combination of local agencies may form a GSA through a joint powers agreement, memorandum of understanding or other legal agreement. (Wat. Code, § 10723.6.)

**E.** Groundwater sustainability under SGMA is to be achieved through Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSPs"). Under SGMA, a GSP can be a single plan developed by one or more GSAs, or multiple coordinated plans within a basin or subbasin by multiple GSAs. (Wat. Code, § 10727.)

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise defined in the body of this Agreement, capitalized terms and phrases in this Agreement are defined in Article I hereof, and those definitions govern the interpretation of this Agreement.

F. The Members to this Agreement are local agencies, as defined in SGMA, located within the Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Basin, and duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. The Members have complied with SGMA through the Authority’s membership and participation in the Kern Groundwater Authority GSA and its adopted GSP. The Members now desire to restate and amend this the Joint Powers Agreement to specifically purpose the Authority with providing SGMA compliance for the Members, whether as a member of the Kern Groundwater Authority GSA, as a separate GSA, or both.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and conditions herein set forth, it is agreed by and among the Members that the Agreement is hereby amended and restated to read in its entirety as follows:

## **ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise, the meaning of the following terms will be as follows:

**1.00. Agreement.** “Agreement” means this Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement.

**1.01. Authority.** “Authority” means the Westside District Water Authority, which is the separate entity created by this Agreement.

**1.02. Belridge.** “Belridge” means BELRIDGE WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, a California water storage district.

**1.03. Berrenda Mesa.** “Berrenda Mesa” means BERRENDA MESA WATER DISTRICT, a California water district.

**1.04. Authority.** “Authority Board” means the governing committee of the Authority.

**1.05. Authority Board Member.** “Authority Board Member” means a member of the Authority Board.

**1.06. District.** “District” or “Districts” means each district that is a Member.

**1.07. District Board.** “District Board” means the governing body of each District.

**1.08. Fiscal Year.** “Fiscal Year” means that period of 12 months which is established as the Fiscal Year, which is January 1 through December 31 of the next calendar year.

**1.09. Lost Hills.** “Lost Hills” means LOST HILLS WATER DISTRICT, a California water district.

**1.10. Authority Board.** “Authority Board” means the governing body of the Westside District Water Authority as established under Article VI of this Agreement.

**1.11. Member.** “Member” means the members of the Authority, which initially consist of Belridge, Berrenda Mesa, and Lost Hills, but excludes any party that withdraws from the Authority.

## **ARTICLE II CREATION OF WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Members hereby reaffirm that, pursuant to their joint exercise of powers under the provisions of Government Code sections 6500 *et seq.*, they have created a public entity to be known as the Westside District Water Authority. The boundaries of the Authority will be coterminous with the outermost boundaries of the Members in the aggregate.

## **ARTICLE III PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement and the Authority is to establish an organization that is separate from the Members, is responsible for the administration of this Agreement among the Members, and allows the Members to implement and comply with SGMA not only within their boundaries, but also outside their boundaries if a Member has entered into, with Authority approval, an agreement with a landowner for providing SGMA coverage outside a Member’s boundaries. The Authority may, if the Authority so elects, become its own GSA and either continue as a member of the Kern Groundwater Authority under its GSP or adopt the Authority’s own GSP.

## **ARTICLE IV POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

**4.00. Powers.** The Authority is authorized, in its own name, to exercise all powers necessary and proper to carry out the terms, provisions, and purpose of this Agreement, or as otherwise authorized by law, including the power to (a) make and enter into contracts, (b) incur debts, liabilities and obligations, (c) acquire, hold or dispose of personal property, (d) sue and be sued in its own name, (e) employ agents and employees, (f) lease real or personal property including leasing from a Member, and (g) receive, collect, invest and disburse monies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Members shall at all times retain control and authority, independent of the Authority, over their own internal matters, including expenses and revenues, water supplies, facilities, and water supply projects, and the Authority shall have no power to interfere with a Member’s use or

management of the Member's water or water supply except as the Members and the Authority agree is necessary to comply with SGMA.

**4.01 Restrictions on Powers.** In accordance with Government Code section 6509, the powers enumerated in section 4.00 hereof are subject to the restrictions upon the manner of exercising these powers pertaining to Lost Hills Water District as specified in the California Water District Law, Division 13 of the Water Code, commencing at section 34000.

## **ARTICLE V WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY BOARD**

**5.00. Composition.** The Authority will be governed by a Board of Directors, known as the Authority Board, which will be composed of two representatives from each Member.

**5.01. Initial and Subsequent Appointment of Authority Board Members.** Each Member shall appoint one director from its District Board and one additional person, who may or may not be a director, to be a member of the Authority Board. Upon a vacancy on the Authority Board, the Member that lost its representative shall appoint another representative consistent with this section, within 60 days after the vacancy is created.

**5.02. Alternates.** If an Authority Board Member is unable to attend any meeting, his or her District Board may appoint an alternate to attend the meeting in the Authority Board Member's stead, and the alternate may discuss, deliberate, and vote on any action before the Authority Board as if the alternate was the absent Authority Board Member.

**5.03. Term of Office.** Each Authority Board Member will serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing Board. Authority Board Members may be reappointed multiple times without limit. A Member shall notify the other Members and the Authority Board within 10 days of a change in its appointed Authority Board Member.

**5.04. Compensation.** Authority Board Members will serve without compensation, except that costs may be reimbursed as allowed by law.

**5.05. Bylaws.** The Authority Board may adopt such bylaws as it may deem necessary to regulate the affairs of the Authority in accordance with this Agreement. The Authority Board may amend the bylaws from time to time as it may deem necessary.

**5.06. Officers.** The Authority Board will elect or appoint a Committee Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary/Treasurer from the Authority Board Members. These officers serve one-year terms but may be re-elected or re-appointed to the same or different office without limit.

**5.07. Committees.** The Authority Board may establish committees as needed to accomplish its objectives and authorize the committee to undertake such activities as may be necessary to advise the Authority Board.

**5.08. Auditor.** The Authority Board will retain an auditor, who may be someone from a Member or a certified public accountant. The Auditor may not be a member of the Authority Board. The Auditor must work with the Secretary/Treasurer to arrange for an annual audit of the Authority. The Auditor is responsible for filing the completed audit with the county auditor who makes copies available to the public. The Members shall share the expense of the Auditor equally.

**5.09. Filings.** The Secretary/Treasurer shall cause to be filed all required notices with the California Secretary of State, in accordance with Government Code sections 6503.5 and 53051.

**5.10. Authority Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Authority Board will be held as follows:

(a) **Frequency.** The Authority Board will meet from time to time as it deems appropriate, but no less frequently than quarterly.

(b) **Quorum.** A quorum is required for any action of the Authority Board to be taken at a meeting. There will be no quorum at any meeting of the Authority Board unless at least one representative from each Member is in attendance.

(c) **Voting.** Each Authority Board Member is entitled to one vote. The Authority Board will act only by a concurrence of two-thirds of the representatives of the Members of the Authority present and voting on such matter, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement or by law.

(d) **Location.** The Authority Board will meet at such time and place as may be agreed to among the Authority Board Members.

(e) **Open Meetings.** All meetings of the Authority Board will be conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, commencing with Government Code section 54950. Any special meeting of the Authority Board, however, may be called by a Member, in addition to the presiding officer or a majority, following the notice required under that Act.

## **ARTICLE VI TERM**

This Agreement is effective and binding upon each joining Member until (1) the Authority is terminated, (2) the Member withdraws from the Authority, or (3) the Member is terminated from the Authority.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**ADMISSION, WITHDRAWAL, AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERS**

**7.00. Documentation.** Admission, withdrawal, or termination of a Member must be documented by written addendum to this Agreement that reflects such admission, withdrawal, or termination.

**7.01. Admission of Additional Members.** Additional qualified districts may join in this Agreement and become Members upon the unanimous approval of the Authority Board. Before becoming a new member, a joining district must execute an addendum to this Agreement agreeing to be bound by the terms of this Agreement as if the party had been an original signatory.

**7.02. Withdrawal.** Any Member may withdraw from this Agreement by giving 120 days written notice of its election to do so, which shall be given to the Authority Board; provided, that such withdrawal does not in any way impair any contracts, resolutions, indentures or other obligations of the Authority then in effect. In the event of a disagreement between the Authority Board and the withdrawing party as to whether such withdrawal will cause the impairment of any contracts, resolutions, indentures, or other obligations of the Authority, such determination must be made by the vote of two-thirds of the Authority Board representing the non-withdrawing Members present and voting.

**7.03. Termination.** Membership of a Member may be terminated by a vote of the Authority Board representing two-thirds of the Members, and upon termination the terminated Member will no longer be a member of the Authority.

**7.04. Notice of Termination.** Prior to any vote to terminate a Member, written notice of the proposed termination and the reason(s) for such termination must be presented at an Authority Board meeting with opportunity for discussion. At the next Authority Board meeting and prior to a vote regarding termination, the Member subject to possible termination must have the opportunity to respond to any reasons and allegations that may be cited as a basis for termination. A withdrawing or terminated member remains liable for its proportionate share of (a) any call for funds or assessment incurred by the Authority prior to the date of withdrawal or termination and (b) the amount of any annual budget approved prior to the date of withdrawal or termination.

**7.05. Liabilities Upon Withdrawal or Termination.** Any withdrawing or terminated member remains liable for any liability of the Authority to the extent such liability arises from any action or inaction of that member occurring during the period in which the withdrawing or terminated member was a member of the Authority. A withdrawing or terminated member is liable for its share of the approved expense as of the date of its withdrawal or termination; provided, that such share is reduced by a percentage as determined by multiplying the number of months within the Fiscal Year for which such withdrawing or terminated member was not a member during any part of such month, divided by twelve. Any amounts advanced by a Member prior to withdrawal will be applied to reduce any amounts owed. Any advance by the Member in excess of amounts owed by the Member shall be refunded to the Member. If a Member withdraws

from the Authority in violation of any provision of this Agreement, then such Member will not receive a refund of any amounts advanced by such Member prior to the date of its withdrawal.

## **ARTICLE VIII DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY**

**8.00. Termination of Authority.** This Agreement may be terminated by consent of all Members, and upon full and complete liquidation of all liabilities. Upon the date of termination, payment of any and all obligations and division of any and all assets of the Authority shall be conducted subject to the then-applicable requirements of the law, and this Agreement.

**8.01. Successor Entity.** In the event of termination of the Authority where there is a successor public entity that will conduct all of the activities of the Authority and will assume all of its obligations, any and all Authority assets and liabilities remaining upon termination of the Authority shall be transferred to the successor public agency. In that instance no additional termination terms apply.

**8.02. Sale of Property.** The Authority Board must first offer any properties, works, rights and interests of the Authority for sale to the Members. If no such sale is consummated, then the Authority Board must offer the properties, works, rights and interests of the Authority for sale to any governmental agency, private entity or persons for good and adequate consideration. The net proceeds from any sale must be distributed among the Members equally or, if different, in proportion to the Members' contributions for the purchase of the property. If no such sale is consummated, then all of the properties, works, rights and interests of the Authority must be allocated to the Members in the same manner as the allocation of the net proceeds from the sale.

## **ARTICLE IX FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

**9.00. Additional Officers.** The Authority Board must from time to time designate the officers and persons, in addition to the Secretary/Treasurer, who have charge of, handle, or have access to any property of the Authority. Each such officer and person must file a bond in an amount designated by the Authority Board. This designation is subject to ratification by the parties in compliance with Government Code section 6505.1.

**9.01. Budget.** By a date set by the Authority Board each Fiscal Year, the Authority Board will adopt a budget for the Authority.

**9.02. Contributions; Payments to the Authority.** All fees, costs, and expenses incurred by the Authority in connection with the operation and maintenance of the Authority will be allocated equally among the Members, or as otherwise directed unanimously by the Authority Board. The Authority may, in lieu, in whole or in part, of

levying assessments, fix and collect charges for any service furnished by the Authority to Members of the Authority.

**9.03. Title.** The Authority shall own and hold title to all funds, property and works acquired by it during the term of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE X AGREED UPON SHARE OF LIABILITY OR JUDGMENT FOR DAMAGES**

**10.00. Contribution.** The parties to this Agreement are not obligated either jointly or severally for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Authority, except as may be specifically provided for in Government Code section 895.2 as amended or supplemented. But if the Members of the Authority are, under such applicable law, held liable for the acts or omissions of the Authority caused in the performance of this Agreement, caused by negligent or wrongful acts or omissions occurring in the performance of this Agreement, such Members are entitled to contribution from each of the other Members so that after said contribution each Member party shall bear an equal share.

**10.01. Insurance.** Each Member shall carry, keep in full force and effect, and pay the premiums on public liability and property damage insurance to indemnify all the Members, jointly and individually, against liability on account of the actions or omissions of District Employees, for injury or damage to persons or property, in companies and in amounts satisfactory to the Members, shall add each of the Members as an additional named insured to any existing policy properly endorsed to provide such insurance with respect to the acts or omissions of District Employees as special employees, and shall furnish to the Members certificates or other evidence showing that such insurance and endorsement are in full force and effect, that the premiums thereon have been paid, and that such insurance and endorsement will not be amended, cancelled, or terminated unless the company will give the Members 30 days' written notice of such expiration, alteration, or termination.

**10.02. Indemnity.** No Member will have any claim against any other Member on account of the acts or omissions of a District Employee performed for itself. Each Member shall indemnify and hold the other Members free and harmless of and from any and all claims, losses, damages and liabilities directly relating to services performed by a District Employee of that district.

## **ARTICLE XI MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**11.00. Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended from time to time by the concurrence of each Member.

**11.01. Severability.** Should the participation of any Member, or any part, term or provision of this Agreement be decided by the courts or the legislature to be illegal, in excess of that Member's authority, in conflict with any law of the state of California, or otherwise rendered unenforceable or ineffectual, the validity of the remaining portions, terms, or provisions of this Agreement will not be affected.

**11.02. Assignment.** Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the rights and duties of the Members may not be assigned or delegated without the advance approval by the Authority Board.

**11.03. Execution in Parts or Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in parts or counterparts, and all parts or counterparts are considered as constituting one complete original and may be attached together when executed by the Members.

**11.04. Notices.** Notices authorized or required to be given under this Agreement must be in writing and are deemed to have been given (i) when received if given in person, or by facsimile or e-mail, (ii) on the date of acknowledgment of receipt if sent overnight courier, or (iii) five days after being deposited in the U.S. mail, certified or registered mail – return receipt requested, postage prepaid to the addresses set forth below, or to such other changed addresses communicated to the Authority and the Members in writing:

If to Belridge, addressed as follows:

Belridge Water Storage District  
1405 Commercial Way, Suite 125  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

If to Berrenda Mesa, addressed as follows:

Berrenda Mesa Water District  
1405 Commercial Way, Suite 125  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

If to Lost Hills, addressed as follows:

Lost Hills Water District  
1405 Commercial Way, Suite 125  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

If to the Authority, addressed to each of the above.

Each notice given to a Member shall be concurrently given to the then President of the Member's Board at his or her business address.

**11.05. Headings.** The headings preceding the text of sections of this Agreement, and any attachments or exhibits, are for convenience only and are not part of this Agreement.

**11.06. Further Assurances.** Each Member will, at the reasonable request of any other Member, execute and deliver further instruments, assignments, assurances and other documents, and take such actions as the other party may reasonably request in connection with the carrying out of this Agreement.

**11.07. Waiver; Estoppel.** The failure of a Member to require performance of any provision of this Agreement will not affect its right at a later time to enforce performance. No waiver by a Member of any condition or of any breach of any term contained in this Agreement is effective unless in writing, and no waiver in any one or more instances will be deemed to be a further or continuing waiver of the condition or breach previously waived.

**11.08. Construction.** The language in this Agreement is construed according to its fair meaning. The Members acknowledge that each of them and their counsel have reviewed and revised this Agreement, and that the normal rule of construction that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party will not be employed in the interpretation of this Agreement.

**11.09. Remedies Cumulative.** No remedy set forth in this Agreement or otherwise conferred upon or reserved to any Member is exclusive of any other remedy available to it, but instead remedies are distinct, separate, and cumulative.

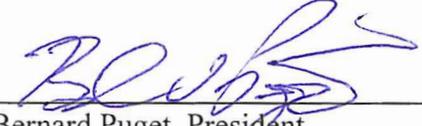
**11.10. Entire Understanding.** This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement and understanding of the Members with respect to the transactions contemplated, and supersedes all prior agreements, arrangements, and understandings relating to the subject matter. There have been no representations or statements, oral or written, that have been relied on by any party, except those expressly set forth in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties to this Agreement, pursuant to resolutions duly and regularly adopted by their respective Boards of Directors, do agree, and do bind their respective Districts, by and through the authorized representatives of the Districts, as of the effective date first written above.

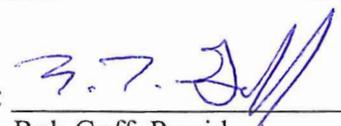
BELRIDGE WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

By:   
Rob Yraceburu, President

LOST HILLS WATER DISTRICT

By:   
Bernard Puget, President

BERRENDA MESA WATER DISTRICT

By:   
Rob Goff, President