Zoom housekeeping

• Video and microphone is OFF for participants
• Webinar is being recorded and will be available online
• Questions & Answers
  • Use the Q&A to type a question at any time
  • We will address questions at the end of the presentation
• Technical difficulties
  • Use the Chat feature for Zoom technical assistance
What we will cover

• What is California’s new groundwater law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?
• Who is the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency?
• What are some of the concepts currently being considered with respect to limiting groundwater pumping
• How do you participate in the development of this regulation
SGMA 101

- California law signed in September 2014
- SGMA mandates groundwater sustainability by 2040
- Grants local control to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies or “GSAs”
SGMA Design

- Form Agencies June 2017
- Develop Plans January 2020
- Implement Plans 20 years
- Achieve Sustainability 2040

Status:
- COMPLETED
- IN PROGRESS

Timeline:
- Develop Plans January 2020
- Implement Plans 20 years
- Achieve Sustainability 2040
GSA Authorities

- Implement Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Procure surface water for replenishment
- Regulate, limit or suspend groundwater production
- Well registration, metering, reporting, monitoring
- Adopt rules, regulations, & ordinances
- Enforcement actions
- Administrative fees and assessments

Procure surface water for replenishment
The Cost of Local Groundwater Management

The Greater Kaweah GSA is the voice for our landowners, complying with SGMA and interacting with State agencies including Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board.

- **Unfunded mandate**
- **Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation**
- **Mitigate an estimated 34,400 acre-feet of annual overdraft by 2040**
Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

- Physical description of groundwater management area
- Water budget
- Monitoring program and projects
- Sustainability in 20 years
- Measureable objectives / thresholds
- Annual reporting
- State evaluations for compliance—every 5 years
Sustainability Challenges

Sustainability is defined as management and use that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing “undesirable results,” based on “significant and unreasonable” standard.

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reductions in groundwater storage
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Surface water depletions with adverse impacts on beneficial uses
- Seawater intrusion
Kaweah Subbasin (Priority Basin)

- 3 GSAs
  - East Kaweah GSA
  - Greater Kaweah GSA
  - Mid Kaweah GSA
Greater Kaweah GSA

• Formed on August 23, 2016
• Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of six members and partners
  • Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Kings County Water District, Lakeside Irrigation Water District, St. Johns Water District, Tulare County, California Water Service Company
• Led by the Board of Directors and three Committees
  • Stakeholder, Rural Communities, and Technical Advisory
LAKESIDE IRRIGATION WATER DISTRICT
Don Mills, Chair
TULARE COUNTY
Peter Vander Poel
KAWEAH DELTA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Chris Tantau, Vice Chair
KAWEAH DELTA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Brian Watte
ST. JOHNS WATER DISTRICT
Eric Shannon
KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
Ernie Taylor
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY
Stephen Johnson
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
Joe Cardoza
RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
Paul Boyer
Greater Kaweah GSA

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

City of Exeter
City of Farmersville
City of Woodlake
Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company
Farmers Ditch Company
Fleming Ditch Company
Ivanhoe Public Utility District
Lemon Cove Ditch Company
Lemon Cove Sanitary District
Mathews Ditch Company
Patterson Tract Community Services District
Tract 92 Community Services District
Wallace Ranch Water Company
Get Involved

• Check the calendar and join the interested persons list for meeting details at www.greaterkaweahgsa.org

• Quarterly Technical Advisory, Stakeholder and Rural Communities committees meetings

• Board meets monthly
• 2nd Monday of the month at 1:00 PM

• Participate in GSP implementation of projects, programs and policies
Visit our website to sign up for email notices, download the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and more.
Groundwater Pumping Cap Proposal

Ideas and concepts currently being considered for inclusion in rules and regs

DRAFT
Introduction

The following are ADMIN DRAFT CONCEPTS to address the current downward groundwater trends and help achieve Sustainability in the GKGSA’s portion of the Kaweah Subbasin. It contains many concepts the Board, technical and stakeholder committees, and interested persons have weighed in on over the past many months. Many details of this proposal are still modified and conceived and any part of this proposal is subject to change.

Comments, questions, changes, additions and deletions are welcomed and expected.
What’s The Plan?

• Continue direct public outreach and communication
• December and January committees and Board meetings, and January 5 public workshop before issuing a public review draft Rules & Regs in January for a 90-day comment period
• Hold additional public outreach events, committee and Board meetings
• Adopt Rules & Regs which include the groundwater pumping cap in April 2022. Full implementation no later than October 1, 2022.
• Emergency action may occur if drought persists resulting in moving up implementation to Spring 2022.
Groundwater Pumping Cap At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Tier</th>
<th>Priority of Water Supply Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 Temp GW Supply</td>
<td>Groundwater Pumping Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 Temp GW Supply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native GW Supply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water Supply</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monitory penalty as well as severe reduction in future access to Native and Tiers 1 & 2 Temporary Groundwater Supplies.

Possibility of limited “Durability” (i.e. carryover from year to year), limited spatial transferability of use from one property to another and at diminished volumes.

Tiers 1 & 2 voluntary and priced in increasing cost per acre-foot of temporary tier groundwater pumped. Max tier volumes to decrease over 20yr sustainability period.

Native groundwater supply (currently 10” as adopted in Kaweah GSPs) at **NO COST**.

Access to surface water only through districts and ditch companies - must coordinate with those entities directly.

* Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) accounted for separately.
Intentional groundwater recharge activities to be accounted for separately and credited.

Anticipates an annual allocation of groundwater on a gross assessed acreage basis, however allocation in multi-year blocks is still being evaluated and considered.

Does not (yet) apply to public water systems. Still working that out.

Landowners allocated the Native Yield – Currently about 10 inches (based on 1997 to 2017 average water year) without any charges.

Tiered groundwater is being offered as a temporary and optional.

Total pumping caps (Native plus Tier 1 and Tier 2) of 2.5 to 3 af/ac being evaluated. Increases and reductions to be split equally between Tier 1 and Tier 2.

All acreage under this regulation is treated equally.
Groundwater Pumping Cap Detail (2 of 8)

- Proposed “Tier” System
  - **Tier 1**: the first half of the temporary Tier Pumping. $75 per AF. Durability and transferability have restrictions (next slide)
  - **Tier 2**: the second half of the temporary Tier Pumping. $125 per AF. Durability and transferability have restrictions (next slide)
  - **Penalty Tier**: is when pumping occurs in excess of the cap. $500 per acre-foot, and an aggregate 1:1 reduction in future allocation in the following year(s).
- Tier Pumping will be reduced over time for all users consistent with the 5-year interim period percentages adopted by the Board and described in the GSP
- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) credits to be allowed in a separate tier or accounting bucket
"Durability" of GW: how long can you keep the allocation?

- Need to be sensitive to surface water users and not force them to pump.
- Maximum of 5-years for Native/Base supply with an annual 10% leave behind of whatever the current balance is.
- Maximum of 5-years for Tier 1 & 2 supply with an annual 20% leave behind and balances cannot be transferred to another farm unit/account.
- Previously undeveloped lands no access to Tier water
“Transferability” of GW: moving it from one place to another

- Native/Base and both tiers may be transferred by properties with and without wells.
- Application process required.
- Allowable within a 3 to 4-mile radius (case by case) from a well. Properties without wells calculated by centroid of the parcel.
- All transfers require installation and reporting of metered data.
- After 5 years, loss of transferability of Tier 2 will occur. Tier 1 loss of transferability will be lost in future years.
Groundwater Pumping Cap Detail  (5 of 8)

Measuring Pumping & Credits:

Strive for rapid movement towards meters with remote sensing oversight, but will measure and invoice on ET unless a voluntary action (D&T) requires reporting metered data.

- ET is not necessarily equal to Pumping but an immediate solution necessary to early implementation.
- Measuring actual pumping addresses all undesirable results and encourages efficient use of groundwater
- Well fields/Dairy/Industrial/Netted Orchards and the like will be prioritized for installation of well meters as remote ET monitoring is problematic
Accounting and burden of proof in all cases should primarily be the responsibility of surface water providers (MAR and other credits) and overlying pumpers of groundwater. Credits will require additional surface water instrumentation.

- A protest and review process will be established to dispute ET and pumping estimates.
Drinking Water Pumping:

- Local public water systems are estimated to use on average 1.2 to 1.4 af/ac
- Still evaluating equitable options for public water systems to have financial skin in the game and incentive to conserve.
- None of the GSAs are currently discussing any new added oversight or regulation of domestic wells, although the GKGSA’s GSP does describe a well mitigation program that has yet to be defined.
Possible Uses of Extraction Fees:

• Tier pricing requires careful consideration in order to not generate more revenue that there is a need for

• GSP Projects & Management Actions (Section 7) is the first place to look for expenditure of funds

• May require a Prop 218 process to define other uses

• Some specific ideas under discussion include temporary/permanent land retirement, water conservation incentive programs, possible purchase of surface water and coordinated activities with other efforts such as ILRP
A Reminder of Next Steps

• Continue direct public outreach and communication
• December and January committees and Board meetings, and January 5 public workshop before issuing a public review draft Rules & Regs in January for a 90-day comment period
• Hold additional public outreach events
• Adopt Rules & Regs which include the groundwater pumping cap in April 2022. Full implementation no later than October 1, 2022.
• Emergency action may occur if drought persists resulting in moving up implementation to Spring 2022.
Your Next Steps

• Participate in upcoming meetings and workshops
• Submit written comments for consideration during the official 90-day public comment period
• Stay engaged!
  • Visit our webpage www.greaterkaweahgsa.org/218election
  • Sign up for email notices & updates on our website
  • Call/text questions at (559) 302-9987
• Help get the word out about activities of the GSA
Thank you!
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info@greaterkaweahgsa.org