MINUTES
OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
Held June 23, 2025

GKGSA Rural Community Committee Chair Tantau called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rural Communities	*Stakeholder*
Chris Tantau	Marty Toomey
Bobby Lentz	Joe Cardoza
Paul Boyer	Zack Stuller
	James Silva
	Jonathan Vaughn
	Matt Hutcheson
	Collin Fernandes
	Blake Mauritson
	Marty Toomey

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rural Communities	*Stakeholder*
Danny Holguin	Soapy Mulholland
Monroe Self	Cornell Kasbergen
Rudy Mendoza	John Gailey
Carol Fina	Brian Watte
Emmanual Llamas	

i. **CALL TO ORDER**
   a. Chair Tantau called the meeting of the Combined Rural Communities Committee and Stakeholder Committee to order at 1:30 PM.

ii. **ROLL CALL**
   a. Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

iii. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was received by Geoff VandenHeuvel regarding the State Board fees and the expectation or new information regarding what fees could be expected or considered in the future.

iv. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**:
The minutes of the May 19, 2025, meeting was reviewed and approved a motion was carried out by Mauritson and Vaughn and unanimously approved.

v. **GSA ADMINISTRATION:**

vi. Stephanie announced that the GSA office relocation will begin on July 1, 2025, with the move expected to be completed by August 1, 2025. She also provided an update on the ongoing audit of the 2023 invoices and outlined the agency's plan to initiate the lien process for collecting past-due balances. This process will involve sending notice letters to delinquent account holders and potentially holding public hearings. As part of the collection strategy, staff are reaching out to Consolidated People's and verifying shareholder information to ensure billing accuracy. Additionally, Stephanie introduced Sierra, a new employee who will begin on August 1, 2025. Sierra is relocating from Pismo Beach to Exeter to join the GSA team.

vii. **KAWEAH SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS**:
Don Tucker from 4Creeks gave a presentation outlining the methodology and current groundwater accounting framework developed in coordination with all three GSAs. He reviewed the process for establishing groundwater allocations for Water Year 2026, including updates to native sustainable yield, total precipitation, and temporary tier allocations. Due to time constraints and the groundwater flow model not yet ready to run, the GSA will continue using the existing allocation methodology. Don also compared the 2020 and 2025 frameworks, noting a decrease in percolation of precipitation and mountain front recharge, an increase in Kaweah River stream bed percolation, and the introduction of a new component, net subsurface inflow.

viii. **MITIGATION PROGRAM:**
Staff reported on mitigation efforts in response to impacted wells. Coordination with Self-Help Enterprises continues, with 24 wells identified across the GSA in various stages of evaluation and application. Clusters of affected wells are being prioritized to streamline assistance.

ix. **SUBSIDENCE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT:**
Tom Harder presented the GSA's ongoing efforts to manage land subsidence, which remains a critical concern for both infrastructure stability and long-term groundwater sustainability. He outlined the need to prioritize areas experiencing the most significant rates of subsidence, particularly where critical infrastructure such as canals, roads, or pipelines may be at risk.
The strategy involves a multi-step approach:

1. **Identification of Priority Areas:**
   Through the analysis of remote sensing data and field observations, the GSA has identified zones within the basin showing the greatest land surface elevation loss. These areas will be the focus of intensified monitoring and management efforts moving forward.
2. **Well Inventory and Data Collection:**
   To understand the drivers of subsidence in these areas, the GSA is expanding its well inventory program. This includes compiling detailed information on active pumping wells, such as their exact locations, depths, perforation intervals, and historical groundwater levels. Gathering this data will help isolate specific causes of subsidence and evaluate how groundwater extraction may be contributing.
3. **Nested Monitoring Wells:**
   Tom explained that the installation of dedicated nested monitoring wells **is** essential for accurately tracking groundwater levels at multiple depths within the aquifer system. These wells will help differentiate between water level changes in the upper and lower aquifers, which is important for understanding vertical gradients and compaction that may be leading to subsidence.
4. **Targeted Outreach and Collaboration:**
   Stakeholder participation is vital. Stephanie and Tom emphasized the importance of engaging local landowners and groundwater users in these high-risk areas to ensure transparency and access to accurate

data. Outreach efforts will include informational sessions, direct communication with affected parties, and integration of feedback into management decisions.

5. **Future Implementation:**
   The GSA is working toward launching a formal land subsidence management program beginning in 2026, which will include required well registration and, where necessary, the installation of meters. In areas with the most critical subsidence, more stringent pumping restrictions may be considered for the lower aquifer starting in Water Year 2027. These actions are intended to stabilize groundwater levels and protect surface infrastructure.

Overall, the GSA's strategy focuses on data-driven decision-making and proactive engagement to address land subsidence risks basin-wide.

x. **GKGSA STATUS REPORT**:
There was no update on the MLRP; all other items were covered earlier in the meeting.

xi. **NEXT MEETING**:
The next meeting scheduled will be held on Monday, July 28, 2025.

xii. **ADJOURNMENT**
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mark Larsen, Combined RCC & SC Secretary

Potential Water Year 2026 Groundwater Allocations

GREATER KAWEAH GSA

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 17, 2025

Basis for Groundwater Allocations

Native Sustainable Yield [*GKGSA R&Rs Section 4.03(a)1(A)*]

"Long-term average natural channel loss within the natural tributaries of the Kaweah River and the calculated underflow from the Sierra Nevada Mountains"

Total Precipitation [*GKGSA R&Rs Section 4.03(a)1(B)*]

Allocate a set percentage of the 25-year Rolling Average Precipitation & deep percolation of precipitation in the Native Sustainable Yield

Temporary Tier 1 & Tier 2 [*GKGSA R&Rs Section 4.03(b)*]

"..will ramp-down pumping overtime calculated by a percentage of total overdraft as follows"

Native Sustainable Yield Allocations

- Coordinated in the Subbasin through utilizing the Groundwater Accounting Framework “GAF” formerly referred to as the Water Accounting Framework “WAF”
- Updates to the GAF are influenced by the updates to the Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Flow Model, which was refined in 2024 for GSPs
- Generally, the changes to the 2025 GAF resulted in net ZERO change to Native Sustainable Yield Allocations for the GKGSA

Changes to Native Water Category in 2025 GAF

	Greater			
Native	**2020**	**2025**		**Notes**
~~Perc of Percip~~	~~44,213~~	~~20,609~~	~~-53%~~	~~*2020 version estimated over 30% of prec perc. 2025 estimates 16%*~~
Kaweah River Streambed Perc	31,324	36,162	15%	*Native Supply*
Pump GW Return Flow	77,501	63,900	-18%	*Reduced based on sustainable period estimates (2054-2072)*
Montain Front Recharge	27,978	11,180	-60%	*Reduced based on sustainable period estimates (2054-2072)*
Net Subsurface Inflow	-	28,501		*New in 2025*
Native Total	**136,803**	**139,743**	2%	***AF***
Gross Acres	219,440	acres		
NSY Allocation	0.62	0.64	AF/acre	

Recommend staying at 0.62 AF/acre for 2026 WY Allocation

Total Precipitation

- Total Precipitation is the actual precipitation to have occurred within the Water Year allocation year, to be calculated and reported one calendar month after actual rainfall occurs.

- Allocate a set percentage of the 25-year Rolling Average Precipitation & deep percolation of precipitation in the Native Sustainable Yield as defined in the Kaweah Subbasin Water Accounting Framework (WAF).

- The 1997-2017 Kaweah Subbasin 20-year average amounts to 9.7 inches or 0.81 Acre-Feet per Acre per the Kaweah Subbasin Setting.

Estimates of GKGSA Overdraft on the GKGSA Portion of the Subbasin Groundwater Budget

Overdraft is Indicated by the Average Annual Change in Storage

Water Year	Rainfall		Components of Inflow							Components of Outflow				*Total Inflow*	*Total Outflow*	Aquitard Storage Change	Aquifer Storage Change	Change in Storage	Cumulative Change in Storage
										Groundwater Pumpage									
	Inches	% of Average	Subsurface Inflow	Streambed Percolation	Conveyance Losses (Canal and Ditch Recharge) and MFR Recharge	Mountain Front Recharge	Percolation of Recharge Basins	Percolation of Irrigation Water	Percolation of Precipitation (Crop and Non-Ag Land)	M & I GW Pumping	GW Pumping for Irrigated Agriculture	Discharge to Surface Water	Subsurface Outflow						
1999	8.9	102%	243.2	62.4	52.3	3.6	33.8	141.9	18.8	17.4	375.3	3.5	151.2	*555.9*	*547.4*	*8.2*	*0.3*	*8.5*	*8.5*
2000	10.3	118%	228.1	65.9	51.3	7.1	28.0	164.7	25.2	20.3	381.4	3.7	177.9	*570.4*	*583.2*	*-2.8*	*-9.9*	*-12.8*	*-4.3*
2001	9.0	103%	217.9	39.8	37.1	7.1	12.0	133.4	18.7	24.0	400.8	4.7	205.2	*466.0*	*634.7*	*-16.6*	*-152.1*	*-168.6*	*-172.9*
2002	8.5	97%	220.1	53.9	37.9	7.1	14.3	155.6	19.9	22.9	428.4	4.2	211.4	*508.7*	*666.9*	*-22.5*	*-135.7*	*-158.2*	*-331.1*
2003	8.7	99%	224.9	66.5	54.4	7.1	36.2	173.1	13.8	22.3	383.0	5.0	226.9	*575.9*	*637.2*	*-18.9*	*-42.4*	*-61.3*	*-392.4*
2004	7.2	82%	217.0	42.4	29.3	3.6	11.1	143.0	18.3	23.7	461.8	3.9	218.0	*464.7*	*707.4*	*-33.7*	*-209.0*	*-242.7*	*-635.1*
2005	13.6	155%	240.5	102.3	88.9	14.2	62.4	184.8	27.9	16.8	283.5	6.0	231.4	*721.1*	*537.8*	*-8.4*	*191.7*	*183.3*	*-451.8*
2006	14.1	160%	231.5	107.9	89.9	14.2	41.2	206.0	35.4	17.0	289.3	9.2	249.0	*726.1*	*564.5*	*-0.7*	*162.2*	*161.6*	*-290.2*
2007	4.8	55%	225.9	30.3	14.9	3.6	13.1	134.7	6.4	27.4	486.5	5.0	257.1	*428.8*	*776.0*	*-29.5*	*-317.7*	*-347.2*	*-637.5*
2008	7.3	83%	244.7	49.7	43.0	7.1	11.5	162.0	17.8	27.0	421.9	4.7	298.6	*535.8*	*752.2*	*-42.5*	*-173.9*	*-216.4*	*-853.8*
2009	6.4	73%	248.7	49.1	41.1	7.1	12.8	164.9	9.7	24.7	444.7	4.2	295.0	*533.4*	*768.6*	*-47.4*	*-187.8*	*-235.2*	*-1,089.0*
2010	10.6	121%	264.7	86.1	66.0	14.2	31.0	164.9	23.7	20.8	334.0	6.1	267.6	*650.6*	*628.5*	*-27.1*	*49.2*	*22.1*	*-1,066.9*
2011	16.1	183%	281.5	120.4	110.9	14.2	66.1	224.0	45.1	17.3	293.8	11.1	256.4	*862.3*	*578.6*	*-2.8*	*286.5*	*283.7*	*-783.2*
2012	7.3	83%	253.2	42.5	30.1	3.6	14.7	133.5	6.0	25.7	408.0	7.1	253.3	*483.6*	*694.1*	*-19.4*	*-191.0*	*-210.5*	*-993.7*
2013	5.1	58%	246.8	32.4	11.8	3.6	10.3	134.0	7.3	24.1	500.9	4.2	250.5	*446.1*	*779.6*	*-40.9*	*-292.6*	*-333.5*	*-1,327.2*
2014	4.2	48%	237.9	18.4	6.7	3.6	9.5	127.8	2.8	20.9	506.6	2.7	224.1	*406.6*	*754.4*	*-58.5*	*-289.3*	*-347.8*	*-1,675.0*
2015	6.8	77%	225.6	18.6	6.9	3.6	8.7	122.2	13.5	19.1	492.0	2.9	200.4	*399.0*	*714.4*	*-68.1*	*-247.3*	*-315.4*	*-1,990.4*
2016	10.9	124%	221.6	57.7	39.6	7.1	10.2	133.0	21.3	20.9	358.6	3.9	200.2	*490.6*	*583.6*	*-55.9*	*-37.2*	*-93.0*	*-2,083.4*
2017	13.6	155%	276.5	134.2	126.2	14.2	73.4	240.4	39.6	15.5	288.9	9.0	228.7	*904.5*	*542.1*	*-19.4*	*381.8*	*362.4*	*-1,721.0*
2018	5.9	67%	231.6	47.5	36.8	3.6	14.0	134.7	9.8	21.8	409.8	6.1	214.4	*477.9*	*652.1*	*-26.3*	*-147.9*	*-174.1*	*-1,895.2*
2019	11.5	131%	266.8	95.5	105.2	14.2	51.3	211.6	22.5	18.3	334.8	9.6	224.8	*767.1*	*587.5*	*-14.5*	*194.2*	*179.6*	*-1,715.5*
2020	8.1	93%	227.9	34.9	23.9	3.6	9.2	126.6	10.3	18.6	421.7	5.4	227.6	*436.3*	*673.3*	*-28.1*	*-208.8*	*-236.9*	*-1,952.5*
2021	4.4	51%	226.0	15.2	4.8	3.6	8.3	135.7	7.5	18.8	549.7	3.2	202.8	*401.1*	*774.4*	*-49.9*	*-323.4*	*-373.3*	*-2,325.8*
2022	7.0	80%	228.5	33.8	17.6	3.6	10.5	130.3	16.7	17.3	467.9	2.7	189.1	*440.9*	*676.9*	*-55.8*	*-180.3*	*-236.1*	*-2,561.9*

Overdraft for the Ten-Year Period from 2010 – 2022

Water Year	Change in Storage
1999	8.5
2000	-12.8
2001	-168.6
2002	-158.2
2003	-61.3
2004	-242.7
2005	183.3
2006	161.6
2007	-347.2
2008	-216.4
2009	-235.2
2010	22.1
2011	283.7
2012	-210.5
2013	-333.5
2014	-347.8
2015	-315.4
2016	-93.0
2017	362.4
2018	-174.1
2019	179.6
2020	-236.9
2021	-373.3
2022	-236.1
Maximum	362.4
Minimum	-373.3
Average	-106.7

Average Δ Storage 2010 – 2022

-124,600 Acre-Ft/Yr

Temporary Tier 1 & Tier 2 Allocations

Temporary Tier 1 & Tier 2 will ramp-down pumping overtime calculated by a percentage of total overdraft.

The allocations are only made available to 161,100 irrigated acres within the Greater Kaweah Management Area.

Rampdown Schedule			
Water Years	Tier 1	Tier 2	Total Allowable
2023-2025	40%	50%	90%
2026-2030	40%	30%	70%
2031-2035	20%	20%	40%
2036-2040	20%	0%	20%

Potential 2026 Allocations Based on 2010 – 2022 Overdraft

Overdraft = 124,600 acre-ft/yr

- 70% of 124,600 acre-ft/yr = **87,220 acre-ft**
- 87,220 acre-ft/161,100 irrigated acres = 0.54 acre-ft/acre

Tier	% Rampdown	Allocatable Water	
		Acre-ft	Acre-ft/acre
Tier 1	40%	49,840	0.31
Tier 2	30%	37,380	0.23
Total	**70%**	**87,220**	**0.54**

GREATER KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mark Larsen

DATE: July 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Board of Directors

Correspondence & Announcements
General Manager Mark Larsen reported that Dr. Rosemary Knight from Stanford is developing a new method for evaluating groundwater storage and is supporting efforts to monitor Interconnected Surface Water.
Program Coordinator Stephanie Ruiz shared that a Science of Water Workshop is being planned in response to feedback gathered by the Water Leadership Institute (WLI) from 2013 through 2025. Sue Ruiz from Self-Help Enterprises also contributed an update on the workshop.

Subbasin Management Updates
General Manager Larsen provided updates on several ongoing efforts across the Kaweah Subbasin:

- Grants: Staff continue to manage funding sources and opportunities.
- LandIQ/Water Dashboard: Development and reporting are in progress.
- MLRP: Planning funding remains available to support continued program development.

Kaweah/Tule Water Banking Project
Chairman Tantau introduced a proposal for a scope of work developed by Stantec. Public comment was received from Dennis Mills. Following Board discussion, the scope of work was approved with a not-to-exceed amount of $50,000, subject to legal review.

Office Relocation
General Manager Larsen reported that staff has begun transitioning to the new office at 227 N. West Street in Visalia. The next Board meeting will be held at that location.

Financials
Mr. Larsen provided a financial update, noting the audit will be presented next month and a revised budget will follow. Budget adjustments are expected due to the office move. The Board unanimously approved the financial statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2025.

Groundwater Invoicing
Program Coordinator Ruiz reported that delinquent balances for Water Year 2024 total approximately $565,000, following completion of the 2023 audit. Payment collections are still ongoing.

Water Year 2025 Allocation
Mr. Larsen presented an update on the Water Year 2025 allocation. Don Tucker from 4Creeks followed with a detailed presentation (included in the agenda packet). Public comment was received from Craig Hornig, Craig Wallace, and Mike Hagman. The discussion addressed allocation structure, grower options, and planning considerations.

Mitigation Program
General Manager Larsen reported on dry well mitigation progress in coordination with Self-Help Enterprises. Staff are identifying regional clusters of failing wells and are working to prioritize mitigation strategies. Currently, 24 impacted wells have been identified within GKGSA.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation
Mr. Larsen reported that the State Water Board has completed its review and verbally indicated that they intend to refer the Kaweah Subbasin back to DWR for evaluation of the revised GSPs. The referral is expected this fall.
He also provided updates on the nine implementation core teams:

- Groundwater Levels: Limited current activity.
- Water Quality: Testing is underway; a notification script is in development.
- Interconnected Surface Water: Jim Van de Water from Thomas Harder & Co. reported on monitoring efforts and collaboration with Stanford.
- Subsidence: Work continues on a regional map and outreach efforts with Provost & Pritchard.
- Mitigation: Focus remains on addressing subsidence impacts.
- Small Community Wells: Resiliency planning continues; well inventory is underway.

Well Registration and Data
Mr. Larsen noted that well registration is addressed in the GKGSA Rules and Regulations and that public outreach will begin soon. No additional updates were provided on well inventory.

Subsidence Monitoring
Tom Harder reported on continued efforts to identify a location for the previously approved monitoring well, noting the process remains ongoing.