



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING July 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on July 17, 2025, at the office of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (“District”), Dennis Mills, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, called to order a meeting of the Committee Members.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Members | Dennis Mills - | Larry Dotson |
| Present: | <i>Chair</i> | Mark Larsen |
| | Scott Wagner | Aaron Bock |
| | David DeGroot | |

Absent: Nicholas
Keller

Staff and Agency consultants presented an agenda packet that followed the agenda. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is the packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Following calling the meeting to order, Chairman Dennis Mills conducted Committee member roll call (documented above) and then opened the meeting for public comment.

No public comment was received.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mark Larsen announced that the current meeting and the upcoming combined meeting on August 5 will be the last two meetings held at the Kaweah Delta location. Starting in August, meetings will transition to the new GKGSA office at 227 N West. Preparation is nearly complete, with an estimated 90–95% readiness. The website was also updated the previous night, which temporarily affected agenda and meeting material links. These are being corrected and will be fully updated.

MINUTES:

Minutes from June 19, 2025, meeting was reviewed and approved after minor edits requested.

Motion: Scott Wagner

Second: David DeGroot

Abstained: Aaron Bock (absent for the June meeting)

Motion passed.

Greater Kaweah GSA TAC Meeting

KAWEAH SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS:

Mark Larsen provided updates on the ongoing work of the GSP core teams. Focus areas include:

Dry Well Evaluation and Well Inventory: Efforts continue to determine whether dry wells are linked to overdraft conditions. The well registration project aims to assign ownership and collect operational data, including streaming video logs.

Small Communities Group: The team is proactively engaging with small communities to monitor groundwater levels and avoid potential future issues.

Subsidence Core Team: A regional approach is being implemented to coordinate subsidence thresholds across subbasins. The group is also working to improve lower aquifer management.

- **Presentation of Groundwater Quality RMS Spring Sampling**

Stephanie introduced Kaitlin Palys (INTERA), who provided an update on the groundwater quality core team's spring RMS sampling effort:

This was the first sampling event for many RMS wells. Samples were collected by Jacob Salinas (Kaweah Water Foundation) and submitted to FGL Laboratories.

A draft report is being prepared and will include results, maps, and evaluation of exceedances.

- **Exceedance Protocol:**
 - Resampling occurs when no historic exceedance exists, or results appear abnormal.
 - A desktop evaluation is conducted to determine if exceedances are linked to management practices post-2015.
 - A notification commitment ensures public suppliers and domestic well owners are informed.
- **Interim Notification Measures:**
 - A public report will be released.
 - Public suppliers will have from August 1 to August 15 to review the draft.
 - The final report will be issued by August 15.

Kaitlin also discussed including explanatory footnotes in the report and visual indicators (e.g., halos) for wells with existing treatment.

MITIGATION ATTRIBUTION:

Mark Larsen introduced a conceptual approach for attributing responsibility for dry wells using groundwater models. The intent is to assign responsibility and associated costs across responsible parties. This concept remains under development.

GREATER WY 2026 ALLOCATION:

Greater Kaweah GSA TAC Meeting

Don provided an update on the draft groundwater accounting framework:

- The 2025 allocation will follow previous methodology.
- A new framework is in development and anticipated for finalization in 2026.
- The framework includes a 25-year rolling average precipitation-based allocation model.
- For Water Year 2026, a 70% total allocation is proposed:
 - 40% Tier 1
 - 30% Tier 2

SUBSIDENCE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT:

Tom Harder presented updates on the subsidence team's efforts. A new draft subsidence map and critical head analysis are in development. Additional monitoring wells are needed to better track subsidence conditions. The committee recommended the installation of three to four nested monitoring wells in high-priority zones. They also recommended initiating a mandatory well registration program, beginning in high-subsidence areas.

Tom Harder presented on the subsidence team's efforts:

- A new subsidence map and head analysis is being developed.
- New monitoring wells are needed to better track conditions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

- Core team updates
- Groundwater quality sampling and reporting
- Groundwater accounting framework development

The next meeting was scheduled for August 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the new Greater Kaweah location at 227 N West St. Visalia Ca 93291.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Mills, Committee Chair

Recommendations for Water Year 2026 Groundwater Allocation

GREATER KAWEAH GSA

TAC PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 18, 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” **plus deep percolation of precipitation as defined in Appendix 3, Table 3.2 of the 2022 Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement***

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

*“Precipitation is calculated as the 25-year rolling average total precipitation **less the amount of deep percolation of precipitation allocated as part of Native Sustainable Yield** for the entire GKGSA jurisdictional area. The long-term average is based on precipitation data collected from calibrated weather stations within and adjacent to the GKGSA, allocated to a precipitation zone which varies from west to east. Precipitation allocations by zone will be provided by the technical consultant prior to each water year”*

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

Native Sustainable Yield is derived from the Appendix 3- Water Accounting Framework of the Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement.

The Total Native Sustainable Yield supply is allocated to the 219,440 gross acreage of the Greater Kaweah GSA.

Table 3.2
(values in acre-feet)

| | Native Water | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | East | Greater | Mid | Total |
| Perc of Precip (Ag and 'Native' non-Ag land) | 23,666 | 44,213 | 20,974 | 88,854 |
| Streambed Perc from Kaweah River Sources | 16,767 | 31,324 | 14,860 | 62,952 |
| Irrigation Ret. Flow from Pumped GW | 41,484 | 77,501 | 36,766 | 155,752 |
| Mountain Front Recharge | 14,976 | 27,978 | 13,273 | 56,227 |
| Total Native | 96,894 | 181,017 | 85,874 | 363,784 |
| GSA % of Total Native | 27% | 50% | 24% | |
| | Foreign Water | | | |
| | East | Greater | Mid | Total |
| Streambed Perc from Imported Sources | 0 | 11,730 | 2,523 | 14,253 |
| Ditch Perc from Imported Sources | 0 | 1,204 | 21,745 | 22,949 |
| Basin Perc from Imported Sources | 0 | 1,050 | 14,305 | 15,355 |
| Irrigation Ret. Flow from Imported Sources | 12,073 | 1,241 | 7,140 | 20,453 |
| Total Foreign | 12,073 | 15,225 | 45,713 | 73,010 |
| GSA % of Total Foreign | 17% | 21% | 63% | |
| | Salvaged Water | | | |
| | East | Greater | Mid | Total |
| Ditch Perc from Kaw River Sources | 8,835 | 49,771 | 34,880 | 93,486 |
| Additional Recharge | 226 | 6,892 | 5,697 | 12,815 |
| Stormwater Return Flows | 508 | 2,370 | 8,491 | 11,368 |
| WWTP Return Flows | 1,470 | 3,129 | 13,878 | 18,477 |
| Basin Perc from Kaweah River Sources | 0 | 16,005 | 23,479 | 39,484 |
| Irrig. Ret. Flow from Kaweah River Sources | 4,555 | 31,039 | 11,981 | 47,574 |
| Total Salvaged | 15,593 | 109,205 | 98,406 | 223,205 |
| GSA % of Total Salvaged | 7% | 49% | 44% | |
| | East | Greater | Mid | Total ^(*) |
| | | | | |
| Grand Total | 124,560 | 305,447 | 229,992 | 659,999 |
| GSA % of Total | 19% | 46% | 35% | |
| (*) Excludes net sub-surface inflow of 60 taf/yr | | | | |
| Note: All data is derived from the Basin Setting and is based on water budget for the period Water Year 1997 to 2017 for the Kaweah Subbasin. | | | | |

Native Sustainable Yield

Inclusion of Percolation of Precipitation, increases the Native Sustainable Yield Allocation to **0.83 AF/acre**

Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement - Appendix 3 - Table 3.2 (pg. 337)

| Native | WY 2025 | WY 2026 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Perc of Percip | 44,213 | 44,213 |
| Kaweah River Streambed Perc | 31,324 | 31,324 |
| Pump GW Return Flow | 77,501 | 77,501 |
| Mountain Front Recharge | 27,978 | 27,978 |
| Native Total | 136,803 | 181,016 |
| GKGSA Gross Acres | | 219,440 |
| Native Sustainable Yield Allocation | 0.62 | 0.83 |

Precipitation

- Precipitation zones allocations will need to be reduced by the amount equal to percolation of precipitation added to the Native Sustainable Yield allocation.

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Perc of Percip | 44,213 | AF |
| GKGSA Gross Acres | 219,440 | Acres |
| Portion of Native Allocation | 0.20 | AF/Acres |
| Converted to Inches | 2.42 | inches |

Temporary Tier 1 & Tier 2 Allocations

Temporary Tier 1 & Tier 2 ramp-downs allowable groundwater overdraft 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% |

Overdraft Scenarios for Temporary Water Allocation

Historical Annual Overdraft: 124,600 acre-feet
@ 70%: **87,220 acre-feet**

| | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Total Allowable |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Total Allowable (<i>acre-feet</i>) | 49,840 | 37,380 | 87,220 |
| Per Acre (<i>acre-feet/acre</i>) | 0.31 | 0.23 | 0.54 |

Summary Water Year 2026 Allocation

| Groundwater Allocation Category | Acre-feet per Acre |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Sustainable Yield | 0.83 + Precipitation |
| <i>A) Native Sustainable Yield</i> | <i>0.83</i> |
| <i>B) Precipitation (25-year rolling average less Perc of Precip)</i> | <i>Varies</i> |
| 2) Temporary Water | 0.54 |
| <i>Tier 1</i> | <i>0.31</i> |
| <i>Tier 2</i> | <i>0.23</i> |
| Total WY 2026 Groundwater Allocations | 1.37 + Total Precipitation |

Greater Kaweah
GSA

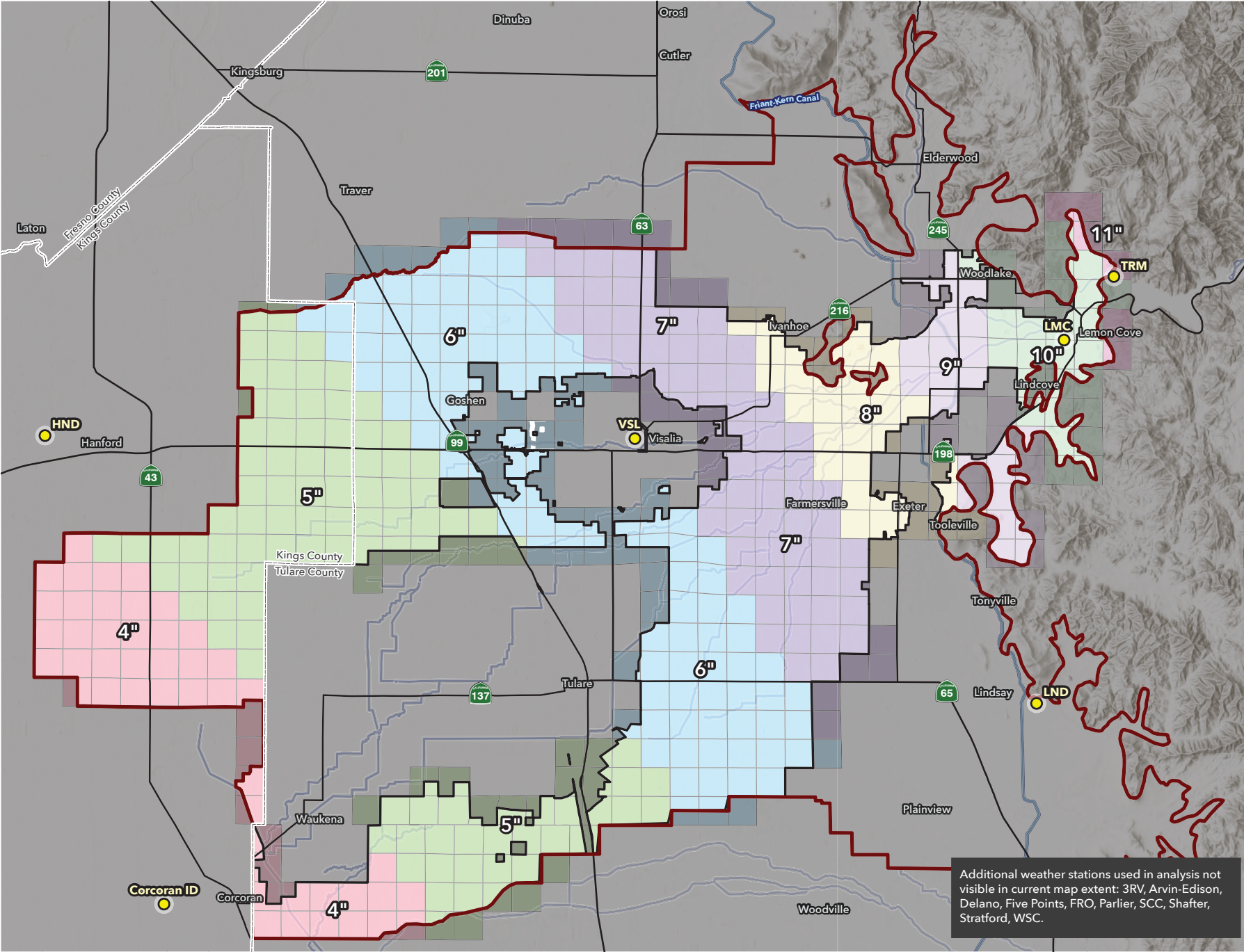
WY 2026
Precipitation
Allocation
by Zone

Legend

- County Boundary
- Kaweah Subbasin
- Greater Kaweah GSA
- Friant-Kern Canal
- Waterways
- Major Roads
- Weather Stations Used in Analysis

Precipitation Zones

- 4"
- 5"
- 6"
- 7"
- 8"
- 9"
- 10"
- 11"





Department of Water Resources

Karla Nemeth, Director

Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director for Sustainable Groundwater Management

August 25, 2025

Sent via email and posted on the SGMA Portal

Re: Recommendations on the Kaweah Subbasin's Status

Dear Department of Water Resources,

We write to provide comments on the Kaweah Subbasin's (Subbasin) Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). The Subbasin has made tremendous progress in adopting and implementing the State Water Resources Control Water Board's staff recommendations and has committed to collaboration within the Subbasin and meaningful partnerships with stakeholders and community based organizations. We have submitted comment letters, attended board and advisory committee meetings, and shared feedback with Subbasin staff directly, and the Subbasin has considered and incorporated our drinking water recommendations. We are confident that the Subbasin will continue to define groundwater sustainability comprehensively and highlight the importance of the Human Right to Water in their GSPs.¹

Given these advancements, we strongly recommend that the Subbasin exits the State Water Resources Control Water Board's probationary process and returns back to the Department of Water Resources' purview. The Subbasin has made significant improvements across all six sustainability indicators. We summarize these improvements in the following section:

- *Sustainable management criteria*
 - Groundwater levels: addressed inconsistencies in how SMCs were being established and established more proactive minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.
 - Groundwater quality: updated the groundwater quality exceedance policy and updated list of contaminants of concern.

¹ Cal. Water Code § 106.3.

Department of Water Resources. Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts.

Available at:

https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Files/Considerations-for-Identifying-and-Addressing-Drinking-Water-Well-Impacts_FINAL.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

- Subsidence: set more robust sustainable management criteria that consider impacts to critical infrastructure.
- *Monitoring networks*
 - Groundwater quality: conducting testing twice a year and identifying replacement wells to include in the network.
 - Subsidence: included more proactive interim measures that incorporate the best available data.
 - Interconnected Surface Waters: coordinating with Stanford University to install stream gauges and partner on a research study.
- *Projects and management actions*
 - Mitigation program: created a robust, equitable drinking water mitigation program in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises.
 - Small Community Well Proactive and Protective Action Plan: identified small community water systems in the Subbasin. Considering water resiliency plans for all small community water systems in coordination with Tulare County.
 - Well registration and well inventory: started outreach to well owners this year in coordination with Tulare County.

We look forward to working with the Department of Water Resources and the Subbasin to implement a robust and equitable GSP. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tien Tran
Policy Manager
Community Water Center

Nataly Escobedo Garcia, PhD
Water/Climate Policy Manager
Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability