



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: Dennis
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 Street. 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 were reviewed and approved after minor edits requested.

Motion: Scott Wagner

Second: David DeGroot

Abstained: Aaron Bock (absent for the June meeting)

Motion passed.

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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 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.

Committee member Scott Wagner suggested that the graphics (presentation slides) have text added that explains that the exceedances identified are from samples of raw water from the well, and that the well water is treated and safe for drinking water use.

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

Member Wagner additionally requested that sampling results are shared with public suppliers prior to distribution.

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TAC Chair Dennis Mills expressed his appreciation for the water quality sampling process information and thought the committee should keep in touch with the sampling process.

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.

Chair Dennis Mills noted that using the model for this purpose was concerning as the model does not include wells and locations of wells and he did not understand how the model could be used for this and suggested it was likely a wasted effort. He suggested that maybe the best scenario would be for a GSA to be responsible for impacts to their areas, and that the boundary areas would be the most difficult to ascertain responsibility.

Member Larry Dotson suggested it might be a long-term, short-term solution issue that was complicated by water year differences and could be better for GSAs to put money in a Subbasin fund to be spent where necessary.

Chair Mills suggested they keep up with the development of this process.

Member David De Groot cautioned the use of the groundwater flow model for this work. The process is very complex and would require much more work to be used with any degree of value for this purpose.

GREATER WY 2026 ALLOCATION AND GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK:

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

Chair Mills suggested that a lot of analysis into the Allocation at this point was not helpful as the groundwater accounting framework was being totally revised, and today it does not recognize two aquifers, the upper and lower, and a massive change is necessary. The effort needs to be spent on developing a two-aquifer system.

TAC Chair Dennis Mills asked questions regarding the Water Accounting Framework changes that were being considered and how the draft values had been derived and applied. He expressed concern over both the broad base application of sub flows across the Subbasin and the resulting imbalance of the inflow and outflow values and would likely impact Subbasin groundwater management and adjacent subbasins.

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Member Larry Dotson questioned how the mountain front values were developed and was concerned that the methodology, how the numbers were backed into and not based on true data, was flawed.

Chair Mills again suggested it is necessary to shift allocations to recognize two aquifers by WY 2027.

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.

Chair Dennis Mills notified the committee that DWR has presented information in form of a video on subsidence and the importance of critical head in managing subsidence.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

- Chair Mills suggested the committee would be open to reviewing and asks the board might have regarding Allocations, and Manager Larsen suggested that any Core team updates for review would be brought to the committee.
- Chair Mills suggested updates on groundwater quality sampling and reporting, and noted the GSA needed to evaluate the project list in the GSP for projects that were still valid by touching bases with the project component for current status.
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- Member Wagner suggested that the committee should keep up to date on the Water Accounting Framework activity and progress.
- Chair Mills repeated that sooner or later there must be more work on accounting and managing two aquifers.

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



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING September 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on September 18, 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	
	David DeGroot	

Absent: Bock, Aaron

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

No public comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Staff announced plans to hold a modeling and water budget educational workshop later this fall. The workshop will be coordinated with agency consultants to provide a better understanding of groundwater modeling methods and how water budget components are derived. The session will be open to Board, Committee, and stakeholder participation.

MINUTES:

Review of the July 17, 2025, TAC Meeting Minutes was postponed to the next meeting to allow additional review and clarification of language within the Exceedance Protocol section. Committee members noted that additional context should be included in future minutes to reflect TAC discussion alongside staff presentations.

GREATER 2026 GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS:

Staff and consultants reviewed updates to the Water Year 2026 allocation framework, including recommendations from the Combined Committee regarding consistency across the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs.

Key discussion points included:

- Alignment with Mid-Kaweah and East Kaweah GSA methodologies using a 25-year rolling average for precipitation.

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- Proposal to adjust Greater Kaweah's native sustainable yield to 0.83 AF/acre to match the other GSAs, incorporating deep percolation of precipitation into native sustainable yield while reducing the precipitation component accordingly.
- The adjustment provides added flexibility for landowners by allowing the deep percolation portion to be transferable under the native yield category.
- Revisions to the Rules and Regulations would be required to reflect this change.
- 4Creeks presented updated tables and maps illustrating revised allocation zones and calculations.

The Committee supported moving forward with staff and consultant recommendations to present the proposed allocation structure to the Board in October.

GREATER KAWEAH RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Committee reviewed potential policy revisions for groundwater transfers intended to improve flexibility while maintaining protection against localized impacts.

Discussion highlights:

- Proposal to allow native sustainable yield transfers anywhere within the Greater Kaweah GSA without distance restrictions or loss factors, replacing the current three-zone limitation.
- Tiered water transfers would remain prohibited.
- Members discussed the need for localized monitoring requirements for properties receiving transferred water to detect potential impacts on domestic wells or subsidence areas.
- Several members suggested incorporating management or protection zones where transfer activity may be limited due to known vulnerabilities.
- The Committee recognized this as an interim policy concept subject to future refinement as the subbasin transitions to two-aquifer management.

Staff will carry these recommendations forward to the Board for consideration.

Coordination and Cross-Boundary Transfers

Staff provided an overview of inter-GSA transfer coordination within the Kaweah Subbasin:

- East Kaweah GSA has restricted transfers due to observed groundwater level impacts.
- Mid-Kaweah GSA has recently initiated discussions regarding potential cross-boundary transfers.
- Greater Kaweah currently allows outgoing transfers upon mutual GSA approval but has not yet permitted incoming transfers.

Committee members discussed the complexities of varying allocations and policies between GSAs and the need for continued coordination.

SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS:

Staff reported that the State Water Resources Control Board continues to delay scheduling a hearing for the Kaweah Subbasin due to timing issues with other basins, including Kern, and the upcoming November election.

- Staff anticipate that a hearing or meeting may be set for late November or December 2025.
- GKGSa received a letter of support from Community Water Center and Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, commending Subbasin's approach to drinking water protections, well mitigation, and outreach efforts.

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GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK:

Groundwater Levels:

Awaiting updated model refinements to finalize the evaluation of monitoring sites and thresholds.

Water Quality:

The annual monitoring report has been finalized and posted on the GKGSA website. Self-Help Enterprises and other reviewers provided minor editorial comments. Fall sampling is underway with a goal of completing all 71 RMS sites across the Subbasin.

Interconnected Surface Water:

Harder Group has developed a five-phase monitoring plan including shallow wells and stream gauges. The first two transducer installations with telemetry are planned along Dry Creek and the Sequoia Preserve. Estimated cost: approximately \$11,000 for setup and \$6,500 in annual monitoring.

Subsidence:

Harder Group is coordinating with landowners for installation of monitoring wells in priority areas, particularly in the southwest portion of the GSA. Existing inactive wells are being evaluated for use with transducers.

WELL INVENTORY AND WELL REGISTRATION:

Staff are working with Provost & Pritchard and Sierra Rodriguez to complete an updated well inventory using GIS and AI-assisted satellite imagery. The Well Registration Program is scheduled to launch on October 1, 2025, coinciding with the State of the Basin Event at the International Agri-Center.

- Staff will be available to assist landowners in registering wells online or by appointment.
- The Board emphasized that registration will become a required component of ongoing groundwater management compliance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

The next TAC meeting will be scheduled for October 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Mills, Committee Chair