



MINUTES OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE Held December 22, 2025

GKGSRA 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
Paul Boyer
Rudy Mendoza
Jonathan Vaughn

Marty Toomey
Joe Cardoza
Zack Stuller

Marty Toomey
Soapy Mulholland
Cornell Kasbergen
Brian Watte
Matt Hutcheson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES *STAKEHOLDER*

Danny Holguin
Monroe Self
Deidre Root
Carol Fina

James Silva
John Gailey
Blake Mauritsen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Combined Rural Communities Committee (RCC) and Stakeholder Committee (SC) meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Members noted as present included: Paul Boyer, Rudy Mendoza, Bobby Lentz, Chris Tantau, Joe Cardoza, Colin Fernandes, Matt Hutchinson, Cornell Kasbergen, Soapy Mulholland, Zack Stuller, Marty Toomey, Johnathan Vaughn.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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The Chair opened the floor for public comments on items not on the agenda. Comments were received regarding parking and neighboring interactions near the meeting location.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the October 27, 2025, meeting minutes. A correction was noted regarding attendance (duplicate listing). The minutes were approved with the correction by consensus vote.

5. GREATER ADMINISTRATION

The Committee received administrative updates, including website and invoicing status. Staff reported that there were no significant updates related to the GKGSA website. Staff then provided an invoice update, noting that collections for outstanding invoices remain ongoing. Staff reported that approximately \$5 million in 2024 invoices remains outstanding; however, the second-round of 2024 has resulted in increased responses from landowners and an increase in surface water transfers. Staff also reported that the 2025 invoices are expected to be distributed in late January or February. The lien process for unpaid 2024 invoices is anticipated to begin in March 2026.

6. GREATER WY 2025 FALLOWING PROGRAM

Staff provided an update on the WY 2025 Land Fallowing Program.

Key program statistics reported: 25 contracts executed totaling approximately 3,357 acres, with total payments of \$1,343,172. Only five applicants opted out.

Staff reported that all prior year program payments have been completed, with one remaining payment scheduled for January.

Staff described compliance monitoring through Land IQ satellite imagery, monthly review, and twice-yearly site inspections. Staff reported no compliance concerns to date.

Committee discussed reconvening the balance committee in early spring to revisit boundary program adjustments and pilot program refinements.

Committee members discussed crop trend information (almonds/citrus) and noted that publicly available data (Almond Board, USDA reports, County Crop Reports) may lag by one or more years. Staff indicated that Land IQ crop comparison data is being filtered for accuracy and will be shared once finalized.

A map of program participants was presented, showing distribution across the GSA. Members discussed the possibility of prioritizing participation geographically in future years due to limited program funds and subsidence-related concerns.

7. GREATER MITIGATION PLAN

Staff provided a mitigation program status report, including well claims, water acquisition, recharge projects, and discussion of future mitigation strategies.

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Well Mitigation Claim (north of Visalia): Staff described ongoing Board review of a well claim north of Visalia. Staff noted limited historical data and the need to determine whether the well failure is attributable to SGMA-era overdraft conditions. Staff are comparing the claim location to nearby representative monitoring site (RMS) wells and expect to present additional analysis to the Board in January.

Class 1 Water Acquisition/Release: Staff reported acquisition of 600 AF of Class 1 water at approximately \$250/AF, scheduled for release beginning the following morning through Christmas. Releases were described as 50 CFS in the St. Johns River and 50 CFS in the Kaweah River. Staff noted limited conveyance capacity and limited downstream reach due to low base flows and emphasized the need for a more strategic long-term plan for wet water opportunities.

Recharge Basin Pilot (Hypericum area): Staff reported development of an approximately 11-acre recharge basin south of Farmersville near the community of Hypericum. Staff described a lease agreement with a willing landowner and a 10-year arrangement (five years initial) for the basin. Staff also reported contracting with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District for 24 shares of ditch stock to supply water to the project. Staff anticipate monitoring impacts on nearby wells (community estimated at ~40 wells) using available peripheral wells and a nearby monitoring well.

Members discussed expansion potential, noting the ditch system is small and turnout capacity is limited (approximately 3 CFS). Staff indicated expansion could be possible if additional conveyance improvements (e.g., pipeline connection) are pursued and if system capacity allows.

Committee discussion included an article and technology concept (honeycomb-style subsurface infiltration system) being used in other areas to improve infiltration through soil profile layers. Staff indicated they plan to hold a follow-up conversation with the technology provider in early January and will include interested committee members.

Groundwater Credit Retirement Discussion: Staff raised the concept of using mitigation funds to retire groundwater credits (native supply and/or overdraft credits) to reduce future pumping exposure, potentially through a reverse auction or fixed-price offer. Members expressed mixed views, with some preferring acquisition of physical water as a more tangible benefit. Staff acknowledged the optics concerns and indicated any program would likely need limits and prioritization (e.g., subsidence-prone zones).

8. GREATER SUBSIDENCE, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

Tom Harder presented a technical summary of two recent DWR documents: (1) Draft Land Subsidence Best Management Practices (BMPs) and (2) Bulletin 118 (October update) including a new subsidence appendix.

Mr. Harder summarized the BMP concept of “critical head,” described as the groundwater elevation above which subsidence is minimized or avoided, and reviewed how subsidence rates increase as groundwater levels decline below critical head.

Monitoring Network Updates: Mr. Harder reported progress filling data gaps by installing pressure transducers (hourly logging) in existing wells. In Priority Area 1, three wells are now equipped (one upper aquifer, two lower aquifer). Additional wells are planned in Priority Areas 2 and 3, with a projected buildout of approximately 12 transducers by the end of the next year, and potentially fewer than 20 total at full buildout.

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Transducer costs were reported at approximately \$1,500 per well, with additional O&M costs for manual downloads.

Telemetry Discussion: Mr. Harder described that some transducers can be connected to telemetry/SCADA for real-time data, with modest monthly fees, but noted cell coverage limitations in some locations.

Bulletin 118 Data Concerns: Mr. Harder and staff raised concerns regarding Bulletin 118 critical head analysis at six locations, including unclear well identification, potential inconsistencies between upper and lower aquifer groundwater levels, and ambiguity regarding responsibility relative to 2015 baseline conditions. Staff indicated intent to contact DWR with questions and comments, and to coordinate with other subbasins on shared concerns.

Committee members discussed the risk of losing data with quarterly downloads and suggested monthly downloads or use of staff already in the field (e.g., water quality sampling) to improve reliability. Staff agreed to evaluate options including local consultant support for more frequent downloads.

9. SUBBASIN WELL INVENTORY AND WELL REGISTRATION

Staff provided an update on the ongoing well inventory and well registration program.

Staff reported approximately 500 wells have been inventoried to date. Staff noted that aerial imagery identification may include false positives (e.g., standpipes), requiring field verification. Staff estimated approximately 30 wells remain to be field checked in certain areas.

Staff described well registration as the next step, tying wells to landowners and improving management visibility, particularly for lower aquifer and west-side areas associated with subsidence concerns. Staff encouraged members to submit well logs and available information to assist registration.

10. SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

Staff reported that on December 2, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board passed the Kaweah Subbasin GSP back to DWR for oversight.

Staff reported that a first coordination meeting with DWR is scheduled for mid-January 2026 to review changes made sense of DWR's prior review and to establish subject-matter follow-up meetings (anticipated to include subsidence).

Staff reported DWR indicated it may take up to several years to complete a full reevaluation, though staff anticipate an approximate 1.5-year timeframe.

Water Quality Monitoring: Staff reported completion of spring sampling and ongoing completion of fall sampling. Staff noted the team is refining reporting protocols, response procedures, and communication with the State Board and well owners.

11. GREATER KAWEAH & SUBBASIN STATUS REPORT

No additional specific items were raised beyond the updates provided above.

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12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was confirmed for January 26, 2026. No additional agenda items were requested.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Larsen Secretary, Combined RCC & SC



MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mark Larsen
DATE: February 09, 2025
SUBJECT: Board Summary
CC:

Meeting Overview

The Board of Directors of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GKGSA) met on February 9, 2026. Chairman Chris Tantau called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. The Board received multiple updates and took action on one policy item related to well registration. Closed session was held regarding anticipated litigation, with no reportable action.

Public Comment

Chairman Tantau opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was presented during the initial public comment period.

Public comment was received later in the meeting on agenda items including water credit management, monitoring wells, mitigation activities, and the Kaweah/Tule Water Banking Project. Commenters included Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Shawn Corley, Diana Zegarra, Rhett Anderson, and others.

Committees and Administrative Updates

General Manager Larsen reported that the January 15, 2026, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was canceled. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026.

General Manager Larsen also reported that the January 26, 2026, Combined Rural Communities & Stakeholder Committees meeting was canceled. The next Combined Committees meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2026.

Mr. Larsen provided an update that daily Land IQ data has been shared with landowners and staff will continue outreach, including a Subbasin-wide effort. He also noted that dashboard invoicing is anticipated in March or April.

Consent Calendar

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 12, 2026, Board meeting.

Greater Kaweah Water Credit Management

General Manager Larsen provided a status report regarding water credit management and ongoing evaluation of options to retire water credits. He noted continued concern regarding how much groundwater could be called upon in the event of multiple dry years.

The Board discussed several potential policy options. Public comments were received from multiple individuals. No action was taken on policy options to reduce water credits.

Greater Kaweah Mitigation Plan

General Manager Larsen provided an update on the mitigation program. He reported that the fill station remains under development. He has received an extraterritorial service agreement from LAFCO to allow delivery of City of Farmersville water outside city boundaries. He also reported ongoing work toward an agreement with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District.

Regarding pilot dry well mitigation claims, Mr. Larsen reported a new claim was received the same day and staff will begin investigating. Public comment was received from Rhett Anderson of Self-Help Enterprises.

Greater Kaweah Monitoring Well Network

Tom Harder (Thomas Harder & Company) provided a status report and PowerPoint presentation on priority monitoring well locations. Discussion followed, including public comment.

Kaweah Subbasin Subsidence Monitoring

General Manager Larsen provided a status report on subsidence monitoring and discussed the need for establishing Management Areas. He reviewed factors that could be used in developing those areas. Discussion followed.

Greater Kaweah Well Registration

General Manager Larsen reported that the well registration process is underway, with only 147 wells currently registered. He recommended establishing a deadline for compliance.

The Board unanimously approved a deadline of July 1, 2026, for landowners to comply with well registration requirements.

Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)

General Manager Larsen provided a report on communications with DWR. The Subbasin requested routine check-ins with DWR staff, but DWR denied the request and indicated staff would reach out as needed.

Mr. Larsen also noted new additions to Bulletin 118 regarding subsidence. Discussion followed, including comments from Mr. Harder regarding how subsidence is addressed in the GSP and DWR's Land Subsidence Best Management Practices.

Kaweah/Tule Water Banking Project

General Manager Larsen provided a brief update, noting it is anticipated Stantec will take approximately eight months to complete the initial investigation. Discussion and public comment followed.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding two potential items of anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). No reportable action was taken.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the GKGSA Board of Directors is scheduled for March 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.