



## GREATER KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

### LAND FALLOWING PROGRAM

APRIL 2026

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#### 1. PROGRAM GOALS

The Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GKGSA”) hereby establishes its 2026 Land Fallowing Program (“Program”) in order to immediately reduce groundwater extraction within GKGSA’s jurisdictional boundaries, reduce impacts to domestic and irrigation wells, and effectuate the objectives of GKGSA’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

#### 2. PROGRAM PROCESS AND TIMING

As detailed below, the Program’s process consists of the following elements:

- a. The GKGSA Board of Directors approved the 2026 Program at its April 13, 2026 Board Meeting.
- b. Applications for the Program will be collected starting **June 1, 2026** and ending on **July 15, 2026**.
- c. Applicants will be reviewed and considered for eligibility on a first come first serve basis:
- d. Any farm within GKGSA’s boundaries with four or more acres is eligible to apply.
- e. Applicant must be in good standing with the GKGSA (including but not limited to compliance with the GKGSA Rules and Regulations, SGMA, and Well Registration) and compliant with any other rules, regulations, statutes, laws, etc.
- f. Land proposed to be fallow must have been actively farmed with irrigated agricultural practices in the year proceeding the application.
- g. As the Board has set a budget limit for the Program, further applications will not be considered once all the Program funds have been allocated to the first applicants.
- h. Accepted and disqualified applicants will be notified of their standing once all applications have been processed; estimated to be announced **August 24, 2026**.
- i. Land must be fallowed beginning on **October 1, 2026**
- j. No groundwater will be allocated to the fallowed ground for the Water Year 2026.
- k. Fallowed ground will be verified for non-irrigation by ET measurements and two onsite inspections, conducted in **April 2027** and **August 2027**.
- l. Awarded landowners will be compensated \$400 per acre for successful fallowing for the one-year period.



All applicant land will be based on the field boundaries identified on the GKGSA dashboard; accordingly, all applications must contain the Assessor's Parcel Number(s) of each parcel, as well as the field number(s) or name(s) associated with the land.

Each application must be submitted to [info@greaterkaweahgsa.org](mailto:info@greaterkaweahgsa.org) email, or at the office located at 227 N. West St Visalia, CA 93291.

Each application shall be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, GKGSA as a public agency, is required to produce documents in response to requests made under the California Public Records Act.

### **3. PROGRAM DETAILS**

#### **a. Land Use Options**

- i. Cover Crops. Growing cover crops on the Program land is permitted but may only be irrigated by precipitation and cannot be harvested.
- ii. Grazing. Grazing is allowed on the Program land.
- iii. Recharge. Recharge activities are permitted on the Program land. (see GKGSA for more information and authorization for recharge)

#### **b. Verification**

Verification methods to endure compliance with fallowing shall include ET measurement performed by Land IQ, as well as Program land inspections.

#### **c. Enforcement**

Any landowner who violates this policy, or any agreement made between the landowner and GKGSA, shall, in addition to any remedy otherwise provided by law, be subject to the following:

- i. Fines. A fine in the amount of \$500 per acre-foot of groundwater extracted; and
- ii. Allocations. The landowner committing the violation shall lose all groundwater extraction allocations for the following water year.
- iii. Gross Violations. In addition to the foregoing penalties, the Board of Directors may bar landowners from future participation in all future GKGSA land fallowing Programs. Examples of gross violations include, but are not limited to, harvesting, irrigation of any crop, and growing commercial crops on Program land.

#### **d. Award Payment**

Award payment will occur approximately fourteen (14) months following the start of the water year which begins October 1, 2026, and after a successful year of fallowing. The party receiving an award will receive one payment. The recipient may elect to receive the award in December 2027, or in January 2028.

(Upon acceptance, applicants will be required to contract with GKGSA consistent with this policy.)