

**COMBINED MEETING OF THE
RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
&
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

August 24, 2026

1:30 p.m.

227 N West St.

Visalia Ca 93291

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

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Chris Tantau

Emmanuel (for Rudy Mendoza)

STAKEHOLDER

Joe Cardoza

Colin Fernandes (Zoom)

Matt Hutcheson

ATTENDANCE NOTE: The AI transcript did not clearly capture every roll-call response. The final attendance list should be verified against the sign-in sheet or official roll-call record before adoption.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tantau called the meeting of the Combined Rural Communities Committee and Stakeholder Committee to order at approximately 1:31 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Emmanuel attended on behalf of Rudy Mendoza, and Colin Fernandez participated by Zoom. The remaining attendance should be confirmed against the official sign-in or roll-call record.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Tantau opened the floor for public comment on items not on the agenda. No public comments were received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the July 27, 2026, Combined Rural Communities Committee and Stakeholder Committee meeting minutes. One correction was noted regarding Jonathan Vaughn being identified as a Stakeholder Committee member. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the correction. The motion carried without opposition.

5. GREATER ADMINISTRATION

Staff reported that the Agency was continuing to audit outstanding groundwater accounts and preparing another round of past-due notices. Approximately 25 landowners were expected to receive notices, including several accounts with balances carried forward from prior years. Staff explained that delinquent accounts may include multiple water years and discussed transitioning future collection of unpaid charges to the county tax-roll process so delinquent balances can be addressed more efficiently.

Members discussed the current notice process, including repeated invoices and reminders, the use of clearly marked past-due envelopes or stickers, and the importance of including a date on invoices so landowners can readily determine the applicable payment period. Staff noted that current invoices direct payment within 60 days of receipt. The Committee emphasized the need for clear, consistent collection procedures and continued enforcement of unpaid balances.

6. WATER CREDIT MANAGEMENT

The Committee first received an update on the proposed nonprofit water-credit retirement program. The nonprofit reported outreach to other groundwater sustainability agencies and water entities and stated that there was growing interest in participation. Representatives explained that the organization's IRS Form 1023 specifically identified water-credit retirement as a principal charitable activity and that the organization had received 501(c)(3) status. The nonprofit requested a recommendation from the Committee so the Greater Kaweah GSA Board could consider whether to participate.

The nonprofit revised its proposed administrative funding structure from an acreage-based charge to an estimated \$25 per acre-foot of donated water credits, with the landowner responsible for obtaining any appraisal and consulting with the landowner's own tax professional. Representatives stated that funds would be used to cover administration and that any surplus could be directed toward grants or projects benefiting participating areas. Members discussed transparency, operating costs, tax treatment, appraisal responsibility, potential competition with other credit programs, and whether participation would provide a useful voluntary tool for permanently retiring credits.

Following discussion, the Committee voted to recommend that the water-credit retirement proposal be forwarded to the Board for final consideration. No opposition was stated in the recording.

The Committee then continued its broader discussion of replacing or offsetting overdraft allocations with verified groundwater or surface-water-related credits already accounted for in the basin. Staff described a concept under which the GSA could work with ditch companies and other suppliers to acquire credits associated with water already in the groundwater system and make supplemental water available to growers who need supply above sustainable yield. The discussion emphasized that the intent is to reduce reliance on newly allocated overdraft water while maintaining a workable transition for growers.

Members discussed service-area limitations, water ownership, pricing, accounting, the amount of water needed, annual availability, treatment of carryover, possible caps on supplemental water, and the need to avoid increasing pumping in areas experiencing subsidence or other undesirable results. Staff estimated that approximately 40,000 acre-feet per year may be needed to replace current Tier 1 and Tier 2 use, although actual annual quantities would depend on diversions, hydrology, and available credits. Members also discussed using the existing dashboard structure to administer supplemental water and the need for clear eligibility and transfer rules.

The Committee expressed general support for continuing development of the concept and made a motion to recommend the concept to the Board, with pricing and other implementation details still to be developed. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

7. MONITORING WELL NETWORK

Consultant Tom Harder provided an update on the GSA monitoring network. Five existing wells in Priority Areas 1 and 2 are currently equipped with pressure transducers, and staff is evaluating additional opportunities in other priority areas. A new monitoring well at the Herbert Preserve has been approved, the low-bid driller has been notified, and staff is awaiting a construction schedule. Additional potential monitoring-well locations are being evaluated in Priority Areas 1, 2, and 4.

Mr. Harder also reported that two monitoring-well sites have been approved for the interconnected-surface-water program, one along the St. Johns River and one along the lower Kaweah River. The locations are intended to improve understanding of how far interconnected conditions extend downstream. Members discussed whether existing shallow wells could be used, the purpose of the selected locations, and the value of collecting data in areas where the existing monitoring network is limited.

The Herbert Preserve well is planned as a nested monitoring well with three separate casings and monitoring intervals within one borehole. Mr. Harder explained that final perforation intervals will be selected after drilling a pilot hole and reviewing a geophysical log. The conceptual total depth is approximately 1,000 feet. The Committee thanked Sequoia Riverlands Trust for working with the GSA on the site.

8. SUBBASIN WELL REGISTRATION

Staff reported that more than 2,000 wells have been registered and that registration efforts remain ongoing. Staff estimated that several thousand additional wells may still need to be identified and registered. The Committee discussed using available records and improving the connection between registration data and other well information so the Agency can develop a more complete understanding of wells throughout the area.

Members discussed whether inactive or unused wells should also be registered. Staff stated that known wells should be identified even when complete construction information is unavailable, because inactive wells may still provide useful information or potential monitoring opportunities. The Committee also discussed future dashboard enforcement. Once noncompliance restrictions are fully implemented, accounts without required well registration may receive a warning indicator and may be restricted from receiving supplemental water, transferring water, or otherwise participating in certain GSA water-accounting functions until compliance is achieved.

9. SUBSIDENCE, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Harder presented the subsidence-management concepts recently reviewed with the Technical Advisory Committee. He explained that SGMA minimum thresholds for land subsidence are based on the rate and extent of subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses. Groundwater levels and subsurface geology are the principal factors affecting subsidence, particularly in areas with thick clay layers and significant seasonal pumping depressions.

The presentation compared groundwater-level hydrographs with InSAR subsidence measurements and illustrated that deeper and longer seasonal groundwater-level declines correspond with increased subsidence. Mr. Harder noted that subsidence rates have generally slowed since 2023 at some locations, although the GSA continues to see seasonal groundwater declines and subsidence. Members discussed the concept of critical head and the importance of preventing growing-season groundwater levels from falling below elevations that could trigger additional compaction.

Mr. Harder reviewed the need to establish a glide path between current conditions and the 2040 sustainability requirements so minimum thresholds are not exceeded. He also reviewed the GSA's varied conditions, including differences in geology, surface-water availability, precipitation, and critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure discussed included Cross Creek, the Tule River, Homeland Canal, Lindsay-Strathmore-area pipelines, transportation facilities, and other features that could be affected by differential subsidence or flooding.

Three preliminary management concepts were presented. Concept A would divide the GSA into larger eastern and western management areas and could use weighted subsidence conditions within each area to trigger progressively stronger management actions. Illustrative actions included reductions to Tier 1 and Tier 2 or supplemental allocations as subsidence approaches established thresholds. Concept B would treat the entire GSA as one management area, eliminating boundary disputes but potentially applying restrictions more broadly. Concept C would use representative monitoring sites and localized trigger areas, potentially applying management actions within approximately one mile of a monitoring location when subsidence rates exceed interim milestones over a defined period.

Potential adaptive-management tools discussed included reducing pumping allocations, increasing delivery and use of surface water, focused land retirement, and longer-term recharge projects. DWR has indicated that it expects measurable progress because subsidence and groundwater-level declines continue to be observed. Members discussed whether management should be broad or localized, the need to consider impacts on critical infrastructure, possible pumping caps, dry-year management, and the importance of avoiding unnecessary restrictions in areas that are not contributing to a localized problem.

The TAC requested completion of a critical-head map and additional technical analysis before recommending a preferred management approach. Staff and consultants will continue refining the concepts, including potential performance criteria, pumping reductions, timing, and geographic application, and will return to the TAC and committees for additional discussion before a recommendation is taken to the Board.

10. SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS AND STATUS REPORT

Staff provided a brief status update on water acquisition and recharge. Greater Kaweah GSA has purchased a block of CVP Class 1 water that is currently being imported and recharged through available channels, and staff is evaluating an additional block of water. Staff noted that the opportunity is not expected to be available every year but provides a beneficial near-term opportunity to bring additional water into the basin and support recharge while infrastructure is available.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Combined Rural Communities Committee and Stakeholder Committee meeting is anticipated for September 28, 2026. Members indicated that future agendas should continue to focus on the major water-credit and subsidence-management decisions discussed at this meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. A specific adjournment time was not clearly stated in the recording.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Larsen
Secretary, Combined RCC & SC

RESOLUTION NO.2026- 07
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER KAWEAH GSA

IMPOSITION OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION PENALTIES

WHEREAS, the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“GKGSA”) has adopted and submitted to the Department of Water Resources a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”), a 2022 Amended GSP, and has drafted a 2024 Amended GSP, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”) which outlines various plans and management actions to reach sustainability by 2040;

WHEREAS, DWR determined the 2022 Amended GSP to be inadequate and as a result the GKGSA and other Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are currently in the process of revising and updating the GSPs to correct deficiency areas noted by DWR;

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10726.4(a)(2) provides that a GSA is authorized to control groundwater extractions by limiting or regulating groundwater extractions;

WHEREAS, Section 7.3.9 of the 2024 Amended GSP contemplates the imposition of penalties for excessive groundwater extraction as a disincentive for pumping;

WHEREAS, the GKGSA has determined that the consumptive use of groundwater by water users within its boundaries in excess of the Sustainable Yield Allocation as described in the GKGSA Rules and Regulations, without mitigation, may impede GKGSA’s ability to achieve sustainability;

WHEREAS, in order to achieve the decrease in groundwater extraction necessary to achieve sustainability under the GSP, the GKGSA desires to (1) limit extraction and consumptive use of groundwater to the Sustainability Yield Allocation, and (2) disincentive pumping in excess of the Sustainable Yield Allocation by imposing penalties for such extractions;

WHEREAS, Section 5.01 of the GKGSA Rules and Regulations provides that three categories of penalties shall be imposed for groundwater extraction and consumptive use in excess of the Sustainable Yield Allocation Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Allocation and Tier 3;

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(a) of the GKGSA Rules and Regulations further requires the GKGSA’s Board of Directors to establish a Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 penalty rate;

WHEREAS, the penalties imposed herein shall be imposed only to those irrigated parcels located within the Greater Kaweah Agricultural Management Area;

WHEREAS, for Water Year 2027, pursuant to the 2024 Amended GSP, rules and regulations and other policies, the GKGSA has established a Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Allocation of a total of 0.54 acre-feet per acre for lands eligible to receive a Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Allocation. If the total Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Allocations are actually pumped, the total volume extracted is estimated to be approximately 87,220 acre-feet.

WHEREAS, based on the 2024 Amended GSP, it is estimated that approximately 800 domestic wells could go dry in the GKGSA if minimum thresholds were reached for groundwater levels and land subsidence during the course of the implementation period which ends in 2040;

WHEREAS, the GKGSA anticipates reducing the risk to domestic wells going dry through its amendments to the 2024 Amended GSP, but those amendments are not yet complete;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that a domestic well mitigation program to mitigate for the total anticipated wells to go dry based on the 2024 Amended GSP would cost approximately forty-three million, five hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$43,500,000.00). Assuming the Transitional Pumping Program ends within 15 years, the annual cost needed for a domestic well mitigation program based on the 2024 Amended GSP thus would result in an approximate cost of two million nine hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$2,900,000.00);

WHEREAS, to reduce the need for well mitigation and subsequent cost the GKGSA, the GKGSA has approved a pilot Land Fallowing Program which anticipates to fallow approximately 1,200 acres annually. The GKGSA anticipates the cost of such program could reach an amount of approximately two million dollars and zero cents (\$2,000,000.00) annually; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, the GKGSA Board desires to set the annual penalty rates as set forth below. The rates below would be sufficient to collect the needed funding of approximately four million and nine hundred thousand and zero cents (\$4,900,000.00) for a domestic well program and Land Fallowing Program if the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Allocation quantities were actually pumped in Water Year 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following penalties for excessive groundwater extraction and consumptive use within the boundaries of the Greater Kaweah Management Area are as follows:
 1. \$250.00 per acre foot for Tier 1 Penalty Allocation.
 2. \$250.00 per acre foot for Tier 2 Penalty Allocation.
 3. \$500.00 per acre foot for Tier 3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager shall provide notice of the above-described penalty rates as required by Section 5.04.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of October 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES:2

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

Chris Tantau, Board Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the GKGSA at its meeting held on September 8, 2025.

ATTEST:

Mark Larsen, Board Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GREATER KAWEAH GSA

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASE OF
SUPPLEMENTAL SURFACE WATER SUPPLIES FOR GROUNDWATER
RECHARGE AND OVERDRAFT MITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GKGSA”) is a groundwater sustainability agency formed pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (California Water Code Section 10720 *et seq.*) (“SGMA”);

WHEREAS, the GKGSA has jurisdiction over a portion of the Kaweah Subbasin (“Subbasin”), which has been designated by the California Department of Water Resources as a high-priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft;

WHEREAS, historic and ongoing groundwater extraction within the Subbasin has exceeded average annual natural recharge, leading to conditions of long-term groundwater overdraft, declining water tables, and potential undesirable results as defined under SGMA;

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the GKGSA (“GSP”) identifies the acquisition of surface water supplies and their use for groundwater recharge as key management actions to stabilize groundwater levels and achieve the sustainability goal for the Subbasin by 2040;

WHEREAS, the GSP identifies a “ramp down” schedule for reducing groundwater overdraft over time;

WHEREAS, the GKGSA desires to accelerate the ramp down schedule identified in the GSP by purchasing supplemental surface water supplies (“Supplemental Water”) to replenish the Subbasin and mitigate overdraft conditions;

WHEREAS, local Supplemental Water supplies (“Local Supplemental Water”) are currently available for purchase from water entities within the Subbasin;

WHEREAS, imported Supplemental Water supplies (“Imported Supplemental Water”), which may include Central Valley Project water supplies, are currently available for purchase from water entities both within and outside the Subbasin;

WHEREAS, the surface water entities within the Subbasin are developing a uniform method for making Supplemental Water available for purchase and for administering such purchases; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors finds that acquiring Supplemental Water for direct recharge, in-lieu recharge, or replenishment serves a vital public purpose by protecting local agricultural, municipal, and environmental water security.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the GKGSA as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. **Authorization to Purchase.** The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Manager to negotiate, execute, and deliver all necessary agreements, contracts, and transfer documents to acquire Supplemental Water, consisting of Local Supplemental Water, Imported Supplemental Water, or both, from surface water entities during Water Year 2027.
3. **Financial Limit.** Total expenditure for the acquisition of Supplemental Water under this authorization shall not exceed \$10,000,000.00 (ten million dollars and zero cents) to be funded through the GKGSA's tiered water penalty revenue collected.
4. **Replenishment.** The Board of Directors hereby directs staff to acquire as much Supplemental Water as possible within the limits established herein for the purpose of eliminating all allocations of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Penalty Water.
5. **Rules and Regulations.** The Board of Directors hereby directs staff to prepare, for the Board's consideration prior to Water Year 2028, proposed amendments to the GKGSA Rules and Regulations implementing the findings and directives of this Resolution.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the GKGSA Board of Directors on this 12th day of October, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Chris Tantau, Chair

ATTEST:

Mark Larsen, Secretary

Certificate of Secretary

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority, a groundwater sustainability agency organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the

Board of Directors of said Agency at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held in Visalia, California on the 12th day of October, 2026, at which meeting a quorum of the said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in whole or any part thereof, and remains in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this Certificate on this 12th day of October, 2026, at Visalia, California.

Mark Larsen, Secretary
Greater Kaweah GSA

FROM: Mark Larsen

DATE: October 12, 2026

SUBJECT: GKGSA Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Meeting Overview

The Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GKGSA) Board of Directors met on October 12, 2026. The Board approved the third-quarter financial report, authorized liens for delinquent tier penalties, adopted Water Year 2027 tier penalty rates, and authorized funding for a Supplemental Water Program. Updates were also provided on monitoring wells, land subsidence, mitigation, and fallowing program.

Administration and Committee Updates

Chairman Tantau introduced Jeff Ritchie of Cal Water as the alternate for St. Johns. General Manager Larsen reported that the new Consolidated Water District is operating and making water purchases. The Board received notice of the September 30 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and September 28 Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder Committees meeting. The September 14 Board minutes were approved with a correction reflecting Director Johnson's attendance.

Financial Report and Delinquent Accounts

The Board unanimously approved the financial report for the third quarter ending September 30, 2026. Staff reported on delinquent Tier 1 and Tier 2 penalty accounts. A public hearing was held from 1:20 to 1:21 p.m., with no comments received. The Board unanimously adopted Resolution 2026-08 authorizing staff to record certificates of lien for delinquent tier penalties.

Water Year 2027 Allocation and Penalty Rates

Following a staff report and discussion of the Water Year 2027 allocation, the Board approved Resolution 2026-07 setting penalty rates at \$250 per acre-foot for Tier 1, \$250 per acre-foot for Tier 2, and \$500 per acre-foot for Tier 3 water. The motion passed 8–2, with Directors Ritchie and De Groot opposed.

Supplemental Water Program

The Board discussed Supplemental Program Water as an alternative to allocation-tiered water and considered steps needed for implementation. Following discussion and public comment, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution 2026-06 authorizing up to \$10 million in penalty revenue to be spent on the Supplemental Water Program.

Dashboard, Appeals, and Import Water

Staff reported that Southern California Edison had been contacted to request a pump test relating to the Peyton and Macaluso appeals; a date is pending, and no action was taken. The Board also received an import water purchase status report. No substantive dashboard, invoicing, or water-credit management update was provided.

Mitigation and Monitoring Well Network

No dry-well mitigation claims were presented for approval. 4Creeks reported ongoing pre-mitigation efforts, and the Board discussed whether to explore pre-mitigation; no action was taken. No update was available on the haul water fill station. Tom Harder reported that transducers have been installed in nine existing wells six upper aquifer, two lower aquifer, and one composite. Monitoring is

available in all but one priority area, where alternatives are being explored. Sites for new monitoring wells have been identified in each priority area, including discussion of the Herbert Preserve well.

Land Subsidence Monitoring and Management

Tom Harder reviewed TAC recommendations regarding critical-head estimates and management-area development. Analysis at 14 locations across the Kaweah Subbasin indicated that lower-aquifer minimum thresholds are below estimated critical head, a condition associated with potential land subsidence. Because most analyzed locations are concentrated in Mid-Kaweah, TAC recommended filling geographic data gaps and incorporating DWR critical-head estimates from its Bulletin 118 update. Discussion continued on the management-area development plan and schedule; no Board action was recorded.

Water Year 2027 Land Fallowing Program

Staff reported 36 applicants for the program, representing approximately 2,800 acres and approximately \$1.1 million.

Committee Direction and Next Meeting

The Board requested that the Stakeholder Committee review the newly approved rates and future water allocations. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The Board also met in closed session concerning two potential anticipated litigation matters and reported no action upon returning to open session.