



321 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 585-9011
SouthForkKings.org

Members:

Director Joe Neves – Chair
County of Kings

Director Ceil Howe, Jr. - Vice Chair
Empire West Side Irrigation District

Director Frank Gornick – Secretary
City of Lemoore

Director Micheal Newton – Treasurer
Stratford Irrigation District

Director Scott Mercer
Stratford Public Utility District

March 10, 2025

To all SFKGSA Landowners:

Dear Landowner,

On April 16, 2024 the State Water Resources Control Board placed the entire Tulare Lake subbasin on probationary status for not submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The terms of the probation included a registration fee to the State for all wells that pump over 2 Acre-Feet per year. It is also required for well owners to install meters and report pumping to the State. Landowners will be charged a \$20 per acre foot fee on all groundwater extractions. The Kings County Farm Bureau sued the State Board and received an injunction from the court pausing this action. The State has since appealed this injunction and the case is pending before the Court of Appeals. South Fork Kings GSA is working diligently to update our GSP so that it will be acceptable to the State and SFKGSA can exit the probationary status.

In working with State Board Staff to address deficiencies in our original GSP, we identified the need to better understand the location of all groundwater wells in SFKGSA, and what geologic zones they are pumping from. This includes the location of all domestic wells to help in protecting them from going dry. To accomplish this goal, the South Fork Kings GSA Board approved the enclosed Well Registration Policy 2024-01 on 11-21-2024 which requires all landowners to **register their wells with the GSA by July 1, 2025.**

SFKGSA has contracted with MLJ environmental to create an online dashboard where all landowners are able to register a Watermark™ account and provide the necessary information about their wells. Our neighbors in North Fork Kings GSA and El Rico GSA have already instituted the well registration process with MLJ with great success. El Rico has 95% compliance and NFK has 83% of wells registered so far. Getting this information is critical for the SFKGSA to be able to implement our GSP and avoid State intervention. State intervention would include pumping fees starting at \$20 per AF paid directly to the State and increasing up to \$70 per AF.

Please join us March 26th at 10 AM for our Well Registration Workshop at Lemoore College. MLJ staff and I will be there to assist in setting up your Watermark accounts and begin the well registration process. Please bring this mailer along!

The South Fork Kings GSA welcomes all public input in developing our policies. By scanning the QR code below or going to: <https://conta.cc/3QN3hTe> you may register to receive email and text notices regarding future stakeholder and board meetings along with other important notices to help keep you informed of what is happening at SFKGSA!

Johnny Gailey
South Fork Kings GSA
559-585-9011

