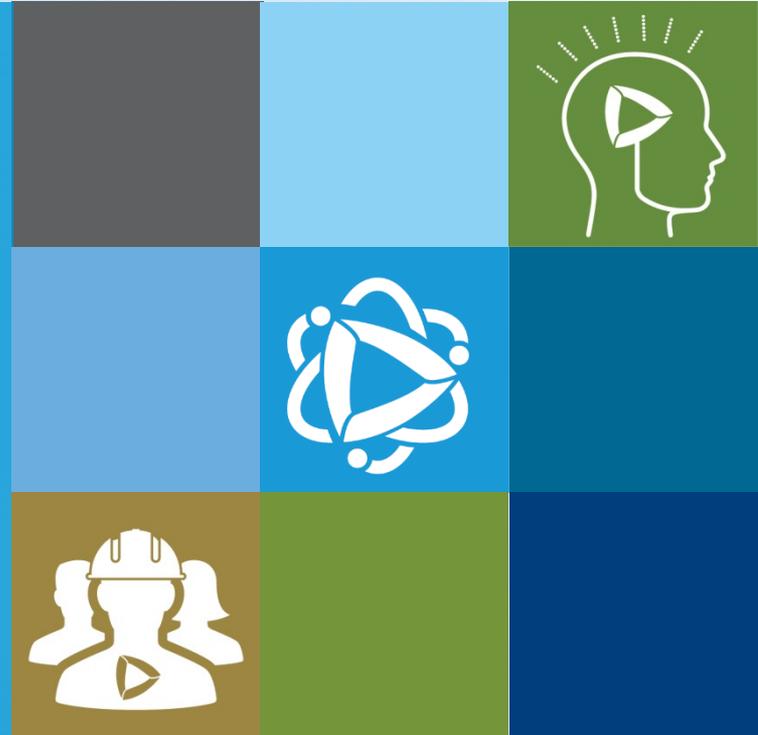




South Fork Kings GSA Draft Allocation Workshop

Prepared for:



SOUTH FORK KINGS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

11/18/2025

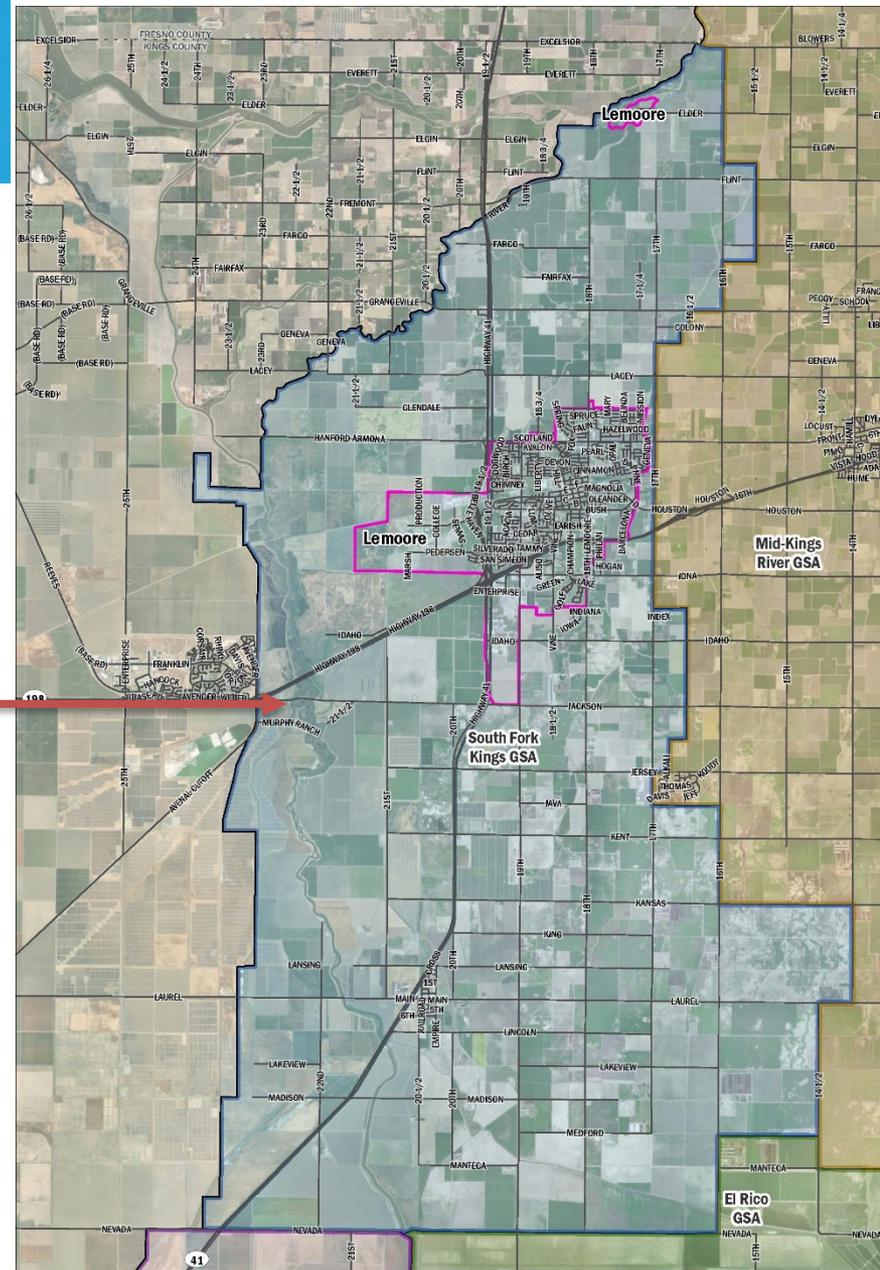
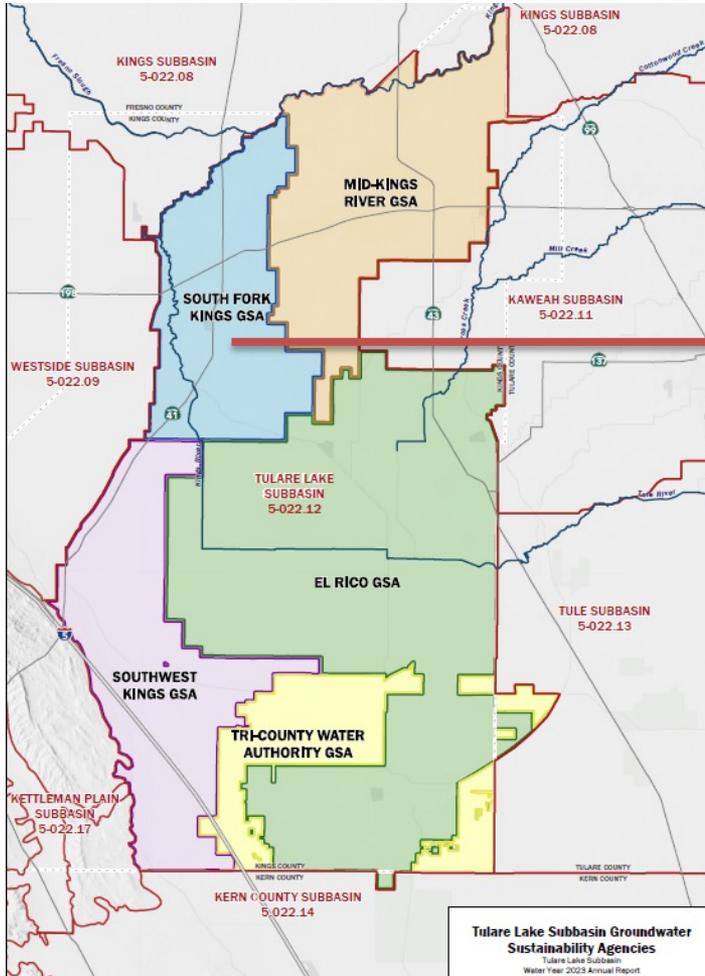
Agenda

- Welcome
- SGMA Review
- Draft Allocation Policy Overview
- Questions

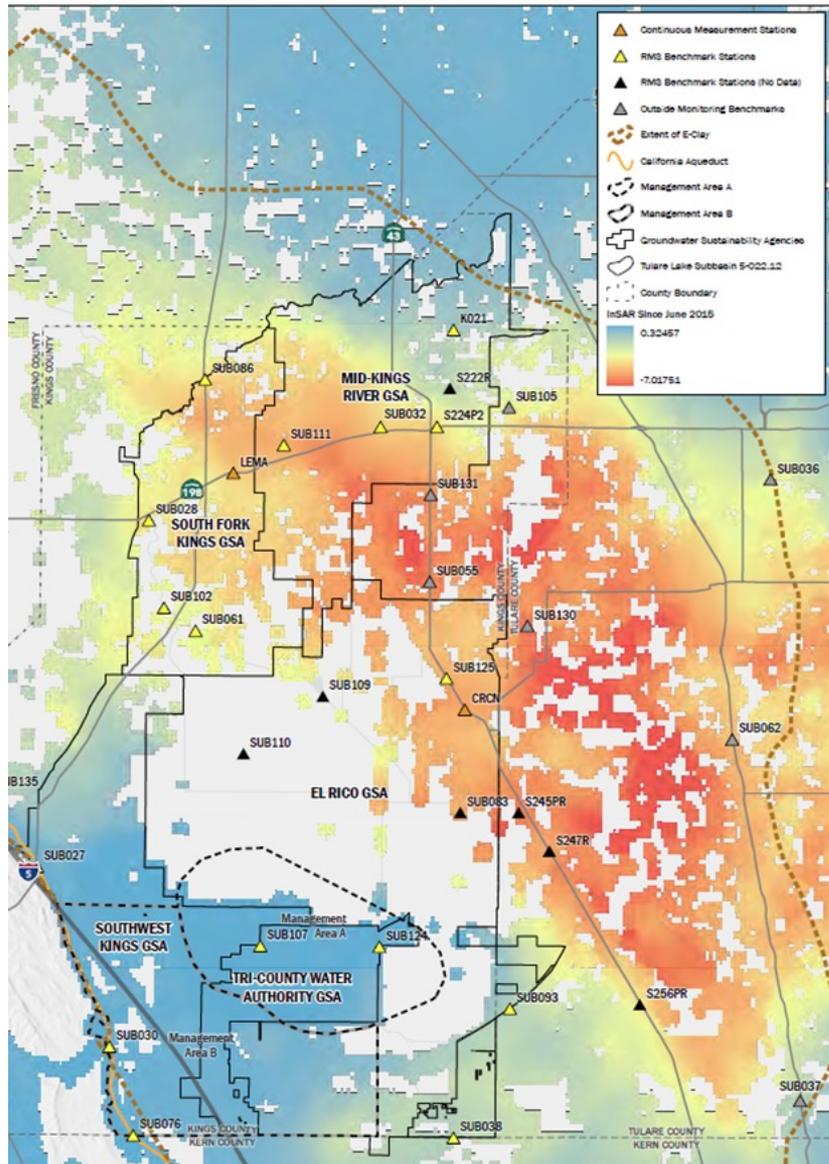


SGMA 101

SFK GSA Area



Subsidence since 2015





What Is SGMA?

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act passed in 2014
- Critically Overdrafted Basin Timeline (entire south SJV):
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies were required to be formed by 2017
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) had to be Submitted and Implemented by 2020



SGMA Undesirable Results

These "undesirable results" are defined as "significant and unreasonable" effects caused by groundwater conditions.

- Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels:
- Reduction of Groundwater Storage:
- Seawater Intrusion:
- Degraded Water Quality:
- Land subsidence:
- Depletions of interconnected surface water:



SGMA GSP Requirements



- Basin Setting Report
- Sustainable Management
- Criteria (MT's and MO's)
- Projects & Management
- Actions
- Plan Implementation



SGMA Implementation

- Outreach Plan
- Water Level and Quality Monitoring Networks
- Well and Water Quality Mitigation
- Subsidence Monitoring
- Projects and Management Actions





SGMA Impacts

- **Reduction in Cropland – Land Use Changes**

PPIC Report Future of Agriculture in the SJV estimates 500,000 – 900,000 Acre reduction

- **Increased Air Pollution from Fallow Fields** - UC Merced Report

- **Reduction in Farm Revenue**

UC Berkley Dr. Sunding Report - \$1.1 Billion in lost employee income per year

- **Increased Poverty in population centers focused on Agriculture**

“The Culture of the San Joaquin Valley is Agriculture”

– Aaron Fukuda



Kings County Farm Bureau Update



Draft Allocation Policy Overview



Why do we need an Allocation Policy?



Projects and Management Actions focused on increasing supply and reducing demand

Purpose of the Allocation Policy is focused on demand reduction



Groundwater Allocation

1. Precipitation Credit (ET only)
2. Sustainable Yield (trade)
3. Landowner Developed Credits
(trade w/ limits)
4. Transitional Allocation (can
not trade)
5. Overdraft Pumping (penalty
applies)





How Sustainable Yield is Determined

How much the subbasin can safely pump

Sustainable Yield (SY) is the total amount of groundwater that can be pumped each year without depleting the basin after 2040.

2020 study (the Wood model) estimated basin-wide SY:

350,000 acre-feet.



How Sustainable Yield is Determined

Groundwater use varies across the Tulare Lake Subbasin, so each GSA received a share based on its size (acres)

- South Fork Kings is approx. 14% of Subbasin Acreage
- SFK assigned 14% of the sustainable yield
- 350,000 acre-feet * 14% ~ 48,104 acre-feet
- 48,104 ac ft / 71,221 acres = 0.68 af/ac

Sustainable Yield

- Parcels 5 acres or **larger**, and may combine parcels
- Parcels 5 acres **or less** receive de-minimis 2 AF/ac annually
- Must register parcels with the GSA
- SY will be assigned to A-zone once available
- $SY = 0.68 \text{ AF/ac}$
- Excludes “Governmental Entities”



Use of Sustainable Yield

- SY is assigned depending on aquifer
- SY will be allocated **annually**
- Unused SY will carry over subject to a **5-year** rolling retirement
- SY may be used on **contiguous parcels** that are part of the same farm unit outside SFK **as long as all conditions are met**
- **Pumping may be limited** if undesirable results are occurring in the vicinity



Landowner Developed Credits

Landowners can earn credits when they create new water supplies or recharge projects that add water back to the basin.

Examples include:

- On-farm recharge
- Captured floodwater
- Surface water import





Landowner Developed Credits

What you need to know:

- Leave behind percentage to be determined
- Carried for 5 years
- Traded across the SFK GSA



Transitional Water

Temporary allowance to help water users adjust

- **Transitional pumping** is a declining block of groundwater pumping that reduces overdraft from current value to zero by 2040
- **Land in production between 2015-2024 (LandIQ data)**
 - Landowners may appeal
- **Transitional water** is allocated annually to only landowners that are in full compliance with GSA requirements



Overdraft Pumping

What happens if use exceeds allocations?

The groundwater allocation sets a fair limit for how much can be pumped each year.

If pumping goes over that limit:

- It's recorded as overdraft in your account.
- Repeated overdraft may lead to penalties or reduced future allocations.
- It can also delay basin recovery and risk State intervention.



Allocations 2026-2040

Table 2
Annual Groundwater Allocation
2026 – 2040

Aquifer	Sustainable Yield (AF/ac)	Transitional Allocation (AF/ac)	Total Allocation (AF/ac)
WY26-WY30			
A-Zone	-	-	3.00
B-Zone	0.66	2.00	2.66
C-Zone	0.66	1.34	2.00
WY31-WY35			
A-Zone	-	-	3.00*
B-Zone	0.66	1.33	1.99
C-Zone	0.66	0.89	1.55
WY36-WY40			
A-Zone	-	-	3.00*
B-Zone	0.66	0.67	1.33
C-Zone	0.66	0.44	1.10
WY41 (+)			
A-Zone	-	-	3.00*
B-Zone	0.66	-	0.66
C-Zone	0.66	-	0.66



Proposed Allocation

- Pump in any aquifer up to a **combined total cap** of 3.0 AF/ac with sufficient credits
- **Landowner developed credits**
 - In accordance with Recharge Policy
 - Increase cap to 4.0 AF/ac
- **Transfers**
 - Sustainable Yield
 - Landowner developed credits



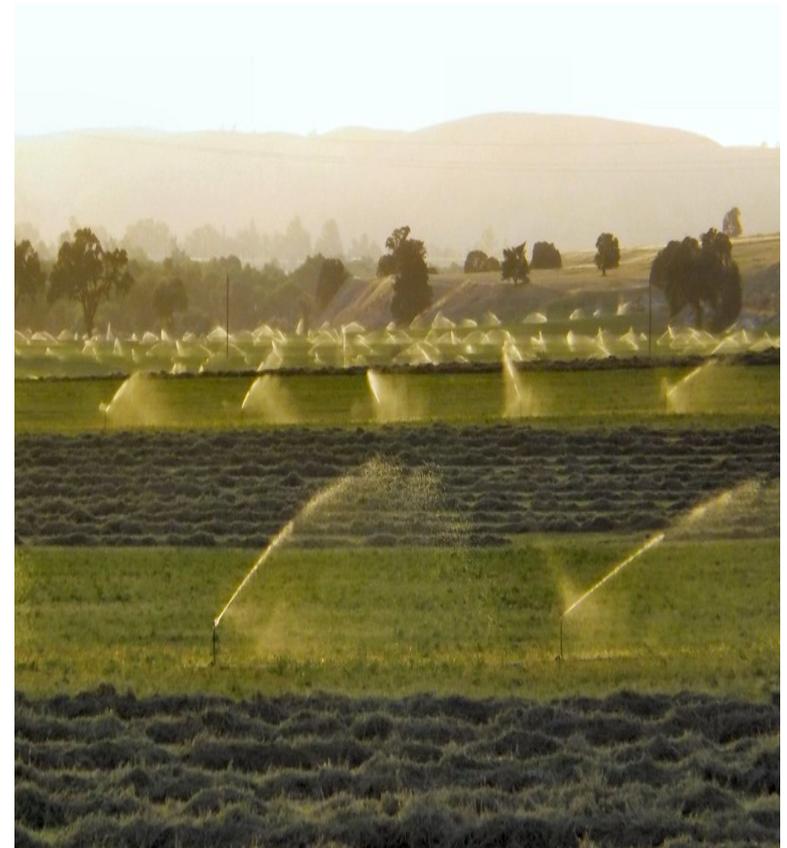
Pumping Fees and Penalties

- Pumping fees will be set for SY, transitional water, and recharge credits annually by the SFK Board
- Landowners who **exceed their allocations** will be subject to a civil penalty of \$500/AF.
- In addition, the following year's allocation will be reduced by the amount of the excess.



Default Water Use

1. Effective Precipitation (ET only)
2. Sustainable Yield Carryover
3. Sustainable Yield Allocation
4. Landowner Developed Credit
5. Transitional Groundwater
6. Overdraft Groundwater





Well Registration

- Builds a complete picture of how and where water is being used.
- Helps protect domestic and small wells by improving monitoring.
- Supports fair enforcement of allocations and recharge credits.
- Keeps decisions local by showing we can manage our own data responsibly.



Next Steps & Questions



How Do I Participate?

- Submit your comments today or through the website.
- Comment period ends December 1st.



SOUTH FORK KINGS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY



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Your Feedback Matters