



MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

GROWERS | STAY INFORMED

Help Keep Groundwater Decisions Close to Home.

Limit State Intervention. Protect Local Control.

A BRIEF HISTORY

How Did We Get Here?

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Groundwater rules have changed dramatically over the last decade. You are now being asked to navigate complex regulations.

2014:

SGMA becomes law and requires groundwater sustainability by 2040.

2024:

Our basin is placed on State Water Board probation.

TODAY: At Risk ⚠️

If probation continues, the State will take further action and advance its own groundwater plan. Under a full State-managed plan, local flexibility would be greatly reduced. **Decisions like how much groundwater landowners can pump would be made by State regulators with no tailoring to local conditions.**



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**SERVING LOCAL
GROWERS**

WE HELP GUIDE LOCAL DECISIONS:

The Mid-Kings River GSA is led by a Stakeholder Advisory Committee made up of local growers, landowners, and community leaders who understand groundwater management decisions because they live and work here too. We are working to address State concerns and demonstrate measurable progress.

But the GSA currently lacks the necessary funding to exit State Water Board probation and manage groundwater sustainably for our area.

Ensuring a Future with Groundwater.

Groundwater is essential to our region. During recent drought years, groundwater pumping across the Tulare Lake Subbasin exceeded 650,000 acre-feet in a single year. Achieving SGMA's 2040 deadline is critical to supporting agriculture, local communities, and future generations.

Keeping Groundwater Management Local.

The Tulare Lake Subbasin remains on State Water Board probation, resulting in increased State oversight, groundwater pumping fees, and reporting requirements. Local leadership through the Mid-Kings River GSA is working to address State concerns and demonstrate the progress needed to move the basin forward.

If probation continues, locals will have less influence over how sustainability is achieved under SGMA. We need to demonstrate progress so that growers, landowners, and community leaders continue helping shape our path forward.

The Mid-Kings River GSA is proposing a two-part funding mechanism to support local efforts to get out of probation and back to full local control of our groundwater management decisions. Local efforts will use local dollars to ensure groundwater will be available in our area for generations to come.

Our Goal:

Meet the State requirements for sustainable groundwater while keeping decisions informed by the people who depend on water for their livelihoods every day.

Invest In Your Local Representation.

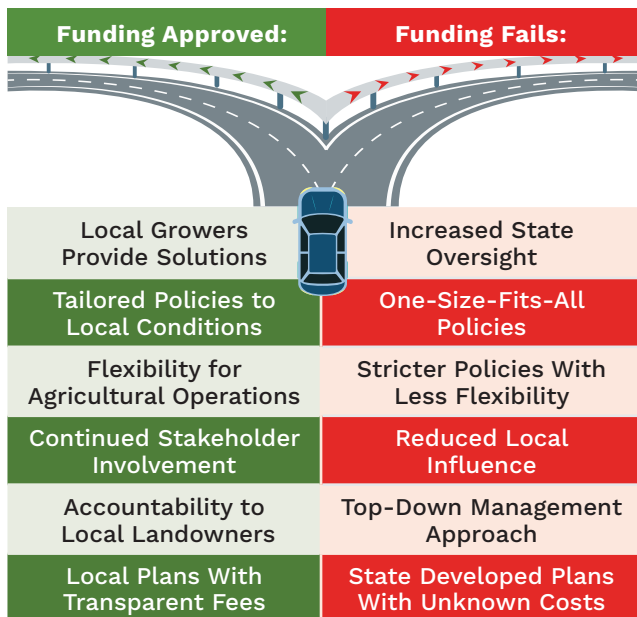
Maintain local control.

IF NO FUNDING IS ESTABLISHED

What's At Risk?

Two Roads. One Decision.

The State requires groundwater sustainability. The question is whether local agencies have the funding, tools, and capacity needed to achieve it locally or whether more groundwater management decisions continue shifting to the State.



The Road Ahead:

The GSA currently lacks the necessary funding to exit State Water Board probation and manage groundwater sustainability for our area. To move beyond probation, the State needs to see:

- ✓ **Reliable Funding Mechanism**
- ✓ **Improved Coordination Across the Basin**
- ✓ **Data-Informed Decision-Making**
- ✓ **Mitigation for Groundwater Decline Impacts**
- ✓ **Balanced Groundwater Use**
- ✓ **Accountability to the Local Community**

WHAT DO I DO?

Invest In Local Representation.

Growers received a public notice and ballot package in August to participate in the decision to fund the Mid-Kings River GSA. The agency currently has no stable revenue source to fund its operations and activities to implement SGMA locally.

The proposed land-based assessment and groundwater pumping fee would provide the resources needed to address State concerns, demonstrate measurable progress, and help keep groundwater decisions informed by the people who live and work here.

Anticipated Rates Based on Proposed 5-Year Budget:

WATER YEAR	ASSESSMENT	PUMPING
2027	\$26.84 / acre	\$9.23 / AF
2028	\$23.29 / acre	\$19.24 / AF
2029	\$23.91 / acre	\$17.84 / AF
2030	\$22.54 / acre	\$10.57 / AF
2031	\$23.53 / acre	\$7.41 / AF

Assessment rates shown in table based on projected 5-year budget, but rates would be set annually by the Board of Directors based on the annual budget needs, not to exceed \$26.84 per acre (assessment)

What You Are Supporting:

A locally led, locally funded GSA will give us the autonomy to develop the rules and frameworks that give growers as much flexibility as possible to operate within the coming changes.

- Local Stakeholder Involvement**
- Greater Grower Involvement**
- Basin-Wide Coordination**
- Transparency & Accountability**