



MID-KINGS RIVER

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homeowners in Hanford, Armona, Home Garden, and Hardwick Can Vote on Proposed Assessment that Aims to Keep Groundwater Managed Locally

HANFORD, Calif. – Ballots were mailed to property owners throughout the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) last week, inviting them to vote on a proposed annual assessment to fund local efforts to achieve a sustainable groundwater supply. For many residents, particularly those within the City of Hanford and other communities, this may be the first time they have received information or a ballot from the Mid-Kings River GSA. The ballot is part of a public process giving affected property owners an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed funding plan.

Groundwater is a shared resource that supports communities, businesses, and agriculture across Kings County. While residents within the city and communities may not pump groundwater directly from a private well, the public water systems serving these areas rely on groundwater wells to provide water to their customers.

Managing this shared resource has become increasingly important under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA), which requires basins throughout the State to achieve long-term sustainability. In the Tulare Lake Subbasin, that means local groundwater agencies including Mid-Kings River GSA must work together to address declining groundwater levels and other impacts of groundwater use while planning for the long-term needs of the communities, businesses and farms that depend on the basin.

Mid-Kings River GSA's role includes monitoring groundwater conditions, coordinating with other groundwater agencies in the Tulare Lake Subbasin, and implementing project and programs to ensure sustainability is achieved.

SGMA is an unfunded mandate, and the proposed assessment is critical to providing a stable local funding source to support the agency's ongoing operations and implementation of groundwater management responsibilities.

The proposal includes a maximum annual land-based assessment of \$26.84 per acre applicable to property owners. Since it is a per acre charge, *many residential parcels would pay less than \$4 annually* on their property tax bill to support local groundwater management.

Keeping Groundwater Decisions Local

SGMA was designed to give local communities the opportunity to design their own path to sustainability. But SGMA is an unfunded mandate and requires local investments in groundwater management.

The State serves as the regulatory backstop and intervenes if local agencies fail to meet SGMA's requirements. The State voted to put the Tulare Lake Subbasin on probation in 2024 after finding the Groundwater Sustainability Plan did not provide sufficient evidence that the basin would achieve sustainability by the 2040 deadline.

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 about how groundwater is managed would shift to State agencies instead of the local Mid-Kings River GSA.

A reliable funding source is needed to exit State probation and manage groundwater locally.

Residents Invited to Public Workshops

Property owners are invited to learn more and ask questions at upcoming public workshops.

WORKSHOP 1

Monday, August 24, 2026, at 1:00 PM

In-Person: Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N Douty St, Hanford, CA 93230

Join Online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85177753702>

WORKSHOP 2

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 5:30 PM

In-Person: Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N Douty St, Hanford, CA 93230

Join Online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81119241972>

SPANISH INTERPRETATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN PERSON AND ONLINE. SERVICIO DE INTERPRETACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL ESTA DISPONIBLE EN PERSONA Y EN LÍNEA.

Property owners can learn more on the funding proposal webpage:

<https://midkingsriversgsa.org/localfunding>.

FAQs are provided on the resident handout:

<https://midkingsriversgsa.org/documents/resident-handout.pdf>.

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About Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency

*The Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Mid-Kings River GSA) is the local agency responsible for implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within approximately 97,300 acres (152 square miles) in the northeastern portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin in Kings County. The GSA serves the communities of **Hanford, Armona, Home Garden, and Hardwick and surrounding rural and agricultural lands**, working to manage groundwater resources and ensure a reliable water supply for farms, businesses, and residents.*

*Mid-Kings River GSA is governed through a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between the **County of Kings** and the **City of Hanford**. In coordination with neighboring groundwater sustainability agencies, the GSA develops and implements local programs and policies to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040 while maintaining local control over groundwater resources.*

Learn more at www.midkingsriversgsa.org.

