

MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING A PROPOSED SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

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The purpose of this Notice is to provide you with information about the “assessment ballot proceeding” being conducted by the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKRGSA or GSA) and its effect on real property that you own. This notice is being sent to you in accordance with Sections 53753, 53759.1, and 53759.2 of the California Government Code, and Article XIII D, Section 4, of the California Constitution.

**A public hearing is set for 1:00 p.m. on September 29, 2026,
at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Kings County Government Center
1400 W Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, CA 93230.**

If you wish to comment on this matter, you are invited to do so at the public hearing.

Overview

MKRGSA is seeking approval from landowners to levy assessments on land in the GSA. In 2014, Governor Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which provides local agencies with authority to manage groundwater basins in a sustainable manner. SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the management of groundwater supplies in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results. MKRGSA is responsible for implementing SGMA within its jurisdiction and carrying out the activities necessary to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040.

If a local agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, SGMA directs the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to protect the groundwater resource until that local agency can sustainably manage the groundwater in its basin. In April 2024, the State Water Board placed the Tulare Lake Subbasin on probation after determining the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and implementation framework did not sufficiently demonstrate groundwater sustainability would be achieved by the 2040 deadline. Since that determination, the MKRGSA and other GSAs in the Tulare Lake Subbasin have been working collaboratively to address the State’s concerns.

Establishing a stable local funding mechanism is necessary for MKRGSA to continue its activities to implement the necessary planning, monitoring, reporting, technical analysis, projects, and management actions to support the Subbasin’s efforts to satisfy State requirements and return groundwater management to full local implementation.

MKRGSA is seeking approval to collect revenue to meet operational expenses and comply with SGMA mandates, including the following:

- Groundwater Sustainability Agency; Compliance Reporting, Management, Administrative Services
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Updates; Compliance Reporting and Implementation
- Monitoring Well Program
- Monitoring Equipment Acquisition and Installation
- Dry Well Mitigation Administration
- Website and Outreach Services

By providing a stable, locally controlled funding source, the proposed assessment will allow SGMA implementation activities to continue under the direction of MKRGSA Board of Directors and Stakeholder Advisory Committee, supporting transparent, locally accountable implementation while working toward the Subbasin’s exit from State probation.

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The Proposed Assessments

The GSA is seeking approval to levy an assessment to generate a maximum of \$2.5 million in annual revenue, between Fiscal Years 2027 and 2031, based on the projected budgets. The maximum annual per-acre assessment is summarized in the table below.

Fiscal Year	Proposed Maximum Assessment Rate
2027 - 2031	\$26.84 per assessable acre

This proposed assessment is a “not-to-exceed” amount. Each year, the Board of Directors will set the actual annual assessment at a publicly noticed Board of Directors meeting, based on the annual budget. As required by law, the proposed assessment on your property will be *no more than the actual amount of the benefit it receives* from the GSA’s operations as shown in the Engineer’s Report (Report). The Report is on file at the GSA office. You may review the Report at the MKRGSA’s office or on the MKRGSA website at www.midkingsrivergsa.org. The proposed assessment is a **maximum amount** that cannot be exceeded unless approved by landowners through a future Proposition 218 election.

If approved, the proposed assessment structure will become effective on the Fall 2027 property tax bill and the Board intends to set the Assessments each year during its regular budget-setting process.

Option to Submit Written Objection to Proposed Assessment

MKRGSA will be implementing Government Code § 53759.1 related to the proposed assessments. Landowners may submit a written objection to the proposed assessments that specifies the grounds for alleging noncompliance with Proposition 218. Written objections must be clearly labeled on the outside of an envelope and contain the landowner’s full name and identification of the parcel(s) by county and assessor’s parcel number(s). If the outside of the envelope is not clearly labeled as an objection to the proposed assessment, it is not properly submitted and does not constitute a timely-submitted written objection.

To be considered timely, all written objections must be mailed or delivered during business hours to MKRGSA at 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Bldg #6, Hanford, CA 93230, and received by 5:00 p.m. on September 28.

The option to submit a written objection does not impact your ability to also submit a ballot and is a separate process. Ballots will not be opened until the tabulation portion of the public hearing on September 29th; therefore, a written objection cannot be combined with a ballot and must be submitted separately, if desired. Failure to timely object in writing bars any right to challenge the proposed increased assessments through a legal proceeding.

Staff will review timely-submitted written objections, prepare written responses, and present any timely-received written objections and written responses to the MKRGSA Board before the close of the public hearing described herein on September 29, 2026. The Engineer’s Report serves as the written basis for MKRGSA’s proposed increased assessments and can be viewed online at www.midkingsrivergsa.org.

Election

The number of votes you can cast with respect to your property will correspond to the potential financial obligation imposed on your property under the proposed assessment. Please also note:

- **Enclosed with this notice, you will find an assessment ballot, which states your property's**

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Assessor's Parcel Number, acreage, and classification, as well as the amount of the annual assessment proposed to be levied on your property.

- Please follow the directions listed on the assessment ballot to vote on the Proposed Maximum Assessment Schedule.
- Prior to the public hearing on September 29, 2026, you may mail your own ballot in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Replacement ballots can be obtained by calling MK Elections at (209) 259-6740.
- Prior to the public hearing on September 29th, you may hand deliver your own ballot to the elections drop box located outside of the Kings County Elections Department, adjacent to the Mid-Kings River GSA office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230.
- Hand-delivered ballots will also be accepted at the hearing prior to the close of the public input portion of the hearing.
- **In any event, ballots *MUST* be received by the GSA no later than the conclusion of the public hearing, which starts at 1:00 p.m. on September 29, 2026.**
- Late ballots delivered after the conclusion of that public hearing will not be counted.

You may change your vote at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing on this matter. However, because the ballots must remain sealed until the tabulation begins, you will be provided a replacement ballot on which you can cast your new vote. A ballot will not be accepted or counted if:

- It is delivered in a manner that fails to conceal its vote;
- It is a photocopy without an original signature;
- It is unsigned;
- It lacks an identifiable "yes" or "no" vote; or
- It appears to have been tampered with or otherwise invalid based upon its appearance or method of delivery.
- It is late.

After the close of the public input portion of the hearing, MK Election Services will tabulate the ballots, which are weighted according to the potential financial obligation imposed on your property under the proposed assessments. The tabulation results will be posted in the GSA's office as soon as practicable and on the MKRGSA website, www.midkingsrivergsa.org.

If your parcel has more than one owner, the various owners may submit their own ballots. In the event all of the separate owners fail to submit their own ballots, the GSA will tabulate the submitted ballots as he/she deems it correct, proper and appropriate to apportion the vote to reflect a one hundred percent (100%) vote.

If the ballots (weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected property) submitted in favor of the proposed rate increase exceed by at least one vote the ballots in opposition to the proposed increased assessment, the Board of Directors of MKRGSA may impose the proposed increased assessment. If the ballots in opposition to the proposed increased assessment exceed the ballots submitted in favor thereof, the Board will not impose the proposed increased assessment.

Should you have any questions, please contact by email at mkrghsa@co.kings.ca.us or call (559) 852-2670.

Public Outreach

Landowners are invited to learn more at an upcoming public workshop:

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- **Workshop #1:** Monday, August 24th at 1:00 p.m. at the Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N Douty St., Hanford, CA 93230
- **Workshop #2:** Tuesday, August 25th at 5:30 p.m. at the Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N Douty St., Hanford, CA 93230

Workshops can be attend in-person or online. To find the information to join virtually, visit midkingsrivergsa.org/localfunding.

For more information, visit midkingsrivergsa.org/localfunding, call (559) 852-2670, or email mkrghsa@co.kings.ca.us.