

Funding Proposal Workshop

**Public Workshop
Hanford Civic Auditorium & Online
August 24, 2026**

Housekeeping

- Spanish Interpretation Services
- Restrooms & Refreshments
- Q&A Panel
- Ballots



Virtual (Zoom) Housekeeping

- Video and microphone is OFF for participants
- Webinar is being recorded and will be available for viewing online

Questions & Answers

- Use the Q&A module to type a question and submit at any time
- We will address questions at the end of the presentation
- We will not be unmuting participants; online questions must be asked through the Q&A module

Technical difficulties

- Use the Chat feature for Zoom if you are having issues

Audio Settings ^



Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A

Leave Meeting

Panelist Introductions

- **Chuck Kinney**, *General Manager, Mid-Kings River GSA*
- **Amer Hussain**, *Technical Consultant, Geosyntec*
- **Garrett Gilcrease**, *Stakeholder Advisory Committee member & Grower*
- **Brian Madeiros – Q&A Moderator**, *Stakeholder Advisory Committee member & Grower*

SGMA & Mid-Kings River GSA

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec



MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), 2014

- Signed into California law in response to chronic groundwater overdraft, mandates groundwater sustainability by 2040
- Grants **local control** to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), over 260 formed in CA
 - Unfunded mandate, requires locals to fund implementation
- Required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - One of the first major SGMA milestones
 - Functions as the roadmap to sustainability. State reviews as proof that the local agencies will achieve sustainability
 - State reviews and makes determination

SGMA Agency Roles

**State Water
Resources
Control Board**

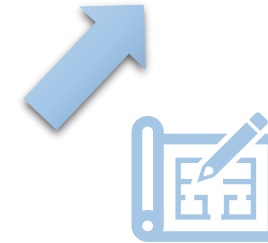
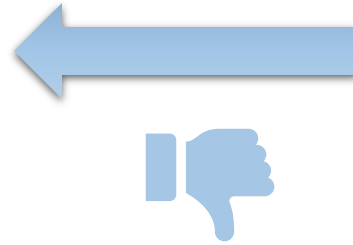
*Enforce SGMA
& Intervene if
Necessary*

**CA Department
of Water
Resources**

*Regulate &
Assist the local
GSA*

**Mid-Kings
River GSA**

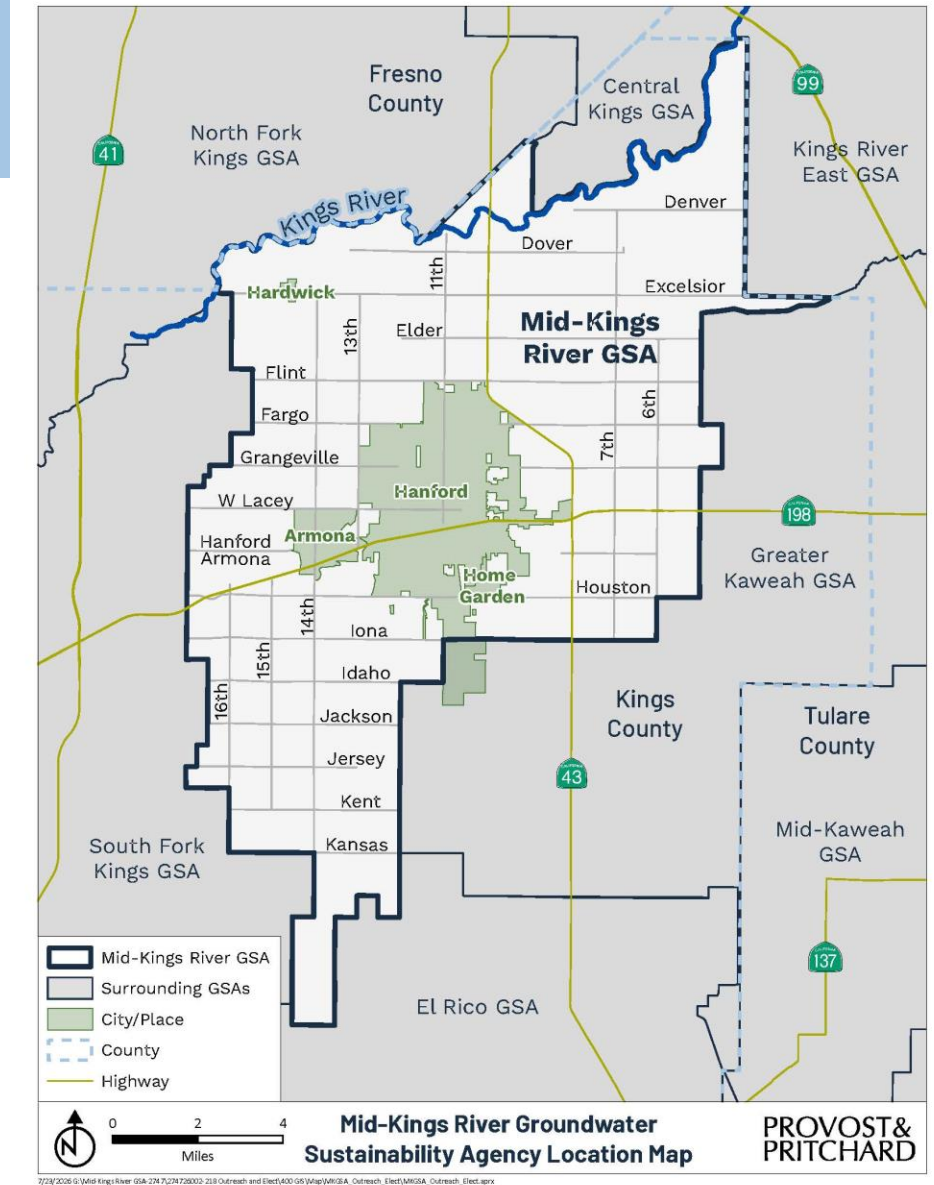
*Implement
Sustainability
Locally*



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GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Mid-Kings River GSA

- Formed in 2016 through Joint Powers Agreement
- Encompasses 97,300 acres (152 square miles)
 - We all use groundwater, and all are part of the solution
- One of five GSAs in the Tulare Lake Subbasin
- Governed by 5-member Board of Directors (*4 Kings County Board of Supervisors + 1 City of Hanford Councilmember*)
- Established Stakeholder Advisory Committee in 2025



Key Statistics



257,484 acre-feet

average annual water demand (consumed*)



50,194 acre-feet

average annual surface water use (consumed*)



207,290 acre-feet

average annual groundwater use (consumed*)



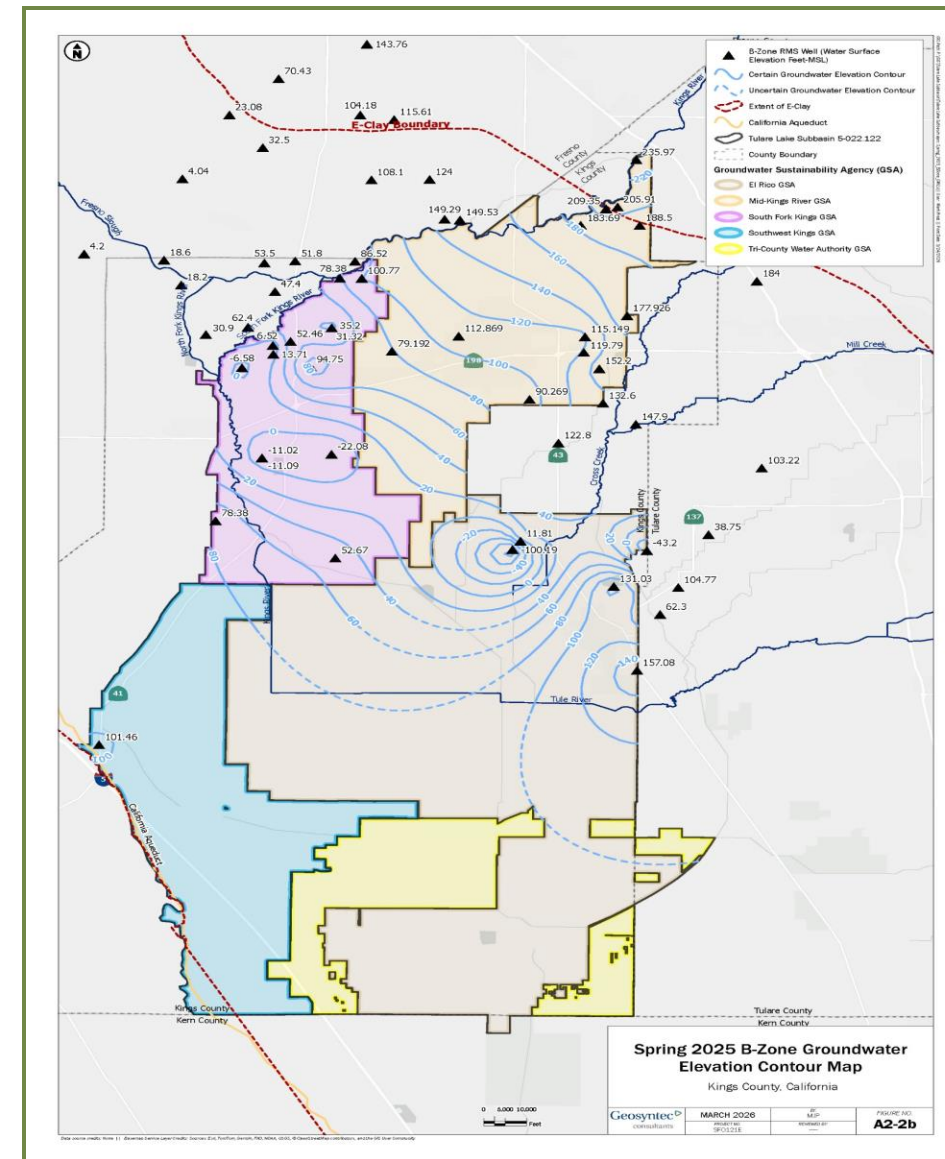
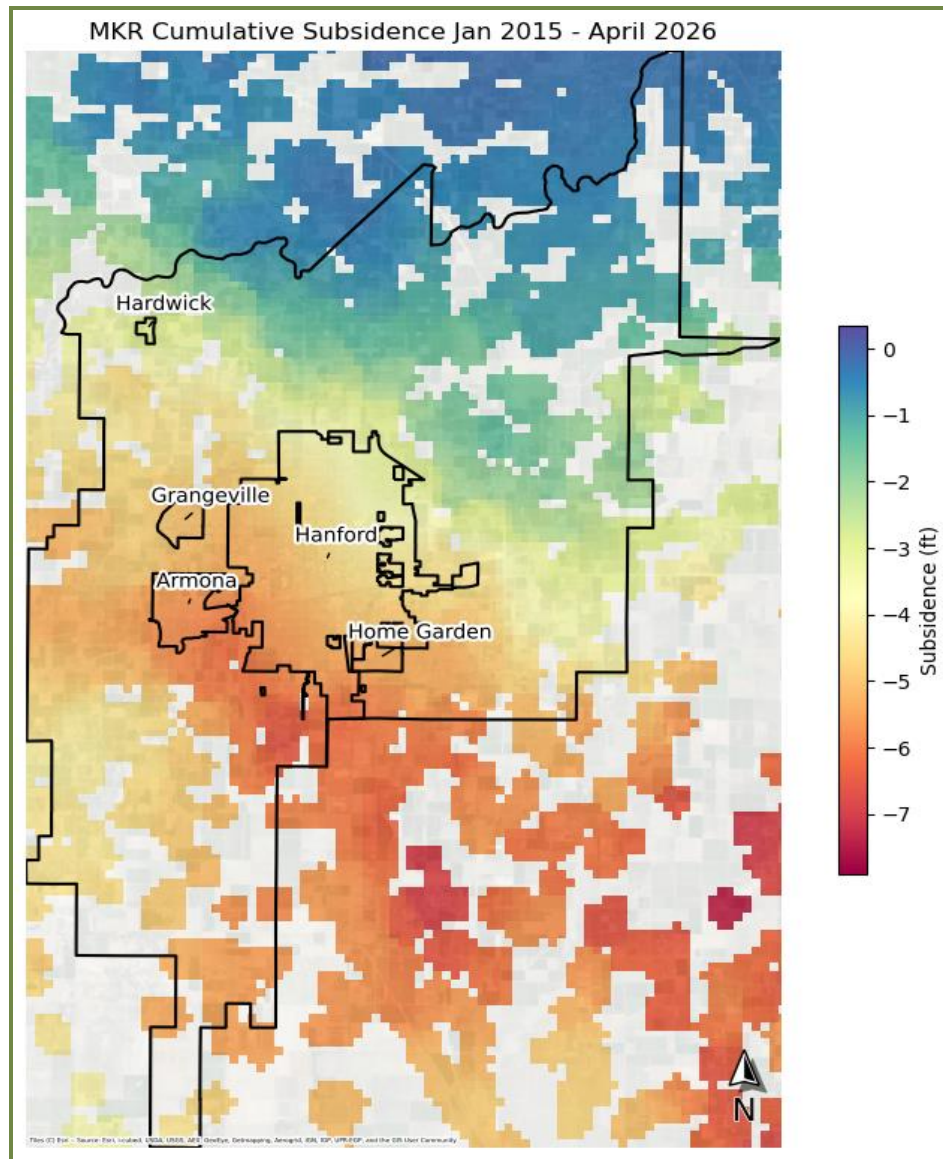
81,290 acre-feet

average annual groundwater overdraft

*Consumed water measured as Evapotranspiration (ET), the amount of water consumed by the plant through evaporation and transpiration.



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SGMA & Mid-Kings River GSA

Chuck Kinney



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**GSP
Inadequate
Determination**

**State Board votes to
Put Tulare Lake in
Probation**



**Stakeholder
Advisory
Committee
formed**

**Mid-Kings River
GSA proposes new
funding plan**

Spring 2024

Fall 2024

May-Dec. 2025

Spring 2027

2023

April 2024

Jan. 2025

August 2026



**Proposed funding
plan to support
GSP does not pass**

**Mid-Kings River
GSA establishes
new management
structure**

**Mid-Kings River
GSA Board adopts
new policies &
gains traction**

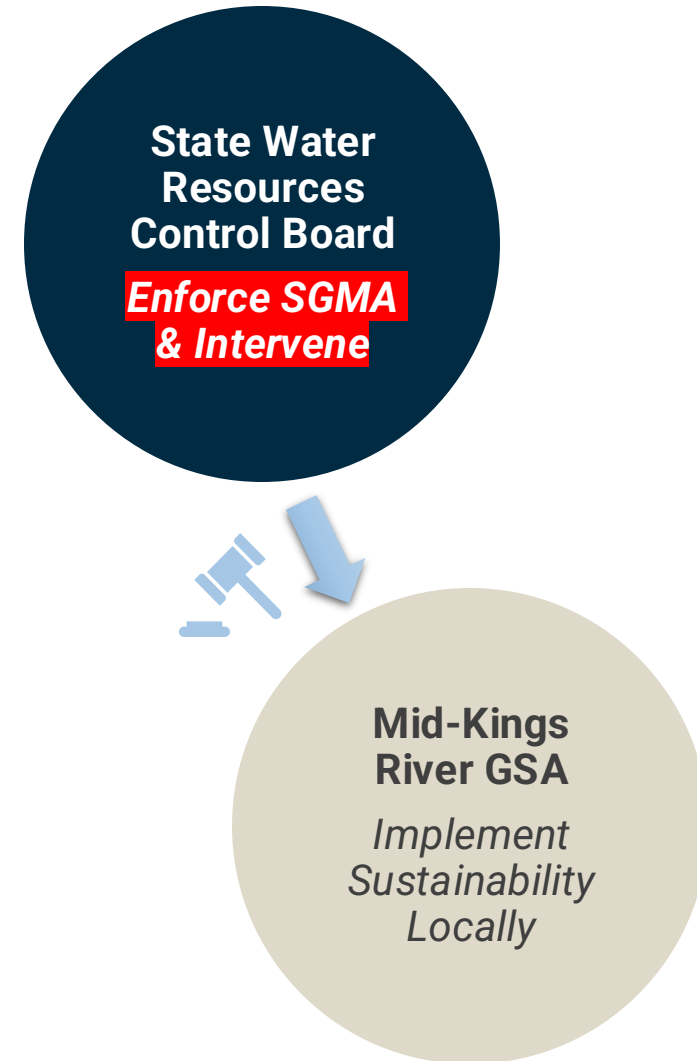
**Updated
GSP
Submittal to
State**



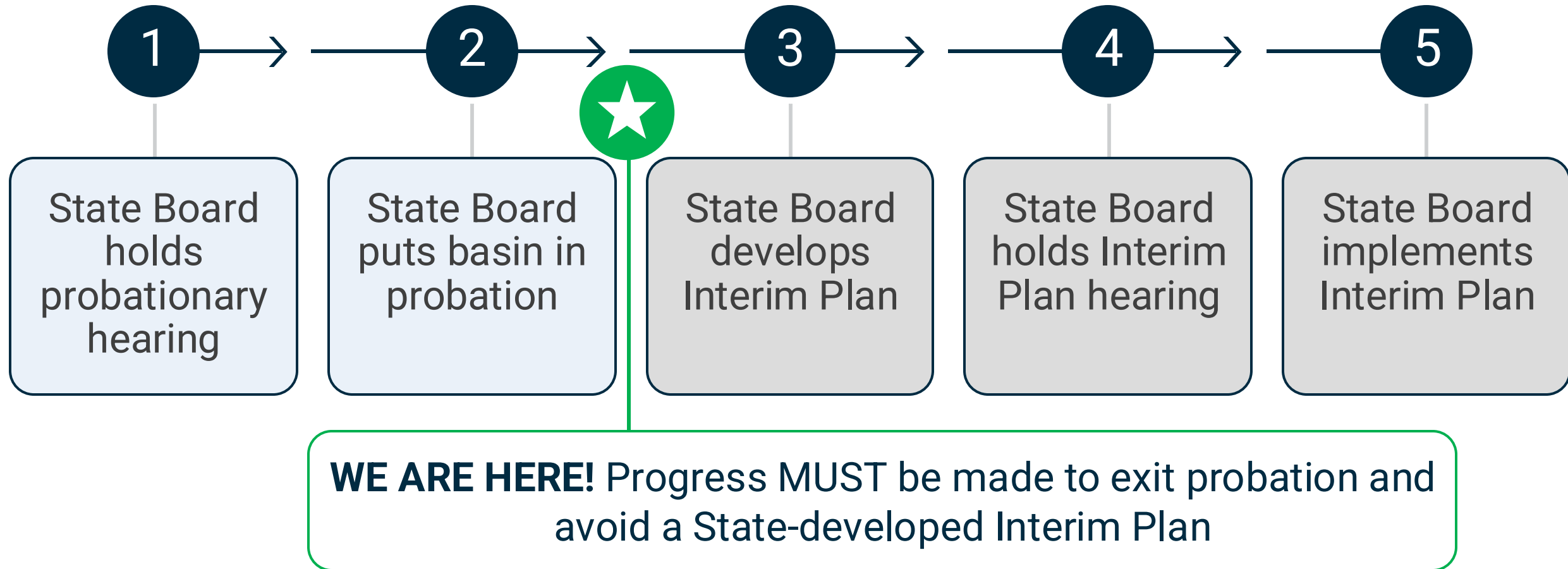
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Probation in Tulare Lake Subbasin

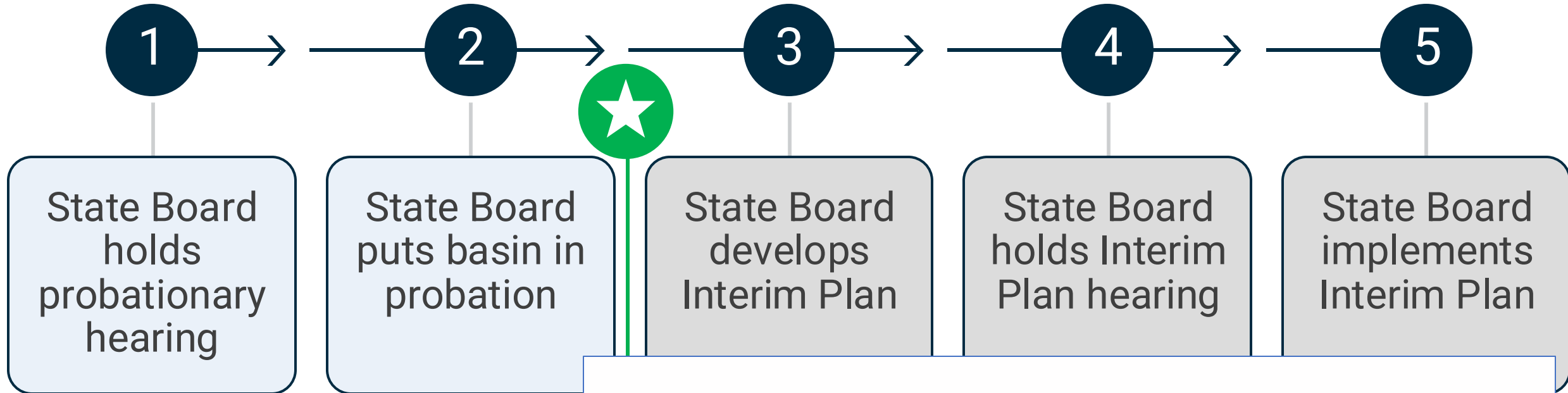
- **Reasons why State Board put Mid-Kings on Probation**
 - Adequately address groundwater level decline
 - Limit impacts of subsidence
 - Protect drinking water wells
 - Establish adequate groundwater monitoring
 - Establish local funding mechanism
- **What it means:**
 - Groundwater pumping reporting (GEARS)
 - State collects fees from landowners
 - State to develop its own “Interim Plan” – demand management with potential for severe restrictions



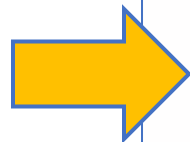
Urgent Progress Required



Urgent Progress Required



**Neighboring Tule
Basin Headed for an
Interim Plan**



State poised to nix pumping along Friant-Kern Canal in Tulare County by early 2027

BY LISA MCEWEN • NEWS • JULY 16, 2026



Managing Groundwater Locally

Chuck Kinney



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How We Move Forward

- ! **IMMEDIATE PRIORITY:** Update Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 - Implement the Plan
 - Put monitoring, demand management (allocation), mitigation, and reporting into practice
 - Demonstrate Progress
 - State needs evidence that the GSA has the funding, capacity, and is taking steps to achieve sustainability
 - **Goal:** Move out of probation and regain local control
 - Remove burden on landowners of State-required reporting and fees
 - Keep local leaders in the driver's seat on SGMA

Recent Implementation Progress

✓ **GSP Update**

- Anticipated resubmittal to State in Spring 2027

✓ **Well Registration & Watermark**

- Online tool to register wells, understand water supply portfolio, track groundwater use
- Registration deadline: August 17, 2026

✓ **Groundwater Allocation**

- Demand management program to help eliminate groundwater overdraft
- Implementation set to begin Oct. 1, 2026

✓ **Mitigation Programs**

- Mitigation for shallow domestic wells affected by declining groundwater levels
- Mitigate groundwater quality and land subsidence

The Road Ahead



Plan & Coordinate

Coordinate with Tulare
Lake Subbasin GSAs
(Point of Contact)

Collaborate with surface
water districts



Monitor & Measure

Expand groundwater
monitoring and construct
monitoring wells

Improve groundwater
modeling, data systems,
and subsidence tracking



Report & Respond

Complete annual SGMA
reporting and 5-year
periodic GSP updates

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Garrett Gilcrease

Mark Tos

Andy Zonneveld

Chip Mello

Karl te Velde

Brian Medeiros

Matt Brown

David Stanfield

Kevin Ruble

Implementing Locally Benefits Landowners

- Access to local staff and leadership
- Leadership accountable to those they represent
- Local knowledge and involvement influences GSA direction
- Policies reflect local realities and operational needs

Committee was instrumental in guiding the development of the 5-year budget and associated proposed assessment and pumping fee



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Local Path (GSP)

Local stakeholders provide solutions

Tailored policies to local conditions

Continued stakeholder involvement

Accountability to local landowners

Local plan with transparent fees & self-regulation

State Path (Interim Plan)

Increased State oversight

One-size-fits-all policies

Reduced local influence

Only top-down groundwater control

State-developed plan with unknown costs & top-down restrictions



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Funding Local Efforts

Chuck Kinney



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The GSA Today

- Kings County stepped in to lead the GSA in 2024
- Joint Powers Agreement includes Kings County & City of Hanford
 - Kings County Water District withdrew in 2024

Current Capacity & Funding

- GSA is not fully operational for long-term SGMA implementation
- Operations rely on member agency financial contributions, primarily from Kings County

Stable funding mechanism is needed to make the GSA fully operational and equipped to implement sustainability locally

5-Year Budget & Rate (Fixed Costs)



	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Payback	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Administration	\$1,148,000	\$1,148,000	\$1,148,000	\$1,148,000	\$1,148,000
Operations	\$1,219,400	\$1,219,400	\$1,219,400	\$1,219,400	\$1,219,400
TOTAL FIXED COSTS	\$2,467,400	\$2,467,400	\$2,467,400	\$2,467,400	\$2,467,400

Maximum* Assessment / Acre	\$26.84	\$23.29	\$23.91	\$22.54	\$23.53
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5-Year Budget & Rate (Variable Costs)



	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Well Mitigation Pilot	\$200,000	\$160,000	-	-	-
Dry Well Mitigation	\$350,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Subsidence Mitigation	\$750,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS	\$1,800,000	\$3,660,000	\$3,300,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,300,000

Pumping Fee / AF	\$9.23	\$19.24	\$17.84	\$10.57	\$7.41
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What Does My Payment Look Like?

Many residential property owners would pay less than \$4 annually in assessments to support local groundwater management efforts.

1 Acre
\$26.84 Annually



6,000 Sq. Ft.
\$3.76 Annually



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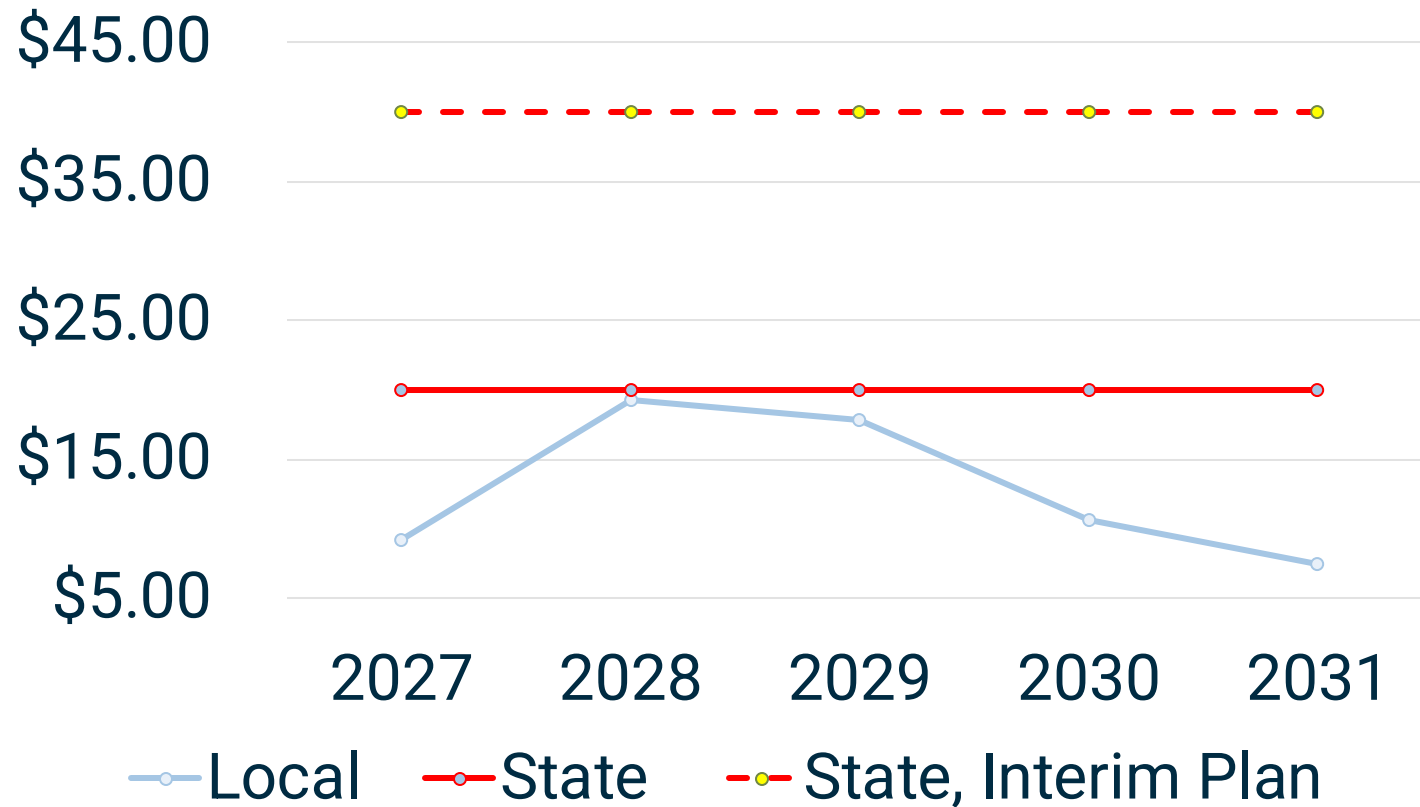
What Does My Payment Look Like?

	40 acres	80 acres	250 acres	1000 acres
Annual Assessment (Max)	\$1,074	\$2,147	\$6,720	\$26,840
Est. Pumping Fee* (Max of \$19.24)	\$1,870	\$3,740	\$11,688	\$46,753

**Illustrative example assumes annual groundwater extraction of 2.43 acre-feet per acre at the maximum fee amount. Actual groundwater extraction and fees will vary based on pumping volume and the annual extraction fee.*



State vs. Local Pumping Fees



State Board's *current* fee = \$20/AF + \$300 per well

The State fees double for an interim plan = \$40/AF

What Comes Next?

Becca Quist



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Two-Part Funding Proposal

Assessment

What? Requires landowner approval through Prop 218 election

Who? All property owners, excluding schools, parks, cemeteries

How? Ballots mailed to landowners; Ballot count will take place at the Public Hearing

Groundwater Pumping Fee

What? Groundwater extraction fee adoption through Prop 26 process

Who? All groundwater pumpers (including municipal water systems), excluding de minimis pumpers (< 2 AF annually)

How? Public Notice published and landowners invited to comment; fee adoption will be considered for adoption at the Public Hearing

Prop 218 Procedural Requirements

- ✓ Registered California Engineer prepare Engineer's Report
- ✓ Landowners identified and notified of the potential assessment
- ✓ Provide balloting to landowners
- ☐ Public Hearing no less than 45 days after mailing the notice during which and ballots will be tabulated (September 29)
- ☐ Ballot requirement: To approve the assessment, a majority of the weighted financial obligation (based on financial obligation per assessable acre) **of the returned ballots must be in favor of the assessment (50% + 1)**

Prop 26 Public Participation

- ✓ Notice published to GSA's website
- ✓ Notice mailed to affected property owners
- ✓ Public Comment available via mail, email, and online form
- ☐ Notice published at least 14 days prior to the meeting to adopt the fees. Noticing will be done twice in the Hanford Sentinel, September 9 and September 16
- ☐ Public Hearing to consider adoption of fees, September 29, 2026, at 1:00 pm

How to Participate – Prop 218 Ballot

Mail

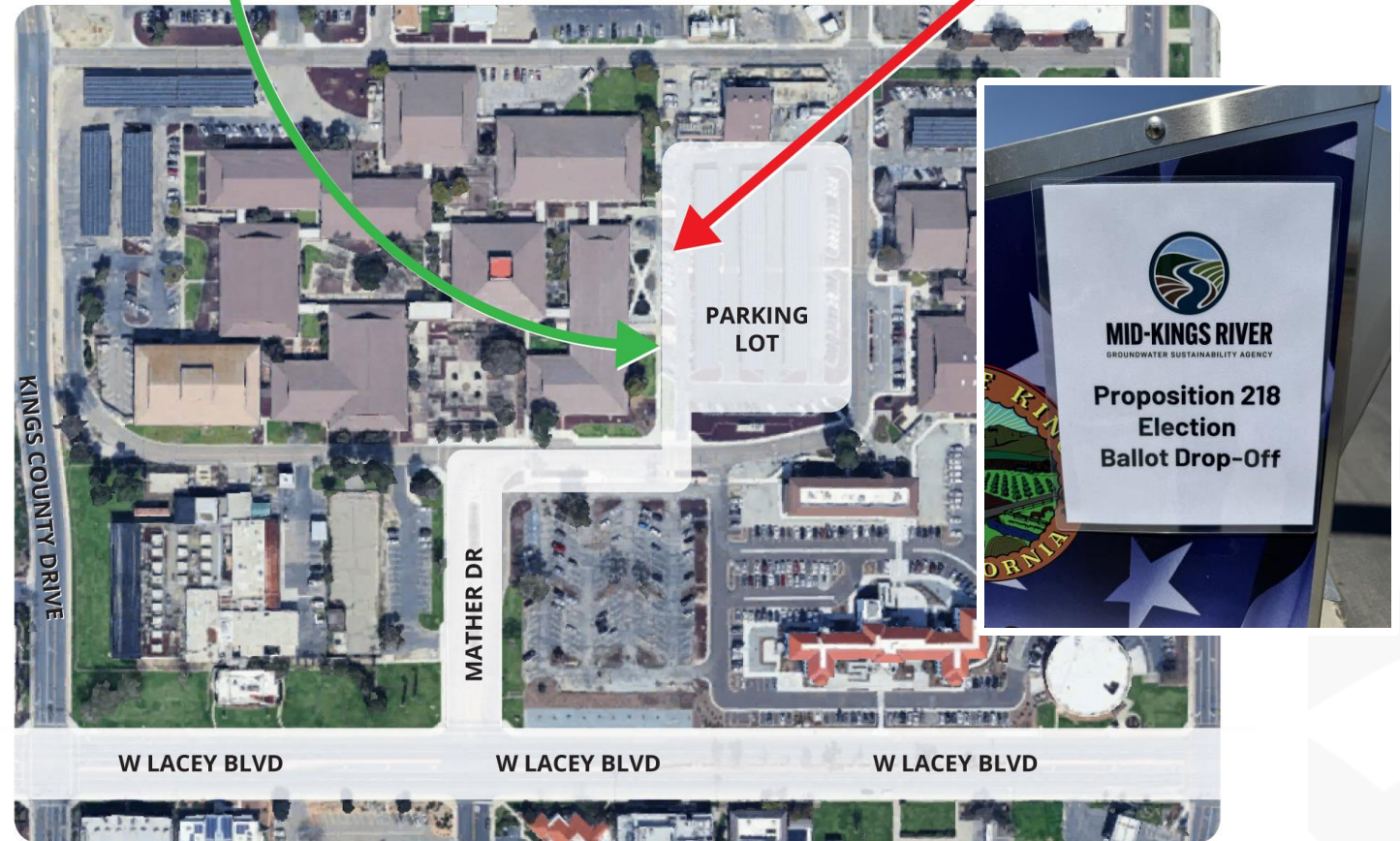
Use the return envelope provided with your ballot

Drop Off

1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Building #7, Hanford, CA 93230

Hand Deliver

Bring your ballot to the public hearing on Sept 29, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230



How to Participate – Prop 26 Public Comment

Mail

1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Building
#6, Hanford, CA 93230

Email

mkrghsa@co.kings.ca.us

Online

Fill out the form at
midkingsriver.org/localfunding



Public Outreach

Becca Quist



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Summary of Outreach Efforts

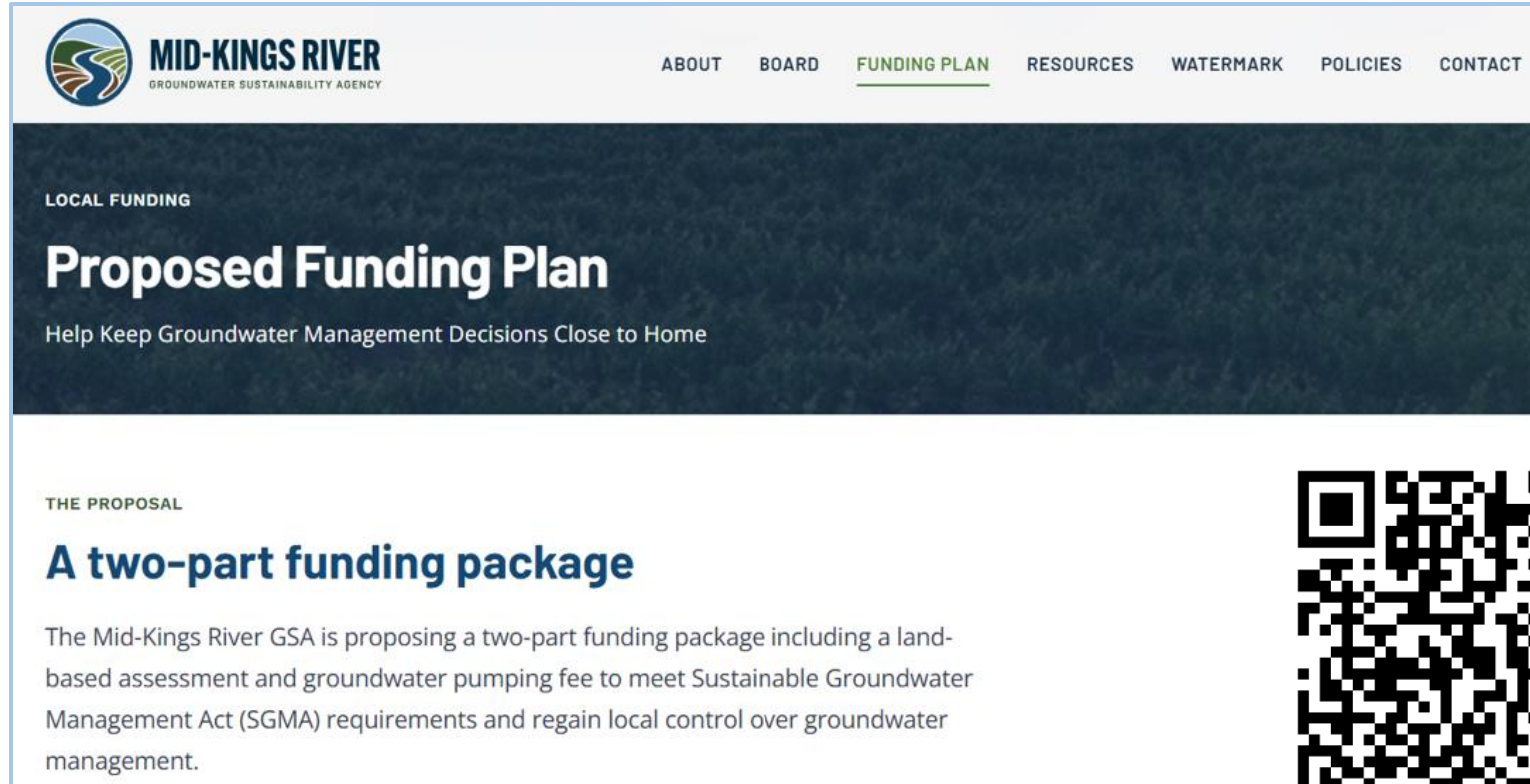
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee began budget discussions at public meetings – January 2026
- Funding plan presentation to the SAC and BOD – May 2026
- Rates and funding plan announced & press release – July 24
- Mail package including ballots, notices, & educational handout to all affected property owners – August 13
- Weekly updates and educational information distributed to our email list
- Dedicated webpage with resources & information
- Public Workshops



**Stay
connected.**

midkingsriversa.org

Funding Plan Webpage



**Scan the QR
code or write
down the web
address for later**



Workshop is being recorded and will be made available on our website

Q&A

Public Hearing: Tuesday, September 29 at 1:00 PM

Kings County Board of Supervisors Chamber, Kings County
Government Center, 1400 W Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, CA
93230



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