

Board Members

Joe Neves
Richard Valle
Doug Verboon
Rusty Robinson
Robert Thayer
Kimber Regan

**Staff**

Chuck Kinney, General Manager
Laurie Avedisian-Favini,
General Counsel
Catherine Venturella, Clerk

Special Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. or soon there after
Place: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, California 93230

☎ (559) 852-2362 ❖ bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us ❖ website: <https://www.midkingsrivergsa.org>

The meeting can be attended on the Internet by clicking this link:

[Join the meeting now](#)

or by sending an email to bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us on the morning of the meeting for an automated email response with the Microsoft Teams meeting link information. Members of the public attending via Microsoft Teams will have the opportunity to provide public comment during the meeting. Remote Microsoft Teams participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Microsoft Teams connection malfunctions or becomes unavailable for any reason, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access. *Microsoft Teams will be available for access at 12:55 p.m.*

Members of the public who wish to view/observe the meeting virtually can do so on the internet at:

www.countyofkingsca.gov and click on the "Join Meeting" button or by clicking this link:

https://youtube.com/live/Q_PqqHvKKoU?feature=share

****Members of the public viewing the meeting through YouTube will not have the ability to provide public comment.**

Members of the public may submit written comments on any matter within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction, regardless of whether it is on the agenda for the Board's consideration or action, and those comments may become part of the administrative record of the meeting. Comments will not be read into the record, only the names of those who have submitted comments will be read. Written comments should be directed to bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us email by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the noticed meeting to be included in the record, those comments received after 8:00 a.m. may become part of the record of the next meeting. E-mail is not monitored during the meeting. To submit written by U.S. Mail to: Kings County Board of Supervisors, Attn: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Kings, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230.

1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL – Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the Board's jurisdiction, and which are not already on the agenda. The Board will not answer questions impromptu, and concerns or complaints will be referred to appropriate staff. For items which are on the agenda, members of the public will be provided with an opportunity to address the Board as each item is brought up for discussion. Speakers should limit their comments to not more than two (2) minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of the minutes from the special meeting for November 18, 2025.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the consent calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. If a Board member has questions, requests additional information, or wishes to comment on an item, the vote should not be taken until after questions have been addressed or comments made, and the public has had an opportunity to comment on the Consent Calendar items.

- A. **Mid-Kings River GSA Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2026**

REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. **Stakeholder Advisory Committee update – Garrett Gilcrease, Chairperson**
B. **Consider adopting a Resolution to establish an Allocation Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA . – Amer Hussain, Engineer**
C. **Update and direction on the Pilot Well mitigation program – Amer Hussain, Engineer**
D. **Update on the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) – Amer Hussain, Engineer**

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

On their own initiative, Board Members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. They may ask questions for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Gov. Code Section 54954.2a).

- ♦ Board Correspondence
- ♦ Correspondence and Information on Future Agenda Items

CLOSED SESSION

- ♦ None

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 13,2026 at 1:00PM.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Mid-Kings River GSA office at (559) 852-2362 by 9:00 a.m. on the Monday prior to this meeting.
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<i>Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Board after the posting of the agenda will be available for the public to review at the Board of Supervisors office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, for the meeting date listed on this agenda.</i>

Board Members

Joe Neves
Richard Valle
Doug Verboon
Rusty Robinson
Robert Thayer
Kimber Regan



Staff

Chuck Kinney, General Manager
Jennifer Thompson,
General Counsel
Catherine Venturella, Clerk

Special Meeting Action Summary

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, California 93230

☎ (559) 852-2362 ❖ bosquestions@co.kings.ca.us ❖ website: <https://www.midkingsrivergsa.org>

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1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL – Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RICHARD VALLE, DOUG VERBOON, RUSTY ROBINSON, ROBERT THAYER, KIMBER REGAN – PRESENT

JOE NEVES - ABSENT

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the Board's jurisdiction, and which are not already on the agenda. The Board will not answer questions impromptu, and concerns or complaints will be referred to appropriate staff. For items which are on the agenda, members of the public will be provided with an opportunity to address the Board as each item is brought up for discussion. Speakers should limit their comments to not more than two (2) minutes.

Desiree Woodward, property owner whose property borders Kings County. She stated she attended an Alta Irrigation meeting where she asked for credit as she is a part of Alta Irrigation and Mid-Kings River GSA due to her property location, and she feels a credit should be considered. She stated she was not given an answer and requested someone from Mid-Kings attend an Alta Irrigation meeting to provide support for those in this situation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of the minutes from the special meeting for October 14, 2025.

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED (RR, RV, KR, DV – Aye, RT – Abstain, JN - Absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the consent calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. If a Board member has questions, requests additional information, or wishes to comment on an item, the vote should not be taken until after questions have been addressed or comments made, and the public has had an opportunity to comment on the Consent Calendar items.

- A. **None**

REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. **Stakeholder Advisory Committee update – Garrett Gilcrease, Chairperson**

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY. NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN.

- B. **Update on the Appellate court ruling on Farm Bureau vs State Water Board. – Jennifer Thompson – General Counsel**

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY. NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN.

- C. **Overview of updated timeframe to complete the GSP – Amer Hussain, Engineer**

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY. NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN.

- D. **Discussion concerning correspondence from the South Fork Kings GSA – Chuck Kinney, General Manager**

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: DISCUSSION ONLY. NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN.

- E. **Update on the Pilot Well mitigation program – Amer Hussain, Engineer**

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: DISCUSSION ONLY. NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN.

F. Consider adopting a Resolution to establish a Subsidence Management Policy. – Amer Hussain, Engineer. [RESO MKRGSA 25-002]

PUBLIC: NONE

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED (RR, RT, KR, DV – Aye, JN, RV-Absent)

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

On their own initiative, Board Members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. They may ask questions for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Gov. Code Section 54954.2a).

None

- ♦ Board Correspondence: **None**
- ♦ Information on Future Agenda Items: **Chuck Kinney stated that the Allocation Policy will be on the December 9, 2025 agenda.**

CLOSED SESSION

- ♦ **None**

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Mid-Kings River GSA office at (559) 852-2362 by 9:00 a.m. on the Monday prior to this meeting.
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Date: December 16, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Mid-Kings River GSA Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2026.

Background

Staff is proposing to designate the second Tuesday of each calendar month, starting at 1:00 p.m. as Mid-Kings River GSA Board (MKRGSA) meetings dates. By setting this schedule the MKRGSA will support staff in helping to streamline the handling of the groundwater sustainability plan development and applications, moving them to hearing, and other required processes in a timely manner. Separate special meetings to hear larger or more complicated items, or for other legally required reasons, may still need to be scheduled on an as needed basis. The following is the proposed list of dates for MKRGSA meetings for 2026 at 1:00 p.m., the calendar is as follows:

January 13, 2026

March 10, 2026

April 14, 2026

May 12, 2026

June 9, 2026

July 14, 2026

August 11, 2026

October 13, 2026

November 10, 2026

December 8, 2026

*A quorum is not available for the meeting dates for the second Tuesday in February and September. If a meeting is needed in either of those two months a special meeting will be called.

Request

Approve the meeting schedule for 2026.



Date: December 16, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Consider the adoption of an Allocation Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Background

At the Mid-Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting held on December 1, 2025, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee voted 7 in favor of approval and 1 abstention to recommend that the Mid Kings River GSA Board adopt an Allocation Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Request

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee requests the Board of Directors adopt the attached Allocation Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

DRAFT

MID-KINGS RIVER GSA

Groundwater Allocation Policy

(Revised 12/1/2025 – Revision 11)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainable Agency (MKR GSA or GSA) is located within the Tulare Lake Subbasin (Subbasin) which has been designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as high priority groundwater basin that is subject to critical conditions of overdraft. MKR adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) consistent with the Sustainable Management Groundwater Act (SGMA) to address undesirable results including chronic lowering of groundwater levels and land subsidence. A management action in the GSP includes establishing groundwater extraction allocations based on the Subbasin's sustainable yield in order to mitigate undesirable results while projects are being developed and implemented.

This Groundwater Extraction Allocation Policy (Policy) is part of the projects and management actions being implemented to achieve sustainability of the Subbasin and does not determine or alter water rights under common law or any provision of law (Water Code §10720.5(a)). The Policy is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 10561(b)(3), 15307 and 15308.

The Policy will be in effect for all groundwater pumpers and users in the MKR GSA. Compliance with the policy is required for the GSA to meet sustainability goals and ensure that the GSA maintains local control over groundwater pumping.

The policy is based on currently available information and is subject to change as additional data becomes available. Changes to the policy will be at the sole discretion of the MKR Board.

2. PARCEL QUALIFICATION AND USE CATEGORIES

Parcel Eligibility for Sustainable Yield Allocation

Allocation of sustainable yield to an individual parcel is based on the number of total acres for that parcel as registered with Kings County. Parcels that are eligible for a sustainable yield are described as follows:

- All parcels listed on the Kings County Assessment Parcel Roll, inclusive of tribal properties, located within the MKR GSA boundaries are qualified to receive an allocation of a portion of the total MKR GSA sustainable yield. Qualified parcels must be registered in the MKR GSA parcel database, as applicable, and provide an inventory of wells on the parcel. Parcels that are not registered in the MKR GSA parcel database will not receive a sustainable yield allocation and will be subject to a stop pumping notice if they are shown to be irrigated in LandIQ.
- Parcels of 2 acres or less receive a de-minimis allocation of 2 AF/year, unless they are registered as a qualified parcel. A parcel of 2 acres or less must register as a qualified parcel if it contains an extraction facility that pumps more than 2 AF/year.
- Parcels located within the City of Hanford will not receive an individual allocation as the City is responsible for the majority of the water supply. The GSA understands that there are private wells located within the City and the on-going operation of these wells will be addressed with the City. Any pumping by landowners within the City limits will be included in the overall value. The City will receive a groundwater pumping allocation based on an average historical pumping since 2015. This value will be negotiated with the City each year.
- Parcels that are supplied by public water system, including the communities of Armona and Home Garden, will not receive individual allocations. The GSA will identify these parcels as part of the allocation process.

Parcels in other GSAs within the Tulare Lake Subbasin or other groundwater subbasins cannot be designated as qualified parcels within MKRGSA.

Parcel Eligibility for Transitional Allocation

The transitional allocation is considered a buffer that allows landowners who have existing irrigated lands to continue pumping at successively lower pumping rates towards the Sustainable Yield allocation. The transitional allocation decreases to zero by 2040 and landowners will only be able to pump up to the sustainable yield allocation after 2040.

Parcels that are eligible for a transitional allocation include all parcels that were shown to be irrigated anytime between 2015 through 2024 based on Land IQ Crop Data. Landowners denied eligibility may appeal the decision to the MKR GSA Board.

3. ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AND 2026-2030 AMOUNTS

Section 3 summarizes specific allocation policies and procedures for the period 2026-2030, including specific allocation amounts for each year.

Determination of Sustainable Yield

Sustainable yield is the total groundwater pumping in acre feet per year (AF/yr) that will maintain the basin in a sustainable condition after the year 2040. This value is based on a projected future groundwater balance derived from a groundwater model of the Tulare Lake Subbasin developed in 2020 (Wood, 2020). A new model is in development that may update this value. This new model may be used as the basis for allocations for the 2030-2035 Allocation, but it is not used for this 2026-2030 allocation cycle. The sustainable yield methodology and amounts will be periodically evaluated and are subject to adjustment.

The total estimated sustainable yield from the 2020 Wood Model was projected at 350,000 AF/Y. This value was derived from a historical analysis of pumping and other hydrogeologic factors over a base period of 1997-2016. The model predicts that, at this level of pumping, the total change in aquifer storage becomes zero and groundwater levels stabilize to an equilibrium level. The sustainable yield is distributed to all qualified parcels as a unit allocation in acre-feet per acre (AF/Acre).

Groundwater pumping across the Tulare Lake Subbasin varies greatly with some areas having limited groundwater use. Therefore, the sustainable yield should be available for the areas that are utilizing the water. The sustainable yield for each GSA was determined using the average groundwater pumping use between water years 2021 and 2022. These years were selected as they represent drought years with a consistent data set for groundwater pumping. MKR accounted for approximately 36% of groundwater pumped and therefore was assigned 36% of the sustainable yield which amounts to approximately 126,000 AF.

Currently pumping per aquifer is limited but additional information is being gathered through the MKR Well Registration program. At this time, the sustainable yield is not assigned per aquifer. Instead, the pumping is limited to the set allocation as long as undesirable results defined by the GSP are not occurring.

The sustainable yield will be allocated annually. Landowner's sustainable yield allocation may be carried over for the next four (4) calendar years, subject to a 5-year rolling retirement. Under exceptional circumstances, an extension may be granted at the sole discretion of the MKR GSA Board. Again, pumping may be limited by undesirable results occurring in the vicinity.

Use of Sustainable Yield

The sustainable yield may be used by a landowner on any owned registered parcel owned by the same landowner. In addition, the sustainable yield is transferable to any other registered qualified parcels within the MKR GSA without penalty. The sustainable yield may be transferred outside of the MKR GSA once all of the following conditions are met:

1. The Sustainable Yield can only be transferred into the GSAs bordering MKR.

2. All transfers must be registered with and approved by both MKR GSA and the receiving GSA on an annual basis. The registration process will involve, at a minimum, identification of compliance with all requirements, clearly identifying the farm unit, and the amount of water to be pumped.
3. The parcel receiving MKR GSA sustainable yield must be contiguous to a registered parcel within MKR GSA. In addition, both the parcel within MKR GSA and the receiving parcel must be part of the same farm unit.
4. Only the sustainable yield amount for the registered parcel within MKR GSA that directly borders the surrounding GSA is eligible for transfer. The sustainable yield for other parcels owned by the same landowner is not eligible for transfer outside MKR GSA.
5. The well where the pumping is occurring for the water to be transferred must be metered and meter data is required to be reported to both GSAs.
6. The parcel receiving MKR GSA sustainable yield must be in active agricultural production during the time the water transfer occurs.
7. Under no circumstances can transferred water be moved outside of the farm unit.
8. The GSA reserves the right to limit the total amount of water that can be transferred annually.
9. The MKR GSA may revoke, at its sole discretion, the ability to transfer water out of the GSA, if the pumping well is located in an area subject to actions identified in the Management Plans.

Emergency Supply

A landowner that needs emergency water supply due to issues with wells, conveyance systems, etc. should immediately contact the GSA. Each of the situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Determination of Transitional Pumping

Transitional pumping is a declining block of total groundwater pumping (in AF/y) that reduces overdraft from a set current value to zero by 2040. It is anticipated that the transitional pumping will decrease in five-year blocks. MKR GSA recognizes that some landowners require transitional water to achieve sustainability by 2040. Therefore, transitional water will be allocated to landowners eligible to receive sustainable yield.

Transitional water will be allocated annually. Only landowners that are in full compliance with all applicable MKR GSA policies and regulations and whose account are in good standing will receive a transitional allocation. Transitional water must be used in the year it is allocated and does not carryover year to year nor is the water transferable. In addition, transitional water may only be put to beneficial use within the boundaries of the MKR GSA.

The transitional allocation is based on the difference between the average groundwater pumping between water years 2021 and 2022 and the calculated sustainable yield. The transitional allocation from 2026 to 20240 is presented on Table 1.

Again, these transitional pumping values will be modified in the areas across the GSA where GSP defined undesirable results are occurring. Management Plans are being prepared separately to address the undesirable results.

4. ANNUAL PUMPING LIMITS AND FEES

The Sustainable Yield Allocation and Transitional pumping amounts will be allocated annually but are intended to remain consistent for five-year periods. The entire five-year allocation is not available at the beginning of the period but rather allocated each year and will be enforced on an annual basis. MKR GSA may modify the groundwater allocations at any time as additional data is available and/or to prevent or minimize undesirable results.

In any given year, landowner pumping is monitored quarterly using LandIQ data on evapotranspiration for each qualified parcel, and estimated surface water deliveries to each parcel. Landowners with meters may submit quarterly pumping reports as a substitute to the LandIQ analysis. An annual groundwater pumping report based on LandIQ data is produced for each landowner at the end of the year. Landowners with meters may also contest the Annual LandIQ pumping report and reconcile their accounts at the end of each calendar year.

Landowners total pumping inclusive of landowner developed credits (Section 5) will be limited to a total cap of 3.0 AF/ac annually.

Table 1
Groundwater Allocation
2026 – 2040

Sustainable Yield (AF/ac)	Transitional Allocation (AF/ac)	Total Allocation (AF/ac)
WY26-WY30		
1.43	1	2.43
WY31-WY35		
1.43	0.6	2.03
WY36-WY40		
1.43	0.3	1.73

Pumping Fees

The pumping fee for the sustainable yield, transitional allocations, and recharge credits will be set by the MKR GSA Board annually.

Landowners who pump above their total groundwater pumping allocations are subject to an additional overdraft penalty (referred to as overdraft pumping) of \$500 per AF for pumping above sustainable yield plus transitional and recharge credits. In addition, the following year's allocation will be reduced by the amount of the overdraft.

5. LANDOWNER DEVELOPED CREDITS

Landowner developed credits may be developed through landowner water banking or recharge projects or other approved projects that help mitigate one or more undesirable results of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Recharge and banking projects must comply with the MKR Groundwater Recharge Policy.

In order to protect the Subbasin from undesirable results, a percentage of any landowner water banking or recharge projects will remain with MKR. The amount of leave behind is defined in the Groundwater Recharge Policy.

Landowner developed credit transfers between landowners of qualified registered parcels must be documented and in accordance with adopted policy.

All transfers purchased from outside of MKR boundaries must be approved by both GSAs with jurisdiction and comply with all applicable regulations of both GSAs. MKR will develop a separate policy and procedures for transfers from outside of the MKR jurisdictional boundaries. All landowner developed credit will be maintained in the MKR water accounting system.

6. TRANSFERS

Qualified parcels may receive credit if there is an allocation transfer from another parcel within the MKR GSA. The allocation for the receiving parcel will increase, while the allocation for the generating parcel will decrease. Parcels that receive a sustainable yield allocation but do not irrigate that parcels may transfer that allocation to other parcels within the MKR GSA. This will enable landowners who fallow some of their parcels to move allocation for that year to parcels that are actively irrigated. The receiving parcels will still be subject to potential curtailments as described in the Management Plans. Any proposed transfer of allocation must be submitted for approval by MKR GSA. Only sustainable yield and recharge credit are eligible for transfer; transitional allocations are prohibited from being transferred across parcels.

7. WATER USE

The default priority of use will be as listed below. A landowner must notify the GSA to change the priority of use. The priority of use order can only be revised once per water year. That revised order will become the default for the landowner until they notify the GSA again.

1. Sustainable Yield Carryover
2. Sustainable Yield Allocation
3. Landowner Developed Credit
4. Transitional Groundwater Allocation
5. Overdraft Pumping

8. ALLOCATION CURTAILMENT

Under specific circumstances, acreage may be subject to curtailment of the approved pumping allocation and require further reduction in pumping below the Table 1 values in accordance with water level, subsidence or water quality management plans.

9. SGMA PENALTIES AND CIVIL REMEDIES

Any landowner or operator who violates the provisions of the herein Policy and Procedures is subject to the criminal and civil sanctions set forth in SGMA. MKR GSA may commence or sustain any civil action or proceeding, either at law or in equity, to enforce any of the provisions of the GSPs, or any policy and procedures promulgated therefrom, or to enjoin or restrain any violation thereof, or to collect any sums of money, including penalties, fees, charges and/or assessments, on behalf of the MKR GSA. The provisions of this Section 7 are to be supplementary and complementary to all of the provisions of SGMA, other state law, and any law cognizable at common law or in equity; and nothing herein shall be read, interpreted or construed in any manner so as to bar or limit MKR GSA from seeking any remedy to which it may otherwise be entitled.

10. ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Any penalties or fines imposed shall be subject to the procedures set forth in the “Policy and Procedures for Collecting Delinquent Fees, Assessments, or Charges”.

11. ACTION AGAINST MKR

Nothing contained in the Policy and Procedures shall constitute a waiver by MKR GSA or stop MKR GSA from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided in law, including but not limited to those provided in Division 3.6, Title 1 of the Government Code.

12. DEFINITIONS

- a. “2018 -2024 Land IQ Crop Data” means crop and vegetation data generated from 2018 through 2024 from satellite and aerial imagery, land cover classification and analysis, and crop and vegetation mapping.
- b. “Carryover” means the sustainable yield allocation amount remaining unused from a given year that may be used in subsequent years, subject to limitations. Sustainable yield carryover will be retired after 5 years on a rolling basis.
- c. “Civil penalty” means a penalty payment per acre-foot for groundwater extraction above the sustainable yield.
- d. “De minimis extractor” means a person who extracts two acre-feet or less per year. For the purpose of this Policy, a parcel with less than 5 acres of land is considered to host a de minimis extractor unless it is demonstrated otherwise (e.g. extractions exceed two acre-feet per year or for non-domestic use. (See, Water Code §10721(e).)
- e. “Extractions” means removing groundwater through groundwater extraction facilities for reasonable and beneficial use(s).
- f. “Farm Unit” means a defined area of land that’s is managed as a single agricultural operation under single ownership or lease, receiving water through a common delivery system.
- g. “Good standing” means a landowner who has complied with any and all policies, procedures and ordinances of MKR, is current on all fees and penalties, and is not subject to any unresolved violation, late fee, penalty or lien.
- h. “Governmental Entity” means the State of California or any political subdivision thereof.
- i. “Groundwater” means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water. (Water Code §10721(g).)
- j. “Groundwater extraction facility” means a device or method for extracting groundwater from within a basin. (Water Code §10721(h).)
- k. “Imported Water” means any water, surface or groundwater, that enters into MKR GSA boundaries from an external source for direct irrigation.
- l. “Irrigated lands” means lands irrigated by groundwater using a groundwater extraction facility for the active production of plant crops or livestock for market and uses incidental thereto. The 2018-2024 Land IQ Crop Data will be initially used to determine whether a parcel contains irrigated lands for the purpose of this Policy.
- m. “Landowner developed credit” means an amount of water credited to a landowner account for a water project or projects that have been developed by a landowner and have been determined by MKR (through the process outlined in the Groundwater Recharge Policy) to help mitigate one or more undesirable results

within the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Projects must be in accordance with the Groundwater Recharge Policy.

- n. “Leave behind” means the portion of water from an approved recharge project that is dedicated to sustainability and is therefore not credited to the landowner’s account or sustainable yield carryover. The specific percentage is defined in the MKR Groundwater Recharge Policy
- o. “Overdraft Pumping ” means groundwater extraction exceeding a landowner's combined Sustainable Yield Allocation (including carryover), applicable Landowner Developed Credits, and Transitional Groundwater Allocation, which is subject to a overdraft civil penalty.
- p. “Overdraft Pumping civil penalty” means the civil penalty amount due by a landowner of qualified irrigated land at a rate of \$500/acre-foot for any groundwater extraction defined as Overdraft Pumping
- q. “Public Water System” means a system that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.
- r. "Qualified registered parcel" means land qualified to receive a sustainable yield allocation because the land meets the following criteria: (a) is a registered parcel; and (b) is in good standing with MKR.
- s. “Qualified irrigated land” means land qualified to receive Transitional Groundwater Allocation because the land meets the following criteria: (a) is a registered parcel; and (b) contains irrigated lands based initially on the 2018-2024 Land IQ Crop Data.
- t. “Registered parcel” means a parcel, 5 acres or larger, registered in the MKR’s water accounting program.
- u. "Sustainable yield" means the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result. (Water Code §10721(w).)
- v. “Sustainable yield allocation” means the maximum quantity of groundwater extraction allotted to landowners of a qualified registered parcel based on the methodology derived from 2020 Wood model.
- w. “Transitional Groundwater Allocation” means an allocation available to qualified irrigated lands allowing groundwater extraction above the sustainable yield allocation, subject to transitional pumping fee.
- x. “Transitional Pumping Fee” means the pumping fee amount due by a landowner or operator of qualified irrigated land at a rate of to be set by the MKR Board for groundwater extraction corresponding to the Transitional Groundwater Allocation.
- y. “Transfer” means groundwater allocation or landowner developed credit sold or otherwise acquired from one landowner and applied to the account of another

qualified registered parcel(s) within the same subbasin and GSA jurisdiction.

- z. “Undesirable result” means one or more of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basins: (a) chronic lowering of groundwater levels; (b) significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage; (c) significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion; (d) significant and unreasonable degraded water quality; (e) significant and unreasonable land subsidence; and/or (f) depletions of interconnected surface water.

DRAFT

BEFORE THE BOARD OF THE MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING
AN ALLOCATION POLICY

RESOLUTION NO. MKRGSA 25-003

WHEREAS, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Wat. Code, § 10720, et seq) that went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires all medium- and high-priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or multiple GSAs; and

WHEREAS, On November 22, 2016 the Kings County Water District, the County of Kings and the City of Hanford executed a JPA Agreement creating the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MKRGSA”), a Joint Powers Authority. MKRGSA assumed its regulatory role as a GSA for all or portions of its Member’s jurisdictional territory covering a portion of the subbasin prior to June 30, 2017, and has since performed its required duties including submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) to the Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2020. ;and

WHEREAS, On July 29, 2024 the JPA Agreement creating the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MKRGSA”) was amended to recognize that the Kings County Water District desired to terminate its membership in the JPA and that the remaining member agencies the County of Kings and the City of Hanford were the only two member agencies involved with the JPA moving forward; and

WHEREAS, to control groundwater extractions, SGMA authorizes a GSA to establish groundwater allocations, among other things (Wat. Code, §10726.4, subd. (a)(2)); and

WHEREAS, in October and November of this year, the Agency's Stakeholder Advisory Committee considered an analysis provided by the Agency's engineering consultant regarding an allocation policy;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee review of this analysis, the committee recommends that the Agency's Board of Directors (Board) adopt the Allocation Policy; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of this new policy will benefit residents of the Mid-Kings River GSA area and ensure that groundwater is protected;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Kings River GSA:

1. The Board hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The General Manager of the Mid-Kings River GSA or designee is hereby authorized to administer the Allocation Policy.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon motion by Director _____, seconded by Director _____ at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of December 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Doug Verboon, Chairperson
Board of Directors, Mid-Kings River GSA

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand this _____ day of December, 2025.

Catherine Venturella, Clerk
Board of Directors, Mid-Kings River GSA



Date: December 16, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Update on the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Background

Staff are working to update and amend the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Mid-Kings River GSA and a component of the update includes Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) which will establish what undesirable results could occur and Minimum Thresholds. These SMC's are being discussed with all of the GSA's within the Tulare Lake Subbasin for consideration and Staff is wanting to provide the Board with an overview of the Draft SMC's which are being discussed.

	2025 Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP (Draft SMCs for Submittal 12/2025)		
Sustainability Indicator	Undesirable Result	Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective
Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Upper Aquifer		
	One of the following occurs: (1) More than 10 drinking water wells are reported dry in Upper Aquifer in any given year. If 10 drinking water wells were impacted every year, no more than 145 drinking water wells cumulatively would be impacted by 2040, or (2) Minimum Threshold exceeds at least 10% of RMS wells over a single year (i.e., two consecutive seasonal measurements)	One of the following occurs: (1) A-Zone - The minimum threshold for Groundwater Level at RMS locations in the Unconfined A-zone aquifer is 10 feet below the lowest observed or extrapolated groundwater elevation in 2015 at that well. or (2) B-Zone - The minimum threshold is 30 feet below the lowest water level elevation recorded in 2015.	The measurable objective for the unconfined aquifer is to maintain groundwater levels at or above the minimum levels observed in 2017 and establish a zero or near-zero rate of long-term groundwater level decline.
	Lower Aquifer		
	A single groundwater level Minimum Threshold is exceeded, and The corresponding subsidence Minimum Threshold (cumulative OR rate) is exceeded at any RMS in the Tulare Lake Subbasin	The minimum threshold for subsidence is used as a proxy for the groundwater-level minimum threshold. If the subsidence minimum threshold is reached, the groundwater-level minimum threshold in the confined aquifer is assumed to be reached within that Management Area.	The measurable objective for the confined aquifer is to maintain groundwater levels at or above the minimum levels observed in 2024 and in accordance with DWR Land Subsidence BMP.
Reduction of Groundwater Storage	Upper Aquifer – Cumulative reduction of 3.5 million acre-ft in usable groundwater storage relative to the baseline water year 2015 volume. Lower Aquifer – Groundwater levels serve as a proxy for storage; therefore, undesirable results match those for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.	Groundwater-level minimum thresholds serve as a proxy for depletion of groundwater storage in the unconfined aquifer; therefore, the same minimum thresholds apply.	Groundwater-level measurable objectives serve as a proxy for depletion of groundwater storage in the unconfined aquifer; therefore, the same measurable objectives apply.
Seawater Intrusion	Not Applicable Groundwater conditions in the Tulare Lake Subbasin indicate that seawater intrusion is not occurring and is not expected in the future; therefore, this sustainability indicator is not applicable.		
Degraded Water Quality	The greater concentration of: (1) Ten RMS wells record minimum threshold exceedances, caused by groundwater activities occurring after January 1, 2015, within a single water year for any single or combination of constituents of concern (COCs); or (2) GSAs are unable to meet mitigation demand for domestic wells impacted by groundwater quality degradation associated with groundwater activities after January 1, 2015; or (3) Five small community wells sampled under DDW regulatory requirements have a new, confirmed MCL exceedance for a COC, attributable to groundwater management actions based on technical analysis.	Minimum thresholds are set at the applicable drinking water standard, including the California Primary MCL, California Secondary MCL, or U.S. EPA Secondary MCL, depending on the constituent.	Measurable objectives and interim milestones for degraded groundwater quality are set equal to the established minimum thresholds.
Land Subsidence	An undesirable result occurs when the cumulative subsidence minimum threshold is exceeded at any single RMS location.	The minimum threshold is defined as a maximum allowable subsidence of 7 feet, with specific values varying by RMS location to protect beneficial users, uses, and land uses. Minimum threshold values along the Tulare Lake Subbasin boundary will be coordinated with adjacent GSAs and neighboring subbasins for consistency.	The measurable objective for land subsidence is defined as a zero or near-zero (<0.01 feet/year) inelastic subsidence rate by the year 2040. Interim Milestones: • 2025-2030: Average Subsidence rate of 0.65 feet/year • 2030-2035: Average Subsidence rate of 0.15 feet/year • 2035-2040: Average Subsidence rate of 0.05 feet/year • 2040: Average subsidence rate of 0.01 feet/year
Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	An undesirable result cannot be defined at this time due to significant data and information gaps. The undesirable result will be established once the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issues its guidance document.	Minimum thresholds are preliminarily set as depletions that would reduce flows below water year 2022 low-flow conditions at stream gage RMS sites associated with connected surface water bodies, if applicable based on further analysis. This approach is an interim measure until the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidance document becomes available.	Measurable objectives and interim milestones for depletion of interconnected surface water are set equal to the established minimum thresholds.