

Board Members

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

**Staff**

Chuck Kinney, General Manager
 Mary Lerner, General Counsel
 Catherine Venturella, Clerk

Special Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 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>

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/tXhsRbfln_c?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.

I. 1:00 PM CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL – Clerk
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda, or on any other item of interest to the public, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the minutes from the special meeting for March 11, 2025.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. For any discussion of an item on the consent calendar, it will be removed at the request of any Board Member and made a part of the regular agenda.

A. None

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. Stakeholder Advisory Committee update – Garrett Gilcrease, Chairperson**
- B. Consider a Groundwater Well Registration Policy. – Amer Hussain, Engineer**
- C. Consider a Groundwater Pumping Measurement Policy – Amer Hussain, Engineer**
- D. Consider an initial Private Groundwater Recharge Policy – Amer Hussain, Engineer**
- E. Financial Update of the MKRGSA – Erik Urena, Treasurer**

VI. 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
- ♦ Information on Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

- ♦ **None**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 10,2025 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 Agenda Action Summary

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 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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www.countyofkingsca.gov and click on the "Join Meeting" button or by clicking this link:

<https://youtube.com/live/5JJD6y3d7WI?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.

I. 1:00 PM CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL – Clerk
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

II. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

*Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda, or on any other item of interest to the public, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item. **None***

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the minutes from the special meeting for December 17, 2024.

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

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. For any discussion of an item on the consent calendar, it will be removed at the request of any Board member and made a part of the regular agenda.

A. None

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

A. General Manager update

The Board received an update, and no reportable action was taken.

B. Consider *approving* the release of an RFP for the development of an online software system to track well registration, reporting, monitoring and the potential for billing.

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

VI. 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: **None**

VII. CLOSED SESSION

♦ **None**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025 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>



Date: May 13, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Consider the adoption of a revised Well Registration Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Background

At the Mid-Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting held on March 19, 2025, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee voted unanimously (of members present) to recommend that the Mid Kings River GSA Board adopt a revised Well Registration Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Request

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

MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY

RE: GROUNDWATER WELL REGISTRATION POLICY

(Updated March 18, 2025)

AN MKR GSA POLICY TO REQUIRE THE REGISTRATION OF ALL GROUNDWATER WELLS AND TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF GROUNDWATER WELLS. The policy hereby contains as follows:

County of Kings

City of Hanford

Doug Verboon
Chair

Joe Neves

Richard Valle

Rusty Robinson

Robert Thayer

Kimber Regan

1400 W Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 852-2670
Fax: (559) 584-8989

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- I. The Mid-Kings River GSA (MKR GSA) is committed to sustainably managing groundwater in their jurisdictional area, consistent with views of significant and unreasonable undesirable results as set out in the Mid-Kings River GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (MKR GSP).
- II. MKR GSA understands that the estimates of groundwater pumping, made from satellite imagery, involved assumptions on well locations as there was not an available local active well registry. These assumptions were the best that could be made at the time but can significantly be improved through an understanding of where all active groundwater wells in the MKR GSA are located. Using the locations of active wells along with the measurement of pumped groundwater would significantly improve the MKR GSA's ability to manage resources in the area.
- III. MKR GSA views that a well registration requirement is necessary to develop a complete understanding of groundwater use in the MKR GSA, that this requirement will aid and promote the sustainable management of groundwater and that it is in the best interest of the MKR GSA, its landowners, businesses and residents.
- IV. MKR GSA understands that privacy is an ongoing concern of landowners in the area related to the agency's monitoring efforts. MKR GSA will make efforts to keep registration information as private as possible, while being consistent with State laws (which include the agency's compliance with the Public Records Act) and at the same time providing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) what they require.
- V. The purpose of this Policy is to require the REGISTRATION OF ALL GROUNDWATER WELLS in

the jurisdiction of the MKR GSA, and the DEVELOPMENT
AND MATINANANCE OF A WELL REGISTRY

for the MKR GSA, and to establish other regulatory requirements in connection with these purposes.

- VI. MKR GSA understands that it has the authority to require "registration of a groundwater extraction facility within the management area of the groundwater sustainability agency" through Section 10725.6 of the California Water Code.
- VII. Further, the MKR GSA Board of Directors finds that adopting and implementing a policy requiring the REGISTRATION OF ALL GROUNDWATER WELLS in the jurisdiction of the MKR GSA and the DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A WELL REGISTRY for the MKR GSA is necessary to develop a complete view of groundwater use in the MKR GSA, and is in the best interest of the MKR GSA, its landowners, businesses and residents.
- VIII. Finally, for the reasons set forth above, the MKR GSA Board of Directors finds that the adoption of this Policy will aid and promote the sustainable management of groundwater.

DEFINITIONS

"Abandoned" describes a groundwater well whose use has been permanently discontinued or is in a state that no water can be produced.

"Active" describes a groundwater well that is in use or is planned for use.

"Aquifers" are geological formations saturated with groundwater which contain a body of rock or sediment that is sufficiently porous and permeable to store, transmit, and yield significant quantities of groundwater to wells and springs.

"Confined Aquifer" means an aquifer that is pressurized, such that the level in a well drilled into such aquifer, corresponds to the pressure in the aquifer.

"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, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels unless included pursuant to Section 10722.5.

"Groundwater extraction facility" means a device or method for extracting groundwater from within a basin.

"Overdraft" usually refers to an extended decline in the storage of an unconfined aquifer. This is also a term that sometimes get used with confined aquifers that relates to extended use beyond the sustainable yield.

"Phreatic zone" means the geologic formation below the water table.

"Recharge" means the augmentation of groundwater, by natural or artificial means.

"Seepage" means the incidental loss of water as it is being conveyed or put to beneficial use.

"Water table" means the level, generally observed in groundwater wells, at which saturated soil is observed.

"Unconfined Aquifer" means an aquifer whose water table is at atmospheric pressure and that can rise or fall with changes in volume.

"Vadose zone" means the geologic formation above the water table.

WELL REGISTRATION POLICY

- A. Parties within the MKR GSA that own or operate properties with groundwater wells are required to register the groundwater well with the MKR GSA. All active extraction facilities are required to be registered with the MKR GSA. Registration is also required for any abandoned wells.
- B. Parties registering a groundwater well will be asked to provide the following information:
 - 1) The Kings County parcel number where the well is located and the wells location within the parcel;
 - 2) The property owners name, mailing address, email address and contact information; and
 - 3) The well operators name, mailing address, email address and contact information (such as in a lease arrangement); and
 - 4) The groundwater wells construction information, which might include the year it was constructed, well driller, well completion report, geophysical log, e-log, total depth, zones of perforation, diameter of casing, motor horsepower, depth of sanitary seal, bowl depth, whether the well has a flow meter, etc.; and
 - 5) Whether the well has a sounding port for groundwater levels.
- C. With prior notice, the landowner shall grant MKR GSA staff access to inspect the property and facilities in order to verify compliance with this Policy. The MKR GSA will contact the landowner or their representative to determine the desired inspection date.
- D. New wells installed after the effective date of this policy must be registered within 90 days of the issuance of the well permit by the County. Landowners must inform the GSA of any delay in the installation of the well within that time period.

- E. The name of the owner of each registered extraction facility, the parcel number on which the facility is located, along with the names of all operators for each extraction facility shall be reported to the GSA within ninety (90) days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the GSA.

ENFORCEMENT- VIOLATION

- A. Penalties. Any person, firm or corporation, whether acting as principal, agent, employer or otherwise, who violates any provision of this Policy, or the terms and/or conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Policy, may be punishable by a fine per violation as presented below:

Violation	Fine
1st	Written notice of violation with 90 days to comply
2nd	\$500 with 90 days to comply
3rd or more	Up to \$1000 per violation as determined by MKR Board

Landowners may appeal any violation notice to the MKR GSA Board.

- B. Civil Action - Injunctive Relief. MKR GSA may elect additionally, or alternatively, to proceed with a civil action, including, but not limited to, seeking injunctive relief, rather than, or in addition to other actions described in subsection (A) of this section. Any person, firm or corporation, whether acting as principal, agent, employer or otherwise, who willfully violates any provision of this Policy, or the terms and/or conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Policy, may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for each day or portion thereof, that the violation continues to exist. In determining the amount of the civil penalty to impose, the court shall consider all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the administrative and legal costs incurred by the MKR GSA to address the violation, the extent of the harm caused by the conduct constituting the violation, the nature and persistence of such conduct, the length of time over which the conduct occurred, whether corporate or individual, and any corrective action taken (and timing of such corrective action), or lack thereof, by the violator.

SEVERABILITY

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Policy is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Policy. The MKR GSA Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have passed this Policy, and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared invalid.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Landowners and/or operators will be required to register active wells by April 1, 2026.

The Policy shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and prior to expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage thereof, shall be published by title and summary on the MKR GSA's website together with the names of members of the MKR GSA Board of Directors voting for and against the same.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Name, Title

Cc:



Date: May 13, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Consider the adoption of a revised Groundwater Pumping Measurement Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Background

At the Mid-Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting held on March 24, 2025, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee voted unanimously (of members present) to recommend that the Mid Kings River GSA Board adopt a revised Groundwater Pumping Measurement Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Request

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

**MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY**

RE: GROUNDWATER PUMPING MEASUREMENT POLICY
(Updated April 13, 2025)

A POLICY PRESENTING ALLOWABLE METHODS TO
MEASURE GROUNDWATER PUMPING. The policy hereby
contains as follows:

County of Kings

City of Hanford

Doug Verboon
Chair

Joe Neves

Richard Valle

Rusty Robinson

Robert Thayer

Kimber Regan

1400 W Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) XXX-XXX
Fax: (559) XXX-XXXX

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- I. The Mid-Kings River GSA (MKR GSA) is committed to sustainably managing groundwater in its jurisdictional area, consistent with views of significant and unreasonable undesirable results as set out in the Mid-Kings River GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (MKR GSP).
- II. MKR GSA understands that the measurement of groundwater pumping is critical to the management of the GSA to achieve groundwater sustainability goals. The GSA also understands that a variety of methods can be used to measure groundwater pumping.
- III. MKR GSA understands that estimates of groundwater pumping can be made using satellite imagery. These estimates include assumed values related to crop evapotranspiration, ideal irrigation, soils conditions and irrigation efficiencies. These kinds of assumptions were made, and these types of estimates were developed for use in the previous GSP as other better information was not available in the MKR GSA area. However, the direct measurement of groundwater pumping through flow meters is viewed as superior quality monitoring data given the number of estimates and assumptions involved in calculating groundwater use from satellite imagery. Direct flow measurement would also provide important information to local groundwater users that they will need to better understand as efforts during the SGMA Implementation period progress. It is the goal of the GSA to move completely towards direct flow measurements until then multiple methods to measure groundwater pumping will be utilized.
- IV. At this time, it is not well understood how many groundwater wells are active in the MKR GSA area, how

many active groundwater wells have flow meters or do not have flow meters. However, the MKR GSA views that measuring

groundwater pumping is necessary to develop a complete view of groundwater use in the MKR GSA, that this requirement will aid and promote the sustainable management of groundwater and that it is in the best interest of the MKR GSA, its landowners, businesses and residents.

- V. MKR GSA understands that privacy is an ongoing concern of landowners in the area related to the agency's monitoring efforts. MKR GSA will make efforts to keep monitored information as private as possible, while being consistent with State laws (which include the agency's compliance with the Public Records Act) and at the same time providing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) data they require.
- VI. MKR GSA understands that Kings County and the City of Hanford have required permits for the development and modification of groundwater wells for many years. This Policy is not intended to infringe on that authority or permitting process. However, MKR GSA will work with those agencies to develop a process, currently suggested as a "will serve letter", that recognizes the requirements set forth within this Policy. The process is expected to include a requirement that the applicant obtain a letter of authorization from the MKR GSA where they agree to comply with the requirements of the Policy.
- VII. The purpose of this Policy is to require all non de minimis users measure groundwater pumping in the jurisdiction of the MKR GSA, and to establish other regulatory requirements in connection with these purposes. De minimis users are defined as pumping less than two acre-feet annually. Landowners that are unsure if they qualify as de minimis users are encouraged to contact the GSA.
- VIII. MKR GSA understands that it has the authority to require that "groundwater extraction facilities within the management area of the GSA be measured by a water-measuring device satisfactory to the GSA" and that "all costs associated with the purchase and installation of the water-measuring device shall be borne by the owner or operator of each groundwater extraction facility" through Section 10725.8 of the California Water Code.
- IX. Further, the MKR GSA Board of Directors finds that adopting and implementing a policy requiring the reporting of groundwater extraction from all non de minimis users in the jurisdiction of the MKR GSA is necessary to develop a complete view of groundwater use in the MKR GSA, and is in the best interest of the MKR GSA, its landowners, businesses and residents.
- X. Finally, for the reasons set forth above, the MKR GSA Board of Directors finds that the adoption of this Policy will aid and promote the sustainable management of groundwater.

DEFINITIONS

"Active" describes a groundwater well that is in use or is planned for use.

"De minimis" is defined as pumping less than two acre-feet of groundwater annually for domestic purposes.

"Certified" means to be tested for accuracy and verified it is within the allowed range in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. This can be done by taking the meter to a location where it is calibrated and certified, or by using another proven meter at the well to test the accuracy of the in-place meter.

"Industrial well" are used to supply water to processing, manufacturing, commercial purpose, nurseries, and golf courses.

"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, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels unless included pursuant to Section 10722.5.

"Groundwater well" is a facility used to extract groundwater.

"Groundwater extraction facility" means a device or method for extracting groundwater from within a basin.

"Public water system" means a system for the provision of 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. A public water system includes the following:

- (1) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of the system that are used primarily in connection with the system.
- (2) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator that are used primarily in connection with the system.
- (3) Any water system that treats water on behalf of one or more public water systems for the purpose of rendering it safe for human consumption..

"Overdraft" usually refers to an extended decline in the storage of an unconfined aquifer. This is also a term that sometimes get used with confined aquifers that relates to extended use beyond the sustainable yield.

"Recharge" means the augmentation of groundwater, by natural or artificial means.

"Seepage" means the incidental loss of water as it is being conveyed or put to beneficial use.

"Water flow meter" means a mechanical or electronic device that is used to measure the rate and amount of water being extracted by a groundwater well.

"Water table" means the level, generally observed in groundwater wells, at which saturated soil is observed.

"Water well motor" means the motor powering a groundwater well.

"Water well pump" means the pump used to extract groundwater from a well.

"Water well sounding" means the measurement of the distance from a reference point to the water level in a well, generally using a device known as a sounder.

GROUNDWATER PUMPING MEASUREMENT POLICY

A. Parties within the MKR GSA that have NON DEMINIMIS ACTIVE GROUNDWATER WELLS are required to report groundwater pumping. The acceptable methods for reporting groundwater flow are flow meters or evapotranspiration measurement.

B. Flow Meters

The configuration of the installation shall conform to a drawing prepared by the permittee and shall conform to the technical standards set forth by MKR GSA.

C. Flow meters on groundwater wells must:

- 1) Have a totalizer with the ability to totalize tenths of an acre-foot (AF);
- 2) Read instantaneously in either gallons per minute (GPM) or cubic-feet per second (CFS); and
- 3) Be selected appropriately for the operating flow of the groundwater well; and
- 4) Be installed consistent with the manufacturer's specifications; and
- 5) Have an accuracy of at least plus or minus five percent(+/- 5%) when installed consistent with manufacturer's specifications and operating within intended flow ranges.

D. Evapotranspiration

Landowners may choose to utilize evapotranspiration (ET) measurement to estimate groundwater pumping. ET data is based on NSAS LandSat satellite imagery as provided by a third party. Currently, the GSA contracts with LandIQ to provide ET data across the GSA. The landowner is responsible for providing all required additional information to the GSA. To calculate the amount of groundwater extracted, the following equation is applied.:

1. Total applied surface water as metered by the irrigation district on a parcel basis
2. Evapotranspiration data as calculated by third party on a parcel basis
3. If surface water applied is more than ET, the landowner may receive a credit for over application in accordance with the GSA Recharge Policy
4. The satellite imagery used to determine ET values will be audited by the GSA through spot checking land use for cropping patterns

5. The GSA will provide an effective precipitation values based on available data across the GSA
 6. The amount of surface water plus the precipitation value will be subtracted from the ET value on a parcel basis. Any remaining ET will be assumed to be made up from groundwater pumping.
 7. The remaining ET will be divided by the assumed irrigation efficiency based on crop type as listed in the GSP.
- E. For non de minimis active wells, on or near the first day of each month the well operator shall read, and maintain a log for, the water flow meter or calculate pumping from ET data and provide this data to the MKR GSA during the first week following each quarter (April, July, October, and January the following year).
 - F. With prior notice, the well owner and/or well operator shall grant the MKR GSA staff access to inspect facilities in order to verify compliance with this Policy. The GSA will contact the landowner or representative to determine the desired inspection date.
 - G. Groundwater well flow meters are required to be certified every five years or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations by a qualified professional with supporting documentation provided to the MKR GSA.
 - H. Groundwater well flow meters are required to be certified if at any point MKR GSA's estimates of groundwater use differ more than 15% from totalized flow meter records.
 - I. Industrial wells and wells serving public water systems are required to be metered in accordance with this policy. Wells used to service animal confinement facilities, including dairies are not considered industrial wells.
 - J. Water use at animal confinement facilities, including dairies, will be metered or measured in accordance with the 4Creeks "*Net Groundwater Consumption within Dairy Facility Area*" report for the footprint of the facility and ET data for land in production.

ENFORCEMENT- VIOLATION

- A. Penalties. Any person, firm or corporation, whether acting as principal, agent, employer or otherwise, who violates any provision of this Policy, or the terms and/or conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Policy, may be punishable by a fine per violation as presented below:

Violation	Fine
1st	Written notice of violation with at least 90 days to comply
2nd	\$500 with at least 90 days to comply
3rd or more	Up to \$1000 per violation as determined by MKR Board

Landowners may appeal any violation notice to the MKR GSA Board.

- B. Civil Action - Injunctive Relief. MKR GSA may elect additionally, or alternatively, to proceed with a civil action, including, but not limited to, seeking injunctive relief, rather than, or in addition to other actions described in subsection (A) of this section. Any person, firm or corporation, whether acting as principal, agent, employer or otherwise, who willfully violates any provision of this Policy, or the terms and/or conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Policy, may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for each day or portion thereof, that the violation continues to exist. In determining the amount of the civil penalty to impose, the court shall consider all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the administrative and legal costs incurred by the MKR GSA to address the violation, the extent of the harm caused by the conduct constituting the violation, the nature and persistence of such conduct, the length of time over which the conduct occurred, and any corrective action taken (and timing of such corrective action), or lack thereof, by the violator.

SEVERABILITY

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Policy is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Policy. The MKR GSA Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have passed this Policy, and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared invalid.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy will be in effect until June 1, 2027 or until as otherwise modified by the Mid Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

The Policy shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and prior to expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage thereof, shall be published by title and summary on the MKR GSA's website together with the names of members of the MKR GSA Board of Directors voting for and against the same.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Name, Title

Cc:



Date: May 13, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mid Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Subject: Consider the adoption of a revised Recharge Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Background

At the Mid-Kings River GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting held on March 24, 2025, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee voted unanimously (of members present) to recommend that the Mid Kings River GSA Board adopt a revised Recharge Policy for the Mid Kings River GSA.

Request

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

RE: ***INITIAL PRIVATE GROUNDWATER RECHARGE POLICY***

(revised April 13, 2025, 2025)

County of Kings

City of Hanford

AN MKR GSA POLICY TO ALLOW PRIVATE
GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FOR FUTURE RECOVERY BEYOND
FUTURE GROUNDWATER

ALLOCATIONS. The policy hereby contains as follows:

Doug Verboon
Chair

Joe Neves

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Rusty Robinson

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

I. The Mid-Kings River GSA (MKR GSA) is committed to sustainably managing groundwater in its jurisdictional area, consistent with views of significant and unreasonable undesirable results as set out in the Mid-Kings River GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (MKR GSP).

II. The MKR GSA plans to develop initial groundwater pumping allocations and a projected allocation ramp-down as part of SGMA compliance efforts.

III. Landowners within the MKR GSA have expressed interest in pursuing private groundwater recharge efforts using floodwater to increase their allowable groundwater pumping in future dry years.

IV. The MKR GSA places the following limitations/restrictions on the use of diverted floodwater for recharge:

- Any barn, ponds, or lands to which manure or waste from an animal facility that generates waste from the feeding and housing of animals for more than 45 days per year in a confined area that is not vegetated are applied;
- Any agricultural field where pesticide or fertilizer application has occurred in the prior 30 days or in the period prohibited by applicable law, whichever is longer; and
- Any area that could cause damage to critical levees, infrastructure, wastewater and drinking water systems, drinking water wells or drinking water supplies, or exacerbate the threat of flood and other health and safety concerns.

V. The MKR GSA wishes to support the efforts to responsibly increase local recharge while acknowledging that there is much work to be done before a robust GSA policy on the matter is developed. MKR GSA intends to adopt this initial policy, putting in place several guidelines that will avoid negative impacts from the efforts.

VI. This is an initial policy and no assurance is given that this policy will not be modified or altered as additional information and experience occurs.

VII. Giving landowners recharge credit that can be used to justify future pumping will bring a significant administrative and monitoring burden on the MKR GSA. Landowners should expect that fees will be applied to the recharge amounts in the future when the administrative burden is better understood.

VIII. Finally, for the reasons set forth above, the MKR GSA Board of Directors finds that the adoption of this Policy will aid and promote the sustainable management of groundwater.

DEFINITIONS

aquifer — are geological formations saturated with groundwater which contain a body of rock or sediment that is sufficiently porous and permeable to store, transmit, and yield significant quantities of groundwater to wells and springs.

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, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels unless included pursuant to Section 10722.5.

groundwater recharge — means the augmentation of groundwater, by natural or artificial means .

groundwater recharge facility — A structure that serves to conduct surface water into the ground for the purpose of replenishing groundwater. The facility may consist of dug or constructed spreading basins, pits, ditches, furrows, streambed modifications, or injection wells.

Infiltration rate — The quantity of water that can enter the soil in a specified time interval.

natural recharge — Replenishment of an aquifer generally from snowmelt and runoff, through seepage from the surface. Recharge of an aquifer that occurs without human interference

percolation — The process in which water moves through a porous material, usually surface water migrating through soil toward a groundwater aquifer.

precipitation —The amount of water that falls to the earth as rain, snow, hail, or is formed on the earth as dew, and frost.

INITIAL PRIVATE GROUNDWATER RECHARGE POLICY

A. REGISTRATION

Parties within the MKR GSA that wish to pursue private groundwater recharge efforts to justify future groundwater pumping must register the fields or facilities where recharge would occur with the GSA prior to the effort beginning. Information like County APN, canal turnout locations, groundwater well location, groundwater well completion reports and other relevant items will need to be provided.

B. MONITORING

If landowners want to use recharge to justify future pumping, they must agree to allow GSA to access their property for monitoring with appropriate prior notice.

C. CREDIT AGAINST FUTURE PUMPING

- 1) The surface water must be applied directly into a specific groundwater recharge facility that meets MKR requirements. MKR will provide the landowners with documentation that confirms the acreage and location of the facility and that it meets the requirements of this policy.
- 2) All cost of establishing and construction of the dedicated groundwater recharge facility are the responsibility of the landowner.
- 3) All surface water diverted to the landowner is required to be metered or use another standard measuring method approved by MKR.
- 4) Surface water diverted into dedicated recharge facilities will be credited to the landowner at 90% of the surface water diverted. The remaining 10% credit will remain with MKR for the benefit of all landowners.
- 5) Groundwater credits will only be generated for different aquifers as follows unless the landowner provides additional supporting data:
 - i. Both A- and B- aquifers as identified in the MKR GSP from surface recharge
 - ii. C-aquifer as identified in the MKR GSP if the recharge specially occurs in that aquifer
- 6) The groundwater credits issued to landowners can be carried over to subsequent years for a maximum of 5 years. The groundwater recharge credits can be transferred to other landowners within MKR based upon the requirements of the forthcoming Groundwater Extraction Allocation Policy.
- 7) These provisions will also apply for recharge on fallow ground that will not be farmed in that year but that has not been designated as a groundwater recharge facility. Those deliveries will be eligible for 75% credit of the measured water applied minus any ET values for the ground.

- 8) These provisions will also apply to surface water applied to land currently in agricultural production, commonly referred to as Flood-MAR. Those deliveries will be eligible for 75% credit of the measured water applied minus any ET values. Recharge is not permitted on any agricultural land where pesticide or fertilizer application has occurred in the prior 30 days or in the period prohibited by applicable law, whichever is longer. In addition, the land must comply with requirements of CV-Salts Program.
- 9) Recharge on open fields will use the surface water diversion flow meter readings minus the ET readings for the fields in the month recharge occurred.
- 10) Treated wastewater from industrial processing, dairies, or municipal sources may be used for recharge if it will not impact nor degrade water quality. Landowners wishing to use this water should contact the GSA prior to application.
- 11) Recharge credits will be credited to the landowner account in the water year that they occur, and any unused credits will carryover on a 5-year basis. At the start of year 6, the oldest credits will expire ensuring that only the most recent five years of credits are available for use. The recharge credits will be in accordance with the forthcoming Groundwater Allocation Policy.

D. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FACILITIES

Appropriate information must be provided by the facility owner to quantify the volume of water being recharged in percolation ponds/basins. Water account and project specific information provided by the water user shall remain as confidential as possible within State law. The amount of groundwater credit received will be allocated based on the supporting documentation and subject to staff's review. All recharge facilities must be approved by MKR to receive credit. The following checklist is required for approval:

- Land selected for this activity must be favorable for passive recharge.
- A geotechnical investigation report stamped by a professional geologist or engineer must be provided to MKR for review and approval.
- Installation of a dedicated water meter or another standard measuring method to measure the amount of water delivered to the recharge project.
- The facility needs to be isolated from the landowner's irrigation system or have separate meters for any discharge.
- Documentation of source of water, place of diversion and amount of diversion

E. OVER-APPLICATION OF FLOODWATER

During a flood event, MKR will provide credit to landowners that have floodwaters on parcels above irrigation demand (as measured by ET). Appropriate information must be provided by the Landowner to quantify the volume of water being recharged on fields. The amount of groundwater credit received will be allocated based on the supporting documentation and subject to MKR review.

ENFORCEMENT - VIOLATION

If parties do not follow the requirements of this initial policy, the effort will not be allowed for use to justify future pumping.

SEVERABILITY

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Policy is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Policy. The MKR GSA Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have passed this Policy, and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared invalid.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Policy shall retroactively take effect as of May 1, 2023 and shall be published by title and summary on the MKR GSA's website together with the names of members of the MKR GSA Board of Directors voting for and against the same.