KINGS SUBBASIN UPDATES

NFK Board Approves Preliminary GSA Development Framework

At their April 12 meeting, the North Fork Kings (NFK) Board considered and approved a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development framework that will allow them to begin gathering information necessary to address required elements of a GSP. The strawman framework was based on two guidance documents produced by the Department of Water Resources that provide a suggested outline and a checklist for GSP development. NFK's will now begin drafting a series of topical memos and whitepapers that will provide a foundation for preparing a draft and final GSP.

The North Fork Kings GSA covers approximately 168,400 acres and is located in the southwest portion of the Kings Subbasin. The Board meets quarterly on the second Wednesday in January, April, July,
McMullin Area Holds Hearing, Launches Website

The McMullin Area Board held a public hearing on April 5 and took action to file paperwork with the State declaring the agency’s intent to be the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for a portion of the Kings Subbasin. It is anticipated that the GSA notification package will be submitted to the DWR by the beginning of May.

The Board also approved an outreach strategy to stakeholders that includes the launching of the website, www.McMullinArea.org. The website provides updates on activities including information about meetings, committees, and outreach events. Stakeholders will also be able to sign-up on the website to receive e-mail updates specific to the McMullin Area GSA.

The McMullin Area covers approximately 121,000 acres and is located in the northwest portion of the Kings Subbasin. For more information visit McMullinArea.org.

North Kings GSA Forms Ad Hoc Committees

At their January 20 meeting, the North Kings Board created three ad hoc committees; a Technical Subcommittee, Administrative Fiscal Subcommittee, and a Membership/Outreach/Communication Subcommittee. The committees were envisioned when the GSA was first being formed as a mechanism for public participation since membership on the ad hoc committees was not limited to parties of the Joint Powers Agreement. The Board also set the standing meeting time for the Advisory Committee as the second Friday of the month at 1:30 pm in Clovis.

The North Kings GSA covers approximately 312,200 acres and is located in the northern portion of the Kings Subbasin. Starting in January 2017, the North Kings GSA will meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the Fresno Irrigation District office. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the North Kings Webpage.

Central Kings Files with DWR to Form a GSA

The Central Kings GSA is comprised of a number of local agencies that plan to have memoranda of understanding with Consolidated Irrigation District. The local agencies that will comprise the Agency include: Consolidated Irrigation District, the Counties of Fresno, Kings, and Tulare.

On February 8, the Consolidated Irrigation District Board, acting as the Agency, opened a noticed public hearing. The public hearing was closed on March 8. After holding the public hearing, the Board adopted a resolution electing to become a GSA in a portion of the Kings Subbasin. The Agency intends to work collaboratively with other formed GSA’s in the Kings Subbasin to jointly manage groundwater and to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Agency is planning to negotiate a memorandum of understanding, or other forms of agreements with other formed GSA’s within the Kings Subbasin for the purpose of implementing cooperative, coordinate structure for the management of groundwater and the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The Central Kings GSA covers approximately 160,000 acres and is located in the central portion of the...
TULARE LAKE SUBBASIN UPDATES

The Tulare Subbasin agencies have been busy filing the paperwork to form the six GSAs that will cover the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Each of these GSAs are forming as joint powers authorities. To learn more about SGMA implementation activities in the Tulare Lake Subbasin go to the links below.

- South Fork Kings Files Formation Papers
- Mid-Kings River GSA Files Formation Papers
- Southwest Kings Files Files Formation Papers
- Alpaugh Irrigation District GSA Deemed Exclusive
- Tri-County Water Authority GSA Formation Progressing

South Fork Kings Files Formation Papers

Following the South Fork Kings (SFK) Board's Public Hearing on March 8, a notice to DWR was filed to become the GSA for the area covered by the South Fork Kings boundaries. After a 90-day period, the SFK GSA will be exclusive on June 20.

The South Fork Kings Area covers approximately 67,300 acres and is located in the northwest portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. It is formed as a Joint Powers Authority by the County of Kings, City of Lemoore, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Stratford Irrigation District, and Stratford Public Utility District. For more information visit SouthForkKings.org.

Mid-Kings River Files Formation Papers

The Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency filed their formation papers with DWR in early February. It is anticipated that the Mid-Kings River will be deemed exclusive on May 10.

The Mid-Kings River GSA covers over 100,000 acres and is located in the northeastern portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. It is formed as a Joint Powers Authority by the County of Kings, Kings River Water District, and the City of Hanford.
Southwest Kings Files Formation Papers

The Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) filed formation papers with the Department of Water Resources in late March. The GSA is identified as having an overlap. The Southwest Kings GSA is a Joint Powers Authority consisting of Dudley Ridge Water District, Tulare Lake Reclamation District No. 761, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, Kettleman City Community Services District and the County of Kings.

The Southwest Kings GSA covers approximately 89,889 acres and is located in the southwestern portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Alpaugh Irrigation District GSA Deemed Exclusive

On December 2, 2016 the Alpaugh Irrigation District held a public hearing and passed a resolution to become a GSA for a portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. The notice with DWR was posted on December 15. The 90-period expired in mid-March allowing the agency to be deemed the exclusive GSA for a portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin covered by the Alpaugh Irrigation District.

The Alpaugh Irrigation District GSA covers approximately 2,632 acres and is located in the southeastern portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Tri-County Water Authority GSA Formation Progressing

The Tri-County Water Authority GSA has filed eight separate formation notifications with the Department of Water Resources. Currently, six of the eight have been deemed exclusive. Two of the eight are identified as having overlaps.

The Tri-County Water Authority GSA covers approximately 47,530 acres and is located in the southern portion of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. It is formed as a Joint Powers Authority by the Angiola Water District and the Deer Creek Storm Water District.

OTHER NEWS

- State Intervention Fees Will be Costly
- Water Scarce for Recharge New Report Shows
State Intervention Fees Will Be Costly

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to develop groundwater sustainability plans that will bring basins into sustainability within 20 years of plan implementation. If locals are unable or unwilling to sustainably manage their basin, the State Water Resources Control Board is authorized to intervene. State intervention can only be triggered by one of the following events:

- **7/1/2017**: No GSA for entire basin
- **2/1/2020**: Basin is in critical overdraft and there is no plan or DWR fails plan
- **2/1/2022**: No plan or DWR fails plan and basin is in long-term overdraft
- **2/1/2025**: DWR fails plan and basin has significant surface water depletions

The State Water Board is responsible for setting and collecting fees to recover the costs associated with state intervention. The proposed schedule of fees is tied to the "level" of state intervention occurring in a basin. Each level is associated with particular types of activities increasing staff workloads and other costs.

1. **Unmanaged Area**: An unmanaged area is a portion of a basin not within the service area of a GSA. Extractors in unmanaged areas must submit annual reports to the Board. Board staff will have to identify unmanaged extractors, collect and review reports, verify extraction data, and evaluate the impact of unmanaged extractors on groundwater conditions in a basin.

2. **Probationary Basin**: If local failure triggers state intervention, the Board may designate the basin "probationary." Extractors in probationary basins are required to submit annual extraction reports to the Board. In addition to the workload associated with locating extractors in a basin and managing reports, Board staff will have to evaluate basin conditions and investigate potential solutions for unsustainable conditions.

3. **Interim Plan**: In certain cases, the Board will need to directly manage extractions in a basin. In those instances, the Board must develop an interim plan that contains corrective actions, a timeline to make the basin sustainable, and a monitoring plan to ensure corrective actions are working. Interim plan activities will significantly increase Board staff workloads.

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### Proposed Schedule of Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Category</th>
<th>Annual Fee Amount</th>
<th>Applicable Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Filing Fee</td>
<td>$300 per well</td>
<td>All extractors required to report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmanaged Area Rate</td>
<td>$10 per acre-foot, if metered</td>
<td>Extractors in unmanaged areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$25 per acre-foot, if unmetered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationary Basin Rate</td>
<td>$40 per acre-foot</td>
<td>Extractors in probationary basins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Plan Rate</td>
<td>$55 per acre-foot</td>
<td>Extractors in probationary basins where the Board determines an interim plan is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De minimis Fee</td>
<td>$100 per well</td>
<td>Parties that extract, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year from a probationary basin, if the Board decides the extractions will likely be significant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Fee</td>
<td>25% of total fee amount per month late</td>
<td>Extractors that do not file reports by the due date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Fee Examples

1. The following table highlights how the different levels of state intervention would impact the annual fees required of a hypothetical 50-acre farm that extracts 175 acre-feet of groundwater (3.5 acre feet/acre) each year from a single well:
2. The following table highlights how the different levels of state intervention would impact the annual fees required of a hypothetical municipal water supplier or industrial user extracting 5,000 acre fee/year from a single well:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Level</th>
<th>Rate per acre-foot</th>
<th>Total fee</th>
<th>Cost per acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unmanaged Area (metered)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$2,050</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmanaged Area (unmetered)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$4,675</td>
<td>$94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationary Basin</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$7,300</td>
<td>$146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Plan</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$9,925</td>
<td>$199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fees must be adopted, through an emergency regulation, by July 1, 2017. For more information go [Draft Emergency Regulation for State Intervention Fees](#).

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**DWR Releases the Water Available for Replenishment Report**

A first-of-its-kind analysis of California's water resources shows that bringing local groundwater basins into sustainable balance -- as state law demands -- will require investments and innovations in integrated water management including conservation, storm water capture, recycling, desalination, water transfers, diversion, conveyance and storage.

The new draft report by the California Department of Water Resources separates the state into 10 regions and analyzes water supply and demand in each region in order to estimate how much surface water could be available to replenish groundwater basins. The "Water Available for Replenishment" report published in January 2017 is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and will be used by the leaders of newly formed local sustainable groundwater management agencies as they draft sustainability plans that are due in 2020 for critically overdrafted basins and two years later for all remaining high-and medium-priority basins.

The draft "Water Available for Replenishment" provides a visual depiction of supply and demand in each region. It shows, for example, that demand for water, conveyed imports of water from other regions and groundwater pumping is highest in the Tulare Basin of the southern San Joaquin Valley. Runoff, natural recharge, and outflow are highest in the North Coast. The estimated water available for replenishing groundwater basins is highest in the Sacramento River Region, approximately 640,000 acre-feet a year. (An acre-foot is roughly enough water to supply the needs of two average households for a year or to irrigate a third of an acre of cropland.) By comparison, the amount of water estimated available for recharge annually in the Tulare Basin is 50,000 acre-feet.

The report takes into account the existing flow requirements for streams and considers potential new infrastructure to divert water based upon the capacity of existing facilities. The report also examines the reliability of the statewide water projects that supply one-third of the state’s irrigated farmland and two-thirds of the state’s population. Water deliveries from these projects has reduced groundwater overdraft in many basins in the state; however, the average deliveries of water has declined in recent years due to drought and as state and federal agencies address the challenges of balancing water supply and competing needs. Project operators restrict pumping and provide flows to protect water quality and species listed under the state and federal endangered species acts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and tributaries. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate these challenges. For more information, go to DWR's BMP webpage [http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/bmps.cfm](http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/bmps.cfm).
RESOURCES

For additional SGMA information, go to the links below.

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Text
- Kings River Region Groundwater Portal
- Department of Water Resources SGMA Website
- State Water Resources Control Board SGMA Website