

Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Version 1.0



June 2024

PREPARED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH





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Attachments

- Attachment A. Technical Assistance Claim Application
- Attachment B. Claims Process – Assessment
- Attachment C. Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement
- Attachment D. Mitigation Program Consistency with SGMA Regulations
- Attachment E. Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Measures Action Plan (PPAP)



If you have experienced a loss of drinking water, please contact **Self-Help Enterprises** at **(559) 802-1685**. Self-Help Enterprises is available to assist with accessing emergency drinking water and interim drinking water supplies.

For claims regarding drinking water wells (including agricultural wells used for drinking water purposes), please fill out the online intake form on Self-Help Enterprises' website:

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>

For claims regarding non-drinking water wells (such as agricultural wells) and critical infrastructure, please contact your respective Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):

East Kaweah GSA

315 E. Lindmore Ave
Lindsay, CA 93247
Phone Number: (559) 697-6095
Website: ekgsa.org
Email: groundwater@ekgsa.org
General Manager: Mike Hagman

Greater Kaweah GSA

2975 N. Farmersville Rd
Farmersville, CA 93223
Phone Number: (559) 302-9987
Website: greaterkaweahgsa.org
Email: info@greaterkaweahgsa.org
General Manager: Mark Larsen

Mid-Kaweah GSA

6826 Ave 240
Tulare, CA 93274
Phone Number: (559) 686-3425
Website: midkaweah.org
General Manager: Aaron Fukuda

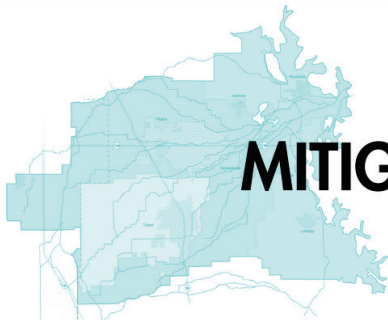


Si experiencia pérdida de agua potable, comuníquese con **Self-Help Enterprises** al **(559) 802-1685**. Self-Help Enterprises está disponible para ayudarle con el acceso a agua potable de emergencia y suministros provisionales de agua potable.

Para reclamos relacionados con pozos de agua potable (incluidos los pozos agrícolas utilizados para fines de agua potable), complete el formulario de admisión en línea en el sitio web de Self-Help Enterprises:

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>

Para reclamos relacionados con pozos de agua no potable (como pozos agrícolas) e infraestructura crítica, comuníquese con su respectiva Agencia de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSA) a través de la información de contacto anterior.



Kaweah Subbasin MITIGATION PROGRAM

VERSION 1.0
JUNE 2024

ATTENTION

What is the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program?

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program (Version 1.0) is a subbasin-wide program intended to provide mitigation services and technical assistance for those impacted by groundwater overdraft conditions, such as: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, land subsidence, and groundwater quality induced by pumping-related changes in groundwater levels. The Mitigation Program includes two tracks (described in the following two pages).



If your household has lost access to drinking water, please call Self-Help Enterprises at your earliest convenience to arrange emergency bottled water supplies within 24-hours and an interim measure (such as a water tank) within 72-hours. Tenants or well owners may call to arrange.

 **(559) 802-1685**

 www.selfhelpenterprises.org

 8445 W Elowin Ct
Visalia CA



Drinking Water Well Track

Technical Assistance Track

domestic (house) wells



multi-use drinking water wells



small community wells



agricultural wells



critical infrastructure (pipelines, canals, etc)



non-potable industrial wells (non-drinking water)




other wells not used for drinking water purposes




For questions regarding the Mitigation Program, contact your GSA


EAST KAWEAH GSA

 (559) 697-6095

 www.ekgsa.org

 315 E Lindmore Ave, Lindsay, CA


GREATER KAWEAH GSA

 (559) 302-9987

 www.greaterkaweahgsa.org

 2975 Farmersville Rd, Farmersville, CA

MID-KAWEAH GSA

 (559) 686-3425

 www.midkaweah.org

 6826 Ave 240, Tulare, CA



KAWEAH SUBBASIN MITIGATION PROGRAM VERSION 1.0

Available
June 2024

DRINKING WATER WELL MITIGATION TRACK

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program's Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track is intended to provide emergency and interim drinking water supplies and long-term mitigation for those experiencing a loss of access to drinking water due to groundwater overdraft conditions such as chronic lowering of groundwater levels, subsidence, and/or water quality induced by groundwater management in the Kaweah Subbasin. If translation services are needed, please contact Self-Help Enterprises to arrange.

If your household has lost access to drinking water, please call Self-Help Enterprises at your earliest convenience to arrange emergency bottled water supplies within 24-hours and an interim measure (such as a water tank) within 72-hours. Tenants or well owners may call to arrange access to emergency and interim supplies; however, well owners are required to submit claims to receive long-term solutions.



(559) 802-1685



www.selfhelpenterprises.org



8445 W Elowin Ct, Visalia CA



WHO CAN SUBMIT A CLAIM?



CRITERIA FOR A CLAIM TO QUALIFY

- 1 The well was impacted after January 1, 2015, and has undergone the on-site assessment via the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program claims process.
- 2 The well or critical infrastructure impact was induced by overdraft conditions associated with the GSA's groundwater management.
- 3 The well or system of wells shall not have contributed to overdraft by pumping in excess of their individual prorata share of the sustainable yield for the GSA or contributed to other undesirable results. **This criterion does not apply to domestic (house) wells*

CLAIMS PROCESS

- Well user (owner or tenant) contacts Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) upon loss of drinking water supplies to receive emergency bottled water within 24 hours and interim supplies system within 72 hours.
- The well owner then fills out an online intake form or calls SHE for assistance <https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>
- SHE staff perform site assessment and gather information from well owner.
- SHE, GSA staff, and technical committee(s) evaluate the likely causation of well failure to determine if the claim qualifies for funding via the Mitigation Program or an alternative program.
- If the claim qualifies for any program that SHE administers, then SHE will arrange for long-term a solution and serve as the lender.
- If the claim qualifies for the Mitigation Program, then the GSA will reimburse SHE for all materials and administrative, technical, and mitigation services associated with the claim.



KAWEAH SUBBASIN MITIGATION PROGRAM VERSION 1.0 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRACK

Available
June 2024 for
EKGSA

Available
June 2025 for
MKGSA & GKGSA
Contact MKGSA or GKGSA to
arrange interim technical support
before June 2025.

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program’s Technical Assistance Track is intended to provide GSA funding and/or technical resources to identify meaningful solutions to non-drinking water well and/or critical infrastructure (pipelines, canals, etc) that are impacted by overdraft conditions within the Kaweah Subbasin.

EAST KAWEAH GSA

(559) 697-6095

www.ekgsa.org

315 E Lindmore Ave, Lindsay, CA

GREATER KAWEAH GSA

(559) 302-9987

www.greaterkaweahgsa.org

2975 Farmersville Rd, Farmersville, CA

MID-KAWEAH GSA

(559) 686-3425

www.midkaweah.org

6826 Ave 240, Tulare, CA

WHO CAN SUBMIT A CLAIM?



CRITERIA FOR A CLAIM TO QUALIFY

- 1 The well or critical infrastructure was impacted after January 1, 2015, and has undergone the on-site assessment via the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program claims process.
- 2 The well or critical infrastructure impact was induced by overdraft conditions associated with the GSA’s groundwater management.
- 3 The well or system of wells shall not have contributed to overdraft by pumping in excess of their individual prorata share of the sustainable yield for the GSA or contributed to other undesirable results.
**This criterion does not apply to claims for critical infrastructure*

CLAIMS PROCESS

- Well or critical infrastructure owner contacts their respective GSA staff to set up a meeting to fill out the claim application together and discuss the program.
- Following the initial meeting, GSA staff and/or a technical contractor will perform a site assessment and analyses to determine the likely causation of well or infrastructure impacts.
- GSA staff and technical committee review findings of assessment and determine if the claim qualifies for technical assistance funding via the Mitigation Program.
- If the claim qualifies via the Mitigation Program, the GSA and Claimant (well/infrastructure owner) will enter an agreement and the GSA will fund technical assistance to support long-term solution(s) to the impacted well or critical infrastructure.



Introduction

The Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) agree to implement a subbasin-wide Mitigation Program, which entails the GSAs implementing individual Mitigation Plans that follow the coordinated framework outlined in this Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Version 1.0, including a common Claim Process and outreach commitments (**Figure 1**).

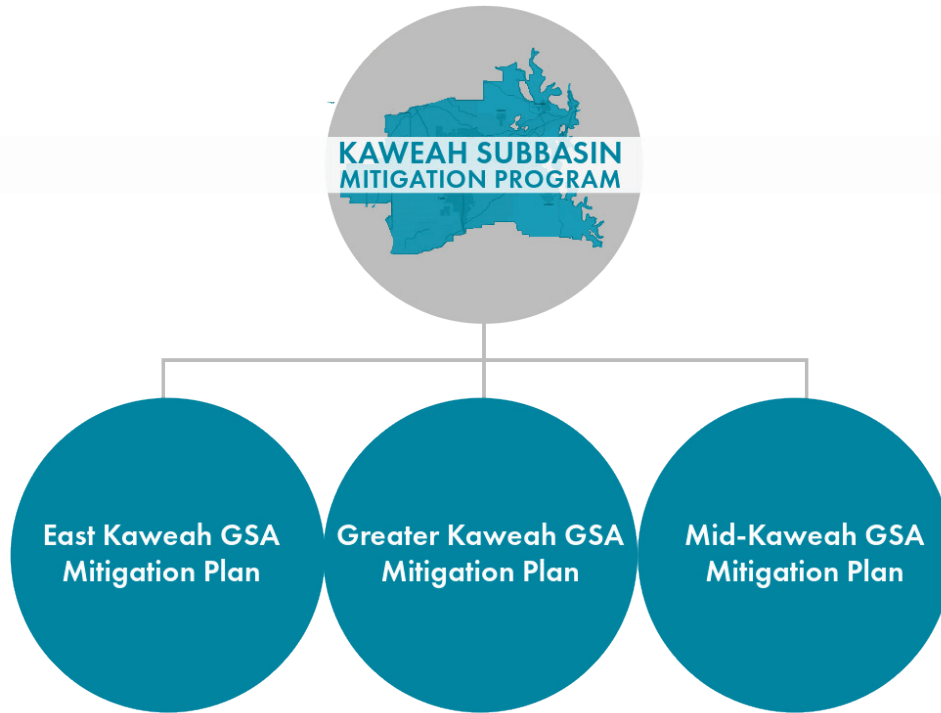


Figure 1. Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Coordination

In 2022, the three Kaweah Subbasin GSAs committed to a Mitigation Framework. The Mitigation Framework is included in Section 6 of the Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement contained in the First Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) (July 2022). This Program Amendment 1.0 includes revised clarification on the process, funding opportunities, and roles of the GSAs in the Program. Future amendments to this Program are expected, as the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs identify opportunities for clarification or improvements revealed through implementing the Mitigation Plans. The Mitigation Program aims to mitigate impacts induced by continued overdraft pumping that lowers groundwater levels, causes land subsidence and results in changes in groundwater quality.

The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are implementing projects and management actions to reach and maintain sustainability before 2040. The Mitigation Program and the GSA-specific Mitigation Plans are management actions of the Kaweah Subbasin GSPs intended to address impacts to production wells and critical infrastructure caused by overdraft conditions, as the benefits of the improvements in water management and projects require time to be realized. The GSAs recognize immediate changes are needed to achieve the sustainability goal of the Subbasin and have responded by implementing significant changes in demand management, supporting in-lieu recharge, and building recharge projects to proactively avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial users, uses, and property interests of the Kaweah Subbasin's groundwater supplies.



Program Description 354.44(a)

The Mitigation Program establishes requirements for mitigation of wells and critical infrastructure demonstrated to have been adversely affected by declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, and groundwater quality degradation associated with groundwater overdraft. Each GSA has discretion to expand beyond the requirements detailed in this Mitigation Program. **Figure 2** clarifies the claims qualification criteria.

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program offers two tracks for assistance, Drinking Water Well Mitigation and Technical Assistance for non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure. Important distinctions between the two tracks are listed below:

Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track

Available June 2024 for all Kaweah Subbasin GSAs

The Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program is intended for claims related to drinking water wells. Drinking water wells are defined as any well used to supply drinking water to a household. This may include but is not limited to domestic, community wells, and multi-purpose potable wells, such as wells that supply for irrigation and domestic purposes. The Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track becomes active upon all three GSA Board of Directors' adoption of this Mitigation Program in **Spring 2024**.

! Kaweah Subbasin constituents who are experiencing impacts to their drinking water well are encouraged to contact Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) at their earliest convenience to initiate the mitigation process and secure emergency drinking water supplies.

Self-Help Enterprises

(559) 802-1685

8445 W Elowin Ct
Visalia, CA 93291

An online intake form is available on SHE's website:

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>

More information on the partnership between SHE and the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs is available under the **Partnerships with Existing Programs** subsection.

Who is covered by the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track?

Private Domestic Well Owners

As stated in the California Water Code Section 106.3, "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." In the Kaweah Subbasin, many private residences in the small communities and rural portions of the area rely on private wells to meet their domestic water supply needs. As these wells are typically shallow, they are vulnerable to, among other things, lowered groundwater levels from overdraft conditions. A primary objective of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program is protection of the human right to water for the most vulnerable populations, which are residents who rely on individual domestic wells for their water supply.



The EKGSA Mitigation Plan is structured to ensure a drinking water supply for domestic well owners impacted by Kaweah Subbasin groundwater management.

Agricultural Well Owners Using Their Agricultural Well for Domestic Supply

Some private well owners use their wells for both domestic potable supply and irrigation. For these well owners, the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program stipulates full mitigation and funding for impacts attributed to GSA groundwater pumping.

Small Community Wells Owners

Small community wells/systems identified as being at-risk by the State Water Resources Control Board's metrics for small community wells will receive proactive mitigation via the Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program (**Attachment E**).

The GSAs have an ethical and financial interest in avoiding impacts to these small community wells and after consultations with local community well mitigation providers, it was determined the most effective and helpful mitigation for small community wells is to avoid the need for mitigation altogether. That said, the GSAs intend to avoid impacts to these community wells through a series of site-specific proactive measures, which may include but are not limited to the options listed below. The proactive measure(s) implemented will vary on a case-by-case basis.

- 1) Assess what next steps are needed to avoid or mitigate impacts to support Contingency Plan development and/or improvement
- 2) Develop or support development of Preliminary Engineer Reports for small community wells that have been stuck with lack of funding or resources to take the next steps in their own contingency plans
- 3) Implement groundwater pumping restriction policies near at-risk community wells
- 4) Host Financial Empowerment Workshops to map out long-term planning for resiliency and maintenance, with a focus on prioritizing future access to affordable drinking water
- 5) Support grant writing and cost-share, when funding and opportunities allow
- 6) Consider additional technical assistance that meets the unique needs of the at-risk small community well.

Although the claims process is designed more for private domestic and multi-use drinking water well owners, community well owners may still notify Self-Help Enterprises in the event of potential impacts to their well.

This process will establish continued trust-building with the leaders within these at-risk communities. Before proactive technical assistance/mitigation is underway, the GSAs are committed to meeting with community leaders to understand their unique challenges to map out the best strategy for contingency plans and supplemental assistance.

More information on the technical assistance/mitigation services available for small community water wells is available in **Attachment E**.

Technical Assistance Track

Available June 2024 for EKGSA and available June 2025 for GKGSA and MKGSA

The Technical Assistance Track of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation program is intended to fund Technical Assistance for qualifying claims related to non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure. Non-drinking water wells are defined as any production well used exclusively for non-potable purposes,



such as agricultural wells, etc. Critical infrastructure is defined as canals, levees, pipelines, roads, bridges, electrical lines, and railways. The Technical Assistance Track is planned to become available in **Spring 2025**, although GSAs may elect to initiate this Track of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program sooner¹.

Initial analyses of subsidence impacts on critical infrastructure will be funded by the GSA after impacts are observed. There is no existing information about subsidence impacts on most critical infrastructure and therefore analysis of impacts are not available at this time. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs have decided to implement the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track (Spring 2024) before the Technical Assistance Track (Spring 2025) to avoid delays in supporting community members' access to safe and reliable drinking water.

In the interim, the GSAs may offer interim technical assistance via sharing groundwater level, subsidence, and any other available data that may be helpful to the impacted entity. If interested in interim technical assistance for subsidence impacts to critical infrastructure, please contact your respective GSA to schedule a meeting to discuss further.

East Kaweah GSA
(559) 697-6095
groundwater@ekgsa.org

Greater Kaweah GSA
(559) 302-9987
info@greaterkaweahgsa.org

Mid-Kaweah GSA
(559) 686-3425

The following steps are in process and expected to be completed within the next year to inform a clearer and more robust Technical Assistance Track, especially for critical infrastructure.

- 1) Finalize modeling tools for assessing critical infrastructure impact analysis.
- 2) Identify which critical infrastructure are at risk of subsidence-induced impacts.
- 3) Revisit the Dry Well Susceptibility Analysis results and identify the count of non-drinking water wells at risk of impacts induced by the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.
- 4) Define the types of technical assistance that may be awarded to qualifying critical infrastructure and non-drinking water well claims.
- 5) Assign cost assumptions for likely technical assistance needs, and perform a technical assistance cost estimate for all critical infrastructure identified in step 2 and non-drinking water wells at risk of potentially being impacted by overdraft conditions.
- 6) Work with stakeholders and GSAs' Board of Directors to determine funding mechanism to generate sufficient funds for the technical assistance cost estimate from Step 5.

Version 1.0 claims process of the Technical Assistance Track is available in the **Non-Drinking Water Well and Critical Infrastructure Technical Assistance Claims Process** subsection of this Mitigation Program for GSAs electing to implement the Technical Assistance track in advance of Spring 2025. Version 2.0 (available Spring 2024 for EKGSA and Spring 2025 for MKGSA and GKGSA) is planned to include more clarity on what types of technical assistance would be available and what funding award amounts correlate to these different types of assistance.

Who is covered by the Technical Assistance Track?

¹ Subsidence in the Kaweah Subbasin generally correlates with the Corcoran Clay, which is exclusive within MKGSA and GKGSA. EKGSA has not experienced subsidence and is not underlain with the materials conducive to inelastic subsidence. Therefore, EKGSA may elect to implement the Technical Assistance Track with a focus on non-drinking water wells before MKGSA and GKGSA implement the Technical Assistance Track in Spring 2025.



Non-Potable Agricultural (Ag) Well Owners

Agricultural wells used exclusively for non-potable irrigation water supply that are impacted by overdraft conditions may be eligible for technical assistance from the Kaweah Subbasin to identify the cause of the impact, management actions to prevent further impacts, and mitigation options. Agricultural irrigation supply well owners (non-potable) will not be eligible for full mitigation (e.g. well replacement, lowering pumps, wellhead treatment, etc.).

Industrial Well Owners

Industrial wells used for non-potable water supply that are impacted by overdraft conditions may be eligible for technical assistance from the Kaweah Subbasin to identify the cause of the impact, management actions to prevent further impacts, and mitigation options. Industrial non-potable water supply well owners will not be eligible for full mitigation (e.g. well replacement, lowering pumps, wellhead treatment, etc.).

Critical Infrastructure Well Owners

Critical infrastructure (canals, levees, pipelines, roads, bridges, electrical lines, and railways) impacted by overdraft conditions may be eligible for technical assistance from the Kaweah Subbasin to identify the cause of the impact, management actions to prevent further impacts, and mitigation options.

Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Qualification Criteria

To qualify for mitigation or technical assistance via the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program, the following impact noted in the claim must meet the following criteria:

- 1 The impact shall have occurred after January 1, 2015.
- 2 The impact shall have been induced by groundwater overdraft conditions, such as:

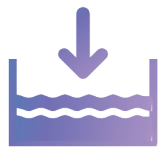


		
chronic lowering of groundwater levels	land subsidence	degraded groundwater quality induced by pumping-related changes in groundwater levels
- 3 Domestic wells are exempt from the following qualification criteria
The Claimant's well or system shall not have contributed to overdraft by pumping in excess of their individual prorata share of the sustainable yield for the GSA or contributed to other undesirable results.

Figure 2. Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Qualifications

Program Need

The Kaweah Subbasin has been in overdraft for many years, resulting in a significant lowering of regional and local groundwater levels. As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs plan to reach sustainability by 2040. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are each managing their respective areas to achieve sustainability by avoiding undesirable results, outlined in



each GSA's GSP. However, until then, groundwater levels in parts of the Subbasin may continue to decline and land subsidence may continue to occur while the GSAs implement projects and management actions to achieve sustainability by 2040. Declining groundwater levels created by overdraft during the implementation phase of the GSPs may also induce unintended, post-January 1, 2015 groundwater quality impacts. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are committed to mitigating such impacts.

Per the Mitigation Program and respective GSA Mitigation Plans, GSAs are required to address verified adverse impacts induced by overdraft for drinking water wells. Each GSA shall offer interim drinking water supplies and physical mitigation funding to qualifying impacted domestic well owners. The Mitigation Program will be expanded in Spring 2025 to offer technical assistance funding for impacted non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure within the Kaweah Subbasin.

Partnerships with Existing Mitigation Programs

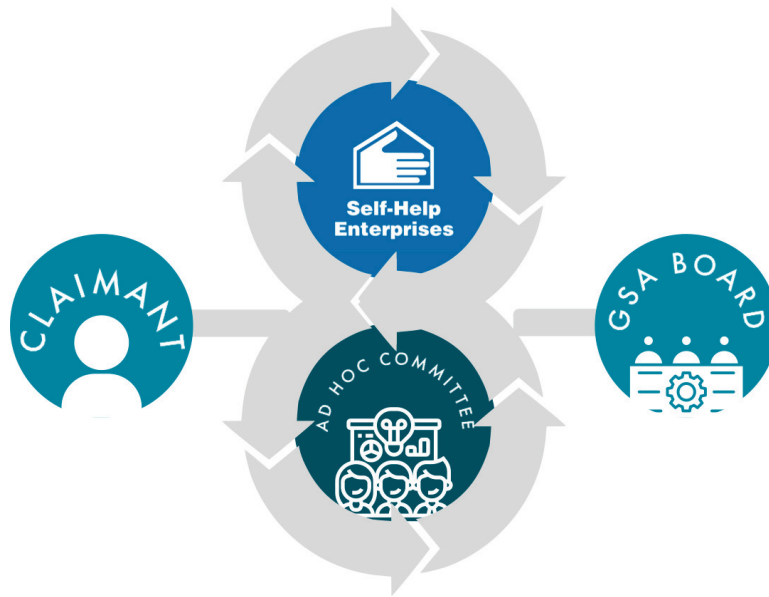
Two local programs currently offer mitigation support for those affected by impaired access to drinking water within the Kaweah Subbasin, (1) The Kaweah Water Foundation (KWF) and (2) Self-Help Enterprises (SHE). The KWF supplies free drinking water and water testing, and SHE offers emergency drinking water supplies, long-term mitigation support, and well stewardship educational resources for those that qualify under their program. Both local programs have been consulted for their feedback and recommendations in developing this Mitigation Program. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs were advised to use existing program infrastructure rather than interfere by developing competing programs.

The Kaweah Subbasin has entered into an agreement to financially support SHE's existing well mitigation, interim supplies, bilingual communications, and well stewardship educational services to implement the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program most effectively. The agreement between the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs and SHE is such that the GSAs shall reimburse SHE for costs associated with program administration, groundwater quality sampling, interim drinking water supplies, and long-term mitigation measures for all drinking water well claims that qualify for Kaweah Subbasin mitigation. SHE serves as a contract mediator and lender for the claimants to arrange mitigation with well drillers to perform the long-term physical mitigation. An organizational chart is available in [Figure 3](#) to explain the relationships between the Claimant, SHE, and a GSA.

There are many reasons why a well may experience operational failure. The GSAs are responsible for mitigating wells that have been impacted by overdraft conditions since January 1, 2015. Impacts from overdraft may be reflected by chronic lowering of groundwater levels dewatering a well, land subsidence causing structural damage to a well, and/or declining water levels introducing new groundwater quality contamination to a well. Therefore, the GSAs are responsible for reimbursing SHE for addressing claims in which the impact was induced by groundwater overdraft after January 1, 2015 (see [Claims Process](#) for more information on that determination). In instances in which a well is impaired for reasons other than overdraft conditions (such as mechanical failures, casing deterioration, etc.), SHE offers emergency drinking water assistance and mitigation through alternative programs. It is important to the GSAs and SHE to lessen the burden on drinking water claimants, where possible. The SHE partnership creates a "one-stop-shop" for emergency drinking water supplies and mitigation, and allows the financial exchanges to be handled by the GSA and SHE administrative teams.

All claims for non-drinking water wells, including critical infrastructure, shall be administered and a funding agreement initiated by the GSAs.

Drinking Water Mitigation Claims Organization



Non-Drinking Water Wells & Critical Infrastructure Technical Assistance Claims Organization



Figure 3. Organizational Chart

Evolving Program

As the GSAs gather data and understanding from changes in demand management, projects, improved analysis tools (including the revised Kaweah Subbasin model, pending completion in Spring 2024), and Well Registration Program, opportunities to refine the Mitigation Program are expected. In addition to improved data and analytics, lessons will be learned through the implementation of the Mitigation Program and associated Mitigation Plans. Costs to mitigate wells, provide interim supplies, and administration may also evolve over the 15+ year implementation horizon. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs intend the Mitigation Program to be iterative and evolve as new information, funding, and efficiencies are understood. In accordance with the Programs expected evolution, this initial Mitigation Program is identified as “Version 1.0” with the expectation of future revisions. **Figure 4** clarifies the Mitigation Program schedule and plans for Version 1.0 and the subsequent Version 2.0.

Figure 4. Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Schedule



Proactive Measures to Avoid the Need for Mitigation

In addition to the mitigation measures detailed in the Claims Process section below, the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program also implements proactive measures to avoid installing wells that may cause or contribute to undesirable results in the Kaweah Subbasin.

Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Plan (PPAP)

The Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program (PPAP) is in development to address at-risk small community well current and future challenges through contingency planning, strategic demand management policies, and resource sharing with the GSAs through strengthened relationships with small community well operators and administrators. The small community wells identified as being at-risk by the State Water Resources Control Board's metrics for small community wells will receive mitigation in the form of proactive technical assistance/mitigation via the PPAP which is developed in conjunction with the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program and GSA Mitigation Plans.

The GSAs have an ethical and financial interest in avoiding impacts to these small community wells and after consultations with local community well mitigation providers, it was determined the most effective and helpful mitigation for small community wells is to avoid the need for mitigation altogether. That said, the GSAs intend to avoid impacts to these community wells through a series of site-specific proactive measures, which may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Contingency plans to assess what next steps are needed to avoid or mitigate impacts
- 2) Preliminary Engineer Reports or other technical process documentation for small community wells that have been stuck with lack of funding or resources to take the next steps in their own contingency planning
- 3) Groundwater pumping restriction policies near at-risk community wells
- 4) Additional technical assistance that meets the unique needs of the at-risk small community well

This process will require continued trust-building with the leaders within these at-risk communities. Before proactive technical assistance/mitigation is underway, the GSAs are committed to meeting with community leaders to understand their unique challenges to map out the best strategy for contingency plans and supplemental assistance. The first phase, initial engagement, The five phases and their respective schedule is summarized in [Figure E-1 of Attachment E](#).

Well Permit Application Review

The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs have coordinated with Tulare County to receive all domestic and agricultural well permit applications, which provides the GSAs the information necessary to reach out to the landowner if the proposed well appears to be at-risk of experiencing impacts or if the well may induce impacts. In either case, the GSA will also provide recommendations on well depth, location, opportunities to connect to a municipal or small community well/system, etc. to support the applicant's groundwater access while avoiding unintended impacts as a result of new wells drilled without GSA consultation.

Well permit application review by the GSAs will use both the permit application and available data and resources to review the consider the following:

- The proposed location of the new well.
- The planned depth and perforated interval of the new well; GSA will determine from which aquifer (Upper, Lower, or Single) the well is planned to extract.
- The planned use of the water from the well (domestic supply, agricultural irrigation, etc.).



- Identifying the closest Representative Monitoring Sites to the proposed well to determine minimum thresholds for groundwater levels, water quality and subsidence.
- Identifying existing domestic wells and critical infrastructure in the area.
- Estimating current groundwater levels around the proposed well.

Well Registration Program

The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs have committed to developing a Well Registration Program to be completed in phases and available for full implementation in Spring 2026. The purpose of voluntary registration of wells is to create a baseline record for each well in the event of a future claim and to have the necessary information on file to identify at-risk domestic wells for notification and advance mitigation purposes. The Well Registration Program is designed to gather as much data on well construction, location, ownership, use, groundwater levels, and groundwater quality.

This can be particularly beneficial for drinking water wells, as many of these wells' construction, maintenance, exact location, site-specific groundwater levels and quality are considered a data gap. SGMA noted wells that extract less than 2 acre-ft per year were deemed De Minimis, and not required to participate in the GSP process. Existing domestic well records through the DWR include inactive and abandoned wells and documentation errors. The exact locations of most domestic wells are not well understood. The registration will require the well owner to provide information on well location, construction, water quality, and well maintenance history. Having a well registered will not be a prerequisite for Mitigation Plan qualification, but it should speed up the GSAs' assessment of claims, should it arise, because there is already background information on the well. Additionally, if a well is registered it may be possible to apply for mitigation before the well goes dry. Although there is an emphasis on domestic wells, all well types will be asked to voluntarily enroll in the program, as the more data and information available can improve water management, planning, and proactive efforts.

This management action requires considerable time and resource commitments to make usable. The upfront effort is for the GSAs to continue efforts to build trust in the local communities and communicate the benefits that well users will receive if enrolling (early notification and early processing). The GSAs are expecting there to be initial hesitation out of concern for the landowners' private data to become public and impact property values and future economic opportunities. That said, the Well Registration Program entails three primary phases listed below. Additional phases may be added as the program is being developed and implemented.

- Phase 1** (Summer 2024-Fall 2024): Initial outreach campaign and development of data and information forms (consider online submittal options). The initial outreach phase will require several months to continue trust building as there is expected to be an initial hesitance with landowners sharing their private data and information with a public agency. The outreach campaign will highlight the benefits of voluntarily enrolling, such as early risk notifications, reduced risk as GSAs will use this information to adapt management policies, and improvements in the GSAs' groundwater level and quality analyses which inform sustainability planning. Ongoing outreach is not clarified as a specific phase; however, it is a critical component of a successful Well Registration Program.
- Phase 2** (Fall 2024-Spring 2025): The well registration database is structured to receive registrants' data and information and beta tested. This may include incorporation of this database into the existing Data Management System.
- Phase 3** (Summer 2025): Voluntary well registration active and available for all well owners in the Kaweah Subbasin and risk notification and consideration of management changes proceeds for all at-risk wells.



An important element of the partnership between the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs and SHE is the data, information, and resource sharing across the agencies. This includes the opportunity for existing and future participants of SHE's emergency services to be educated on the importance of SGMA, data sharing, and existing GSA programs.

This management action is still in the conceptual phases and more information on the approach will be made available at GSA public meetings in early 2025.

Claims Process

The Mitigation Program's process is implemented at the GSA level through their respective Mitigation Plans, which include the claim process steps depicted in [Figure 5](#) and [Figure 6](#). There are separate processes for claims related to impacted drinking water wells ([Figure 5](#), available Spring 2024) and claims related to non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure ([Figure 6](#), available Spring 2024 for EKGSA and Spring 2025 for MKGSA and GKGSA). Drinking water well claims may qualify for funding for interim drinking water supplies and physical well mitigation. Non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure claims may qualify for funding for technical assistance.

Drinking Water Well Mitigation Claims Process

Claimants who have lost access to drinking water shall contact Self-Help Enterprises to initiate the mitigation application process. A mitigation agreement will be made with the landowner; however, tenants shall receive interim drinking water supplies, independent of land/well ownership.

For questions on the claims process or tenant questions on advocating for mitigation support with your landlord(s), please contact your respective GSA and/or Self-Help Enterprises.

Self-Help Enterprises

(559) 802-1685

8445 W Elwin Ct
Visalia, CA 93291

An online intake form is available on SHE's website. For assistance with submitting a claim or translation services, please call SHE. <https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>

East Kaweah GSA

(559) 697-6095

groundwater@ekgsa.org

315 E. Lindmore Ave, Lindsay, CA 93247

Greater Kaweah GSA

(559) 302-9987

info@greaterkaweahgsa.org

2975 N Farmersville Blvd, Farmersville, CA 93223

Mid-Kaweah GSA

(559) 686-3425

midkaweah@gmail.com

6826 Ave 240, Tulare, CA 93274



DRINKING WATER WELLS CLAIMS PROCESS

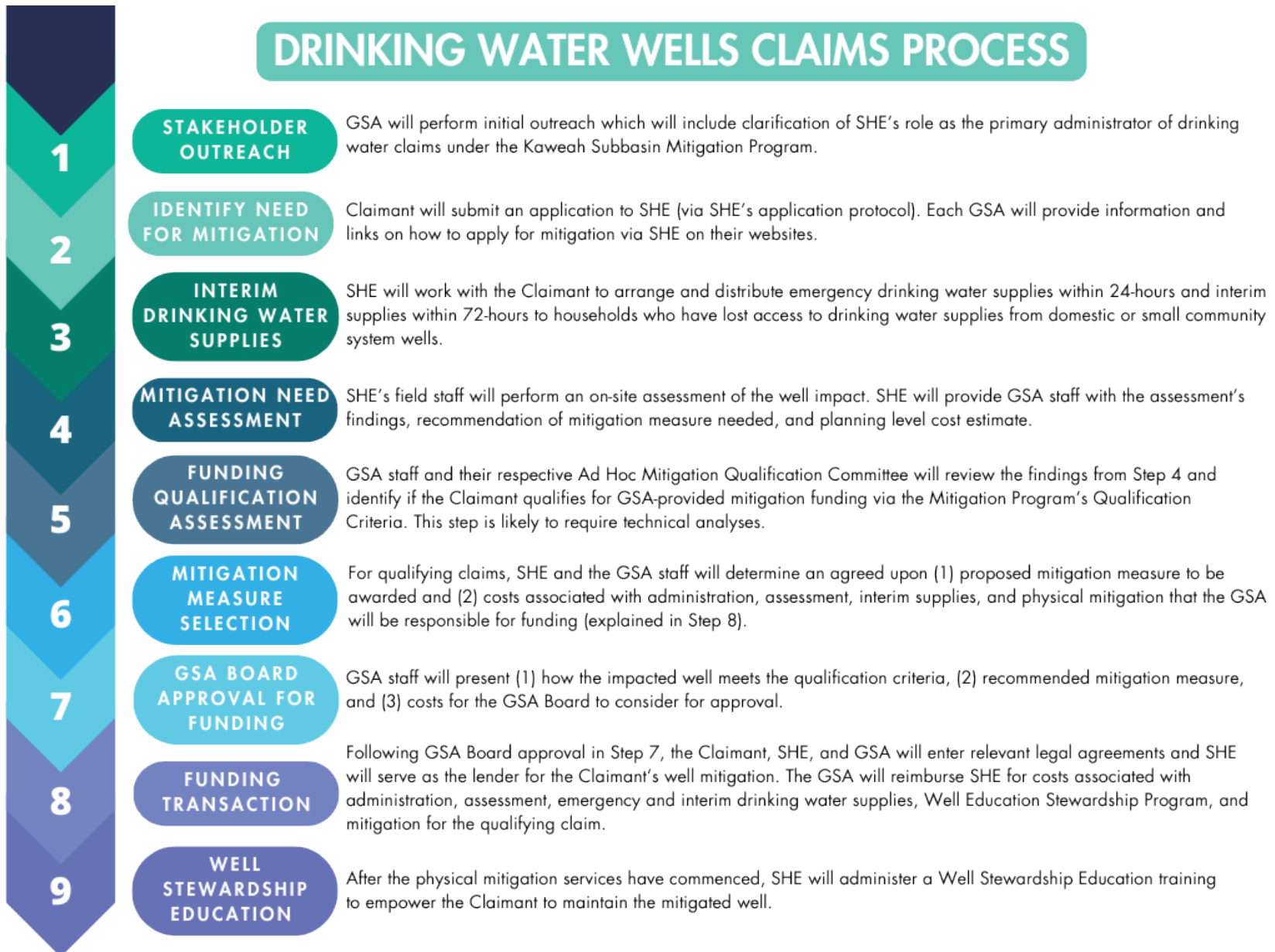


Figure 5. Drinking Water Claims Process



Step 1. Stakeholder Outreach

Public participation and communication are critical to implementing an effective Mitigation Program. Upon release of each GSA's Mitigation Plan, the GSAs will conduct an outreach program to inform domestic well owners and landowners of the availability of the Mitigation Program and how they can apply for assistance should their wells or land uses be impacted. Outreach will be provided in multiple languages as determined appropriate by the GSA. Outreach will continue throughout the process to maintain stakeholder engagement with the Mitigation Program. Effective outreach starts with public participation ahead of adoption; therefore, the initial stakeholder outreach must include at a minimum notification of the Mitigation Program, qualifications, and how to submit a claim via:

- Update on Mitigation Program progress at each GSA's respective advisory committee meeting (prior to Mitigation Plan adoption).
- Website notification (prior to Mitigation Plan adoption).
- Email notification to each GSA's listed stakeholders (prior to/following Mitigation Plan adoption).
- Mitigation Program Presentation and Q&A at the Kaweah Subbasins' shared community outreach events: (i.e. 2024 Groundwater Day), Dry Well Susceptibility Workshops which cover how the technical analyses informed the Mitigation Program funding feasibility and planning with drinking water advocacy groups, representing disadvantaged communities within the Subbasin (November 2023 and February 2024).

Continued Stakeholder Outreach must include at a minimum:

- At least three workshops in April through May 2024, following adoption of the Mitigation Program to notify the public of the resources, claims process, and opportunities available to support the local communities. At least one workshop shall be held in each GSA, preferably in an underrepresented community in English and Spanish translation services available. SHE shall partner with the GSAs in workshop outreach.
- Each GSA's respective advisory committee and Board of Directors must hold an agenda item to discuss Mitigation Plan implementation at least once every quarter.
- Each GSA must develop a notification-proactive warning criteria and notification system, intended to notify well users and critical infrastructure owners of groundwater conditions nearing the possibility of potential impacts to their well/infrastructure. Each GSA is to develop its own criteria for defining the proactive warning and notification protocol.
- GSAs must develop and keep an updated page on their respective websites that outlines the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program and their individual GSA Mitigation Plan. Materials explaining the process, mitigation and the application will be housed on this website page and accessible in English and Spanish.
- Domestic Well Education materials will be provided by SHE and/or the GSA following mitigation services or by request.

Step 2. Identify Need for Mitigation

For emergency drinking water supplies (24-hour turnaround) and interim supplies (72-hour turnaround), please call SHE to arrange **(559) 802-1685**. Claimants seeking long-term solutions for drinking water well impacts shall submit an application consistent with SHE's existing application protocol and system via their online in-take form (<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>). If assistance with submittal or translation services are needed, please call Self Help



Enterprises. Each GSA shall provide information on how to submit a drinking water mitigation claim to SHE with links to their website and contact information for the GSA and SHE. In addition, information on where immediate access to drinking water supplies shall also be available.

For example, the Kaweah Water Foundation free drinking water kiosks are available 24 hours a day at the following locations:

- Okieville on the corner of Road 48 & Avenue 229
- Hanford at the transit station at 200 Santa Fe Ave. #A, Hanford, CA 93230
- Farmersville at the Kaweah Delta Conservation District at 2975 N Farmersville Blvd, Farmersville, CA 93223

Claim applications must be submitted by landowners on whose property the adversely impacted well is located; however, in the event a tenant is experiencing loss of access to drinking water, the well user is encouraged to contact the GSA, and the GSA will work with SHE to notify the well owner how to apply for mitigation and the benefits of the Mitigation Program.

Step 3. Interim Drinking Water Supplies

Following the Claimant notifying SHE of the need for mitigation, SHE shall arrange emergency drinking water supplies within 24 hours in the form of bottled water for Claimants who have lost access to drinking water due to impacted domestic or small community wells. Interim supplies, which may include water tanks with delivered supplies, or other appropriate interim measures shall be arranged for these households within 72-hours. The GSAs shall fund and/or reimburse SHE for administering and supplying emergency and interim drinking water supplies for qualifying Claimants (see Step 7).

Step 4. Mitigation Need Assessment

SHE's field staff shall perform an initial assessment, to include a site visit and discussions with the landowner and/or tenants. Translation services for Spanish, Punjabi, and/or Hmong shall be made available by SHE, as needed. Following the assessment, SHE shall provide the GSA and Claimant with their findings, documentation, initial recommendation for mitigation needed, and a planning level cost estimate.

Step 5. Funding Qualification Assessment

Following the receipt of SHE's Mitigation Need Assessment findings, documentation, initial recommendation for mitigation needs, and planning level cost estimate, GSA staff and their respective Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committees shall review all materials. The Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committees may be composed of qualified technical contractors and/or GSA stakeholder committee members. The Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committee may review additional localized data, such as groundwater level trends, recent-historic subsidence, groundwater quality, land use, and more to determine if the Claim qualifies for funding reimbursement under the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program. To qualify for GSA funding reimbursement, the well impact must have (1) occurred after January 1, 2015, and (2) been induced by groundwater overdraft conditions ([Figure 2](#)).

To determine if an impact was induced by groundwater overdraft conditions, the Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committee will compare groundwater level trends local to the impacted well and compared to the well construction information, such as well completion depth, perforated intervals, pump depth, and nearby land use and groundwater extractions. If the impact is physical damage to the well casing and/or screen, recent-historic subsidence shall be evaluated.



If the Claimant's existing groundwater use is contributing to overdraft, such as extracting more than their native yield allocation, they shall not qualify for mitigation support from the GSAs. In these instances, the Claimant may be invited to a meeting with GSA staff to discuss ways the Claimant can improve their demand management and localized groundwater stewardship.

There may be limited data available, which may hinder the extent of the qualification assessment. The GSA staff shall coordinate with SHE and the Claimant, as needed, to determine reasonable mitigation solutions and impact attribution determinations.

Step 6. Mitigation Measure Selection Agreement

In cases where the claim meets the qualification criteria of the drinking water well being impacted by groundwater overdraft conditions and the impact occurring after January 1, 2015, SHE and GSA staff shall agree on the proposed mitigation and costs association with administering, assessing, and implementing the mitigation (including interim supplies). The GSA and SHE shall determine the appropriate funding mechanism, which may involve reimbursement following the completion of the long-term mitigation installation with an up-front deposit. The funding transaction protocol shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis until SHE and the GSAs have identified the most effective and efficient method. Lessons are expected to be learned during the first year of Mitigation Program implementation, and intentional flexibility is necessary to facilitate timely adoption of the Mitigation Program.

In cases where the claim does not meet the qualification criteria, the Claimant may qualify for mitigation support via other programs that SHE administers. SHE will work directly with those Claimants to discuss what options they may have. SHE and the GSA staff shall consider each claim on a case-by-case basis to identify the most effective long-term mitigation measure. Long-term mitigation for drinking water wells may include:

- Deepen the well.
- Construct a new well.
- Modify pump equipment, including lowering the pump.
- Consolidation with an existing water system in the vicinity.
- Establishment of a new small public water system.
- With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation.

Step 7. GSA Board Approval for Funding

Following SHE and GSA staff agreement on an appropriate mitigation measure for qualifying claims, GSA staff shall present the recommended mitigation measure and cost estimates for the GSA Board to consider approval for deposit and reimbursements. The GSA Board shall consider long-term mitigation reimbursement within one GSA Board Meeting cycle, following SHE and GSA staff completion of Step 6.

Step 8. Mitigation Funding Award

Following completion of all necessary legal and transactional agreements, SHE shall lend the Claimant funding to implement the agreed upon mitigation measure. SHE does not carry out the mitigation measures but acts as a contract coordinator and lender between the driller/pump contractor and the Claimant. The GSAs shall reimburse SHE for the funding lent to the Claimant for all mitigation support services, including interim supplies and Mitigation Program administration. SHE and the GSAs may agree to deposits to maintain sustainable cashflow for SHE's administration of the Mitigation Program.



Step 9. Well Stewardship Education

After the qualifying claim's long-term mitigation is implemented and the household is no longer provided interim supplies, the Claimant shall undergo Well Stewardship Training, hosted and coordinated by SHE. Following completion of the training, the Claimant will be supplied with educational resources to reference in the future (translation services available).



Non-Drinking Water Well and Critical Infrastructure Technical Assistance Claims Process

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program extends mitigation in the form of technical assistance funding to landowners or public agencies who have experienced impacts to their non-drinking water wells and/or critical infrastructure. The individual GSAs will detail how this technical assistance funding can be accessed in their respective Mitigation Plans.

Technical assistance funding is currently capped at \$25,000 per qualifying claim.

- For subsidence impacted non-drinking water wells, the GSA will provide technical assistance funds to offset the costs of designing and installing new wells with appropriate compression sleeves.
- For subsidence impacted critical infrastructure, the GSAs will use technical assistance funds to assess the degree to which groundwater activities because the infrastructure damage and agree with impacted landowners or public agencies on a mitigation approach. Because potential infrastructure costs cannot be estimated now, it is impossible to estimate ultimate mitigation costs. These technical assistance funds are intended to initiate the critical infrastructure mitigation process.

To qualify, the impacts must be induced by groundwater overdraft and have occurred after January 1, 2015. If the Claimant is contributing to overdraft by extracting more than their allocated amount on any Kaweah Subbasin parcel, then the Claimant shall not qualify for Technical Assistance funding via the Mitigation Program or Plans.

The Non-Drinking Water Well and Critical Infrastructure Technical Assistance Claims Applications shall be made available on each GSA website. For questions, please contact the respective GSA of interest.

East Kaweah GSA

(559) 697-6095

groundwater@ekgsa.org

<https://ekgsa.org/mitigation>

315 E. Lindmore Ave
Lindsay, CA 93247

Greater Kaweah GSA

(559) 302-9987

info@greaterkaweahgsa.org

<https://greaterkaweahgsa.org>

2975 N Farmersville Blvd
Farmersville, CA 93223

Mid-Kaweah GSA

(559) 686-3425

midkaweah@gmail.com

<https://midkaweah.org/>

6826 Ave 240

**Technical Assistance
Track is available June
2024 for EKGSA and
available June 2025 for
GKGSA and MKGSA**



Tulare, CA 93274

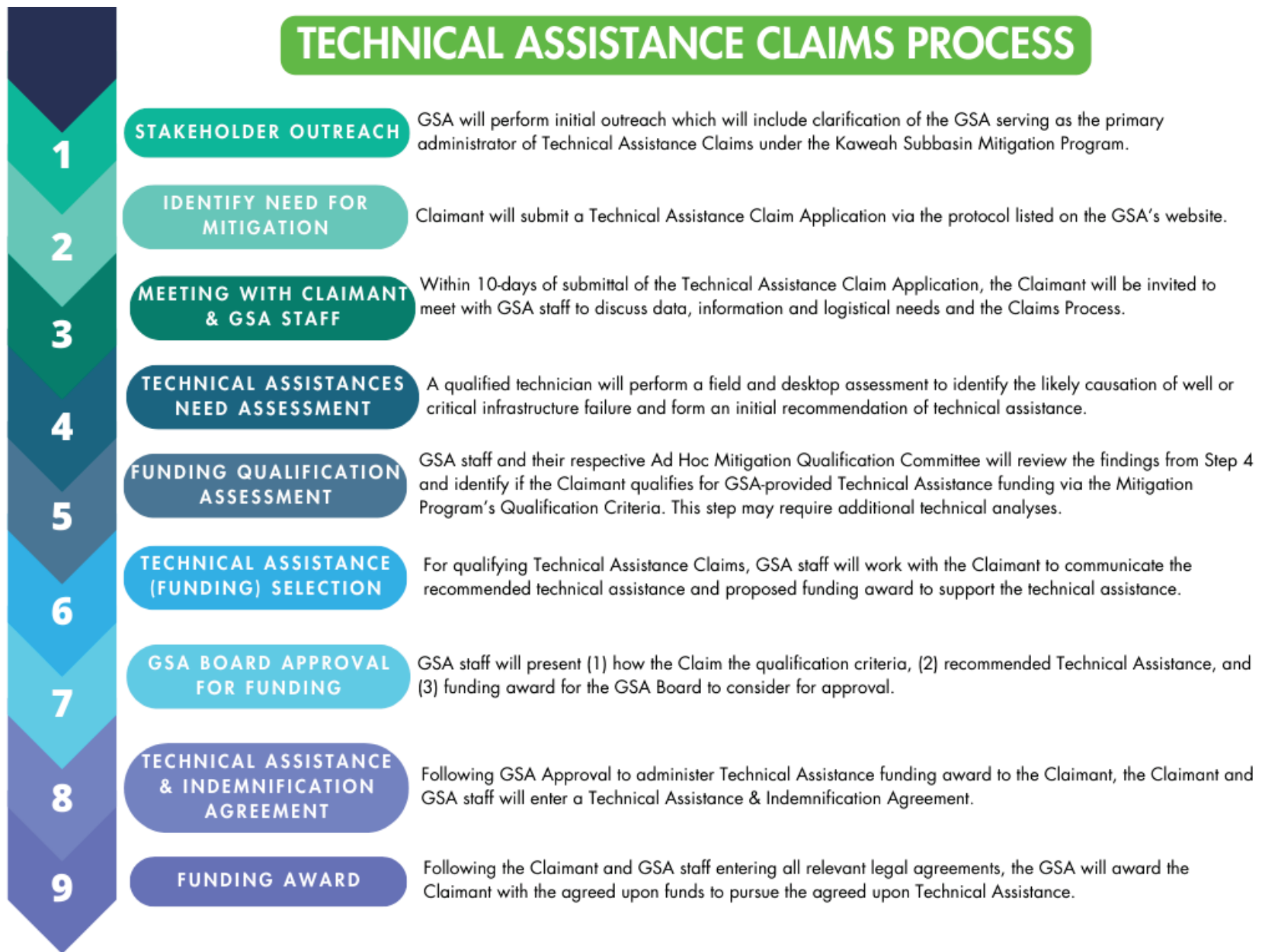


Figure 6. Non-Drinking Water and Critical Infrastructure Technical Assistance Claims



Step 1. Stakeholder Outreach

Stakeholder outreach for non-drinking water wells and drinking water well mitigation is consistent. For more information, visit [Drinking Water Claims – Step 1. Stakeholder Outreach](#) above.

Step 2. Identify Need for Technical Assistance

Claimants seeking mitigation support for non-drinking water well impacts and/or critical infrastructure shall submit an application on their respective GSA website. The GSA website shall differentiate the application protocols and mitigation award for drinking water wells versus non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure. The Technical Assistance Claim Application is attached as [Attachment A](#). More information shall be obtained and discussed with the Claimant in Step 3 below.

Step 3. Meeting with Claimant and GSA Staff

Within 10 days of submittal of the Technical Assistance Claim Application, GSA staff shall contact the Claimant to meet and discuss the impact, additional data and information needed, and Claims process.

Step 4. Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

A qualified technician, arranged by the GSA, shall perform a field and desktop assessment to identify the likely cause of well or infrastructure failure and make an initial recommendation of whether technical assistance is needed. The information is to be documented in a memorandum with photos and any other relevant information for the GSA's Mitigation and Qualification Committee to review in Step 5. The Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committees may be composed of qualified technical contractors and/or GSA stakeholder committee members. [Attachment B](#) includes considerations that may be made during the assessment.

Step 5. Funding Qualification Assessment

Following completion of the Technical Assistance Needs Assessment, the GSA staff and their respective Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committee shall review all provided materials. The Mitigation Qualification Ad Hoc Committee may review additional localized data, such as groundwater level trends, recent-historic subsidence, groundwater quality, land use, and more to determine if the claim qualifies for funding reimbursement under the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program. To qualify for GSA funding reimbursement, the well impact must be (1) induced by groundwater overdraft conditions and (2) having occurred after January 1, 2015. In addition, if the Claimant's groundwater use is contributing to or has contributed to overdraft (after January 1, 2015), such as extracting more than their native yield allocation, then they shall not qualify for mitigation support from the GSAs/Mitigation Program. In these cases, the Claimant may be invited to a meeting with GSA staff to discuss ways the Claimant can improve demand management and localized groundwater stewardship.

To determine if an impact was induced by groundwater overdraft conditions, the Mitigation Qualification Committee will compare groundwater level trends local to the impacted well and well construction information, such as well completion depth, perforated intervals, pump depth, and nearby land use and groundwater extractions. If the impact is physical damage, recent-historic subsidence shall be evaluated and compared to well construction. [Attachment B](#) includes considerations that may be made during the assessment.

There may be limited data available which may hinder the extent of the qualification assessment. The GSA staff shall coordinate with the Claimant and original well driller, construction manager, or design



engineer, as needed, to determine reasonable mitigation solutions and impact attribution determinations.

Step 6. Technical Assistance (Funding) Selection Agreement

In cases where the claim meets the qualification criteria for technical assistance award, the GSA staff shall communicate the recommended technical assistance and funding award amount (maximum \$25,000 per qualifying Claim) to the Claimant. During this communication, the GSA staff shall reiterate the intended use of the technical assistance funding.

- For nondrinking water wells, the GSA is providing funding for the technical assistance and not administering, coordinating, or performing the technical assistance .
- For critical infrastructure, the GSA is using the funding to develop an independent analysis of the degree to which groundwater activities caused the infrastructure damage, and initiate meetings with the landowner or public agency.

The GSA staff and Claimant shall enter a verbal and written agreement (email documentation is acceptable) confirming both parties agree with the recommended funding amount and approach to be proposed to the GSA Board for consideration.

Step 7. GSA Board Approval for Funding

Following the agreement between the Claimant and GSA staff (Step 6), GSA staff shall present the recommended technical assistance funding award for GSA Board consideration of approval within one GSA Board meeting cycle following completion of Step 6.

Step 8. Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement

Following GSA Board approval for administering funds for qualifying Claims, the GSA staff and Claimant shall enter a legal agreement acknowledging the amount of funding, intent of use, and indemnification of liabilities. This step must be completed prior to funding award. A draft concept of the agreement is attached as **Attachment C**. The actual agreement may vary on a case-by-case basis considering the nuances of every impact and claim.

Step 9. Technical Assistance Funding Awarded by GSA

After the qualifying Claimant and GSA enter a Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement (Step 8 and **Attachment C**), the GSA shall provide the qualifying Claimant with the agreed upon funding award.



Attachment A

Technical Assistance Claim Application for Non-Drinking Water Wells and Critical Infrastructure

Kaweah Subbasin Technical Assistance Claim Application

If you are unsure of which GSA your claim is in, contact any of the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs via number and email listed on their websites and they can assist you in identifying. If you are unsure of how to answer any questions, please leave blank and this can be further discussed during a meeting with GSA staff.

Please circle which GSA your impact claim applies:

East Kaweah GSA

Mid-Kaweah GSA

Greater Kaweah GSA

Claimant Name: _____

Claimant Contact Information: _____

Are you either the landowner of the property in which this Claim Application applies or the public agency responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure?

Yes No

If no, please provide the name and contact information of the landowner and the GSA shall contact the landowner to notify of the need for their participation in the Claim process.

Landowner Name: _____

Landowner Contact Information: _____

As the Claimant, will you allow physical access to the adversely impacted well(or critical infrastructure) for the GSA staff or authorized case worker to perform a field assessment?

Yes No

Please attach available documentation for the well (for example the State Department of Water Resources Driller's Log, other well construction information, pump depth, groundwater level, or other information) .

Please describe the nature of your well or critical infrastructure impact:

Kaweah Subbasin
Technical Assistance Claim Application
to be completed with GSA staff

This portion of the claim application is to be completed with GSA staff during the Data and Information Request Meeting. Please gather all potentially relevant data and information related to your Claim in advance of the meeting with GSA staff to support your Claim. This may include level data, well construction, driller information, and water quality reports for wells and design and construction documentation for critical infrastructure..

Claimant information:

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone # Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Text Ok? Yes No

Accessors Parcel Number: _____

Does the impacted well or critical infrastructure support access to safe drinking water? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Impacted Non-Drinking Water Well Information

This section of the application shall be completed with GSA staff during initial meeting. If making a claim regarding critical infrastructure, please skip this section and proceed to the "Critical Infrastructure Information" section. The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program does not require GSAs to mitigate for critical infrastructure and/or non-drinking water wells until June 30, 2025.

Please circle response:

Impacted Well's Use	Monitoring	Agricultural	Municipal/Industrial
Shared Well?:	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared Well Agreement?:	Yes	No	Unsure
Well Water Source:	Aquifer	Spring	Other _____
Units Connected to Well:	1	2	3+

Please provide as much of the following documentation as is available:

Provide all the information that you have. Ask neighbors and family that might know. More information helps the Claims process and not information might stall or disqualify the Claim.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well completion report (well drillers log) • Well design documentation • Water level records • Water quality records and/or laboratory/test reports • Photographs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintenance records • Well driller name and contact information • Well pump contractor and contact information • Documentation from neighboring wells' construction, operations, and maintenance |
|---|--|

Please fill out the following information to the best to your ability. Additional information may be requested and/or a site visit may be requested by the GSA:

When was the well drilled?	
When was water first pumped from the well?	
When did the pump stop working?	
Depth of well	
Depth and length of well screen	
Size of pump (horsepower (HP))	
Depth of pump in well	
Can the pump be fixed?	
Has the pump been removed from the well?	
When was the well last worked on by a pump contractor? What did they work on?	

Has the well been abandoned? If so, why?	
Does the well have a pump saver? <i>A pump saver is a PVC sleeve with slots on the lower end to allow water to enter while keeping sand particulate out.</i>	
How much water should this well be pumping?	
How much water has the well been pumping recently? (note units including daily or monthly)	
Has the well experienced water quality issues? Describe the issue and when it started	
Have neighboring wells experienced water quality issues? Describe the issue and when it started.	
Is the well located near septic tanks? If so, please provide the distance between well and septic tank and/or leaching field.	

Well Site Map Sketch

Include in sketch:

- Property boundaries
- Structures
- Cross Streets/Roads
- Fences/Gates
- Access
- North Arrow
- Pools/Ponds
- Septic Tank/Leach Lines
- Driveways
- Trees
- Power Poles/Lines
- Existing Wells
- Neighboring Homes/Properties (left, right, across)
- Distance of Connection(s) if known
- Dogs/Animals on the Property

Annotated photos or aerial images of the property may be used in place of a sketch.

Please also attach photos of the impacted well and pump.

Mark the well impacted and any other wells on the property.

Impacted Critical Infrastructure Information

This section of the Claim Application shall be completed with GSA staff during initial meeting. If making a claim regarding a well, please skip this section and ensure the "Well Information" section is completed. The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Framework does not require GSAs to mitigate for critical infrastructure until June 30, 2025.

Please circle response:

Infrastructure Type canal road pipeline ditch Other

If other, please explain: _____

Privately Owned? Yes No Unsure

Please provide as much of the following documentation as is available:

Provide all the information that you have. Ask neighbors and family that might know. More information helps the Claims process and not information might stall or disqualify the Claim.

- Infrastructure design documentation
- Photographs
- Operation and maintenance records
- Documentation from neighboring infrastructure's construction, operations, and maintenance
- Any permits relevant to the parcel and/or infrastructure

Please fill out the following information to the best to your ability. Additional information may be requested and/or a site visit may be requested by the GSA:

When was the infrastructure constructed?	
When did the infrastructure become operational?	
When did the infrastructure stop working??	
When was the last modification to the infrastructure made? What was the modification?	
Have neighboring infrastructure experienced subsidence related issues? If so, when?	

Impacted Critical Infrastructure Site Map Sketch

Include in sketch:

- Dogs/Animals on the Property
- Property boundaries
- Structures
- All Known Water Conveyance Infrastructure (above and below ground)
- All Known Water Storage Infrastructure
- Cross Streets/Roads
- Fences/Gates
- Access
- North Arrow
- Pools/Ponds
- Septic Tank/Leach Lines
- Driveways
- Trees
- Power Poles/Lines
- Existing Wells
- Neighboring Homes/Properties (left, right, across)

Annotated photos or aerial images of the property may be used in place of a sketch.



Attachment B

Claims Process – Assessment Phase

Claims Process - Assessment Phase

This process applies for (1) chronic lowering of groundwater levels, (2) land subsidence, and (3) degraded water quality

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

GSA to perform desktop assessment:

Claims related to chronic lowering of groundwater levels

GSA to review:

- Historic static groundwater levels
- Historic pumping groundwater levels
- Well operation and maintenance history
- Well construction history
- Historic monthly production volume
- Potential for consolidation to public water system
- Nearby historic land and water use
- Depth to bedrock
- Nearby conjunctive use activity
- Well depth, perforated intervals, pump depth

Claims related to degraded water quality

GSA to review:

- Historic groundwater quality at well
- Historic groundwater quality at nearby wells
- Historic static groundwater levels
- Historic pumping groundwater levels
- Well operation and maintenance history
- Well construction history
- Historic monthly production volume
- Potential for consolidation
- Nearby historic land and water use
- Depth to bedrock
- Nearby conjunctive use activity
- Well depth, perforated intervals, pump depth

Claims related to land subsidence

GSA to review:

- Historic InSAR data
- Historic static groundwater levels
- Historic pumping groundwater levels
- Operation and maintenance history
- Construction history
- Historic monthly capacity
- Potential for consolidation
- Nearby historic land and water use
- Depth to clay or usable water
- Nearby conjunctive use activity
- Well depth, perforated intervals, pump depth
- Photos of physical damage
- Original well/infrastructure survey/design

GSA to perform field assessment:

GSA may perform the following:

- (1) Pull pump and measure pump intake depth, well bottom, static water level.
- (2) Modify wellhead to install sounding port to measure static and pumping level.
- (3) Modify wellhead to install flowmeter
- (4) Conduct video log
- (5) Investigate site to inform estimated water demand
- (6) Investigate nearby land and water use
- (7) Investigate site for consolidation feasibility

GSA may perform the following:

- (1) Pull pump and measure pump intake depth, well bottom, static water level.
- (2) Modify wellhead to install sounding port to measure static and pumping level.
- (3) Modify wellhead to install flowmeter
- (4) Conduct video log
- (5) Collect water quality samples at Claimants well
- (6) Collect water quality samples at wells nearby impacted well
- (7) investigate site for consolidation feasibility
- (8) Investigate site and nearby land use for source of water quality impact

GSA to assess:

- (1) Evidence of ground fissures consistent with subsidence
- (2) Visible casing collapse, damage, or protrusion attributable to subsidence.

For well claims, GSA may perform the following:

- (1) Pull pump and measure pump intake depth, well bottom, static water level.
- (2) Modify wellhead to install sounding port to measure static and pumping level.
- (3) Modify wellhead to install flowmeter
- (4) Conduct video log

GSA may request additional data and information. GSA may reach out to original driller or design engineer to confirm information provided.

Mitigation Claim proceeds to Qualification phase.



Attachment C

Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement

Kaweah Subbasin Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement

The undersigned (“the Claimant”) having been awarded funding to support technical assistance by _____ Groundwater Sustainability Agency of the Kaweah Subbasin (“the GSA”) hereby agrees as follows:

1. The Claimant will indemnify and hold harmless the GSA, its Board of Directors, Staff, Consultant Staff, Advisory Committee Members, Technical Advisory Committee Members, Offices, Third-Party Facilitators from any and all claims, suits, actions, and liability of any character arising or alleged to arise, out of injuries or damages sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of the Claimant’s act or omission, neglect, or misconduct, or in violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation, which was caused to occur during the Claimant’s mitigation development or implementation.
2. The GSA shall not be liable to the Claimant’s staff or guests for any injury incurred while on the property in which mitigation will take place.
3. The Claimant is responsible for paying all taxes owed for income or property value the Claimant receives as a result of the mitigation measure.
4. The GSA is awarding the Claimant funding for the following technical assistance activities:

Name of Claimant

Signature of Claimant

Date

Name of GSA General Manager

Signature of GSA General Manager

Date



Attachment D

Mitigation Program Consistency with SGMA Regulations



The content of this Attachment D of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program is included to clarify how the Mitigation Program addresses SGMA regulatory considerations, including making the case for feasibility of implementation, consistency with the measurable objectives (sustainability goal) of the Subbasin, and legal authority of GSAs to implement the Mitigation Program.

Measurable Objectives Addressed 354.44(b)(1)

The Mitigation Program will directly address the impacts of chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduced groundwater in storage, groundwater quality, and land subsidence caused by lowered groundwater levels by providing funding for replacement wells, well modifications, alternative water supplies, or critical infrastructure (if applicable) improvements to eligible landowners. In addition, the Mitigation Program will directly support water system consolidation, well replacement or modifications, and/or well treatment for qualifying wells that experience groundwater quality due to groundwater conditions induced by the GSAs' allowable overdraft.

Circumstances and Criteria for Implementation 354.44(b)(1)(A)

This is a high-priority Mitigation Program needed to maintain access to a water supply that meets basic health and safety needs by mitigating impacts of declining water levels, land subsidence, and groundwater quality induced by pumping-influenced water level changes. Declining groundwater levels created by allowable overdraft during the implementation phase of the GSPs may induce unintended groundwater quality impacts. Therefore, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are committed to mitigating such impacts by committing to implementing this Program. Funding is available for the Program through GSAs implementation of assessments, fees, charges, and penalties. In addition, the GSAs will explore other state, federal, and private funding opportunities including grant programs. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs understand that SAFER funding is unavailable for Mitigation Program implementation.

Process to Provide Notice of Implementation 354.44(b)(1)(B)

The public and relevant entities must be given the opportunity and time to comment on the Program prior to adoption by the GSA. Each GSA must engage with its advisory committee(s) and stakeholders as detailed in the Stakeholder Outreach phase of the Mitigation Plan process. As outlined in the Outreach Section, each GSA and the Kaweah Subbasin plans on an aggressive and broad outreach program to inform groundwater users of the Mitigation Program along with ensuring public input in the development of the Mitigation Program and Plans.

Estimated Annual Program Benefits 354.44(b)(2)

The proposed Program will directly mitigate impacts due to the following:

- reduction in groundwater storage¹;
- chronic lowering of groundwater levels¹;
- land subsidence¹; and
- degraded water quality¹

¹induced by chronic lowering of groundwater levels (via overdraft during GSP implementation)

The Mitigation Program will provide a direct benefit to beneficial users in the GSA who have had their well or infrastructure adversely impacted because of continued overdraft conditions while the GSA



implements other projects and management actions to achieve sustainability. The metric for measuring Mitigation Program benefits will be the number of wells that are adversely impacted and mitigated and the Subbasin's ability to manage groundwater levels to the measurable objectives and avoid the need for mitigation. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs will provide an annual accounting of the number of wells and other impacts that are identified and mitigated in the Kaweah Subbasin Annual Report, provided to the Department of Water Resources in April of each year.

Permitting and Regulatory Requirements 354.44(b)(3)

The GSA will confirm with the Claimant that any mitigation efforts that are non-exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements will comply with CEQA and NEPA prior to approval and issuance of mitigation assistance. Non-exempt critical infrastructure mitigation projects may have various permits in conjunction with the environmental planning process. New wells must comply with the Tulare County well permitting process.

Program Schedule 354.44(b)(4)

Each GSA shall adopt and implement the Mitigation Program and Mitigation Plan by Spring 2024.

The GSAs will continue to work with Tulare County to request a review of new or deepened domestic well permits in addition to the Mitigation Program and Mitigation Plans. Each GSA will modify the Mitigation Program as needed for their specific conditions and develop a funding mechanism for the Mitigation Program which is dependent on the specific GSA needs for specific expected impacted wells within each GSA. During Mitigation Program development, the GSAs will refer landowners to these local programs as well as other resources and funding programs from the county, state, or non-profit organizations.

The following improvements must be made in a revision to the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program Framework and a revision of the GSAs' Mitigation Plans in a public review draft by **Spring 2025**. See **Figure 4** for more information on the schedule.

1. A Well Registration Program must be developed to support impact evaluations, proactive warning notifications, and effective outreach. A Claimant will not be required to register their well to qualify for mitigation.
2. A Claims Dispute Process must be identified, and roles and responsibilities of the Claimant and GSA must be clarified.
3. The Mitigation Program and respective GSA-specific Mitigation Plans must expand to offer technical assistance funding for qualifying non-drinking water wells and critical infrastructure. GSAs may opt to initiate technical assistance funding for non-drinking water and critical infrastructure wells before this period.

The Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program and associated Mitigation Plans are intended to be iterative and grow as new resources, mitigation needs, information are known as well as partnerships with existing mitigation entities are formed or strengthened.

Evaluation of Benefits 354.44(b)(5)

The Program will help to make sure that users of wells that are impacted by overdraft conditions are properly mitigated while the GSAs implement projects and management actions to achieve sustainability.



How will the Project be accomplished and what is the water source? 354.44(b)(6)

The Mitigation Program is not reliant on securing new groundwater or surface water sources. The Mitigation Program claims process details how the Program will be accomplished.

Legal Authority 354.44(b)(7)

California Water Code Section 10725.2 provides the GSA has the powers and authorities “perform any act necessary or proper” to implement SGMA regulations and allows the GSA to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions necessary for SGMA implementation. Because DWR is required to evaluate whether the GSP provides a reasonable means to mitigate continued overdraft, a mitigation program is an act necessary or proper to implement SGMA. (23 CCR §355.4(b)(6).)

Program Cost 354.44(b)(8)

The following are preliminary actions that generate costs for implementing the program. The actual costs will vary by GSA. These will be refined during project development and finalized prior to efforts to secure funding.

Development of Policies and Procedures. Each GSA will have varying consulting and legal costs to develop the Mitigation Program policies and procedures.

Develop Funding. The Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team, composed of GSA staff and technical contractors from all three GSAs have performed a dry well susceptibility analysis in alignment with revisions to water level sustainable management criteria revisions. The count of impacts in various water level scenarios were multiplied by cost assumptions based on mitigation type (drinking water physical mitigation vs. non-drinking water technical assistance), mitigation cost quotes from SHE and GSA administration. The cost estimates include hard costs (mitigation, interim supplies, technical assistance) and soft costs (program administration, field and desktop assessments, and water quality and level monitoring). Each GSA reflected on the costs associated with water level scenarios and have prepared GSA-specific funding mechanisms to secure upfront funding to be able to implement the Mitigation Program in April 2024. More information on GSA-specific funding mechanisms are available in their respective Mitigation Plans.

The GSAs are prepared to adjust funding mechanisms and Mitigation Program budgets as needed to accommodate for changes in mitigation costs, inflation, and lessons learned through implementation.

Public Outreach. Public outreach will be performed in each GSA. These costs will vary by GSA and will be estimated during the development of the Mitigation Program and the GSA Mitigation Plans.

Project Administration. GSAs general administration costs will vary and will be determined during the development of the Mitigation Program and the GSA Mitigation Plans.

Well Mitigation. Well mitigation costs will vary by GSA in accordance with groundwater levels, measurable objectives, and the specific minimum thresholds that have been established. An estimate of well mitigation costs will be developed by each GSA as part of their Mitigation Plan development and funding plan development.

Funding Source 354.44(b)(8)

The primary source of funding for the Mitigation Program is through GSA pumping fees, penalty pumping fees, and/or transfer fees.



The Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team has performed a Dry Well Susceptibility Analysis which provided a conservative cost mitigation cost estimate under different drought scenarios. The mitigation cost estimates include costs to physically mitigate wells, emergency and interim supplies, SHE's administration of the program, GSAs' administration of the program, and contractor assistance during the assessment phase. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs' mitigation budgets are designed to be sufficient to address mitigation needs, independent of the positive projects and demand management changes that are being made and have been made, such as EKGSA and MKGSA setting groundwater allocations to sustainable yield. More information on this analysis will be available in the 2024 Amended GSP upon adoption.

In the event the costs to implement the Mitigation Program require revisions, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs shall revisit their funding mechanisms and mitigation budgets to meet the mitigation commitments herein this Mitigation Program and respective Mitigation Plans. Alternatives may include raising groundwater extraction fees and/or a property-based tax.

The GSAs will explore grant funding at the state and federal levels. The state has many existing grant programs for community water systems and well construction funding; however, the state's SAFER funding is not permitted to be used for Mitigation Program implementation. County, state, and federal assistance may be needed to best maximize the Mitigation Program in conjunction with similar programs that sprout up from similar regulatory programs to SGMA, like CV-SALTS. The GSAs will also work with local non-governmental organizations (NGO) that may be able to aid or seek grant monies to assist Mitigation Program implementation.

Management of Groundwater Extractions and Recharge 354.44(b)(9)

The Mitigation Program may provide critical insight into allocation decisions and groundwater recharge needs across the GSA. The Mitigation Program is meant to mitigate impacts to wells and infrastructure caused by overdraft pumping until sustainability has been reached. The primary path towards sustainability in the Kaweah Subbasin is founded on significant improvements in demand management via allocation revisions and projects and management actions.

Level of Uncertainty 354.44(d)

The GSAs are committed to the Mitigation Program and required through this amendment to the Coordination Agreement to implement the Mitigation Program by the schedule defined herein. The Mitigation Program and respective Mitigation Plans are subject to change as additional information and experience are gained through implementation.



Attachment E

Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program (PPAP)

*A **new** Subbasin-wide management action developed in conjunction with the Mitigation Program.*



Management Action Description and Schedule 354.44(b)(4)

Small community wells/systems identified as being at-risk by the State Water Resources Control Board's metrics for small community wells will receive proactive mitigation via the Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program (**Attachment D**).

The GSAs have an ethical and financial interest in avoiding impacts to these small community wells and after consultations with local community well mitigation providers, it was determined the most effective and helpful mitigation for small community wells is to avoid the need for mitigation altogether. That said, the GSAs intend to avoid impacts to these community wells through a series of site-specific proactive measures, which may include but are not limited to the options listed below. The proactive measure(s) implemented will vary on a case-by-case basis.

- 1) Assess what next steps are needed to avoid or mitigate impacts to support Contingency Plan development and/or improvement
- 2) Develop or support development of Preliminary Engineer Reports for small community wells that have been stuck with lack of funding or resources to take the next steps in their own contingency plans
- 3) Implement groundwater pumping restriction policies near at-risk community wells
- 4) Host Financial Empowerment Workshops to map out long-term planning for resiliency and maintenance, with a focus on prioritizing future access to affordable drinking water
- 5) Support grant writing and cost-share, when funding and opportunities allow
- 6) Consider additional technical assistance that meets the unique needs of the at-risk small community well.

Although the claims process is designed more for private domestic and multi-use drinking water well owners, community well owners may still notify Self-Help Enterprises in the event of potential impacts to their well.

This process will establish continued trust-building with the leaders within these at-risk communities. Before proactive technical assistance/mitigation is underway, the GSAs are committed to meeting with community leaders to understand their unique challenges to map out the best strategy for contingency plans and supplemental assistance.

More information on the schedule and approach of the PPAP is available in **Figure E-1**.



Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program

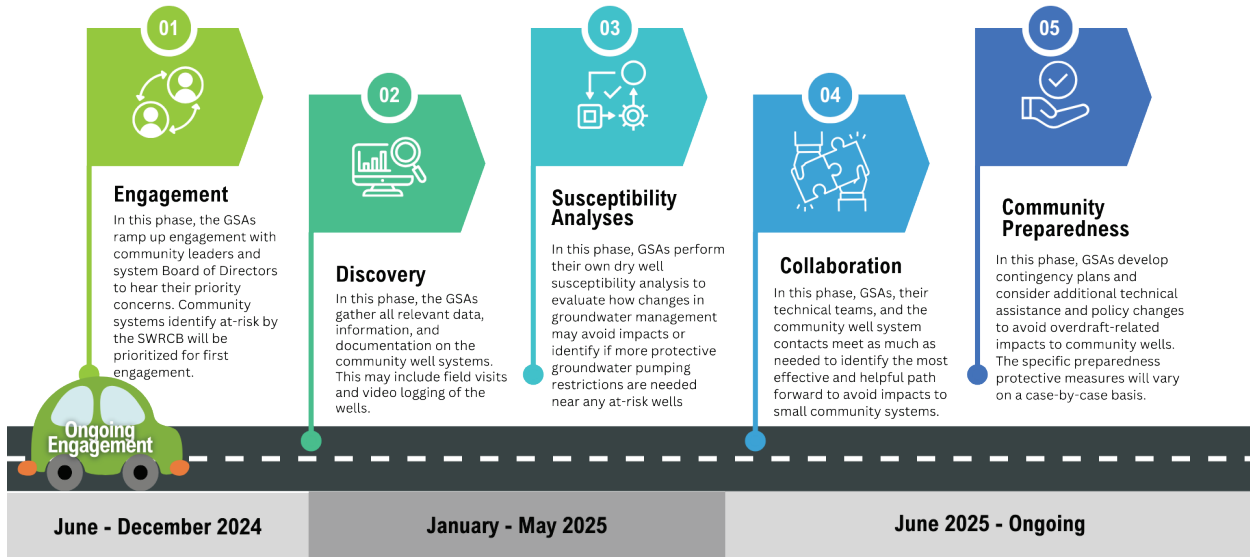


Figure E-1. Small Community Well Proactive & Protective Action Program (PPAP) Approach and Schedule

Measurable Objectives Addressed 354.44(b)(1)

This management action will directly address the impacts of chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduced groundwater in storage, groundwater quality, and land subsidence caused by lowered groundwater levels by providing strategies to avoid impacts to small community wells and identify next steps to confirm their sustainability and resiliency.

Circumstances and Criteria for Implementation 354.44(b)(1)(A)

This is a high-priority management action needed to maintain access to a water supply that meets basic health and safety needs by mitigating impacts of declining water levels, land subsidence, and groundwater quality induced by pumping-influenced water level changes. Declining groundwater levels created by allowable overdraft during the implementation phase of the GSPs may induce unintended groundwater quality impacts. Therefore, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are committed to taking protective, proactive measures to avoid the need for mitigation of the small community water systems.

Process to Provide Notice of Implementation 354.44(b)(1)(B)

The public and relevant entities must be given the opportunity and time to comment on the Program prior to adoption by the GSA. Opportunities to comment will be made available at stakeholder advisory committee meetings, Amended GSP public comment period, and at GSA Board Meetings.

Estimated Annual Program Benefits 354.44(b)(2)

This management action is designed to provide the following benefits for small community water systems:

- Improved risk management and planning
- Reduced risk of experience impacts related to:



- reduction in groundwater storage¹;
- chronic lowering of groundwater levels¹;
- land subsidence¹; and
- degraded water quality¹

¹induced by chronic lowering of groundwater levels (via overdraft during GSP implementation)

Permitting and Regulatory Requirements 354.44(b)(3)

The GSA will confirm with the Claimant that any mitigation efforts that are non-exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements will comply with CEQA and NEPA prior to approval and issuance of mitigation assistance. New wells must comply with the Tulare County well permitting process.

Evaluation of Benefits 354.44(b)(5)

SGMA required annual reporting provides the GSAs the opportunity to review progress on this management action and regularly assess if the risk status of the Subbasin's small community wells' changes.

How will the Project be accomplished and what is the water source? 354.44(b)(6)

The Mitigation Program is not reliant on securing new groundwater or surface water sources. [Figure E-1](#) details the phases to accomplish this management action.

Legal Authority 354.44(b)(7)

California Water Code Section 10725.2 provides the GSA has the powers and authorities "perform any act necessary or proper" to implement SGMA regulations and allows the GSA to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions necessary for SGMA implementation. (23 CCR §355.4(b)(6).)

Program Cost 354.44(b)(8)

The program cost is still unknown; however, it is projected to be within existing technical consultant contracts if projected into the future following GSP Amendment submittals.

Funding Source 354.44(b)(8)

The primary source of funding for the Mitigation Program is through GSA fees. The same funding source is used to fund outreach and technical consultant costs associated with GSA administration and GSP implementation.

Management of Groundwater Extractions and Recharge 354.44(b)(9)

This management action may provide critical insight into allocation decisions and groundwater recharge needs across the GSA. The primary path towards sustainability in the Kaweah Subbasin is founded on significant improvements in demand management via allocation revisions and projects and management actions. This management action may provide insights on where to prioritize demand management to avoid impacts on small community water systems.



Level of Uncertainty 354.44(d)

The GSAs are committed to this management action component of the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program. As this management action will be the first of its kind in the region, there is considerable uncertainty associated with budget, schedule, and available data and information. The GSAs have experience developing methods of navigating uncertainty, such as sensitivity analyses and adapting schedules and budget priorities to achieve sustainability initiatives. The schedule and budget are subject to change as additional information and experience are gained through development and implementation.