

Appendix 1

- 1A** *Letter of Intent to Form GSAs*
- 1B** *Mid-Kaweah Joint Powers Agreement*
First Amendment to Mid-Kaweah Joint Powers Agreement
- 1C** *Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Communication and Engagement Plan*
- 1D** *Kaweah Subbasin Memorandum of Understanding*
- 1E** *DWR Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document*

LETTER OF INTENT

KAWEAH SUBBASIN COORDINATED GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTIVITIES

This Letter of Intent (“LOI”) by and between the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MKGSA”), the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GKGSA”), and the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) (individually referred to also as “Party” and collectively referred to as “Parties”), is entered into by the Parties based upon the following commonly understood facts:

1. The California Legislature enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”), which, as amended, establishes a statewide framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources. SGMA authorizes the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”), one or more of which are authorized to be responsible for implementing provisions of SGMA.
2. SGMA allows local agencies or a combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to serve as GSAs to develop and implement one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) over an entire basin, subbasin, or a portion of a basin.
3. Pursuant to Water Code Section 10727, SGMA allows for the preparation of a GSP by three methods: (1) A single GSP covering the entire basin/subbasin developed and implemented by one GSA; (2) A single GSP covering the entire basin/subbasin developed and implemented by multiple GSAs; (3) Multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs that are subject to a single Coordination Agreement that covers the entire basin/subbasin.
4. SGMA requires that if multiple GSPs will be implemented within a basin or subbasin then a Coordination Agreement must be prepared to ensure that the GSPs within a basin or subbasin utilize certain common data and methodologies as specified in Water Code Section 10727.6.
5. The Parties acknowledge that multiple GSAs have been formed within the Kaweah Subbasin and that each Party intends to develop and implement its own GSP. The Parties further acknowledge that careful coordination amongst GSAs within a subbasin is necessary and critical to achieve and maintain SGMA compliance.

The purpose of this LOI is to memorialize the mutual understandings and agreements of the Parties regarding the coordinated activities the Parties intend to undertake to comply with the aforementioned SGMA mandates, with principal emphasis focusing on the Parties’ collective pursuit of Category 2, Tier 1 grant funds from the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (“SGWP”) Grant Program being implemented by the

California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and authorized by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Prop 1”). The current Category 2, Tier 1 funding opportunity shall be referred to hereinafter as the “Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects.”

The Parties hereby agree to the following principles and parameters regarding their pursuit of Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects:

1. Each Party shall be responsible for third-party consultant costs associated with application preparation costs for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects pursuant to the following proportions:

MKGSA	33.3%
GKGSA	33.3%
EKGSA	33.3%

Each Party shall be responsible for its own costs associated all efforts or activities undertaken by said Party’s personnel, the personnel of said Party’s members, and each Party’s legal counsel for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects.

2. The Parties agree to utilize the services of third-party consultant GEI Consultants, Inc. for the purpose of preparing all necessary application materials for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects.
3. The Parties agree that the MKGSA will serve as the administrative point of contact and fiscal agent for the Parties for the purposes of entering into the third-party consultant contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. specifically pertaining to the preparation of application materials for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects, and if such funding is awarded, for purposes of serving as the administrative point of contact and contracting party with DWR.
4. The Parties agree to communicate and coordinate with each other in the preparation of the application for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects, and continue to communicate and coordinate should such funds be awarded, including but not limited to attending regularly scheduled meetings. To the extent that the MKGSA is serving as the administrative point of contact and fiscal agent for the preparation of the application for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects, the MKGSA ensures that the representatives for the EKGSA and GKGSA are adequately consulted with and integrated into said process and activities. In no event shall an application for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects be submitted to DWR without the prior approval of the Parties.

5. Any application materials for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects shall propose a grant award such that, if awarded, each Party would be entitled to the grant award to the following proportions:

MKGSA	33.3%
GKGSA	33.3%
EKGSA	33.3%

6. In the event the Parties are awarded Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects, each Party shall be entitled to said funding pursuant to the following proportions:

MKGSA	33.3%
GKGSA	33.3%
EKGSA	33.3%

7. Notwithstanding the agreement of the Parties to share equally in the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects if awarded, the Parties intend to dedicate their proportionate share of the funding first towards third-party consultant costs associated with the development of certain common data and methodologies as specified in Water Code Section 10727.6 (“Coordination Agreement Preparatory Work”). The Parties acknowledge that they are currently negotiating the terms and conditions of a “Memorandum of Understanding” that they will utilize for purposes of determining the scope and nature of the Coordination Agreement Preparatory Work, as well as the selection of third party consultants necessary for same. Any remaining Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects will be distributed equally to each Party for that party to utilize in the preparation of its GSP.

8. It is anticipated that work plans and budgets for the following projects will be included in the grant application: (1) Coordination Agreement Preparatory Work, (2) GSP for MKGSA, (3) GSP for GKGSA, and (4) GSP for EKGSA (“Projects”). The Parties shall ensure that the application Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects shall contain a sufficient number of eligible Projects and sufficient detail such that the total proposal costs are at least equal to the maximum potential grant award (\$1.5 million, as of the execution of this LOI).

9. At this time, the draft proposal solicitation package for the Prop 1 Funding for GSPs and other Projects indicates that a minimum cost share of 50% of the total proposal costs will be required. In this instance, the total of proposal costs for the Projects must be at least \$3 million to secure the maximum grant award. However, the possibility exists that DWR costs sharing for funded project proposals may be waived or reduced in certain circumstances. In the event that a cost share is required, each Party be responsible for identifying its cost share match pursuant to the following proportions:

MKGSA 33.3%
GKGSA 33.3%
EKGSA 33.3%

Pursuant to the draft proposal solicitation package, each Party may cover this cost share match with either GSP-related expenditures incurred after May 18, 2016, or by identifying additional projects that said Party desires to undertake as may be necessary.

For purposes of communications pursuant to this LOI, the point of contact for each Party shall be as follows:

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

J. Paul Hendrix
Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
411 E. Kern Ave.
Tulare, CA 93274
jph@tulareid.org

Mark Larsen
Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
2975 N. Farmersville Blvd.
Farmersville, CA 93223
mlarsen@kdwcd.com

Michael D. Hagman
East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
315 E. Lindmore St.
Lindsay, CA 93247
mhagman@lindmoreid.com

The Parties have entered into this LOI as of the last date executed below.

MKGSA:

By:  10/2/17
Chairman Steve Nelsen Date

By:  9/29/17
J. Paul Hendrix Date

GKGSA:

By: Don Mills 10-17-17
Chairman Don Mills Date

By: Mark Larsen 10/17/17
Secretary Mark Larsen Date

EKGSA:

By: Edward Milanesio 10/24/17
Chairman Edward Milanesio Date

By: Michael D. Hagman 10/24/17
Secretary Michael D. Hagman Date

FIRST AMENDMENT TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
FORMATION OF THE
MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT is entered into as of June __, 2018 and between the CITY OF VISALIA, the CITY OF TULARE (including its Board of Public Utilities Commissioners), both of which are Charter Law municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and the TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT, a California Irrigation District organized pursuant to California Water Code §§ 20500 et seq., hereinafter collectively referred to as Members, with reference to the following:

- A. On September 14, 2015, the Members entered into that certain “Joint Powers Agreement – Formation of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin Joint Powers Authority” (“Agreement”).
- B. The Members now desire to amend certain terms and conditions of the Agreement.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS AGREED:

1. **Section 6(e) is amended to read as follows:** “To acquire by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, eminent domain or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority (Water Code § 10726.2).”

2. **Section 6(i) is amended to read as follows:** “To adopt an initial operating budget and initial member contributions within ninety (90) days of the execution of this Agreement, and thereafter, to adopt an annual budget and Member contributions to annual budget by June 30 of each year.”

3. **Section 6(k) is amended to read as follows:** “To impose fees authorized by the

Act (Water Code §§ 10730-10731), without any limitation on a Member's ability to impose fees within its jurisdiction, to fund the cost of furthering the purposes of this Agreement, complying with the Act, and sustainably managing groundwater within the Subbasin.”

4. Section 9(a) is amended to read as follows: “GOVERNING BOARD: The Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors totaling six (6) seats, which shall be designated by each of the Members and shall be composed of two (2) City of Visalia City Councilmembers, two (2) individuals selected from either the City of Tulare City Council or the City of Tulare Board of Public Utilities, and two (2) members of the Tulare Irrigation District Board of Directors. In addition, each of the Members may designate up to two (2) Alternate Directors who may participate on the Authority Board only when either of that Member’s designated Directors is absent. An Alternate Director may, but need not be a member of the legislative body of the Member agency that he or she represents. Directors and Alternate Directors shall serve without compensation, except that they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses associated with their service on the Board as authorized by the Board.”

5. Section 9(b) is amended to read as follows: “TERM: Directors and Alternate Directors shall serve without terms and at the pleasure of the legislative body which appointed them.”

6. Section 9(e) is amended to read as follows: “VOTING: A simple majority of the quorum shall be required for the adoption of a resolution, ordinance, contract authorization or other action of the Board, except that:

- (a) A majority vote of less than a quorum may vote to adjourn;
- (b) Any of the following actions shall require a modified majority vote of four Directors or Alternate Directors, provided that an affirmative vote is made by at least one Director or Alternate Director from each Member:
 - (1) Adoption or modification of the annual budget or Member contributions to fund the annual budget;

- (2) Contracts over \$25,000 and for terms in excess of two (2) years;
 - (3) Appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee, including any independent contractor who functions as an employee;
 - (4) Setting the amounts of any contributions or fees to be made or paid to the Authority from any Member;
 - (5) Compromise or payment of any claim against the Authority;
 - (6) Acquisition by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority.
 - (7) Adoption and imposition of any fees pursuant to Water Code §§ 10730-10731;
 - (8) Approval of a GSP for the portions of the Subbasin identified by the GSA boundaries, as well as any Coordination Agreement required for the GSP.
 - (9) Allocation of alternative funding sources described in Section 13 in any manner other than equally between the Members.
- (c) Any of the following actions shall require a unanimous vote of the entire Board:
- (1) Replacement of the annual special audit required by Government Code § 6505 with an audit covering a two year period.

7. Section 9(j) is amended to read as follows: "MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:
The Board shall create a Management Committee for the purpose of overseeing all activities

undertaken in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Authority identified in this Agreement. The Authority's Manager shall be responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of the Management Committee, and for reporting on the Management Committee's activities, recommendations and determinations to the Board. The Management Committee shall be comprised of one staff person designated by each of the Members. The Management Committee shall, among other things, be responsible for the approval of all expenditures authorized by the Board through their approval of budget appropriations as required herein. The Management Committee may also establish a Technical Advisory Subcommittee for the purpose of assisting the Management Committee and the Board with the technical aspects of GSP development and implementation of the Act."

8. Section 9(k) is amended to read as follows: "ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Additional members may only be added by amendment to this Agreement, which requires the approval of each governing body of each Member. Additional members must be capable of being designated as a GSA under the Act, and must be a stakeholder located within the Subbasin. The Board may recommend to the Members whatever conditions it deems necessary in order to allow the inclusion of additional members, including but not limited to the reimbursement of such additional members' proportionate share of the costs already incurred by the Members.

9. Section 12 is amended to read as follows: "The Board shall, by unanimous vote, approve an initial operating budget within ninety (90) days following the execution of this Agreement. Thereafter, the fiscal year for the Authority shall extend from July 1 to June 30 of each year, and the Board shall, by modified majority vote as set forth in Section 9(e), adopt an annual operating budget for the coming fiscal year by June 30 of each year, as required to conduct its business in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Authority. All expenditures within the designations and limitations of the applicable approved budget appropriations shall be made upon approval of the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall draw checks or

warrants or make payments by other means for claims or disbursements not within an applicable budget only upon the approval of the Board and in accordance with Board directions and authorizations concerning authorized account signatories. The Authority may invest any money in the treasury that is not required for its immediate necessities in the same manner, and upon the same conditions, as any local agency may do pursuant to Government Code § 53635.”

10. The first paragraph of Section 13 shall be amended to read as follows: “The Authority shall have the power to establish a joint operating fund. The fund shall be used to pay all administrative, operating and other expenses incurred by the Authority, and shall be funded by from Member contributions as set forth in the initial and annual operating budget required by Section 12. The Authority may also seek funding from other alternative sources, including but not limited to state and federal grants or loans, and all funding contributions obtained from alternative sources shall be equally allocated to each Member unless specifically allocated differently by a supermajority vote of the Board.”

11. Section 14 shall be amended to read as follows: “In the event the Authority should experience an unanticipated need to pay for extraordinary costs, or to pay for any and all costs of litigation or indemnification as provided in this Agreement, and to the extent that such costs cannot otherwise be reasonably funded through use of reserves on hand or through the other revenue sources authorized by this Agreement, the Board may allocate the additional costs, whether actually incurred or estimated to be necessary. All allocations of additional costs shall be equally allocated to each Member unless specifically allocated differently by a supermajority vote of the Board. The Members agree that they will then contribute their proportionate share of the additional costs within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Board.

12. Section 31 shall be amended to read as follows: “This Agreement may only be amended with the approval of the legislative body of the Members.”

THE MEMBERS, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures.

CITY OF TULARE Signature page

THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

CITY OF TULARE

Willard Jr Date 6-5-18
City Manager

Chief Deputy
ATTEST [Signature] Date 6-5-18
City Clerk

CITY OF TULARE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

[Signature] Date 6-21-18
President, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

[Signature] Date 6-25-18
ATTEST
Secretary, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Approved to Form
City of Tulare City Attorney

_____ Date _____

CITY OF TULARE Signature page

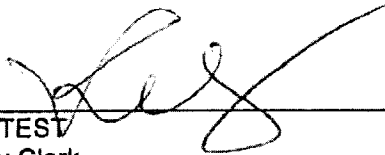
THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

CITY OF TULARE



City Manager

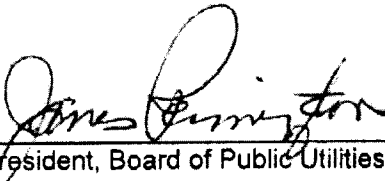
Date 6-5-18



ATTEST
City Clerk

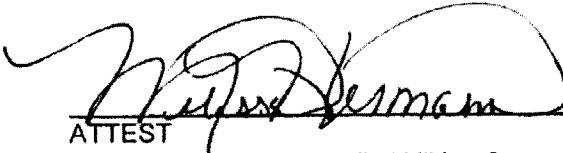
Date 6-5-18

CITY OF TULARE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



President, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

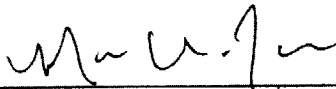
Date 6-21-18



ATTEST
Secretary, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Date 6-25-18

Approved to Form
City of Tulare City Attorney



Mario U. Zunora

Date 7/3/18

TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT Signature page

THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT



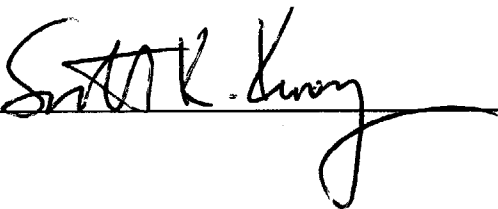
President of the Board



ATTEST
Secretary of the Board

Date 10/11/2018

Approved to Form
District Counsel



Date 10/25 2018

CITY OF VISALIA Signature page

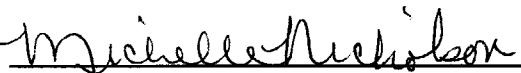
THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

CITY OF VISALIA



City Manager

Date 11-19-2018



ATTEST
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Date 11/20/18

Approved to Form
City of Visalia City Attorney



Date 11-15-18

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JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
FORMATION OF THE
MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

8 THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of September 14, 2015, and between
9 the CITY OF VISALIA, the CITY OF TULARE (including its Board of Public Utilities
10 Commissioners), both of which are Charter Law municipal corporations organized and existing
11 under the laws of the State of California, and the TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT, a California
12 Irrigation District organized pursuant to California Water Code §§ 20500 et seq., hereinafter
collectively referred to as Members, with reference to the following:

- 13 A. In September 2014, the Governor signed three bills (SB 1168, SB 1319, and AB
14 1739) into law creating the Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (the Act).
- 15 B. The Act requires the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA")
16 that will be responsible for implementing provisions of the Act as to each
17 groundwater basin and groundwater subbasin falling within the provisions of the
18 Act.
- 19 C. The Members overlie the Kaweah Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley
20 Groundwater Basin (the "Subbasin"), an unadjudicated groundwater basin,
21 portions of which underlie the jurisdictional boundaries of each Member.
- 22 D. The Members can exercise powers related to groundwater management within
23 their jurisdictional boundaries and qualify individually to serve as a GSA under
24 the provisions of the Act.
- 25 E. Under the Act, a combination of local agencies may elect to form a joint GSA
26 through a joint powers agreement.
- 27 F. The Members intend by this Agreement to create a joint powers authority, and
28 are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Government Code §§
29 6500 et seq. for the purpose of acting as an independent public agency to serve

1 as a single GSA under the Act for areas of the Subbasin underlying the
2 jurisdictional boundaries of the Members.

3 G. Under the Act, each GSA will be responsible for assuming its regulatory role by
4 July 1, 2017, and for submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") to the
5 California State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB") by either January
6 31, 2020 or January 31, 2022, depending on criteria specified in the Act.

7 H. The Members intend to negotiate and enter into Cooperation Agreements with
8 other water agencies, cities, and the County of Tulare electing to serve as
9 GSAs in the Subbasin, for the purpose of coordinating each GSA's GSP to
10 collectively manage the Subbasin in a sustainable manner as required by the
11 Act.

12 I. The Members each caused notice of their consideration to serve as a joint GSA
13 for the Subbasin to be published in the *Visalia Times-Delta* and the *Tulare*
14 *Advance-Register* as required by the Act.

15 J. Courtesy copies of the notice were mailed to the Kaweah Delta Water
16 Conservation District, the Kaweah and St. John's Rivers Association, the Cities
17 of Farmersville, Woodlake and Exeter, and the County of Tulare and any other
18 party specifically requesting notification to the affected Member.

19 K. On July 20, 2015, the City of Visalia held a public hearing to consider whether it
20 should elect to become a joint GSA with each of the other Members for those
21 portions of the Subbasin subject to their jurisdiction, and to do so by entering into
22 this Agreement.

23 L. On July 21, 2015, the City of Tulare held a public hearing to consider whether it
24 should elect to become a joint GSA with each of the other Members for those
25 portions of the Subbasin subject to their jurisdiction, and to do so by entering into
26 this Agreement.

- 1 M. On August 11, 2015, the Tulare Irrigation District held a public hearing to
2 consider whether it should elect to become a joint GSA with each of the other
3 Members for those portions of the Subbasin subject to their jurisdiction, and to
4 do so by entering into this Agreement.
- 5 N. The Members desire to begin collecting and organizing data, engaging and
6 retaining experts and consultants, and soliciting feedback from stakeholders
7 within the portion of the Subbasin subject to their jurisdiction, for the purpose
8 preparing a GSP for the portions of the Subbasin subject to their jurisdiction, and
9 for the purpose of negotiating Coordination Agreements with the other GSAs in
10 the Subbasin to ensure that there is a coordinated plan for managing the
11 Subbasin in compliance with the requirements of the Act.
- 12 O. The Members further intend by this Agreement to provide for the management
13 and funding commitments reasonably anticipated to be necessary for the above
14 purposes.
- 15 P. The City of Tulare by charter has a Board of Public Utilities Commissioners to
16 which responsibility has been delegated for water utility management, and which
17 must thereby also be a signatory to this Agreement.

18 **ACCORDINGLY, IT IS AGREED:**

19 1. **RECITALS:** The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

20 2. **DEFINITIONS:** Unless otherwise required by the context, the following terms shall
21 have the following meanings:

- 22 a. "Act" shall mean the California Groundwater Management Act of 2014
23 and all regulations adopted under the legislation (SB 1168, SB 1319 and AB
24 1739) which collectively comprise the Act, as that legislation and those
25 regulations may be amended from time to time.
- 26 b. "Authority" shall mean the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin Joint Powers

- 1 Authority, which is the public and separate legal entity created by this
2 Agreement.
- 3 c. "Board" or "Board of Directors" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Authority
4 as provided in this Agreement to govern and administer the Authority.
- 5 d. "Member" shall mean any of the signatories of this Agreement and "Members"
6 shall mean all of the signatories to this Agreement.
- 7 e. "Subbasin" shall mean the Kaweah Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley
8 Groundwater Basin, as identified in Bulletin 118 prepared by the California
9 Department of Water Resources.
- 10 f. "Groundwater Sustainability Agency" or "GSA" shall mean an agency enabled by
11 the Act to regulate portions of the Subbasin cooperatively with all other
12 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Subbasin, in compliance with the
13 terms and provisions of the Act.
- 14 g. "DWR" shall mean the California Department of Water Resources.
- 15 g. "SWRCB" shall mean the California State Water Resources Control Board.
- 16 h. "County" shall mean the County of Tulare.
- 17 i. "Other Kaweah Agencies" shall mean all other governmental agencies whose
18 jurisdictions include the land overlying the Subbasin or whose jurisdictions
19 include some governmental authority over the Subbasin.

20 **3. CERTIFICATION:** Each Member, as a signatory to this Agreement, certifies and
21 declares that it is a public agency, as defined by Government Code § 6500, that is authorized to
22 enter into a joint powers agreement to contract with each other for the joint exercise of any
23 common power under Article 1, Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code.

24 **4. CREATION OF SEPARATE AGENCY:** There is hereby created an agency separate
25 from the parties to the Agreement, and which is responsible for the administration of the
26 Agreement, to be known as the **"MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN JOINT POWERS**

1 **AUTHORITY**" (the "Authority"). Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Agreement, the
2 Members shall cause a notice of this Agreement to be prepared and filed with the office of the
3 California Secretary of State as required by Government Code § 6503.5.

4 **5. PURPOSES and MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Authority is formed with the
5 purpose and intent of jointly forming a separate entity to fulfill the role of a GSA consisting of the
6 Members, so that the Members may collectively develop, adopt, and implement a Groundwater
7 Sustainability Plan ("GSP") for the sustainable management of groundwater for that portion of the
8 Subbasin underlying the jurisdictional boundaries of the Members, as those boundaries may be
9 amended from time to time. Notwithstanding their intent to collectively develop, adopt, and
10 implement a GSP, the Members intend to maintain complete control and autonomy over the
11 surface water and groundwater assets to which they are currently legally entitled, and make no
12 commitments by entering into this Agreement to share or otherwise contribute their water supply
13 assets as part of the preparation of a GSP. The geographic boundaries of the GSA
14 contemplated by the Members are set forth in the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A", which is
15 incorporated herein by this reference. The Authority will also represent the Members in
16 discussions with Other Kaweah Agencies, and shall enter into Coordination Agreements with
17 those that form GSAs as required by the Act, to achieve an integrated, comprehensive basin-
18 wide plan that satisfies the Act as to sustainable groundwater management required by the Act
19 for the entire Subbasin.

20 The Members may exercise independent power within their own jurisdiction, including
21 but not limited to, the establishment or approval of fees and the exercise and administration of all
22 powers held by each Member with regards to groundwater management and regulation as they
23 existed prior to the approval of this Agreement and/or consistent with the Act, except as
24 otherwise provided in this Agreement and/or as required by the Act. Should a Member choose to
25 withdraw from the Authority in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, that Member
26 expressly retains the right to serve as the GSA for the groundwater basin underlying its

1 jurisdictional boundaries. Members shall be responsible within each of their own jurisdictions for
2 the implementation of any GSP developed by the Authority, unless otherwise provided for in this
3 Agreement or as required by the Act. The Members enter this Agreement with the intent to
4 operate the Authority in compliance with the requirements of the Act with a minimum level of staff,
5 addressing those operations and programs that can be most cost-effectively handled at the
6 regional level by maximizing local resources, private sector participation and contract services.
7 Each Member will be responsible for adhering to the terms of this Agreement, for constructively
8 participating in the efforts to achieve compliance with the Act, and for timely payment of
9 contributions that are approved by the Board in compliance with this Agreement.

10 **6. POWERS:** The Members intend that the Authority provide for the joint exercise of
11 certain powers common to the Members in studying, planning and cooperatively and sustainably
12 managing groundwater in the Subbasin, and for the exercise of such additional powers as are
13 conferred by law in order to meet the requirements of the Act. The Members are each
14 empowered by the laws of the State of California to exercise the powers specified in this
15 Agreement, and to comply with the provisions of the Act and other laws. These common powers
16 shall be exercised for the benefit of any one or more of the Members or otherwise in the manner
17 set forth in this Agreement. Subject to the limitations set forth in this Agreement, the Authority
18 shall have the powers to perform all acts necessary to accomplish its purpose as stated in this
19 Agreement, including but not limited to the following:

20 a. To make and/or assume contracts and to employ agents, employees,
21 consultants and such other persons or firms as the Board may deem necessary,
22 to the full exercise of the Authority's power, including, but not limited to,
23 engineering, hydrogeological, and other consultants, and with attorneys and
24 accountants and financial advisors, for the purpose of providing any service
25 required by the Authority to accomplish its purposes and Member responsibilities
26 identified in Section 5;

- 1 b. To conduct all necessary research and investigations, and to compile
2 appropriate reports and collect data from all available sources to assist in
3 preparation of a GSP, and for development of Coordination Agreements with
4 other GSAs in the Subbasin, so as to allow the Members to participate in the
5 sustainable management of the Subbasin in compliance with the Act;
- 6 c. To cooperate, act in conjunction with, and contract with the United States, the
7 State of California, or any agency thereof, the County of Tulare, and the Other
8 Kaweah Agencies, or any of them, in the full exercise of the Authority's powers
9 as a GSA;
- 10 d. To apply for, accept and receive licenses, permits, water rights, approvals,
11 agreements, grants, loans, gifts, contributions, donations or other aid from any
12 agency of the United States, the State of California or other public or private
13 person or entity necessary for fulfilling the purposes of a GSA;
- 14 e. By unanimous vote of its Board, acquire by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise,
15 contract, construction, eminent domain or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell,
16 let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands,
17 water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and
18 construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within
19 or outside the agency, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of
20 the Authority (Water Code § 10726.2);
- 21 f. To utilize the GSA enforcement powers identified in the Act (Water Code §
22 10732), including the imposition and collection of civil penalties that shall be
23 utilized in accordance with the requirements of the Act;
- 24 g. To sue and be sued in its own name;
- 25 h. To provide for the prosecution of, defense of, or other participation in actions or
26 proceedings at law or in public meetings in which the Members, pursuant to this

- 1 Agreement, may have an interest, and to employ counsel or other expert
2 assistance for that purpose;
- 3 i. By the unanimous vote of its Board, to adopt an initial operating budget and
4 initial member contributions within ninety (90) days of the execution of this
5 Agreement, and an annual budget and Member contributions to same, by June
6 30 of each year;
- 7 j. To incur debts, liabilities or obligations, subject to the limitations provided in this
8 Agreement;
- 9 k. By unanimous vote of its Board, to impose fees authorized by the Act (Water
10 Code §§ 10730-10731), without any limitation on a Member's ability to impose
11 fees within its jurisdiction, to fund the cost of furthering the purposes of this
12 Agreement, complying with the Act, and sustainably managing groundwater
13 within the Subbasin;
- 14 l. To adopt rules, regulations, policies and procedures for governing the operation
15 of the GSA and adoption and implementation of the GSP consistent with the
16 powers and purposes of the Authority and as authorized by Chapter 5 of the Act;
- 17 m. To investigate legislation and proposed legislation affecting the Act and the
18 Subbasin and make appearances regarding such matters;
- 19 n. To take such actions as are deemed necessary to achieve its specific and
20 limited purposes as stated above.

21 **7. OBLIGATIONS OF AUTHORITY:** No debt, liability or obligation of the Authority shall
22 constitute a debt, liability or obligation of any of the Members, except as otherwise provided in
23 this Agreement.

24 **8. DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTERING AGENCY:** The powers of the Authority
25 provided in this Agreement shall be exercised in the manner provided by law for the exercise of
26 such powers by the Members.

1 **9. ORGANIZATION:**

- 2 a. **GOVERNING BOARD:** The Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors
3 which shall be composed of two (2) City of Visalia City Councilmembers, a total
4 of two (2) members from either or both of the following: City of Tulare City
5 Council or the City of Tulare Board of Public Utilities, and two (2) members of the
6 Tulare Irrigation District Board of Directors, who will be considered the principal
7 Directors. In addition, each of the Members may designate one (1) Alternate
8 Director who may participate on the Authority Board only when a principal
9 Director is absent. An Alternate Director may, but need not be a member of the
10 legislative body of the Member agency that he or she represents. Directors and
11 Alternate Directors shall serve without compensation, except that they may be
12 reimbursed for reasonable expenses associated with their service on the Board
13 as authorized by the Board.
- 14 b. **TERM:** The Authority Board Members shall serve without terms and at the
15 pleasure of the legislative body which appointed them.
- 16 c. **MEETINGS:** Regular meetings of the Board may be held quarterly, or as the
17 Board determines as necessary, on such dates and times and at such locations
18 as the Board shall fix by resolution. Special meetings of the Board shall be called
19 in accordance with Government Code § 54956. All meetings shall comply with
20 the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code §§ 54950 at seq.).
- 21 d. **QUORUM:** Fifty percent (50%) of the Board of Directors plus one (1) shall
22 constitute a quorum in order to conduct business.
- 23 e. **VOTING:** A simple majority of the quorum shall be required for the adoption of a
24 resolution, ordinance, contract authorization or other action of the Board, except
25 that:
- 26 (a) A majority vote of less than a quorum may vote to adjourn;

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- (b) Any of the following actions shall require a unanimous vote of the entire Board (which may include alternates):
 - (1) Adoption of an initial budget;
 - (2) Adoption or modification of the annual budget;
 - (3) Contracts over \$25,000 and for terms in excess of two (2) years;
 - (4) Admission of additional members;
 - (5) Appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee, including any independent contractor who functions as an employee;
 - (6) Setting the amounts of any contributions or fees to be made or paid to the Authority from any Member;
 - (7) Compromise or payment of any claim against the Authority;
 - (8) Acquisition by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority.
 - (9) Adoption and imposition of any fees pursuant to Water Code §§ 10730-10731;
 - (10) Replacement of the annual special audit required by Government Code § 6505 with an audit covering a two year period;
 - (11) Approval of a GSP for the portions of the Subbbasin identified by the GSA boundaries.
- f. MINUTES: The Board shall cause minutes of all meetings to be prepared, and shall cause a copy of the minutes to be delivered to each member of the Board,

1 and filed with the governing body of each party, as soon as practicable after
2 each meeting.

3 g. **RULES:** The Board shall adopt such other rules and regulations for the conduct
4 of its business as a GSA and in the implementation of any GSP as it shall deem
5 necessary or desirable consistent with the provisions of this Agreement and the
6 Act.

7 h. **OFFICERS:** The officers of the Authority shall be a Chairperson, and
8 Vice-Chairperson, and such other officers as the Board shall designate. The
9 election of officers will take place at the first meeting of a new fiscal year. The
10 Treasurer shall be formally designated by a resolution adopted by the Board of
11 Directors stating the effective date of the appointment and the term of the
12 appointment.

13 i. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The Board shall create an Advisory Committee for
14 the purpose of soliciting information from the Other Kaweah Agencies and
15 potentially affected stakeholders utilizing groundwater within the jurisdictional
16 boundaries of the Members and potentially subject to the GSP to be developed
17 by the Authority. Membership on the Advisory Committee and the time/date for
18 meetings shall be at the discretion of the Board.

19 j. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** The Board shall create a Management
20 Committee for the purpose of overseeing all activities undertaken in pursuit of
21 the goals and objectives of the Authority identified in this Agreement, and for
22 reporting upon same to the Board. The Management Committee shall be
23 comprised of one staff person from each of the Members. The Management
24 Committee shall, among other things, be responsible for the approval of all
25 expenditures authorized by the Board through their approval of budget
26 appropriations as required herein. The Management Committee may also

1 establish a Technical Advisory Subcommittee for the purpose of assisting the
2 Management Committee and the Board with the technical aspects of GSP
3 development and implementation of the Act.

4 k. **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:** The Board shall allow additional members to join the
5 Authority only by unanimous vote. Additional members must be capable of
6 being designated as a GSA under the Act, and must be a stakeholder located
7 within the Subbasin. The Board may set whatever conditions it deems
8 necessary in order to allow the inclusion of additional members, including but not
9 limited to the reimbursement of such additional members' proportionate share of
10 the costs already incurred by the Members.

11 **10. FISCAL AGENT, DEPOSITORY AND ACCOUNTING:** The Treasurer appointed by
12 the Board is designated as the fiscal agent and depository for the Authority. The Treasurer may,
13 but need not be, the Finance Director, or designee thereof, of any of the Authority's Members.
14 The Treasurer shall be the depository and have custody of all money of the Authority, from
15 whatever source, subject to the applicable provisions of any indenture or resolution providing for
16 a trustee or other fiscal agent. All funds of the Authority shall be held in the joint operating fund
17 established by Section 13, or such other separate accounts as may be necessary, in the name of
18 the Authority and not commingled with the funds of any Member or any other person or entity.
19 Full books and accounts shall be maintained for the Authority in accordance with practices
20 established by, or consistent with, those utilized by the Controller of the State of California for
21 public entities. The books and records of the Authority shall be open to inspection by the
22 Members at all reasonable times, and by bondholders and lenders as and to the extent provided
23 by resolution or indenture.

24 **11. ACCOUNTABILITY, REPORTS AND AUDITS:** There shall be strict accountability of
25 all funds, and an auditor designated by the Board shall report any and all receipts and
26 disbursements to the Board with such frequency as shall reasonably be required by the Board.

1 The Authority will utilize the services of an outside independent certified public accountant to
2 make an annual audit of the accounts and records of the Authority as required by Government
3 Code § 6505, unless the Members, by unanimous vote, elect to conduct the audit for a two (2)
4 year period. In each case, the minimum requirements of the audit shall be those prescribed by
5 the State Controller for special districts pursuant to Government Code § 26909, and shall
6 conform to generally accepted accounting principles. The outside independent certified public
7 accountant selected by the Authority shall be formally designated by a resolution adopted by the
8 Board of Directors stating the effective date of the appointment and the term of the appointment.

9 **12. OPERATING BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:** The Board shall, by unanimous vote,
10 approve an initial operating budget within ninety (90) days following the execution of this
11 Agreement. Thereafter, the fiscal year for the Authority shall extend from July 1 to June 30 of
12 each year, and the Board shall, by unanimous vote, adopt an annual operating budget for the
13 coming fiscal year by June 30 of each year, as required to conduct its business in a manner
14 consistent with the purposes of the Authority. All expenditures within the designations and
15 limitations of the applicable approved budget appropriations shall be made upon approval of the
16 Management Committee. The Treasurer shall draw checks or warrants or make payments by
17 other means for claims or disbursements not within an applicable budget only upon the approval
18 of the Board and in accordance with Board directions and authorizations concerning authorized
19 account signatories. The Authority may invest any money in the treasury that is not required for
20 its immediate necessities in the same manner, and upon the same conditions, as any local
21 agency may do pursuant to Government Code § 53635.

22 **13. CONTRIBUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES:** The Authority shall
23 have the power to establish a joint operating fund. The fund shall be used to pay all
24 administrative, operating and other expenses incurred by the Authority, and shall be funded by
25 from Member contributions as set forth in the initial and annual operating budget required by
26 Section 12. The Authority may also seek funding from other alternative sources, including but not

1 limited to state and federal grants or loans, and unless specifically allocated by the unanimous
2 vote of the Board, all funding contributions obtained from alternative sources shall be equally
3 allocated to each Member.

4 The Board may arrange payment of the expenses of the Authority through an
5 alternative funding source. In accordance with Government Code § 6512.1, the Board may direct
6 repayment or return to the Members all or part of the contributions made by the Members, upon
7 such terms as may be consistent with any indebtedness incurred by the Authority. Unless
8 otherwise prohibited by the alternative funding source, said alternative source's funds will be
9 disbursed before local funds for covered Authority obligations.

10 **14. ASSESSMENTS FOR EXTRAORDINARY COSTS:** In the event the Authority should
11 experience an unanticipated need to pay for extraordinary costs, or to pay for any and all costs of
12 litigation or indemnification as provided in this Agreement, and to the extent that such costs
13 cannot otherwise be reasonably funded through use of reserves on hand or through the other
14 revenue sources authorized by this Agreement, the Board may allocate the additional costs,
15 whether actually incurred or estimated to be necessary. Unless specifically allocated by the
16 unanimous vote of the Board all allocations shall be equally allocated to each Member. The
17 Members agree that they will then contribute their proportionate share of the additional costs
18 within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Board.

19 **15. INITIAL STAFFING CONTRIBUTIONS:** The Authority initially intends to pursue the
20 goals and objectives identified in this Agreement by utilizing the staff of each of the Members to
21 pursue those operations, investigations and programs that can be most cost-effectively handled
22 by maximizing Member staff and resources. The Management Committee shall meet to
23 determine the respective initial staffing contributions of the Members that will be utilized during
24 the time period covered by the initial operating budget. Thereafter, all Member staff contributions
25 to conducting the activities of the Authority shall be recommended by the Management
26 Committee for approval by the Board at the time for adopting the annual budget for the Authority.

1 In the event that the staffing contributions of the Members recommended by the Management
2 Committee are not allocated equally amongst the Members, the Board may adjust the monetary
3 contributions of the Members as specified in Section 13 herein.

4 **16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** Should any controversy arise between the Members
5 concerning this Agreement or the rights and duties of any Member under this Agreement, the
6 Members shall submit the matter to a person appointed by the Management Committee to
7 mediate the dispute. The appointed mediator shall be a person who is not an employee or agent
8 of any Member and who has knowledge of and experience in the management of groundwater
9 resources. The appointed mediator shall render a final decision on the matter in dispute and will
10 be compensated by the Authority.

11 **17. WITHDRAWAL:**

- 12 a. **NOTICE TO MEMBERS:** Any Member may withdraw from the Authority by
13 delivery of written notice to withdraw to each of the Members at least one hundred
14 twenty (120) days prior to the date of withdrawal ("Withdrawal Notice Period").
- 15 b. **EFFECT OF WITHDRAWAL:** The withdrawal of the Member shall have no effect
16 on the continuance of this Agreement among the remaining Members. After
17 providing written notice of withdrawal, the withdrawing Member shall neither be
18 entitled nor obligated to participate in a vote on any matter before the Board,
19 including but not limited to adoption of the annual operating budget required by
20 Section 12 and the assessment for extraordinary costs allowed by Section 14.
- 21 c. **CONTINUING FISCAL OBLIGATIONS:** Any Member that withdraws as provided
22 herein shall remain proportionately liable during the Withdrawal Notice Period for
23 its proportionate share of the annual operating budget required by Section 12. If
24 the remaining Members elect to incur extraordinary costs in accordance with
25 Section 14, the withdrawing Member shall be proportionately liable during the
26 Withdrawal Notice Period for the obligations or debts approved and incurred by the

1 Authority for those extraordinary costs. Any Member that withdraws shall remain
2 proportionately liable for any unfunded capital expenditures incurred or approved
3 prior to the date of written notice of withdrawal of such Member.

4 d. **CONTINUING CLAIMS OBLIGATIONS:** Members will remain obligated to
5 contribute their proportionate share (based upon the membership roll as of the
6 date of the claim), including without limitation legal defense costs, for any
7 occurrences incurred during the Member's membership, but not presented as a
8 claim against the Authority until after the Member's withdrawal.

9 e. **DIVISIONS OF PROPERTY ASSETS:** The real or personal property assets
10 contributed by the withdrawing member or the value of the real or personal
11 property assets at the date of withdrawal will be returned to the withdrawing
12 member.

13 **18. TERM AND TERMINATION:** This Agreement shall become effective, and the
14 Authority shall come into existence, on the date that the last of the named parties executes the
15 Agreement. The Agreement, and the Authority, shall thereafter continue in full force and effect
16 until the governing bodies of the parties unanimously elect to terminate the Agreement.

17 Upon effective election to terminate this Agreement, the Board shall continue to act as
18 a board to wind up and settle the affairs of the Authority. The Board shall adequately provide for
19 the known debts, liabilities and obligations of the Authority, and shall then distribute the assets of
20 the Authority among the Members, as follows:

- 21 a. The assets contributed by each Member, or the value thereof as of the date of
22 termination shall be distributed to that entity.
- 23 b. The remaining assets shall then be distributed to each Member in equal
24 proportions.

25 The distribution of assets shall be made in-kind to the extent possible by returning to
26 each Member those assets contributed by such parties to the Authority; however, no party shall

1 be required to accept transfer of an asset in kind.

2 Notwithstanding any other provision by the Board for payment of all known to debts,
3 liabilities and obligations of the Authority, each of the Members shall remain liable for any and all
4 such debts, liabilities, and obligations in equal proportions, or in the proportion specified by
5 unanimous action of the Board if alternative proportions are so specified for particular actions or
6 activities that give rise to such debts, liabilities, and obligations.

7 **19. INDEMNIFICATION/CONTRIBUTION:** The Authority shall hold harmless, defend and
8 indemnify the Members, and their agents, officers and employees from and against any liability,
9 claims, actions, costs, damages or losses of any kind, including death or injury to any person
10 and/or damage to property (including property owned by any Member), arising out of the activities
11 of the Authority, or its agents, officers and employees under this Agreement. The foregoing
12 indemnification obligations shall continue beyond the term of this Agreement as to any acts or
13 omissions occurring before or under this Agreement or any extension of this Agreement.

14 To the extent that the Authority is unable or unwilling to hold harmless, defend and
15 indemnify any party to this Agreement as provided in this Section, such party shall be entitled to
16 contribution from each of the other parties in equal proportion to the extent one Member pays
17 more than its equal share of such obligation.

18 **20. INSURANCE:** The Authority shall obtain insurance for the Board members and
19 general liability insurance containing liability in such amounts as the Board shall determine will be
20 necessary to adequately insure against the risks of liability that may be incurred by the Authority.
21 The Members, their officers, directors and employees, shall be named as additional insureds.

22 **21. CLAIMS:** All claims against the Authority, including, but not limited to, claims by public
23 officers and employees for fees, salaries, wages, mileage, or any other expenses, shall be filed
24 within the time and in the manner specified in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 910) of Part
25 3, Division 3.6 of Title J of the Government Code, which describes the appropriate content of a
26 claim.

1 accordingly the provisions of Civil Code Section 1654 shall not apply to address and interpret any
2 uncertainty.

3 **26. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES INTENDED:** Unless specifically set forth, the
4 parties to this Agreement do not intend to provide any other party with any benefit or enforceable
5 legal or equitable right or remedy.

6 **27. WAIVERS:** The failure of any party to insist on strict compliance with any provision of
7 this Agreement shall not be considered a waiver of any right to do so, whether for that breach or
8 any subsequent breach.

9 **28. CONFLICT WITH LAWS OR REGULATIONS/SEVERABILITY:** This Agreement is
10 subject to all applicable laws and regulations. If any provision of this Agreement is found by any
11 court or other legal authority, or is agreed by the parties, to be in conflict with any code or
12 regulation governing its subject, the conflicting provision shall be considered null and void. If the
13 effect of nullifying any conflicting provision is such that a material benefit of the Agreement to any
14 party is lost, the Agreement may be terminated at the option of the affected party. In all other
15 cases the remainder of the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

16 **29. FURTHER ASSURANCES:** Each party agrees to execute any additional documents
17 and to perform any further acts which may be reasonably required to affect the purposes of this
18 Agreement.

19 **30. COUNTERPARTS:** This Agreement may be signed in one or more counterparts, each
20 of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same
21 instrument.

22 **31. AMENDMENT:** This document may only be amended with a unanimous vote by its
23 Members.

24 **THE PARTIES,** having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement
25 by their authorized signatures.

1 CITY OF TULARE Signature page

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THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

CITY OF TULARE

Rob Hunt Date 9-14-15
City Manager /acting

[Signature] Date 9-14-15
ATTEST
City Clerk

CITY OF TULARE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

[Signature] Date 9-11-15
President, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Shanna Oheal Date 9-14-15
ATTEST
Secretary, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Approved to Form
City of Tulare City Attorney

_____ Date _____

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CITY OF TULARE Signature page

THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

CITY OF TULARE

City Manager Date _____

Date _____

ATTEST
City Clerk

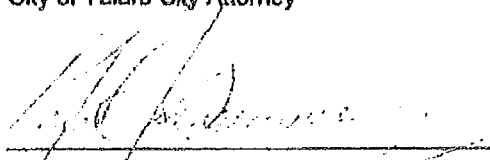
CITY OF TULARE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Date _____
President, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Date _____

ATTEST
Secretary, Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

Approved to Form
City of Tulare City Attorney



Date 07-18-10

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TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT Signature page

THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their agreement by their authorized signatures below.

TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

David S. Bealon
President of the Board

9-14-15

J. Paul Hendrix
ATTEST
Secretary of the Board

Date 9/14/15

Approved to Form
District Counsel

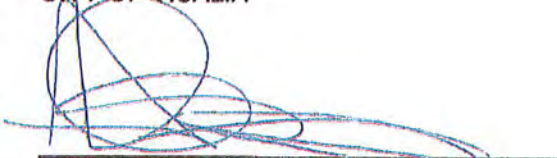
Kurt Bil

Date 9-14-15

1 CITY OF VISALIA Signature page

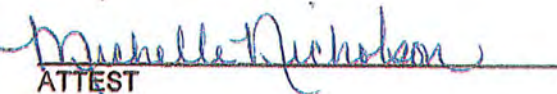
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4 THE PARTIES, having read and considered the above provisions, indicate their
5 agreement by their authorized signatures below.

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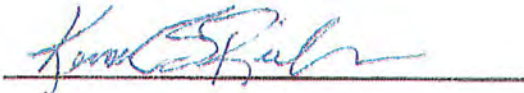
Date 9/14/15

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23 City Clerk

Date 9/15/15

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27 City of Visalia City Attorney

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32 Date 9-14-15

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**Mid-Kaweah Groundwater
Sustainability Agency
Communication and
Engagement Plan**

Draft: Version 4

August 7, 2018

Prepared for:

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability
Agency

FINAL

Revision	Description	Author	Quality Check		Independent Review	
1	Draft Document	Craig Moyle				
2	Review	Paul Hendrix		Craig Moyle		
3	Revise and Update	Craig Moyle		Chris Petersen		
4	Committee Edits and New Information	Craig Moyle				

FINAL

Table of Contents

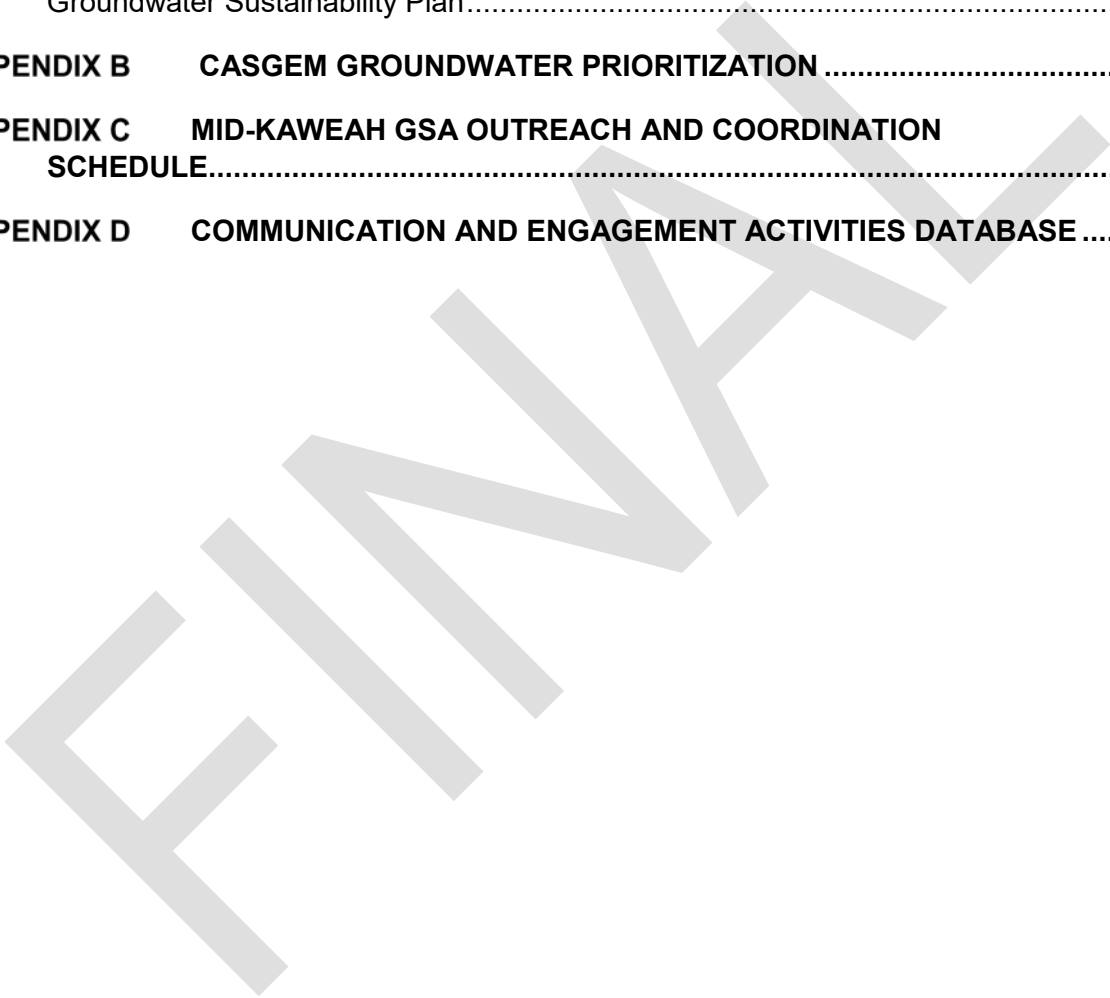
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	I
ABBREVIATIONS	IV
PLAN AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS.....	V
1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW	1.1
1.1 ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT	1.2
1.2 ABOUT THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN.....	1.2
2.0 ABOUT THE MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY	2.2
2.1 BOARD STRUCTURE.....	2.3
2.2 DECISION MAKING SUPPORT	2.5
2.2.1 Manager.....	2.5
2.2.2 Legal Counsel.....	2.5
2.2.3 Management Committee	2.6
2.2.4 Advisory Committee	2.6
2.2.5 Kaweah Subbasin Management Team.....	2.7
3.0 MID-KAWEAH GSA COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT	3.7
3.1 OUTREACH TOOLS	3.8
3.1.1 Interested Party Database.....	3.8
3.1.2 Communication and Engagement Database	3.9
3.1.3 GSA Website	3.10
3.1.4 Key Messages	3.11
3.1.5 Outreach Tools and Resources.....	3.11
3.2 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	3.13
3.2.1 Standing Meetings	3.13
3.2.2 Member Agency Meetings.....	3.13
3.2.3 Public and Stakeholder Meetings	3.14
3.2.4 Community Presentations	3.14
3.3 NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS.....	3.15
3.4 GSP REVIEW AND ADOPTION.....	3.16
3.4.1 Public Review Phase	3.16
3.4.2 GSP Adoption Phase	3.17
3.5 POST ADOPTION ACTIVITIES.....	3.18
3.6 OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF GSP IMPLEMENTATION	3.18
4.0 INTRA-BASIN OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.....	4.18
4.1 SUBBASIN FORUMS.....	4.19
4.2 ANNUAL REPORTS.....	4.19
5.0 APPENDICIES	5.1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies of the Kaweah Subbasin.....	2.3
Figure 2 Decision Making Structure of Mid-Kaweah GSA	2.5
Figure 3 CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization.....	B.1

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	KEY MESSAGES	5.1
A.1	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	5.1
A.2	Kaweah Subbasin	5.4
A.3	Groundwater Sustainability Plan.....	5.5
APPENDIX B	CASGEM GROUNDWATER PRIORITIZATION	B.1
APPENDIX C	MID-KAWEAH GSA OUTREACH AND COORDINATION	
	SCHEDULE.....	C.2
APPENDIX D	COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DATABASE	D.1



Executive Summary

The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Mid-Kaweah GSA) Communication and Engagement Plan provides a high-level overview of near- and long-term outreach strategies, tactics and tools that support public and stakeholder communication actions, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. While primarily focused on achieving the communication needs of the Mid-Kaweah GSA, this Plan also describes certain intra-basin activities that serve to accomplish the needs of the agency and its fellow Kaweah Subbasin GSAs: East Kaweah GSA and Greater Kaweah GSA. The Plan is comprised of four main sections as follows:

Section 1: Introduction and Overview

Passed by the legislature during the third year of California's worst drought in decades, SGMA requires local public agencies to establish a governance structure and lead development and implementation of a Groundwater Management Plan to address and respond to chronic groundwater overdraft in subbasins identified to have high and medium risk of overdraft. The Mid-Kaweah GSA is one of three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11) identified as a high priority region at risk of critical overdraft by the state's California Statewide Groundwater Evaluation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. Other GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin are East Kaweah GSA and the Greater Kaweah GSA, subbasins identified to have high and medium risk of overdraft. The Mid-Kaweah GSA is one of three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11) identified as a high priority region at risk of critical overdraft by the state's California Statewide Groundwater Evaluation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. Other GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin are East Kaweah GSA and the Greater Kaweah GSA.

Section 2: About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Formed in September 2015, the Mid-Kaweah GSA is among the first to be formed in response to SGMA. Founding member agencies are the cities of Tulare (inclusive of the Tulare Board of Public Utilities) and Visalia, and Tulare Irrigation District. The GSA was formed as Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under the state's Joint Exercise of Powers Act and includes a six-member Board of Directors. Voting thresholds are defined in the JPA, with decision making support to the Board of Director led by an Executive Director in consultation with a Management Committee, Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Kaweah Subbasin Management Team (see Figure 1, Page 2.4). The Management Committee, Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team are standing committees established through a Board of Director vote and are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 et seq.). Management Team are standing committees established through a Board of Director vote and are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 et seq.).

Section 3: Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

Outreach activities described in the Plan are managed by the Advisory Committee in close coordination with the Management Committee and the Executive Director. The described outreach activities draw, in part, from the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee Assessment, a document aimed to inform the organizational structure of the committee and collect outreach requirements and recommendations from committee members. Planned outreach activities are supported by a range of outreach tools, which include:

- **Interested Party Database:** Pursuant to Water Code §10723.4, the three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin intend to establish and jointly manage a coordinated Interested Party Database (IPD) for distribution of notices related to GSP preparation, meeting announcements, availability of draft plans, maps and other related information. Slated for release in early summer 2018, the website provides stakeholder contact management, event management, mass email notification, and administrative record functions that accomplish certain requirements of SGMA. For contact management, the platform supports self-enrollment to an email database of the GSA or GSAs of the stakeholder's choice. If uncertain of which GSA applies to their property or area of interest, the website will provide a link to assist in identification of the appropriate agency.
- **Communication and Engagement Database:** The database identifies potential stakeholder and outreach audiences. Stakeholders have been divided into three stakeholder "groups." Pursuant to the requirements of SGMA, any outreach conducted to these stakeholders will be recorded in the Database and listed in the GSP. These tiers are described as follows:
 - **Group 1: Collaborated (Inform + Consult + Collaborate)** – This group is closely connected during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to exchange information through active two-way communication. As a pro-active and re-active activity, these engagements gather information, and develop solutions to existing and emerging issues.
 - **Group 2: Consulted (Inform + Consult)** – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. This engagement is a pro-active activity seeks to gather stakeholder opinions to information presented by Mid-Kaweah GSA.
 - **Group 3: Connected (Inform)** – This group is connected during planning through distribution of written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. Presentations would be held in response to stakeholder requests.
- **Project Website:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA partner agencies have developed a stand-alone website for the GSA: www.midkaweah.org. The website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Directors and Advisory Committee meeting notices, public outreach information and other informational resources.
- **Key Messages:** Initial key messages associated with SGMA, Mid-Kaweah GSA, and sustainable groundwater management have been developed and included in Appendix A. These key messages will be periodically updated.
- **Outreach Materials:** A suite of informational materials are planned for development utilizing a common visual identify to assist the reader readily identify the Mid-Kaweah GSA from the array of GSAs in California. These materials maybe be translated into multiple languages. These documents include an electronic newsletter, fliers, brochures, fact sheets, utility bill inserts, PowerPoint presentations, and surveys.

A variety of outreach activities are planned in support of GSP development through adoption of the agency's GSP by Jan. 31, 2020. Activities aimed to engage the public and stakeholders throughout this phase include:

- **Standing Meetings:** In addition to regular meetings of the Board of Directors, three standing meetings subject to the Brown Act are held or co-hosted by the Mid-Kaweah GSA. These include the Management Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team meeting. Subbasin Management Team meeting.
- **Member Agency Meetings:** Staff of the Mid-Kaweah GSA plan to conduct periodic presentations before the boards and councils of the founding agency members.
- **Public and Stakeholder Meetings:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to host a series of meetings to present technical topics to the public and stakeholders to assist in development of the GSP. These meetings are planned for the fall of 2018.
- **Community Presentations:** To maintain and expand awareness of the agency, staff intend to provide high-level presentations at meetings hosted by civic organizations and non-government organizations with interests in sustainable groundwater management.
- **Non-Profit Partnerships:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA is collaborating with various non-profit groups formed to assist disadvantaged communities engage sustainable groundwater management planning. This collaboration is

intended to identify opportunities for the GSA to partner with these groups in development of projects to include to the agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

- **GSP Review and Adoption:** Staff anticipates adoption of the 2020 Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP to be up to seven months. This will include a mid-2019 release of a Public Draft GSP for a public review period of up to 90-days. Public comments collected during this phase will be compiled into the Mid-Kaweah GSA Public Comment Report, which informs completion of the Draft Final GSP, slated for release in the fall of 2019. A public hearing to adopt the Draft Final GSP is proposed for December 2019.
- **Post Adoption Activities:** Following adoption and submittal of the Mid-Kaweah GSP by the statutory deadline of January 31, 2020, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will perform a 60-day public review period for all GSPs and relay such comments to their respective GSA. These comments will inform DWR's evaluation of submitted GSPs. These evaluations are due by legislative statute in 2022. Mid-Kaweah GSA staff plan to assemble public comments submitted to DWR, as well as public comments shared during the agency's public hearing to adopt, as an errata to the Mid-Kaweah GSA Public Comment Report.

Section 4: Intra-Basin Outreach Activities

In addition to the joint management of the Interested Parties Database, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs plan to consider implementation of two intra-basin coordination outreach activities. These activities include co-hosting annual "state of the subbasin" forums intended to share subbasin-wide information to the public and stakeholders during plan development and throughout GSP implementation. The agency's additionally plan to consider issuing one consolidated annual report to DWR in response to GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2 GSAs plan to consider implementation of two intra-basin coordination outreach activities. These activities include co-hosting annual "state of the subbasin" forums intended to share subbasin-wide information to the public and stakeholders during plan development and throughout GSP implementation. The agency's additionally plan to consider issuing one consolidated annual report to DWR in response to GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2

Abbreviations

Board of Directors	Mid-Kaweah GSA Board of Directors
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program
CWC	Community Water Center
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LCJA	Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SHE	Self-Help Enterprises
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

As part of its development and passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014, the State legislature intended that local public agency actions pursuant to the new law be conducted in an open public process. This document identifies and presents the public and stakeholder communication and engagement activities to be implemented by the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in support of development and eventual implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within the agency's jurisdictional boundaries. This Plan is intended to function as a guide versus a prescriptive approach to outreach activities, thereby supporting a flexible and adaptive process for the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee to implement in response to stakeholder needs during GSP development. Development of this plan was informed, in part, through information and advice collected through the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee Assessment¹. This Plan describes the Mid-Kaweah GSA's approach to achieve communication and engagement activities identified in California Code of Regulations Section 354.10:

§ 354.10. Notice and Communication

Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:

(a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.

(b) A list of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.

(c) Comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses by the Agency.

(d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:

(1) An explanation of the Agency's decision-making process.

(2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.

(3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population within the basin.

Key Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Dates:

- June 30, 2017: Establish Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (or equivalent) for all high and medium priority basins – Water Code § 10724(b)
- July 1, 2017: County must affirm or disaffirm responsibility as Groundwater Sustainability Agency if no Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been established – Water Code § 10724(b)
- Jan. 31, 2020: All critically over drafted high and medium priority basins must be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Water Code § 10720.7(a)(1)
- On April 1 following Groundwater Sustainability Plan adoption and annually thereafter, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies provide report on progress towards sustainability to the California Department of Water Resources. Water Code § 10728

¹http://bit.ly/Kaweah_AdvComAsmnt

(4) The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

1.1 ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

SGMA was passed by the legislature during the third year of California's chronic drought. While the drought was declared over due to near record rainfall in the 2016/17 season, groundwater basins throughout the state have not recovered to pre-drought conditions and, in some cases, experienced permanent groundwater storage capacity losses through land subsidence. The legislation requires local public agencies and newly-formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in high and medium priority subbasins to sustainably manage California groundwater resources with oversight by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and potential intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) if management activities are determined to be inadequate. Passage of SGMA ended an era where sustainable groundwater management was a voluntary action or a court mandated requirement through adjudication.

Following passage of SGMA, DWR embarked on a series of public and agency meetings to develop GSP Emergency Regulations. These regulations were released in July 2016 and are chaptered under the California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters (§350-§358.4). In conjunction with release of these regulations, DWR published the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations Guide. The guide summarizes and defines the processes and requirements found in Title 23 for GSA formation, the development and implementation of GSPs, the responsibilities of the DWR and interbasin coordination (§357.2).

1.2 ABOUT THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN

The Kaweah Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Basin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11, Figure 1) is one of 515 groundwater subbasins in California, and is one of 127 subbasins that have been identified as high or medium priority by DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. The CASGEM Program has identified the Kaweah Subbasin as a high priority critical overdraft basin, a determination that requires implementation of sustainable groundwater management actions by January 31, 2020. The subbasin is primarily located within the Tulare County, with a portion included in Kings County. At the time of this plan, three GSAs have been established within the subbasin pursuant to SGMA, including:

- East Kaweah GSA
- Greater Kaweah GSA
- Mid-Kaweah GSA

2.0 ABOUT THE MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

The Mid-Kaweah GSA was established on Sept. 14, 2015, through execution of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin Joint Powers Authority² (JPA) between the City of Visalia, the City of Tulare (including its Board of Public

² http://bit.ly/MKGSA_JPA

About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Utilities Commissioners), and Tulare Irrigation District. Each agency is eligible to serve as a GSA as a “local agency” pursuant to California Water Code §10721(m)³.

Formed pursuant to Government Code §6500 et seq., the JPA serves as an independent public agency on behalf of its member agencies to comply with SGMA. The jurisdictional boundaries of the GSA represents approximately one-quarter of the Kaweah Subbasin, or approximately 170 square miles of the 696 square-mile subbasin. The founding agencies have engaged for many years in projects and programs to further conjunctive use and other groundwater management programs of mutual benefit. They collectively encompass the major population centers (approximately 190,000 people) and provide irrigation supplies to approximately 65,000 acres. Groundwater is relied upon heavily for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes.

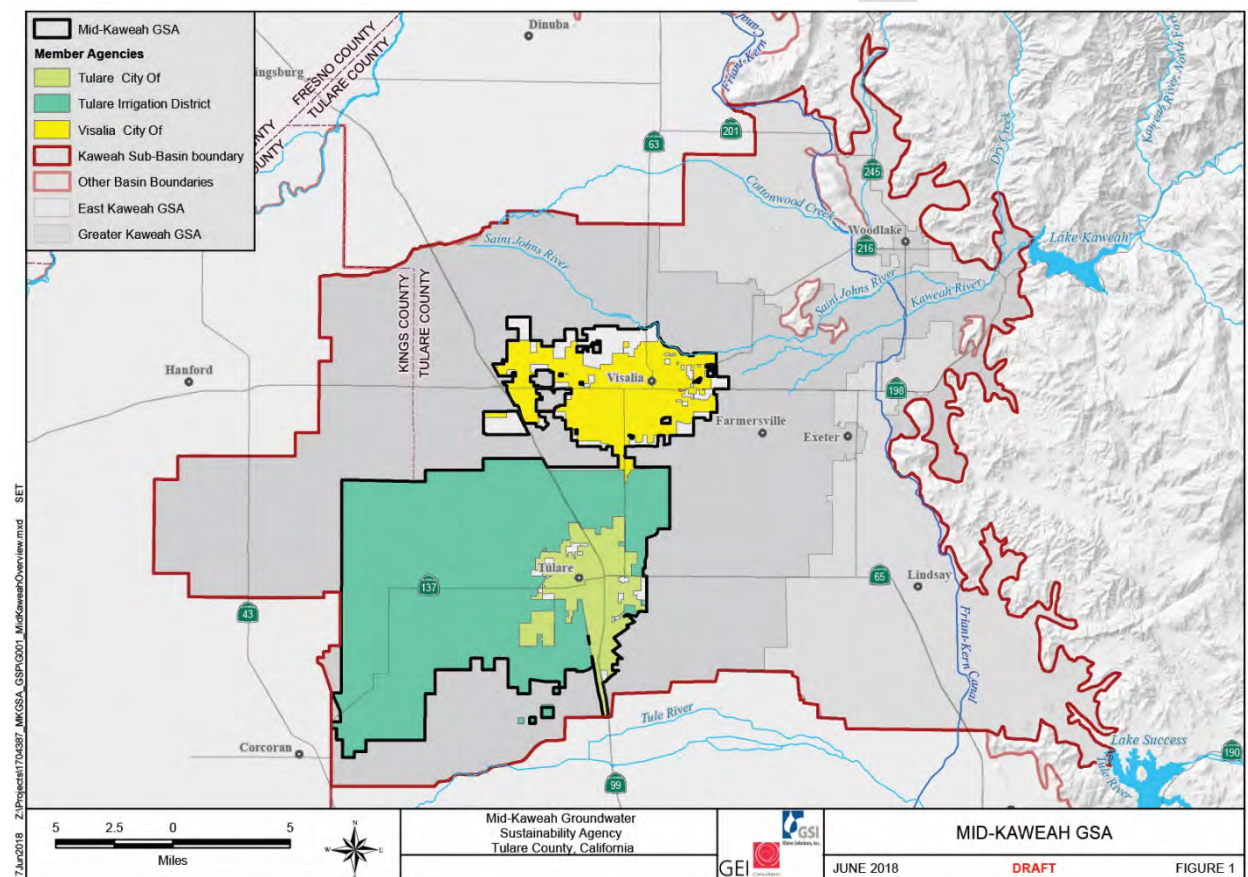


Figure 1 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies of the Kaweah Subbasin

2.1 BOARD STRUCTURE

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is led by a six-member Board of Directors comprised of two City of Visalia City Councilmembers, a total of two members from either or both of the City of Tulare City Council or the City of Tulare

³ California Water Code §10721(m) – "Local agency" means a local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.

About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

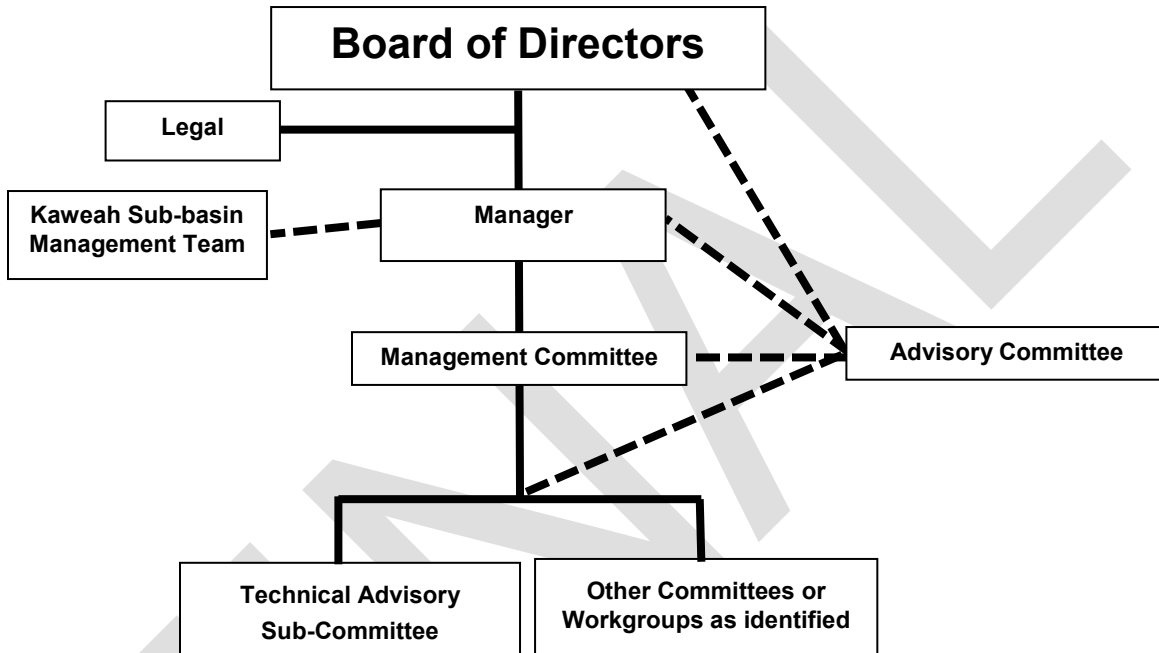
Board of Public Utilities, and two members of the TID Board of Directors. Additional members may be added to the Authority by a unanimous vote. These additional members must be eligible to serve as a GSA under the Act, and be a stakeholder located within the subbasin. Each member can designate one alternate director to serve in the event of a director's absence. Board members of the Authority serve without terms and at the pleasure of the legislative body that appointed them. Decision making of issues before the Board of Directors is via a simple majority of the quorum required for adoption of a resolution, ordinance, contract authorization or other action of the Board, except that:

1. A majority voice of less than a quorum may vote to adjourn
2. A unanimous vote of the entire Board (which may include alternatives) for the following:
3. Adoption of an initial budget;
4. Adoption or modification of the annual budget;
5. Contracts over \$25,000 and for terms in excess of two years;
6. Admission of additional members
7. Appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee, including any independent contractor who functions as an employee;
8. Setting the amounts of any contributions or fees to be made or paid to the Authority from any member
9. Compromise or payment of any claim against the Authority;
10. Acquisition by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, right-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or property to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority
11. Adoption and imposition of fees pursuant to Water Code §10730-10731;
12. Replacement of the annual special audit required by Government Code §6505 with audit covering a two year period;
13. Approval of a GSP for the portions of the Subbasin identified by the GSA boundaries.

2.2 DECISION MAKING SUPPORT

Decision making support to the MKSGA Board of Directors is provided by a GSA manager, legal counsel, two standing committees, and an intra-basin coordination team. The decision making structure is illustrated Figure 1 and described further in the sections below.

Figure 2 Decision Making Structure of Mid-Kaweah GSA



2.2.1 Manager

The GSA Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors and serves at its pleasure. This position provides administrative and fiscal management for the GSA, and serves as overall coordinator for development and implementation of the GSP. Other ancillary administrative services are performed in-kind by staff members of the three GSA Members, to and including the GSA Secretary and Treasurer as appointed by the Board. Administrative functions include servicing the needs of the GSA and Board including, but not limited to meeting calendars, notices, agendas, minutes, resolutions and other reports or services required to conduct the business of the GSA. As fiscal agent the duties include payables, receivables, audit data, audits and any other fiscal requirements or fiscal controls needed to conduct the business of the GSA.

2.2.2 Legal Counsel

Legal counsel serves at the pleasure of the Board and is retained to advise members and the executive director on topics associated with the development and implementation of the GSA, and applicable functions of the Board.

2.2.3 Management Committee

The Mid-Kaweah GSA Management Committee is one of two standing committees formed through execution of the JPA and is subject to requirements of the Brown Act. The committee is comprised of one staff member from each of the Member agencies. These staff members are responsible for approval of all expenditures included in the Board-approved budget, and assists the board with all aspects of GSP development and implementation of the Act. The Management Committee may also, pursuant to its formation under 9(j) of the Mid-Kaweah GSA JPA⁴, establish a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the purpose of assisting the Management Committee and the Board. The role of the TAC is to perform technical studies for development of the agency GSP and to perform intra-basin coordination with other GSAs within the Kaweah Subbasin to address and resolve shared technical processes. Staffing of the TAC is anticipated to change throughout the plan development process depending on technical requirements.

2.2.4 Advisory Committee

The Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee is a standing committee appointed by the Board of Directors and is subject to the Brown Act. Formed pursuant to section 9(i) of the JPA⁵, the 11-member committee is selected from a pool of applicants and serve three-year terms renewable through a board vote. Applicants must be residents within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Membership on the board seeks to staff a committee whose membership represents the various social, economic and environmental stakeholder communities affected by SGMA. To achieve this balance, the following topical and geographic objectives are sought when selecting committee members:

- Up to three members representing governmental organizations operating within the GSA;
- Up to three members representing environmental interests and/or disadvantaged communities;
- Up to three members representing the agricultural community; and
- All remaining positions are appointed at-large and based, in part, on geographic location.

The Advisory Committee's purpose is to support decision making structure of the Board of Directors and provide counsel on behalf of the communities they serve to the various administrative, social, and technical topics being

⁴ 9(j): *MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The Board shall create a Management Committee for the purpose of overseeing all activities undertaken in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Authority identified in this Agreement, and for reporting upon same to the Board. The Management Committee shall be comprised of one staff person from each of the Members. The Management Committee shall, among other things, be responsible for the approval of all expenditures authorized by the Board through their approval of budget appropriations as required herein. The Management Committee may also establish a Technical Advisory Committee for the purpose of assisting the Management Committee and the Board with the technical aspects of GSP development and implementation of the Act.*

⁵ 9(i): *ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Board shall create an Advisory Committee for the purpose of soliciting information from the Other Kaweah Agencies and potentially affected stakeholders utilizing groundwater within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Members and potentially subject to the GSP to be developed by the Authority. Membership on the Advisory Committee and the time/date for meetings shall be at the discretion of the Board.*

addressed for development of the GSP. To accomplish this purpose, the Advisory Committee guides and implements outreach activities that encourage active and consistent involvement of the public, civic organizations, agencies, landowners, and other stakeholder communities during plan development. These outreach activities seek to engage stakeholders in one of three “groups” tailored to deliver, share and exchange information as applicable to the stakeholder’s desired level of engagement in sustainable groundwater management. It is anticipated that stakeholder status within each group will change during the planning process consistent with each stakeholder’s informational and engagement needs. These groups are described in section 3.1.2 Communication and Engagement Database.

2.2.5 Kaweah Subbasin Management Team

Established in November 2017, the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team is an intra-basin coordination activity involving the three GSAs within the Kaweah Subbasin. The team was formed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation and Coordination of the Kaweah Subbasin⁶. Team meetings are held monthly and publicly noticed consistent with the Brown Act. As described in the MOU, the Team’s purpose is to conduct necessary studies and seek mutual agreement in the preparation of a Coordination Agreement require by SGMA. The team is comprised of three members of each GSA, with one vote per GSA. These participants are appointed by their respective Board of Directors and serve at their direction. At the time of this Plan, the Mid-Kaweah GSA manager serves the custodian of records on behalf of the Team. Coordination of meeting locations and meeting moderation is rotated among each subbasin GSA.

3.0 MID-KAWEAH GSA COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consistent with SGMA, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to develop and implement its GSP in close coordination, consultation and cooperation with the public and stakeholders through various outreach activities tailored to accomplish the regulatory goals of SGMA. The Mid-Kaweah GSA announced its public and stakeholder engagement objectives as part of its September 2015 formation notification (Water Code §10723.8)(a)(4)). This notification serves as the foundation for consistent and progressive engagement activities to the diverse social, cultural, and economic stakeholder communities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

Communication and engagement activities described in this section include tools, tasks, and tactics tailored to the unique needs of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. These activities draw from results of the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee Assessment and are framed to establish and maintain broad community awareness in SGMA and the agency. These activities additionally seek to encourage active and consistent participation in groundwater management planning by Mid-Kaweah GSA stakeholders towards completion of a durable and implementable GSP.

Initial information needs identified in the Advisory Committee Assessment include:

- Raise awareness of SGMA and regulations that have been promulgated since its passage, particularly in urban areas.
- Maintain and increase awareness that the GSP for the region is locally led and focused to meet local needs.

⁶ http://bit.ly/Kaweah_MOU

- Raise public understanding of groundwater issues, particularly in relation to fluctuations in groundwater levels associated with conjunctive use.
- Foster water conservation practices that help maintain viable municipal landscapes (e.g. urban forests).
- Communicate the role of surface water storage in meeting consumption demand by municipal, industrial and agricultural water users.
- Distribute a groundwater overdraft report prior to release of the GSP to familiarize groundwater users of the scope of the challenge.
- Distribute a timeline that conveys the schedule of major milestones to encourage public participation at appropriate intervals.

3.1 OUTREACH TOOLS

Outreach tools are activities for stakeholder identification, tracking engagements with stakeholders, and vehicles to publish and disseminate information to the public and stakeholders. This section describes the suite of tools developed or planned for use by the Mid-Kaweah GSA and managed by the Advisory Committee. The agency, on an as-needed basis, may provide materials in Spanish and Portuguese. A common visual identity format will be implemented for all printed and electronic informational materials distributed to the public and stakeholders.

3.1.1 Interested Party Database

To manage and document participation during the plan development process with individual stakeholders, GSAs are required to establish, maintain and utilize an Interested Party Database (IPD) as a means to distribute notices related to GSP preparation, meeting announcements, availability of draft plans, maps and other related information. Agencies are required to add any person who provides a written request to be placed on the IPD (Water Code §10723.4).

As part of existing intra-basin coordination, the three Kaweah Subbasin GSAs intend to establish a jointly manage IPD and meeting calendar website integrated to each agency's website. Slated for release in early summer 2018, the website is intended to provide stakeholder contact management, event management, mass email notification, and administrative record functions. For contact management, the platform supports self-enrollment to an email database of the GSA or GSAs of the stakeholder's choice. If uncertain of which GSA applies to their property or area of interest, the website will provide a link to assist in identification of the appropriate agency. Information requested during the subscription process includes the following fields:

- Name
- Email
- Company/Organization
- Address
- Stakeholder Category (Water Code §10723.2⁷):
 - Citizens Groups
 - General Public
 - Disadvantaged Communities⁸
 - Agricultural Well Owners
 - Domestic Well Owners
 - Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied

⁷ As available and consistent with Water Code Section 10723.2

⁸ Includes those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems (Water Code §10723.2(i))

Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

- Private and Public Water Purveyors
- Surface Water Users⁹
- Governmental and Land Use Agencies
- Tribal Governments and Communities
- Environmental and Ecosystem Interests
- Remediation and Groundwater Cleanup

The subscription enrollment form is anticipated to include a range of notification topics applicable to each GSA. For the Mid-Kaweah GSA, this menu is as follows:

- All GSA Notices and Announcements
- Board Meetings
- Advisory Committee
- Media Notices
- Document Release
- Kaweah Subbasin Management Team

The site's calendar provides a dashboard view of scheduled meetings and links to receive additional information, download documents, register to attend, and review the list of those that has registered to attend. A link will be provided for visitors to add the event to their personal calendar (e.g. Microsoft Outlook, Google Calendar, etc.). Links to adopted outreach plans and other related documents are planned for inclusion on the website.

Administratively, the site assists GSAs in the preparation and conduct of public meetings, monitor the effectiveness of communication activities, and serve as a platform to submit information required by SGMA. Public meeting functions include coordinated scheduling of GSA events, distribution of announcements by mass email, and logistical planning of public meetings based on attendee registration. Readership trends from mass email campaigns will be measured to identify the frequency emails are opened and forwarded on to others. Geographic information provided by subscribers can be displayed on a map to reveal potential geographic gaps in public participation. Finally, the platform will be integrated to the state's GSP submittal website (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/>) for receipt of the agency's public outreach plan and record of public participation.

3.1.2 Communication and Engagement Database

The Communication and Engagement Database is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet used to plan, implement, and evaluate engagements with stakeholder groups and the media. The database is managed by Advisory Committee and Mid-Kaweah GSA support staff. The spreadsheet includes four sections as follows:

Tab: Stakeholder Database – This section includes stakeholder organizations identified as subject to, or potentially interested in, SGMA and the Mid-Kaweah GSA activities. These organizations are categorized in the database consistent with §10723.2 and assigned to one of three “groups.” These groups serve to define a level of engagement with a stakeholder community based on self-identified or pre-assessed need. These groupings are as follows:

- **Group 1: Collaborated (Inform + Consult + Collaborate)** – This group is closely connected during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to exchange information through active two-way communication. As a pro-active and re-active activity, these engagements gather information, and develop solutions to existing and emerging issues.

⁹ If there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies (Water Code §10723.2(g))

- **Group 2: *Consulted (Inform + Consult)*** – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. This engagement is a pro-active activity seeks to gather stakeholder opinions to information presented by Mid-Kaweah GSA.
- **Group 3: *Connected (Inform)*** – This group is connected during planning through distribution of written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. Presentations would be held in response to stakeholder requests.

The grouping assignment for each stakeholder community is subject to change based on stakeholder interest and GSP content needs. It is anticipated that the assignment will be dynamic throughout the planning process as issues are identified and addressed. Such changes will be documented consistent with Water Code § 354.10 (b) and 354.10 (d).

Tab: Upcoming Outreach – This section identifies pending outreach activities to be implemented by the Mid-Kaweah GSA. This section defines the date of the activity, the host, the organization type, the identified presenter or task lead and associated action items.

Tab: Outreach Record – This section documents outreach activities to stakeholder groups and represents the administrative record for inclusion in the agency's GSP. This includes planned outreach actions and those that were in response to a stakeholder group's request. Meeting attendance, duration and key topics covered during the presentation will be recorded in the database.

Tab: Media Database – This section identifies media outlets applicable to the Mid-Kaweah GSA and document media relations activities. The section will be periodically updated with contact information of reporting and editorial staff, as well as requirements for placement of advertisements. All media relations activities (i.e. news releases, interviews, etc.) and their results will be recorded here and included as part of the administrative record during submittal of the adopted GSP.

3.1.3 GSA Website

Pursuant to GSP Emergency Regulations Section 353.6, the Mid-Kaweah GSA members developed a stand-alone website for the GSA. Located at www.midkaweah.org, this website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Directors, Board meeting notices and summaries, public outreach and timeline information, frequently asked questions, news, links and a contact list. Visitors can enroll in the agency's Interested Parties Database and ask questions of member agencies. The site is cross-linked to Greater Kaweah GSA and East Kaweah GSA websites, the Kaweah Subbasin website and its Data Management System (DMS), the DWR SGMA information portal, and other related sites.

The Mid-Kaweah GSA website is formatted to be compatible with smartphone platforms to assist in engagement with stakeholders who prefer or are reliant on this format. This effort recognizes, in part, that high-speed internet use is not universal throughout the Mid-Kaweah GSA jurisdictional area either through lack of availability, personal choice, or economic reasons.

The Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to post various documents in Spanish – and other languages, as appropriate – on the project website to assist in stakeholder communication and engagement activities. Establishment of a multi-language website for the agency is under evaluation by staff and the Advisory Committee. Factors under consideration include identification of a demonstrable need of the pertinent stakeholder group and availability of resources.

3.1.4 Key Messages

An initial list of key messages has been developed for use in all Mid-Kaweah GSA communications. These messages provide a menu of message options to utilize when responding to stakeholders, the public, media and other groups. These messages are also available for use by member agencies for response to GSA or SGMA-specific activities specific to their jurisdictional area. These key messages are organized to deliver information related to SGMA, GSA formation and GSP development. The messages should be adapted to the target audience (i.e. urban community, rural community, disadvantaged community, grower or industry representative). These key messages are subject to change during the plan development process as information is developed as conditions change. The initial key messages developed with this Outreach Plan are included in Appendix A.

3.1.5 Outreach Tools and Resources

Outreach tools and resources for the Mid-Kaweah GSA support outreach activities implemented to build and maintain awareness, and support plan development. Informational materials distributed to stakeholders will have a common visual identity to assist GSA stakeholders distinguish its work product from other GSAs in the region. The range of documents planned for use include agency letterhead, meeting summaries, comment cards, fliers, PowerPoint presentations, sign-in sheets, brochures, factsheets, news releases, media advisories, utility bill inserts, surveys, and others as-needed. The general purpose/approach for these materials are as follows:

Letterhead: Utilized for formal communication to the public, stakeholders and other parties. This letterhead identifies agency members, the agency Board of Directors, and key staff. This document may serve as a stand-alone communication vehicle or as a companion to other outreach materials.

Meeting Summaries: Utilized to memorialize discussions, decisions and other important milestones associated with a meeting hosted by the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

Comment Cards: Provided in a postcard format, this document serves to collect public and stakeholder feedback and receive requests to be added to the Interested Parties Database. Depending on setting, document may be pre-addressed for convenient delivery to the agency by U.S. Mail.

PowerPoint Presentation: Provided in electronic format, this document will provide visual and text content that support verbal presentations by Mid-Kaweah GSA members and staff.

Sign-in Sheet: This document will assist in maintaining the record of engagement for agency meetings and assist stakeholders in signing up to the Interested Parties Database.

Newsletter: A periodic online newsletter intended to keep stakeholders and the public up to date on the GSP development process, notify stakeholders of upcoming public meetings and workshops and address other topics applicable to sustainable groundwater management pertinent to the region. It is anticipated that the newsletters would be sent to the stakeholders up to three times per year during the GSP development process. The newsletter may include the following content: status of the GSP development process and milestones, key groundwater issues or topics of concern for the subbasin, regional coordination activities, state-wide updates on SGMA and a schedule of planned public meetings, workshops or other events in the subbasin, regional coordination activities, statewide updates on SGMA and a schedule of planned public meetings, workshops or other events.

Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

Brochures and Fact Sheets: These are typically one to two pages in length and developed to assist engagement with the public and stakeholders on specific topics. The editorial focus of these documents will be managed by the Advisory Committee in coordination with the Management Committee.

Utility Bill Inserts: These documents utilize space, as available, in utility bills delivered to customers by U.S. Mail. The agency may utilize these formats, as available, during the following plan development intervals:

- Spring/Summer 2018 – This first insert seeks to raise awareness of Mid-Kaweah GSA and encourage enrollment in the IPD.
- Winter 2018-19 – This second insert continues to raise awareness and encourage visitation to the agency website to stay informed of sustainable groundwater management activities to date.
- Fall 2019 – This third insert will be timed to coincide with public notification for adoption of the Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP.

Fliers: These one-page documents are focused on stakeholder communities and intended to raise awareness of certain topics or events of the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

News Releases: These documents are typically one to two pages in length and serve to draw media attention to a significant event or milestone of the agency.

Calendar Advisories: One-page documents that provide a brief description of a Mid-Kaweah GSA event or milestone (e.g. deadline for receipt of public comment).

Social Media: Social media is a rapid and convenient method to reach stakeholders and other interested parties. The Mid-Kaweah GSA established a presence on Facebook in mid-2016, with most postings focused on meeting announcements. Postings to the site would be completed in coordination with updates to the project website and additional activities identified in coordination with the Advisory Committee and Management Committee.

Surveys: The Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to periodically conduct surveys of the public, stakeholder groups and other interested parties. Circulated online, by email or direct mail, these surveys are important tools that can assist in data collection, raise or increase awareness of key topics, respond to key issues, or collect feedback following a public meeting or event. The Advisory Committee will be responsible for the management, implementation and oversight of all agency surveys. Survey may be developed by the Advisory Committee, the Management Committee, and/or the Technical Advisory Committee. Where necessary, draft surveys will be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval. The content of each survey will address the following criteria:

- Duration
- Purpose and objective
- Target audience and circulation
- Application to Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning
- Contribution to objectives of Mid-Kaweah GSA

Anticipated survey topics are as follows and subject to change during the planning process. The schedule for implementation of these activities will be determined by the Advisory Committee.

- *Post-Event Surveys:* These surveys would be printed on a 5.5 x 8.5 inch sheet of paper and circulated during a public meeting or workshop. These surveys may serve to evaluate the information shared during a meeting, or function as a data collection vehicle associated with a key topic discussed at the meeting.

- Awareness Surveys: These surveys are anticipated to be circulated electronically either through email, the project website, or social media (e.g. Facebook, SurveyMonkey, etc.) These surveys would include high-level questions associated with sustainable groundwater management. Awareness surveys are typically circulated at various intervals to measure changes in stakeholder responses.
- Subject-Matter Surveys: These surveys are exploratory in nature and seek to collect information from a specific stakeholder community or geography. Such surveys can help inform the planning process by testing alternatives to potential actions (e.g. alternatives to an identified undesirable result) or recruiting information (e.g. location of properties with multiple wells at different depths).

3.2 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee intends to conduct and monitor a variety of public outreach activities each aimed to inform, engage and respond to stakeholders and other interested parties during GSP development, adoption and, later, implementation. These activities serve to engage and interact with the public and stakeholders during GSP development, and to assist Mid-Kaweah GSA staff and leadership collect information important to groundwater sustainability planning. This engagement and interaction occur in five general areas: Standing Meetings; member agency meetings; public and stakeholder meetings; and existing community meetings. The date and schedule of these engagements is illustrated in Appendix C: Mid-Kaweah GSA Outreach and Coordination Schedule. Commonly used tools applicable to each form of engagement are included in the descriptions below:

3.2.1 Standing Meetings

Commonly Used Tools: Sign-in Sheet, Comment Card, Meeting Summary, Survey

Schedule:

- Monthly: Board of Directors
- Bi-Monthly: Advisory Committee
- Monthly: Management Committee
- As-Needed: Technical Advisory Committee
- Monthly: Kaweah Subbasin Management Team

The Mid-Kaweah GSA hosts or participates in three standing meetings that are subject to the Brown Act. These include the agency's Board of Directors, the agency's Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team meeting. Notification for these meetings are performed pursuant to the Brown Act. They represent points of access for the public and stakeholders to observe and participate in a forum where key decisions are presented, discussed and decided. They also serve to engage with the public and stakeholders in the decision making process for development of a GSP that addresses local requirements consistent with SGMA. Topics presented for Board review and decision are brought by the agency's Manager in consultation with the Management Committee, Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee. Details of each meeting are reported on the agency website consistent with Water Code §10725.2.

3.2.2 Member Agency Meetings

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card

Schedule:

- Spring 2019: Public Draft GSP Briefing

Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

- Fall 2019: Final Draft GSP Briefing

As part of GSP development, Mid-Kaweah GSA staff intend to provide briefings to member agency (cities of Tulare and Visalia; Tulare ID) councils and boards. These briefings will be conducted during a member agency's publicly noticed meeting and may include opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement at the discretion of the member agency. It is anticipated that these briefings would be requested by the member agency or scheduled proactively by Mid-Kaweah GSA staff. The primary purpose of these briefings is to provide updates on plan progress and next steps, and to respond to questions. These presentations provide opportunities to share and describe how elements of the GSP apply to the service area of the member agency. Results of these presentations will be posted on the website of the Mid-Kaweah GSA and the requesting member agency.

3.2.3 Public and Stakeholder Meetings

Commonly Used Tools: Sign-in Sheet, Comment Card, Meeting Summary, Survey

Schedule:

- Fall 2018: Sustainable Management Criteria Technical Presentations
- Spring 2019: Administrative Draft Technical Presentations
- Summer 2019: Public Draft GSP Hearing
- Winter 2019: Final Draft GSP Public Hearing

In support of plan development, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates periodically hosting or participating in meetings to present technical findings and exchange information with stakeholders. These meetings will be planned and managed by the Advisory Committee in close coordination with the Management Committee. The meetings, as identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, would focus on specific stakeholder groups, such as school districts, water purveyors, industry groups, agricultural associations, disadvantaged or economically stressed communities and non-governmental agencies. The primary functions of these meetings are: 1) to build and maintain awareness of SGMA, the Mid-Kaweah GSA and the plan development process; 2) to receive public and stakeholder input and advice during plan development; 3) to encourage the public and stakeholders to attend and participate at agency Board and Advisory Committee meetings; and 4) to encourage public and stakeholder enrollment in the Interested Parties Database. Notification of these meetings will be conducted through the agency website, the Interested Parties Database and other communication vehicles available through member agencies or other partners. These may include newsletters, post cards, fliers, utility bill inserts and social media. Results of these meetings will be posted on the agency website and tracked in the Communication and Engagement Database.

3.2.4 Community Presentations

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card, Survey

Schedule:

- Spring and Summer 2018
- Winter and Spring 2019

The Mid-Kaweah GSA plans to conduct presentations to rural schools, neighborhood associations, mobile home parks, civic, non-profit and other community organizations to build and maintain awareness about SGMA and the

agency, to encourage participation at Board and Advisory Committee meetings and to encourage enrollment in the Interested Parties Database. These sessions will occur during the second and third quarter of 2018. Subsequent presentations may be provided upon request by a stakeholder group or as a follow-on action of the Advisory Committee. The initial round of presentations will focus on expanding self-enrollment in the Interested Parties Database, increasing awareness of SGMA and increasing awareness and participation in Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP development. Subsequent rounds of community presentations would serve to continue dialog with stakeholder communities and alert groups to pending key milestones (e.g. public hearings). The Communication and Engagement Database identifies the timing, sequence and action items for these presentations. The presentations may be led by Mid-Kaweah GSA staff, member agency staff, Advisory Committee members, or consultant support staff using the prepared key messages.

3.3 NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, the California Department of Water Resources issued \$85.8 million in grant funds through the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Program to support GSP development activities by GSAs and other groups. This award includes a \$1 million grant to Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), a \$758,000 grant to the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA), and a \$614,353 grant to the Community Water Center (CWC) – three non-profit groups organized to assist disadvantaged communities address a range of social, civic and environmental issues. Funds allocated to these groups are available, among other things, to provide technical support for development of projects, provide translation support to GSAs, and staff participation in GSA activities.

The Mid-Kaweah GSA and its member agencies are long-standing partners of Self-Help Enterprises. A staff member of the organization is a standing member of the agency's Advisory Committee. On June 12, 2018, the Mid-Kaweah GSA provided the California Natural Resources Agency a letter of its support of the LCJA's scope of work for SGMA. Activities with the CWC has included participation in an April 2018 multi-meeting to discuss the organization's development of a Drinking Water Vulnerability Assessment Web Tool. The agency anticipate continued collaboration with CWC on the web tool and will respond to other requests as they arise. At the time of this plan, SHE and LCJA were determining their grant investment strategies within Mid-Kaweah GSA and other regions. This plan will be updated once those investment strategies are finalized.

Regardless of the extent of partnership opportunities available with these and other organizations, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to engage with each of the disadvantaged communities within its jurisdictional area or potentially dependent on infrastructure of its member agencies. The preliminary list of these communities¹⁰ are identified in the Communication and Engagement Database and identified below.

- Matheny Tract – Severely Disadvantaged Community
- Soult's Tract – Disadvantaged Community
- Lone Oak Tract – Disadvantaged Community
- Waukena Hamlet – Severely Disadvantaged Community
- Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company – Disadvantaged Community
- East Tulare Hamlet – Disadvantaged Community¹¹

¹⁰ List is based on the 2015 Mid-Kaweah GSA Formation Notification; the DWR Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool for "Community Places"; the Tulare County 2030 General Plan Update; Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance website

¹¹ This community is located in the Greater Kaweah GSA service area; however, activities are underway to connect this area to the City of Tulare for emergency water supplies.

- Mooney Grove Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Mooney Grove Manor Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Royal Oaks Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Westlake Village Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Willow Glen Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Mountain View Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community

3.4 GSP REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Adoption of a GSA is governed by Water Code §10728.4 and provides the following requirements:

A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. The groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude an agency and a city or county from otherwise consulting or commenting regarding the adoption or amendment of a plan.

While the above Water Code provision intimates a three month adoption process, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates a two-phased approach for the public review and adoption of the agency's GSP that may last up to seven months.

These phases are described as follows:

3.4.1 Public Review Phase

The Public Review Phase is anticipated to take up to three months and begin in mid-2019. The major milestone of this phase is release of the agency's Public Draft GSP and conduct of a public review period. This phase seeks to provide opportunities for public input to the GSP prior to formal adoption proceedings pursuant to §10728.4. This step is separate from a public comment processes to be conducted by DWR (Water Code §10733.4(3)(c)¹²). The agency's Public Review Phase includes the following components:

Public Draft GSP: The Public Draft GSP is intended for release in mid-2019 for up to a 90-day public review.

Public Meeting: During the day public review period for the Public Draft GSP, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to host at least one public meeting intended to provide a high level presentation of the document and receive comments from the public and stakeholders. A stenographer may staff this public meeting to record verbal comments.

Notifications: Consistent with Government Code §6066, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to place two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to the public meeting. Additional notification activities include distribution of a news release to local and regional print, broadcast and on-line media sources, distribution of event fliers to organizations identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, and mass email distribution via the agency's Interested Party Database.

¹² Upon receipt of a groundwater sustainability plan, the department shall post the plan on the department's Internet Web site and provide 60 days for persons to submit comments to the department about the plan.

Public Comment Report: A Public Comment Report will be developed to document all written comments submitted during the public comment period and staff responses to these comments. This document will include all verbal comments collected by a stenographer during the public meeting, as available. Information contained in this document will contribute to completion of the Draft Final GSP.

3.4.2 GSP Adoption Phase

The GSP Adoption Phase is expected to last 90 to 120 days and slated to begin in late summer/early fall. This phase includes the following components:

Notice of Intent: Pursuant to Water Code §10728.4, the agency will prepare and release a Notice of Intent to Adopt its GSP during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. This notice will be provided to the County of Tulare and cities within the jurisdictional area of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Consultation meetings will be performed in the event written request is received pursuant to §10728.4. As for-profit water purveyors operate within the jurisdictional boundary of Mid-Kaweah GSA, the agency intends to provide a courtesy copy of this Notice of Intent to the California Public Utilities Commission. This action continues notification first initiated pursuant to Water Code 10727.8(a).¹³

Member Agency Briefing: Prior to release of the Draft Final GSP, Mid-Kaweah GSA staff plan to provide a briefing of the document's key elements and results from the public comment period before the Visalia City Council, the Tulare City Council and Tulare Board of Public Utilities, and also before the Tulare ID Board of Directors. This presentation will provide a high-level overview and communicate the adoption schedule by the Mid-Kaweah GSA Board of Directors.

Release Draft Final GSP: The Draft Final GSP is intended for public release in late fall/early winter 2019.

Notifications: Pursuant to Government Code §6066, the Mid-Kaweah GSA will place two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to the conduct of a public hearing required by Water Code §10728.4. Additional notification activities include distribution of a news release to local and regional print, broadcast and on-line media sources, distribution of event fliers to organizations identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, and mass email and text notification using the agency's Interested Party Database.

Public Hearing: Pursuant to the Water Code, the Board of Directors will host a formal public hearing to receive verbal comments from the public and stakeholders. This hearing is in advance of a Board of Directors action to adopt the 2020 Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP and authorize the Coordination Agreement (SGMA §10727(b)(3) and GSP Emergency Regulations §357.4). Written comments provided by the public and other interested parties will be accepted during the hearing. A stenographer may be in attendance to record public comments. Written and verbal comments will

¹³ 10727.8. (a) Prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county located within the geographic area to be covered by the plan. The groundwater sustainability agency may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. If the geographic area to be covered by the plan includes a public water system regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the commission.

retained for post adoption use (see Section 3.4 Post Adoption Activities). This hearing is slated to occur in early December 2019.

3.5 POST ADOPTION ACTIVITIES

Adoption of the Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP authorizes agency staff to begin implementation the identified actions. The adoption additionally initiates review and evaluation of submitted GSPs by DWR to be tracked by the Mid-Kaweah GSA as part of GSP implementation. These activities include the following components:

Public Review: Water Code Section 10733.4 directs DWR to conduct a public comment period for submitted GSPs for a period of 60 days. This review is conducted on a subbasin level and begins after DWR receives all GSPs from GSAs in a groundwater subbasin. Comments are submitted via an on-line form managed by DWR. These comments are delivered to DWR staff and automatically relayed to a subbasins point of contact as identified in the GSP or Coordination Agreement, as applicable. It is anticipated that DWR will refer to these comments as part of its completion of GSP Evaluations by 2022 (GSP Emergency Regulations §355.2). Comments are submitted via an on-line form managed by DWR. These comments are delivered to DWR staff and automatically relayed to a subbasins point of contact as identified in the GSP or Coordination Agreement, as applicable. It is anticipated that DWR will refer to these comments as part of its completion of GSP Evaluations by 2022 (GSP Emergency Regulations §355.2).

Public Comment Report Errata: Following the close of DWR's 60-day public review period, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates publishing an erratum to the Public Comment Report. Anticipated for delivery to the agency Board of Directors in last spring/early summer 2020, this document will compile and respond, as appropriate, to comments submitted to DWR and relayed to the agency, and comments provided to the agency during formal adoption proceedings.

3.6 OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF GSP IMPLEMENTATION

The Mid-Kaweah GSA expects to continue use of the outreach tools and tactics described in this plan as part of outreach to the public and stakeholder community following adoption of the GSP. The format and approach of this outreach will be described in an update to this plan based, in part, on results of engagement with stakeholders during the plan development, recommendations by the Advisory Committee, Management Committee, and direction of the agency Board of Directors.

4.0 INTRA-BASIN OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Appendix C Schedule identifies two intra-basin outreach activities to be conducted by the three Kaweah Subbasin GSAs. These activities are preliminary and subject to agreement of the GSAs. These activities are described as follows:

4.1 SUBBASIN FORUMS

Subbasin forums are conference-style events co-hosted by management and technical staff for each of the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs. The purpose of these forums is to provide the public and stakeholders with a broad, subbasin-wide perspective of groundwater conditions in the region and allow each GSA describe important features for their specific area. These meetings would be held annually and promoted through various notification activities including advertising, news release, event fliers, and mass email to the Interested Party Databases of the GSAs. The purpose of these forums is to provide the public and stakeholders with a broad, subbasin-wide perspective of groundwater conditions in the region and allow each GSA describe important features for their specific area. These meetings would be held annually and promoted through various notification activities including advertising, news release, event fliers, and mass email to the Interested Party Databases of the GSAs.

4.2 ANNUAL REPORTS

Following submittal of adopted GSPs, subbasins are required to develop and submit to DWR annual reports that identify progress and status of sustainable groundwater management activities (GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2). These annual reports will additionally be distributed to subbasin stakeholders through the Interested Party Database and various community meetings. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs anticipate joint release of these annual reports and implementation of coordinated outreach activities.

FINAL

APPENDICIES

5.0 APPENDICIES

Appendix A KEY MESSAGES

Version: June 7, 2018; Content is subject to change.

A.1 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (commonly referred to as “SGMA”), signed into law in 2014, provides a framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management across California. It requires that local and regional authorities in the medium and high priority groundwater basins form a locally-controlled and governed Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which will prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related to the drought?

Not directly. Sustainable groundwater management, much like management of surface water resources, is the result of a long-term vision and commitment by one or more water users or communities. That said, now that California has faced several consecutive years of drought, the need to manage groundwater is more relevant than ever. Some of our groundwater basins have reached an all-time historic low. Creating a framework for State oversight ensures a standard, consistent process to maintain and actively monitor and manage basins at the local level, and reduce impacts seen from overuse of these basins.

Why was the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act established?

Over the years, California water managers, individual well owners and communities that rely on groundwater resources have observed a rapid decline of water levels in some aquifers.¹⁴ Impacts and issues related to the decline are apparent. In some areas, groundwater pumping has exacerbated land subsidence, which also threatens infrastructure such as roads, canals and bridges. Drought and low water levels have also impacted water quality and quantity of private well users.

In January 2014, the Governor’s Office identified groundwater management as one of ten key action steps in its California Water Action Plan. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, signed into law months later, follows up on that action, giving local agencies the ability to manage their respective basins following statewide guidelines.

What does “Sustainable Groundwater Management” mean?

“Sustainable groundwater management” is defined as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained long-term without causing undesirable results in six areas:

¹⁴ An **aquifer** is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand or silt) from which groundwater can be extracted using a water well.

Appendices

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft if a basin is otherwise managed)
- Significant and unreasonable reduction in groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable sea water intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of surface water

Who is required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

The Act requires the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to comply with the Act within basins identified by the State as medium or high priority. Certain parts of the state, notably those for which groundwater use is under the jurisdiction of a court adjudication, are currently exempted from most of SGMA's mandates. Entities eligible to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency are defined by the Act as a local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use management responsibilities within a groundwater basin (California [Water Code Section 10721\(n\)](#)). If no local agency steps forward, the county is the default agency. The statutory deadline to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency was June 30, 2017.

What is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency?

A groundwater sustainability agency is one or more local governmental agencies that implement the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. A local agency is defined as one that has water supply, water management or land management authority. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies assess the conditions of their local groundwater basins, adopt locally-based sustainable management plans to create drought resiliency and improve coordination between land use and groundwater planning.

Will the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act affect existing water and property rights?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act does not change existing groundwater or property rights. Groundwater rights will continue to be subject to regulation under article 10, section 2, of the California Constitution.

What authority will Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have?

Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies can choose to implement as many of the legal powers as they deem necessary for management of their basin. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as currently enacted empowers all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to:

- Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances and resolutions to implement the Act
- Monitor compliance and enforcement
- Require registration of groundwater wells
- Require appropriate measurement devices and reporting of extractions
- Investigate, appropriate and acquire surface water rights, groundwater and groundwater rights into the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- Identify projects and management actions to achieve sustainability in the basin by 2040.
- Acquire or augment local water supplies to enhance the sustainability of the groundwater basin
- Propose and collect fees
- Adopt and fund a Groundwater Sustainability Plan according to existing laws

Appendices

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies may use a number of management tools to achieve sustainability goals. The specific tools and methods a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will use to achieve sustainability will be determined in discussion with stakeholders and identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

It is also important to note that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires local agencies to acknowledge Groundwater Sustainability Plans when a legislative body is adopting or substantially amending its General Plan. General Plans must accurately reflect the information in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan with regards to available water supplies.

Is the State trying to take over control of groundwater?

The State legislature, in passage of SGMA, communicated its intent that sustainable groundwater management is best left with local government agencies with expertise and responsibilities over water supplies. To help foster local control, the Act provided local agencies with tools and authorities they previously lacked to manage groundwater resources sustainably. However, the legislation also included a series of triggers that would result in intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board in the event a subbasin failed to meet requirements of the Act. This State intervention occurs only if local efforts, including county efforts, to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or prepare a viable Groundwater Sustainability Plan are not successful. Where intervention occurs, the State can impose fees and groundwater pumping restrictions that can remain in place until local efforts are able to sustainably manage groundwater resources. The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency partners are committed to maintaining local control and managing groundwater resources on behalf of agricultural water users, rural and urban communities and the environment. Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency partners are committed to maintaining local control and managing groundwater resources on behalf of agricultural water users, rural and urban communities and the environment.

Would the Kaweah Subbasin be sustainable had the legislature and the courts not re-allocated surface water supplies used for farms, cities and businesses to the environment?

The re-assignment of surface water supplies to environmental purposes by the courts and legislature is one of several factors contributing to chronic groundwater overdraft in the Kaweah Subbasin. Without a doubt, this re-allocation away from direct or in-lieu groundwater recharge has exacerbated the overdraft problems and challenged the ability of local agencies to sustainably manage groundwater resources. However, growth in the regional economy and population, coupled with changes agricultural practices, are also substantial contributors to groundwater overdraft and cannot be ignored. Sustainability requires striking a balance among all water users – agriculture, municipal, industrial and environmental – that is reasonable, supportable and valid.

If Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are locally controlled, what is the State's role in this effort?

The California Department of Water Resources is the agency responsible for oversight of the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans, but the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and California Water Commission also have roles in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Department of Water Resources has a list of regulations, objectives and actions formulated to assist local agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies with the preparation and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Under law, all regulations adopted by the Department of Water Resources become effective only upon approval by the California Water Commission. Under a limited set of circumstances, the

Water Board may intervene if local efforts to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or prepare a viable Groundwater Sustainability Plan are not successful.

How will adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies be handled?

The regulations require that all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies coordinate with adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in a given basin. This coordination will occur through additional discussions with neighboring agencies as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are formally developed, and the Groundwater Sustainability Plans will describe how the adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will work together to achieve groundwater sustainability for the entire basin. The State requires that multiple Agencies within a basin or subbasin each sign on to a coordination agreement which binds their respective management activities together in a cohesive fashion.

A.2 KAWEAH SUBBASIN

When was the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed?

The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a joint powers authority (JPA) of local public agencies and was established on September 14, 2015. The founding members of the JPA – the cities of Tulare and Visalia, and Tulare Irrigation District – notified DWR of the GSAs formation on September 16, 2015, becoming one of the first GSAs established in California under SGMA.

How many GSAs are in the Kaweah Subbasin?

DWR recognizes three GSA in the Kaweah Subbasin. They include: East Kaweah GSA, Greater Kaweah GSA and Mid-Kaweah GSA.

What is the health of the Kaweah Subbasin?

The Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118) has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources as being in critical over-draft and a high priority as part of the [CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization](#). The region has extensive history of groundwater overdraft dating back to the early 1900s. Construction of federal Central Valley Project in the 1940s and 1950s served to stabilize groundwater conditions in the region through delivery of surface water from the San Joaquin River watershed. Likewise, importation of State Water Project supplies to interconnected areas westerly of the Kaweah Subbasin have aided in sustaining groundwater levels. However, a variety of factors have led to chronic long-term overdraft in the region, including competition for available surface water supplies, population growth, and expansion of farming in areas fully or partially dependent on groundwater.

What is the health of the Mid-Kaweah GSA portion of Subbasin?

Groundwater supplies within the Mid-Kaweah GSA are comparatively better than adjoining areas within and adjacent to its boundaries. This health primarily stems from the surface water rights and contracts held by Tulare Irrigation District, and its groundwater recharge capabilities that have assisted the cities of Tulare and Visalia to leverage their existing resources for improved groundwater management. California Water Service Company, a for-profit water purveyor to residential and commercial customers in Visalia, has also contributed to improved groundwater conditions through purchase of surface water supplies from willing sellers. The Mid-Kaweah GSA portion of the subbasin,

however, continues to experience groundwater overdraft conditions that lead to many of the undesirable results that SGMA was intended to resolve.

What is California Water Service Company's involvement in Mid-Kaweah GSA?

California Water Company is a for-profit water utility regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Water utilities subject to CPUC regulations are ineligible to independently function as a GSA as they are not a local public agency as defined in California Water Code §10721(n). These utilities can serve in a limited capacity on a GSA Board of Directors; however, this must be accomplished through a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement. While the California Water Company has not been afforded a voting membership on the agency's Board of Directors, its staff are active participants on agency committees including the Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

How are groundwater users involved?

During passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the legislature placed a high value on active involvement by groundwater users in planning for and preserving our shared natural resource. Among the requirements in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is development of a list of interested parties (Water Code §10723.2) and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in development and operation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan. The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency team desires to understand and utilize ideas from groundwater user stakeholders throughout development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the region. Interested Parties are encouraged to sign up for notifications from the Mid-Kaweah GSA website, and attend and participate in Board and Advisory Committee meetings.

Will stakeholders or the public have the opportunity to weigh in on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development?

Stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for notifications by the Mid-Kaweah GSA on its website (www.midkaweah.org). The primary venues for stakeholders to get involved in the GSP development process are regularly scheduled Mid-Kaweah GSA Board and Advisory Committee meetings. The agency also anticipates conducting briefings to member agency boards and commissions, presentations to civic and non-profit organizations, and various public meetings. The schedule for Board and Advisory Committees meetings is available on the website.

What is the governance structure for the Mid-Kaweah GSA? How will the agencies work together to run it?

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is governed by a six-member Board of Directors, with two members from each of the founding members. Directors are elected officials who have been appointed to serve by their respective boards or councils. The equal representation on the Board is intended to foster active collaboration and cooperation towards meeting the mutual issues associated with SGMA. The JPA that formed the agency stipulates voting thresholds by issue.

A.3 GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?

Appendices

A Groundwater Sustainability Plan is the plan developed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency that provides for sustainably managed groundwater that meets the requirements of the State's new groundwater laws. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in high- and medium-priority groundwater basins are required to submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the California Department of Water Resources. The plan must outline how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will implement, manage and measure specific actions for the health and viability of the basins. The California Department of Water Resources will evaluate the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide the Groundwater Sustainability Agency with an assessment of the plan and any necessary recommendations within two years following its establishment.

When does a Groundwater Sustainability Plan have to be established?

Subbasins deemed to be in critical overdraft (which includes the Kaweah Subbasin) are required to complete and begin implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2020. Subbasin) are required to complete and begin implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2020.

What will the process and timing be for development of the GSP?

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is currently working on developing its GSP. The agency projects release of a Public Draft GSP in June 2019, for a public review period of up to 90-days and include a public meeting to receive comments. The GSP will be revised to address public and stakeholder comments. The Final GSP will be adopted at a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for December 2019. All GSPs in the Kaweah Subbasin are due no later than January 31, 2020.

What happens after the GSP is completed?

Following submittal and acceptance by DWR, the GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs will begin implementation. Each year, the agencies are required to submit a combined Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report to the State (Water Code §10728). Pursuant to § 356.4 the agencies are required to evaluate their GSP least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department. § 356.4 the agencies are required to evaluate their GSP least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department.

Are GSPs required for new or amended County or City General Plan?

Prior to adopting a new or amended General Plan, Government Code §65350.5 requires each planning agency to review any applicable groundwater sustainability plan, groundwater management plan, adjudicated water right or interim plan by the State Water Resources Control Board (commencing with §10735). In addition to this, the GSA (per §653352.5) is required to provide the planning agency the current GSP (or alternative); judgment, decree, agreement or interim plan, if relevant; and a report addressing the anticipated effect on implementation of the GSP by the proposed General Plan update or amendment.

Appendix B CASGEM GROUNDWATER PRIORITIZATION

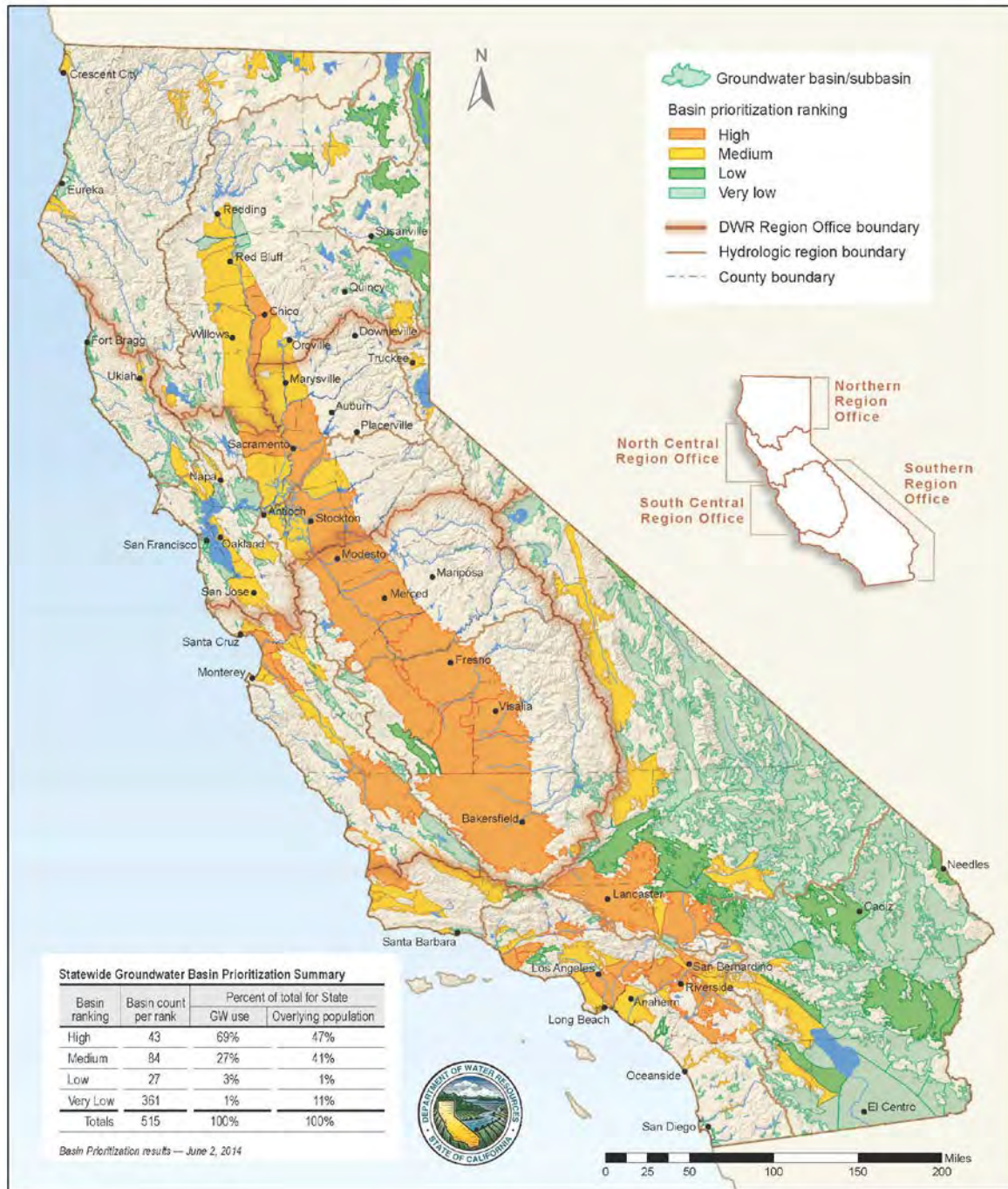


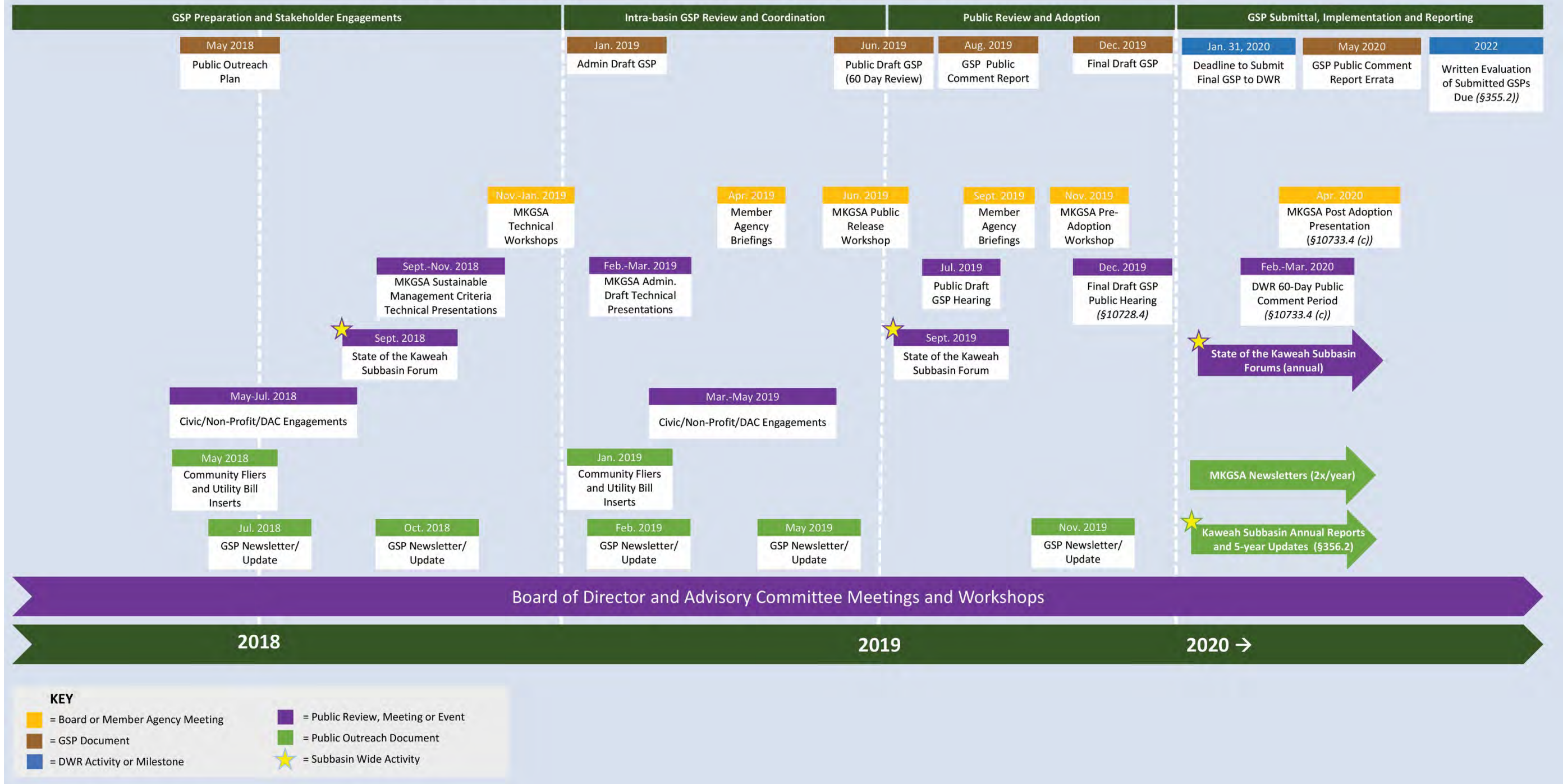
Figure 3 CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization

Appendix C MID-KAWEAH GSA OUTREACH AND COORDINATION SCHEDULE

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Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Outreach and Document Schedule



FINAL

Appendix D COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES DATABASE

FINAL

FINAL

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

Organization Name	Location	Type	WC 10723.1 Category	Frequency	Contact Information	Notes
Agricultural Well Owners	TID	Agriculture	Agricultural Well Owners	N/A		
Tulare County Farm Bureau	Tulare	Agriculture	Citizens Groups	N/A	E: tcfb@tulcofb.org Web: http://www.tulcofb.org/	
Downtown Visalia Kiwanis Club	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	E: kiwanisvisalia@gmail.com Web: https://www.facebook.com/visaliakiwanis/	
Rotary Club of Visalia Breakfast	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Web: http://www.vbrotary.org/ T: 559-802-6755	
Sequoia-Visalis Kiwanis Club	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Wednesday mornings	Debra Hill, President E: info@sequoia-visaliakiwanis.org Web: http://www.sequoia-visaliakiwanis.com/about.html	
Tulare International Kiwanis Club	Tulare	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Web: http://www.tularenoonkiwanis.org/	
Tulare Morning Kiwanis	Tulare	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Tuesdays at 6:30 am	E: morningkiwanis@gmail.com	
Visalia Club Rotary Club	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Thursdays	Web: http://www.visaliarotaryclub.com/ T: 559-967-1357	
Visalia County Center Rotary Club	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Tuesdays at noon	Deborah Volosin, President Web: https://www.vccrotary.org/ E: membership@vccrotary.org	
Visalia Latino Rotary	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Wednesdays	Lina Contreras, President E: lina.contreras@sbcglobal.net Web: https://www.visalialatinorotary.org/	
Visalia Sunset Rotary	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Barbara Hood, President Web: http://www.visaliasunsetrotary.org/ E: [Use contact form on website]	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

West Visalia Kiwanis Club	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Thursdays at noon	Buz Southard, 2017 Club President E: buzdonna@sbcglobal.net Web: http://www.westvisaliakiwanis.org/	
Community Water Center	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	N/A	Adriana Renteria, Regional Water Management Coordinator E: adriana.renteria@communitywatercenter.org T: (559) 733-0219 Web: https://www.communitywatercenter.org/	Primarily focuses on northern Tulare County.
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	NA	www.leadershipcounsel.org	Non-Profit Outreach Partner
Self-Help Enterprises	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	N/A	Web: https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/	Non-Profit Outreach Partner
Building Industry Association	Visalia	Other - Building Industry	Citizens Groups	N/A	Web: https://www.biatkc.org/ E: build@biatkc.com T: 1-559-625-5447	Represents builders, developers, subcontractors and associated businesses in Tulare and Kings Counties
Saputo Dairy Foods USA	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied	N/A	T: (559) 686-2876 [General phone number]	
Land O Lakes	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied			
Kraft Foods	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied			
County Manor Mobile Home Community	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	T: 559-732-8144 E: countrymanor@towermgmt.com Web: http://countrymanormhc.com/community.htm 820 S. Chinowth Street , Visalia, California 93277	-
East Tulare Hamlet	GKGSA	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			Served by CalWater's Tulco System. System has one well. CalWater and the City of Tulare are in the process of linking to the system to provide emergency water supply if the last well breaks down.
Lone Oak Tract	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan "The Lone Oak Tract, located west of the city limit, is a disadvantaged community that includes approximately 27 housing units and 139 residents (as of the 2010 Census)." Relies on City of Tulare's water distribution system for water service.

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

Matheny Tract	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Reinelda Palma, Community Activist Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan: "The Matheny Tract, located south of the city limit between Pratt and I Streets, is considered a disadvantaged community, with approximately 349 housing units and a population of 1,225 people (as of the 2010 Census). " Previously served by Pratt Mutual Water Company, now consolidated with City of Tulare. Served by City of Tulare since 2016. City worked with SHE.
Mooney Grove Manor Mobile Home Park	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	E: mgoffice559@gmail.com T: (559) 688-2681	Different well than Mooney Grove Regional Park?
Mooney Grove Park	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Neil Pilegard, County of Tulare, Parks and Recreation Manager	Tulare County Park https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-communities-dacs/water-system-search/water-system-details/?GISWSID=5400951
Mountain View Mobile Home Park	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A		
Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			
Royal Oaks Mobile Home Park	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	T: (855) 585-3268	
Souls Tract	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan: "The Souls Tract, located west of the city limit, is a disadvantaged community that includes approximately 20 housing units and 125 residents (as of the 2010 Census)." Previously served by Souls Mutual Water Company. Connected to the City of Tulare's water system in 2008. However, the system suffered water loss due to leakage or backflow. Souls Mutal Water Company partnered with SHE to secure State funding to resolve the connection issues. Also previously experienced Nitrate issues.
The Lakes Mobile Home Park	?	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A		
Waukena Hamlet	TID	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			Defined as a SDAC in the Waukena Hamlet Plan 2017, Strategic Growth Council. Domestic wells and sewer.
Westlake Village Mobile Home Park	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	E: popkinfamilytrust@gmail.com T: (559) 734-2811 (Visalia location) E: (213) 383-3222 (Main Office Location) Web: http://westlakemobilepark.com/	
Willow Glen Mobile Estates	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	[DOUBLE-CHECK CONTACT INFO] T: (559) 732-1541 225 N Akers St, Visalia, CA 93291	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

Buena Vista School	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Carole Mederos, Superintendent/Principal E: cmederos@buenavistaeagles.org T: 559-686-2015 Web: https://buenavistaeagles.org/	
Liberty School	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Keri Montoya, Superintendent/Principal Address: 11535 Avenue 264, Visalia, CA 93277 Phone: (559) 686-1675 Web: https://les-libertyesd-ca.schoolloop.com/	School District: Liberty School District
Oak Valley School	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Fernie Marroquin, Superintendent E: f.marroquin@oakvalleyschool.org T: (559) 688-2908 24500 Rd 68, Tulare, CA 93274	School District: Oak Valley Union Elementary School District
Palo Verde School	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Phil Anderson, Superintendent T: (559) 688-0648 Web: https://pvuesd-ca.schoolloop.com/ 9637 Ave 196, Tulare, CA 93274	School District: Palo Verde Elementary School District
Sundale School District	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Terri Rufert, Superintendent E: terri.rufert@sundale.org T: (559) 688-7451 Web: https://suesd-ca.schoolloop.com/	
Sycamore Valley Academy	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	6832 Ave. 280 • Visalia, CA 93277 http://www.sycamorevalleyacademy.org/	Formerly Packwood Elementary School
Waukena Joint Union School District	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Terri Lancaster, Superintendent/Principal E: terril@waukena.k12.ca.us T: (559) 686-3328 Gloria Solis, Secretary T: (559) 686-3328 Web: http://www.tcoe.org/districts/waukena.shtm	
Homestead Well Owners	Tulare County	De Minimus User	Domestic Well Owners	N/A		
City of Tulare, Planning Department	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Josh McDonnell, AICP Community & Economic Development Director T: 559-684-4210 E: jmcdonnell@tulare.ca.gov	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

City of Visalia, Planning Department	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Paul Vernal, City of Visalia, City Planner T: 559-713-4025 E: Paul.Bernal@visalia.city	
County of Tulare, Planning Department	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Reed Schneke, County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency, Director E: RSchenke@co.tulare.ca.us Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	
Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Ben Guiliani, Executive Officer E: bGiuliani@tularecog.org T: (559) 623-0450	
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District	Farmersville	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Groundwater Monitoring /Reporting Agency	Monthly - First Tuesday of each month	Web: http://www.kdwcd.com/index.html	
Bedel Mutual Water Co.	Visalia	Municipal and Industrial	Private Water Purveyor	N/A	Danny Thron; 2133 E WESTCOTT AVE VISALIA, CA 93292 Gary and Jeanne Orr; 932 S Pinkham St, Visalia, CA 93292-1582	Serves 155
California Water Service Co.	Visalia	Municipal and Industrial	Private Water Purveyor	N/A	Tammy Kelly, Visalia District Manager T: (559) 624-1620	Tamara Kelly also serves on the Tulare County Water Commission
Tulare Irrigation District	Tulare County	Agriculture	Public Water Purveyor	N/A		
City of Tulare, Water Department	Tulare	Municipal and Industrial	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Tim Doyle, Water and Wastewater Collections Utility Manager T: (559) 684-4324 E: tdoyle@tulare.ca.gov 3981 S. K Street, Tulare, CA 93274	
Corcoran Irrigation District	Corcoran	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Gene Kilgore, General Manager E: gkilgore@corcoranid.com T: (559) 992-5165	2015 AWMP prepared by Summers Engineering Inc.

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

Kings County Water District	Kings County	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Dennis Mills, General Manager E: kcwdh2o@sbcglobal.net T: T: 559-584-6412 200 North Campus Drive, Hanford, CA 93230
Lakeside Water District		Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe	Leemore	Tribe	Tribal Government and Communities	N/A	Noah Ignacio, Tachi Yokut Environmental Director E: Nignacio@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov T: 559-924-1278 Jason Sisco, Tachi Yokut Environmental Technician E: JSisco@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov T: 559-924-1278 Web: https://www.tachi-yokut-nsn.gov/ T: (559) 924-1278
Waksache Tribe		Tribe	Tribal Government and Communities	N/A	[Can't find any information. Check spelling?]

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION
OF THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“Coordination MOU”) is entered into this 1st day of November, 2017, by and between the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MKGSA”), Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GKGSA”), and East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) (individually also referred to as “Party” or “GSA” and collectively referred to as “Parties”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Parties are all located within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, Kaweah Subbasin, a groundwater Subbasin recognized by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) Bulletin 118 (2003) as Groundwater Basin Number 5-22.11;

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSP”) to achieve certain sustainability goals;

WHEREAS, SGMA allows local agencies or a combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to serve as a GSA to develop and implement one or more GSPs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code §10727 a GSP may be any of the following: (1) A single GSP covering the entire basin developed and implemented by one GSA; (2) A single GSP covering the entire basin developed and implemented by multiple GSAs; or (3) Multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs that are subject to a single Coordination Agreement that covers the entire basin.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code §10727.6 and Code of Regulations §357.4, a Coordination Agreement must be prepared if multiple GSPs will be implemented within a basin which requires the Parties to ensure that the GSPs utilize the same data and methodologies within the basin for the following items: (a) groundwater elevation data; (b) groundwater extraction data; (c) surface water supply; (d) total water use; (e) change in groundwater storage; (f) water budget; and (g) sustainable yield;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that multiple GSAs were formed within the Kaweah Subbasin and the Parties presently intend to develop and implement multiple GSPs;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that the data analysis and other technical information required for a Coordination Agreement in the Kaweah Subbasin have not been completely collected and the Parties agree that under this Coordination MOU they will cooperate with the data collection and related efforts necessary for preparation of a Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Coordination MOU is to provide for a cooperative means of gathering this information and establishing processes required for the preparation of a Coordination Agreement that will serve to coordinate development and implementation of multiple GSPs by the GSAs, and to provide a framework among the Parties to collectively manage the Kaweah Subbasin in accordance with the requirements of SGMA.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually understood and agreed as follows:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. “Kaweah Subbasin” or “Kaweah Basin” refers to that Subbasin identified and described in California Department of Water Resources California's Groundwater Bulletin 118 as part of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, Kaweah Subbasin, also identified as Groundwater Basin Number 5-22.11 as delineated in **Exhibit A**.
- 1.2. “Groundwater Sustainability Plan” or “GSP” means a plan of a GSA proposed or adopted under SGMA as defined in Water Code § 10721(k).
- 1.3. “Coordination Agreement” shall be the agreement to ensure coordination of the data and methodologies used in all GSPs within the Kaweah Basin for the following assumptions: (a) groundwater elevation data; (b) groundwater extraction data; (c) surface water supply; (d) total water use; (e) change in groundwater storage; (f) water budget; (g) sustainable yield, all as mandated by SGMA and as defined by Water Code § 10727.6 and California Code of Regulations §357.4.
- 1.4. “SGMA” refers to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, codified at Part 2.74 of the California Water Code, and any related statutes and regulations.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE AND GOALS

- 2.1. The purpose of this Coordination MOU is to:
 - 2.1.1. Set forth the Parties mutual agreement to prepare and enter into a Coordination Agreement.
 - 2.1.2. Provide for the acquisition of the data and analyses required for the Coordination Agreement.
 - 2.1.3. Set forth a structure for communication and recommendation procedures between the Parties for preparation and finalization of a Coordination Agreement.

SECTION 3: CONSULTANT

- 3.1. *Consultant*. The Parties agree that it will be necessary for certain consultants to be engaged to prepare various data and technical analysis required for the Coordination

Agreement and possibly other Kaweah Subbasin SGMA compliance needs that the Parties deem valuable to handle collectively.

- 3.2. *Contracting.* The Parties agree that each GSA shall be a party to any agreement with a consultant for required work to be conducted in furtherance of the Coordination Agreement. The Parties agree further that the MKGSA shall be the fiscal administrator for purposes of billing, payment and related contract administration for any agreement the Parties enter into with a consultant for required work to be conducted in furtherance of the Coordination Agreement. The foregoing requirements shall in no way preclude any Party from retaining their own consultants to assist their GSA for purposes of complying with SGMA.

SECTION 4: COST SHARING

- 4.1. *Cost Sharing of Consultant.* The Parties agree to share equally in costs of any consultants retained for purposes of fulfilling any recommendations under this Agreement. The Parties understand that each individual GSA may retain the same consultants for GSA-specific work, and costs for consultant work only applicable to an individual GSA shall not be shared by the Parties collectively.
- 4.2. *Grant Funds.* The Parties entered into a Letter of Intent (“LOI”), which is incorporated by reference to this Coordination MOU and attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. The LOI outlines the cost sharing provisions agreed to for purposes of applying for Prop 1 Funding GSPs and other Projects, as well as the division of any potential awards, of which funds will go towards this Coordination Agreement and the Parties individual GSP preparation.
- 4.3. *Other Costs.* The Parties acknowledge that other costs may arise in the future to fulfill the terms of the Coordination Agreement and this Coordination MOU. All additional costs must be approved by each GSA, in a proportion to be decided at such time.

SECTION 5: COMMITTEES

- 5.1. *Formation of Joint-Committees.* The Parties agree that communication between the GSAs is necessary to accomplish the goals of this Coordination MOU. To that end, the Parties shall form the following joint-committees: the Management Team Committee and the Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee. All committee meetings shall be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, and the committees shall be responsible for determining an appropriate process to ensure compliance.
- 5.2. *Management Team Committee.*
 - 5.2.1. *Purpose and Responsibilities.* The Management Team shall make recommendations regarding the Coordination Agreement and other Kaweah Subbasin related SGMA related compliance issues to each GSA. The Management Team shall meet as necessary.

- 5.2.2. *Membership.* Each GSA shall appoint three (3) representatives to the Management Team Committee. Each GSA's respective representatives shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing GSA.
- 5.2.3. Each GSA will be entitled to one (1) vote on the Management Team Committee. The process for declaring such vote must be determined by each respective GSA. Recommendations to the GSAs shall be made by the Management Team Committee only upon the unanimous vote of the Management Team Committee. Should unanimity not be reached, the votes shall be reported to each GSA's Board of Directors for further direction.
- 5.3. *Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee.*
- 5.3.1. *Purpose and Responsibilities.* The Subbasin TAC shall make technical recommendations regarding the Coordination Agreement and other Kaweah Subbasin related SGMA compliance issues to the Management Team. The Subbasin TAC shall meet as necessary.
- 5.3.2. *Membership.* Each GSA shall appoint two (2) representatives to the Subbasin TAC. Each GSA's respective representatives shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing GSA.
- 5.4. *Adoption of Committee Recommendations.* Recommendations approved by unanimous consent of the Management Team Committee shall be reported to each GSA Board, with the process and manner for GSA approval left to the discretion of each GSA. If a GSA fails to approve a recommendation of the Management Team Committee, the Management Team Committee shall reconvene and endeavor to develop an alternative recommendation that may resolve any issues which resulted in the failure to approve. If the Management Team Committee is unable to develop an alternative recommendation, or if a GSA fails to approve the Management Team Committee's alternative recommendation, the Parties shall evaluate whether to enter into the dispute resolution process outlined in Section 5.6.
- 5.5. *Failure of Management Team Committee to Reach Consensus.* The Parties acknowledge that at times consensus may not be reached amongst the Management Team Committee. All matters in which consensus of the Management Team Committee cannot be reached shall be reported to the GSA Boards of Directors. The Management Team Committee shall reconvene after the unresolved issue has been reported to the GSA Boards of Directors. If the Management Team Committee is still unable to reach consensus, the Parties shall evaluate whether to enter into the dispute resolution process outlined in Section 5.6.
- 5.6. *Dispute Resolution.* Any GSA may choose to initiate a dispute resolution process by serving written notice to the remaining GSAs of the following: (1) identification of the conflict; (2) description of how the conflict may negatively impact the sustainability of the Kaweah Subbasin; and (3) a proposal for one or more resolutions. The Parties agree to designate representatives to meet and confer with each other within thirty (30) days of

the date such notice is given and said representatives shall then meet within a reasonable time to address all issues identified in the notice. Should the representatives be unable to reach a resolution within ninety (90) days of the written notice, the Parties shall enter into informal mediation in front of a mutually agreeable mediator.

SECTION 6: GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1. *Term.* This Coordination MOU shall become effective on the date first written above and shall remain so until the Coordination Agreement becomes effective.
- 6.2. *Third Party Beneficiaries.* This MOU shall not create any right of interest in any non-Party or in any member of the public as a third party beneficiary.
- 6.3. *Construction and Interpretation.* This MOU was finalized through negotiations of the Parties. Each Party has had a full and fair opportunity to review and revise the terms herein. As a result, the normal rules of construction that any ambiguities are to be interpreted against the draft Party shall not apply in the construction or interpretation of this MOU.
- 6.4. *Good Faith.* Each Party shall use its best efforts and work in good faith for the expeditious completion of the purposes and goals of this Coordination MOU and the satisfactory performance of its terms.
- 6.5. *Execution.* This Coordination MOU may be executed in counterparts and the signed counterparts shall constitute a single instrument. The signatories to this Coordination MOU represent that they have the authority to sign this Coordination MOU and to bind the Party for whom they are signing.
- 6.6. *Amendment.* This MOU may be amended or modified in writing and executed by each of the Parties.
- 6.7. *Notices.* All notices, requests, demands or other communications required or permitted under this MOU shall be in writing unless provided otherwise in this MOU, and shall be deemed to have been duly given and received on: (i) the date of service if personally served or served by electronic mail or facsimile transmission on the Party to whom notice is to be given at the address(es) below; (ii) on the first day after mailing, if mailed by Federal Express, U.S. Express Mail, or other similar overnight courier service; or (iii) on the third day after mailing if mailed to the Party to whom notice is to be given by first class mail, registered certified as follows:

TO:
Paul Hendrix
Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, CA 93274
jph@tulareid.org

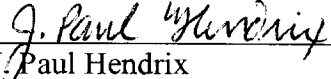
TO:
Mark Larsen, Secretary
Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
2975 N. Farmersville Blvd.
Farmersville, CA 93223
mlarsen@kdwcd.com

TO:
Mike Hagman, Executive Director
East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
315 E. Lindmore St.
Lindsay, CA 93247
mhagman@lindmoreid.com

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have entered into this MOU as of the date executed below.

MKGSA:

By:  11/9/17
Chairman Steve Nelsen Date

By:  11/13/17
J. Paul Hendrix Date

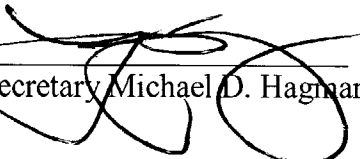
GKGSA:

By:  12-5-17
Chairman Don Mills Date

By:  12/5/17
Secretary Mark Larsen Date

EKGSA:

By:  12/5/17
Chairman Edward Milanesio Date

By:  12/5/17
Secretary Michael D. Hagman Date



California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

January 2018

Guidance Document for
Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Stakeholder Communication and Engagement



Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Stakeholder Communication and Engagement January 2018

The objective of this guidance document is to provide Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) information to aid with stakeholder communication and engagement for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) preparation. It provides examples and existing resources related to public engagement and effective communication for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation.

Limitation and use of this guidance information

This guidance document is not intended to prescribe specific outreach and communications methods for GSAs or local agencies to follow, but to provide resources and various examples for consideration. This guidance document also summarizes the public notification requirements that GSAs must adhere to in order to comply with SGMA and the GSP regulations. Other than what is required by statute or regulation, GSAs have discretion on how they communicate and engage with the beneficial uses and users of groundwater within a basin.



California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
www.water.ca.gov/groundwater



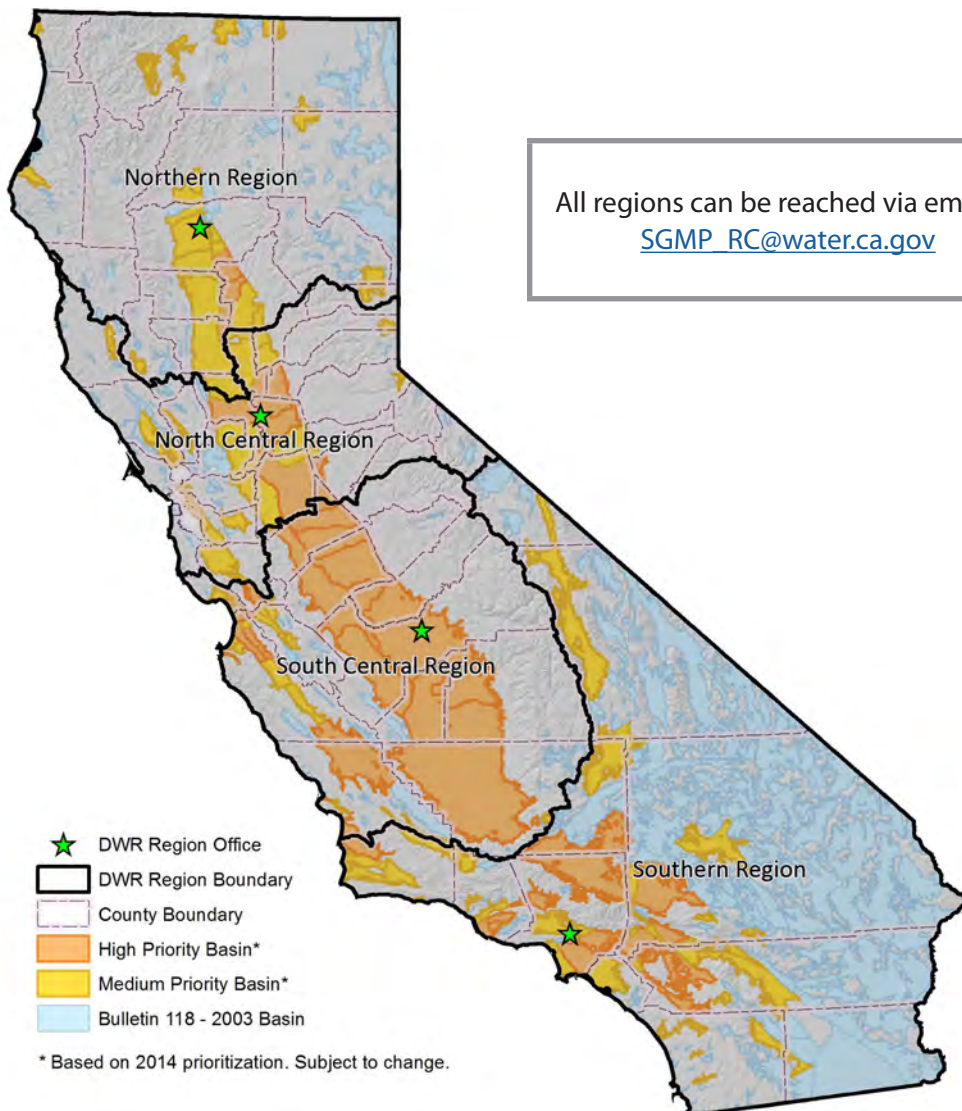
Contents

Section 1: Overview.....	1
Section 2: About Public Engagement.....	3
Section 3: Planning Communication & Engagement.....	5
Section 4: Engagement Methods & Tools.....	14
Section 5: Additional Resources.....	15

DWR Region Offices

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides a variety of SGMA-related resources to assist water management groups and the public. Four DWR Region Offices are strategically located across the state.

All high and medium priority basins are assigned a Point of Contact from DWR Region Offices. POCs assist GSAs and stakeholders in the basin to connect with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program and locate resources for assistance. POC contacts can be found on DWR website <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>.



Section 1

Overview

The legislative intent of the historic 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is for groundwater to be managed sustainably in California's groundwater basins by local public agencies and newly-formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).

In the basins designated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as medium and high priority, local public agencies and GSAs are required to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) or alternatives to GSPs (Alternatives).

Under the requirements of SGMA, GSAs must consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. As a result, the GSP development needs to consider effects to other stakeholder groups in or around the groundwater basin with overlapping interests. These interests include, but are not limited to, holders of overlying groundwater rights (including agriculture users and domestic well owners), public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental users, surface water users, federal government, California Native American tribes, and disadvantaged communities (Water Code 10723.2).

Furthermore, the GSP Regulations require that GSAs document in a communication section of the GSP the opportunities for public engagement and active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin. Expertise of stakeholders may increase the chance that the GSAs are using best available information and best available science for GSP development.

As GSAs begin to meet to develop a GSP, common questions, such as the ones below, are considered regarding stakeholder communication and engagement.

How can a GSA effectively communicate and engage with multiple and varied stakeholders?

This document helps GSAs determine who the interested parties are (individuals, organizations, local agencies) that they need to engage with and provides guidance to better understand their issues and interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

What are methods and tools for communications and engagement?

This document provides links to methods and tools that can be modified and used to reach and communicate with stakeholders. Not all of the tools will be applicable to all GSAs, but they are presented as examples of effective ways to engage.

How can a GSA conduct meaningful engagement to develop a GSP?

This document gives GSAs a step-by-step example of how to communicate and engage with stakeholder groups. In addition to following the procedure requirements for public notice, meaningful engagement is to integrate stakeholders throughout the development of a GSP and allow active participation in the decision-making process. The benefits of meaningful engagement are improved outcomes, optimized resources, broad support, and reduced conflict.

Published Resources

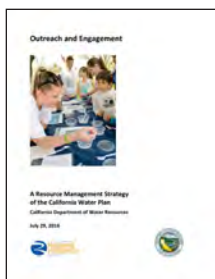
There are several published documents that either directly or indirectly address best practices or statutory requirements for stakeholder engagement. In addition to the information in this guidance document, these documents may be useful for GSAs while developing a Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan or other outreach programs.



Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations Guide, California Department of Water Resources

This guide (published July 2016) includes information to aid with the understanding of

the GSP Regulations. It explains the fundamental concepts of the regulations and contains information directly relevant to the regulations through four general phases of development and implementation. <https://goo.gl/QYwqT9>



Outreach and Engagement: A Resource Management Strategy for the California Water Plan, California Department of Water Resources

The California Water Plan provides a broad set of resource management strategies (RMSs) that can help local agencies and government (and GSAs) manage their water and related resources. While not specific to SGMA, the Outreach and Engagement RMS directly addresses water management in California and discusses tools and practices by water agencies to facilitate contributions by public individuals and groups toward good water management outcomes. <https://goo.gl/YfQQcu>

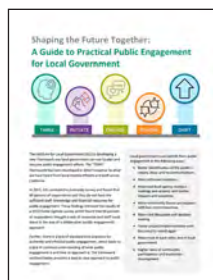


Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation, Community Water Center

Prepared by the Community Water Center in July 2015,

the intent of this report is to convey the value of stakeholder engagement to sustainable groundwater management. The report outlines the statutory requirements for stakeholder engagement in SGMA, gives examples of best practices and examples of collaborative management from around the state, and provides a recommended roadmap for effective stakeholder engagement drawn specifically for SGMA implementation.

http://www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/ca/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf



Inclusive Public Engagement, Institute for Local Government (ILG)

This report offers tip sheets and resources to effectively and successfully plan and implement successful engagement strategies. Whether it's supporting and connecting with local leadership

programs as a pipeline to engage specific populations, or partnering with local community-based organizations to reach beyond the small slice of the public that most frequently attends meetings, ILG's inclusive public engagement resources will offer perspective to any planning process.

<http://www.ca-ilg.org/inclusive-public-engagement>



Engagement with Tribal Governments Guidance Document (Draft), California Department of Water Resources

This document is meant to help local agencies engage with a Tribal government in the planning, financing, and management of a

GSA, or with development or implementation of a GSP.

Section 2

About Public Engagement

What is Public Engagement?

As defined by the Center for Advances in Public Engagement:

Public engagement is a process that brings people together to address issues of common importance, to solve shared problems, and to bring about positive social change.

Effective public engagement invites citizens to get involved in deliberation, dialogue, and action on public issues that they care about. It helps leaders and decision makers better understand the perspectives, opinions, and concerns of citizens and stakeholders.

When done well, public engagement goes far beyond the usual participants to include those members of the community whose voices have traditionally been left out of political and policy debates.

Public Engagement Benefits

- **Helps** people weigh a variety of perspectives and listen to each other's views.
- **Builds** common understanding, manages differences, and establishes direction for moving ahead on tough issues.
- **Builds** trust and improves communication between the public and leaders.
- **Creates** new opportunities for citizens to become involved in public problem solving and decision making.

Build Public Engagement for Regional Sustainability

Many areas have public engagement efforts already in place for other water management efforts such as Integrated Regional Water Management Plans and Groundwater Management Plans. Use these existing stakeholder connections as you begin your SGMA-related communication and engagement efforts. Collectively, all water management plans work with a shared interest toward the ultimate goal of regional sustainability.

Levels of Engagement

It is important that stakeholders understand the role they are invited to play in a public engagement program. This will help provide clarity to the process and help avoid misunderstandings. Stakeholder roles may naturally evolve over the period that they are engaged in a public process, and as transition occurs, it is wise to redefine these roles. When an advisory committee or partnership between public agencies is established, it is helpful to develop a charter or other memo of understanding that describes the roles and responsibilities of all involved.

Figure 1 is a summary of the levels of public engagement that comes from the International Association of Public Participation.


	INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT 				
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Web sites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen advisory committees • Consensus-building • Participatory decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated decision

Figure 1. International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation

Section 3

Planning Communication & Engagement

Stakeholder engagement can allow agencies to leverage networks and resources to their advantage and can provide a means whereby agencies can capitalize on local knowledge, including the expertise, resources, and capacity of individual stakeholders.

— *Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation, Community Water Center*

There are four phases of SGMA implementation as illustrated in the diagram on pages 12 and 13. The statutory requirements for engagement are summarized for each phase. The other relevant sections of the Water Code and GSP Regulations are also provided for reference.

Phase 1 (GSA formation and coordination) was completed June 30, 2017 per SGMA. GSA formation and coordination has helped start relationship building and shared understanding with stakeholders. As GSAs move forward with Phase 2 (GSP preparation and submission), successful communication and engagement (C&E) with stakeholders will require up-front resource commitments and planning.

GSP Regulations (Section 354.10) require a communication section to include the following:

1. An explanation of the Agency's (GSAs) decision-making process.
2. Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
3. A description of how the Agency (GSA) encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.
4. The method the Agency (GSA) shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

DWR will assess, as part of GSP Regulations Section 355.4, whether the interests of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, as well as the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, have been considered. DWR will take into account comments made in accordance with GSP Regulations Section 353.8 when determining whether interests within the basin have been considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSP.

The following guidance for planning communication and engagement is adaptable for basin-wide application. In instances where there are multiple GSAs covering a basin, GSAs should coordinate with each other to ensure that all stakeholders are identified for outreach and are informed through the process of other SGMA implementation efforts within the basin that may affect them. This means a GSA may need to outreach to stakeholders outside of their boundaries to ensure all beneficial uses and users are included in the GSP development process.

Communication & Engagement Steps

Communication and Engagement (C&E) consists of seven general steps. These steps are illustrated in Figure 2 and explained in further detail below.

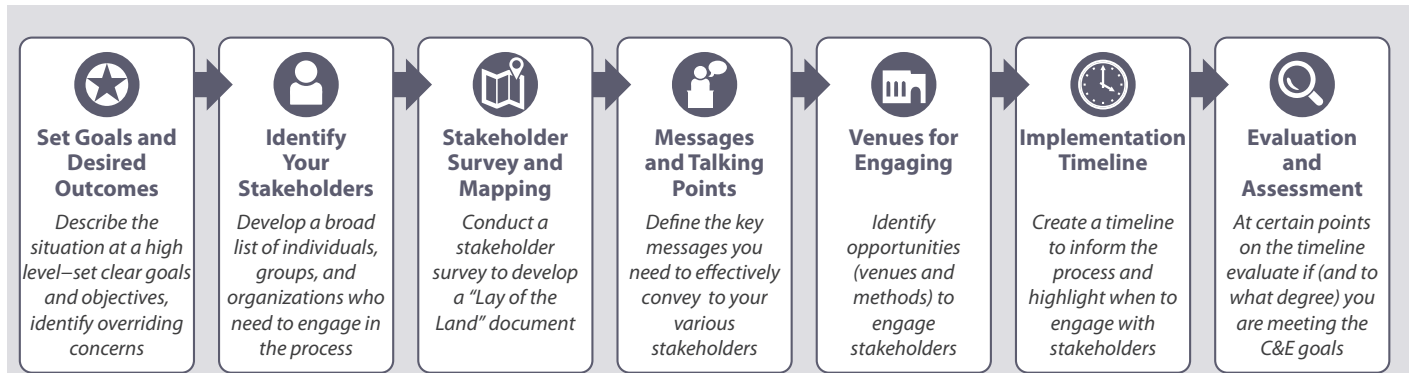


Figure 2. Communication and Engagement Steps



Set Goals and Desired Outcomes

Start by providing a description and background of your GSA and explain the intent of C&E is to support the development of your GSP. Then define in simple terms the challenge, regulatory requirement, or opportunity, and the desired outcome.

Answer these questions:

- What are we trying to accomplish?
- How will we know if we are successful?
- What are the challenges or barriers?
- What are the opportunities?
- What is the timeframe?
- When will public input be relevant?
- How will public input be used?



Identify Your Stakeholders

Identify the many interested individuals and groups you expect to engage with or inform at any stage of the GSP process.

Answer these questions when making your list:

- Who has a financial, political, business, or personal stake in this issue? (*i.e. organizational mission, regulatory role, land ownership, etc.*)
- What organization, agency, or individual must be involved in the GSP process for it to proceed? (*Due to organizational mission, regulatory role, landownership, etc.*)
- What organizations, agencies, or individuals are likely to have an interest in this effort, or be impacted by the development of your GSP? (*Due to organizational mission, or established interest in subject matter.*)

Use the following chart to stimulate brainstorming about who should be invited to engage in your GSP development. The category of interest intends to reflect “diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population”. The list is not exclusive. GSAs are encouraged to add other interested persons or groups as needs are identified.

Stakeholder Engagement Chart for GSP Development

Category of Interest	Examples of Stakeholder Groups
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens groups • Community leader
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities (City leaders, County planning departments) • Regional land use agencies
Private users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private pumpers • Domestic users • Schools and colleges • Hospitals
Urban/ Agriculture users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water agencies • Irrigation districts • Municipal water companies • Resource conservation districts • Farmers/Farm Bureaus
Industrial users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial and industrial self-suppliers; groups • Local trade association or group
Environmental and Ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and State agencies (Fish and Wildlife) • Wetland managers • Environmental groups
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chambers of commerce • Business groups/associations • Elected officials (Board of Supervisors, City Council members) • State Assembly members • State Senators
Human right to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged Communities • Small community systems • Environmental Justice Groups
Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Government
Federal and State lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military bases/Department of Defense • Forest Service • National Park Services • Bureau of Land Management • California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Integrated Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional water management groups (IRWM regions) • Flood agencies • Recycled water coalition

SGMA (Section 10723.2) calls for consideration of all interests of **all beneficial uses and users** of groundwater:

The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

- (1) Agricultural users.
- (2) Domestic well owners.

(b) Municipal well operators.

(c) Public water systems.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

(h) California Native American tribes.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

Resources to help identify and contact stakeholders are provided in the [Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit](#) and Appendix B of [Community Water Center's Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation](#) includes suggested resources.



Stakeholder Survey and Mapping

Contact each stakeholder organization to learn more about them, describe the project, and invite them to engage in the process. Prepare for your first meeting with project background, necessary maps, and a stakeholder survey. Also be prepared to convene a follow up meeting within a week or two, to answer questions that come up during this meeting.

Develop a set of questions to use in a one-on-one meeting with a stakeholder group. This meeting will give you answers to help you understand stakeholder interests, issues, and challenges.

An example of a **stakeholder survey** can be downloaded from the online [digital toolkit](#). Consider surveying communities using their most often used languages (i.e. Spanish).

Examples of questions in a survey include:

- Are you familiar with SGMA regulations?
- Are you currently engaged in activities or discussions regarding groundwater management in this region?
- Do you own, manage, or operate land in this basin?
- Do you manage water resources? If yes, what is your role?
- Are bilingual information and meeting materials needed?

Using the information gathered during your meetings with stakeholder organizations, create a stakeholder mapping grid by doing a “Lay of the Land” exercise. The exercise will chart all of the stakeholder groups you decide are important to the public engagement program and list known issues, interests, challenges, preferred methods of communication, and strategies and roles for engagement.

A “**Lay of the Land**” exercise example can be downloaded from the online [digital toolkit](#).

Examples of information included in the “Lay of the Land” exercise include:

- Types of stakeholders
- Stakeholder key interests related to groundwater
- Key documented issues



Messages

Define the key messages you need to effectively convey to your various stakeholders. Key messages should be three overriding messages that explain the goals and outcomes for development of the GSP.

- **Key message 1:** Concise explanation of the goal of the C&E strategy to support the development of a successful GSP
- **Key message 2:** The GSA is committed to working with identified stakeholders using an open and transparent communication and engagement process
- **Key message 3:** The overall GSP will be more successful with an engaged group of stakeholders providing useful information

It would also be helpful to develop a set of talking points that can be used by members of your GSA when communicating with specific stakeholder groups. These talking points can also be customized to a specific group.

Another useful tool is a Q&A document that contains likely questions or responses you anticipate from stakeholder groups based on the issues, challenges, and interests you discovered in the mapping exercise.



Venues for Engaging

You must decide on the scale of the public engagement necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of your C&E strategy. This will help you determine the best venue for your information and messages to be heard. It is important to regularly provide feedback and updates to the interested persons and stakeholder groups who provide input to the GSP through public convenings. Invite the public to meetings at key milestones to learn and contribute input. You should also consider how public comments will be received, reviewed, and responded to.

Water Code Section 10723.4 requires GSAs to establish and maintain an interested persons list; regular notifications to persons on this list should be one of the venues used for public engagement.

Convenings

- Community issue-specific or location-specific advisory committees
- Small group briefings or workshops at key milestones to learn and contribute input

Presentations

- Presentations by lead public agencies to small or large groups at scheduled events
- Presentations by lead public agencies to elected officials at publicly noticed meetings

Digital

- Public-facing website or webpage, regularly updated and easily accessible
- Online resources, posted for interactive or non-interactive uses
- Regular updates shared via social media, email, or newsletters

Community, regional, and social media

- Submit/post regular updates to media that promote opportunities for public engagement
- Submit/post regular updates to media that provide information about how public input is being used, project status, and next opportunities for engagement

Advisory Committees

GSAs may appoint and consult with an advisory committee. A properly developed and engaged advisory body can be of great assistance in engaging the broad range of interest groups in a basin and creating a shared understanding of local sustainability.



Inform Your Stakeholders

- Invest in signs and banners to announce meetings
- Hand out fliers at key public locations to reach the general public
- Personally call stakeholder groups
- Mail and email meeting announcements
- Post on social media pages

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Stakeholder Meeting, April 2017

Professional Facilitators

Many public agencies find it helpful to engage the services of a professional facilitator to guide discussions and decision-making between partnering agencies and other interested parties.

Professional facilitators, with deep expertise in mediation, negotiation, and consensus building, help broker agreements in tough natural resources disputes. Professional facilitators actively manage a process to support stakeholders' desired outcomes. They work closely with all stakeholders to design an effective process, manage meetings, seek input between meetings, and strategize throughout to deliver widely supported decisions.



Implementation Timeline

Now that you've identified your stakeholders, your key messages, and where and when to engage with them, you'll need to create a timeline for your C&E strategy. Don't confuse this with an implementation timeline for your GSP. The C&E timeline tracks communication and engagement activities and tactics.

Here is a list of common C&E tactics to include in a timeline:

- Website launch
- When to send email or other digital communication
- Media outreach activities
- Public meetings



Evaluation and Assessment

At various points along the implementation timeline, stop and assess how well you are performing against your goals and objectives. You can redirect resources, update strategies, or introduce new tactics.

The following questions as listed in the [Collaborating for Success report](#) are useful metrics for evaluation. Surveys and interviews are good tools to obtain feedback.

- Are stakeholders educated about the GSP development process and their own role?
- Is the timeline for implementation of the GSP clear?
- Has the GSA received positive press coverage?
- Do diverse stakeholders feel included?
- Have there been behavior changes related to the program goals? Or improved trust/relationships among participants?

Sample C&E Plan Outline

This example outline is a tool for GSAs to create common understanding and transparency throughout the GSP preparation and submission process. This process should be tailored to the basins and stakeholder needs. Documentation of the engagement and outreach by GSAs is important for Phase 3 (GSP review and evaluation). GSAs could evaluate the successes and learn from the stakeholder feedback to make necessary adjustments in order to achieve their goals.

Sample C&E Plan Outline

1. **Set Goals and Desired Outcomes**
 - a. Description and background of the GSA and subsequent GSP
 - i. Explanation of your GSA's decision-making process
 - b. Goal/desired outcomes of GSP development
 - c. Communication objectives to support the GSP
 - d. Overriding concerns, major concerns or challenges
2. **Identify Your Stakeholders**

See stakeholder engagement chart example provided in [digital toolkit](#).

 - a. List the stakeholder groups, community organizations or others who are concerned about the GSA/GSP and how each group will engage with the development of the GSP
3. **Stakeholder survey and mapping**

See example provided in [digital toolkit](#).

 - a. Meet one on one with stakeholders and ask them a set of questions to help find out their issues, interests and challenges
 - b. Compile a "Lay of the Land" document of your stakeholders to identify how to engage with them
4. **Messages and Talking Points**

Define the key messages you need to effectively convey to your various stakeholders

 - a. Key messages: Three overriding messages that explain the goals and outcomes for development of the GSP
 - b. Talking points/Q&A: Anticipating likely questions or issues will support effective engagement with stakeholders
 - c. Likely questions or issues and responses
5. **Venues for Engaging**

Identify the opportunities – venues or methods – to engage stakeholders.

 - a. Depending on the level of engagement, you'll want to determine the venue and how to share your key messages
 - b. Determine how you will invite, inform, and follow up with stakeholders
6. **Implementation Timeline**

List the milestones and stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout the GSP development process.

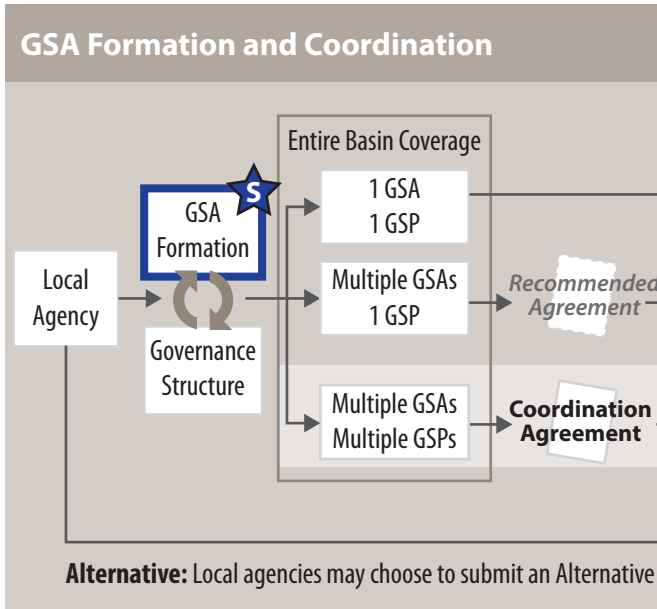
 - a. C&E Plan and GSP milestones
 - i. Refer to the Stakeholder Engagement by Phase graphic for required engagement milestones
 - b. Supporting tactics: Include tactics or tools you will use to communicate your messages and resources available to support
 - i. Website launch
 - ii. When to send email or other digital communication
 - iii. Media outreach activities
 - iv. Community meetings
7. **Evaluation and Assessment**

Assess at various points during Implementation to evaluate how your plan is performing against your goals and objectives.

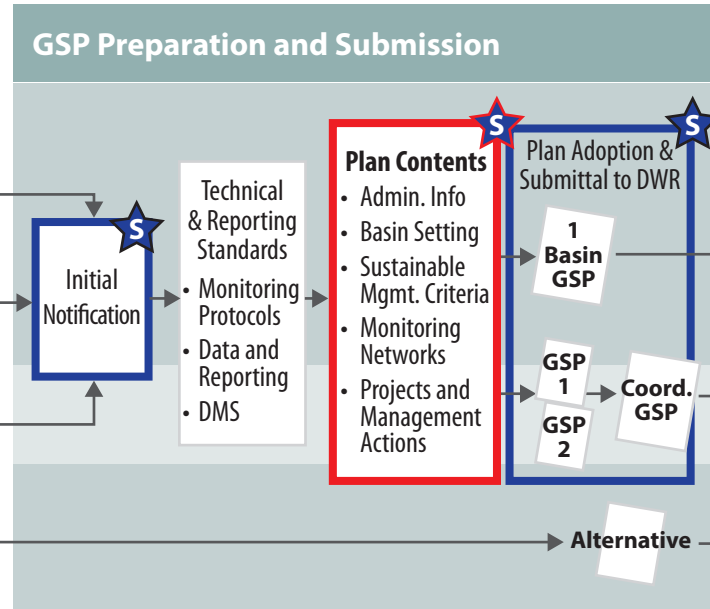
 - a. What worked well?
 - b. What didn't work as planned?
 - c. Meeting recaps with next steps
 - d. Lessons learned
 - e. Budget analysis

Stakeholder Engagement Requirements by Phase

Phase 1: 2015–2017



Phase 2: 2017–2022



Phase 1 Engagement Requirements

- **Establish and Maintain List of Interested Parties** §10723.4
- **GSA Formation Public Notice** §10723(b)
- **GSA Formation Public Hearing** §10723(b)
- **GSA Formation (due 6/30/17)** §10723(b)
- **Notify DWR:**
 - › Include list of interested parties
 - › Explain how parties' interests will be considered
- **Pre-GSP Development** §10727.8
 - Provide a written statement describing how interested parties may participate to:
 - › DWR
 - › Cities within the GSA boundary
 - › Counties within the GSA boundary

Phase 2 Engagement Requirements

- **GSP Initial Notification** §353.6*
 - › GSAs are required to submit GSP Initial Notifications through the SGMA Portal - GSP Initial Notification System at <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#gsp>
 - › Public can comment on the submitted GSP notification
- **GSP Preparation** §10727.8 and §10723.2
 - › Encourage active involvement
 - › Consider beneficial uses and users of groundwater when describing *Undesirable Results, Minimum Thresholds, and Projects & Actions*
- **GSP Communications Section** §354.10*
 - › GSA decision-making process
 - › Opportunities for engagement and how public input is used
 - › How GSA encourages active involvement
 - › Method of informing the public
- **Public Notice of Proposed Adoption** §10728.4
- **GSP Adoption Public Hearing** §10728.4
- **GSP Submittal** §354.10*
 - › Include a summary of communications: description of beneficial uses/users, list of public meetings, comments received/responses

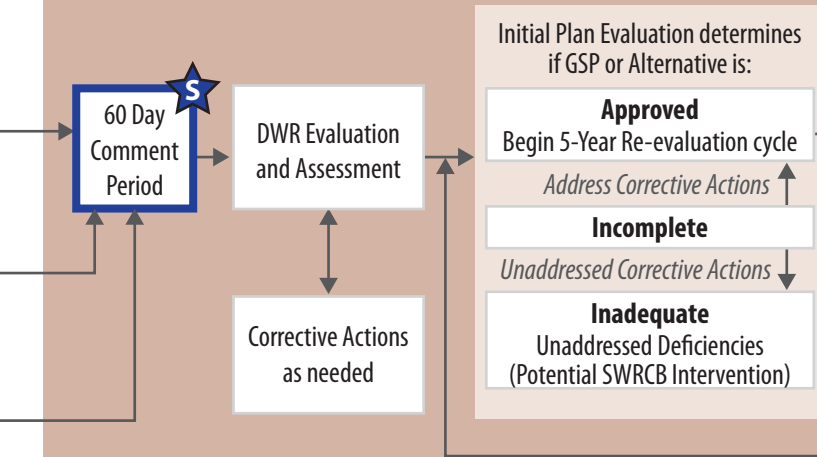
Stakeholder Input

Stakeholders should be informed throughout the development of Plan Content

Code References: §(#) = SGMA, §(#) * = GSP Regulations

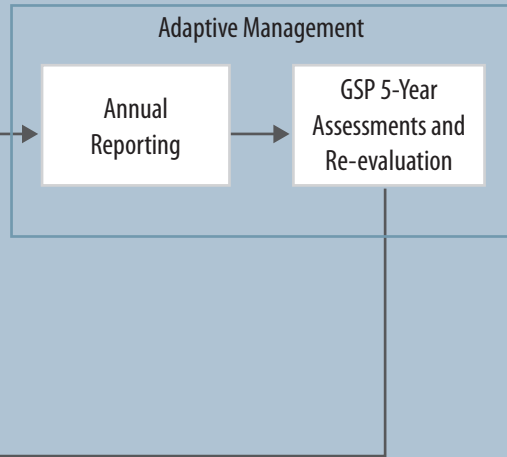
Phase 3: 2018+

GSP Review and Evaluation



Phase 4: 2022+

Implementation and Reporting



Phase 3 Engagement Requirements

- **60 Day Comment Period** §353.8*
 - › Any person may provide comments to DWR regarding a proposed or adopted GSP via the SGMA Portal at <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/>
 - › Comments will be posted to DWR's website

Phase 4 Engagement Requirements

- **Public Notices and Meetings** §10730
 - › Before amending a GSP
 - › Prior to imposing or increasing a fee
- **Encourage Active Involvement** §10727.8

Engagement Requirements Applicable to ALL PHASES

- **Beneficial Uses and Users** §10723.2
Consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater
- **Advisory Committee** §10727.8
GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee
- **Public Notices and Meetings** §10730
 - › Before electing to be a GSA
 - › Before adopting or amending a GSP
 - › Prior to imposing or increasing a fee
- **Encourage Active Involvement** §10727.8
Encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin
- **Native American Tribes** §10720.3
 - › May voluntarily agree to participate
 - › See Engagement with Tribal Government Guidance Document
- **Federal Government** §10720.3
 - › May voluntarily agree to participate

Section 4

Engagement Methods & Tools

Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit

A set of tools and examples are available for the purposes of SGMA outreach at DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management website. The examples from local SGMA work groups include agenda, basin fact sheet, newsletter, mailing list sign up, etc. The templates may be downloaded, modified, and tailored to specific needs and audiences. While not all tools and templates are applicable to all GSAs, they are available as examples of effective ways to engage.

Find the Digital Toolkit at:

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>

DWR will add additional resources and case studies as they are developed to the Digital Toolkit.

Section 5

Additional Resources

DWR Region Office Contacts

DWR has knowledgeable staff available at the four region offices located across the State and in Sacramento. DWR's regional coordinators along with the [Point of Contacts](#) (POCs) are available to answer questions and provide available assistance and resources. The Regional Coordinators can answer SGMA related questions, provide educational presentations, discuss facilitation support services, and put you in contact with SGMA program contacts and other State and federal agencies. DWR Regional Coordinators can be reached via email at SGMP_RC@water.ca.gov.

Integrated Regional Water Management

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. DWR, through the IRWM grant program, worked with 49 IRWM regions to coordinate regional water management activities and implemented multi-benefit projects with local agencies. Stakeholder communication and engagement plays a key role in the successes of the IRWM. Information about these activities is available at: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management>

Other Agency Information

State Water Resources Control Board

In areas where groundwater users and local agencies are unable or unwilling to sustainably manage their groundwater, SGMA authorizes State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) intervention.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/about.shtml#info

Contact Email: groundwater_management@waterboards.ca.gov T: (916) 650-0474

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Groundwater Program

CDFW developed a Groundwater Program to ensure fish and wildlife resources reliant upon groundwater are addressed in GSPs and that CDFW remains in compliance with regulatory requirements.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Groundwater>

Federal Agencies

GSAs can locate federal lands under various federal government jurisdiction (i.e. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, Department of Defense, Fish and Wildlife Services) from the Water Management Planning Tool under the Federal Lands layer. <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/boundaries/>

The federal government may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a GSP through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. The GSAs should work to include federal interests in all aspects of the public process. Successful examples include ex-officio liaison on the GSA Board and membership on technical and public advisory committees.



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