



Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

September 21, 2017

Trevor Joseph – Section Chief
Sustainable Groundwater Management Section
Calif. Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento California 94236

Subject: Notice of Intent Re Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Mr. Joseph:

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is an exclusive GSA within the Kaweah Sub-Basin of the greater San Joaquin Valley Basin. Its members include the City of Visalia, City of Tulare, and the Tulare Irrigation District. By this notice, and in accordance with §10727.8 of the Calif. Water Code and §353.6 of DWR's Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans, Mid-Kaweah expresses its intent to initiate the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) applicable for its jurisdictional area.

At its formation in the fall of 2015, an Interested Party listing and process leading to development of a Communications and Engagement Plan for the general public was prepared which is attached for reference. The Board of Directors has since established an Advisory Committee that has convened and which will play an integral role in formulating this Plan. It is through this Plan that the identified Interested Parties, and stakeholders and public in general, may actively participate in the development and implementation of the Mid-Kaweah GSP. Information pertaining to governance activities of the GSA, data dissemination, and public outreach are to be posted on the Mid-Kaweah website, www.midkaweah.com. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this notice or our GSP process in general, please contact the GSA Secretary, Roxanne Yoder, at 559-684-4200.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelsen
Chair

Attachment

Mid-Kaweah GSA

Communications and Engagement with Interested Parties and Stakeholders

The Mid-Kaweah Joint Powers Authority (referred to herein as a GSA) intends to use the following strategies and methods, and any other ways later discovered, for contacting interested parties listed as well as any later discovered interested parties:

- Conducting regular fully noticed public meetings in accordance with California law;
- Use reports, press releases, and coverage of the public meetings in news distribution media to make the public, interested parties, and potentially interested parties aware of the issues and GSA discussions and actions;
- Direct mailings to those requesting special notice and to any known well owners or operators with regard to significant communications;
- Websites on the existing three GSA members sites (Tulare Irrigation District and cities of Visalia and Tulare) and on a GSA website implemented after initial formation formalities;
- Participation and sharing GSA-related information in the context of mediations, meetings, and other activities with other agencies and property owners overlying the Kaweah Sub-Basin including, but not limited to, such activities with the largest overlying entities such as the County of Tulare and the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District as well as the newly formed Greater Kaweah GSA and East Kaweah GSA;
- Participation and sharing GSA information at conferences (both within and outside of its jurisdictional boundaries);
- Inclusion of information of GSA significance within billing materials for the City of Tulare and Tulare Irrigation District and within other City of Visalia sponsored mailings to its residents, including those prepared by Calif. Water Service Co., the municipal water purveyor for the Visalia area;
- Outreach and communication with known and discovered advocates for disadvantaged communities within the GSA and surrounding areas;
- Communication using each of the above methods with any other water purveyors, retailers, wholesalers, and the like who either pump or distribute water within the jurisdictional boundaries of the GSA;
- Compliance with the California Public Records Act with regard to information requested by any party.

Organizing documents of the GSA require regular noticed public meetings conducted consistently with California public meeting laws within the boundaries of the GSA. Part of the motivation for forming the GSA was to create a readily accessible public forum for discussion and official actions. This is seen as a primary opportunity for regular communication with interested parties through the notification and open meeting and media reporting cycle. In this way interested parties (who may not yet even be fully known to the GSA) and the public can be fully informed of the activities and discussions of the GSA with regard to Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) formulation and methods to be applied to achieve the goals of SGMA. In addition to the aforementioned strategies and methods, the GSA will remain open to finding new opportunities and techniques for expanding communication avenues with the public and other interested parties.

The joint powers authority/GSA organizing documents likewise include formation of an Advisory Committee, where interested parties will have the opportunity to interface with the GSA and provide opportunities to interface on various important SGMA implementation issues related to GSA operations and GSP preparation. In addition, there is also to be established a Technical Advisory Sub-Committee to the Management Committee, which will also allow stakeholders and their agents with technical expertise to engage on pertinent topics related to development of a GSP and its implementation.

Specific Interested Parties situated within the Mid-Kaweah GSA and in some cases the larger Kaweah Sub-Basin as identified per SGMA §10723.2 are identified following. Where appropriate, the listing includes recognition of how such entities may serve within the governance and committee structure of the GSA and means of involvement with GSP implementation. The listing is not intended to be exhaustive and, should additional entities emerge and be identified, they will be contacted and engaged with accordingly.

(a) Groundwater Rights Holders

(1) Agricultural Users:

- **Landowners/water users within Tulare ID service area** — Representation on GSA board through TID board appointments thereon; GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of all farmers within TID within the context of sustainable management. Possible appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA.
- **Agricultural organizations – Tulare County Farm Bureau**

(2) Domestic Well Owners:

- **Homestead owners within Tulare ID** — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of all property owners with

domestic wells within TID, within the context of sustainable management. Many domestic well owners are TID landowners/farmers.

(b) Municipal Well Operators

- **Pratt Mutual Water Co.** — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of all well operators within GSA boundaries within the context of sustainable management. Possible appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA.
- **Souls Mutual Water Co.** — Same as above
- **Okieville-Highland Acres Mutual Water Co.** — Same as above
- **Mooney Grove Park** — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of all well operators within GSA boundaries within the context of sustainable management.
- **Cutler Park** (outside of city limits) — Same as above
- **Saputo Dairy Food USA** — Same as above
- **Visalia Industrial Park** — Same as above
- **Mobile Home Parks (MHP)** – Mooney Grove Manor, Royal Oaks, Westlake Village, Willow Glen, County Manor, Mountain View — Same as above
- **The Lakes** — Same as above

(c) Public Water Systems

- **City of Tulare** — Representation on GSA board through City appointments thereon; appointments of City staff to one or more GSA committees. GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of the City within the context of sustainable management.
- **City of Waukena** — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of school districts within the context of sustainable management. Possible appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA.
- **Calif. Water Service Co.** — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of Cal Water within the context of sustainable management. Appointment to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA.

- **Tulare Irrigation District** — Representation on GSA board through District appointments thereon; appointments of District staff to one or more GSA committees. GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of TID and District water users within the context of sustainable management.
- **Rural school districts** – Buena Vista, Liberty, Oak Valley, Palo Verde, Waukena, Sundale and Packwood — GSP activities/actions to reflect groundwater dependence and well operations of school districts within the context of sustainable management. Possible appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA.
- **Water districts in adjacent sub-basins** - Kings Co. WD, Corcoran ID, Lakeside WD — Communication and coordination re GSA formation, boundary consistency, and GSP preparation.

(d) Local Land Use Planning Agencies

- **City of Tulare** — Member of GSA with representatives on GSA board; to be represented on management, technical and advisory committees.
- **City of Visalia** — Member of GSA with representatives on GSA board; to be represented on management, technical and advisory committees.
- **Tulare County** — Signatory to Coordination Agreement among Kaweah Sub-Basin GSAs; appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA. GSP implementation to incorporate role of County in management of unincorporated areas within existing and future city limits of Visalia and Tulare.
- **Tulare County LAFCO** — GSP implementation to incorporate role of LAFCO in management of unincorporated areas within existing and future city limits of Visalia and Tulare.

(e) Environmental Users of Groundwater

- None yet identified

(f) Surface Water Users

- **Landowners within Tulare ID**

(g) Federal Government

- No sites currently identified

(h) Calif. Native Tribes

- **Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe**
- **Wuksache Tribe**

(i) Disadvantaged Communities

- **Souls Tract**
- **Lone Oak Tract**
- **Matheny Tract**
- **E. Tulare Tract**
- **Okieville**
- **City of Waukena**
- **Mobile Home Parks** — Those identified as DACs
- **DAC organizations** – Self-Help Enterprises, Community Water Center

(j) §10927 Groundwater Monitoring/Reporting Entities

- **Tulare ID** — Member of GSA with representatives on GSA board; to be represented on management, technical and advisory committees. GSP implementation to incorporate role of TID in surface water deliveries, sub-basin water management, and monitoring and data collection efforts.
- **City of Tulare** — Member of GSA with representatives on GSA board; to be represented on management, technical and advisory committees. GSP implementation to incorporate role of City in surface water deliveries, sub-basin water management, and monitoring and data collection efforts.
- **Kaweah Delta WCD** — member of Greater Kaweah GSA; appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA. GSP implementation to incorporate role of KDWCD in surface water distribution, sub-basin water management, and monitoring and data collection efforts.
- **Calif. Water Service Co.** — Appointments to one or more stakeholder/advisory committees of GSA. GSP implementation to incorporate role of Cal Water in groundwater monitoring and extraction/usage data collection efforts.