

Grower Frequently Asked Questions

The North Kings GSA is now implementing its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP defines sustainability success and the projects and actions that will lead the region to sustainability. As we have begun the process of implementation, we have received frequently asked questions (FAQs) about how this may impact our growers moving forward. The North Kings GSA is committed to providing clear and up-to-date information to keep our landowners informed. If your question is not answered below, feel free to contact us at www.northkingsgsa.org/contact or call (559) 233-7161 x 7109.

HOW ARE THE NORTH KINGS GSA AND FID DIFFERENT?

The North Kings GSA is your local agency formed specifically to bring groundwater sustainability to the area it serves. The North Kings GSA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) bound by a Joint Powers Agreement between member agencies Fresno Irrigation District (FID), County of Fresno, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, City of Kerman, Biola Community Services District, Garfield Water District, and International Water District. The North Kings GSA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors that include members, contracting entities, and other interested parties. FID is the largest member agency by acreage of the North Kings GSA, and provides surface water to landowners and municipalities within its boundaries.

WITH ALL THE SURFACE WATER THAT FID DELIVERS, ISN'T THE GROUNDWATER IN MY AREA ALREADY BALANCED?

Based on current land use and cropping demands, estimates indicate the FID portion of the North Kings GSA is sustainable. The North Kings GSA will continue to work with FID to gather monitoring data on groundwater levels every spring and fall, ensuring that the area stays on track with sustainability targets.

IF GROUNDWATER LEVELS ARE DECLINING, HOW IS THE NORTH KINGS GSA CONSIDERED SUSTAINABLE?

Groundwater pumping in and around the North Kings GSA occurs to meet total water demand. This pumping can impact groundwater levels, especially in extended

drought periods. Groundwater level recovery happens during wet years when surface water is used for dedicated groundwater recharge. There are portions of FID that have continually seen declining water levels due to groundwater outflow from pumping outside of the FID area. The North Kings GSA is currently working to understand more on the impacts of that groundwater outflow.

HAS ANY PROGRESS BEEN MADE TO HELP GROUNDWATER LEVELS RECOVER AFTER THE CURRENT DROUGHT?

Yes. The North Kings GSA is working with its member agencies, including FID, to prepare for wet years by developing and expanding groundwater recharge basins. Since the GSP was submitted to the State in 2020, FID has completed construction of an additional 170 acres of dedicated recharge basins, adding 3,520 acre-feet of recharge capacity. FID is currently securing land to add another 420 acres of additional recharge basins.

DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP THE AREA'S GROUNDWATER LEVELS?

Growers in North Kings GSA switching to drip irrigation should consider keeping their flood lines intact to...

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...improve water management flexibility for both wet and dry years. The North Kings GSA in cooperation encourages growers to use flood irrigation systems when surface water is available instead of drip, and to take water deliveries for on-farm recharge even if it's not needed for irrigation in exceptionally wet years. By participating, growers can help improve local groundwater levels and quality, increase water supply reliability, and proactively prepare for drought. Find our grower irrigation guide at www.northkingsgsa.org/growers for more information.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTH KINGS GSA IMPLEMENTING SGMA, AND WHO PAYS?

There are administrative and capital costs associated with implementing SGMA locally, and the North Kings GSA Board of Directors approves budgets annually to fund agency activities. Currently the North Kings GSA's member agencies, including FID, make contributions annually based on the acreage they have within the North Kings GSA boundary to fund administrative costs. Member agencies, including FID, are planning for and constructing recharge basins and implementing other projects to mitigate for groundwater pumping within their respective boundaries. FID is using existing assessment revenues to cover their portion of the costs, and through partnerships and grant funding has been able to develop projects for groundwater recharge since the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was submitted to the State in 2020.

AM I GOING TO BE LIMITED ON HOW MUCH I CAN PUMP?

Although the North Kings GSA is given authority under SGMA to limit or restrict groundwater pumping, based on water use projections through 2040, the FID area has balanced groundwater use, making limits or restrictions at individual wells unnecessary at this time. Through continued monitoring, North Kings GSA plans to manage groundwater on an area-wide basis. Groundwater pumping restrictions would only be considered if groundwater conditions begin to decline at unsustainable rates putting the GSA at risk of losing local control of SGMA implementation to the State.

AM I GOING TO BE REQUIRED TO PUT A METER ON MY WELL?

The North Kings GSA is not requiring meters at this time and will use the area approach to track water levels to estimate groundwater overdraft rather than track on an individual well basis. However, if the area is not on track to reach sustainability by 2040, additional requirements, including meters, may become necessary to keep local control of SGMA implementation. Regardless of requirements, the North Kings GSA encourages growers to consider the benefits of installing a meter for their own water supply management and planning.

WILL I NEED TO REGISTER MY WELL WITH THE NORTH KINGS GSA?

Well registration is being considered by the North Kings GSA. As a groundwater management agency, well registration would help the North Kings GSA with overall management of the groundwater use area by providing a database of well locations and construction details within its boundaries. Registration also provides information to help the North Kings GSA communicate with well owners about their well and any potential impacts due to groundwater levels.

WHAT ARE CITIES AND URBAN PUMPERS REQUIRED TO DO ABOUT GROUNDWATER IMPACTS?

As member agencies to the North Kings GSA, the cities are responsible to balance their groundwater use. The cities of Fresno and Clovis historically relied primarily on groundwater and over time a significant area of lower groundwater levels has formed under the metropolitan areas. Both cities have made progress to mitigate groundwater impacts with surface water treatment facilities that treat surface water from FID, which is then delivered to their customers. They also divert excess flood water into the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) basins, benefiting the aquifer. Each North Kings GSA member agency has identified projects that will mitigate the groundwater pumping in their respective boundaries. You can find this project list on our website at www.northkingsgsa.org/projectlist.