NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Policy No:	NKGSA – 2021-001
Policy Title:	New Well Review Policy
Board Approval Date:	February 25, 2021
Policy Effective Date:	March 1, 2021

1.0 Purpose

There are three purposes for the New Well Review Policy;

1. Provide direction to the Executive Officer (EO) of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) when collecting data for construction of new water well permits (extraction facilities) within the NKGSA boundary.

2. Request Fresno County and the Cities of Fresno, Clovis and Kerman (permitting agencies) to provide a minimum review period and information when routing applications for construction of new water well permits to the NKGSA.

3. Utilize data collected from the well permit applications for inclusion in the NKGSA records.

2.0 Background

The NKGSA covers the northeast portion of the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin in Fresno County. It is one of seven groundwater sustainability agencies within the Kings Sub-basin.

A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishes the NKGSA governance and the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan (NKGSA GSP) provides the roadmap for how the NKGSA will reach long-term sustainability. Combined, the two documents provide the framework and management strategies for achieving and maintaining groundwater sustainability within the NKGSA plan area. Member agencies of the NKGSA, including the County of Fresno and Cities of Fresno, Clovis and Kerman have authority to issue water well permits within their jurisdiction.

3.0 Rationale for Policy

The permitting agencies have authority to issue well permits within their jurisdiction. The NKGSA is interested in receiving applications for water well permits from the permitting agencies to increase data collection and reporting for ongoing well construction and destruction activities. Further, the NKGSA GSP Section 6.3.2 (Page 6-14 of the NKGSA GSP) specifies the following may be requested by the NKGSA in separate well policies:

- Registration of extraction facilities (wells) within the NKGSA.

- Require the installation of wellhead meters, sounding tubes, and water quality sample ports.
- Require well owners to self-report groundwater extraction volumes, static water levels, and water quality data.

The NKGSA GSP specifies the NKGSA may consider separating the additional well requirements management actions into multiple policies or be silent on various bulleted components until the NKGSA deems them necessary. This New Well Review Policy is addressing the registration of extraction facilities (new wells) within the NKGSA which includes provisions for up to five business days to review well permit applications received from the permitting agencies. The well registry will be created from records obtained from the permitting agencies so that a separate submission to the NKGSA by the driller/well owner is not necessary.

The NKGSA will work cooperatively with the permitting agencies to gather information including well location information, anticipated depth of the well, and anticipated screened interval of the proposed well. For well destruction permit applications, the reason for destruction of the well is desired information as well.

For purposes of this Policy, a well permit is defined as an application to the permitting agency for a permit to allow the construction of a new well for purposes of groundwater extractions, construction of a replacement well for purposes of groundwater extractions, reconstruction or deepening of a well for purposes of groundwater extractions; injection wells for purposes of injecting water into the groundwater aquifer; and destruction of wells used for groundwater extraction. This definition does not include permit applications for monitoring wells, test holes, or exploratory borings of any type.

4.0 Scope and Applicability

This Policy specifically applies to:

a. That portion of the Kings Subbasin located in Fresno County lying and situate within NKGSA boundaries (as depicted in Exhibit A, attached and incorporated herein);

b. All well permit applications received from permitting agencies for well construction activities as described in Section 3.0, within the NKGSA boundary;

c. All data collected by NKGSA and/or its consultants and other partners pursuant to the well construction activities within NKGSA; and

d. All property owners at locations where well construction activities are taking place within the NKGSA boundary.

5.0 Authority

As a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) properly organized pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code 10720 et. Seq.) (SGMA), NKGSA is authorized to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for purposes of fulfilling its obligations as a GSA (Water Code 10725.2 (b)), and NKGSA adopts this Policy pursuant to this authority.

6.0 Data Collection

The NKGSA relies on the online Department of Water Resources (DWR) Well Completion Report Map Application tool to gather information on existing wells (groundwater extraction facilities) within the NKGSA boundary. However, through previous research efforts, the NKGSA understands many existing wells do not have well completion reports or have not been entered into the DWR database and may be absent from the existing records. The intent of the NKGSA requesting permitting agencies route well permit applications to the NKGSA is to complement the existing well recordkeeping.

7.0 Policy Statement

With acknowledgement of the information set forth herein above, until further modified as set forth hereafter, the following shall serve as the NKGSA Policy for Well Construction Activity within the NKGSA boundary:

a. The EO, or his/her designee, shall review all water well permit applications received from permitting agencies. The EO shall record water well permit applications for location, proposed depth, and other construction details related to well permit activities as defined in the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

b. The EO shall maintain new well records for the NKGSA. These records shall be used to maintain an accurate accounting of all groundwater extraction facilities within the NKGSA boundary.

c. To assist in the EO's recording of new water well permit applications and the creation of new well records, the EO shall request the following of permitting agencies:

    1. Provide up to five business days for the review of all well permit applications. NKGSA recognizes that a shorter review period, or no review period, may be provided depending on unique or exceptional circumstances as determined by the permitting agencies.

    2. Submittal of Well Completion Reports and Well Destruction Reports for activities occurring after the effective date of this policy, in such that the permitting agency has this information.

d. The NKGSA shall work directly with well owners on any request to maintain wells proposed for destruction for monitoring purposes by the NKGSA.

e. NKGSA shall coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate with the permitting agencies and landowners (and/or their representative) of well construction activities for implementation of this Policy.

8.0 Effective Date and Modification

a. This Policy shall become effective upon its passage and adoption.

b. NKGSA's Board of Directors may modify this Policy at any time, at its sole discretion, pursuant to the applicable procedures described in NKGSA's bylaws.

The foregoing New Well Review Policy was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors for the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25th day of February, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

See Attached Signature Page

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Mr. Jerry Prieto
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ATTEST:

Kassy D. Chauhan, P.E.

Approved as to legal form and effect:

Kevin R. Dale, Esq. AALRR

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Jerry Prieto

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Mr. Jerry Prieto
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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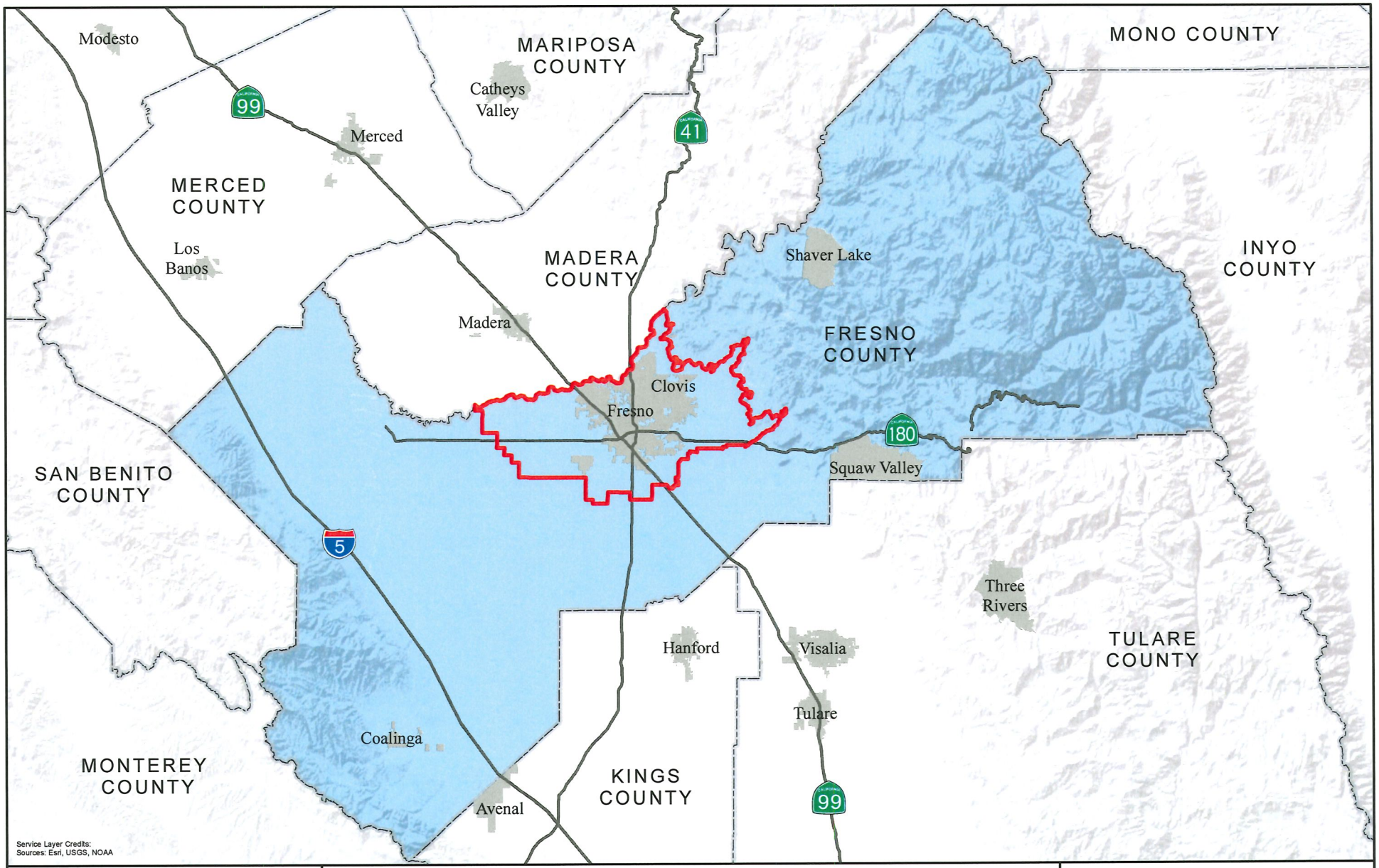

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PROVOST& PRITCHARD
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An Employee Owned Company

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North Kings GSA
Fresno County

Exhibit A

North Kings GSA Policy

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