AGENDA
NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
March 9, 2018, 1:30 PM
Clovis Public Safety Community Room, 1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA

Conference Call Number: (559) 324-2995

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes from January 12 Meeting

3. Approve – Recommended Outreach Plan

4. Receive – Ad hoc Subcommittee Updates
    - Technical
    - Administrative/Fiscal
    - Membership/Outreach/Communications

5. Public Comments

6. Member Comments

7. Adjourn

MINUTES
(Preliminary – Subject to Revision/Approval at next meeting)

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
January 12, 2018
Clovis Public Safety Building

In attendance:

*Luke Serpa – Clovis
*Bill Stretch – FID
*Dejan Pavic - Fresno
*Glenn Allen – Fresno County
*Lauren Layne – Garfield WD (phone)
*Ken Moore – Kerman
*Dwight Miller – Biola CSD
*Andrew Remus – FMFCD
*Shay Bakman – Bakman Water Company
Gary Serrato – FID
Adam Claes - FID
Scott Redelfs – Clovis
Paul Armendariz – Clovis
Lisa Koehn – Clovis (Ret.)
Sarge Green – Fresno State
Ronnie Samuelian – Provost and Pritchard
Jim Anderson – Malaga CWD
Christina Guzman – Fresno County
Sue Ruiz – Self Help Enterprises
Dana Dominguez-Rogge – Self Help Enterprises
Andrew Nabors – CUSD
Mike Prandini - BIA
Don A. Wright – Reporter

* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

Item 1 - Called to order at 1:35 PM

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes from 9/8/2017 Meeting

Motion by Dwight Miller to approve, second by Bill Stretch. Approved 8-0 with Garfield abstaining.

Item 3 – Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates

Item 3a – Technical Subcommittee

Chairman Bill Stretch provided background on roles and responsibilities of subcommittee. Bill indicated that the committee is making progress on GSP at approximately 1 chapter per month, and that a significant upcoming challenge for the development of the plan, will be settling overdraft numbers and boundary flow conditions. Gary Serrato provided significant background information regarding coordination efforts between 7 GSAs in the Kings sub-basin. Mr. Serrato discussed contracting with Dr. David Cehrs to help review the information developed by the Consultants regarding groundwater overdraft and boundary flows. Sue Ruiz inquired as to what was being done to help County residents

that may want to connect to city water system but are told that they have to come up with source of water first. Gary Serrato indicated that talks with County are ongoing regarding this issue.

Item 3b – Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee

Lisa Koehn indicated that the Subcommittee has not met recently. The Grant application was submitted in November and awaiting award notifications. Maximum grant is $1.5 million that will be shared by all 7 GSAs in basin meaning NKGSA could receive approximately $214,000.

Item 3c – Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee

Dwight Miller indicated the subcommittee had not met recently, that Dr. Cehrs had sent an email with some suggestions regarding outreach, and that Craig Moyle had distributed 40-page outreach plan. Subcommittee will meet on 1/23/2018 to discuss outreach plan/program. Gary Serrato commented on need for unified message that resonates with all stakeholders. Sue Ruiz commented on "My Job Depends on Ag" Facebook campaign. Dwight Miller discussed ongoing coordination efforts between Biola and Kerman.

Item 4 – Receive Update in Kings Sub-Basin Coordination

Ronnie Samuelian indicated that the NKGSA is further along than other GSAs in developing the plan. Work being done by Ken Schmidt on basin conditions will come back to Technical Subcommittee for review. Ronnie reminded everyone to review Sustainable Management Criteria that was circulated by Technical Subcommittee. Ronnie indicated that Draft MOU for basin coordination is expected to be presented to Advisory Committee for consideration soon.

Item 5 – Approve Recommended 2018 Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Bill Stretch indicated that Friant Group had adjusted their meeting schedule so it did not conflict with this meeting date. Recommended schedule for Advisory Committee is to remain 2nd Friday of the month at 1:30 PM. Motion by Dwight Miller, second by Bill Stretch; approved unanimously.

Item 6 – Approve Recommended 2018 GSA Board Meeting Schedule

Recommended to remain 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM. Motion by Bill Stretch. Second by Dejan Pavic; approved unanimously.

Items 7&8 – Recommendation to Adopt Resolution to Join ACWA JPIA and Authorize Execution of JPA

Items 7&8 were addressed together. Adam Claes indicated Board had previously approved joining ACWA JPIA to obtain insurance, and that it is

necessary for Board to adopt a resolution and to execute JPA. Motion by Bill stretch to recommend adoption of resolution and execution of JPA agreement, second Lauren Layne; adopted unanimously.

Item 9 – Public Comments

Sue Ruiz discussed recent documentary “Tapped Out”.

Item 10 – Member Comments

Gary Serrato discussed LAFCo’s intention to adopt a water policy, Gary and others encouraged the LAFCo Board to wait and continue to work with the GSAs to develop a more inclusive process.

Item 9 – Adjourn

Motion by Dwight Miller, second by Ken Moore to adjourn; approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Final Draft
North Kings GSA Public Outreach Plan

March 9, 2018

Prepared for:

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Prepared by:

Communication and Engagement Subcommittee

Executive Summary

Purpose of Public Outreach Plan

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (North Kings GSA) Public Outreach 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. The Public Outreach Plan identifies and describes both North Kings GSA and member agency actions to inform and engage stakeholders about development of the GSP, deliver clear and consistent messaging about SGMA and comply with the SGMA outreach requirements.

North Kings GSA Outreach Tools

The Public Outreach Plan identifies a number of tools to support communication and engagement activities with stakeholders. These tools include the following:

- Interested Party Database: Pursuant to the requirements of SGMA, the North Kings GSA has developed and will maintain an Interested Party Database. Managed via email marketing service provider Constant Contact, the Interested Party Database will be used to notify stakeholders and public of pending meetings and workshops of the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, notifications of GSP Development Updates, and notices of other North Kings GSA outreach actions.
- Project Website: The North Kings GSA partner agencies have developed a stand-alone website for the GSA: www.NorthKingsGSA.org. The website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Directors (Board) and Advisory Committee meeting notices, public outreach information and frequently asked questions.
- Key Messages: The North Kings GSA has developed an initial list of key messages for use in all North Kings GSA communications. These key messages are included as attachment to the Public Outreach Plan.
- Community Engagement and Activities Database: The Communication Engagement and Activities Database identifies potential stakeholder and outreach audiences. Stakeholders have been divided into three stakeholder "tiers." 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 engaged during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to share information and engage in two-way communication. Scheduled on request of the North Kings GSA, these engagements seek to gather information, and work on solutions to existing and emerging issues.
    - **Group 2:** *Consulted (Inform + Consult*) – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. These presentations are held on request of North Kings GSA. Attendees are invited to provide feedback to presented materials.
    - **Group 3:** *Connected (Inform*) – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. These presentations are held upon request to the North Kings GSA.
- GSP Development Updates: GSP Development Updates inform stakeholders of the status of the North Kings GSP development process and notify stakeholders about upcoming public meetings.

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- Outreach Materials: The North Kings GSA will develop template outreach materials for each phase of the GSP development and implementation process. These materials will be translated into multiple languages, and may include informational flyers, fact sheets, new releases or utility bill inserts.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Outreach

The Public Outreach Plan identifies a variety of outreach activities to provide the public and stakeholders opportunities to be informed and engaged in the North Kings GSA and in the development of the GSP. These outreach activities seek to build and expand public awareness of the North Kings GSA, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and groundwater connections within and adjacent to the North Kings GSA. These activities further seek to actively engage with key stakeholder groups to coordinate and collaborate on technical issues important for development of the GSP. Below is a summary of these engagement activities planned to be on-going from 2018 to mid-2019.

- Board Meetings and Workshops: The first of two standing meetings subject to California's open meetings laws, the monthly meetings of the North Kings GSA Board of Directors is an important opportunity for the public and stakeholders to participate in development of the GSP. Each meeting includes a public comment session for participants to offer insights and request additional information. Meeting notification and summaries are posted to the agency website and via Constant Contact email campaigns.
- Advisory Committee Meetings and Workshops: The second of two standing meetings subject to California's open meetings laws, these monthly meetings support active engagement in the planning process by stakeholders and the public. As with the Board meetings, each Advisory Committee meeting includes a public comment session for participants to offer insights and request additional information. Meeting notification and summaries are posted to the agency website and via Constant Contact email campaigns.
- Member Agency Briefings: These sessions include periodic presentation to member agency boards, councils and commissions by the North Kings GSA staff. Held as part of the member agency's publicly noticed meetings, these briefings are intended to provide an update on plan progress and next steps, and respond to questions. Interested parties will be notified of the agency's participation via Constant Contact.
- Public and Stakeholder Meetings: In support of plan development, the North Kings GSA will periodically host or participate in meetings to present technical findings and exchange information with key stakeholders. These sessions will focus on Tier 1 audiences as described above. Interested parties will be notified of these meetings via Constant Contact.
- Community Presentations: The North Kings GSA anticipates providing brief, high-level overviews of the GSP process and status at meetings hosted by various civic, non-profit, and community groups. These sessions – provided as-needed or upon request – will include Tier 2 and 3 audiences as described above. Interested parties will be notified of these meetings via Constant Contact.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption Outreach

Formal communication and engagement activities focused on adoption of the North Kings GSP is anticipated to start in mid-2019 with the release of the Public Draft GSP. This outreach is anticipated to include hosting of two public hearings (pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.4) during a period of public review of up to 60-days. These meetings will be noticed by at least two newspaper notices published 14 days prior to the hearing and at least five days apart. Oral and written comments provided following the close of the public comment period will be compiled into a Public Comment Report. Information contained in this report will be considered for incorporation to the Final Draft GSP for adoption no later than Jan. 31, 2020.

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NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Board	North Kings GSA Board of Directors
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
North Kings GSA	North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
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 North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (North Kings GSA) in support of development and eventual implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within the agency's jurisdictional boundaries. This document describes planned outreach activities as required by 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.

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

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 overdrafted 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

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1.1 ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

SGMA was passed in the third year of California's chronic drought that witnessed substantial demand on groundwater resources throughout the state. 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[1] and newly-formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) 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, the DWR embarked on a series of public and agency meetings to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan (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, the DWR published *Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations Guide*[2]. 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). See Attachment A for a summary of public and stakeholder outreach requirements under SGMA.

1.2 ABOUT THE KINGS SUBBASIN

The Kings Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 116, 5-022.08, Figure 1) is one of 515 groundwater subbasins in California, and is one of 127 subbasins that have been identified as a high or medium priority by DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. The CASGEM Program has identified the Kings 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 County of

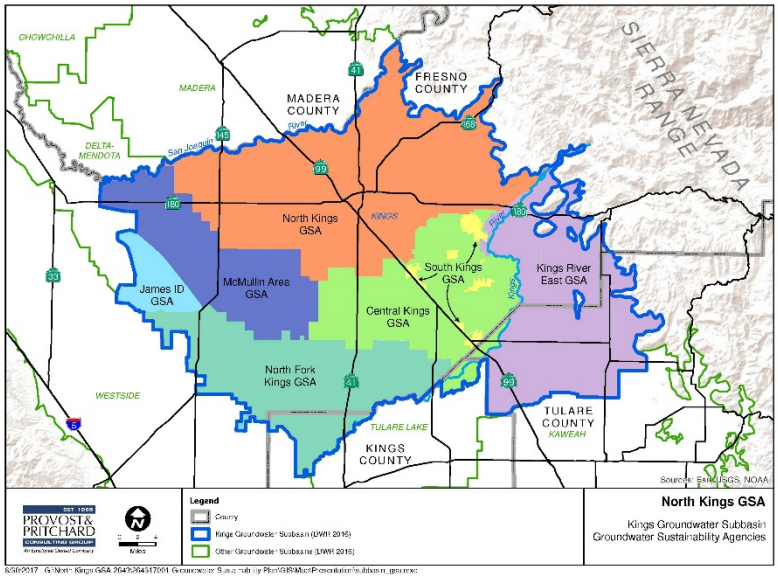

Figure 1-1: Groundwater Sustainability Agencies of the Kings Subbasin

[1] 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.

[2] http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/Groundwater Sustainability Plan_Final_Regs_Guidebook.pdf

Fresno, and includes portions of Kings and Tulare counties. At the time of this plan, seven GSAs have been established within the subbasin pursuant to SGMA, including:

- Central Kings GSA
- James Irrigation District GSA
- Kings River East GSA
- McMullin Area GSA
- North Kings GSA
- North Fork Kings GSA
- South Kings GSA

1.3 ABOUT THE NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

The North Kings GSA was established in November 2016 as a joint power authority (JPA) of eight local public agencies eligible to serve as a GSA for their jurisdictional boundary. Founding members of the JPA include Fresno Irrigation District, Garfield Water District, International Water District, Biola Community Services District, City of Clovis, City of Fresno, City of Kerman and County of Fresno. Since its formation, the agency's Board of Directors (Board) have executed agreements with Bakman Water Company, a private water company regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District as member agencies. The North Kings GSA is governed by a seven member Board of Directors, with support of an Advisory Committee. Directors include elected officials who have been appointed to serve on the agency's Board of Directors by their respective boards, councils or commissions, or are the authorized representative of a Member, Contracting Entity or Interested Party. Four of the seven board seats are permanently assigned, while two are shared seats. One seat is appointed by a vote of the Board of Directors from any non-agricultural member not currently serving a board term. Table 1-1 provides the governing body of the Board of Directors.

Table 1-1: North Kings GSA Governing Body

Seat #	Assignment
1	Fresno Irrigation District
2	Garfield Water District, International Water District, and Fresno Irrigation District[3]
3	Bakman Water Co., Biola Community Services District, City of Kerman and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
4	City of Clovis
5	City of Fresno[4]
6	County of Fresno
7	At-Large

[3] Fresno Irrigation District ("FID"), International Water District ("IWD") and Garfield Water District ("GWD") have entered into a separate written agreement dealing with how they will exercise the governance responsibilities and voting for Seat# 2, including but not limited to how to exercise the voting rights, succession rights, financial participation in the GSA, the consequences of any mergers or consolidation of any or all of those districts into municipalities, etc., as it affects this "Board Seat Portion" # 2 voting and participation rights in the NORTH KINGS GSA. All members acknowledge that any withdrawal or termination of IWD or GWD from this JPA shall not divest FID' s retaining its interest in Seat 2 under that separate agreement, any §5.03 Member vote under this JPA notwithstanding.

[4] The City of Fresno is governed using a Mayor-Council form of Government, and the Mayor shall serve as the City's representative to the governing body of the Authority. In addition, the Mayor shall appoint the alternates to the Board who shall be an elected official, appointed official or employee of the City of Fresno.

2.0 NORTH KINGS GSA DECISION-MAKING

Consistent with the legislature's intent and objective for SGMA, the North Kings GSA is a locally-led effort to develop and implement sustainable groundwater management actions for groundwater users and groundwater dependent ecosystems within the jurisdictional boundaries of the agency.

The decision-making structure of the North Kings GSA is delivered through a hierarchical structure where subcommittees, committees and executive staff advise, and request direction from, the Board of Directors on important topics and issues. Figure 2-1 provides the decision-making structure of the agency.

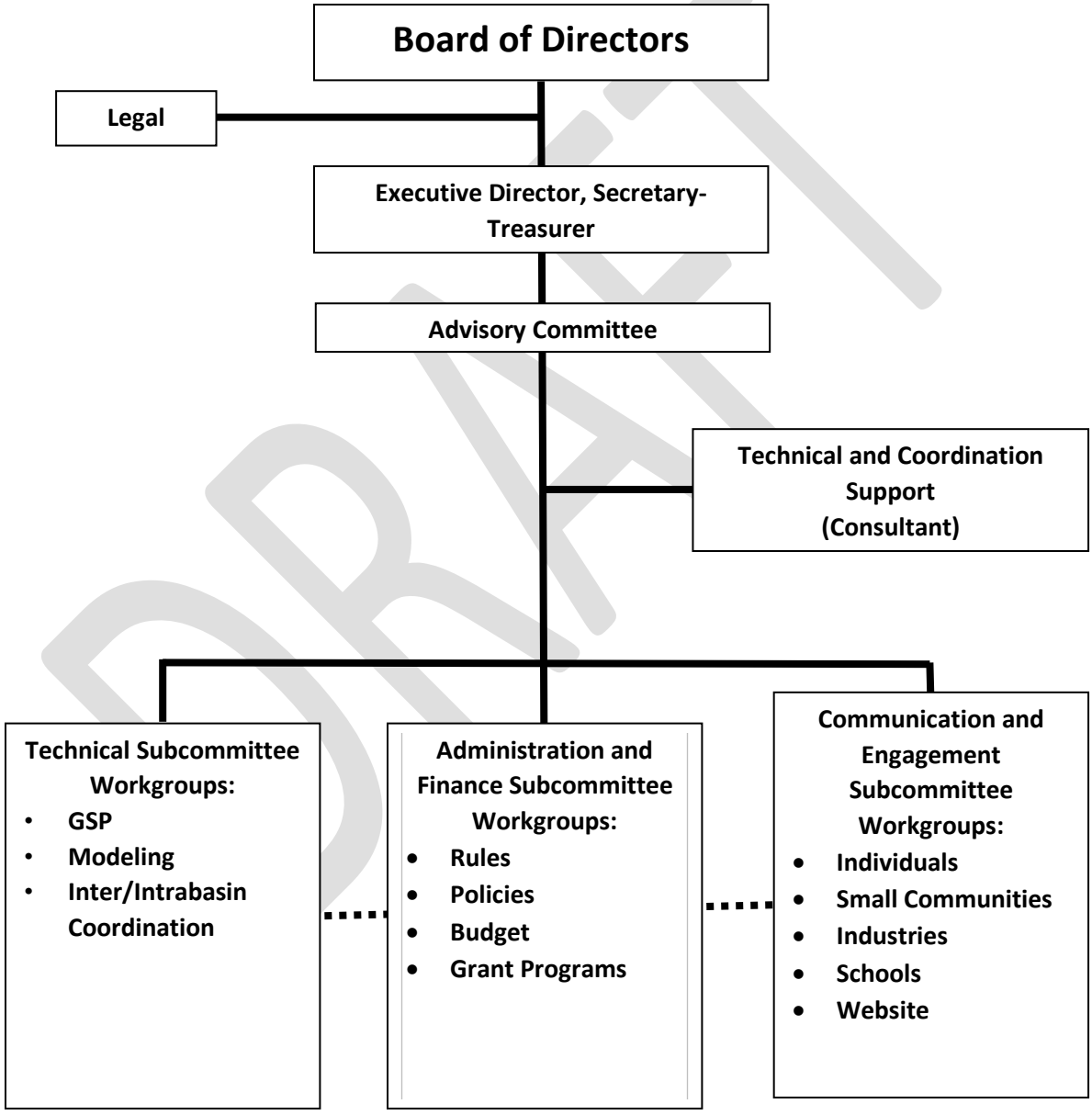

Figure 2-1. North Kings GSA Management Structure

Decisions directly associated with SGMA compliance are subject to a vote of the Board. The board holds its monthly meetings at the Fresno Irrigation District board room in Fresno, California.

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The North Kings GSA Board members are elected officials who have been appointed to serve as a board member by their respective boards, councils or commissions, or are the authorized representative of a Member, Contracting Entity or Interested Party. Board member decisions are agreed via a simple majority vote unless the issues falls into one of nine pre-identified categories. These categories and the associated voting threshold are identified in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: North Kings GSA Voting Thresholds

Key Authority	Threshold
Adoption of or amendments to the GSP	Unanimous vote of all Directors
To incur debts, liabilities or obligations on behalf of the Authority	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors
Adoption of or revisions to policies of the Authority	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors
GSA Enforcement	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors
Authorization to obligate the Authority to participate in litigation, or other legal proceedings	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors
Amendment of the Agreement	Unanimous vote of all Directors, subject to ratification by all Members under 7.01[5]
Any Assessment or Fees levied or imposed by the GSA	Unanimous vote of all Directors
Budget allocation among Parties for GSA operations after the initial GSP	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors
Removal of a Member from the GSA	Five Affirmative Votes by Directors

Decision-making support to the Board is defined in Section 3.09 of the North Kings GSA JPA:

The Board of Directors may establish standing committees and ad hoc committees as it deems necessary. The Board of Directors shall establish membership of those committees. The Board of Directors may also dissolve any committee it deems to be no longer necessary.

Standing and ad hoc committees established by the Board of Directors include the Advisory Committee and three ad hoc subcommittees: 1) Technical, 2) Administration and Finance, and 3) Communication and Engagement. The Board is further advised by key staff including the executive director and legal counsel.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Executive Director is appointed by a vote of and serves at the pleasure of the Board. This position provides administrative and fiscal management for the GSA. Administrative duties 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.

[5] Section 7.01 – Amendment. This Agreement may be amended from time to time by the unanimous vote of all of the Members.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal counsel will serve at the pleasure of the Board. Counsel selection will be through a process recommended to the Board from the advisory bodies made of the member organizations of the agency.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The North Kings GSA Advisory Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Directors and represents one of the primary opportunities for public participation in groundwater planning and management provided by the agency. The Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors based on nominees provided by member agencies. All Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public, with notifications and meeting records provided pursuant to the Brown Act. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives of each member agency and serves two key functions: 1) consult and receive direction from the Board of Directors on key topics and process requirements associated with compliance with SGMA, and 2) direct development of GSP for the North Kings GSA and other actions pursuant to Board direction in coordination with identified subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Advisory Committee is responsible for the identification and formation of ad-hoc subcommittees needed to attend to specific categories of GSA. Subcommittees are established to perform specific tasks of variable duration depending on complexity and need. The following represents the preliminary type and scope of effort of the subcommittees and their associated work groups. Work group activities will have priority rankings with the most important work efforts addressed first. Representatives of the subcommittees will be recommended/selected by the Advisory Committee and can include agency staff with appropriate expertise, groundwater-user representatives and outside consultants.

Administration and Finance Subcommittee

This committee's duties include development and implementation of all the policies and procedures needed for the GSA, including the rules and regulations needed to implement the goals of any GSPs as well as the actions needed to manage the financial health of the organization.

Work groups for this community could include: a) general administrative policies and procedures for conduct of business including for Directors, employees, member agencies, etc.; b) policy and procedures for collections, investments and audits; and c) GSA rules and regulations for enforcement of the mission of the organization, groundwater management.

Communication and Engagement Subcommittee

This committee is charged with development of required communication and engagement activities aimed to provide clear, consistent and collaborative outreach to basin stakeholders and other interested parties.

The role of the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee is to:

- Advise and direct development of communication actions required by GSP Regulations defined in Water Code § 354.10.
- Coordinate and respond to stakeholder inquiries associated with the North Kings GSA and GSP development.

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- Monitor and provide issue/response recommendations to events/announcements within the Kings Subbasin or the Madera Subbasin that have or can affect North Kings GSA stakeholders.
- Prioritize outreach activities consistent with SGMA and those adopted by North Kings GSA.
- Evaluate the performance of outreach activities and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Coordinate and lead revision to informational materials and website content provided on behalf of member agencies.
- Manage the administrative record for outreach activities as required by SGMA.
- Modify and update this Outreach Plan as required
- Provide consistency review of documents and other communications provided to subbasin stakeholders by member agencies.

Work Groups could include: a) membership enrollment and database management; b) internal and external correspondence, reporting and outreach; c) website content and management; d) inter-regional groundwater basin communications and coordination.

Technical Subcommittee

This committee will be tasked with assessing the technical issues and activities needed to implement groundwater management including the design and implementation of the GSP.

Work groups may include : a) development of a GSP; b) design of the data network, and data management needs/requirements on groundwater conditions including depth, flow paths, quality and volumes both available and used; c) groundwater modeling; d) recommended groundwater use operations necessary to meet the goals of sustainability (well spacing, construction, pumping volumes, recharge locations and operations, etc.).

3.0 DWR OUTREACH GUIDELINES

As part of its release of the GSP Emergency Regulations, the DWR distributed a *Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations Guide* to assist the public and GSAs. The guide describes a four-phased approach to comply with the emergency regulations and meets the DWR requirements for GSA formation, and GSP development and implementation. The guide includes a series of required or recommended outreach and engagement activities for GSAs to consider as part of an active and inclusive engagement with the public and stakeholders. Figure 3-1 provides an overview of the planning phases and associated outreach requirements.

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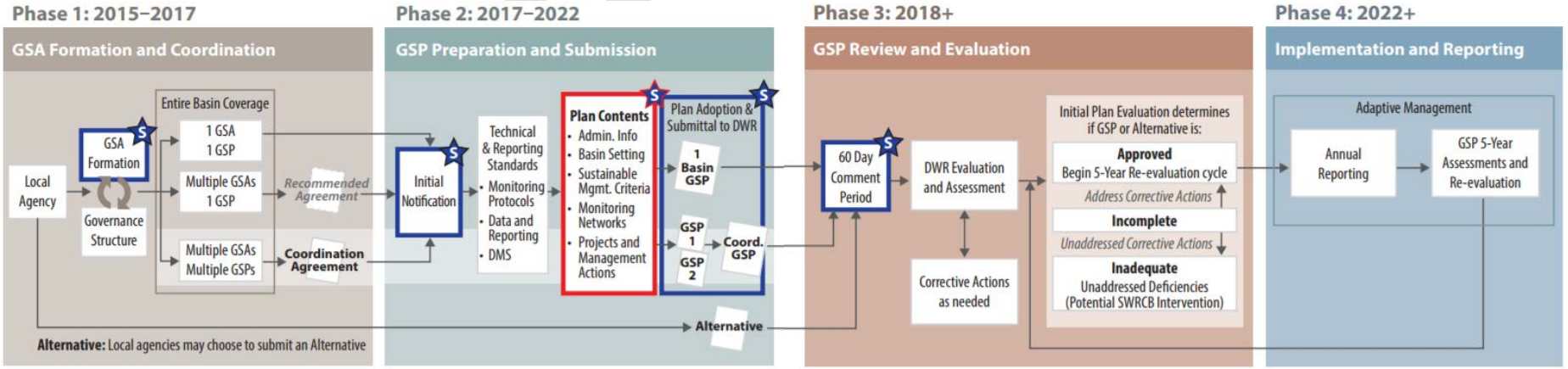

Phase 1 Engagement Requirements

- **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*
- **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

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

Stakeholder Input

Stakeholders should be informed throughout the development of Plan Content

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

4.0 GSA-SPECIFIC OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

The State legislature, as part of passage of SGMA, placed a high level of emphasis on actions that encourage or require GSAs to develop and implement GSPs in close coordination, consultation and cooperation with stakeholders. Examples of this legislative intent include required public hearings, public notifications and establishment of an interested party database. These requirements were then codified within Water Code §10723.8 (a)(4), and obligate each GSA to provide a detailed explanation of how the interests of beneficial users would be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and development and implementation of the GSP.

Communication and engagement activities described in this section include activities tailored to the unique needs of the North Kings GSA. These GSA-specific activities include consistent and progressive engagement of a diverse social, cultural, and economic stakeholder communities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the North Kings GSA. These outreach activities seek to establish and maintain broad community awareness of sustainable groundwater management planning efforts by the North Kings GSA, communication the tools and resources available to stakeholders, and describe the range of opportunities to participate in the planning process. The schedule and sequence of many of these activities are displayed in Attachment B: North Kings GSA Outreach and Coordination Schedule.

4.1 NORTH KINGS GSA 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 North Kings GSA and managed by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee. The agency, on an as-needed basis, intends to provide materials in Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, or other languages. A common visual identity format will be implemented for all printed and electronic informational materials intended for public and stakeholders audiences. Attachment F contains the visual identity guidelines of the North Kings GSA.

INTERESTED PARTY DATABASE

Establishment and maintenance of an Interested Party Database is a required communication and engagement action by SGMA. Chaptered in Water Code §10723.4, this section states that any person may request, in writing, to be placed on a list to receive notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps and other relevant documents. Continuous recruitment of stakeholders to the database is a common element of outreach activities implemented by the North Kings GSA, as the database is the primary platform for dissemination of news and events of the agency and the GSP.

To comply with this section, the North Kings GSA established an online database that is populated by self-selected stakeholders in addition to stakeholders identified, and unilaterally incorporated, by the North Kings GSA. Management of this database is accomplished via a subscription to Constant Contact, a web-based mass email and contact management service. Early outreach activities will encourage stakeholders to self-enroll in the database to receive notices of important meetings and other events. In addition to on-line self-enrollment, the public and stakeholders may also enroll through written request to the agency, and by indicating their preference on sign-in sheets to North Kings GSA hosted events.

The database will seek to include of interested parties consistent with Water Code Section §10723.2 as follows:

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- Citizens Groups
- General Public
- Disadvantaged Communities[6]
- Agricultural Well Owners
- Domestic Well Owners
- Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied
- Private and Public Water Purveyors
- Surface Water Users[7]
- Governmental and Land-Use Agencies
- Tribal Governments and Communities
- Environmental and Ecosystem Interests
- Remediation and Groundwater Cleanup

The North Kings GSA will use the Interested Parties Database as the email and mailing list for sending notices regarding Board and Advisory Committee meetings, workshops, GSP development meetings, and other outreach activities as identified by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee. In addition, newsletters, GSP Development Updates and other information regarding GSP development milestones will be distributed using the Interested Parties Database.

Community Engagement and Activities Database

The Community Engagement and Activities Database is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet maintained by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee for engagement with stakeholder organizations and the media, and for advertising support. The spreadsheet includes four sections as follows:

Stakeholder Database: Stakeholders identified in the database are categorized by type consistent with §10723.2 and assigned to one of three "groups." These groupings serve to define a level of engagement with a given stakeholder based on the content needs of for the North Kings GSA's GSP, and the stakeholder's level of interest in, or contribution to, GSP development. These groupings are as follows:

- **Group 1:** *Collaborated (Inform + Consult + Collaborate*) – This group is closely engaged during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to share information and engage in two-way communication. Scheduled on request of the North Kings GSA, these engagements seek to gather information, and work on solutions to existing and emerging issues.
- **Group 2:** *Consulted (Inform + Consult*) – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. These presentations are held on request of North Kings GSA. Attendees are invited to provide feedback to presented materials.
- **Group 3:** *Connected (Inform*) – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. These presentations are held upon request to the North Kings GSA.

The grouping assignment for each stakeholder community is subject to change based on stakeholder interest and GSP content needs. It is anticipated that the grouping placement will be dynamic

[6] Includes those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems (Water Code §10723.2(i)
[7] If there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies (Water Code §10723.2(g))

throughout the planning process. Such changes will be documented consistent with Water Code § 354.10 (b) and 354.10 (d).

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

Outreach Record: This section documents all outreach activities completed for the agency. This includes planned outreach actions and those that were in response to a stakeholder group. Outreach activities contained in this section include activities described in section 4.2 North Kings GSA Outreach Activities, media relations, direct mail activities, and other activities as identified by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.

Media Database: This section identifies media outlets applicable to the North Kings GSA. The database provides contact information for reporting and editorial staff, as well as requirements for placement of advertisements.

Project Website

Pursuant to GSP Emergency Regulations Section 353.6 Initial Notification, the North Kings GSA partner agencies have developed a stand-alone website for the GSA. Located at www.NorthKingsGSA.org, this website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Director biographies, 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. In addition, the site includes a Geographic Information System enabled application intended to help visitors search by address or geographic location which GSA in the Kings Subbasin has jurisdictional responsibilities. This site is periodically updated by the North Kings GSA.

Key Messages

An initial list of key messages has been developed for use in all North Kings GSA communications. North Kings GSA member agencies may also use these messages as talking points for direct outreach to their constituencies. 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). Each key message is to be periodically revised to ensure consistency with the planning process and effectiveness with the desired target audiences. The initial key messages developed with this Outreach Plan are included in Attachments C and D.

Outreach Materials

Outreach materials for the North Kings GSA carry a common visual identity to assist the public and stakeholder readily distinguish its work products from the numerous GSAs operating in the Central Valley. A suite of outreach materials are planned for development based on engagement need and phase of groundwater planning. These documents would evolve over time as the GSP is completed, adopted and implemented. As such, these documents are fit-for-purpose outreach tools that include the following:

Letterhead: The North Kings GSA has established a letterhead for formal written communication to the public and stakeholders. This letterhead identifies agency members, the agency Board of Directors, and

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key staff. This document may serve as a stand-alone communication vehicle or as a companion to other outreach materials. A template this document is available in Attachment E.

Meeting Summaries: These documents serve to memorialize discussions, decisions and other important milestones associated a meeting hosted by the North Kings GSA. These documents are available on the agency website and attached to the applicable meeting or event.

Comment Cards: Provided in a postcard format, this document would be provided at most North Kings GSA meetings for the public and stakeholders to provide written comments, request additional information, make suggestions, request addition to the Interested Parties Database, and provide other feedback as appropriate. The document will be pre-addressed for convenient delivery to the agency by U.S. Mail. A template this document is available in Attachment E.

PowerPoint Presentation: Provided in electronic format, this document will provide visual and text content that support verbal presentations by North Kings GSA members and staff. The base template for this document is available in Attachment E.

Sign-in Sheet: Each meeting will have a common sign-in sheet for stakeholders to note their attendance. The document will include a check box for stakeholders to indicate their preference to be added to the Interested Parties Database. A template this document is available in Attachment E.

GSP Development Updates: These documents are periodic online newsletters intended to keep stakeholders and the public up to date on GSP development process, notify stakeholders of upcoming public meetings and workshops, and other topics applicable to sustainable groundwater management pertinent to the region. GSP Development Updates will be sent to stakeholders in an e-newsletter format via Constant Contact. It is anticipated that GSP Development Updates will be sent to the stakeholders approximately three times per year during the GSP development process, or as needed. At a minimum, GSP Development Updates will be sent to the Interested Parties Database, but may also be sent to a larger stakeholder or constituent group. GSP Development Updates may include the following content: status of the North Kings GSA GSP development process, upcoming GSP development 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.

Brochures and Fact Sheets: These documents are typically one to two pages and formatted to be printed by the GSA or the stakeholder as needed. These may have up to two folds. The purpose of these documents are to provide written information to assist engagement with the public and stakeholders on specific topics. The editorial focus of these documents will be managed by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee in coordination with the Advisory Committee.

Utility Bill Inserts: Many members of the North Kings GSA are utilities that deliver monthly billing statements to customers. These monthly mailing often have space available to insert additional documents at little or no additional cost as long as the insert does not bring the utility bill's total weight over the base rate for first class U.S. Mail. These inserts are often a single-sheet of paper cut to fit a standard #10 envelope (4 1/8 inch by 9 ½ inch) without folding. The North Kings GSA plans to utilize these outreach venues in two key periods and on an as-available basis. The first period includes the second quarter of 2018 and is intended to encourage self-enrollment in the Interested Parties Database

and visitation to the agency website. The second period – slated for the first quarter of 2019 – is intended to alert the public and stakeholders of pending adoption proceedings for the region's GSP.

Fliers: These one page documents are focused on stakeholder communities and intended to raise awareness of certain topics or events of the North Kings GSA. The format of these documents draw from the agency's letterhead.

Calendar Advisories: These one page documents are one of two outreach materials for media relations purposes. These documents often contain two to three paragraphs and serve to promote a North Kings GSA event or milestone (e.g. deadline for receipt of public comment). The purpose of these documents are for the media to publish the milestone as a news brief or add to a publicly available community calendar. The format of these documents draw from the agency's letterhead.

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. The format of these documents draw from the agency's letterhead.

Social Media: Social media is a rapid and convenient method to reach stakeholders and other interested parties. The North Kings GSA currently has a Facebook presence and is evaluating other social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. The Facebook page is managed by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee. A hyperlink to the Facebook page is included in every Constant Contact notice released by agency staff.

4.2 NORTH KINGS GSA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The North Kings GSA plans to conduct a variety of public outreach activities geared to inform, engage, and respond to the stakeholders and other interested parties during GSP development, adoption, and, later, implementation. These activities, among other things, function to engage and interact with the public and stakeholders during GSP development, and to assist North Kings GSA staff and leadership collect information important to groundwater sustainability planning. This engagement and interaction occurs in five general areas: Board of Directors meeting and workshops; Advisory Committee meetings and workshops; GSA member agency briefings; public and stakeholder meetings; and existing community meetings. The date and sequence of these engagements is illustrated in Attachment B: North Kings GSA Outreach and Coordination Schedule. Commonly used tools applicable to each form of engagement is included in the descriptions below:

Board Meetings and Workshops

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

The North Kings GSA Board of Directors is one of two standing agency meetings that are subject to the Brown Act. Held monthly or by special session, these meetings are the 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 typically brought by the agency Executive Director/Secretary, from the agency's Advisory Committee, from the various subcommittees of the Advisory Committee, or other entities as identified. The timing and format of special sessions are subject Board discretion and publicly noticed pursuant to the Brown Act. Details of each Board meeting and workshop will be reported on the agency website consistent with Water Code §10725.2.

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Advisory Committee Meetings and Workshops

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

The North Kings GSA Advisory Committee, formed consistent with Water Code §10727.8(a) and §354.10(d)(3), is the second of two standing agency meetings that are subject to the Brown Act. These meeting are held in the same or similar format as Board meetings and serve to engage with the public and stakeholders in the decision-making process for development of the GSP. The Advisory Committee functions as a coordinator and advisor to the Board of Directors for topics and decision milestones necessary for GSP development. The Advisory Committee is supported by several ad hoc subcommittees as described in Section 2.0. As with the Board of Directors, the timing and format of special sessions, when needed, are subject to the Advisory Committees discretion and publicly noticed pursuant to the Brown Act. Details of each Advisory Committee meeting and workshop will reported on the agency website consistent with Water Code §10725.2.

Member Agency Briefings

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card

As part of plan development, support staff of the North Kings GSA may conduct briefings to councils, boards, and commissions of North Kings GSA member agencies. 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 at the request of member agency or scheduled proactively by North Kings GSA staff. The primary purpose of these briefings are to provide update on plan progress and next steps, and respond to questions. These presentations further provide the opportunity 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 North Kings GSA and the requesting member agency.

Public and Stakeholder Meetings

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

In support of plan development, the North Kings GSA anticipates periodically hosting or participating in meetings to present technical findings and exchange information with stakeholders. These meetings would be planned and implemented by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee in close coordination of the Advisory Committee. These meetings, as described in the Community Engagement and Activities Database, would be focused on specific stakeholder groups, such as school districts, industry groups, agricultural associations, disadvantaged or economically stressed communities, and non-governmental agencies. The primary function of these meetings are 1) to build and maintain awareness of SGMA, the North Kings GSA, and the plan development process; 2) to receive public and stakeholder input and advise during plan development; 3) to encourage the public and stakeholders attend and participate at agency Board and Advisory Committee meetings; and 4) 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 GSA 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 Community Engagement and Activities Database.

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COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card

The North Kings GSA anticipates the conduct of presentations at existing 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 encourage enrollment in the Interested Parties Database. The conduct of these sessions are planned to occur during the second quarter of 2018. Subsequent presentations are anticipated to be provided upon request of a stakeholder group or as a follow-on action of the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee. The initial round of presentations will focus on expanding self-enrollment in the Interested Parties Database, increase awareness of SGMA, and increase awareness and participation in GSP development by the North Kings GSA. Subsequent rounds of community presentations would serve to continue dialog with stakeholder communities and alert groups to pending key milestones (e.g. public hearings, etc.). The Community Engagement and Activities Database identifies the timing, sequence, and action items for these presentations. The presentations may be led by North Kings GSA staff, member agency staff, or consultant support staff using the key messages (see Attachments C and D). Management and staff assignment of this outreach is provided by the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.

4.3 NORTH KINGS GSA GSP ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

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.*

As the Kings Subbasin may have up to seven GSAs, the North Kings GSA anticipates that GSP adoption proceedings may initiate in mid-2019 and take up to seven months to complete. A key driver in the adoption schedule is coordination activities between GSAs in the Kings Subbasin, execution of a Coordination Agreement pursuant to §357.4, and internal reviews of each member agency of the North Kings GSA to the proposed GSP. GSAs within the Kings Subbasin plan to independently perform outreach and communication activities in support of their own GSP. The North Kings GSA may, on an as-needed basis, coordinate with other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin during plan development and plan adoption. Such outreach would focus on providing consistent and clear messages to issues of mutual concern. These subbasin outreach coordination efforts will be implemented at the discretion of the North Kings GSA Board of Directors.

Key milestones the North Kings GSA anticipates to include during the adoption phase are identified in Attachment B and described below:

Public Comment Period: A 60-day public comment period is proposed upon release of the Public Draft North Kings GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan. During this public comment period, the agency anticipates to conduct:

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- Public Hearing – Draft GSP: At least one public hearing to receive written and verbal comments to the Public Draft GSP. A stenographer may be on site to record all verbal comments.
- Advertising: At least two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to a public hearing (Government Code §6066).
- Media Relations: The agency intends to issue a news release and calendar advisories in advance of and during the public comment period to alert the public and stakeholders to the availability of the Public Draft GSP.
- Email and Social Media: The agency will further notify the public and stakeholders of availability of the Public Draft GSP vial email notices to those on the Interested Parties Database and via the agency's social media platform(s).

Comment Response: Staff of the North Kings GSA will produce a North Kings GSP Public Comment Report to document comments received during the Public Comment Period, the outreach conducted during this phase, and the responses to comments. These comments will be considered during production of the Final GSP and the report will be exhibit to the GSP.

GSP and Coordination Agreement Refinement: During this period, staff of the North Kings GSA anticipate holding a series of briefings with the councils and boards of member agencies to present the proposed GSP; describe the development process and involvement of member agency staff; and provide an overview of public and stakeholder comments specific to the member agency.

Public Hearing to Adopt: The North Kings GSA anticipates holding a public hearing pursuant to Water Code §10728.4 for the Final Draft GSP in early December 2019. This hearing will be preceded by newspaper advertisements pursuant to Government Code §6066 and notification to the California Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Water Code §10727.8(a). Agency staff anticipate holding the public hearing as part of a regular or special meeting of the North Kings GSA Board of Directors. Results of this hearing will be published in the Board's meeting minutes.

Post Adoption Proceedings

Following submission of the North Kings GSA GSP to the State, the California Department of Water Resources holds a 60-day public comment period (Water Code §10733.4(c)) for the public, stakeholders and other interested parties on submitted plans. Comments submitted to the State assist in the state's evaluation of the submitted GSPs and relayed to the submitting agency for their reference. Staff of the North Kings GSA plan to compile all comments submitted to the State into a single report and incorporate as an errata to the adopted GSP during a publicly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors.

Outreach in Support of GSP Implementation

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

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ATTACHMENT A: GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY/GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS TABLE

This Groundwater Sustainability Agency/Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development and Implementation Requirements Table identifies the required and recommended outreach and engagement activities to be conducted during each of the four planning phases. Activities described for use during Phase 1 (above) will continue to be used by North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency member agencies as it initiates development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for its portion of the Kings Subbasin. This table, moreover, references applicable state government codes. The table uses the following icons to assist the reader.

Icon	Description
	Denotes a public notification milestone to be completed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. These include noticing the public hearings, public meetings, and other related actions.
	Denotes a public hearing and public meeting hosted by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency or the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) or as defined and implemented by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
	Denotes delivery of a notification to DWR such as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Annual Report.
	Denotes a review and approval period to be completed by DWR.
	Denotes a period of public comment for stakeholders and other members of the public for documents released by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency or DWR.
	Denotes a key milestone of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
	Denotes a key action to be taken by DWR consistent with SGMA.
	Denotes a key documents to be undertaken by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency as part of its development of documents pursuant to SGMA.
	Denotes communication activities that support development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Action	Summary	Applicable Code or Section	Completed?
Phase 1 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation and Coordination			

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	Public Notification: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation	Two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14-days prior to public hearing	Government Code §6066	☑
	Public Hearing: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation:	For Groundwater Sustainability Agencies overlaying two or more counties, additional public hearings may be required	Water Code §10723(b)	☑
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Develop Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Notification Package	Written notification due within 30 days of public hearing. Groundwater Sustainability Agency filing deadline is June 30, 2017. Content requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Notification are as follows:	Water Code §10723.8	☑
	☑ Transmittal Letter	Transmittal letter signed by plan manager or other duly authorized person	Article 4. §353.4.	☑
	☑ Map	Copy of map of Service Area Boundary in GIS	Water Code §10723.8 (a)(1)	☑
	☑ Resolution	Copy of approved resolution	Water Code §10723.8 (a)(2)	☑
	☑ Bylaws, ordinance, etc.	Copy of new bylaws, ordinances, or authorities adopted by the local agency	Water Code §10723.8 (a)(3)	☑
	☑ Interested Parties List	List of interested parties pursuant to §10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan. *Recommended Action*: Request Native American Contact List from the Native American Heritage Commission (90 day lead time)[8]	Water Code §10723.8 (a)(4)	☑
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Submit	Due within 30 days of public hearing	Water Code §10723.8	☑

[8] http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Sacred-Lands-File-NA-Contact-Form.pdf

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	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Notification to DWR			
	Resources Review and Approval: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Notification	15-day internal review before publishing on the DWR website	Water Code §10723.8(b)	☑
	Public Review Period: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation	90-day period of public comment commencing first day of DWR posting on the DWR website. Copies of written comments submitted to DWR shall be provided to Agency. Assumes no overlap of jurisdictions from other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies	Water Code §10723.8(c)	☑
Phase 2 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Preparation and Submission				
	Due Dates for Groundwater Sustainability Plans	• High- or medium-priority subbasins in critical overdraft as designated by Bulletin 118: January 31, 2020 • All other high- or medium-priority subbasins: January 31, 2022	Water Code §10720.7(a)(1) Water Code § 10720.7(2)	☐
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan Initiation Package	Prior to initiating development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall provide the public and the department the following information in writing:	Water Code §10727.8 (a)	☑
	☑ Describe Engagement	Describe the manner in which interested parties may participate in development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan		☑
	☑ Notice Distribution	Written notice to include DWR, any legislative body of any city or county within the area of the plan and the Public Utilities Commission if the plan area includes a Public Utilities Commission-regulated water company		☑

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☑ Advisory Committee		May state the appointment of an advisory committee of interested parties for developing and implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan		☑
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Notify DWR of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Initiation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency submits the package DWR and other parties as required by the code	Water Code §10727.8 (a)	☑
	DWR Action: Posting of Notification	DWR will post the written notice within 20 days of receipt on the DWR website	§ 353.6 (b)	☑
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Preparation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Formal content development initiated upon notice to DWR to include technical and stakeholder processes consistent with Water Code §10727.8 (a)		☑
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Notice and Communication content requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations § 354.10. Notice and Communication includes the following required elements:		☐
☑ Summary of notification and communication		Description of beneficial users and nature of consultation	§ 354.10 (a)	☐
☑ Administrative Record		List of public meetings where Plan was discussed	§ 354.10 (b)	☐
☑ Summary of comments and responses.		Summary of comment regarding the Plan and any responses	§ 354.10 (c)	☐
☑ Communication Section		Required subsections/content:	§ 354.10 (d)	☐
		1) 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		☐

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		3) Description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin		☐
		4) Method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions		☐
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Communication activities to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan development	Activities and tasks consistent with, or supportive of, §354.10 and Water Code §10727.8 (a)		☐
☑ Communication and Engagement Plan		Developed to support notification requirements, state opportunities for Interested Party involvement in the Groundwater Sustainability Agency; and inform content to be provided in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Emergency Regulations § 354.10 (d)(1-4) and Water Code §10727.8 (a)	☐
☑ Website		Required as a component of notification and to provide for electronic notice to any person who requests electronic notification	Water Code §10725.2(c)	☐
☑ Interested Party Database		Establish and maintain Interested Party Database	Water Code §10723.4	☐
☑ Committees		Groundwater Sustainability Agencies may establish advisory committees and describe their role/function as part of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan Initial Notification; may include Groundwater Sustainability Agencies approach to involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin	Water Code §10727.8 (a) and § 354.10 (d)(3)	☐
☑ Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meetings		Where consistent with California Public Records Act	Water Code §10725.2	☐

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		and Brown Act, posting of meeting agendas and summaries for public, agency and interested party review		
☑ Other Agency, Public and Interested Party Engagement		Additional communication and engagement actions as determined by the governing body/plan manager		☐
	Public Notification: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption	Two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to public hearing	Government Code §6066	☐
	Public Hearing: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption	The Groundwater Sustainability Agency may adopt or amend Groundwater Sustainability Plan after a public hearing. CEQA is not applicable to plan preparation and adoption per the following requirements:	Water Code §10728.4	☐
☑ Notification		Public hearing held at least 90 days after notice to city and county within area of plan		☐
☑ Consultation		Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall review and consider comment from city or county and shall consult with any city or county requesting consultation within 30 days of receipt of notice		☐
	DWR Notification: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Submittal and Coordination Agreement	Basins with multiple Groundwater Sustainability Plans are required to develop and execute a Coordination Agreement. No agreement is required in subbasins with one Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Once all Groundwater Sustainability Plans are adopted for the entire basin, the agencies shall provide to DWR: ☑ Copies of all Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the basin ☑ Explanation of how the Groundwater Sustainability Plans implemented together satisfy sections 10727.2,	Water Code §10733.4(a) (b) §10733.4(b)(1) §10733.4(b)(2) §10733.4(b)(3) and §357.4	☐

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		10727.4, and 10727.6 for the entire basin ☑ Copy of Coordination Agreement		
Phase 3: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review and Evaluation				
	DWR Action: Post complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan to Department Website	Upon receipt of Groundwater Sustainability Plan consistent with Water Code §10733.4(a) or (b), DWR shall post the Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the department's website	Water Code §10733.4(c)	☐
	Public Review Period: Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan	60-days public comment period from date document is posted to the DWR website. All comments to DWR must be copied to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Water Code §10733.4(c)	☐
	DWR Review and Approval: Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Up to 2-year department evaluation of groundwater sustainability plan. The assessment may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified by the department	Water Code §10733.4(d)	☐
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Implement Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies shall begin implementation upon submittal to DWR for review	Water Code §10733.4(e)	☐
Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting				
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report	Developed annually for submittal to DWR, to report on Groundwater Sustainability Plan results, including: a) Groundwater elevation data. b) Annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year c) Surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use d) Total water use	Water Code §10728	☐

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		e) Change in groundwater storage		
	DWR Notification: Annual Reports	Groundwater Sustainability Agency is obligated to submit Annual Reports on April 1 following adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and annually thereafter		☐
	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Action: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Evaluation	The Groundwater Sustainability Plan is to be periodically evaluated to assess changing conditions and whether actions are meeting the Plan's objectives and goals "at least every five years" and whenever the Plan is amended [DWR § 356.4]. Coordination Agreements, where present, are to be recirculated and signed by all parties. Action during update would include documentation of Interested Party engagement if such activities are identified as a management action	Water Code 10728.2, Water Code §10728.4.; (tiers to §10727.2(b)(1) [9] § 357.4	☐
	Public Hearing: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption	If the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is amended or otherwise subject to adoption, a public hearing may be required. Adoption requirements include:	Water Code §10728.4	☐
	☑ Notification	Public hearing held at least 90 days after notice to city and county within area of Plan		☐
	☑ Consultation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall review and consider comment from city or county and shall consult with city or county requesting consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice		☐
	DWR Notification: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Evaluation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall provide a written assessment at least every five years describing whether the	§ 356.4	☐

[9] (b) (1) Measurable objectives, as well as interim milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of the implementation of the plan.

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		Plan implementation, including implementation projects and management actions, are meeting sustainability goals		
	DWR Review: the California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Sustainability Plan Assessment and Re-Evaluation	Developed by DWR for release "at least every five years" following initial submission. May include recommended corrective actions to address deficiencies identified by department. DWR shall issue an assessment for each basin for which a plan or alternative has been submitted	Water Code §10733.8	

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ATTACHMENT B: NORTH KINGS GSA OUTREACH AND COORDINATION SCHEDULE

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ATTACHMENT C: BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FAQS

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation
Background/FAQs
DRAFT – February 26, 2018

NOTE: Key messages and talking points included here are draft content developed by North Kings GSA for potential inclusion in the agency's public website. This content is subject to change.

Background Information regarding Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, passed in 2014, requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to sustainably manage groundwater basins locally.
- "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:
    - 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
- Groundwater sustainability is particularly critical since groundwater makes up about one-third of California's water supply and is vitally important in dry years, when surface water supplies may be less available.
- Counties that overlie a groundwater basin classified as medium- or high-priority by the California Department of Water Resources are required to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to manage their local basin(s). The law permits local agencies to do this in lieu of, or in conjunction with, the counties after completing a specific application process. If no other local agency takes responsibility the county is the default manager.
- The law does not permit Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to overlap boundaries. Instead, local jurisdictions are encouraged to work together to determine where the boundaries between their Groundwater Sustainability Agencies should be drawn.
- Those counties that fail to develop an acceptable Groundwater Sustainability Plan are subject to having the state prepare and manage a plan on their behalf.

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- North Kings GSA overlies the Kings groundwater subbasin. The California Department of Water Resources classifies this subbasin as critically over-drafted and a "high priority" basin (See Attachment E: CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization).
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies must be formed by June 2017 and Groundwater Sustainability Plans must be created and implemented by January 31, 2020.
- There are currently seven GSAs within the Kings Subbasin. Under the new groundwater law, all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within a subbasin must work collaboratively to manage groundwater resources. The logistics of this will be established as part of the future Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s).
- Since the mid-2000s (well before this Act was passed) the local agencies involved in the North Kings GSA have been partners in sustainable groundwater management as part of the Fresno Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan.
- The work already completed will greatly assist the region in meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This locally-driven effort will protect the basin from overdraft, create sustainable water supplies, and support a stable and growing economy.

Frequently Asked Questions

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.[10] Impacts and

[10] 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.

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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.

- **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. 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 the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency?**

  The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a joint powers authority (JPA) formed in December 2016 by a coalition of local public agencies to provide sustainable groundwater management in a portion of the Kings Subbasin pursuant to the Act on behalf of their constituents. Members of the JPA are Fresno Irrigation District, Garfield Water District, International Water District, Biola Community Services District, City of Kerman, City of Clovis, City of Fresno and County of Fresno. Additional members of the JPA include Bakman Water Company and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

- **How many GSAs are in the Kings Subbasin?**

  The Kings Subbasin currently has seven groundwater sustainability agencies. In addition to North Kings GSA, the other GSAs are the North Fork Kings GSA, McMullin Area GSA, James ID GSA, Central Kings GSA, South Kings GSA, andKings River East GSA.

- **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 North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency team desires to understand and utilize ideas from groundwater user stakeholders throughout development and implementation of the North Kings GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Interested Parties are encouraged to sign up for notifications from the North Kings GSA website, attend and participate in Board and Advisory Committee meetings.

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- **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 is the health of the Kings Subbasin?**

  The Kings Subbasin has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources as being in critical over-draft and a high priority. This is being driven in large part by on-going chronic over-draft in portions of the subbasin that are dependent on groundwater for agricultural and municipal purposes. Domestic and other water users highly dependent on groundwater are typically found along the western and southwestern portion of the subbasin where very little, if any, surface water supplies are available.

- **What is the health of the North Kings GSA portion of Subbasin?**

  Several decades of groundwater management and recharge activities have resulted in a lesser level of chronic overdraft within the North Kings GSA as compared to many of the other GSAs within the Kings subbasin. However, the North Kings GSA portion of the subbasin still experiences many of the undesirable results that SGMA was intended to resolve.

- **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 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 only occurs 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 North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency partners are committed to maintaining local control and managing groundwater resources on behalf of our agricultural water users, rural and urban communities, and the environment.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

- **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

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management plans to create drought resiliency, and improve coordination between land use and groundwater planning.

- **Bakman Water Company is a private company. Why is it included in the Groundwater Sustainability Agency?**

  Bakman Water Company and similar companies that provide water utility service are recognized in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as special entities that are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. The California Public Utilities Commission–regulated water utilities have an important imperative to manage and sustain water supplies on behalf of their customers. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act encourages the California Public Utilities Commission-regulated utilities to participate in the management of groundwater basins in their service areas and to share their technical, financial and managerial expertise. Prior to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the California Public Utilities Commission-regulated utilities were regularly parties to the adjudication of groundwater basins and served on the managing watermaster boards. In the Fresno area, Bakman Water Company was involved in the development of the Fresno Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan.

- **When was the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed?**

  The North Kings GSA was formed in December 2016 following the September and October 2016 adoption proceedings of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Agreement by participating local public agencies. The North Kings GSA notified DWR of its formation on January 3, 2017. The formation deadline for all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies was June 30, 2017.

- **What costs will be associated with forming and administering a Groundwater Sustainability Agency?**

  As part of the JPA that formed the North Kings GSA, North Kings GSA members and contracting entities have agreed to a cost share for activities through development of the GSP. The GSP is anticipated to include development of a funding plan for activities and programs to be identified in the GSP.

- **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
  - Acquire or augment local water supplies to enhance the sustainability of the groundwater basin
  - Propose and collect fees

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- Adopt and fund a Groundwater Sustainability Plan according to existing laws

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.

- **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 North Kings GSA on its website (www.NorthKingsGSA.org). The primary venue for Stakeholders to get involved in the GSP development process is regularly scheduled North Kings GSA Board and Advisory Committee meetings. The North Kings GSA also anticipates conducting briefings to member agency boards and commissions as well as presentations to civic and non-profit organizations to encourage participation at Board and Advisory Committee meetings. The schedule for Board and Advisory Committees meetings is available on the website.

- **What is the governance structure for the North Kings GSA? How will the agencies work together to run it?**

The North Kings GSA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors that includes Members, Contracting Entities and Interested Parties. Directors are elected officials who have been appointed to serve on the JPA's Board of Directors by their respective boards, councils or commissions, or are the authorized representative of a Member, Contracting Entity or Interested Party. To provide a balance of perspective, the Board is segmented across agricultural, city, county, small communities, Contracting Entities and Interested Parties. It includes four seats held exclusively by the City of Clovis, City of Fresno, Fresno County and Fresno Irrigation District. Two seats are shared and one is appointed by the Board from municipal/industrial Members, Contracting Entities or Interested Parties not currently serving on the board. All terms are for a period of two years, with terms for the four exclusive seats starting with a three-year term. The Board is supported by committees and key staff, including an executive officer and legal counsel. The North Kings GSA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

- **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

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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.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- **What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?**

  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 Kings 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 North Kings GSA is currently working on developing its GSP. The North Kings GSA will tentatively release a Public Draft GSP in June 2019, followed by a 60-day public comment period and public hearing. 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 must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources no later than January 31, 2020. Throughout the GSP development process, North Kings GSA and member agency staff will be conducting outreach to engage and inform stakeholders and members about the GSP. Check the North Kings GSA website or sign up on the email list to receive notices about GSP workshops, public meetings, and opportunities for public comment.

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- **What happens after the GSP is completed?**

  Following submittal and acceptance by DWR, the seven GSAs in the Kings 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 § 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?**

  Government Code §65350.5 requires each planning agency to review prior to adopting a new or amended General Plan 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, degree, agreement, or interim plan, if relevant; and a report on anticipated effect on implementation of GSP on the proposed General Plan update or amendment.

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ATTACHMENT D: KEY MESSAGES

SGMA Key Messages

- *State Intervention*: We need to maintain local control over our groundwater within the Kings Subbasin. Basins that do not comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) risk intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board). The Water Board has prepared a fee structure to be applied to groundwater users in basins where progress for local management is missing or deemed inadequate. This will result in management actions directed from the State and could impact local land use decisions.

- *Water Supply Context:* While California's recent extended drought impacted many domestic wells in the Kings Subbasin, the effect in the North Kings GSA was less severe due to a large surface water supply and effective groundwater management practices that have prevented excessive groundwater overdraft. Several decades of effective conjunctive use actions by member agencies have led to more stable groundwater conditions in the North Kings GSA as compared to many other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin. Still, the State has identified the full Kings Subbasin as a high – priority subbasin due, in part, to chronic overdraft in regions solely dependent on groundwater.

- *Local Management*: The local agencies that make up the North Kings GSA have provided effective sustainable groundwater management for many years and have a proven track record of collaborative and cooperative work with local and state agencies.

- *Sustainable Management*: The northern portion of the Kings Subbasin is currently being managed sustainably for existing demands and projected future demands. The North Kings GSA partners are committed to local stewardship of groundwater and interconnected surface water resources.

North Kings GSA Key Messages

- *Reliability: Groundwater resources in the northern portion of the Kings Subbasin have been effectively managed for many years and continue to serve as a reliable primary and back-up water supply for all beneficial users.*

- *Agricultural Stewardship: The North Kings GSA region is a diverse mix of natural, agricultural, rural, suburban and urban landscapes. The economic development and open space that agriculture provides to the region are among the core community assets that make this region desirable for families and businesses. The North Kings GSA is committed to ensuring continued existence of a robust agricultural community.*

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- *Economic Development*: Reliable water supplies are the core of thriving and robust communities. The North Kings GSA partners recognize that water continues to be a foundation of the region's economic successes and must be protected and preserved.

- *Socioeconomics*: Clean, available and affordable access to drinking water should be available for all public and private water systems.
- *Environmental Stewardship*: Along with agriculture, Fresno County's natural areas are among its signature landscapes. The North Kings GSA partners recognize that groundwater-dependent ecosystems are a beneficial use of groundwater and require protection through continued effective planning.

Key Messages – North Kings GSA – Agriculture

Conjunctive Use in North Kings GSA: A history of protecting our water resources.

For nearly a century, North Kings GSA members have put great importance on leveraging surface water and groundwater supplies to improve water supply reliability in the region. The Fresno Irrigation District has a mission statement that includes protecting groundwater resources, and has invested greatly in that effort. This has resulted in the development of thousands of acres of groundwater recharge ponds and groundwater banking facilities, where surplus surface water supplies from the Kings River, Federal Central Valley Project – Friant Division and local streams and runoff (storm water, floodwater, etc.) are captured and utilized to replenish the groundwater aquifer during wet years. The Cities of Fresno and Clovis have partnered with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) to utilize existing urban storm basins during the summer and fall months for the sole purpose of recharging surface water supplies. During a year like 2017, the North Kings GSA region recharged 130,000 acre-feet of water that would have otherwise left the region. The North Kings GSA will continue to develop projects as we move down the road to groundwater sustainability.

Sharing Water Resources: Will North Kings GSA need to share water with its GSA neighbors or within?

The North Kings GSA is not required under SGMA to send some of its water resources to other areas within the Kings Subbasin that do not have enough water to achieve sustainability. Further, SGMA does not require the North Kings GSA to "redistribute" water within the NKGSA from areas with surface water supplies to areas that do not have surface water supplies.

SGMA Costs: How much is SGMA going to cost growers?

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) currently being developed will determine what should be required for the NKGSA to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040. This may include policies, projects and programs. Until the GSP is developed, costs are unknown, as well as the types of mechanisms for collecting fees (assessments, volumetric extraction costs, etc.). However, with local control, we anticipate SGMA-related fees within North Kings GSA will be significantly less than what the Water Board would charge extractors under State Water Resources Control Board control.

Local Control: What happens if the locals fail?

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If the locals (including Fresno County) fail to bring North Kings GSA and the Kings Subbasin into groundwater sustainability by the statutory milestones and 2040 deadline, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) could step in and regulate groundwater use in our area to achieve sustainability. If this should happen, the Water Board has developed a fee schedule that it would use for every groundwater extraction point (well). Currently, base fees would be $300 per well per year, $10 to $40 per acre-foot of groundwater extracted depending on whether the well is metered or if the basin has a "probationary" status, and $100 per well per year for "de minimus" extractors that pump two acre-feet per year or less. On top of these fees, the Water Board would also charge extractors for the cost of the State to develop its own groundwater sustainability plan.

Projects: Is the State going to pay for the projects we need for SGMA?

As long as the implementation of SGMA remains under local control, the State will not fund the projects and programs necessary to achieve groundwater sustainability. The costs for these will need to be locally funded by groundwater stakeholders. Even under State Water Board control, the stakeholders within the North Kings GSA or Kings Subbasin will likely need to fund any projects or program costs that the State determines to be required.

Groundwater and Surface Water Rights: Can my water be taken away?

SGMA itself does not affect groundwater or surface water rights. Local policies and programs like land use planning may put restrictions on how water can be utilized in various lands.

Land Use Approvals: Will I need approval to change crops or plant a new field?

A goal of the North Kings GSA will be not to affect existing land use, but instead to ensure future development is compatible with the path leading to groundwater sustainability. Farmers are encouraged to continue to make responsible decisions and consider water requirements when determining whether to change crops or develop a new field.

Pumping Restrictions: Is someone going to limit how much groundwater I can pump?

In North Kings GSA, we anticipate that involuntary restrictions on groundwater pumping will not be required as long as there is local cooperation among stakeholders, new water supply projects are constructed and smart, effective water and land use policies are in effect.

Land Fallowing: Will I be required to fallow all or part of my land?

In North Kings GSA, we anticipate that involuntary land fallowing will not be required as long as there is local cooperation among stakeholders, new water supply projects are constructed and smart, effective water and land use policies are in effect.

Stakeholder Involvement: How do I have a say in the process?

It is crucial that all stakeholders be involved in the SGMA process early on. Every groundwater extractor is a stakeholder (farmers, cities, rural residential, disadvantaged communities, etc.) and most likely will

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be affected by SGMA. Stakeholders can get involved by participating in North Kings GSA's Advisory Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

Closing Key Message: Get involved!

The North Kings GSA highly encourages all stakeholders to get involved now in the GSP development process. Do not wait to be told what the policies, projects and programs are after the GSP is finalized and being implemented. Now is the time to get involved. Some ways to get involved include:

- Sign up for our mailing list to receive updates on the status of the GSP development and implementation process and notices about upcoming public meetings.
- Participate in North Kings GSA Board and Advisory Committee meetings.
- Request presentations on SGMA and North Kings GSA to your community group, organization or association.
- Help us spread the word! Provide our informational materials to your friends and neighbors

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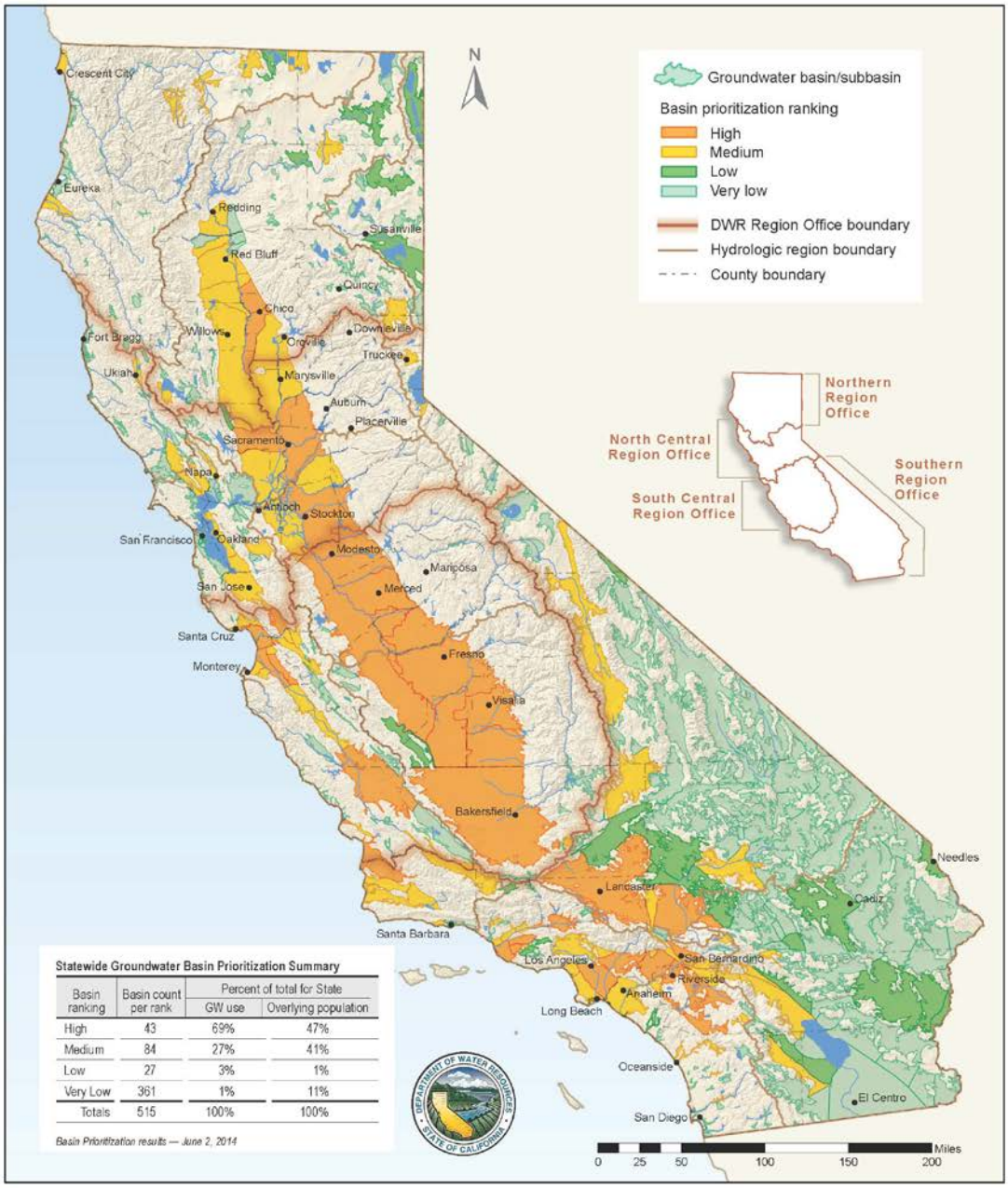
ATTACHMENT E: CASGEM GROUNDWATER PRIORITIZATION

CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization



ATTACHMENT F: VISUAL IDENTITY GUIDELINES AND TEMPLATES

Logo:

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Letterhead:

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Member Agencies
Bakman Water Company
Biola Community Services District
City of Clovis
City of Fresno
City of Kerman
County of Fresno
Fresno Irrigation District
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Garfield Water District
International Water District

Board of Directors
Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr.
Fresno Irrigation District
Vice-Chairman Brian Pacheco
County of Fresno
Steve Pickens
Bakman Water Company
Rudy Hernandez
Biola Community Services District
Jose Flores
City of Clovis
Lee Brand
City of Fresno
Karl Kienow
Garfield Water District

Executive Officer
Gary Serrato

Internet
www.NorthKingsGSA.org

Mail
North Kings GSA
c/o Fresno Irrigation District
2907 S. Maple Ave.
Fresno, CA 93725

Phone
559-233-7161

About NKGSA: The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a Joint Powers Authority formed in December 2016. Composed of local public agencies and others engaged through binding agreements, the NKGSA is the governing body for of a portion of the Kings Subbasin (DWR Bulleting 118, 5-22.08) in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. NKGSA members are Bakman Water Company, Biola Community Services District, City of Clovis, City of Fresno, City of Kerman, County of Fresno, Fresno Irrigation District, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Garfield Water District, and International Water District.

Sign-in Sheet:

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY **MEETING NAME Sign-In**

Time/Date:
Location:

Name	Company/Organization	Address/City	Email	Add Me to NKGSA Contact List

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Meeting Title, Meeting Date, Meeting Location

Name	Company/Organization	Address/City	Email	Add Me to NKGSA Contact List

Comment Card:

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

COMMENT CARD

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Add me to NKGSA Contact List: _____

Written Comment: _____

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

COMMENT CARD

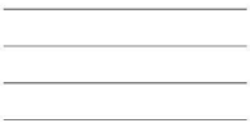
Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Add me to NKGSA Contact List: _____

Written Comment: _____

North Kigns GSA
c/o Fresno Irrigation District
2907 S. Maple Ave.
Fresno, CA 93725



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NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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www.NorthKingsGSA.org

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Biola Community Services District
City of Clovis, California
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Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
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Garfield Water District
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