NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Policy No: NKGSA – 2024-001
Policy Title: Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy
Board Approval Date:
Policy Effective Date:

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide minimum depth standards for the construction of new wells with consideration of anticipated future groundwater elevations within the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA).

2.0 Background

The NKGSA's approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) anticipates continued decline of groundwater levels as it works towards the required sustainability goal prior to 2040. With the anticipated decline, the GSP identifies future anticipated groundwater levels throughout the NKGSA. The GSP includes Indicator Wells at a density of approximately two per township, and at each Indicator Well, a Minimum Threshold was identified as the potential lowest groundwater elevation that may occur during the most extreme drought scenario considered in the development of the GSP. The Minimum Thresholds vary across the NKGSA from approximately 30 feet to 230 feet below ground surface.

3.0 Policy

All new wells in NKGSA should be constructed to an adequate depth below the Minimum Threshold in the vicinity of the new well to allow for continued operation should water levels decline to that level. The NKGSA does not recommend a typical depth below the Minimum Threshold as subsurface conditions vary by location. Consideration of construction depth for long-term operation of the well is the responsibility of the well driller and well owner. The NKGSA shall make the Minimum Threshold depth and elevation data available on its website to allow for review by well drillers and well owners.

This policy applies to all production wells constructed within the NKGSA, including domestic wells that will produce less than two (2) acre-feet of water annually.

This policy is not meant to duplicate or replace well permitting procedures implemented by Fresno County, or other permitting agencies within the NKGSA boundary. All new wells shall be constructed in compliance with other County, State and local requirements including the California Well Standards Department of Water Resources Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90, and all applicable executive orders issued by the Governor containing well permitting requirements.

Wells that are constructed after the adoption of this policy to depths shallower than the Minimum Threshold in the vicinity of the well may be excluded from future programs implemented by the NKGSA.

4.0 Effective Date and Modification

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

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

The foregoing Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 22nd day of February 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Prieto and Kienow)

Vice - Chairman, Board of Directors
Mr. Brian Pacheco
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ATTEST:

Kassy D. Chauhan
Kassy D. Chauhan, P.E.
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form and effect:

David Boyer, Esq, AALRR
Legal Counsel – North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency