North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency JPA

Regular Board Meeting
February 22, 2024

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
   - Remote Participation Instructions

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Written and Verbal Comments

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Board Meeting and will have an opportunity to provide public comments during the meeting under Agenda Item No. 5 and following each agenda item discussion. No prior arrangements are required to be able to make public comment but comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

Written Comments can also be provided up to one hour prior to the scheduled meeting. Written comments received in advance of the meeting will be read onto the record during the public comment portion when the item is heard. Any portion of your comment extending past three (3) minutes may not be read aloud due to time restrictions but will be made part of the record of proceedings.

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3. Review Agenda

4. Review of Future Meetings

5. Public Presentations

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5. Public Presentation

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6. Potential Conflicts of Interest

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7. Administrative Matters:

a. Discussion/Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2024

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7. Administrative Matters:

b. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update (Samuelian)

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Kings Basin Update

- Continuing work on 3 Primary Data Gap Studies
  - Well Mitigation Program, Confined Aquifer and Interconnected Surface Water
  - Initiated Interbasin ISW effort with Madera for San Joaquin River
- Other GSP corrective actions will follow 3 studies
- Basin level approach identified, then bring to technical committees
- Revised GSPs will be publicly noticed again and re-adopted by Boards
- Water Allocation Framework discussions ongoing
- Collected fall water level readings
- Annual report for WY22-23 being prepared
- Tracking State Board process for other basins

Kings Basin Update

- Schedule for studies and GSP revisions

TASK	2023					2024												2025
	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Confined Aquifer Study																		
ISW Studies																		
Basin Domestic Well Mitigation Program																		
GSA Specific Domestic Well Mitigation Plans																		
GSP Language Revisions																		
Admin Draft GSPs and Periodic Eval (PE) to GSAs																		
Draft GSPs & PE Posted for Comment																		
Draft GSP Revisions																		
Final GSP & PE Adoption by GSA Boards																		
GSP Posting to SGMA Portal																		

AGENDA

7.c Water Conditions Update

CVP & San Joaquin River Conditions

- Millerton Lake Storage: 333,000 AF (102% of avg)
- Friant-Kern Canal – undergoing slow refill after shutdown
- **2024-25 Initial Allocation: 60% Class 1, no Class 2**

Kings River Conditions

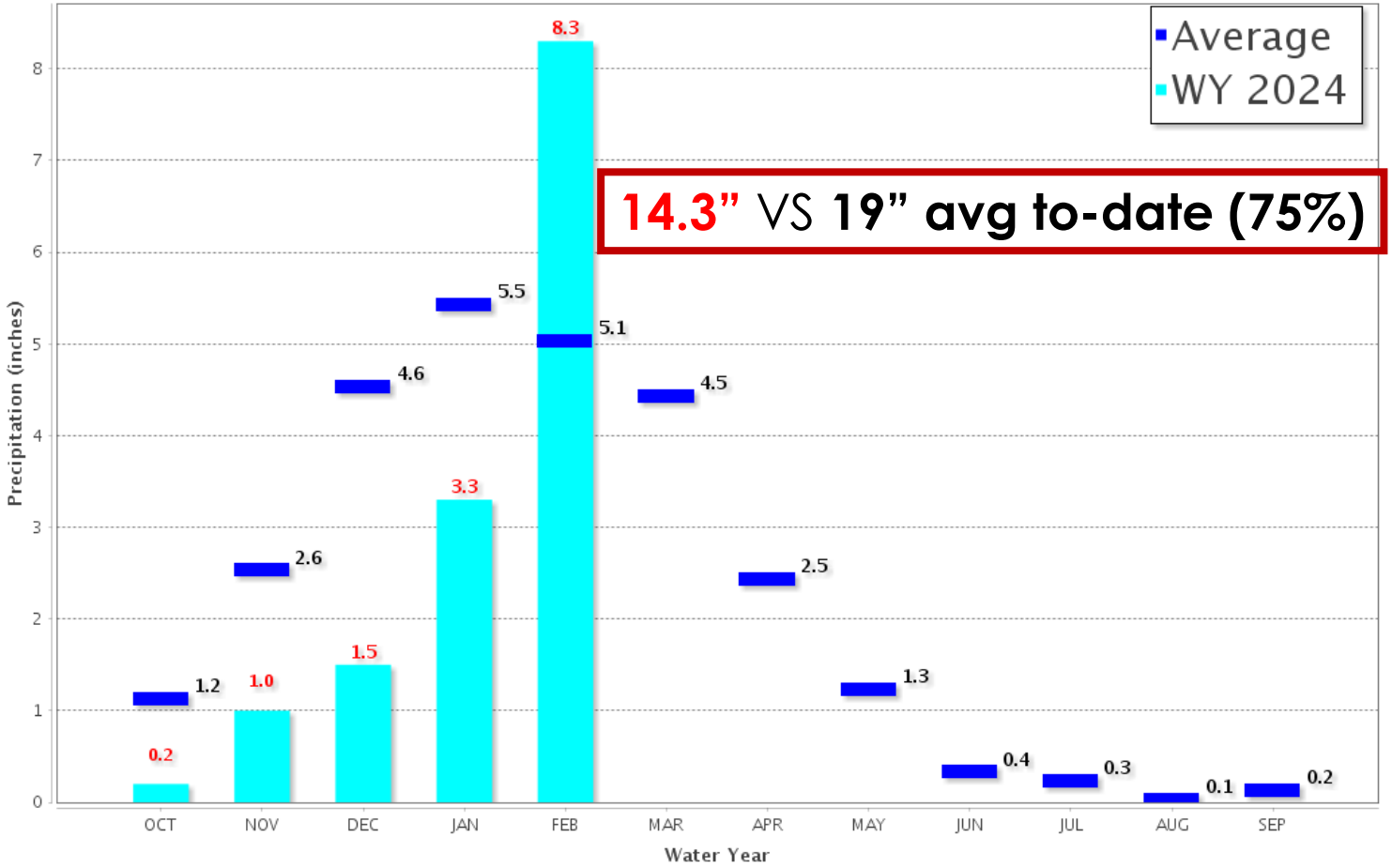
- Pine Flat Storage: 705,000 AF (156% of avg)
- FID storage: 66,000 AF
- Closely monitoring storage to avoid spill ~May 1

Tulare Basin 6-Station

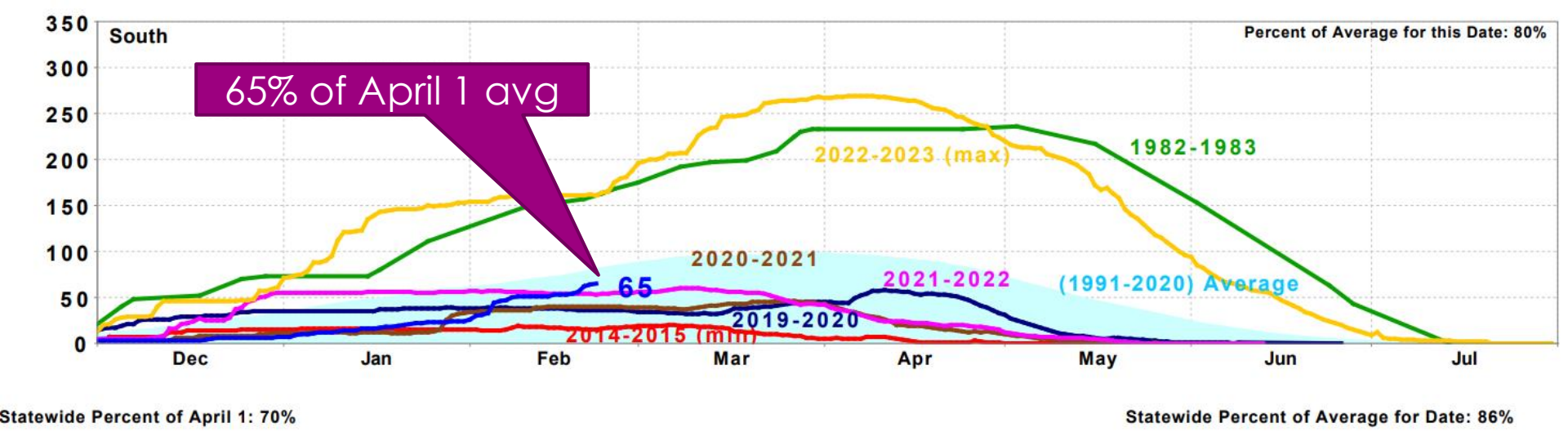
Precipitation Index for Water Year 2024 – Updated on February 22, 2024 12:48 PM

Note: Monthly totals may not add up to seasonal total because of rounding

Water Year Monthly totals are calculated based on Daily precipitation data from 12am to 12am PST



Snow Water Content – Southern Sierra



Kings Snow Conditions & Runoff Forecasts

- Snow WC sensors: 54% of April 1 avg (Feb 19)

- April – July Runoff Forecasts
  - DWR Bulletin 120: 82% of avg (Feb 20 update)
  - NWS CNRFC: 111% of avg (Feb 22)

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7. Administrative Matters

d. Advisory Committee Update (Claes)

Recommended Actions:

- Approval of Expense Reports for December 2023
- Approval of the Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023
- Approval of NKGSA 2024-001 Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy
- Direction on Monitoring Network Improvements under FY 2023-2024 Budget

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7. Administrative Matters

   e. Technical Workgroup Update (Claes)

Current Efforts:

- Monitoring Network Improvements – short and long-term
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program
  - Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy
  - Impacts to NKGSA
  - Pilot Program
  - Funding Options for Pilot

7.f. Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy – NKGSA 2024-001

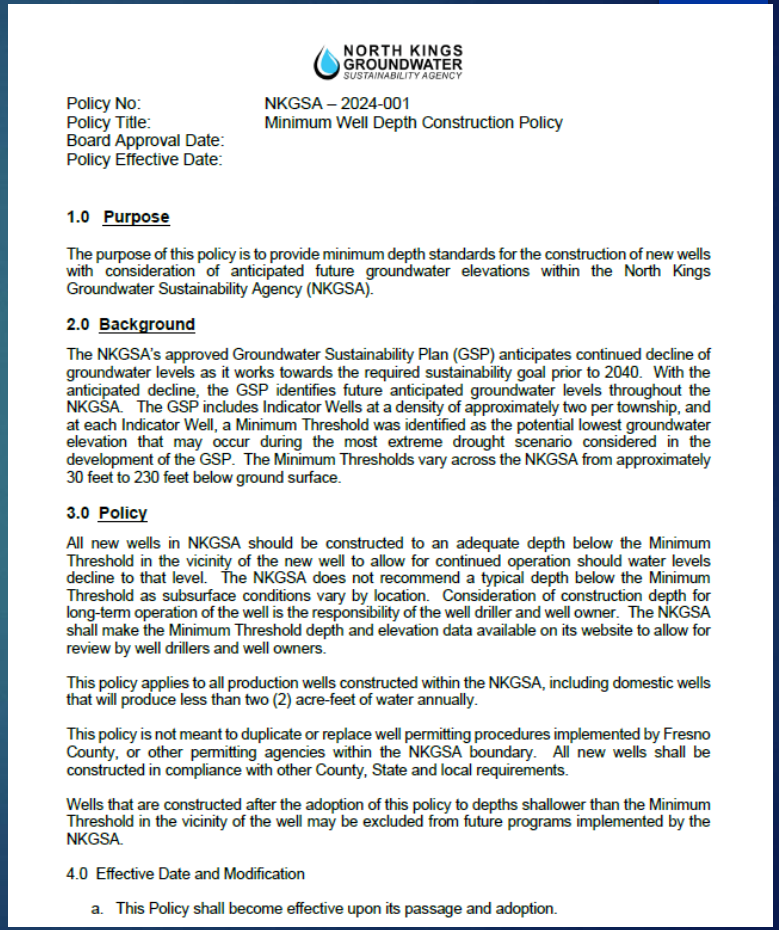
- Purpose: Provide minimum depth standards for the construction of new wells with consideration of anticipated future GW elevations within the NKGSA.
- WHY?
  - Glide Path Approach Allows GW Levels to Decline
  - Need to Mitigate for GW Uses and Users Impacted by Declining GW Levels
  - Implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program in Future
  - Stop the Bleeding

7.f. Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy – NKGSA 2024-001

- Other Considerations
  - Ministerial Permit Process – Drilling New Wells
  - Can't Deny Drilling, But CAN:
    - Limit Pumping
    - Limit Available Resources from NKGSA – For Wells Not Drilled to Standard
  - Since January 2020 – No Shallow Wells
  - Review Only of Domestic Well Permits – Limited Opportunity to Provide Comment
  - Policy Memorializes the NKGSA Standard – Controls Future Liabilities and Responsibilities

7.f. Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy – NKGSA 2024-001

- Recommendation:
  - For the Board of Directors to approve NKGSA 2024-001 Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy.



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.

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.

7.g . Well Registration Tool

- Roll Out Schedule – February/March 2024

- Portal Accessible on NKGSA Website Home Page – Feb
- Well Registration Educational Webpage Live on NKGSA Website – Feb
- Email Blast Via NKGSA and FID email distro lists – Feb
- Coordination with Fresno County White Area Landowners – Re-engagement

- Full Launch – April – December 2024

7.h. Admin.

h. Well Permitting Update

***2023: 293 total**

All Well Permits Issued	Agricultural Wells	Domestic Private Wells
January	4	15
February (to date)	1	1
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total – To Date	**5**	**16**

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8. Financial Report:
   - a. Discussion/Possible Action – Expense Reports – December 2023
   - b. Discussion/Possible Action – Financial Statements as of Dec. 31st
   - c. FY 2023-2024 Budget Revise and Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget Update

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

9. Executive Officer Report

9. a. 2023 Year in Review and 2024 Priorities

9. b. Kings Basin Special Studies Update

9.c. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

9. d. Outreach/External Affairs

9. e. Representative Monitoring Network

9. f. Miscellaneous

2023

Year-End Review

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Highlights for 2023

- Approved GSP – Kings Basin
- Historic Kings River Water Year and more than 200,000 AF of water recharged in NKGSA boundary – Reduced GW Pumping.
- Development of Well Intake Portal – Better data and better management.
- New Policies – Financial Policies
- Representative Monitoring Well Data Collection
- Stakeholder Engagement – Social Media
- Review of Well Permit Applications and Planning Documents
- Updated Project List – Solicitation
- Implementation Projects Completed – 1 – Biola CSD Basin and Started Two More – Kenneson/Sanchez Basin (FID) and Kerman Lions Park
- Water Supply Agreements: Biola CSD, Malaga CWD, Pinedale CWD and City of Kerman
- Speaking Engagements

Priorities for 2024

- Completing the Required Studies per GSP Approval from DWR
- Implementing and funding a domestic well mitigation program.
- Monitoring Network Improvements
- 2023 Annual Report to DWR by April 1.
- Launch of Well Intake Portal
- Preparing and releasing a revised GSP for public comment.
- Submittal of revised GSP – January 2025.
- Review of Member Agency Mitigation Targets and Efforts and Progress to Address Overdraft.
- Continued Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement
- Engage with Elected Officials and Policy Makers
- Routine Engagement with NKGSA Board of Directors

9.c. SGMA Implementation Projects

- Biola CSD
- FID
- Malaga CWD
- City of Kerman
- Fresno State – Coordination Efforts

9d. Outreach and Education

- Social Media
- Website
- Email Distribution

- 9. e. Representative Monitoring Network
- 9. f. Miscellaneous

9.e. Representative Monitoring Network

- Short-Term
  - Work with DWR to Complete the TSS Well
  - Data Loggers and Telemetry
    - Direction to add at up to 10 monitoring wells – Cost - $20,000.00
    - Complete Well Video of 1 Remaining SMC Well

9.e. Representative Monitoring Network

- Other Improvements
- Long Term
  - Add Up to 48 New Dedicated Monitoring Wells to the Network
    - Develop 3 to 5 year plan – starting FY 2024/2025
    - Begin drilling dedicated monitoring wells in Fall 2024 – dependent upon available budget.

9.f. Miscellaneous

- Additional Water Supply:
  - Big Dry Creek Reservoir Reoperation – Fresno County Stream Group Project
    - Agreement with ACOE - Signed on February 7, 2024
      - ACOE, FMFCD – FID, Clovis and Fresno
  - Friant Kern Canal Turnout Project

Road to Re-Operation

Federal Cost Share Agreement Executed – Feb. 7, 2024

Revised Pass-Through Agreement with FMFCD, FID and Clovis – Executed – Feb. 5, 2024

Status of Fresno as Funding Partner – Information Shared on Feb. 5, 2024

Monitoring Passage of Federal Budget – Additional $600k for study from Community Directed Funding

Legislative Support for Future Funding

Road to Re-Operation

AGENDA

10. Directors Reports

11. Adjournment

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Thank you for joining us for the NKGSA JPA Regular Board Meeting.

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