NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Well Registration Workshop

August 27, 2025

Kerman, CA

Workshop Schedule

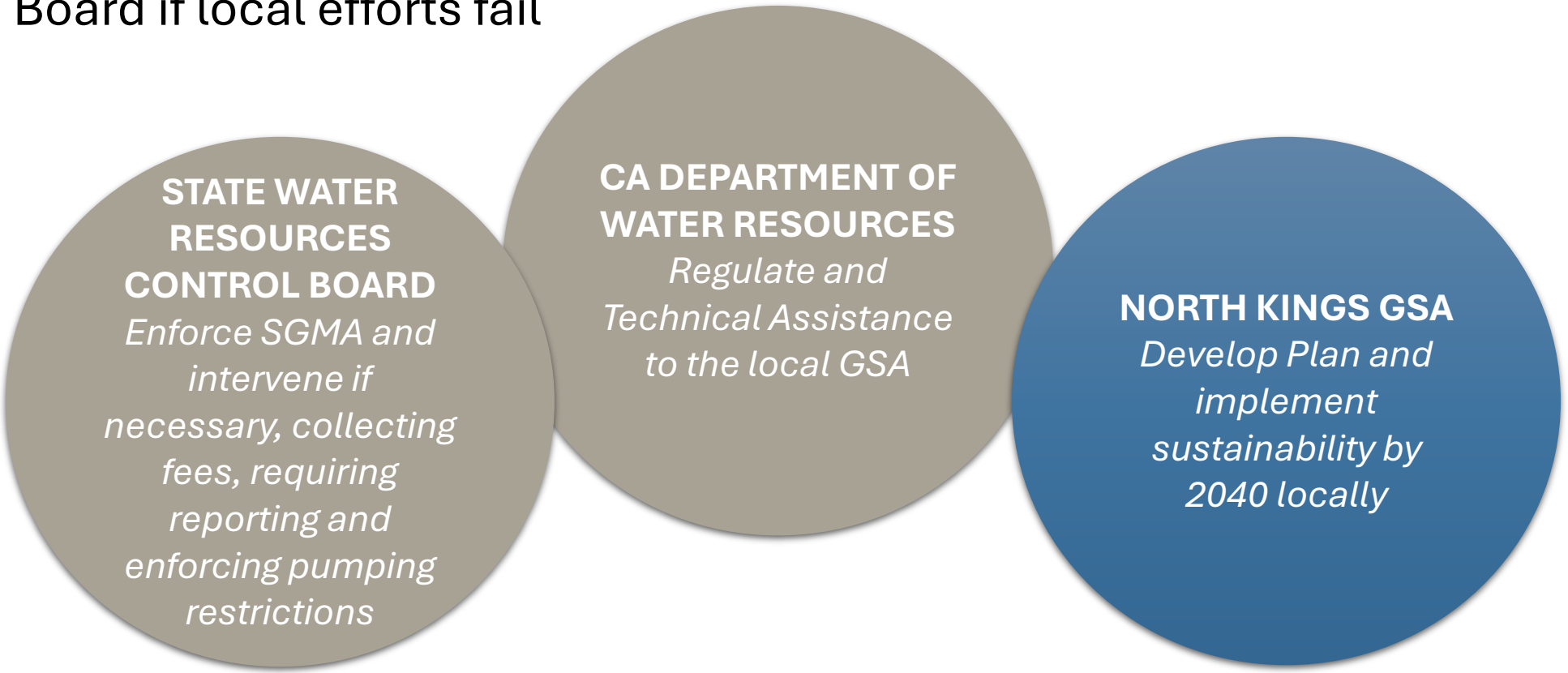
Topic	Time
Presentation	15 mins 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 PM
Registration Support Sessions	45 mins 3:15, 4:15, 5:15 PM

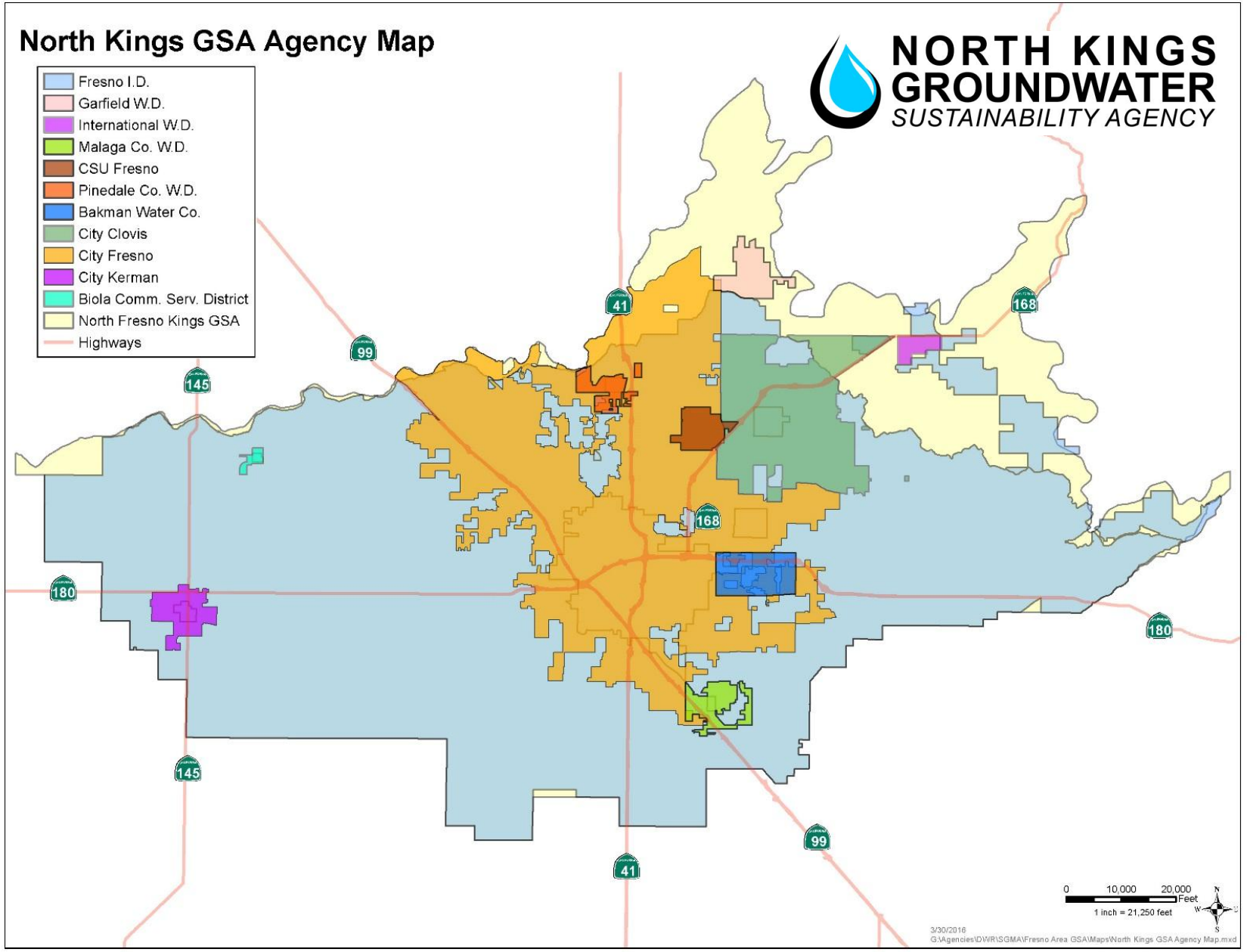
Why are we here? Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- Unfunded law signed by Governor Brown in September 2014
- Developed to protect groundwater resources & eliminate overdraft conditions
- Mandates groundwater sustainability by 2040
- Grants local control over groundwater resources to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) like the North Kings (over 260 similar agencies statewide)
- Requires GSAs to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) outlining efforts to achieve sustainability

SGMA Agency Roles

- Progress is monitored by CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- SGMA calls for State intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board if local efforts fail



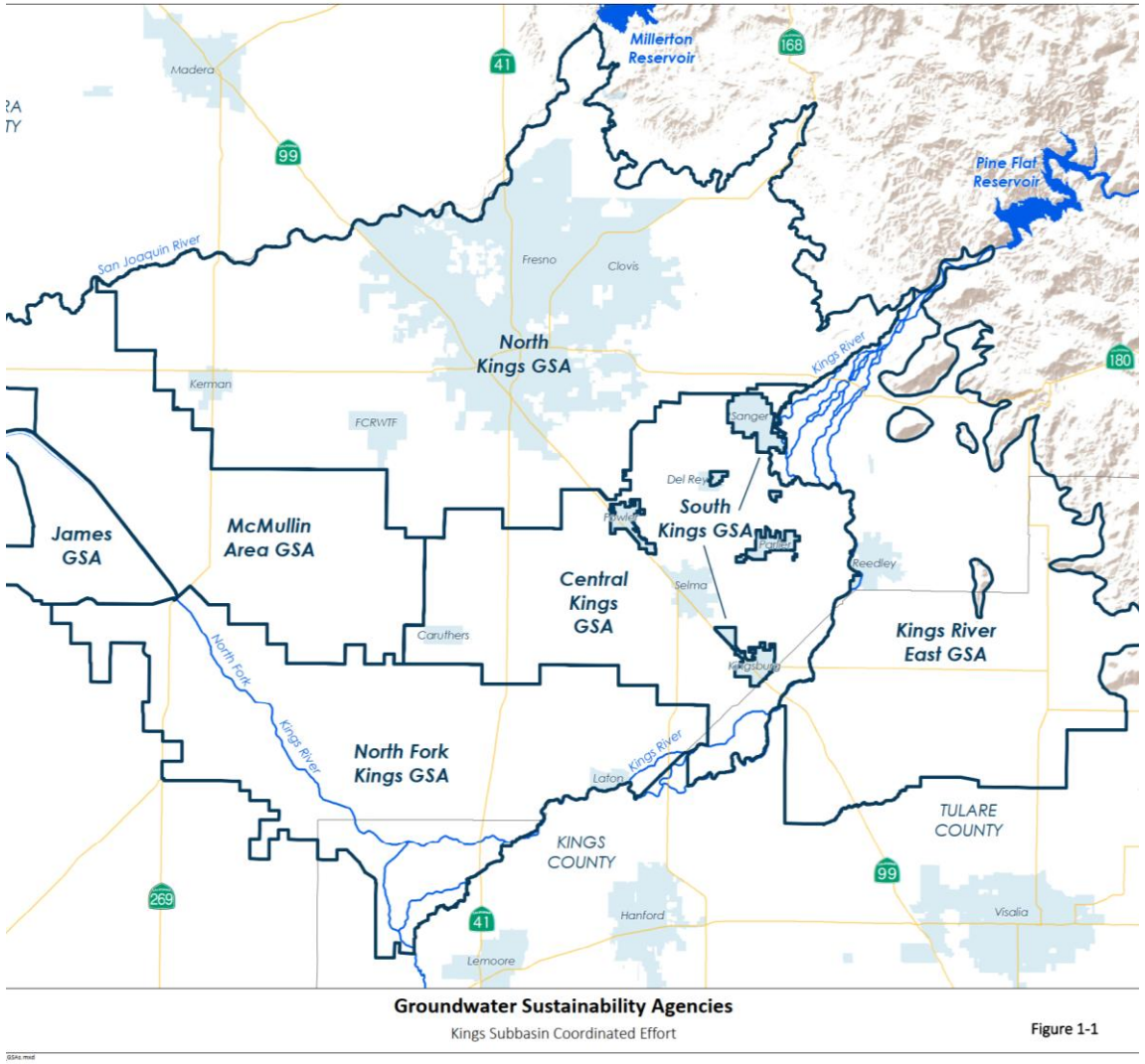


North Kings GSA

- 312,000 acres
- Joint Powers Authority formed in December 2016
- 7 division Board of Directors
  - Jerry Prieto, Jr., FID
  - Karl Kienow, Garfield WD
  - Steve Pickens, Bakman WC
  - Matt Basgall, City of Clovis
  - Jerry Dyer, City of Fresno
  - Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno
  - Kyle Moeller, At-Large (Fowler Packing)

Kings Subbasin

- 7 GSAs in the Kings Subbasin totaling nearly 1 million acres
  - **North Kings GSA**
  - James GSA
  - McMullin Area GSA
  - Central Kings GSA
  - North Fork Kings GSA
  - South Kings GSA
  - Kings River East GSA
- Each GSA has its own Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- DWR looks at entire subbasin for sustainability



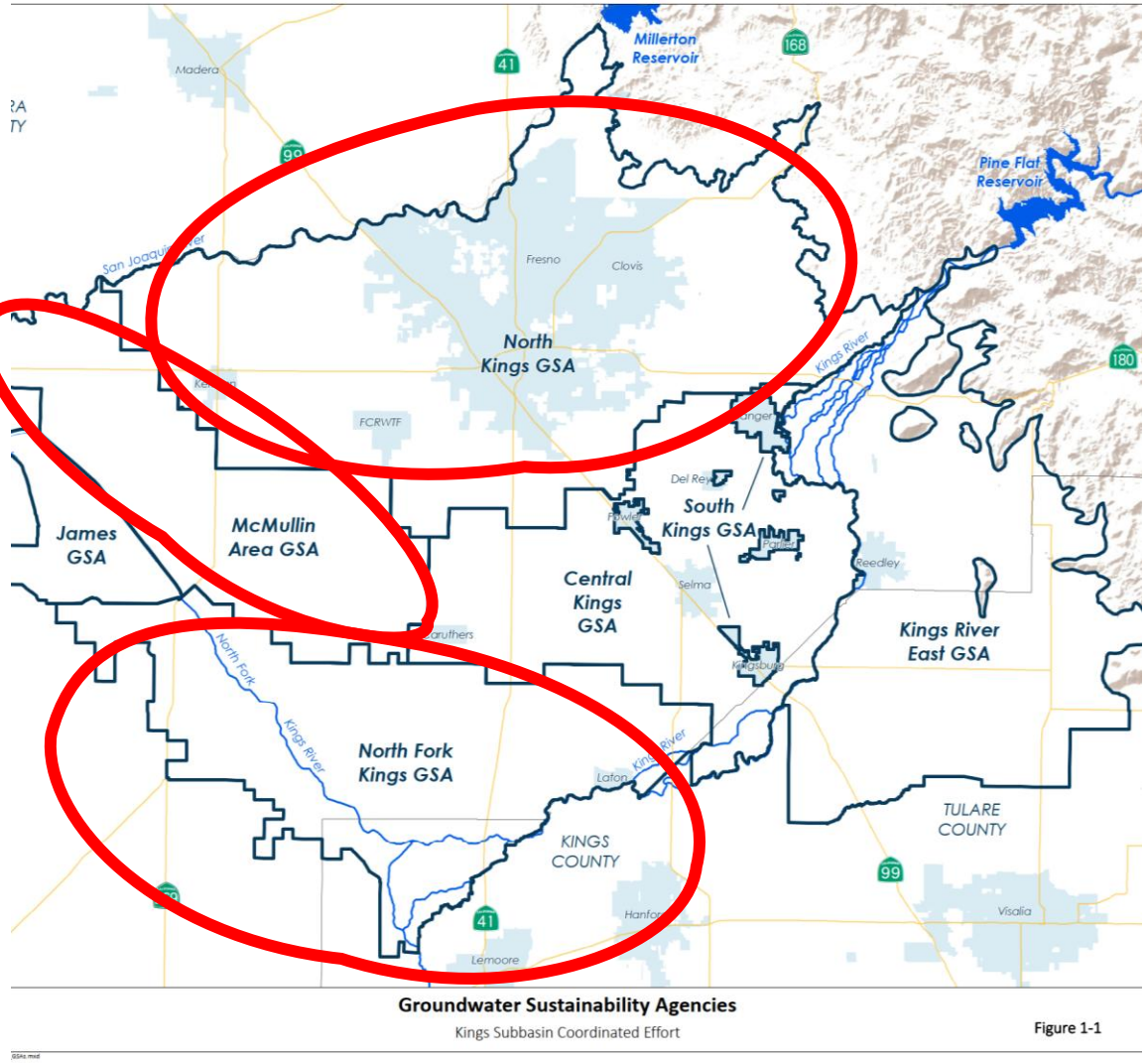
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

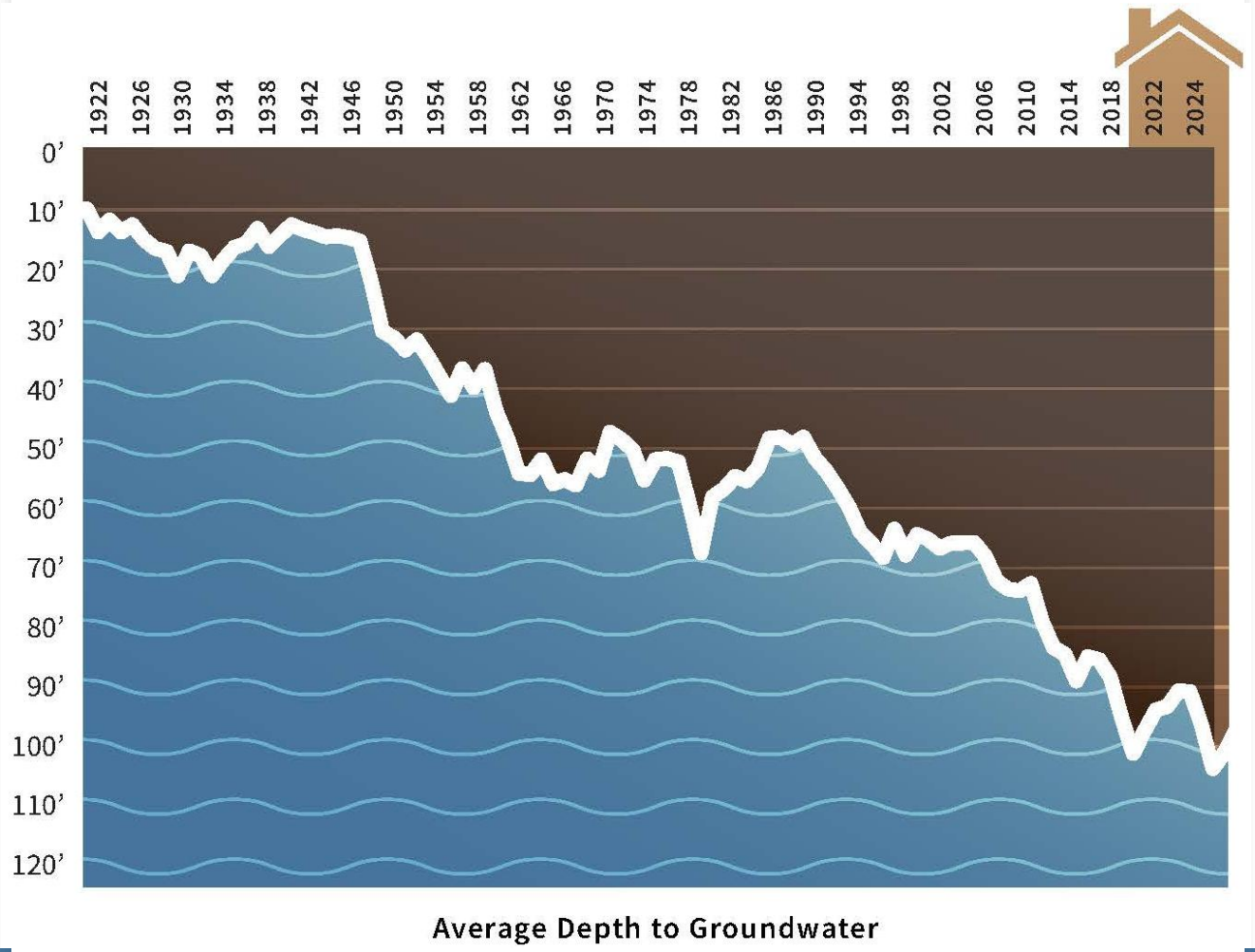
Kings Subbasin Coordinated Effort

Figure 1-1

Kings Subbasin – well registration programs

- 7 GSAs in the Kings Subbasin totaling nearly 1 million acres
  - **North Kings GSA**
  - James GSA
  - McMullin Area GSA – 2021
  - Central Kings GSA
  - North Fork Kings GSA – 2024
  - South Kings GSA
  - Kings River East GSA
- Each GSA has its own Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- DWR looks at entire subbasin for sustainability



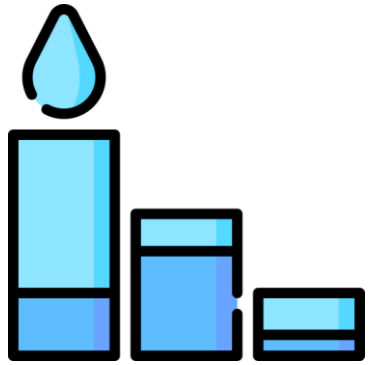


Average Depth to Groundwater

Chronic Groundwater Level Declines in North Kings GSA

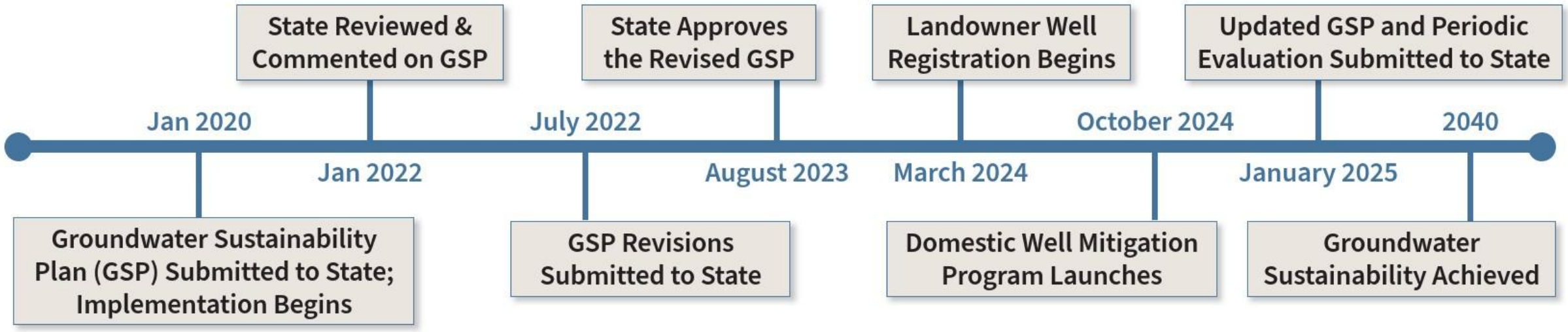
- Area faces declining groundwater levels due to unsustainable rate of pumping over time
- Cities historically relied primarily on groundwater
  - Cities of Fresno & Clovis
- Agriculturally rich area
  - Groundwater used for irrigation
- Rural communities rely on groundwater for drinking water

Addressing declining groundwater levels



- North Kings GSA currently has a **State-approved GSP – huge win for local efforts** – but must continually demonstrate progress to keep approval status
- Well monitoring network
  - Established GSA-wide coverage of representative wells to track our progress year over year
- Annual reporting
  - Submit annual report by April 1st of each year to Department of Water Resources
  - Must demonstrate progress towards sustainability milestones
- Projects & management actions
  - 13 completed projects, well mitigation program, well registration

SGMA Timeline



What is the Well Registration Program

- Voluntary Program – March 2024
- Required Registration – Effective May 1, 2025
- All wells
- https://northkingsgsa.subcurrentapp.com/
- Deadline: November 30, 2025 or $100 per well late fee

Why is there a well registration program?

✅ Well registration is the next step for effective groundwater management. **We cannot manage what we do not know.**

📉 Helps the GSA be a better resource to landowners when it comes to groundwater conditions and their well.

📊 It supports local studies and planning required by the State.

📍 A well registry demonstrates our commitment to managing groundwater sustainably to the State, keeping registration in local hands.

Why register your wells?

Access to resources like

- Domestic Well Mitigation Program – Well must be registered
- FID Grant Programs – Ag wells must be registered under upcoming grant programs

Maintaining local control of groundwater

- Allows for good groundwater management and decisions
- The State *will* step in to take over groundwater management under SGMA if we don't continue to show we can do it locally

Audience-submitted questions & other FAQs

- Why is well registration required? I feel it's violation of my privacy and right to farm.
- What authority does the North Kings GSA have to require well registration?
- I don’t have all the information requested on the online form. What do I do?

Resources for Well Owners

- FAQs available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi
- Educational handout available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi
- North Kings GSA's dedicated webpage: northkingsgsa.org/wellregistration
- Other tools for well owners:
  - The Minimum Well Depth Tool
  - Groundwater Level Data Viewer

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

WELL REGISTRATION: What you need to know

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Why is there a well registration program?

Well registration is the next critical step for effective, sustainable, groundwater management under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). A well registry demonstrates to the State our commitment to managing the sustainability process effectively, supports ongoing studies required by the State to fill key data gaps, and supports long-term planning efforts by the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Well registration also equips the North Kings GSA with the tools needed to respond if groundwater conditions are not on track with our sustainability goals, ensuring the agency can take action if necessary. The agency has been successful at keeping local groundwater efforts intact under SGMA because of our proactive approach so far. **Maintaining this momentum makes sure we keep the State out of groundwater management decision-making and leave it in the hands of local leaders who know our area's unique assets and challenges**.

What benefits come from registering my well?

By registering your well, you're directly helping to:

- Keep groundwater management in local hands
- Provide the data needed for groundwater sustainability
- Protect access to water now and for future generations
- Develop tools needed to effectively manage groundwater

Additionally, well registration is a prerequisite to access funding incentives for well meter installation through a new (coming soon) Fresno Irrigation District grant program. It is also one of the eligibility requirements for domestic well mitigation through the Kings Subbasin's My Dry Well Program.

Are other agencies also doing a well registration?

Yes. While the well registration requirement is new for the North Kings GSA, well registration is already ongoing and required in nearby GSAs, including North Fork Kings and McMullin Area (MAGSA), both within the Kings Subbasin. Expanding these efforts across the Kings Subbasin strengthens our collective ability to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040 under SGMA.

How does well registration support local control under SGMA?

The North Kings GSA is a locally run agency, with a Board of Directors made up of people with a deep knowledge and respect for the area – the directors have a vested interest in making sure the community thrives. The Board of Directors is comprised of seven seats representing the North Kings GSA's member agencies: Fresno Irrigation District (Seat 1); Garfield and Internal Water districts (Seat 2); Bakman Water Company, Biola CSD, CSU Fresno, and City of Kerman (Seat 3); City of Clovis (Seat 4); City of Fresno (Seat 5); County of Fresno (Seat 6); At-Large (Seat 7).

Because of the foresight and planning by our community's water leaders since the passage of SGMA, the North Kings GSA has avoided severe consequences other regions now face.

Well registration is a tool we'll use to demonstrate that local control is working, and it's how landowners can do their part to help keep groundwater management in local hands

Regions that failed to demonstrate they had systems in place to manage groundwater effectively are facing costly and strict requirements from the State, including pumping limitations, fees, and mandated data reporting directly to the State.

I remember reading about well registration in the past. Was it always a requirement, or is this a new process?

The first public announcement about well registration was made in November 2022 via the GSA's website and email blast to stakeholders, recapping the Board's approval to develop Subcurrent, the Well Registration platform. Since then, the GSA has continued to publish and distribute updates and information about registration.

The well registration requirement is part of the North Kings GSA's proactive approach to groundwater management under SGMA. It follows the GSA's voluntary registration effort that began in March 2024. **Full participation from all well owners is needed to demonstrate the right mechanisms are in place to fill key data gaps and manage groundwater effectively over the long term**. After more than a year of voluntary registration, well registration became mandatory on May 1, 2025, with a deadline of November 30, 2025.

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency | (559) 693-5119 | wells@northkingsgsa.org | northkingsgsa.org

Keep informed and engage with us

- Sign up for our **email updates** at northkingsgsa.org
- Engage with us on **social media** through Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube
- Visit our **website** to learn more and find the latest information about what's going on in the GSA
- **Attend our monthly meetings** of the Board and Advisory Committee. We send notifications over email and through our website.
- **Spread the word** about well registration to your friends, family, and neighbors. Please stop at the registration table to learn more about how you can help.

Contact Information

Kassy Chauhan, North Kings GSA Executive Officer

kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com

559-233-8161 x. 7109

Well Registration Support

help@northkingsgsa.org

(559) 693-5119

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Get Started
northkingsgsa.subcurrentapp.com

Please submit your workshop survey before you leave!