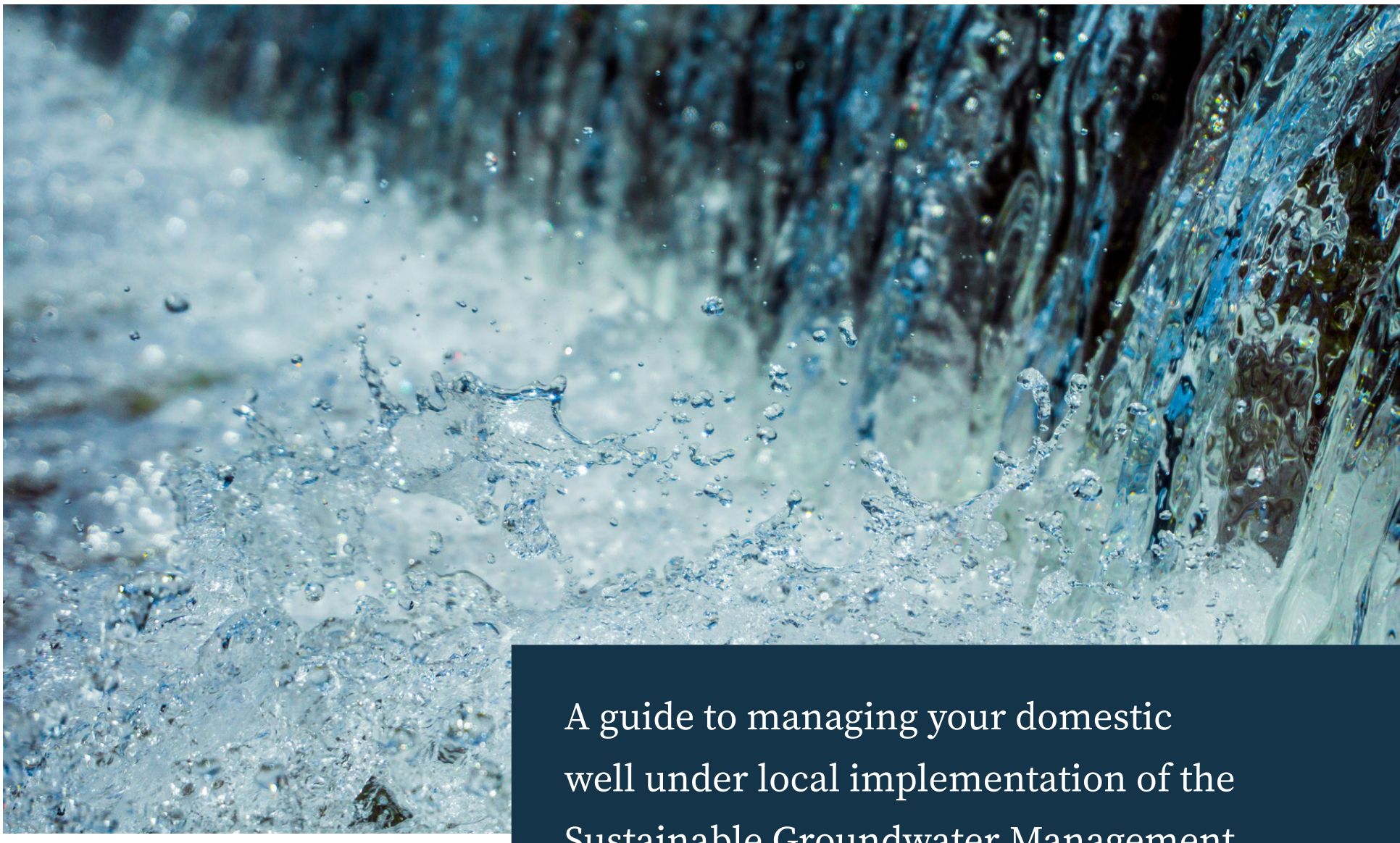
GROUNDWATER GUIDE
DOMESTIC WELL OWNERS

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency



A guide to managing your domestic well under local implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act by the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Ensuring water supply for your home starts with simple steps of groundwater awareness. **Prevent surprise expenses by arming yourself with groundwater knowledge.**

Knowing your well depth and understanding how it fits into current and future groundwater conditions can help you anticipate and avoid costly well issues.

A new well can cost between $30,000 - $60,000+. Plan ahead using our checklist.

Domestic Well Owner Checklist

- ☑ Your well depth
- ☑ Your pump depth
- ☑ Groundwater quality at your well
- ☑ Current groundwater levels in your area (scan the QR code below)
- ☑ Groundwater level minimum threshold in your area (scan the QR code below)
- ☑ Register your well at northkingsgsa.org/wellregistration

The North Kings GSA offers tools to support well owners with this information:

northkingsgsa.org/groundwater-level-data-viewer

Groundwater Level Data Viewer

View the latest and historic groundwater conditions across the North Kings GSA.

northkingsgsa.org/minimum-well-depth-tool

Minimum Well Depth Tool

Find recommended well depths before constructing a new well or deepening an existing well.

What you should know about groundwater management and your domestic well

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is responsible for managing the groundwater where you live. There are two main management criteria that are important for you to understand about our efforts to make your groundwater sustainable:

Groundwater Measurable Objectives

- This is the target groundwater level the North Kings GSA has committed to achieve and maintain by 2040.
- Groundwater levels will fluctuate but trend toward this target.

Groundwater Minimum Thresholds

- This is the lowest groundwater level allowable, offering flexibility during droughts.
- If the minimum threshold at a monitoring well near you is lower than your domestic well depth, you may be vulnerable to your well going dry before 2040.

You can now determine the minimum threshold near your property using the Minimum Well Depth Tool. Just enter your address in the tool to view nearby monitoring sites and find the lowest recommended well depth for your area. Visit northkingsgsa.org to access the tool or call the agency at (559) 233-7161 x. 7019

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

We are your partner in groundwater management. Our goal is to empower you to manage your domestic well. Not sure how to find groundwater condition information for your area? Visit **northkingsgsa.org to access the Minimum Well Depth Tool and Groundwater Level Data Viewer**, or contact the North Kings GSA for additional assistance.

Fewer domestic wells will go dry in the North Kings GSA as a result of local sustainability efforts under SGMA.

Groundwater, a limited but critical fresh water supply

Over the last 100 years, more groundwater has been pumped from the underground aquifer than put back in. This deficit has caused a state of groundwater overdraft and steady groundwater level declines that may impact your domestic well.

The downward trend of the white line shown on the right represents the decline of groundwater levels from 1920 through 2024 in the greater Fresno area.

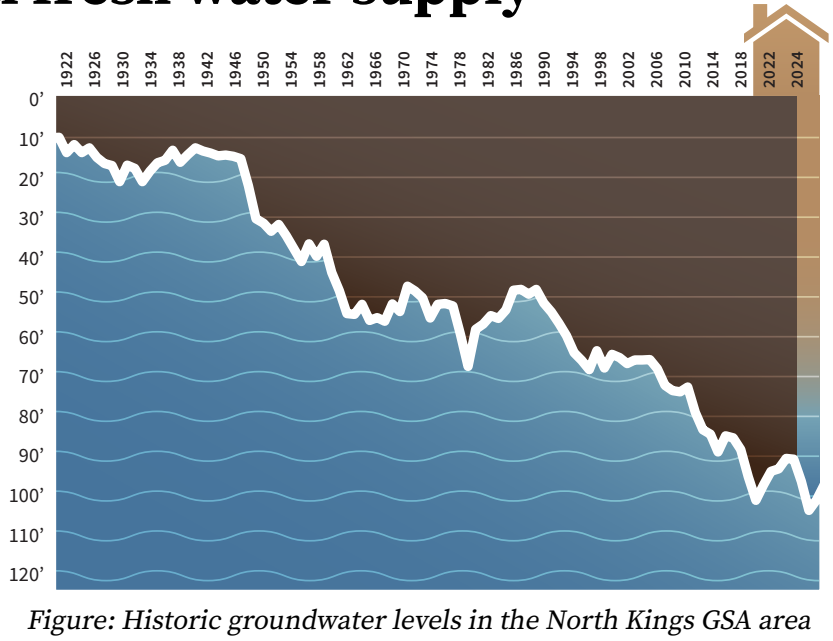


Figure: Historic groundwater levels in the North Kings GSA area

North Kings GSA Well Registration Program

How it helps you as a well owner:

Open lines of communication
Being in the North Kings GSA's registry allows the agency to communicate with you about groundwater conditions and your well.

Stay aware of risk
It is anticipated groundwater levels will decline before stabilizing by SGMA's 2040 deadline. Being registered helps the North Kings GSA identify if you may be impacted by these declines.

Program eligibility
Registering your well is a prerequisite to be eligible for assistance through the Domestic Well Mitigation Program.

How it helps your community:

Improves groundwater management
More complete well information strengthens planning to meet groundwater sustainability targets.

Supports data-driven decisions
Registered well data helps identify areas most at risk and guides local solutions.

SUBCURRENT

Register your well today
Visit northkingsgsa.org/wellregistration

Although fewer wells will go dry as a result of local sustainability efforts, domestic well owners should be aware of how SGMA impacts their water supply and plan ahead to prepare for action.

Investing in a new well or deepening your existing well can be costly. Make sure your investment lasts. Contact the North Kings GSA for guidance before you act.

How to check groundwater conditions in your area

1. **Have your well sounded.** This will require hiring a contractor. This method will give you an accurate groundwater depth at your exact well location.

2. **Have your water quality tested.** Free water quality sampling of Bacteriological, Nitrate, and in some cases DBCP is available to well owners as a part of their permit fee. If you have not previously received your free sampling, contact Fresno County to make arrangements at (559) 600-3357 and ask to speak with the water specialist. The Kings Water Alliance offers free nitrate testing for domestic wells. Visit kingswateralliance.org or call (559) 549-6747 to learn more. Sampling for any other constituents requires hiring a contractor.

3. **Use the Groundwater Level Data Viewer.** The Groundwater Level Data Viewer was developed as a resource to support well owners and stakeholders with the latest information on groundwater conditions throughout North Kings GSA. Visit northkingsgsa.org/groundwater-level-data-viewer.

4. **Use the Minimum Well Depth Tool.** Find recommended well depths before constructing a new well. Visit northkingsgsa.org/minimum-well-depth-tool to learn more.

Signs your well is vulnerable to going dry

- You notice sputtering air pockets when you are running water.
- There is sand or sediment in the water.
- The water is not clear, but muddy.

What to do if the your well is vulnerable or goes dry

1. **Contact the North Kings GSA** to discuss groundwater conditions and a path forward to ensure a secure future water supply for your home. Ask about the Kings Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program or visit mydrywell.org.

2. **Visit** mydrywell.org for additional info and resources, or call (559) 777-2419.

MY DRY WELL KINGS SUBBASIN

3. **Hire a well driller** to either deepen your existing well or drill a new well. Use the Minimum Well Depth Tool to find recommended well depths in your area.
Visit northkingsgsa.org/minimum-well-depth-tool

4. **Work with the North Kings GSA** as we review new well permit applications and provide information to well owners and drillers, in coordination with the permitting agencies.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES

The easiest and fastest way to stay up-to-date.
Go to northkingsgsa.org/email to register!

CONTACT US

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(559) 233-7161 northkingsgsa.org

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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