

Dear Growers/Landowners:

Recent groundwater levels in the Tulare Irrigation District recorded an all-time low (Figure 1), alarming growers, cities, and the MKGSA Board of Directors. To address these concerns, the MKGSA, in the Fall of 2021 began developing an Emergency Ordinance to establish a groundwater extraction limit to assist in achieving groundwater sustainability by 2040.

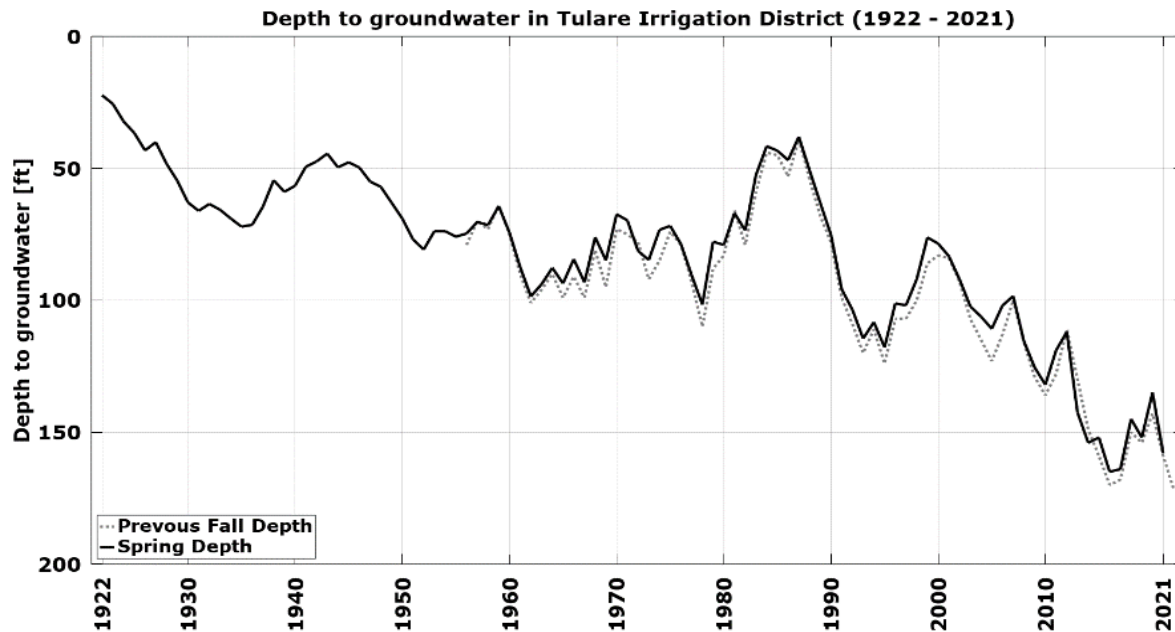


Figure 1 - Historical Depth to Groundwater in Tulare ID

The MKGSA Board of Directors and Advisory Committee just completed the Draft Emergency Ordinance to establish an extraction limitation for the MKGSA service area. Recognizing that this extraction limitation is being established sooner than anticipated, the MKGSA is creating a program that has built-in flexibility to begin the process of achieving groundwater sustainability while affording groundwater users time to adjust to limitations.

Growers will be allocated groundwater measured as evapotranspiration (ET) (water transpired by plants and evaporated as measured by satellites, see enclosed report for more information). Currently, the MKGSA is considering 2.5 acre-feet (AF) of ET from groundwater per assessed acre. Landowners will be credited for precipitation and surface water that meets ET, and an additional "mitigation tier" is available this year if the allocation is exceeded.

Growers will also have other flexibilities such as carrying over unused allocations into future years and transferring allocations between parcels operated or owned by an individual. Lastly, an online Water Dashboard will be available for landowners to monitor water usage.

Pumping limits do not apply to parcels with less than 4 acres, including rural residential homes that use less than 2 AF annually.

The MKGSA will be hosting six (6) Emergency Ordinance Workshop and four (4) Office Hours. We ask that you please RSVP to the Workshops. Office hours are simply available for folks to join the Zoom at any time during the available hours to ask questions or to discuss the Emergency Ordinance.

Upcoming Workshops on Emergency Ordinance

The following meetings will be held virtually, and landowners must RSVP by contacting Beth Holmes at (559) 686-3425 or eah@tulareid.org.

- ◆ Mar. 1st @ 3:00 PM
- ◆ Mar. 3rd @ 12:00 PM or 6:00 PM
- ◆ Mar. 5th @ 9:00 AM
- ◆ Mar. 9th @ 9:00 AM
- ◆ Mar. 10th @ 3:00 PM

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 883 4913 6119

Passcode: 967546

Phone: +1 669 900 6833

Upcoming Office Hours on Emergency Ordinance

MKGSA Staff will be available virtually on the following dates and times to answer questions regarding the Emergency Ordinance:

- ◆ March 4th 9:00-11:00 AM
- ◆ March 11th 2:00-4:00 PM
- ◆ March 17th 10:00 AM -12:00 PM
- ◆ March 22nd 12:00 -2:00 PM

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 813 1701 1219

Passcode: 142187

Phone: +1 669 900 6833