

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

April 10, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers  
491 North M Street – Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jose Sigala, Howard Stroman<sup>3:09 p.m.</sup>, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Nunley, Dave Martin

STAFF PRESENT: Randy Groom, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, James Koontz, Willard Epps, Roxanne Yoder, Trisha Whitfield, Kathy Artis

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Petersen with GEI Consultants; other members of the public.

**1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:**

Chair Nelsen opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Nelsen called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting.

Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, addressed the Board regarding a request for a Letter of Support for its work plan pursuant to the SGWP Grant for Community Engagement.

**3. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**a. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2018 Special Board Meeting**

It was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Bixler and carried 5 to 0, to approve the minutes as presented.

**b. Financial Report**

**i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date\***

Kathy Artis provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She reviewed the highlights of the balance sheet and profit & loss statement, making note of the segregation between administration and planning income and expenses. With no further discussion it was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Sigala and carried 5 to 0, to accept the financial reports as presented.

**c. Resolution No. 2018-02 Supporting Nomination of P. Hendrix for Officer of ACWA Region 7\***

P. Hendrix provided a brief report regarding the item. He indicated that a resolution was needed from the GSA as a new ACWA member to recognize his continued role as a regional board member. Following this report it was moved by Director Bixler, seconded by Director Sigala and carried 5 to 0, to adopt Resolution 2018-02 as presented.

**d. Mid-Kaweah Joint Powers Agreement – First Amendment\***

Legal Counsel J. Koontz provided a report on the proposed JPA amendment. He reviewed the amendment provisions and primary purpose of removing certain actions from the unanimous vote requirement. Discussion ensued regarding the next steps to approve the amendment, and Mr. Koontz reiterated that any amendment is to be recommended by the GSA board for approval and execution by the two city councils and the Tulare ID board. Director Sigala expressed reservations over the ability of the board to set fees absent an undivided vote. P. Hendrix commented that the imposition of any fees by the GSA would still require compliance with either Prop 26 or Prop 218. Following further discussion, it was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Stroman and carried 4 to 1 (Director Sigala voting no), to recommend the amendment with the modified majority of 4 to 2 as proposed for action/decision items one through nine as identified in the draft JPA amendment.

**e. Proposed Policy re Board Member Alternates\***

P. Hendrix provided a report regarding a proposed policy regarding Board Member Alternates. He stated that the policy would provide clarity as to the role of board alternates and recognition of any GSA Member policies regarding the same. He further noted that the draft policy is intended for adoption at such time as the amended JPA has been approved by the three GSA Members.

**f. 2018 Water Supply Outlook**

A. Fukuda provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He talked about the projected supply availability from the Kaweah River and Friant delivery system, and that the projections have improved substantially with the recent storms. Mr. Fukuda added that groundwater levels have risen by about 20 feet due to last year's wet conditions.

**g. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination\***

- i. Selection of Temporal Base Period – C. Petersen explained the effort to define a baseline period and to compile data components through 2017. He noted that a GSP must identify such a period in its characterization of historical groundwater conditions.
- ii. Geophysical, ET Data Collection Needs – Mr. Petersen reviewed the geophysical data survey recently conducted in Tulare ID and the interest in extending the survey work into the rest of the Kaweah Sub-Basin. He displayed the proposed location of new data collection transects within all three GSAs. P. Hendrix then described the cost-sharing proposal among the GSAs to pay for the \$475,000 project, saying that \$300,000 would come from Stanford University and the state DWR, leaving \$175,000 to come from the sub-basin GSAs. He indicated that the cost apportionment among Mid-

Kaweah Members will depend on final transect selection and that the project's cost will be reflected in the FY 2018-19 budget.

- iii. Water Accounting Framework Discussions – Continuing with a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Peterson described the decisions necessary to develop a water budget for the sub-basin and individual GSAs within. He summarized four alternatives which depict how channel conveyance losses could be handled in the water budget, and noted that a water budget would ultimately implicate how much groundwater may be pumped in the future within a GSA.

**h. GSP Development – Status Report**

C. Peterson provided an update on the GSP Development. He discussed the planned Data management System, the computer simulation modeling effort, and updates regarding crop water usage. Discussion ensued regarding undesirable results and channel conveyance losses. Director Sigala inquired as to the appropriate forum for decisions regarding losses, and asked that the Advisory Committee be kept informed as to the process. Director Collins commented in regards to existing legal case law on such issues. Upon Director Nelsen soliciting public comment on the topic, Abigail Solis representing Self-Help Enterprises sought clarification regarding recognition of nitrates in determining undesirable results. E. Henry inquired as to using two GSAs versus three in the concept of water allocation.

**i. Advisory Committee – Status Report**

P. Hendrix made note of the recent Committee meeting held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. He summarized the topics discussed, including existing agreements among the GSA Members, water budget and data collection needs, and Committee member survey results. Mr. Hendrix indicated that a follow-up meeting will soon be scheduled to consider a communications & engagement plan and website revisions.

**4. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES**

Director Sigala inquired as to the dates/times of future Advisory Committee meetings. He also asked if the support letter request of Leadership Council could be considered at the June GSA meeting. He lastly expressed interest in an occasional joint session of the three GSA Member elected officials, indicating that such a meeting may be productive in the future.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Chair

Attest:

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Secretary

\* Staff reports and/or other documents provided.

Mid-Kaweah GSA  
Agenda Item Report

**June 12, 2018**

**Agenda Item Wording:** Fiscal – Financial Statements Year To Date

**Report Author:** Kathi Artis – Tulare ID

**Background Discussion:**

The GSA's financial policies require a financial overview and Profit & Loss Statement through the end of the previous month are to be provided to the Board of Directors at each Board meeting.

**Attachments:**

Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2018

Profit & Loss Statement for period July 2017 through May 2018

Transaction Detail by Account for checking and money market accounts for period April 2018 through May 2018

## Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Balance Sheet

As of May 31, 2018

06/08/18

Accrual Basis

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	<u>May 31, 18</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	16,526.89
Money Market	167,373.98
Total Checking/Savings	<u>183,900.87</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>183,900.87</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>183,900.87</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	248,997.23
Net Income	-65,096.36
Total Equity	<u>183,900.87</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>183,900.87</u></b>

**Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 July 2017 through May 2018

	<u>Jul '17 - May 18</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Call For Funds</b>	
Administration	100,000.50
GEI Planning	100,000.50
<b>Total Call For Funds</b>	<u>200,001.00</u>
<b>Reimbursed Expenses</b>	
GEI Planning	82,800.00
Prop 1 Grant Application Exp	19,978.04
<b>Total Reimbursed Expenses</b>	<u>102,778.04</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	302,779.04
<b>Expense</b>	
Audit Expense	3,200.00
Conference & Meetings	481.75
<b>Consulting Fees</b>	
Consulting Fees-GEI	152,910.31
GEI Fees - Grant Applic 01-201	29,967.06
GEI Fees - MKGSA - 02.2017	
GSP	64,491.61
Sub-Basin Coordination	31,268.25
<b>Total GEI Fees - MKGSA - 02.2017</b>	<u>95,759.86</u>
<b>Total Consulting Fees</b>	278,637.23
Insurance	884.00
Legal	44,572.46
Membership Dues	375.00
Office Expense	612.41
Payroll Expenses	38,276.40
Rent	708.25
Travel Expenses	321.53
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>368,069.03</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-65,289.99
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Interest Income	193.63
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>193.63</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	193.63
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-65,096.36</u></u>

**Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Transactions by Account  
As of May 31, 2018**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount
<b>Checking</b>						
Check	04/02/2018	1034	ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Agency	Member #M031 - Liability Program March 1, 2018 - October 1, 2018	Insurance	(884.00)
Check	04/06/2018	1035	Peltzer & Richardson LC	Inv. #5264 and #5265	Legal	(6,093.75)
Check	04/09/2018	1036	Tulare Irrigation District	Employee salary and benefits for February and March 2018	Payroll Expenses	(39,276.40)
Check	04/01/2018	1037	Alamo Properties	Hotel and parking expenses - Sacramento	Travel Expenses	(321.53)
Check	04/16/2018	ACH	AT&T	May rent	Rent	(250.00)
Check	04/24/2018	1038	Capital One	Had to pay again to avoid disconnect	Office Expense	(77.10)
Transfer	04/27/2018			Printer	Office Expense	(129.83)
Check	04/27/2018	1039	GEI Consultants	Printer supplies	Office Expense	(22.98)
Check	05/09/2018	1040	Capital One	Business cards	Office Expense	(16.21)
Check	05/09/2018	1041	AT&T Mobility	GRA Legislative Dary - Sacramento	Conference & Meetings	(325.00)
Check	05/24/2018	1042	Peltzer & Richardson LC	Interest	Office Expense	(13.09)
Total Checking				Funds Transfer	Money Market	50,000.00
<b>Money Market</b>				KSB - Project Management Services	Sub-Basin Coordination	(14,689.44)
Transfer	04/27/2018			KSB - Water Supply Accounting	Sub-Basin Coordination	(1,813.66)
Deposit	03/30/2018			MKGSA - Groundwater Sustainability Plan	GSP	(17,730.17)
Deposit	04/30/2018			Hotel and parking - ACWA conference	Conference & Meetings	(156.75)
Deposit	05/31/2018			Acct #838932126	Office Expense	(50.24)
Total Money Market				Invoice #5315 and #5316	Legal	(4,893.75)
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>						(35,743.90)
Total Accounts Receivable				Funds Transfer	Checking	(50,000.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>				Interest	Interest Income	19.39
				Interest	Interest Income	26.86
				Interest	Interest Income	21.32
						(49,932.43)
						<u><u>(65,676.33)</u></u>

Mid-Kaweah GSA

Agenda Item Report

**June 7, 2018**

**Agenda Item 3.c:** JPIA Director Appointments

**Report Author:** Paul Hendrix

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board appoint a director and alternate to the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) board of directors.

**Background Discussion:**

The GSA joined the JPIA and enrolled in its liability insurance program in the fall of 2017. According to its bylaws, the JPIA requires that each member agency identify a director and alternate to serve on its board of directors. This rather large board meets twice a year at ACWA conferences, and its executive committee, elected by members, meets bimonthly to handle routine affairs. Attendance by board members at the semiannual ACWA meetings is not generally required.

**Recommended Motion:**

I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as the JPIA director representing the Mid-Kaweah GSA; I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as its JPIA alternate director.

## Mid-Kaweah GSA

### Agenda Item Report

**June 7, 2018**

**Agenda Item 3.e:** FY 2018-19 Budget and Member Contributions

**Report Author:** Paul Hendrix

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed expenditure budget for FY 2018-19 of \$1.1 million and authorize Member contributions to fund the budget as delineated in Attachment B.

**Background Discussion:**

Attached are the financial outlook and budgets for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 (included as Attachment A), along with individual Member contributions for the upcoming fiscal year commencing July 1, 2018 (included as Attachment B). Expenses for this next year now reflect administrative costs for a GSA Manager plus accelerated work by GEI for sub-basin coordination and GSP preparations. Expenses are also now identified for office rent and supplies. In addition, a new line item is shown for Special Projects.

As was explained at the April 10<sup>th</sup> GSA meeting, anticipated for next year is a geophysical data-gathering project in which all three GSAs will be participating. Due to the geographical limitations governing the data collection methodology, a higher portion of these special project costs will be borne by Tulare ID as shown in the individual Member contributions as attached. This project is thus deemed a "Special Project" for budgetary purposes and distinct from all other GSP preparatory costs, in that it will not be equally split as among all three Members per the December 14<sup>th</sup> board action.

Regarding GEI work on sub-basin coordination and GSP preparations, this budget assumes that this work will be about 80% complete by July 2019. While this may be ambitious in terms of overall work load, it reflects our current understanding that a draft GSP needs to essentially complete and ready for public review by the fall of that year.

Offsetting the projected expenditures for next year will be a nominal amount of carryover funds from last year, reimbursements from other GSAs, and a substantial amount of state grant income. Depending on the timing of grant reimbursements, a call for funds from Members of 30% of the projected expenditures may ultimately be needed, or about \$325,000 in total for the fiscal year. As approved by the Board at its December 14, 2017 meeting, Member contributions towards administrative and GSP preparatory expenses will be in equal amounts from each through FY 2019-20.

**Recommended Motion:**

I move to approve a Mid-Kaweah GSA expense budget for FY 2018-19 in an amount of \$1,122,850 and Member contributions thereto as delineated in Attachment B.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Financial Outlook and FY Budgets

Attachment B – Member Contributions to FY 2018-19 Expense Budget

Attachment A  
Mid-Kaweah GSA - Financial Outlook

MKGSA Budget:	<u>FY 2017-18</u> (projected actual)	<u>FY 2018-19</u>	
Manager/Support Services <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 105,000	\$ 254,800	
Administration/Technical	\$ -	\$ -	In-kind contr.
Office Rent & Supplies	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,200	
Consultants (for coordination, GSP) <sup>(b)</sup>	\$ 353,000	\$ 638,400	
Legal Counsel	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Liability/E&O Insurance <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ 1,259	\$ 2,250	
Financial Statement Audit	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	
Special Projects <sup>(d)</sup>		\$ 175,000	
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 508,959</b>	<b>\$ 1,122,850</b>	
Less Carryover from Prior FY	\$ (209,910)	\$ (3,930)	
Interest Earnings	\$ (200)	\$ (200)	
Member Contributions	\$ (200,001)	TBD	
Reimb. From Other GSAs <sup>(e)</sup>	\$ (102,778)	\$ (125,800)	
<b>Net Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (3,930)</b>	<b>\$ 992,920</b>	

- (a) Includes benefits; 5 mos only for FY 2017-18  
(b) Assumes GSP plus all coordination costs per sub-basin MOU  
(c) Includes prerequisite membership fees  
(d) For FY 2018-19, SkyTEM Project funded by GSA Agmt.  
(e) For prior work by GEI related to sub-basin coordination plus grant prep. and special projects

State Prop 1 Grants:

County Facilitation Grant	\$ -	\$ -	reflected in net cost
GSP Grant <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ -	\$ 667,700	
Potential Local Cost Match	\$ -	\$ -	
Potential Call for Funds <sup>(b)</sup>	\$ -	\$ 325,220	

- (a) Est. amt. to be reimbursed by DWR and/or other GSAs in indicated FY. Includes all coordination exp. plus 1/3 share of remainder; excludes pass through to/from other GSAs for GSP preparation.  
(b) Call for funds dependent grant reimbursement timing
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**Attachment B**  
**Mid-Kaweah GSA - Financial Outlook**  
**Segregation by Member**

	<u>TID</u>	<u>Tulare</u>	<u>Visalia</u>
Planning/Consultant Expenses & Member Contributions:	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Grant/Other Income Distribution:	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
GM, Administration Expenses & Member Contributions:	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Special Projects:	60.4%	19.8%	19.8%

MKGSA Budget:	<u>Tulare I.D.</u>	City of <u>Tulare</u>	City of <u>Visalia</u>	Other <u>GSA's</u>	Total <u>FY 2018-19</u>	JPA Member <u>Contribution</u>
Manager/Support Services <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 84,933	\$ 84,933	\$ 84,933		\$ 254,800	1/3
Administration/Technical	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	In-kind contr.
Office Rent & Supplies	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400		\$ 4,200	1/3
Consultants (for coordination, GSP) <sup>(b)</sup>	\$ 133,893	\$ 133,893	\$ 133,893	\$ 236,720	\$ 638,400	1/3
Legal Counsel	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 45,000	1/3
Liability/E&O Insurance <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750		\$ 2,250	1/3
Financial Statement Audit	\$ 1,067	\$ 1,067	\$ 1,067		\$ 3,200	1/3
Special Projects	\$ 29,720	\$ 9,740	\$ 9,740	\$ 125,800	\$ 175,000	varies
<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>					<b>\$ 1,122,850</b>	
Less Carryover from Prior FY	\$ (1,310)	\$ (1,310)	\$ (1,310)		\$ (3,930)	1/3
Member Contributions						1/3
Interest Earnings	\$ (67)	\$ (67)	\$ (67)		\$ (200)	
Reimb. From Other GSA's <sup>(d)</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (125,800)	\$ (125,800)	
<b>Net Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 265,386</b>	<b>\$ 245,406</b>	<b>\$ 245,407</b>	<b>\$ 236,720</b>	<b>\$ 992,920</b>	

(a) Includes benefits; 5 mos only for FY 2017-18

(b) Assumes GSP plus all coordination costs per sub-basin MOU

(c) Includes prerequisite membership fees

(d) For prior work by GEI related to sub-basin coordination plus grant prep. and special projects

State Prop 1 Grants:

County Facilitation Grant					\$ -	reflected in net cost
GSP Grant <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 143,660	\$ 143,660	\$ 143,660	\$ 236,720	\$ 667,700	1/3
Potential Local Cost Match (N/A)					\$ -	
Potential Member Call for Funds <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 121,726	\$ 101,746	\$ 101,747		\$ 325,220	varies

(1) Est. amt. to be reimbursed by DWR and/or other GSA's in indicated FY. Includes all coordination exp. plus 1/3 share of remainder; excludes pass through to/from other GSA's for GSP preparation. Reflects 10% DWR retention until completion.

(2) Call for funds dependent grant reimbursement timing.

Mid-Kaweah GSA  
Agenda Item Report

**June 7, 2018**

**Agenda Item 3.f:** Member Call for Funds

**Report Author:** Paul Hendrix

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board approve an initial call for funds from the Members for FY 2018-19 in the amount of \$120,000.

**Background Discussion:**

The recommended call for funds, along with carryover funds from last year, should be sufficient to cover routine administrative and planning expenses into early September. At the next regular GSA board meeting in August, cash on hand will be revisited and a second call for funds may be addressed at that time. Of the total collection, 30% is to be devoted to the administrative budget and 70% to the planning budget.

Near-term expenses include an initial deposit from Mid-Kaweah for the sub-basin data-gathering project as described in the budget staff report (agenda item 3.e). Reimbursements for this as well as for ongoing coordination work conducted by GEI will be forthcoming by late summer or early fall from both the East Kaweah GSA and Greater Kaweah GSA. State grant reimbursements are not anticipated until the end of the calendar year.

**Recommended Motion:**

I move to approve a Mid-Kaweah GSA call for funds in the amount of \$120,000.

Mid-Kaweah GSA  
Agenda Item Report

**June 7, 2018**

**Agenda Item 3.g:** Proposed Policy re GSA Board Alternate Directors

**Report Author:** Paul Hendrix

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board consider adopting the attached policy concerning the role of GSA board alternates that serve in the stead of primary directors at GSA board meetings.

**Background Discussion:**

In conjunction with Section 9(a) of the proposed Joint Powers Agreement amendment concerning the number of alternate directors appointed by each Member, the Management Committee seeks clarification on how and when alternate directors are seated at the dais at a GSA board meeting. The attached draft policy sets forth guidelines on this matter, and solicits the submittal of any documentation each Member may have on hand governing their respective reliance on alternate directors.

It is recommended that the proposed policy be considered for adoption by the GSA Board at such time as the first amendment to the JPA be authorized for execution by the three GSA Members.

**Attachment:**

Draft "Board Member Alternate Policy."



Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

(DRAFT)

Board Member Alternate Policy

Background:

Each GSA member appoints two primary representatives to serve on the Board of Directors and two alternate representatives to serve in their stead in circumstances where the primary representative cannot attend a board meeting. As stated in the First Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement, either of two alternate directors may serve in the place of one of the two primary board members at board meetings.

Purpose:

To provide for an orderly transition during GSA board meetings for the replacement of an alternate director by a primary director after the meeting has commenced, and for replacement by an alternate director in the event a primary director leaves a board meeting prior to adjournment.

Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Mid-Kaweah GSA that, if any Member has seated an alternate director at the dais when a board meeting is called to order, should a primary director of said Member subsequently arrive at the meeting, the alternate director may step down and be replaced by the primary director at the dais upon the completion of all discussion and any action on the then-current agenda item.

If any primary or alternate board director of any Member leaves a board meeting prior to adjournment an alternate director, should any be present representing said Member, will be seated at the dais to replace the departed director.

Members shall furnish the GSA with any internal policies or other guidelines governing the protocol concerning reliance on alternate representatives and the manner in which they shall represent said Member at GSA board meetings.

Mid-Kaweah GSA

Agenda Item Report

**June 7, 2018**

**Agenda Item 3.h:** GSA Legal Counsel

**Report Author:** Paul Hendrix

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that an ad-hoc committee of the GSA Board be appointed to review candidates assembled by the staff Management Committee for consideration to serve as legal counsel for the GSA.

**Background Discussion:**

Given the attached resignation letter from Peltzer & Richardson regarding legal services to the Mid-Kaweah GSA, another attorney needs to be retained as soon as possible to help navigate through the challenging legal issues facing the GSA in compliance with SGMA. The GSA Manager and Management Committee can assemble, by familiarity with attorneys experienced in local and regional groundwater matters, a list of candidate attorneys and affiliated firms that can fill this role. A Board-appointed committee can then, along with the management staff, interview some or all of the identified individuals and make a recommendation to the full Board to retain one such candidate for legal services.

**Recommended Motion:**

I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on an ad-hoc committee to screen and interview prospective attorneys to serve as legal counsel for the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

**Attachment:**

Letter of resignation from Ken Richardson, Peltzer & Richardson LLC

June 5, 2018

Board of Directors  
Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
144 S. "L" Street, Suite N  
Tulare, California 93274

Re: Legal Representation

Dear Board Members:

We are writing to inform you that Peltzer & Richardson, LC has elected to withdraw from legal representation of Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("MKGSA").

As you are aware, we undertook representation of the MKGSA notwithstanding our longstanding relationship with and individual representation of two of the three MKGSA Members. Prior to the inception of the MKGSA, we have represented Tulare Irrigation District and the City of Visalia for a number of years. Indeed, it was determined early on that the Members would be most effectively and efficiently served during the formation of the MKGSA to utilize existing staff and consultants to complete the formation process. Once the MKGSA was formed, our firm was chosen by the MKGSA Board to serve as general counsel. With appropriate conflict waivers in place, we have to this point have been able to provide effective representation of the interests of the MKGSA, while at the same time serving the individual legal interests of the City of Visalia and Tulare Irrigation District.

Nevertheless, with significant SGMA implementation decisions for the MKGSA on the horizon, it has become apparent that issues are emerging which are presenting actual conflicts that have the potential to affect our representation of both the MKGSA, and at the same time its individual Members. Indeed, we could very easily in the near future find ourselves in the untenable position of trying to advance the interests of the MKGSA while at the same advocating in discussions on those same interests as amongst the Members.

At this point, we do not believe that our representation of the MKGSA has provided us with confidential information that would preclude us from representing the individual interests of the City of Visalia or Tulare Irrigation District. Before events transpire that might alter that determination, it is our conclusion that our representation of the MKGSA must give way to our longstanding client relationships.

Board of Directors

June 5, 2018

Page 2

Therefore, with regret, we withdraw from our representation of MKGSA. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to have served you, and for the trust that Board of Directors has placed in our firm for the past several years.

Sincerely,

PELTZER & RICHARDSON, LC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KJR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth J. Richardson

KJR/is

cc: J. Paul Hendrix, Manager



Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

June 12, 2018

California Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
P.O. Box 94836  
Sacramento, California 94236

Subject: Support for Scope of Work

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency would like to express its support of the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability's scope of work for the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program.

As required in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, it is important for domestic well users, small water systems, and disadvantaged communities to be included in decision making processes regarding local groundwater management and planning. As the Mid-Kaweah GSA's service area contains disadvantaged communities, including communities where Leadership Counsel will engage in outreach efforts, we seek to ensure their inclusion in decisions regarding groundwater planning and management. Collaborating on SGMA implementation will complement the efforts of our Advisory Committee in furthering these important objectives.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Hendrix  
Manager



**Mid-Kaweah Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency  
Communication and  
Engagement Plan**

Draft: Version 3

June 7, 2018

Prepared for:

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability  
Agency

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Quality Check</b>		<b>Independent Review</b>	
1	Draft Document	Craig Moyle				
2	Review	Paul Hendrix	Craig Moyle			
3	Revise and Update	Craig Moyle				

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# Executive Summary

The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Mid-Kaweah GSA) Communication and Engagement Plan provides a high-level overview of near- and long-term outreach strategies, tactics and tools that support public and stakeholder communication actions, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. While primarily focused on achieving the communication needs of the Mid-Kaweah GSA, this Plan also describes certain intra-basin activities that serve to accomplish the needs of the agency and its fellow Kaweah Subbasin GSAs: East Kaweah GSA and Greater Kaweah GSA. The Plan is comprised of four main sections as follows; GSAs: East Kaweah GSA and Greater Kaweah GSA. The Plan is comprised of four main sections as follows:

## **Section 1: Introduction and Overview**

Passed by the legislature during the third year of California's worst drought in decades, SGMA requires local public agencies to establish a governance structure and lead development and implementation of a Groundwater Management Plan to address and respond to chronic groundwater overdraft in subbasins identified to have high and medium risk of overdraft. The Mid-Kaweah GSA is one of three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11) identified as a high priority region at risk of critical overdraft by the state's California Statewide Groundwater Evaluation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. Other GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin are East Kaweah GSA and the Greater Kaweah GSA, subbasins identified to have high and medium risk of overdraft. The Mid-Kaweah GSA is one of three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11) identified as a high priority region at risk of critical overdraft by the state's California Statewide Groundwater Evaluation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. Other GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin are East Kaweah GSA and the Greater Kaweah GSA.

## **Section 2: About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Formed in September 2015, the Mid-Kaweah GSA is among the first to be formed in response to SGMA. Founding member agencies are the cities of Tulare (inclusive of the Tulare Board of Public Utilities) and Visalia, and Tulare Irrigation District. The GSA was formed as Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under the state's Joint Exercise of Powers Act and includes a six-member Board of Directors. Voting thresholds are defined in the JPA, with decision making support to the Board of Director led by an Executive Director in consultation with a Management Committee, Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Kaweah Subbasin Management Team (see Figure 1, Page 2.4). The Management Committee, Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team are standing committees established through a Board of Director vote and are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 et seq.). Management Team are standing committees established through a Board of Director vote and are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 et seq.).

## **Section 3: Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement**

Outreach activities described in the Plan are managed by the Advisory Committee in close coordination with the Management Committee and the Executive Director. The described outreach activities draw, in part, from the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee Assessment, a document aimed to inform the organizational structure of the committee and collect outreach requirements and recommendations from committee members. Planned outreach activities are supported by a range of outreach tools, which include:

- **Interested Party Database:** Pursuant to Water Code §10723.4, the three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin intend to establish and jointly manage a coordinated Interested Party Database (IPD) for distribution of notices related to GSP preparation, meeting announcements, availability of draft plans, maps and other related information. Slated for release in early summer 2018, the website provides stakeholder contact management, event management, mass email notification, and administrative record functions that accomplish certain requirements of SGMA. For contact management, the platform supports self-enrollment to an email database of the GSA or GSAs of the stakeholder's choice. If uncertain of which GSA applies to their property or area of interest, the website will provide a link to assist in identification of the appropriate agency.
- **Communication and Engagement Database:** The database identifies potential stakeholder and outreach audiences. Stakeholders have been divided into three stakeholder "groups." Pursuant to the requirements of SGMA, any outreach conducted to these stakeholders will be recorded in the Database and listed in the GSP. These tiers are described as follows:
  - **Group 1: Collaborated (Inform + Consult + Collaborate)** – This group is closely connected during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to exchange information through active two-way communication. As a pro-active and re-active activity, these engagements gather information, and develop solutions to existing and emerging issues.
  - **Group 2: Consulted (Inform + Consult)** – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. This engagement is a pro-active activity seeks to gather stakeholder opinions to information presented by Mid-Kaweah GSA.
  - **Group 3: Connected (Inform)** – This group is connected during planning through distribution of written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. Presentations would be held in response to stakeholder requests.
- **Project Website:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA partner agencies have developed a stand-alone website for the GSA: [www.midkaweah.org](http://www.midkaweah.org). The website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Directors and Advisory Committee meeting notices, public outreach information and other informational resources.
- **Key Messages:** Initial key messages associated with SGMA, Mid-Kaweah GSA, and sustainable groundwater management have been developed and included in Appendix A. These key messages will be periodically updated.
- **Outreach Materials:** A suite of informational materials are planned for development utilizing a common visual identify to assist the reader readily identify the Mid-Kaweah GSA from the array of GSAs in California. These materials maybe be translated into multiple languages. These documents include an electronic newsletter, fliers, brochures, fact sheets, utility bill inserts, PowerPoint presentations, and surveys.

A variety of outreach activities are planned in support of GSP development through adoption of the agency's GSP by Jan. 31, 2020. Activities aimed to engage the public and stakeholders throughout this phase include:

- **Standing Meetings:** In addition to regular meetings of the Board of Directors, three standing meetings subject to the Brown Act are held or co-hosted by the Mid-Kaweah GSA. These include the Management Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team meeting. Subbasin Management Team meeting.
- **Member Agency Meetings:** Staff of the Mid-Kaweah GSA plan to conduct periodic presentations before the boards and councils of the founding agency members.
- **Public and Stakeholder Meetings:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to host a series of meetings to present technical topics to the public and stakeholders to assist in development of the GSP. These meetings are planned for the fall of 2018.
- **Community Presentations:** To maintain and expand awareness of the agency, staff intend to provide high-level presentations at meetings hosted by civic organizations and non-government organizations with interests in sustainable groundwater management.
- **Non-Profit Partnerships:** The Mid-Kaweah GSA is collaborating with various non-profit groups formed to assist disadvantaged communities engage sustainable groundwater management planning. This collaboration is

intended to identify opportunities for the GSA to partner with these groups in development of projects to include to the agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

- **GSP Review and Adoption:** Staff anticipates adoption of the 2020 Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP to be up to seven months. This will include a mid-2019 release of a Public Draft GSP for a public review period of up to 60-days. Public comments collected during this phase will be compiled into the Mid-Kaweah GSA Public Comment Report, which informs completion of the Draft Final GSP, slated for release in the fall of 2019. A public hearing to adopt the Draft Final GSP is proposed for December 2019.
- **Post Adoption Activities:** Following adoption and submittal of the Mid-Kaweah GSP by the statutory deadline of January 31, 2020, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will perform a 60-day public review period for all GSPs and relay such comments to their respective GSA. These comments will inform DWR's evaluation of submitted GSPs. These evaluations are due by legislative statute in 2022. Mid-Kaweah GSA staff plan to assemble public comments submitted to DWR, as well as public comments shared during the agency's public hearing to adopt, as an errata to the Mid-Kaweah GSA Public Comment Report.

#### **Section 4: Intra-Basin Outreach Activities**

In addition to the joint management of the Interested Parties Database, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs plan to consider implementation of two intra-basin coordination outreach activities. These activities include co-hosting annual "state of the subbasin" forums intended to share subbasin-wide information to the public and stakeholders during plan development and throughout GSP implementation. The agency's additionally plan to consider issuing one consolidated annual report to DWR in response to GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2 GSAs plan to consider implementation of two intra-basin coordination outreach activities. These activities include co-hosting annual "state of the subbasin" forums intended to share subbasin-wide information to the public and stakeholders during plan development and throughout GSP implementation. The agency's additionally plan to consider issuing one consolidated annual report to DWR in response to GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2

## Abbreviations

Board of Directors	Mid-Kaweah GSA Board of Directors
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
MKGSA	Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

As part of its development and passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014, the State legislature intended that local public agency actions pursuant to the new law be conducted in an open public process. This document identifies and presents the public and stakeholder communication and engagement activities to be implemented by the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in support of development and eventual implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within the agency's jurisdictional boundaries. This Plan is intended to function as a guide versus a prescriptive approach to outreach activities, thereby supporting a flexible and adaptive process for the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee to implement in response to stakeholder needs during GSP development. Development of this plan was informed, in part, through information and advice collected through the MKGSA Advisory Committee Assessment<sup>1</sup>. This Plan describes the MKGSA's approach to achieve communication and engagement activities identified in California Code of Regulations Section 354.10:

### § 354.10. Notice and Communication

*Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:*

*(a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.*

*(b) A list of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.*

*(c) Comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses by the Agency.*

*(d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:*

*(1) An explanation of the Agency's decision-making process.*

*(2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.*

*(3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population within the basin.*

*(4) The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.*

#### **Key Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Dates:**

- June 30, 2017: Establish Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (or equivalent) for all high and medium priority basins – Water Code § 10724(b)
- July 1, 2017: County must affirm or disaffirm responsibility as Groundwater Sustainability Agency if no Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been established – Water Code § 10724(b)
- Jan. 31, 2020: All critically over drafted high and medium priority basins must be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Water Code § 10720.7(a)(1)
- On April 1 following Groundwater Sustainability Plan adoption and annually thereafter, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies provide report on progress towards sustainability to the California Department of Water Resources. Water Code § 10728

<sup>1</sup>[http://bit.ly/Kaweah\\_AdvComAsmnt](http://bit.ly/Kaweah_AdvComAsmnt)

## 1.1 ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

SGMA was passed by the legislature during the third year of California's chronic drought. While the drought was declared over due to near record rainfall in the 2016/17 season, groundwater basins throughout the state have not recovered to pre-drought conditions and, in some cases, experienced permanent groundwater storage capacity losses through land subsidence. The legislation requires local public agencies and newly-formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in high and medium priority subbasins to sustainably manage California groundwater resources with oversight by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and potential intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) if management activities are determined to be inadequate. Passage of SGMA ended an era where sustainable groundwater management was a voluntary action or a court mandated requirement through adjudication.

Following passage of SGMA, DWR embarked on a series of public and agency meetings to develop GSP Emergency Regulations. These regulations were released in July 2016 and are chaptered under the California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters (§350-§358.4). In conjunction with release of these regulations, DWR published the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations Guide. The guide summarizes and defines the processes and requirements found in Title 23 for GSA formation, the development and implementation of GSPs, the responsibilities of the DWR and interbasin coordination (§357.2).

## 1.2 ABOUT THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN

The Kaweah Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Basin (DWR Bulletin 118, 5-022.11, Figure 1) is one of 515 groundwater subbasins in California, and is one of 127 subbasins that have been identified as high or medium priority by DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. The CASGEM Program has identified the Kaweah Subbasin as a high priority critical overdraft basin, a determination that requires implementation of sustainable groundwater management actions by January 31, 2020. The subbasin is primarily located within the Tulare County, with a portion included in Kings County. At the time of this plan, three GSAs have been established within the subbasin pursuant to SGMA, including:

- East Kaweah GSA
- Greater Kaweah GSA
- Mid-Kaweah GSA

## 2.0 ABOUT THE MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

The MKGSA was established on Sept. 14, 2015, through execution of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin Joint Powers Authority<sup>2</sup> (JPA) between the City of Visalia, the City of Tulare (including its Board of Public Utilities

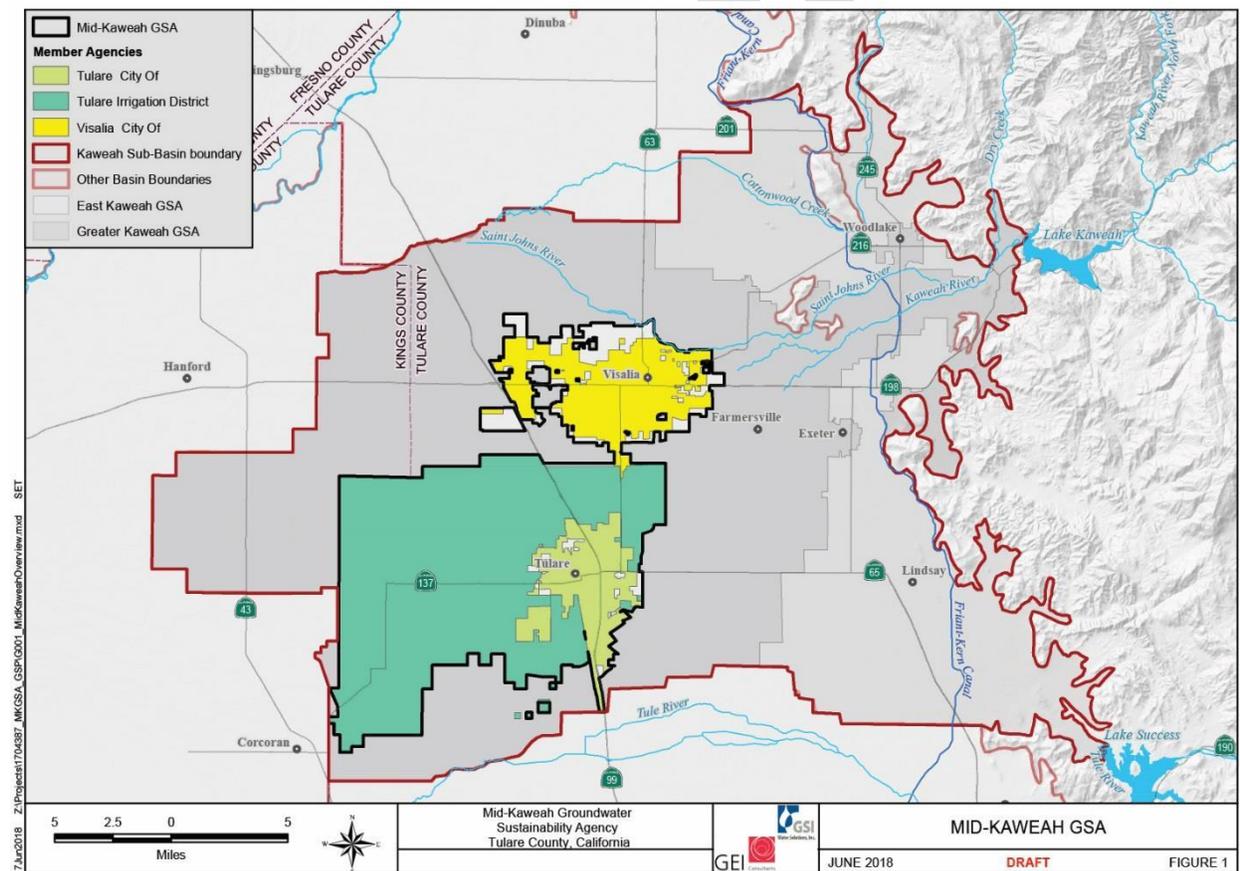
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<sup>2</sup> [http://bit.ly/MKGSA\\_JPA](http://bit.ly/MKGSA_JPA)

## About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Commissioners), and Tulare Irrigation District. Each agency is eligible to serve as a GSA as a “local agency” pursuant to California Water Code §10721(m)<sup>3</sup>.

Formed pursuant to Government Code §6500 et seq., the JPA serves as an independent public agency on behalf of its member agencies to comply with SGMA. The jurisdictional boundaries of the GSA represents approximately one-quarter of the Kaweah Subbasin, or approximately 170 square miles of the 696 square-mile subbasin. The founding agencies have engaged for many years in projects and programs to further conjunctive use and other groundwater management programs of mutual benefit. They collectively encompass the major population centers (approximately 190,000 people) and provide irrigation supplies to approximately 65,000 acres. Groundwater is relied upon heavily for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes.



**Figure 1 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies of the Kaweah Subbasin**

## 2.1 BOARD STRUCTURE

The MKGSA is led by a six-member Board of Directors comprised of two City of Visalia City Councilmembers, a total of two members from either or both of the City of Tulare City Council or the City of Tulare Board of Public Utilities,

<sup>3</sup> California Water Code §10721(m) – "Local agency" means a local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.

## About the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

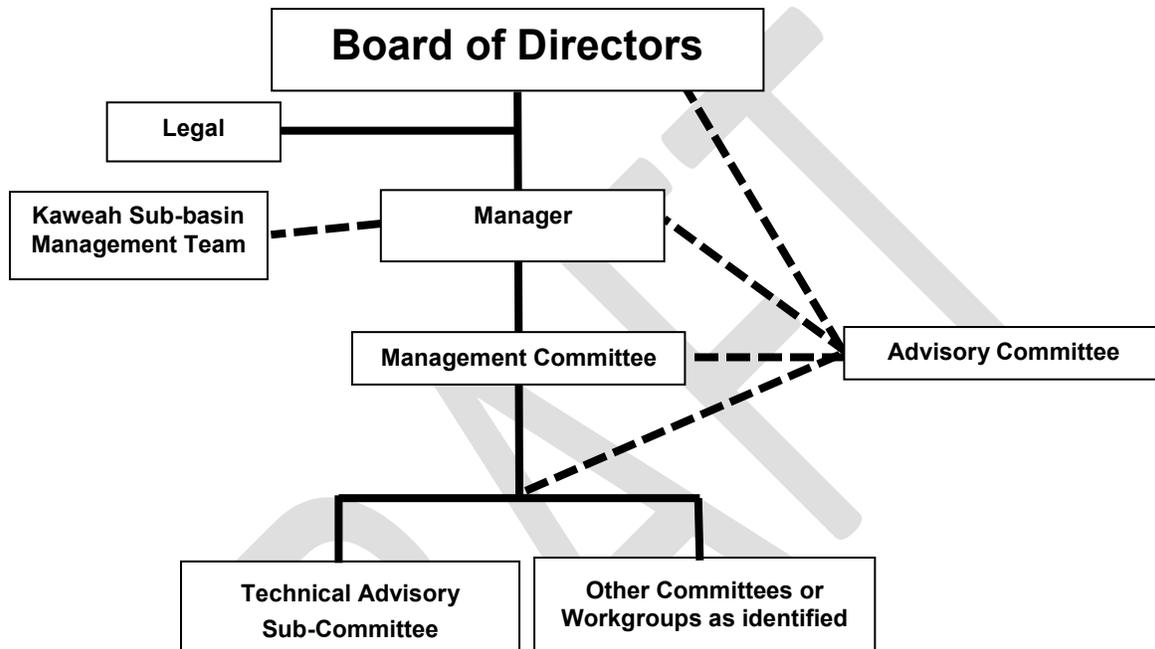
and two members of the Tulare Irrigation District (TID) Board of Directors. Additional members may be added to the Authority by a unanimous vote. These additional members must be eligible to serve as a GSA under the Act, and be a stakeholder located within the subbasin. Each member can designate one alternate director to serve in the event of a director's absence. Board members of the Authority serve without terms and at the pleasure of the legislative body that appointed them. Decision making of issues before the Board of Directors is via a simple majority of the quorum required for adoption of a resolution, ordinance, contract authorization or other action of the Board, except that:

1. A majority voice of less than a quorum may vote to adjourn
2. A unanimous vote of the entire Board (which may include alternatives) for the following:
3. Adoption of an initial budget;
4. Adoption or modification of the annual budget;
5. Contracts over \$25,000 and for terms in excess of two years;
6. Admission of additional members
7. Appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee, including any independent contractor who functions as an employee;
8. Setting the amounts of any contributions or fees to be made or paid to the Authority from any member
9. Compromise or payment of any claim against the Authority;
10. Acquisition by grant, purchase, lease, gift, devise, contract, construction, or otherwise, and hold, use, enjoy, sell, let, and dispose of, real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, right-of-way, easements, and privileges, and construct, maintain, alter, and operate any and all works or improvements, within or outside the agency, necessary or property to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority
11. Adoption and imposition of fees pursuant to Water Code §10730-10731;
12. Replacement of the annual special audit required by Government Code §6505 with audit covering a two year period;
13. Approval of a GSP for the portions of the Subbasin identified by the GSA boundaries.

## 2.2 DECISION MAKING SUPPORT

Decision making support to the MKSGA Board of Directors is provided by a GSA manager, legal counsel, two standing committees, and an intra-basin coordination team. The decision making structure is illustrated Figure 1 and described further in the sections below.

**Figure 2 Decision Making Structure of Mid-Kaweah GSA**



### 2.2.1 Manager

The GSA Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors and serves at its pleasure. This position provides administrative and fiscal management for the GSA, and serves as overall coordinator for development and implementation of the GSP. Other ancillary administrative services are performed in-kind by staff members of the three GSA Members, to and including the GSA Secretary and Treasurer as appointed by the Board. Administrative functions include servicing the needs of the GSA and Board including, but not limited to meeting calendars, notices, agendas, minutes, resolutions and other reports or services required to conduct the business of the GSA. As fiscal agent the duties include payables, receivables, audit data, audits and any other fiscal requirements or fiscal controls needed to conduct the business of the GSA.

### 2.2.2 Legal Counsel

Legal counsel serves at the pleasure of the Board and is retained to advise members and the executive director on topics associated with the development and implementation of the GSA, and applicable functions of the Board.

### 2.2.3 Management Committee

The MKGSA Management Committee is one of two standing committees formed through execution of the JPA and is subject to requirements of the Brown Act. The committee is comprised of one staff member from each of the Member agencies. These staff members are responsible for approval of all expenditures included in the Board-approved budget, and assists the board with all aspects of GSP development and implementation of the Act. The Management Committee may also, pursuant to its formation under 9(j) of the Mid-Kaweah GSA JPA<sup>4</sup>, establish a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the purpose of assisting the Management Committee and the Board. The role of the TAC is to perform technical studies for development of the agency GSP and to perform intra-basin coordination with other GSAs within the Kaweah Subbasin to address and resolve shared technical processes. Staffing of the TAC is anticipated to change throughout the plan development process depending on technical requirements.

### 2.2.4 Advisory Committee

The Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee is a standing committee appointed by the Board of Directors and is subject to the Brown Act. Formed pursuant to section 9(i) of the JPA<sup>5</sup>, the 11-member committee is selected from a pool of applicants and serve three-year terms renewable through a board vote. Applicants must be residents within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Membership on the board seeks to staff a committee whose membership represents the various social, economic and environmental stakeholder communities affected by SGMA. To achieve this balance, the following topical and geographic objectives are sought when selecting committee members:

- Up to three members representing governmental organizations operating within the GSA;
- Up to three members representing environmental interests and/or disadvantaged communities;
- Up to three members representing the agricultural community; and
- All remaining positions are appointed at-large and based, in part, on geographic location.

The Advisory Committee's purpose is to support decision making structure of the Board of Directors and provide counsel on behalf of the communities they serve to the various administrative, social, and technical topics being addressed for development of the GSP. To accomplish this purpose, the Advisory Committee guides and implements

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<sup>4</sup> 9(j): *MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The Board shall create a Management Committee for the purpose of overseeing all activities undertaken in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Authority identified in this Agreement, and for reporting upon same to the Board. The Management Committee shall be comprised of one staff person from each of the Members. The Management Committee shall, among other things, be responsible for the approval of all expenditures authorized by the Board through their approval of budget appropriations as required herein. The Management Committee may also establish a Technical Advisory Committee for the purpose of assisting the Management Committee and the Board with the technical aspects of GSP development and implementation of the Act.*

<sup>5</sup> 9(i): *ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Board shall create an Advisory Committee for the purpose of soliciting information from the Other Kaweah Agencies and potentially affected stakeholders utilizing groundwater within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Members and potentially subject to the GSP to be developed by the Authority. Membership on the Advisory Committee and the time/date for meetings shall be at the discretion of the Board.*

outreach activities that encourage active and consistent involvement of the public, civic organizations, agencies, landowners, and other stakeholder communities during plan development. These outreach activities seek to engage stakeholders in one of three “groups” tailored to deliver, share and exchange information as applicable to the stakeholder’s desired level of engagement in sustainable groundwater management. It is anticipated that stakeholder status within each group will change during the planning process consistent with each stakeholder’s informational and engagement needs. These groups are described in section 3.1.2 Communication and Engagement Database.

## **2.2.5 Kaweah Subbasin Management Team**

Established in November 2017, the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team is an intra-basin coordination activity involving the three GSAs within the Kaweah Subbasin. The team was formed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation and Coordination of the Kaweah Subbasin<sup>6</sup>. Team meetings are held monthly and publicly noticed consistent with the Brown Act. As described in the MOU, the Team’s purpose is to conduct necessary studies and seek mutual agreement in the preparation of a Coordination Agreement require by SGMA. The team is comprised of three members of each GSA, with one vote per GSA. These participants are appointed by their respective Board of Directors and serve at their direction. At the time of this Plan, the Mid-Kaweah GSA manager serves the custodian of records on behalf of the Team. Coordination of meeting locations and meeting moderation is rotated among each subbasin GSA.

## **3.0 MID-KAWEAH GSA COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Consistent with SGMA, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to develop and implement its GSP in close coordination, consultation and cooperation with the public and stakeholders through various outreach activities tailored to accomplish the regulatory goals of SGMA. The Mid-Kaweah GSA announced its public and stakeholder engagement objectives as part of its September 2015 formation notification (Water Code §10723.8)(a)(4)). This notification serves as the foundation for consistent and progressive engagement activities to the diverse social, cultural, and economic stakeholder communities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

Communication and engagement activities described in this section include tools, tasks, and tactics tailored to the unique needs of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. These activities draw from results of the Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee Assessment and are framed to establish and maintain broad community awareness in SGMA and the agency. These activities additionally seek to encourage active and consistent participation in groundwater management planning by Mid-Kaweah GSA stakeholders towards completion of a durable and implementable GSP.

Initial information needs identified in the Advisory Committee Assessment include:

- Raise awareness of SGMA and regulations that have been promulgated since its passage, particularly in urban areas.
- Maintain and increase awareness that the GSP for the region is locally led and focused to meet local needs.
- Raise public understanding of groundwater issues, particularly in relation to fluctuations in groundwater levels associated with conjunctive use.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://bit.ly/Kaweah\\_MOU](http://bit.ly/Kaweah_MOU)

- Foster water conservation practices that help maintain viable municipal landscapes (e.g. urban forests).
- Communicate the role of surface water storage in meeting consumption demand by municipal, industrial and agricultural water users.
- Distribute a groundwater overdraft report prior to release of the GSP to familiarize groundwater users of the scope of the challenge.
- Distribute a timeline that conveys the schedule of major milestones to encourage public participation at appropriate intervals.

## 3.1 OUTREACH TOOLS

Outreach tools are activities for stakeholder identification, tracking engagements with stakeholders, and vehicles to publish and disseminate information to the public and stakeholders. This section describes the suite of tools developed or planned for use by the Mid-Kaweah GSA and managed by the Advisory Committee. The agency, on an as-needed basis, may provide materials in Spanish and Portuguese. A common visual identity format will be implemented for all printed and electronic informational materials distributed to the public and stakeholders.

### 3.1.1 Interested Party Database

To manage and document participation during the plan development process with individual stakeholders, GSAs are required to establish, maintain and utilize an Interested Party Database (IPD) as a means to distribute notices related to GSP preparation, meeting announcements, availability of draft plans, maps and other related information. Agencies are required to add any person who provides a written request to be placed on the IPD (Water Code §10723.4).

As part of existing intra-basin coordination, the three Kaweah Subbasin GSAs intend to establish a jointly manage IPD and meeting calendar website integrated to each agency's website. Slated for release in early summer 2018, the website is intended to provide stakeholder contact management, event management, mass email notification, and administrative record functions. For contact management, the platform supports self-enrollment to an email database of the GSA or GSAs of the stakeholder's choice. If uncertain of which GSA applies to their property or area of interest, the website will provide a link to assist in identification of the appropriate agency. Information requested during the subscription process includes the following fields:

- Name
- Email
- Company/Organization
- Address
- Stakeholder Category (Water Code §10723.2<sup>7</sup>):
  - Citizens Groups
  - General Public
  - Disadvantaged Communities<sup>8</sup>
  - Agricultural Well Owners
  - Domestic Well Owners
  - Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied
  - Private and Public Water Purveyors

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<sup>7</sup> As available and consistent with Water Code Section 10723.2

<sup>8</sup> Includes those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems (Water Code §10723.2(i))

## Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

- Surface Water Users<sup>9</sup>
- Governmental and Land Use Agencies
- Tribal Governments and Communities
- Environmental and Ecosystem Interests
- Remediation and Groundwater Cleanup

The subscription enrollment form is anticipated to include a range of notification topics applicable to each GSA. For the Mid-Kaweah GSA, this menu is as follows:

- All Mid-Kaweah GSA Notices and Announcements
- MKGSA Board Meetings
- MKGSA Advisory Committee
- MKGSA Media Notices
- MKGSA Document Release
- Kaweah Subbasin Management Team

The site's calendar provides a dashboard view of scheduled meetings and links to receive additional information, download documents, register to attend, and review the list of those that has registered to attend. A link will be provided for visitors to add the event to their personal calendar (e.g. Microsoft Outlook, Google Calendar, etc.). Links to adopted outreach plans and other related documents are planned for inclusion on the website.

Administratively, the site assists GSAs in the preparation and conduct of public meetings, monitor the effectiveness of communication activities, and serve as a platform to submit information required by SGMA. Public meeting functions include coordinated scheduling of GSA events, distribution of announcements by mass email, and logistical planning of public meetings based on attendee registration. Readership trends from mass email campaigns will be measured to identify the frequency emails are opened and forwarded on to others. Geographic information provided by subscribers can be displayed on a map to reveal potential geographic gaps in public participation. Finally, the platform will be integrated to the state's GSP submittal website (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/>) for receipt of the agency's public outreach plan and record of public participation.

### 3.1.2 Communication and Engagement Database

The Communication and Engagement Database is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet used to plan, implement, and evaluate engagements with stakeholder groups and the media. The database is managed by Advisory Committee and MKGSA support staff. The spreadsheet includes four sections as follows:

**Tab: Stakeholder Database** – This section includes stakeholder organizations identified as subject to, or potentially interested in, SGMA and the Mid-Kaweah GSA activities. These organizations are categorized in the database consistent with §10723.2 and assigned to one of three “groups.” These groups serve to define a level of engagement with a stakeholder community based on self-identified or pre-assessed need. These groupings are as follows:

- **Group 1: Collaborated (*Inform + Consult + Collaborate*)** – This group is closely connected during the planning process through direct engagements aimed to exchange information through active two-way communication. As a pro-active and re-active activity, these engagements gather information, and develop solutions to existing and emerging issues.

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<sup>9</sup> If there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies (Water Code §10723.2(g))

- **Group 2: Consulted (Inform + Consult)** – This group is connected during planning through written informational materials and scheduled presentations. This engagement is a pro-active activity seeks to gather stakeholder opinions to information presented by Mid-Kaweah GSA.
- **Group 3: Connected (Inform)** – This group is connected during planning through distribution of written informational materials and prepared informational presentations. Presentations would be held in response to stakeholder requests.

The grouping assignment for each stakeholder community is subject to change based on stakeholder interest and GSP content needs. It is anticipated that the assignment will be dynamic throughout the planning process as issues are identified and addressed. Such changes will be documented consistent with Water Code § 354.10 (b) and 354.10 (d).

**Tab: Upcoming Outreach** – This section identifies pending outreach activities to be implemented by the Mid-Kaweah GSA. This section defines the date of the activity, the host, the organization type, the identified presenter or task lead and associated action items.

**Tab: Outreach Record** – This section documents outreach activities to stakeholder groups and represents the administrative record for inclusion in the agency's GSP. This includes planned outreach actions and those that were in response to a stakeholder group's request. Meeting attendance, duration and key topics covered during the presentation will be recorded in the database.

**Tab: Media Database** – This section identifies media outlets applicable to the Mid-Kaweah GSA and document media relations activities. The section will be periodically updated with contact information of reporting and editorial staff, as well as requirements for placement of advertisements. All media relations activities (i.e. news releases, interviews, etc.) and their results will be recorded here and included as part of the administrative record during submittal of the adopted GSP.

### 3.1.3 GSA Website

Pursuant to GSP Emergency Regulations Section 353.6, the Mid-Kaweah GSA members developed a stand-alone website for the GSA. Located at [www.midkaweah.org](http://www.midkaweah.org), this website provides information about SGMA, the member agencies, Board of Directors, Board meeting notices and summaries, public outreach and timeline information, frequently asked questions, news, links and a contact list. Visitors can enroll in the agency's Interested Parties Database and ask questions of member agencies. The site is cross-linked to Greater Kaweah GSA and East Kaweah GSA websites, the Kaweah Subbasin website and its Data Management System (DMS), the DWR SGMA information portal, and other related sites.

### 3.1.4 Key Messages

An initial list of key messages has been developed for use in all Mid-Kaweah GSA communications. These messages provide a menu of message options to utilize when responding to stakeholders, the public, media and other groups. These message are also available for use by member agencies for response to GSA or SGMA-specific activities specific to their jurisdictional area. These key messages are organized to deliver information related to SGMA, GSA formation and GSP development. The messages should be adapted to the target audience (i.e. urban community, rural community, disadvantaged community, grower or industry representative). These key messages are subject to

change during the plan development process as information is developed as conditions change. The initial key messages developed with this Outreach Plan are included in Appendix A.

### 3.1.5 Outreach Tools and Resources

Outreach tools and resources for the Mid-Kaweah GSA support outreach activities implemented to build and maintain awareness, and support plan development. Informational materials distributed to stakeholders will have a common visual identity to assist GSA stakeholders distinguish its work product from other GSAs in the region. The range of document planned for use include agency letterhead, meeting summaries, comment cards, fliers, PowerPoint presentations, sign-in sheets, brochures, factsheets, news releases, media advisories, utility bill inserts, surveys, and others as-needed. The general purpose/approach for these materials are as follows:

*Letterhead:* Utilized for formal communication to the public, stakeholders and other parties. This letterhead identifies agency members, the agency Board of Directors, and key staff. This document may serve as a stand-alone communication vehicle or as a companion to other outreach materials.

*Meeting Summaries:* Utilized to memorialize discussions, decisions and other important milestones associated with a meeting hosted by the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

*Comment Cards:* Provided in a postcard format, this document serves to collect public and stakeholder feedback and receive requests to be added to the Interested Parties Database. Depending on setting, document may be pre-addressed for convenient delivery to the agency by U.S. Mail.

*PowerPoint Presentation:* Provided in electronic format, this document will provide visual and text content that support verbal presentations by Mid-Kaweah GSA members and staff.

*Sign-in Sheet:* This document will assist in maintaining the record of engagement for agency meetings and assist stakeholders in signing up to the Interested Parties Database.

*Newsletter:* A periodic online newsletter intended to keep stakeholders and the public up to date on the GSP development process, notify stakeholders of upcoming public meetings and workshops and address other topics applicable to sustainable groundwater management pertinent to the region. It is anticipated that the newsletters would be sent to the stakeholders up to three times per year during the GSP development process. The newsletter may include the following content: status of the GSP development process and milestones, key groundwater issues or topics of concern for the subbasin, regional coordination activities, state-wide updates on SGMA and a schedule of planned public meetings, workshops or other events. in the subbasin, regional coordination activities, statewide updates on SGMA and a schedule of planned public meetings, workshops or other events.

*Brochures and Fact Sheets:* These are typically one to two pages in length and developed to assist engagement with the public and stakeholders on specific topics. The editorial focus of these documents will be managed by the Advisory Committee in coordination with the Management Committee.

*Utility Bill Inserts:* These documents utilize space, as available, in utility bills delivered to customers by U.S. Mail. The agency may utilize these formats, as available, during the following plan development intervals:

## Mid-Kaweah GSA Communication and Engagement

- Spring/Summer 2018 – This first insert seeks to raise awareness of Mid-Kaweah GSA and encourage enrollment in the IPD.
- Winter 2018-19 – This second insert continues to raise awareness and encourage visitation to the agency website to stay informed of sustainable groundwater management activities to date.
- Fall 2019 – This third insert will be timed to coincide with public notification for adoption of the Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP.

*Fliers:* These one-page documents are focused on stakeholder communities and intended to raise awareness of certain topics or events of the Mid-Kaweah GSA.

*News Releases:* These documents are typically one to two pages in length and serve to draw media attention to a significant event or milestone of the agency.

*Calendar Advisories:* One-page documents that provide a brief description of a Mid-Kaweah GSA event or milestone (e.g. deadline for receipt of public comment).

*Social Media:* Social media is a rapid and convenient method to reach stakeholders and other interested parties. The Mid-Kaweah GSA established a presence on Facebook in mid-2016, with most postings focused on meeting announcements. Postings to the site would be completed in coordination with updates to the project website and additional activities identified in coordination with the Advisory Committee and Management Committee.

*Surveys:* The Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to periodically conduct surveys of the public, stakeholder groups and other interested parties. Circulated online, by email or direct mail, these surveys are important tools that can assist in data collection, raise or increase awareness of key topics, respond to key issues, or collect feedback following a public meeting or event. The Advisory Committee will be responsible for the management, implementation and oversight of all agency surveys. Survey may be developed by the Advisory Committee, the Management Committee, and/or the Technical Advisory Committee. Where necessary, draft surveys will be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval. The content of each survey will address the following criteria:

- Duration
- Purpose and objective
- Target audience and circulation
- Application to Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning
- Contribution to objectives of Mid-Kaweah GSA

Anticipated survey topics are as follows and subject to change during the planning process. The schedule for implementation of these activities will be determined by the Advisory Committee.

- **Post-Event Surveys:** These surveys would be printed on a 5.5 x 8.5 inch sheet of paper and circulated during a public meeting or workshop. These surveys may serve to evaluate the information shared during a meeting, or function as a data collection vehicle associated with a key topic discussed at the meeting.
- **Awareness Surveys:** These surveys are anticipated to be circulated electronically either through email, the project website, or social media (e.g. Facebook, SurveyMonkey, etc.) These surveys would include high-level questions associated with sustainable groundwater management. Awareness surveys are typically circulated at various intervals to measure changes in stakeholder responses.
- **Subject-Matter Surveys:** These surveys are exploratory in nature and seek to collect information from a specific stakeholder community or geography. Such surveys can help inform the planning process by testing alternatives to potential actions (e.g. alternatives to an identified undesirable result) or recruiting information (e.g. location of properties with multiple wells at different depths).

## 3.2 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee intends to conduct and monitor a variety of public outreach activities each aimed to inform, engage and respond to stakeholders and other interested parties during GSP development, adoption and, later, implementation. These activities serve to engage and interact with the public and stakeholders during GSP development, and to assist Mid-Kaweah GSA staff and leadership collect information important to groundwater sustainability planning. This engagement and interaction occur in five general areas: Standing Meetings; member agency meetings; public and stakeholder meetings; and existing community meetings. The date and schedule of these engagements is illustrated in Appendix C: Mid-Kaweah GSA Outreach and Coordination Schedule. Commonly used tools applicable to each form of engagement are included in the descriptions below:

### 3.2.1 Standing Meetings

Commonly Used Tools: Sign-in Sheet, Comment Card, Meeting Summary, Survey

Schedule:

- Monthly: MKGSA Board of Directors
- Bi-Monthly: MKGSA Advisory Committee
- Monthly: MKGSA Management Committee
- As-Needed: MKGSA Technical Advisory Committee
- Monthly: Kaweah Subbasin Management Team

The Mid-Kaweah GSA hosts or participates in three standing meetings that are subject to the Brown Act. These include the agency's Board of Directors, the agency's Advisory Committee, and the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team meeting. Notification for these meetings are performed pursuant to the Brown Act. They represent points of access for the public and stakeholders to observe and participate in a forum where key decisions are presented, discussed and decided. They also serve to engage with the public and stakeholders in the decision making process for development of a GSP that addresses local requirements consistent with SGMA. Topics presented for Board review and decision are brought by the agency's Manager in consultation with the Management Committee, Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee. Details of each meeting are reported on the agency website consistent with Water Code §10725.2.

### 3.2.2 Member Agency Meetings

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card

Schedule:

- Spring 2019: Public Draft GSP Briefing
- Fall 2019: Final Draft GSP Briefing

As part of GSP development, Mid-Kaweah GSA staff intend to provide briefings to member agency (cities of Tulare and Visalia; Tulare ID) councils and boards. These briefings will be conducted during a member agency's publicly noticed meeting and may include opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement at the discretion of the member agency. It is anticipated that these briefings would be requested by the member agency or scheduled proactively by Mid-Kaweah GSA staff. The primary purpose of these briefings is to provide updates on plan progress

and next steps, and to respond to questions. These presentations provide opportunities to share and describe how elements of the GSP apply to the service area of the member agency. Results of these presentations will be posted on the website of the Mid-Kaweah GSA and the requesting member agency.

### 3.2.3 Public and Stakeholder Meetings

Commonly Used Tools: Sign-in Sheet, Comment Card, Meeting Summary, Survey

Schedule:

- Fall 2018: MKGSA Sustainable Management Criteria Technical Presentations
- Spring 2019: MKGSA Administrative Draft Technical Presentations
- Summer 2019: MKGSA Public Draft GSP Hearing
- Winter 2019: MKGSA Final Draft GSP Public Hearing

In support of plan development, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates periodically hosting or participating in meetings to present technical findings and exchange information with stakeholders. These meetings will be planned and managed by the Advisory Committee in close coordination with the Management Committee. The meetings, as identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, would focus on specific stakeholder groups, such as school districts, water purveyors, industry groups, agricultural associations, disadvantaged or economically stressed communities and non-governmental agencies. The primary functions of these meetings are: 1) to build and maintain awareness of SGMA, the Mid-Kaweah GSA and the plan development process; 2) to receive public and stakeholder input and advice during plan development; 3) to encourage the public and stakeholders to attend and participate at agency Board and Advisory Committee meetings; and 4) to encourage public and stakeholder enrollment in the Interested Parties Database. Notification of these meetings will be conducted through the agency website, the Interested Parties Database and other communication vehicles available through member agencies or other partners. These may include newsletters, post cards, fliers, utility bill inserts and social media. Results of these meetings will be posted on the agency website and tracked in the Communication and Engagement Database.

### 3.2.4 Community Presentations

Commonly Used Tool: Comment Card, Survey

Schedule:

- Spring and Summer 2018
- Winter and Spring 2019

The Mid-Kaweah GSA plans to conduct presentations to rural schools, neighborhood associations, mobile home parks, civic, non-profit and other community organizations to build and maintain awareness about SGMA and the agency, to encourage participation at Board and Advisory Committee meetings and to encourage enrollment in the Interested Parties Database. These sessions will occur during the second and third quarter of 2018. Subsequent presentations may be provided upon request by a stakeholder group or as a follow-on action of the Advisory Committee. The initial round of presentations will focus on expanding self-enrollment in the Interested Parties Database, increasing awareness of SGMA and increasing awareness and participation in Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP development. Subsequent rounds of community presentations would serve to continue dialog with stakeholder communities and alert groups to pending key milestones (e.g. public hearings). The Communication and Engagement

Database identifies the timing, sequence and action items for these presentations. The presentations may be led by Mid-Kaweah GSA staff, member agency staff, Advisory Committee members, or consultant support staff using the prepared key messages.

### **3.3 NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS**

In 2017, the California Department of Water Resources issued \$85.8 million in grant funds through the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Program to support GSP development activities by GSAs and other groups. This award includes a \$1 million grant to Self-Help Enterprises and a \$758,000 grant to the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability – two non-profit groups organized to assist disadvantaged communities address a range of social, civic and environmental issues. Funds allocated to these groups are available, among other things, to provide technical support for development of projects, provide translation support to GSAs, and staff participation in GSA activities.

The Mid-Kaweah GSA and its member agencies are long-standing partners of Self-Help Enterprises. A staff member of the organization is a standing member of the agency's Advisory Committee. The agency is has initiated discussion with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. At the time of this Plan, both non-profits have not yet finalized how and where grant funds would be invested, and what opportunities will be available for partnership with GSAs. This plan will be updated once those investment strategies are finalized.

Regardless of the extent of partnership opportunities available with these and other organizations, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to engage with each disadvantaged communities within its jurisdictional area or potentially dependent on its infrastructure. The preliminary list of these communities<sup>13</sup> are identified in the Communication and Engagement Database and identified below.

- Matheny Tract – Severely Disadvantaged Community
- Soult's Tract – Disadvantaged Community
- Lone Oak Tract – Disadvantaged Community
- Waukena Hamlet – Severely Disadvantaged Community
- Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company – Disadvantaged Community
- East Tulare Hamlet – Disadvantaged Community<sup>14</sup>
- Mooney Grove Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Mooney Grove Manor Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Royal Oaks Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Westlake Village Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Willow Glen Mobile home Park – Disadvantaged Community
- Mountain View Mobile Home Park – Disadvantaged Community

### **3.4 GSP REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

Adoption of a GSA is governed by Water Code §10728.4 and provides the following requirements:

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<sup>13</sup> List is based on the 2015 Mid-Kaweah GSA Formation Notification; the DWR Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool for "Community Places"; the Tulare County 2030 General Plan Update; Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance website

<sup>14</sup> This community is located in the Greater Kaweah GSA service area; however, activities are underway to connect this area to the City of Tulare for emergency water supplies.

*A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. The groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude an agency and a city or county from otherwise consulting or commenting regarding the adoption or amendment of a plan.*

While the above Water Code provision intimates a three month adoption process, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates a two-phased approach for the public review and adoption of the agency's GSP that may last up to seven months. These phases are described as follows:

### **3.4.1 Public Review Phase**

The Public Review Phase is anticipated to take up to three months and begin in mid-2019. The major milestone of this phase is release of the agency's Public Draft GSP and conduct of a public review period. This phase seeks to provide opportunities for public input to the GSP prior to formal adoption proceedings pursuant to §10728.4. This step is separate from a public comment processes to be conducted by DWR (Water Code §10733.4(3)(c)<sup>15</sup>). The agency's Public Review Phase includes the following components:

*Public Draft GSP:* The Public Draft GSP is intended for release in mid-2019 for a 60-day public review.

*Public Meeting:* During the 60-day public review period, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to host at least one public meeting intended to provide a high level presentation of the Public Draft GSP and receive comments from the public and stakeholders. A stenographer may staff this public meeting to record verbal comments.

*Notifications:* Consistent with Government Code §6066, the Mid-Kaweah GSA intends to place two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to the public meeting. Additional notification activities include distribution of a news release to local and regional print, broadcast and on-line media sources, distribution of event fliers to organizations identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, and mass email distribution via the agency's Interested Party Database.

*Public Comment Report:* A Public Comment Report will be developed to document all written comments submitted during the public comment period and staff responses to these comments. This document will include all verbal comments collected by a stenographer during the public meeting, as available. Information contained in this document will contribute to completion of the Draft Final GSP.

### **3.4.2 GSP Adoption Phase**

The GSP Adoption Phase is expected to last 90 to 120 days and slated to begin in late summer/early fall. This phase includes the following components:

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<sup>15</sup> Upon receipt of a groundwater sustainability plan, the department shall post the plan on the department's Internet Web site and provide 60 days for persons to submit comments to the department about the plan.

*Notice of Intent:* Pursuant to Water Code §10728.4, the agency will prepare and release a Notice of Intent to Adopt its GSP during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. This notice will be provided to the County of Tulare and cities within the jurisdictional area of the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Consultation meetings will be performed in the event written request is received pursuant to §10728.4. As for-profit water purveyors operate within the jurisdictional boundary of Mid-Kaweah GSA, the agency intends to provide a courtesy copy of this Notice of Intent to the California Public Utilities Commission. This action continues notification first initiated pursuant to Water Code 10727.8(a).<sup>16</sup>

*Member Agency Briefing:* Prior to release of the Draft Final GSP, Mid-Kaweah GSA staff plan to provide a briefing of the document's key elements and results from the public comment period before the Visalia City Council, the Tulare City Council and Tulare Board of Public Utilities, and also before the Tulare ID Board of Directors. This presentation will provide a high-level overview and communicate the adoption schedule by the Mid-Kaweah GSA Board of Directors.

*Release Draft Final GSP:* The Draft Final GSP is intended for public release in late fall/early winter 2019.

*Notifications:* Pursuant to Government Code §6066, the Mid-Kaweah GSA will place two newspaper advertisements at least five days apart, 14 days prior to the conduct of a public hearing required by Water Code §10728.4. Additional notification activities include distribution of a news release to local and regional print, broadcast and on-line media sources, distribution of event fliers to organizations identified in the Communication and Engagement Database, and mass email notification using the agency's Interested Party Database.

*Public Hearing:* Pursuant to the Water Code, the Board of Directors will host a formal public hearing to receive verbal comments from the public and stakeholders. This hearing is in advance of a Board of Directors action to adopt the 2020 Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP and authorize the Coordination Agreement (SGMA §10727(b)(3) and GSP Emergency Regulations §357.4). Written comments provided by the public and other interested parties will be accepted during the hearing. A stenographer may be in attendance to record public comments. Written and verbal comments will be retained for post adoption use (see Section 3.4 Post Adoption Activities). This hearing is slated to occur in early December 2019.

### **3.5 POST ADOPTION ACTIVITIES**

Adoption of the Mid-Kaweah GSA GSP authorizes agency staff to begin implementation the identified actions. The adoption additionally initiates review and evaluation of submitted GSPs by DWR to be tracked by the Mid-Kaweah GSA as part of GSP implementation. These activities include the following components:

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<sup>16</sup> 10727.8. (a) Prior to initiating the development of a groundwater sustainability plan, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county located within the geographic area to be covered by the plan. The groundwater sustainability agency may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan. The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. If the geographic area to be covered by the plan includes a public water system regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the written statement to the commission.

*Public Review:* Water Code Section 10733.4 directs DWR to conduct a public comment period for submitted GSPs for a period of 60 days. This review is conducted on a subbasin level and begins after DWR receives all GSPs from GSAs in a groundwater subbasin. Comments are submitted via an on-line form managed by DWR. These comments are delivered to DWR staff and automatically relayed to a subbasins point of contact as identified in the GSP or Coordination Agreement, as applicable. It is anticipated that DWR will refer to these comments as part of its completion of GSP Evaluations by 2022 (GSP Emergency Regulations §355.2). Comments are submitted via an on-line form managed by DWR. These comments are delivered to DWR staff and automatically relayed to a subbasins point of contact as identified in the GSP or Coordination Agreement, as applicable. It is anticipated that DWR will refer to these comments as part of its completion of GSP Evaluations by 2022 (GSP Emergency Regulations §355.2).

*Public Comment Report Errata:* Following the close of DWR's 60-day public review period, the Mid-Kaweah GSA anticipates publishing an errata to the Public Comment Report. Anticipated for delivery to the agency Board of Directors in last spring/early summer 2020, this document will compile and respond, as appropriate, to comments submitted to DWR and relayed to the agency, and comments provided to the agency during formal adoption proceedings.

### **3.6 OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF GSP IMPLEMENTATION**

The Mid-Kaweah GSA expects to continue use of the outreach tools and tactics described in this plan as part of outreach to the public and stakeholder community following adoption of the GSP. The format and approach of this outreach will be described in an update to this plan based, in part, on results of engagement with stakeholders during the plan development, recommendations by the Advisory Committee, Management Committee, and direction of the agency Board of Directors.

## **4.0 INTRA-BASIN OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Appendix C Schedule identifies two intra-basin outreach activities to be conducted by the three Kaweah Subbasin GSAs. These activities are preliminary and subject to agreement of the GSAs. These activities are described as follows:

### **4.1 SUBBASIN FORUMS**

Subbasin forums are conference-style events co-hosted by management and technical staff for each of the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs. The purpose of these forums is to provide the public and stakeholders with a broad, subbasin-wide perspective of groundwater conditions in the region and allow each GSA describe important features for their specific area. These meetings would be held annually and promoted through various notification activities including advertising, news release, event fliers, and mass email to the Interested Party Databases of the GSAs. The purpose of these forums is to provide the public and stakeholders with a broad, subbasin-wide perspective of groundwater conditions in the region and allow each GSA describe important features for their specific area. These meetings would be held annually and promoted through various notification activities including advertising, news release, event fliers, and mass email to the Interested Party Databases of the GSAs.

## **4.2 ANNUAL REPORTS**

Following submittal of adopted GSPs, subbasins are required to develop and submit to DWR annual reports that identify progress and status of sustainable groundwater management activities (GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2). These annual reports will additionally be distributed to subbasin stakeholders through the Interested Party Database and various community meetings. The Kaweah Subbasin GSAs anticipate joint release of these annual reports and implementation of coordinated outreach activities.

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**APPENDICIES**

## 5.0 APPENDICIES

### Appendix A KEY MESSAGES

Version: June 7, 2018; Content is subject to change.

#### A.1 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

##### **What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (commonly referred to as “SGMA”), signed into law in 2014, provides a framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management across California. It requires that local and regional authorities in the medium and high priority groundwater basins form a locally-controlled and governed Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which will prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

##### **Is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related to the drought?**

Not directly. Sustainable groundwater management, much like management of surface water resources, is the result of a long-term vision and commitment by one or more water users or communities. That said, now that California has faced several consecutive years of drought, the need to manage groundwater is more relevant than ever. Some of our groundwater basins have reached an all-time historic low. Creating a framework for State oversight ensures a standard, consistent process to maintain and actively monitor and manage basins at the local level, and reduce impacts seen from overuse of these basins.

##### **Why was the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act established?**

Over the years, California water managers, individual well owners and communities that rely on groundwater resources have observed a rapid decline of water levels in some aquifers.<sup>17</sup> Impacts and issues related to the decline are apparent. In some areas, groundwater pumping has exacerbated land subsidence, which also threatens infrastructure such as roads, canals and bridges. Drought and low water levels have also impacted water quality and quantity of private well users.

In January 2014, the Governor’s Office identified groundwater management as one of ten key action steps in its California Water Action Plan. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, signed into law months later, follows up on that action, giving local agencies the ability to manage their respective basins following statewide guidelines.

##### **What does “Sustainable Groundwater Management” mean?**

“Sustainable groundwater management” is defined as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained long-term without causing undesirable results in six areas:

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<sup>17</sup> An **aquifer** is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand or silt) from which groundwater can be extracted using a water well.

## Appendices

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft if a basin is otherwise managed)
- Significant and unreasonable reduction in groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable sea water intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of surface water

### **Who is required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?**

The Act requires the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to comply with the Act within basins identified by the State as medium or high priority. Certain parts of the state, notably those for which groundwater use is under the jurisdiction of a court adjudication, are currently exempted from most of SGMA's mandates. Entities eligible to serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency are defined by the Act as a local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use management responsibilities within a groundwater basin ([California Water Code Section 10721\(n\)](#)). If no local agency steps forward, the county is the default agency. The statutory deadline to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency was June 30, 2017.

### **What is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency?**

A groundwater sustainability agency is one or more local governmental agencies that implement the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. A local agency is defined as one that has water supply, water management or land management authority. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies assess the conditions of their local groundwater basins, adopt locally-based sustainable management plans to create drought resiliency and improve coordination between land use and groundwater planning.

### **Will the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act affect existing water and property rights?**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act does not change existing groundwater or property rights. Groundwater rights will continue to be subject to regulation under article 10, section 2, of the California Constitution.

### **What authority will Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have?**

Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies can choose to implement as many of the legal powers as they deem necessary for management of their basin. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as currently enacted empowers all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to:

- Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances and resolutions to implement the Act
- Monitor compliance and enforcement
- Require registration of groundwater wells
- Require appropriate measurement devices and reporting of extractions
- Investigate, appropriate and acquire surface water rights, groundwater and groundwater rights into the Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Acquire or augment local water supplies to enhance the sustainability of the groundwater basin
- Propose and collect fees
- Adopt and fund a Groundwater Sustainability Plan according to existing laws

## Appendices

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies may use a number of management tools to achieve sustainability goals. The specific tools and methods a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will use to achieve sustainability will be determined in discussion with stakeholders and identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

It is also important to note that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires local agencies to acknowledge Groundwater Sustainability Plans when a legislative body is adopting or substantially amending its General Plan. General Plans must accurately reflect the information in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan with regards to available water supplies.

### **Is the State trying to take over control of groundwater?**

The State legislature, in passage of SGMA, communicated its intent that sustainable groundwater management is best left with local government agencies with expertise and responsibilities over water supplies. To help foster local control, the Act provided local agencies with tools and authorities they previously lacked to manage groundwater resources sustainably. However, the legislation also included a series of triggers that would result in intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board in the event a subbasin failed to meet requirements of the Act. This State intervention occurs only if local efforts, including county efforts, to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or prepare a viable Groundwater Sustainability Plan are not successful. Where intervention occurs, the State can impose fees and groundwater pumping restrictions that can remain in place until local efforts are able to sustainably manage groundwater resources. The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency partners are committed to maintaining local control and managing groundwater resources on behalf of agricultural water users, rural and urban communities and the environment. Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency partners are committed to maintaining local control and managing groundwater resources on behalf of agricultural water users, rural and urban communities and the environment.

### **Would the Kaweah Subbasin be sustainable had the legislature and the courts not re-allocated surface water supplies used for farms, cities and businesses to the environment?**

The re-assignment of surface water supplies to environmental purposes by the courts and legislature is one of several factors contributing to chronic groundwater overdraft in the Kaweah Subbasin. Without a doubt, this re-allocation away from direct or in-lieu groundwater recharge has exacerbated the overdraft problems and challenged the ability of local agencies to sustainably manage groundwater resources. However, growth in the regional economy and population, coupled with changes agricultural practices, are also substantial contributors to groundwater overdraft and cannot be ignored. Sustainability requires striking a balance among all water users – agriculture, municipal, industrial and environmental – that is reasonable, supportable and valid.

### **If Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are locally controlled, what is the State's role in this effort?**

The California Department of Water Resources is the agency responsible for oversight of the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans, but the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and California Water Commission also have roles in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Department of Water Resources has a list of regulations, objectives and actions formulated to assist local agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies with the preparation and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Under law, all regulations adopted by the Department of Water Resources become effective only upon approval by the California Water Commission. Under a limited set of circumstances, the

Water Board may intervene if local efforts to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or prepare a viable Groundwater Sustainability Plan are not successful.

**How will adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies be handled?**

The regulations require that all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies coordinate with adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in a given basin. This coordination will occur through additional discussions with neighboring agencies as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are formally developed, and the Groundwater Sustainability Plans will describe how the adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will work together to achieve groundwater sustainability for the entire basin. The State requires that multiple Agencies within a basin or subbasin each sign on to a coordination agreement which binds their respective management activities together in a cohesive fashion.

## **A.2 KAWEAH SUBBASIN**

**When was the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed?**

The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a joint powers authority (JPA) of local public agencies and was established on September 14, 2015. The founding members of the JPA – the cities of Tulare and Visalia, and Tulare Irrigation District – notified DWR of the GSAs formation on September 16, 2015, becoming one of the first GSAs established in California under SGMA.

**How many GSAs are in the Kaweah Subbasin?**

DWR recognizes three GSA in the Kaweah Subbasin. They include: East Kaweah GSA, Greater Kaweah GSA and Mid-Kaweah GSA.

**What is the health of the Kaweah Subbasin?**

The Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118) has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources as being in critical over-draft and a high priority as part of the [CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization](#). The region has extensive history of groundwater overdraft dating back to the early 1900s. Construction of federal Central Valley Project in the 1940s and 1950s served to stabilize groundwater conditions in the region through delivery of surface water from the San Joaquin River watershed. Likewise, importation of State Water Project supplies to interconnected areas westerly of the Kaweah Subbasin have aided in sustaining groundwater levels. However, a variety of factors have led to chronic long-term overdraft in the region, including competition for available surface water supplies, population growth, and expansion of farming in areas fully or partially dependent on groundwater.

**What is the health of the Mid-Kaweah GSA portion of Subbasin?**

Groundwater supplies within the Mid-Kaweah GSA are comparatively better than adjoining areas within and adjacent to its boundaries. This health primarily stems from the surface water rights and contracts held by Tulare Irrigation District, and its groundwater recharge capabilities that have assisted the cities of Tulare and Visalia to leverage their existing resources for improved groundwater management. California Water Service Company, a for-profit water purveyor to residential and commercial customers in Visalia, has also contributed to improved groundwater conditions through purchase of surface water supplies from willing sellers. The Mid-Kaweah GSA portion of the subbasin,

however, continues to experience groundwater overdraft conditions that lead to many of the undesirable results that SGMA was intended to resolve.

#### **What is California Water Service Company's involvement in Mid-Kaweah GSA?**

California Water Company is a for-profit water utility regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Water utilities subject to CPUC regulations are ineligible to independently function as a GSA as they are not a local public agency as defined in California Water Code §10721(n). These utilities can serve in a limited capacity on a GSA Board of Directors; however, this must be accomplished through a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement. While the California Water Company has not been afforded a voting membership on the agency's Board of Directors, its staff are active participants on agency committees including the Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

#### **How are groundwater users involved?**

During passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the legislature placed a high value on active involvement by groundwater users in planning for and preserving our shared natural resource. Among the requirements in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is development of a list of interested parties (Water Code §10723.2) and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in development and operation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan. The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency team desires to understand and utilize ideas from groundwater user stakeholders throughout development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the region. Interested Parties are encouraged to sign up for notifications from the Mid-Kaweah GSA website, and attend and participate in Board and Advisory Committee meetings.

#### **Will stakeholders or the public have the opportunity to weigh in on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development?**

Stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for notifications by the Mid-Kaweah GSA on its website ([www.midkawah.org](http://www.midkawah.org)). The primary venues for stakeholders to get involved in the GSP development process are regularly scheduled Mid-Kaweah GSA Board and Advisory Committee meetings. The agency also anticipates conducting briefings to member agency boards and commissions, presentations to civic and non-profit organizations, and various public meetings. The schedule for Board and Advisory Committees meetings is available on the website.

#### **What is the governance structure for the Mid-Kaweah GSA? How will the agencies work together to run it?**

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is governed by a six-member Board of Directors, with two members from each of the founding members. Directors are elected officials who have been appointed to serve by their respective boards or councils. The equal representation on the Board is intended to foster active collaboration and cooperation towards meeting the mutual issues associated with SGMA. The JPA that formed the agency stipulates voting thresholds by issue.

## **A.3 GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

#### **What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?**

## Appendices

A Groundwater Sustainability Plan is the plan developed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency that provides for sustainably managed groundwater that meets the requirements of the State's new groundwater laws. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in high- and medium-priority groundwater basins are required to submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the California Department of Water Resources. The plan must outline how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will implement, manage and measure specific actions for the health and viability of the basins. The California Department of Water Resources will evaluate the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide the Groundwater Sustainability Agency with an assessment of the plan and any necessary recommendations within two years following its establishment.

### **When does a Groundwater Sustainability Plan have to be established?**

Subbasins deemed to be in critical overdraft (which includes the Kaweah Subbasin) are required to complete and begin implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2020. Subbasin) are required to complete and begin implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2020.

### **What will the process and timing be for development of the GSP?**

The Mid-Kaweah GSA is currently working on developing its GSP. The agency projects release of a Public Draft GSP in June 2019, for a 60-day public review period and public meeting to receive comments. The GSP will be revised to address public and stakeholder comments. The Final GSP will be adopted at a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for December 2019. All GSPs in the Kaweah Subbasin are due no later than January 31, 2020.

### **What happens after the GSP is completed?**

Following submittal and acceptance by DWR, the GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs will begin implementation. Each year, the agencies are required to submit a combined Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report to the State (Water Code §10728). Pursuant to § 356.4 the agencies are required to evaluate their GSP least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department. § 356.4 the agencies are required to evaluate their GSP least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department.

### **Are GSPs required for new or amended County or City General Plan?**

Prior to adopting a new or amended General Plan, Government Code §65350.5 requires each planning agency to review any applicable groundwater sustainability plan, groundwater management plan, adjudicated water right or interim plan by the State Water Resources Control Board (commencing with §10735). In addition to this, the GSA (per §653352.5) is required to provide the planning agency the current GSP (or alternative); judgment, decree, agreement or interim plan, if relevant; and a report addressing the anticipated effect on implementation of the GSP by the proposed General Plan update or amendment.

## Appendix B CASGEM GROUNDWATER PRIORITIZATION

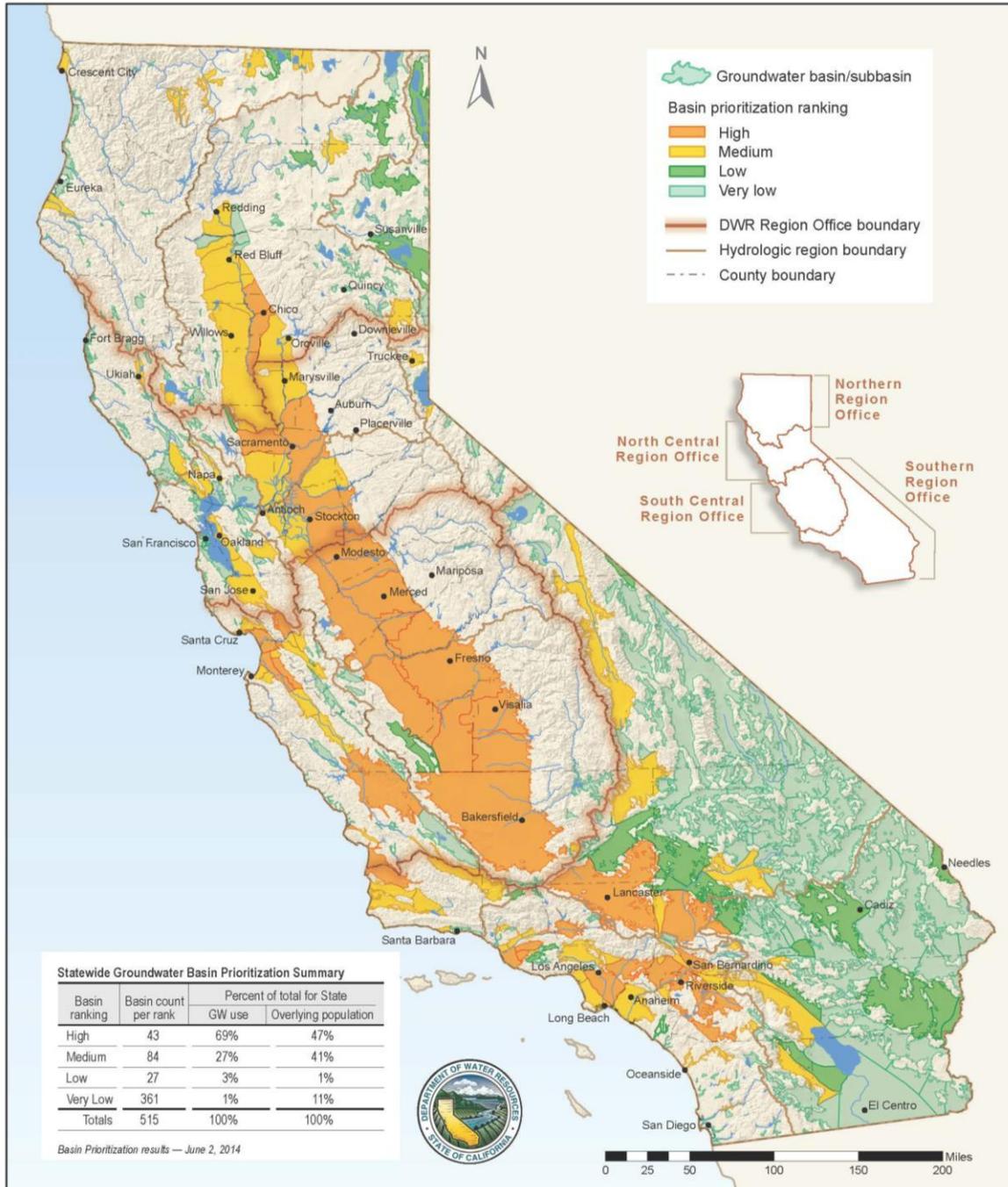
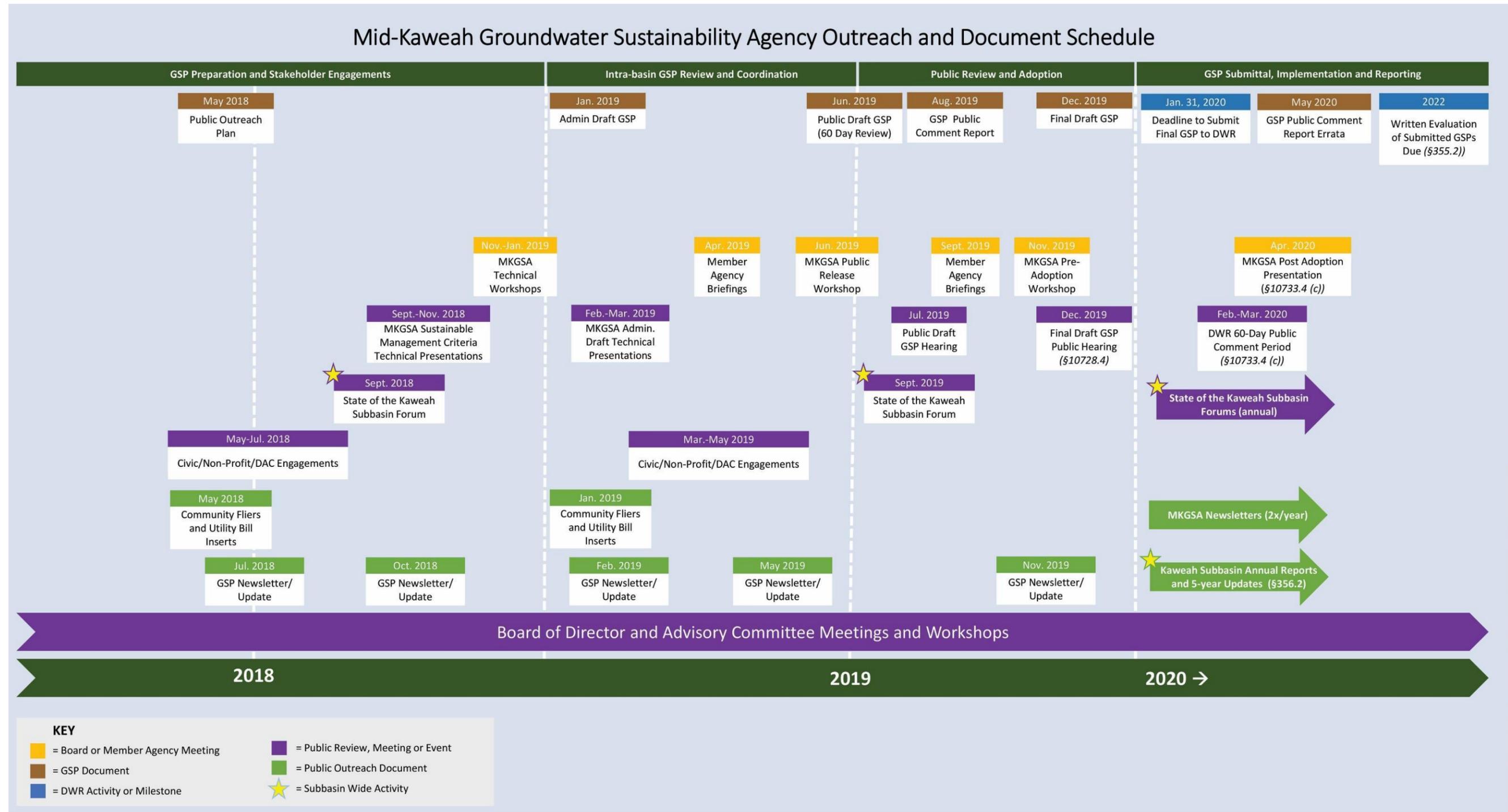


Figure 3 CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization

## **Appendix C MID-KAWEAH GSA OUTREACH AND COORDINATION SCHEDULE**

Appendix C Mid-Kaweah GSA Outreach and Coordination Schedule





## **Appendix D** COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DATABASE



Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>WC 10723.1 Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Agricultural Well Owners</b>	TID	Agriculture	Agricultural Well Owners	N/A		
<b>Tulare County Farm Bureau</b>	Tulare	Agriculture	Citizens Groups	N/A	E: tcfb@tulcofb.org Web: http://www.tulcofb.org/	
<b>Downtown Visalia Kiwanis Club</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	E: kiwanisvisalia@gmail.com Web: https://www.facebook.com/visaliakiwanis/	
<b>Rotary Club of Visalia Breakfast</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Web: http://www.vbrotary.org/ T: 559-802-6755	
<b>Sequoia-Visalis Kiwanis Club</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Wednesday mornings	Debra Hill, President E: info@sequoia-visaliakiwanis.org Web: http://www.sequoia-visaliakiwanis.com/about.html	
<b>Tulare International Kiwanis Club</b>	Tulare	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Web: http://www.tularenoonkiwanis.org/	
<b>Tulare Morning Kiwanis</b>	Tulare	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Tuesdays at 6:30 am	E: morningkiwanis@gmail.com	
<b>Visalia Club Rotary Club</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Thursdays	Web: http://www.visaliarotaryclub.com/ T: 559-967-1357	
<b>Visalia County Center Rotary Club</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Tuesdays at noon	Deborah Volosin, President Web: https://www.vccrotary.org/ E: membership@vccrotary.org	
<b>Visalia Latino Rotary</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Wednesdays	Lina Contreras, President E: lina.contreras@sbcglobal.net Web: https://www.visalialatinorotary.org/	
<b>Visalia Sunset Rotary</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly	Barbara Hood, President Web: http://www.visaliasunsetrotary.org/ E: [Use contact form on website]	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>West Visalia Kiwanis Club</b>	Visalia	Civic Organization	Citizens Groups	Weekly - Thursdays at noon	Buz Southard, 2017 Club President E: buzdonna@sbcglobal.net Web: http://www.westvisaliakiwanis.org/	
<b>Community Water Center</b>	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	N/A	Adriana Renteria, Regional Water Management Coordinator E: adriana.renteria@communitywatercenter.org T: (559) 733-0219 Web: https://www.communitywatercenter.org/	Primarily focuses on northern Tulare County.
<b>Leadership Counsel for Justice &amp; Accountability</b>	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	NA	<a href="http://www.leadershipcounsel.org">www.leadershipcounsel.org</a>	Non-Profit Outreach Partner
<b>Self-Help Enterprises</b>	Tulare County	DAC Advocate	Citizens Groups	N/A	Web: https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/	Non-Profit Outreach Partner
<b>Building Industry Association</b>	Visalia	Other - Building Industry	Citizens Groups	N/A	Web: https://www.biatkc.org/ E: build@biatkc.com T: 1-559-625-5447	Represents builders, developers, subcontractors and associated businesses in Tulare and Kings Counties
<b>Saputo Dairy Foods USA</b>	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied	N/A	T: (559) 686-2876 [General phone number]	
<b>Land O Lakes</b>	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied			
<b>Kraft Foods</b>	Tulare	Industrial	Commercial and Industrial Self-Supplied			
<b>County Manor Mobile Home Community</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	T: 559-732-8144 E: countrymanor@towermgmt.com Web: http://countrymanormhc.com/community.htm 820 S. Chinowth Street , Visalia, California 93277	-
<b>East Tulare Hamlet</b>	GKGSA	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			Served by CalWater's Tulco System. System has one well. CalWater and the City of Tulare are in the process of linking to the system to provide emergency water supply if the last well breaks down.
<b>Lone Oak Tract</b>	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan "The Lone Oak Tract, located west of the city limit, is a disadvantaged community that includes approximately 27 housing units and 139 residents (as of the 2010 Census). " Relies on City of Tulare's water distribution system for water service.

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>Matheny Tract</b>	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Reinelda Palma, Community Activist  Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan: "The Matheny Tract, located south of the city limit between Pratt and I Streets, is considered a disadvantaged community, with approximately 349 housing units and a population of 1,225 people (as of the 2010 Census)." Previously served by Pratt Mutual Water Company, now consolidated with City of Tulare. Served by City of Tulare since 2016. City worked with SHE.
<b>Mooney Grove Manor Mobile Home Park</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	E: mgoffice559@gmail.com T: (559) 688-2681	Different well than Mooney Grove Regional Park?
<b>Mooney Grove Park</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Neil Pilegard, County of Tulare, Parks and Recreation Manager	Tulare County Park <a href="https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-communities-dacs/water-system-search/water-system-details/?GISWSID=5400951">https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-communities-dacs/water-system-search/water-system-details/?GISWSID=5400951</a>
<b>Mountain View Mobile Home Park</b>	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A		
<b>Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company</b>	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			
<b>Royal Oaks Mobile Home Park</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	T: (855) 585-3268	
<b>Souls Tract</b>	Tulare	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	From Tulare County General Plan: "The Souls Tract, located west of the city limit, is a disadvantaged community that includes approximately 20 housing units and 125 residents (as of the 2010 Census)." Previously served by Souls Mutual Water Company. Connected to the City of Tulare's water system in 2008. However, the system suffered water loss due to leakage or backflow. Souls Mutal Water Company partnered with SHE to secure State funding to resolve the connection issues. Also previously experienced Nitrate issues.
<b>The Lakes Mobile Home Park</b>	?	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A		
<b>Waukena Hamlet</b>	TID	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community			Defined as a SDAC in the Waukena Hamlet Plan 2017, Strategic Growth Council. Domestic wells and sewer.
<b>Westlake Village Mobile Home Park</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	E: popkinfamilytrust@gmail.com T: (559) 734-2811 (Visalia location) E: (213) 383-3222 (Main Office Location) Web: <a href="http://westlakemobilepark.com/">http://westlakemobilepark.com/</a>	
<b>Willow Glen Mobile Estates</b>	Visalia	Disadvantaged Community	Disadvantaged Community	N/A	[DOUBLE-CHECK CONTACT INFO] T: (559) 732-1541 225 N Akers St, Visalia, CA 93291	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>Buena Vista School</b>	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Carole Mederos, Superintendent/Principal E: cmederos@buenavistaeagles.org T: 559-686-2015 Web: https://buenavistaeagles.org/	
<b>Liberty School</b>	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Keri Montoya, Superintendent/Principal Address: 11535 Avenue 264, Visalia, CA 93277 Phone: (559) 686-1675 Web: https://les-libertyesd-ca.schoolloop.com/	School District: Liberty School District
<b>Oak Valley School</b>	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Fernie Marroquin, Superintendent E: f.marroquin@oakvalleyschool.org T: (559) 688-2908 24500 Rd 68, Tulare, CA 93274	School District: Oak Valley Union Elementary School District
<b>Palo Verde School</b>	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Phil Anderson, Superintendent T: (559) 688-0648 Web: https://pvuesd-ca.schoolloop.com/ 9637 Ave 196, Tulare, CA 93274	School District: Palo Verde Elementary School District
<b>Sundale School District</b>	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Terri Rufert, Superintendent E: terri.rufert@sundale.org T: (559) 688-7451 Web: https://suesd-ca.schoolloop.com/	
<b>Sycamore Valley Academy</b>	Visalia	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	6832 Ave. 280 • Visalia, CA 93277 http://www.sycamorevalleyacademy.org/	Formerly Packwood Elementary School
<b>Waukena Joint Union School District</b>	Tulare	Rural School	Domestic Well Owner	N/A	Terri Lancaster, Superintendent/Principal E: terril@waukena.k12.ca.us T: (559) 686-3328  Gloria Solis, Secretary T: (559) 686-3328  Web: http://www.tcoe.org/districts/waukena.shtm	
<b>Homestead Well Owners</b>	Tulare County	De Minimus User	Domestic Well Owners	N/A		
<b>City of Tulare, Planning Department</b>	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Josh McDonnell, AICP Community & Economic Development Director T: 559-684-4210 E: jmcdonnell@tulare.ca.gov	

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>City of Visalia, Planning Department</b>	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Paul Vernal, City of Visalia, City Planner T: 559-713-4025 E: Paul.Bernal@visalia.city	
<b>County of Tulare, Planning Department</b>	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Reed Schneke, County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency, Director E: RSchenke@co.tulare.ca.us  Denise England, County of Tulare, Water Resources Program Director E: DEngland@co.tulare.ca.us T: 559-636-5005	
<b>Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission</b>	Tulare County	Land Use Planning Agency	Governmental and Land Use Agencies	N/A	Ben Guiliani, Executive Officer E: bGiuliani@tularecog.org T: (559) 623-0450	
<b>Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District</b>	Farmersville	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Groundwater Monitoring /Reporting Agency	Monthly - First Tuesday of each month	Web: <a href="http://www.kdwd.com/index.html">http://www.kdwd.com/index.html</a>	
<b>Bedel Mutual Water Co.</b>	Visalia	Municipal and Industrial	Private Water Purveyor	N/A	Danny Thron; 2133 E WESTCOTT AVE VISALIA, CA 93292 Gary and Jeanne Orr; 932 S Pinkham St, Visalia, CA 93292-1582	Serves 155
<b>California Water Service Co.</b>	Visalia	Municipal and Industrial	Private Water Purveyor	N/A	Tammy Kelly, Visalia District Manager T: (559) 624-1620	Tamara Kelly also serves on the Tulare County Water Commission
<b>Tulare Irrigation District</b>	Tulare County	Agriculture	Public Water Purveyor	N/A		
<b>City of Tulare, Water Department</b>	Tulare	Municipal and Industrial	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Tim Doyle, Water and Wastewater Collections Utility Manager T: (559) 684-4324 E: tdoyle@tulare.ca.gov 3981 S. K Street, Tulare, CA 93274	
<b>Corcoran Irrigation District</b>	Corcoran	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Gene Kilgore, General Manager E: gkilgore@corcoranid.com T: (559) 992-5165	2015 AWMP prepared by Summers Engineering Inc.

Appendix D Communication and Engagement Activities Database

<b>Kings County Water District</b>	Kings County	Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	Dennis Mills, General Manager E: kcwdh2o@sbcglobal.net T: T: 559-584-6412 200 North Campus Drive, Hanford, CA 93230
<b>Lakeside Water District</b>		Water District, Adjacent Subbasin	Public Water Purveyor	N/A	
<b>Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe</b>	Leemore	Tribe	Tribal Government and Communities	N/A	Noah Ignacio, Tachi Yokut Environmental Director E: Nignacio@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov T: 559-924-1278  Jason Sisco, Tachi Yokut Environmental Technician E: JSisco@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov T: 559-924-1278  Web: <a href="https://www.tachi-yokut-nsn.gov/">https://www.tachi-yokut-nsn.gov/</a> T: (559) 924-1278
<b>Waksache Tribe</b>		Tribe	Tribal Government and Communities	N/A	[Can't find any information. Check spelling?]





# Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A COMMITTEE

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### Advisory Committee

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#### Name of Committee

Name Lee Johnson

Mailing/ 6017 W Oak Ave.  
Residence  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Phone 559-732-5128

Visalia, CA Zip Code 93291 Work Phone 559-584-1411

Email lee.johnson@co.kings.ca.us Cell Phone 559-303-3313\*

**NOTE: Of the contact information provided, please indicate with an asterisk "\*" which is the best way to reach you.**

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### TRAINING, EXPERIENCE and/or EDUCATION:

B.S. in Finance, Oklahoma State University, 1985; Master of Public Health, Fresno State, 1997  
~~10/2016 to Present, Supervising Environmental Health Officer, County of Kings~~  
10/2014-10/2016, Natural Resource Conservation Analyst, City of Visalia  
~~1997-2014, Environmental Health Officer, County of Kings~~  
1985-1988, Peace Corps Volunteer

#### Additional Pertinent Skills, Experience or Interests:

Experience working with water conservation and supply issues in the City of Visalia's Natural Resource Conservation Division under Kim Loeb. Familiarity with the background, concepts, and requirements of SGMA, GSAs, and GMPs. Experience interpreting and enforcing a wide range of environmental regulations in the Central Valley.

#### Community activities in which you are involved:

Looking to return to participating in community service after a hiatus for family and work commitments

#### Current or prior service on a City Board, Committee or Commission:

Former Member and Chair, Visalia Environmental Committee  
~~Former Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Kings County Association of Governments~~  
Former Administrator, Consolidated Waste Management Authority

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**Employment Information:**

Present Occupation: Supervising Environmental Health Officer

Name of Firm: County of Kings

Address: 330 Campus Drive, Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: 559-584-1411

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**1) Describe any qualifications, experience, and education, as well as any technical or professional background you may have relative to the duties of this position.**

The combination of my business and science educational background, and my experience in local environmental regulation and sustainability issues provide me with a background well-suited to the Mid-Kaweah SGA Advisory Committee. My technical background and familiarity with water conservation and local supply management issues and practices will help minimize my learning curve to get up to speed on the specific issues facing the SGA.

Please contact Leslie Caviglia and/or Kim Loeb for their input on my qualifications and suitability to serve as a committee member.

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**2) Why are you interested in serving on this committee?**

I believe my background, experience, and interest in the vital topic of ensuring sustainable water supplies can provide a true benefit and add value to the committee. I value community service, and I have a history of volunteering to improve my community. Nothing is more fundamental than the availability safe and sufficient water supplies, and I would be privileged to be able to bring my unique background and skill set to helping ensure the sustainability of that resource in the region where I have lived and raised a family for 27 years.

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**3) What are your goals in serving on this committee?**

Advisory committee members often lack the technical understanding and expertise needed to be able to make informed contributions to the committees they serve until they have served for a long enough period of time to effectively build that knowledge. Since I am already conversant on the subject of groundwater conservation and sustainability, my expectation and my goal is that I will be able to get up to speed relatively quickly on the issues of primary concern to this GSA, and, utilizing my experience and background, be of immediate and true value to the Agency.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS APPLICATION BECOMES PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

ON OCCASION, BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEMBERS, CITY STAFF, AND/OR THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU, PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE ON YOUR APPLICATION THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU (i.e. mailing address, phone number, or email address.)

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application and any accompanying documents is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

5/23/18

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

You are invited to attach additional pages, enclose a copy of your resume or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist in the evaluation of your application.

When completed mail original to:

Mid-Kaweah GSA  
Attn: Paul Hendrix, Manager  
144 So. L Street, Suite N  
Tulare, CA 93274

Or send a scanned copy to:

[jph@midkaweah.org](mailto:jph@midkaweah.org)

## Mid-Kaweah GSA Advisory Committee

### Current Members:

1. Mark Boyes – At-large, Tulare (ag.-related business)
2. Eric Furtado – At-large, Visalia (Calif. Water Service Co.)
3. Richard Garcia – Environmental, Visalia (Sierra Club)
4. Mike Lane – At-large, Visalia (Building Industry Assn.)
5. Irene Lemons – At-large, Okieville (Okieville-Highland Acres MWC)
6. Sopac Mulholland – Environmental, Visalia (Sequoia Riverlands Trust)
7. Jim Nichols – Agriculture, Tulare (Nichols Farms)
8. Jessi Snyder – DAC, Visalia (Self-Help Enterprises)
9. Blake Wilbur – Agriculture, Tulare (SBS Ag.)
10. Edward Henry – At large, Tulare (retired, CA Dept. of Food & Ag.)

### Remaining Eligible Applicants:

- Michael Tharp – Engrg. consultant, Visalia 12/15
- Albert Silva – Retired from State Dept. of Corrections, Tulare 11/15
- Mathew Razor – Engr. w/ 4 Creeks, Visalia 3/16
- Mark Krauter – VP, Seven Seas Fruit, Visalia 12/15
- Malcolm Jones – Retired, Visalia 2/16
- Peter Johnson – Retired, USPS, Visalia 12/15
- Clayton Ipsen – Admin. Director, Adventist Health, Visalia 2/16
- John Gonzalez – University Coordinator, CSUF, Visalia 3/16
- Ryan Dodd – Soil Scientist w/ Cascade Earth Sciences, Visalia 12/15
- Elizabeth Burton – Employee w/ Self-Help, Visalia 2/16
- Dezaraye Bagalayos – Employee w/ Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Visalia 12/15
- Carole Mederos – Rural School Dist. Superintendent, Tulare 9/17
- Phil Mirwald – Retired, Cal Water Service Co., Visalia 9/17
- Vincent Salinas – Consultant, CSUF, Visalia 9/17
- Lee Johnson – Health Officer @ Kings County, Visalia 5/18