

Section 1. Introduction to the TPDWD GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE TPDWD GSA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 1

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN § 354.12..... 3

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY § 354.4(A) 3

1.3 AGENCY INFORMATION 4

1.3.1 NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF THE AGENCY § 354.4(A)..... 5

1.3.2 ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE § 354.6(B); § 354.6(C) 5

1.3.3 LEGAL AUTHORITY § 354.6(D). 5

1.3.4 COST AND FUNDING OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION § 354.6(E) 6

1.4 TPDWD GSA PLAN AREA § 354.8 (A)(1); § 354.8(B) 6

1.4.1 OTHER TULE SUBBASIN GSP PLAN AREAS § 354.8(A)(2); § 354.8(A)(3) 7

1.4.2 SUBBASINS ADJACENT TO THE TULE SUBBASIN § 354.8(A)(1) 9

1.4.3 MANAGEMENT AREAS 9

1.4.3.1 TPDWD Management Area 10

1.4.4 OTHER JURISDICTIONAL AREAS WITHIN TPDWD GSA § 354.8(A)(3) 10

1.4.4.1 Federal Jurisdictions 11

1.4.4.2 State Jurisdictions 11

1.4.4.3 Tribal Jurisdictions 11

1.4.4.4 County, City, and Local Jurisdictions 11

1.4.5 LAND USE § 354.8(A)(4)..... 11

1.4.6 WATER USE SECTOR AND WATER USE TYPE § 354.8(A)(4)..... 12

1.4.6.1 Urban/Industrial Water Use and Water Sector 14

1.4.6.2 Agricultural Water Use and Water Source 14

1.4.6.3 Managed Recharge..... 15

1.4.7 EXISTING WELLS, WELL TYPES, AND DENSITY § 354.8(A)(5) 15

1.4.8 COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT UPON GROUNDWATER § 354.8(A)(5) 16

1.4.8.1 Potentially Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems..... 17

1.4.8.2 Groundwater Dependent Communities 18

1.4.9 EXISTING WATER RESOURCE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS § 354.8(C) 19

1.4.9.1 Incorporation of Existing Monitoring and Management Programs..... 23

1.4.10 LIMITATIONS OF OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY § 354.8(D)..... 23

1.4.11 CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS § 354.8(E)..... 23

1.4.12 LAND USE PLANS § 354.8(F)(1) 24

1.4.12.1 Tulare County 2030 General Plan Update 24

1.4.13 WATER SUPPLY ASSUMPTIONS § 354.8(F)(2)..... 30

1.4.14 SUMMARY OF WELL PERMITTING PROCESS § 354.8(F)(4) 31

1.4.15 EFFECTS OF LAND USE PLANS OUTSIDE OF THE TULE SUBBASIN § 354.10(F)(5) 32

1.5 NOTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS 32

1.5.1 BENEFICIAL USERS § 354.10(A) 33

1.5.2 LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD BY THE AGENCY § 354.10(B)..... 33

1.5.3 COMMENTS RECEIVED ON PLAN AND AGENCY RESPONSES § 354.10(c) 33

1.5.4 COMMUNICATION 33

 1.5.4.1 Agency Decision-Making Process § 354.10(d)(1)..... 33

 1.5.4.2 Public Engagement Opportunities § 354.10(d)(2) 34

 1.5.4.3 Encouraging Active Participation of the Public § 354.10(d)(3) 35

 1.5.4.4 Informing the Public § 354.10(d)(4) 35

Table of Figures

FIGURE 1-1: TPDWD GSA PLAN AREA 6

FIGURE 1-2: PLAN AREAS WITHIN THE TULE SUBBASIN 7

FIGURE 1-3: SUBBASINS ADJACENT TO THE TULE SUBBASIN 8

FIGURE 1-4: MANAGEMENT ZONES 9

FIGURE 1-5: FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND TRIBAL JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES 12

FIGURE 1-6: LAND USE WITHIN TPDWD GSA 14

FIGURE 1-7: WATER USE SECTOR AND WATER USE TYPE 16

FIGURE 1-8: RECHARGE BASINS WITHIN THE TPDWD GSA 17

FIGURE 1-9: WELL DENSITY AND APPROXIMATE WELL LOCATION BY WELL USE TYPE 18

FIGURE 1-10: POTENTIALLY GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS WITHIN THE TPDWD GSA 20

FIGURE 1-11: TPDWD GSA DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE 41

List of Tables

TABLE 1-1: LAND USE WITHIN TPDWD GSA 14

TABLE 1-2: WELLS WITHIN TPDWD GSA BY WELL USE TYPE 19

Table of Exhibits

EXHIBIT 1-1: TULARE COUNTY PROPOSED LAND USE MAP 45

Appendices

APPENDIX 1-A: NOTICE OF THE TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AS PART OF THE TULE SUBBASIN

APPENDIX 1-B: RECHARGE POLICY

APPENDIX 1-C: TULARE COUNTY WELL PERMIT APPLICATION

1.1 Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan § 354.12

In 2014, the California state legislature approved a new groundwater management law commonly known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)¹. SGMA requires local agencies in medium and high priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans- (GSP, Plan). Tule Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin No. 5-022.13) has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. SGMA required that all areas of the Tule Subbasin be covered by a GSP no later than January 31, 2020.

Tea Pot Dome Water District (Tea Pot Dome WD) entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with other public agencies on December 6, 2016 to form the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Tea Pot Dome Water District gave a notice of withdrawal from the JPA to Eastern Tule GSA on June 3, 2024, effective November 30, 2024. The Tea Pot Dome WD elected to become a GSA on July 17, 2024, and timely approved and submitted an initial GSP on December 11, 2024.

The California Department of Water Resources, in March 2023, deemed the Tule Subbasin 2022 revised GSPs to be inadequate. In March 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prepared a Staff Report on the Tule Subbasin 2022 first amended GSPs (see <http://www.ltrid.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/tule-subbasin-state-water-control-board-staff-report.pdf>).

This document is the first submission of a GSP for the Tea Pot Dome WD GSA that addresses the DWR and SWRCB identified deficiencies and comments previously made to the Eastern Tule GSA's GSP, updates the information available to the GSA and provides further details regarding management actions and projects to comply with SGMA.

1.2 Executive Summary § 354.4(a)

The Tule Subbasin, as identified by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Bulletin 118 as Subbasin No. 5.22-13, is situated primarily in southern Tulare County with a small portion in Kern County within the southern portion of the Central Valley of California. The Tule Subbasin is one of the top producing agricultural regions in the area, with very fertile soils and a wide diversity of crops. The Tule Subbasin includes nine GSAs that have coordinated efforts per the adopted SGMA regulations through a common Coordination Agreement but each with a separate GSP.

The Tea Pot Dome WD GSA Plan area includes the irrigated acres within the political boundary of the Tea Pot Dome Water District (District). The Tea Pot Dome WD GSA surface water supplies for the Agency include the local water supplies of the Tule River and imported surface water from

¹ California Department of Water Resources, 2016

through a Friant Contract with the District, from the Central Valley Project. Surface water supplies are critical to supplying water for groundwater recharge in the GSA.

Average hydrologic conditions in the Tule Subbasin are represented by the twenty-year period from 1990/91 – 2009/10 (see **Chapter 2.3.2.4**, Attachment 2 *Tule Subbasin Setting*). Overdraft for the subbasin during this historically average representative period was estimated to be approximately -182,750 acre-feet/yr.

The Agency has a positive water balance of approximately 1,000 AF per year on average and does not have an overdraft based on average hydrologic conditions from 1990/91 – 2009/2010. This is due to irrigation demand being met by annual precipitation, sustainable yield pumping, imported surface water and stored surface water. An annual average of 1,000 acre-feet of imported surface water, beyond irrigation needs, is recharged and stored in the aquifer to meet future irrigation demand.

Through a coordinated effort with the other GSAs within the Subbasin, the GSAs prepared a common Basin Setting (see Tule Subbasin Setting as Attachment 2 of this GSP), Subbasin Sustainability Goal, definitions for undesirable results, and a plan for basin-wide monitoring.

The Sustainability Goal of the Tule Subbasin is defined in the Coordination Agreement as the absence of undesirable results, accomplished by 2040 and achieved through a collaborative, subbasin-wide program of sustainable groundwater management by the various Tule Subbasin GSAs and achieved through a collaborative, subbasin-wide program of sustainable groundwater management by the various Tule Subbasin GSAs.

This Plan addresses the items identified in the SGMA regulations specific to the Agency, including descriptions of the physical characteristics, the water budget (historic and future), specific monitoring features and locations, quantifiable targets and minimum thresholds for depth to groundwater, groundwater storage, groundwater quality, and land subsidence between 2020 and 2040, and those projects and management actions proposed to implement during the 20 year planning horizon to achieve the Sustainability Goal. These projects and management actions will be critical to the success of the Plan, which initially focus on the implementation of an accounting system to track and monitor groundwater data to help inform and develop policies to adaptively manage groundwater pumping while minimizing impacts to agriculture production and economic impacts to the local communities and conjunctive use of water resources by offsetting groundwater pumping through groundwater recharge using surface water supplies at times of availability in excess of crop demand.

1.3 Agency Information

In addition to the information contained in this section, see **Appendix 1-A: Notice of the Tea Pot Dome Water District to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as part of the Tule Subbasin**.

1.3.1 Name and Mailing Address of the Agency § 354.4(a)

Tea Pot Dome Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
357 E. Olive Ave.
Tipton, CA 93272

1.3.2 Organization and Management Structure § 354.6(b); § 354.6(c)

The Agency is governed by its Board of Directors, which is constituted by the elected Board of Directors of Tea Pot Dome Water District. The following is the elected Board of Directors of the District as of plan approval:

President:	Matt Leider
Vice President:	Dyson Schneider
Director:	Tim Peltzer
Director:	Dave Sherwood
Director:	Ron Castro

The Plan Manager for the Tule Subbasin is identified in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement.

The District Board of Directors, sitting as the governing board of the Agency, has final authority for plan implementation. Eric Limas has been appointed Agency Manager by the Board of Directors. Agency and Plan implementation management is the responsibility of the Agency Manager.

Agency Manager:	Eric Limas, General Manager
Mailing Address:	357 E. Olive Avenue Tipton, CA 93272
Telephone:	559-686-4716
Email:	elimas@ltrid.org

1.3.3 Legal Authority § 354.6(d).

SGMA §10721(n) defines a “local agency” which may elect to serve a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as “a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.” The Tea Pot Dome Water District (District) is a public agency overlying a portion of the Tule Subbasin. The District is a California Water District formed in September 1954, under the provisions of California Water Code Division 13, initially for the purpose of obtaining a supplemental or partial water supply for irrigation; the California Water Code provides broad authority for Water Districts to manage the water supply available to and for the benefit of the landowners within their jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, the District is a local agency within the meaning of SGMA and is qualified to form a GSA. As stated in Water Code §10725-10762,9, the Agency has the power to develop and implement SGMA, including a GSP.

The Agency can adopt standards for measuring and reporting water use, develop and implement policies designed to reduce or eliminate overdraft within its boundaries, develop and implement conservation best management practices, and develop and implement metering, monitoring, and reporting related to groundwater pumping.

It is noted that, consistent with § 10720.5(b) of SGMA, which provides that nothing in SGMA or in a plan adopted under SGMA determines or alters surface or groundwater rights under common law or any provision of law that determines or grants surface water rights, nothing in this Coordination Agreement is intended to modify the water rights of any Person (as that term is defined under Section 19 of the Water Code). The GSA notes that it does not have the authority to modify any water rights through adoption of this GSP, nor does it intend that any in this GSP be construed as an admission by any Person (including without limitation the GSA, the Water District or by any landowner or user of groundwater) regarding any subject matter of this GSP, including without limitation any water right or priority of any water right that is claimed by any Person. Nor shall this GSP in any way be construed to represent an admission by a Person with respect to the subject or sufficiency of another Person's claim to any water or water right or priority or defenses thereto, or to establish a standard for the purposes of the determining the respective liability of any Person, except to the extent otherwise specified by law. Nothing in this GSP shall be construed as a waiver by any Person of its election to at any time assert a legal claim or argument as to water, water right or any subject matter of this GSP or defenses thereto. The division of Sustainable Yield among the GSA landowners under any Management Action adopted by this GSP does not constitute any determination that groundwater extractions by a landowner in excess of a budgeted amount would necessarily cause an undesirable result or that extractions less than a budgeted amount would necessarily not cause an undesirable result.

The GSA intends, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to preserve the water rights of all Persons affected by this GSP as they may exist as of the adoption date of the GSP or at any time thereafter. The GSA further intends that any dispute or claim arising out of or in any way related to a water right alleged by a Person shall be separately resolved before an appropriate judicial, administrative or enforcement body with proper jurisdiction.

1.3.4 Cost and Funding of Plan Implementation § 354.6(e)

There are several factors incorporated into estimating the total cost of the Plan Implementation, which are described in **Section 6. Plan Implementation** of this Plan. The Agency has identified several potential sources of funding for implementation in **Section 6.3**.

1.4 TPDWD GSA Plan Area § 354.8 (a)(1); § 354.8(b)

The area covered by the Agency and managed under this Plan includes 3,018.64 acres within Tulare County (see **Figure 1: TPDWD GSA Plan Area**). The Plan area includes the irrigated lands within the jurisdictional boundaries of Tea Pot Dome Water District. A portion of the City of Porterville Urban Development Boundary is located within the Tea Pot Dome Water District but is not part of the TPDWD GSA Area. (The City Urban Development Boundary is a

- Tea Pot Dome Water District GSA

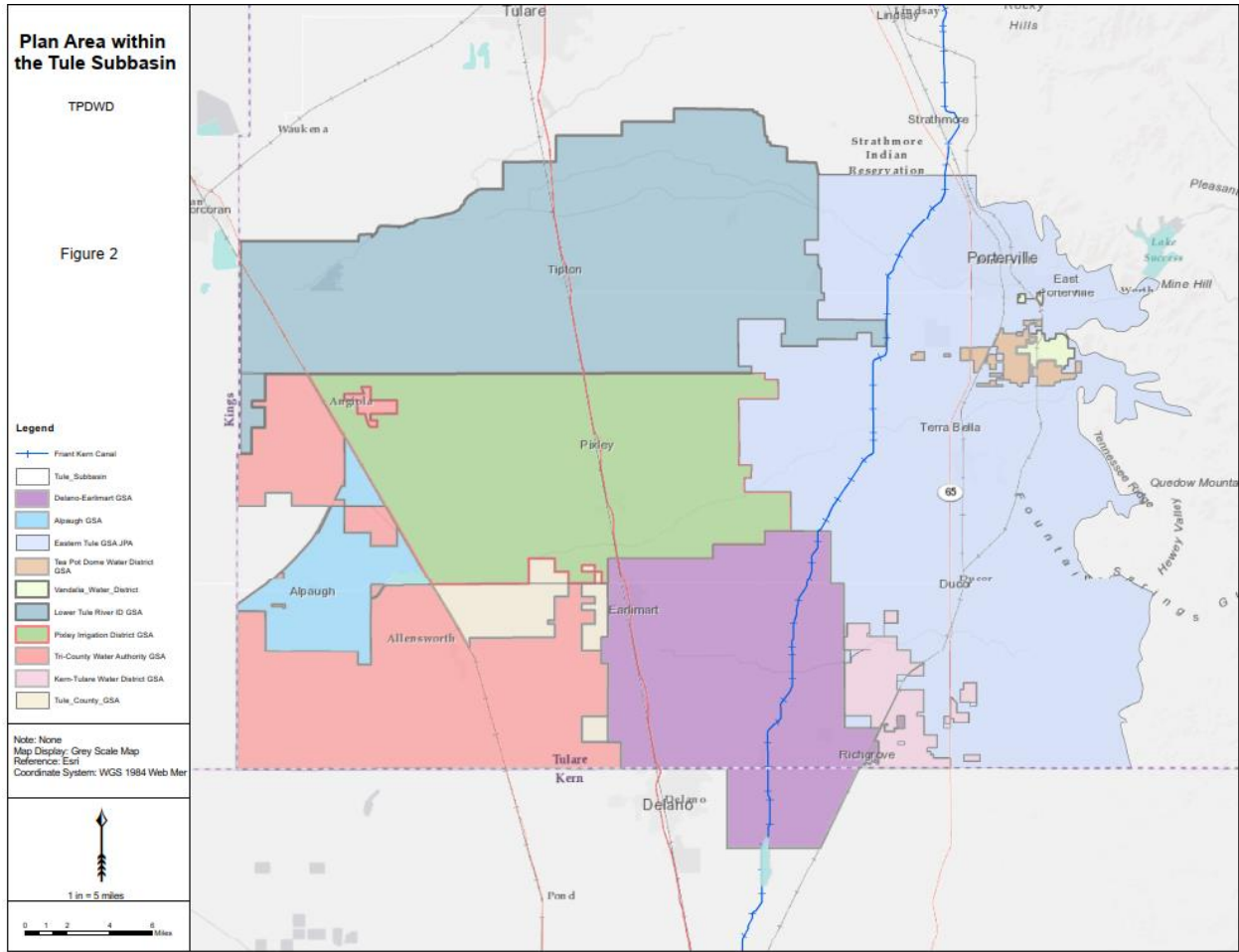


Figure 2: Plan Areas within the Tule Subbasin

1.4.2 Subbasins Adjacent to the Tule Subbasin § 354.8(a)(1)

The Agency is located in the Eastern-Southern portion of the Tule Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin as defined by the DWR (DWR Basin 5-022.13).² **Figure 3: Subbasins Adjacent to the Tule Subbasin** identifies the boundaries of the Agency within the larger Tule Subbasin, which is located completely within the Tule Subbasin and directly borders the Kaweah Subbasin and the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

- Kaweah Subbasin (DWR Basin 5-022.11)
- Tulare Lake Subbasin (DWR Basin 5-022.12)
- Kern County Subbasin (DWR Basin 5-022.14)

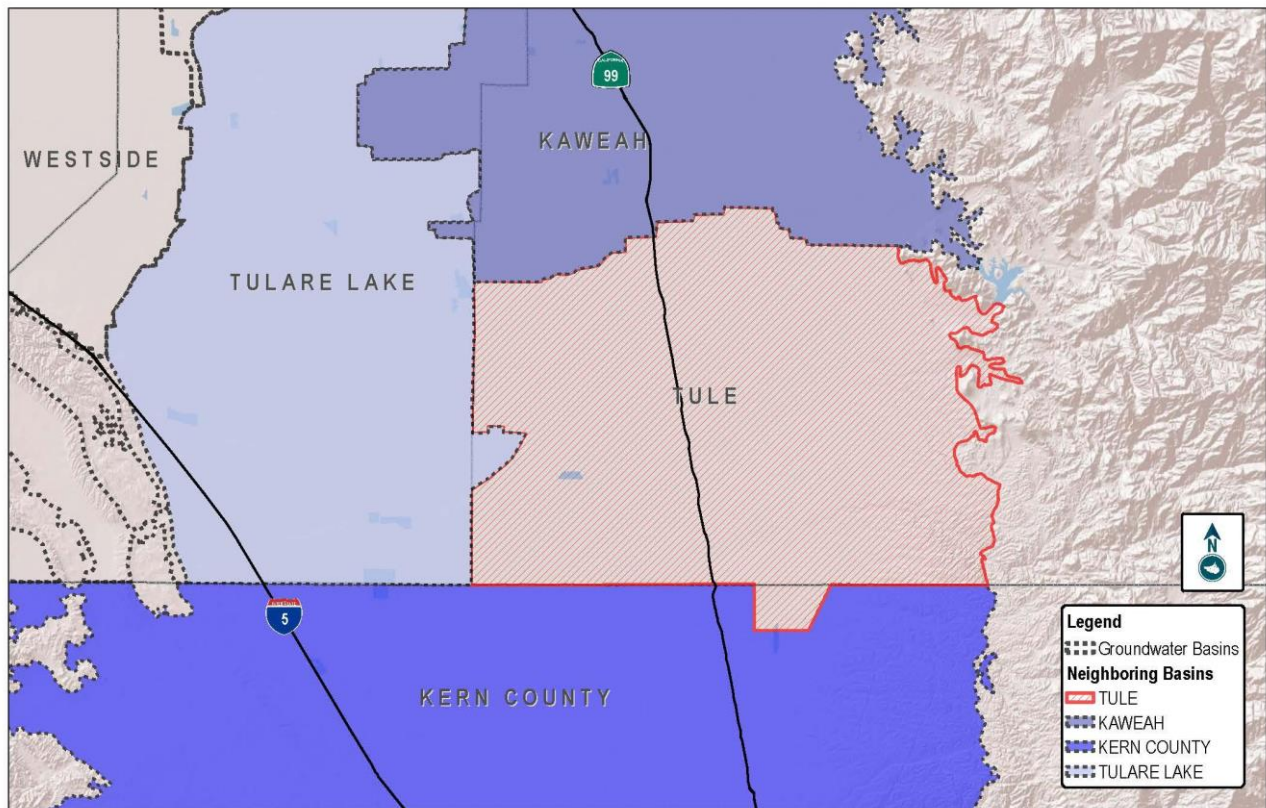


Figure 3: Subbasins Adjacent to the Tule Subbasin

1.4.3 Management Areas

The area covered by the Agency has one Management Area corresponding to the jurisdictional status of the irrigated lands within the Agency. Figure 1-4: shows the boundaries of the management area.

² California Department of Water Resources, 2016

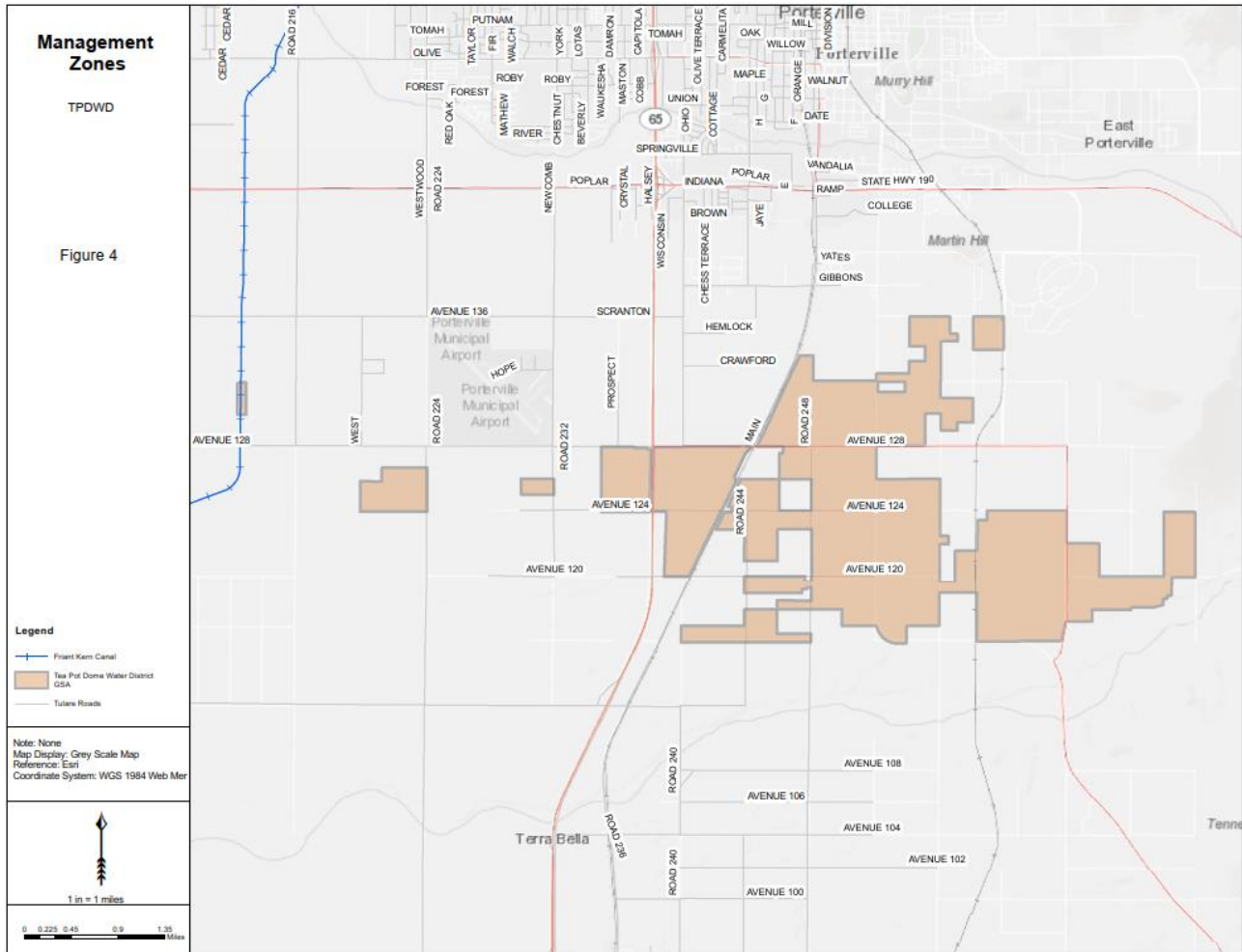


Figure 1-4: Management Zones

1.4.3.1 TPDWD Management Area

The Tea Pot Dome Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Management Area is defined as all irrigated lands within the jurisdictional boundaries of the GSA. The GSA consists of approximately 3,018.64 acres

Most of the lands within the GSA are made up of various types of agricultural and rural uses. Many of the rural residential dwellings or individuals commercial/industrial lots, which are often ag-related businesses, are served by individual domestic wells falling under the definition of a de minimis extractor under Water Code Section 10721(e).

1.4.4 Other Jurisdictional Areas within TPDWD GSA § 354.8(a)(3)

The presence and role of various state, federal, tribal, county, city, and local government entities who have jurisdiction within or have water management responsibilities within the vicinity of the Agency are described below.

1.4.4.1 Federal Jurisdictions

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) is the only federal agency with any significant land holdings and water management responsibilities within or near the Agency. Specifically, a reach of the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC), a canal integral to the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project, runs adjacent TPDWD GSA east boundary for a mile stretch between Avenue 136 and Avenue 128. The lands associated with the FKC are owned by the USBOR while the Friant Water Authority maintains and operates the FKC. The FKC conveys surface water to approximately 850,000 acres of irrigated land and several communities by way of contracts maintained by various water districts.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) owns and operates the Success Dam and Reservoir east of the Agency jurisdiction, which provides flood protection and irrigation storage to communities downstream of the Tule River.

1.4.4.2 State Jurisdictions

There is no significant presence of state jurisdictions within the Agency.

1.4.4.3 Tribal Jurisdictions

There is no significant presence of tribal lands within the Agency.

1.4.4.4 County, City, and Local Jurisdictions

TPDWD GSA is located entirely within the County of Tulare. Tulare County maintains ultimate land use planning authority for lands within TPDWD GSA’s jurisdiction. The City of Porterville is located near the TPDWD GSA but not within the jurisdictional boundaries.

1.4.5 Land Use § 354.8(a)(4)

Land use planning authority within TPDWD GSA is the responsibility of Tulare County. Relevant general and community plans that govern the land use within GSA’s jurisdiction are further described in **Section 1.4.12** and include the Tulare County General Plan Update.

Land use within the Agency is primarily agricultural. **Figure 1-6** and **Table –1**, illustrate and list Land Use within VWD GSA according to DWR 2023 survey data.

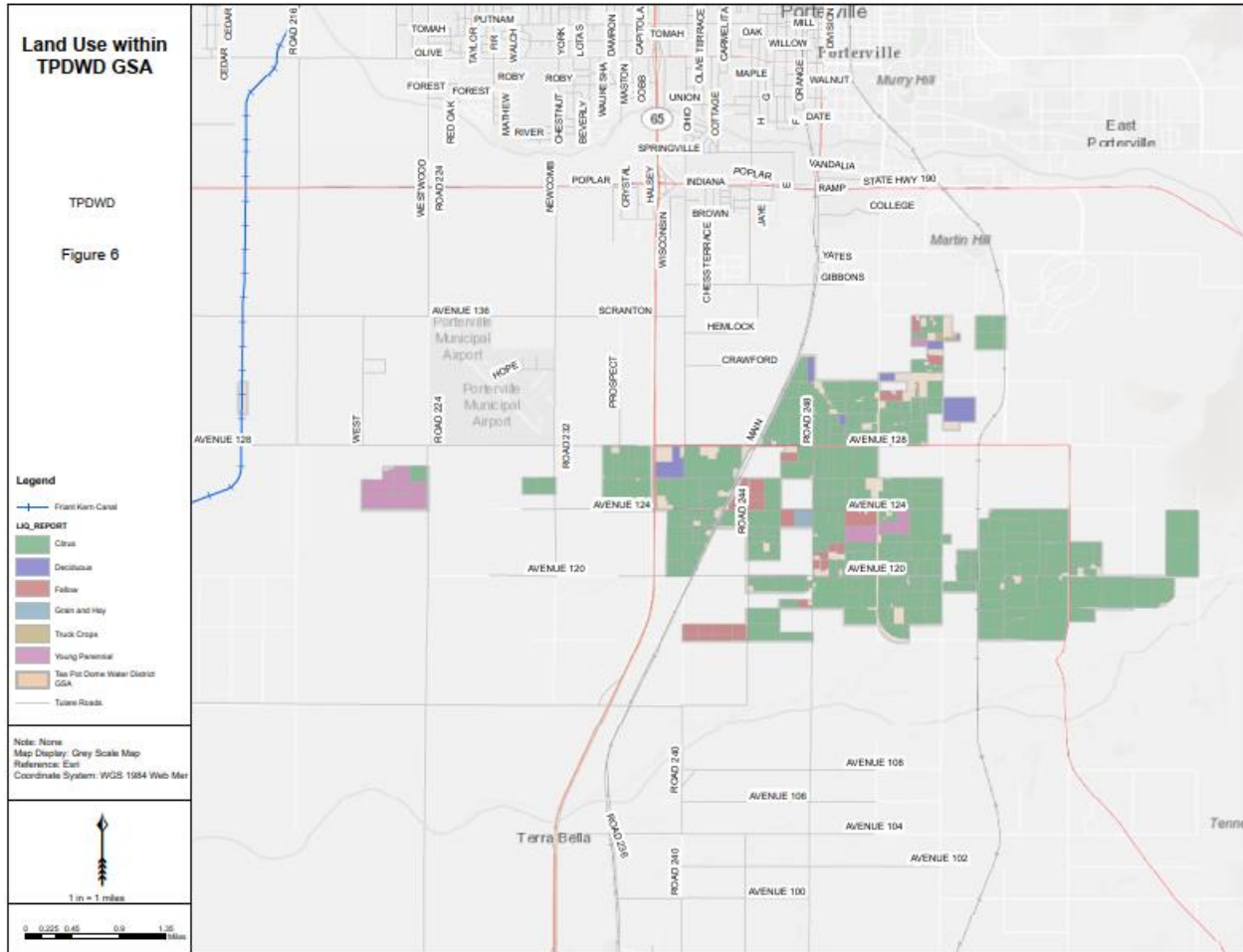


Figure 1-6: Land Use within TPDWD GSA

Table - 1: Land Use within TPDWD GSA

Crop Type	Acres
C CITRUS	2,354.81
D DECIDUOUS	69.78
GH GRAIN AND HAY	10.76
F FALLOW	452.58
TC TRUCK CROPS	5.61
YP YOUNG PERENNIALS	125.12
Total	3,018.67

1.4.6 Water Use Sector and Water Use Type § 354.8(a)(4)

Each water use sector within the Agency utilizes one or several water sources. Pursuant the definition of water use sector in the 23 CCR § 351(a), water use has been identified and grouped into three primary sectors:

- **Urban/Industrial:** Urban and industrial water use is assigned to household and commercial water use for rural domestic household use, and the limited industrial use of water – primarily associated with packing houses and agricultural facilities – that resides both within and outside of incorporated areas Industrial use is also assigned.
- **Agricultural:** Agricultural water use is assigned to water applied for commercial crop production, water utilized in dairy facilities, and water for livestock.
- **Managed Recharge:** Managed recharge water use is assigned to surface water specifically diverted to percolation ponds.

Water use sectors utilize one or more of the following water source types: areal precipitation, groundwater, local surface water, imported surface water, recharged surface water.

Section 2.3 of this Plan provides additional detail regarding the Agency’s water budget and further describes the water use sectors and the water source types used to meet the demand of each sector.

Each water use sector is described in **Section 1.4.6 Water Use Sector and Water Use Type** along with their affiliated water source type(s). **Figure 1-7: Water Use Sector and Water Use Type** identifies water use sectors by water source, and existing recharge ponds within the Agency.

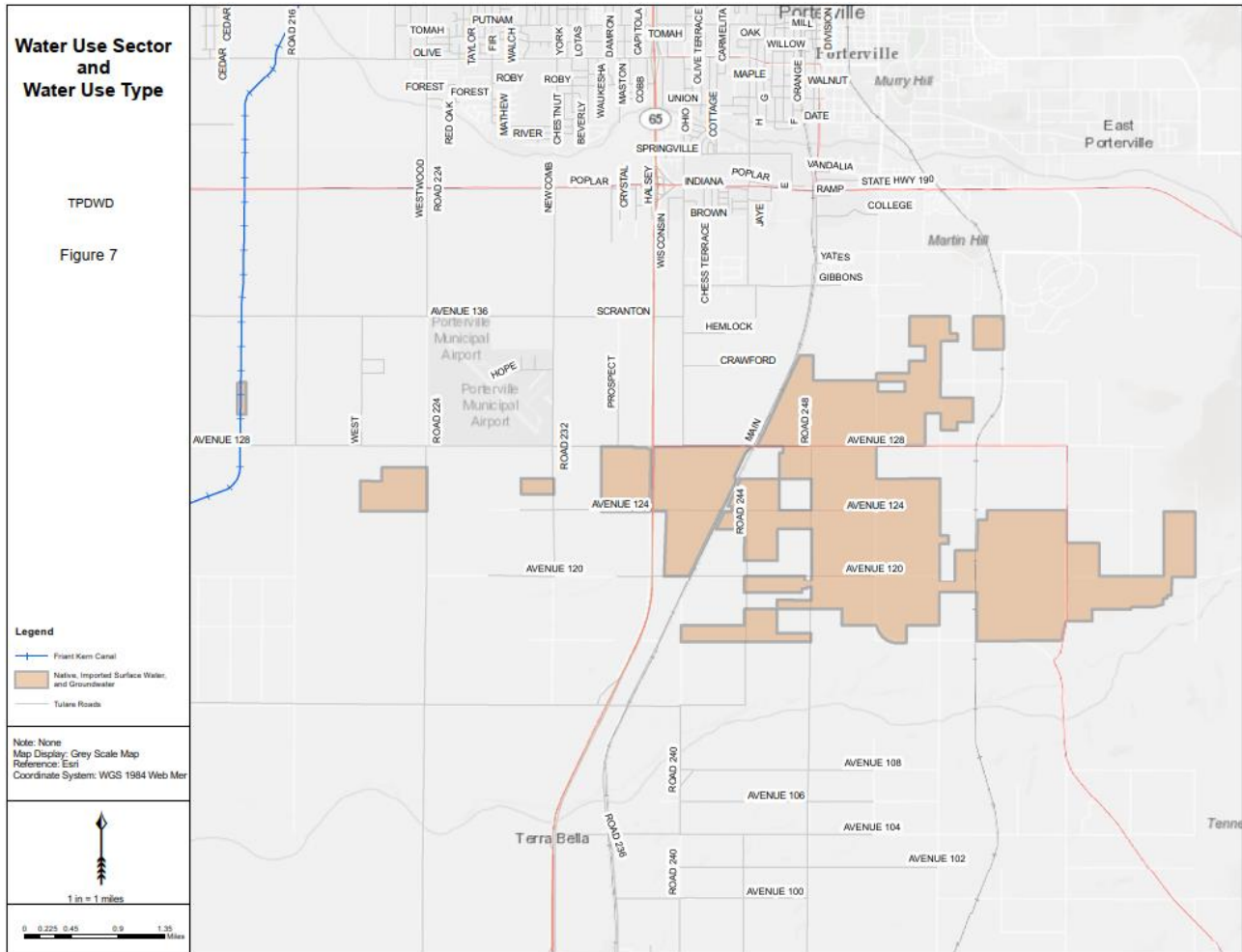


Figure1-7: Water Use Sector and Water Use Type

1.4.6.1 Urban/Industrial Water Use and Water Sector

Domestic and industrial users within the Agency are reliant upon groundwater as their primary source of water. There are no active public water systems within the GSA’s boundary lines.

1.4.6.2 Agricultural Water Use and Water Source

Agricultural water demand is met through aerial precipitation, local surface water supplies, imported surface water supplies, with the remaining demand being met through locally pumped groundwater supplies.

The quantity of aerial precipitation, and imported surface water via FKC, available for use to meet crop needs is annually variable. Water year type and various government regulations are the major determinants of annual surface water supply variability. A majority of the agricultural lands have access to surface water supplies and typically use groundwater in a conjunctive manner.

Section 2. Basin Setting of this Plan provides more detail about water sources and quantities of water applied to agriculture within the Agency.

1.4.6.3 Managed Recharge

One groundwater recharge site is maintained by the District and is shown in **Figure 1-8**.



Figure 1-8: Recharge Basins within the TPDWD GSA

1.4.7 Existing Wells, Well Types, and Density § 354.8(a)(5)

The density of water supply wells in and around the Agency is based on the DWR Well Completion Report Map Application tool.³ As indicated, the density of supply wells is approximately 5.21 wells per section. This reflects the prevailing agricultural land, residence, and businesses uses, all of which depend on groundwater when surface water is not available. **Figure 1-9: Well Density and Approximate Well Location by Well Use Type** displays well density by section within the Plan Area.

³ California Department of Water Resources, 2019

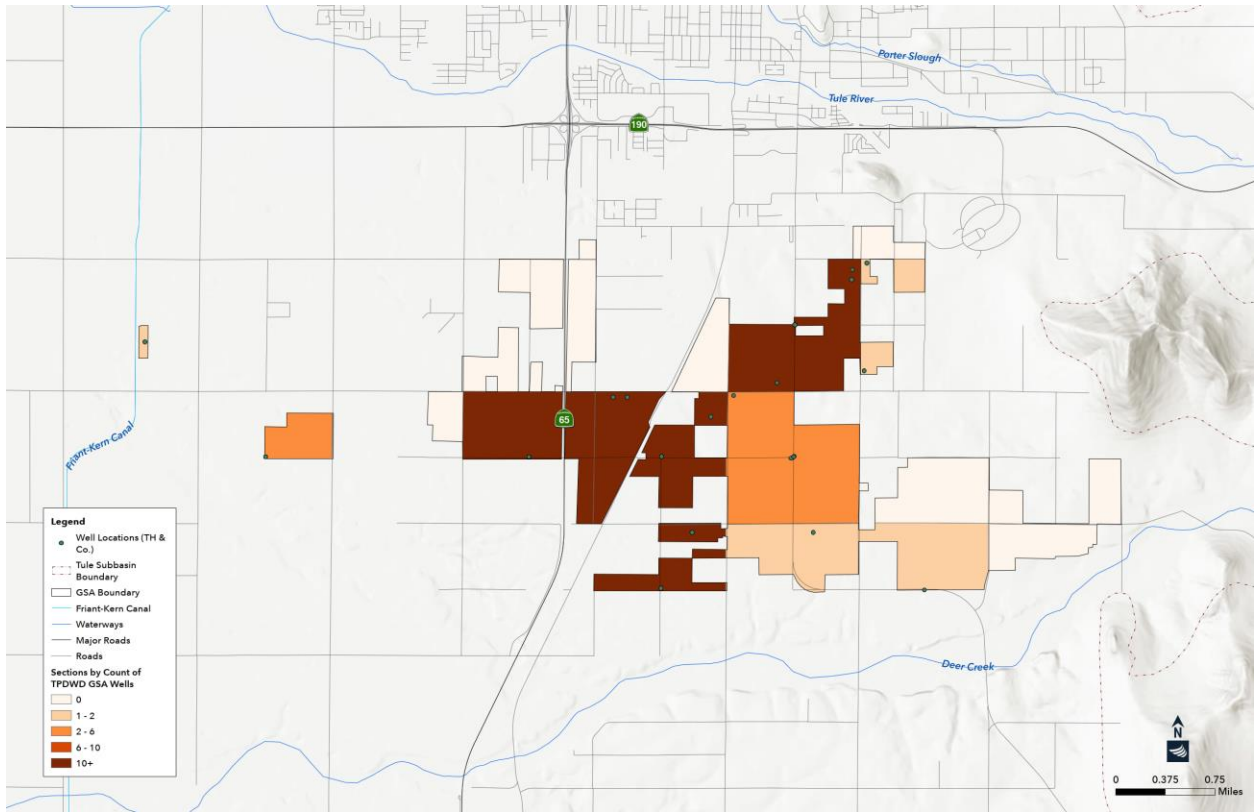


Figure 1.-9: Well Density and Approximate Well Location by Well Use Type

Table 1-2: Wells within TPDWD GSA by Well Use Type

<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Use_For_An</i>	Count of WCR Number
Lower	Agricultural	20
	Domestic	3
Lower Total		23
Upper/Composite	Agricultural	13
	Domestic	37
Upper/Composite Total		50
Grand Total		73

1.4.8 Communities Dependent Upon Groundwater § 354.8(a)(5)

This plan distinguishes between human communities (i.e. Groundwater Dependent Communities) and ecological communities (i.e. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems) in its description of those communities dependent upon groundwater.

1.4.8.1 Potentially Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

There are no groundwater Dependent Ecosystems located within the Agency. The following is a discussion of the Subbasin conditions as it relates to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.

Potentially Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) require shallow groundwater or groundwater that discharges at the land surface. Potential GDEs in the Tule Subbasin were identified with California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) data (CDFW, 2018; CDFW, 2023) (see **Section 2.2.7 & Figure 2-41** of the Tule Subbasin Setting). GDEs may be related to ISWs in that ISW features (rivers and shallow groundwater) are hydrologic systems likely to host aquatic communities or species that may be dependent on groundwater (Klausmeyer, et al., 2018).

In the Upper Tule River Area, the majority of potential GDEs are between Schafer Dam and Martin Hill, though some groves of trees are mapped in the Tule River channel between Martin Hill and the Friant-Kern Canal (see **Section 2.2.7 & Figure 2-41** of the Tule Subbasin Setting). The GDEs consist primarily of riparian trees, including Sycamore, Fremont Cottonwood, and Willow. In the Upper Deer Creek Area, the majority of potential GDEs are located east of Highway 65 and consist of Sycamore, Oak, and Willow (see **Section 2.2.7 & Figure 2-43** of the Tule Subbasin Setting). In the Upper White River Area, most potential GDEs are located within the upper 3 miles of the channel closest to the Subbasin boundary and consist of Sycamore, Oak, and Willow (see **Section 2.2.7 & Figure 2-44** of the Tule Subbasin Setting).

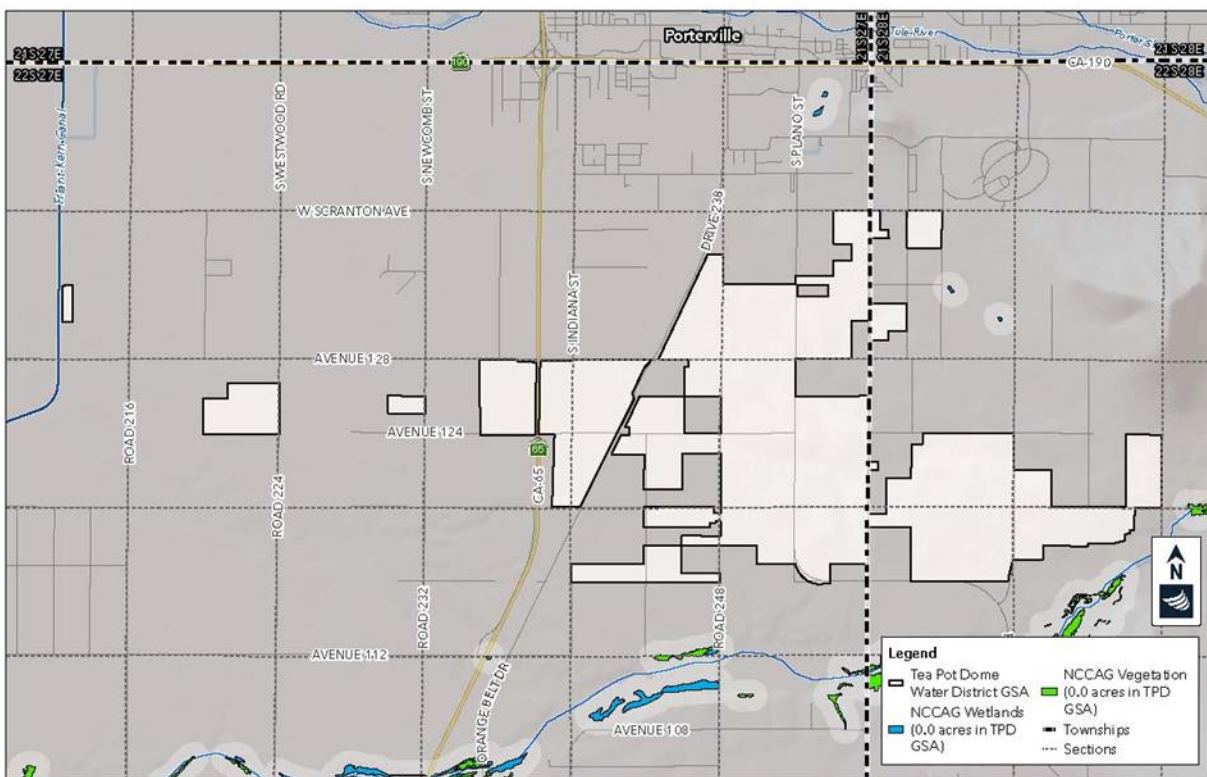


Figure 1-10: Potentially Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in the vicinity of the TPDWD GSA provides a map visualizing the extent of GDEs that may potentially occur near the Agency.

The report prepared by the Tule Subbasin GSAs, the *Tule Subbasin Settings* referenced in **Section 2.2.6** of the GSP and attached to and incorporated into the GSP, identify areas of potential Interconnected Surface Waters (ISWs) for further study, using an analysis consistent with method utilized by The Nature Conservancy's ICON database of ISW in the Central Valley (The Nature Conservancy, 2024). Based on the ICONS database and an initial review of available data, three areas of potential ISWs were identified in the Tule Subbasin:

- Upper Tule River from the Subbasin Boundary at Success Dam to Road 192
- Upper Deer Creek from the Subbasin Boundary to the Friant-Kern Canal
- Upper White River from the Subbasin Boundary to Highway 65

None of these areas are within the Agency.

Estimating depletions of ISWs and the resulting potential effects on GDEs will require additional data and analyses that are not available at this time. Further, the methodology to estimate depletions will rely on guidance from the DWR which is not yet published. In the meantime, the Tule Subbasin GSAs have identified an interim monitoring network to monitor groundwater levels near areas where ISW is possible and have developed a work plan to supplement the monitoring network to address data gaps with respect to ISW and GDEs.

The GSA will continue to address any emerging data. As the planned monitoring network is implemented and additional monitoring stations are installed and additional data is collected, particularly in areas near surface water, this analysis will be updated as data is collected. The potential for short-term connectivity due to variations in water year types during different seasons of the year or due to types of soil will be studied. If interconnected surface waters or GDEs are identified, then the GSP will be updated to reflect how the identified sustainable management criteria will impact these areas.

Until there has been any new information that establishes the likelihood of the existence of any GDEs within the GSA planning area, additional information concerning the identification of conservation areas and public trust lands, as suggested by the comments received, is not warranted. If the GSA learns of the existence of areas that meet the regulatory definition of GDEs, then it will consider the list of freshwater species provided by The Nature Conservancy and determine the appropriate measurable objectives and minimum threshold.

1.4.8.2 Groundwater Dependent Communities

There are no Groundwater Dependent Communities located within the Agency in that there are no public water systems or community water systems. However, as described in Section 1.4.6.1, there are rural, domestic and industrial users within the Agency and these users rely on groundwater to meet their water needs.

With groundwater as the primary source of domestic and industrial water these water users are sensitive to groundwater depths relative to the depth of their domestic water supply wells. Continued lowering of the groundwater levels could result in well failure and the loss of their primary source of water. Due to the Agency's history of a positive water balance, it is not anticipated that there will be undesirable results for domestic and industrial users due to the

implementation of activities under this GSP. Any groundwater elevation declines and undesirable results would be the result of surrounding non-districted lands in other GSAs. Despite this, as described in Section 5.2.2, the Agency has a mitigation plan and will participate in a subbasin wide mitigation plan to ensure impacts are addressed.

1.4.9 Existing Water Resource Monitoring and Management Programs § 354.8(c)

Water resources monitoring, and management have a long history in the Agency. Monitoring and management programs are conducted by local water agencies at regional and local scales, ranging from Federal and State programs (e.g., NOAA and CASGEM programs respectively) and regional plans (e.g., Integrated Regional Water Management Plan) to water system monitoring by local entities. Water resource monitoring programs considered in this section are summarized below. Additionally, a summary of groundwater quality monitoring programs and databases within the Tule Subbasin is described in Section 2.2.4 – Groundwater Quality Issues § 354.16(d) of the Tule Subbasin Setting (**See Attachment 2, of Appendix A**)

District Water Management Plans (WMP).⁴ The Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and Section 210 (b) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 requires the preparation and submission of a Water Management Plan from certain entities that enter into a repayment contract or water service contract with the USBOR. Each Plan is required to be updated every 5 years. These plans provide an inventory of the entities' water resources, best management practices for urban and agricultural contractors, facilities descriptions, and other details pertinent to the management of those entities' water. The Tea Pot Dome Water District prepares and submits a WMP, with the latest being submitted in 2017.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates waste discharges from irrigated lands. The ILRP focuses on priority water quality issues, such as pesticides and toxicity, nutrients, and sediments. There are 14 coalitions in the Central Valley region that help growers comply with the general orders; one of these is the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition (TBWQC), which operates programs to monitor (and improve) surface water and groundwater quality associated with agricultural activities.

In response to the RWQCB's General Order, TBWQC prepared a Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR), which provided a groundwater quality assessment and documented high- vulnerability areas (HVA) where discharges from irrigated agriculture may have degraded groundwater quality. The focus was primarily on nitrate (NO₃) with an evaluation of Electrical Conductivity (EC) in the same area.

With the recognition of HVAs and areas with confirmed water quality exceedances, TBWQC also prepared a Comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan (CGQMP; see Section 2.1.2.4 on Management Plans). The CGQMP implementation is focused on irrigation and nutrient

⁴ Lower Tule River Irrigation District, 2018

management practices to improve water quality which requires growers to complete and submit Management Practices Implementation Report (MPIR) in HVAs.

The TBWQC along with twelve other Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions submitted a coordinated Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formula Workplan to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) on July 1, 2020, for developing GWP values and targets. GWP targets for the purpose of establishing township nitrogen loading performance goals necessary to achieve compliance with Receiving Water Limits in HVAs, were developed and initially submitted to the CVRWQCB on July 19, 2022, revised and resubmitted on December 15, 2022, and received Conditional Approval on June 30, 2023. The TBWQC revised and submitted the CGQMP to incorporate GWP targets.

To monitor groundwater conditions in the TBWQC boundary, the TBWQC performs annual groundwater quality sampling under the Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program (GQTMP) to develop long-term groundwater quality information to evaluate the regional effects of irrigated agriculture.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring Plan, 2024. TBWQC has prepared a Surface Water Monitoring Plan (TBWQC, 2014) in response to the RWQCB's General Order No. R5-2013-0120-09 (Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area that are Members of a Third-Party Group; herein General Order).

In the TBWQC area, there are three natural waterways that enter the TBWQC coverage area and exits into other areas that can benefit from its beneficial uses: the Tule River, the Deer Creek, and the White River.

Since 2006, the Tule River Sub-Watershed has sampled and monitored the surface water quality at each of seven monitoring stations as follows:

1. Porter Slough below Road 192
2. Tule River at Road 144
3. Tule River at Road 92
4. Deer Creek at Road 248
5. Deer Creek at Road 176
6. Deer Creek at Road 120
7. White River at Road 208

The proposed sites selected for the fixed monitoring locations along the Tule River, Deer Creek, and White River were chosen to provide a series of monitoring sites among the irrigated agricultural lands along each water body within the TBWQC. In general, along each of the three natural waterways within the TBWQC, a monitoring station was sited at the location the waterway enters the irrigated agriculture of the basin from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and a monitoring station at the downstream end of the waterway where limited flow occurs. For the Tule River and Deer Creek, intermediate monitoring sites were added to better characterize and distinguish between potential discharges from the different irrigated lands and municipalities along the channel.

Sampling generally occurs over one or two days per event, with one event occurring each month. Consistent with RWQCB requirements, the surface water monitoring parameters include field measurements, general physical parameters, metals, nutrients, pesticides, and water toxicity for designated species. These parameters are provided in Appendix B of the TBWQC Surface Water Monitoring Plan (TBWQC, 2024).

Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program. The TBWQC Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Work Plan (GQTMW) follows the requirements outlined in Section VIII.D.3, (page 32) of the General Order and in Attachment B: Monitoring and Reporting Program Sections IV.C and IV.E (pages 19-22).

The objectives of the Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Work Plan, as outlined in Attachment B section IV.C (page 19) of the General Order, are stated as follows:

1. *To determine current water quality conditions of groundwater relevant to irrigated agriculture.*
2. *To develop long-term groundwater quality information that can be used to evaluate the regional effects (i.e., not site-specific effects) of irrigated agriculture and its practices.*

The first year of groundwater quality sampling occurred in Fall of 2017. The program is designed to collect groundwater quality samples annually, during the summer, and groundwater level monitoring bi-annually, during the spring and fall each year. The monitoring network design consists of one priority well per township and range quadrant throughout the Tule Subbasin, with one secondary well per quadrant in the case the priority well is suddenly removed from the program. The network is still in the developmental stages and is still working towards the full monitoring network coverage previously described.

CV-Salts The CV-Salts program is overseen by the State Water Board and Central Valley Water Board through Central Valley Water Quality Control Plans (often referred to as Basin Plans) and focus on achieving long term salinity management and nitrate management within the San Joaquin Valley. The Nitrate Control Program (NCP) focuses on achieving the following goals:

1. Ensure a safe drinking water supply
2. Reduce nitrate loading so that ongoing discharges neither threaten to degrade high quality water absent appropriate findings by the Central Valley Water Board nor cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives
3. Implement long-term, managed restoration of impaired water bodies

To achieve the goals of the NCP permitted nitrate dischargers are given two pathways for compliance. Pathway A – Individual Permitting Approach or Pathway B – Forming a Local Management Zone which grants dischargers an exception from the nitrate standard but must work with Management Zone members to first assure safe drinking water.

There are six (6) groundwater subbasin in the Central Valley region that have been prioritized as Priority 1 Subbasins to implement of the NCP, one of which is the Tule Subbasin which resulted

in the formation of the Tule Basin Management Zone (TBMZ) to represent Pathway B dischargers in early 2021.

Goal 1 is met through short-term projects of the TBMZ consisting of providing drinking water well testing resources and in cases of nitrate standard exceedances, providing those impacted by the exceedance with resources for accessing clean, safe, free drinking water. This program is implemented through the Tule Basin Water Foundation (TBWF), a non-profit 501(c)(3). The TBWF has received approval from the Department of Financial Assistance to receive SAFER funding to expand constituent testing at residents' wells beyond nitrate. In 2023 the TBMZ submitted their Management Zone Implementation Proposal (MZIP) which identifies continued efforts to implement short-term projects for immediate safe drinking water supplies and identify and prioritizing focus areas for implementing long-term for areas impacted by nitrate contamination. As part of the long-term projects, the TBMZ will be working with dischargers to continue to reduce nitrate loading, consolidating water systems, providing alternate water supply or treating contaminated water supplies, and managed aquifer recharge (MAR) to improve groundwater quality contamination, among other projects.

State-Wide Groundwater Quality Monitoring State-wide sources of groundwater quality data include the Water Data Library (WDL), GeoTracker/GAMA program, and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water. DWR's WDL is a repository for groundwater quality data. Samples are collected from a variety of well types including irrigation, stock, domestic, and some public supply wells.

Established in 2000, the GeoTracker Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program monitors groundwater quality throughout the state of California. GAMA is intended to create a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program throughout California and increase public availability and access to groundwater quality and contamination information. GAMA receives data from a variety of monitoring entities including DWR, USGS, and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

The SWRCB's Division of Drinking Water (DDW, and formerly the Department of Health Services) monitors public water system wells for California Code of Regulations Title 22 requirements relative to levels of organic and inorganic compounds such as metals, microbial compounds and radiological analytes. Data are available for active and inactive drinking water sources, for water systems that serve the public, and wells defined as serving 15 or more connections, or more than 25 people per day.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. Since the passage of the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) in 2002, two Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) regions have formed over the Tule Subbasin:

- 1 Poso Creek
- 2 Tule River

Participants overlying these regions, including public agencies, water suppliers, and other interested stakeholders, have formed Integrated Regional Water Management Groups (IRWMPs) that have actively worked to develop and implement IRWMPs. The purpose of these IRWMPs is to document and detail the approach of participants within a watershed as to their methodologies for coordinating and integrating management of available water resources. Moreover, the goal of these IRWMPs is to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increases regional self-reliance, reduces conflict, and manages water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. The Tea Pot Dome Water District is a member agency to the Tule River Basin IRWM group.

The Tule River Basin IRWMP was most recently updated in 2018.

District Groundwater Management Plans. The Groundwater Management Act, passed in 1992 as AB 3030, provided for local groundwater management through voluntary Groundwater Management Plans (GWMPs) developed by existing local agencies. The bill has since been modified by SB 1938 and AB 359. GWMPs provide for planned and coordinated groundwater monitoring, operation, and administration of groundwater basins with the goal of long-term groundwater conjunctive use and resource sustainability. Within the TPDWD GSA, the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority has developed a GWMP.

1.4.9.1 Incorporation of Existing Monitoring and Management Programs

The Agency does and will conduct monitoring programs using existing monitoring and expanded programs described in the Tule Subbasin Monitoring Plan found in **Section 4** of this Plan.

Groundwater levels are monitored by the District and 4 Creeks Engineering.

Groundwater quality is monitored by 4 Creeks Engineering.

Subsidence is monitored by 4 Creeks Engineering.

1.4.10 Limitations of Operational Flexibility § 354.8(d)

Existing management programs may limit the operational flexibility of this Plan and its implementation. These limitations have been considered and incorporated in evaluating the projects and management actions in **Section 5**.

1.4.11 Conjunctive Use Programs § 354.8(e)

The District has based its irrigation distribution system on conjunctive management of its surface water and groundwater resources. Surplus surface water supplies are available for direct groundwater recharge and storage within the district. The District operates 1 recharge/groundwater storage basin within its service area.

The District has a CVP contract for up to 7,200 acre-feet in surface water delivered by way of the CVP/Friant Kern Canal. Other surface water supplies available to the agency include banked

water, produced water, Section 215 water, flood flows conveyed in the FKC and purchases from other CVP Contractors. The actual volumes of imported surface water historically delivered to the District are detailed in **Appendix A: Table 1 of the Tule Subbasin Setting**.

Additionally, the GSA has adopted a policy regarding landowner recharge of surface water. The policies provide entities who perform the acts of recharge with groundwater recharge credits and the exclusive opportunity to extract the recharged surface water at a later date, pursuant district policy and conditional restraints. These district policies also describe leave-behind percentages, wherein a percentage of the surface water applied to recharge is credited to the districts' accounts to protect the Subbasin and benefit local groundwater levels within the District. A copy of this policy is included in **Appendix 1-B**.

1.4.12 Land Use Plans § 354.8(f)(1)

Under GOV § 65300 *et seq*, state law requires each City and County to prepare and adopt a comprehensive long-range General Plan (GP) for its future development. These GPs must address, to the extent the elements exist in the planning area (GOV § 65301(c), GOV § 65302) seven mandatory Elements:

- Land use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open-space
- Conservation
- Safety
- Noise

Tulare County possesses the land use authority throughout the Agency.

For the purpose of this plan, general plan and community elements and topic categories considered are land use, and water resources and supply. A general summary of each of the plans is detailed below under their respective general or community plan heading.

1.4.12.1 Tulare County 2030 General Plan Update

The Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update (Tulare County GP) is a three-part planning document, officially adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in August 2012. Part I, entitled “Goals and Policies Report”, covers the seven mandatory Elements of a General Plan and several optional Elements. Part II, entitled “Area Plans”, consists of four adopted area plans: The Rural Valley Lands Plan, the Corridors Framework Plan, the Foothill Growth Management Plan, and The Mountain Framework Plan. These four plans cover four of the major geographical areas within the unincorporated areas of the County and establish policies applicable in these particular areas. Part III, entitled “Community, Hamlet, County Adopted City General, Valley Sub-Area, Corridor Sub-Area, Foothill Sub-Area, and Mountain Sub-Area Plans” consists of a number of

existing planning documents and applies tailored policies to specified portions of the County based off of these documents.

Specific policies related to general plan Elements are found in Part I, which is organized into four Components. Each of the Components address one or several of the fourteen Elements covered by the Tulare County GP, guided by a series of Concepts and Principles. Listed under each Element are a series of Goals and Policies that are to be implemented through Implementation Measures that constitute a preliminary, anticipated Work Plan to carry out the identified Goals and Policies.

The County's Area Plans in Part II provide policies and designate land uses that generally encompass agricultural, rural, semi-rural, open space, and mountainous areas not otherwise within the designated urban or community boundaries described in Part III. Individual community plans are found in Part III. These plans provide an overview of each community plan area's general conditions, describe specific policies relevant to the area, and designate land use and development boundaries.

Land Use

Land Use is a primary focus of the Tulare County GP and is specifically addressed as an Element in Chapter 4 of Part I in the Tulare County GP. Among other things, this Element describes the County's land use designations, which are applied based upon regional planning frameworks and other land use boundaries. A land use designation is "*an applied policy on the General Plan Land Use Diagrams that defines allowable uses and development standards for agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial development, and other basic categories of land use*". Other Elements and Parts of the Tulare County GP relevant to general land uses within TPDWD GSA include:

- Part I, Component A, Chapter 2 - Planning Framework
- Part I, Component B, Chapter 3 – Agriculture
- Part I, Component C, Chapter 8 – Environmental Resource Management
- Part II, Chapter 1 – Rural Valley Lands Plan

Urban land use is more specifically managed in the Tulare County GP through the official adoption of Urban Development Boundaries (UDBs) and Urban Area Boundaries (UABs). UDBs establish a 20-year growth boundary that is consistent with the General Plan's time horizon and delineate an area around incorporated cities or unincorporated communities wherein urban development is allowed and services are likely to be extended. UABs are areas where land uses are presumed to have an impact upon the adjacent incorporated city. To coordinate land use planning with cities, the County adopts City UABs and City UDBs wherein the city regulates land use within the City UDB and the city and the County coordinate on land use within the City UAB. Generally, the Planning Area of a city's General Plan is coterminous with the County Adopted City UAB. Within the Agency there are three Community Plans that include UDBs and/or UABs that are addressed by this Plan. The most recent version of these plans, as well as the UDBs and/or UABs that they define, include:

- Porterville Community Plan Update (2015)
 - UDB for Porterville

The Rural Valley Lands Plan encompasses the majority of the Agency's non-urban areas. This plan establishes policies for preserving agricultural and working landscapes. Policies include the establishment of minimum parcel sizes for areas zoned for agriculture and a fifteen-factor evaluation that must be undertaken to determine if certain agricultural lands may be suitable for urban/suburban type uses prior to approving such a change in land use designation or zoning.

The individual Community Plans noted above, as well as the respective information provided on population, land use, water supply, are provided in Part III of the Tulare County GP.

Water Resources and Supply

The Water Resources Element (Part 1, Component C, Chapter 11) of the Tulare County GP specifically addresses water resources Goals and Policies related to both County water quality and supply. Several other Elements described in Part 1 of the Tulare County GP also include Concepts, Principles, and Policies that address water resources management, including the Planning Framework Element (Part 1, Component A, Chapter 2), the Agriculture Element (Part 1, Component B, Chapter 3), the Environmental Resources Management Element (Part 1, Component C, Chapter 8), the Health and Safety Element (Part 1, Component C, Chapter 10), and the Public Facilities and Services Element (Part 1, Component D, Chapter 14). Additionally, the County's Community Plans also address water resources and supply.

Following the structure for Part I of the Tulare County GP, a selected subset of Part I's Concepts, Principles, Goals and Policies from various Elements describing water resources management have been provided below:

Component: **A. General Plan Framework**

Element: **2. Planning Framework**

Section: **2.5 New Towns**

Policy: **PF-5.2 Criteria for New Towns**

Policy Text: *“When evaluating proposals for New Town development, the County shall require all of the following: ... 9. The adequate and sustainable water supplies be documented....”*

Component: **B. Prosperity**

Element: **3. Agriculture**

Section: **3.1 Agriculture Preservation**

Policy: **AG-1.13 Agriculture Related Land Uses**

Policy Text: *“The County shall allow agriculturally-related uses, including value-added processing facilities by discretionary approvals in areas designated Valley or Foothill Agriculture, subject to the following criteria: ... The operational or physical characteristics of the use shall not have a significant adverse impact on water resources or the use or management of surrounding agricultural properties within at least one-quarter (1/4) mile radius....”*

Policy: **AG-1.17 Agricultural Water Resources**

Policy Text: *“The County shall seek to protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources critical to agriculture.”*

Component: **C. Environmental**

Concept: **5. Water**

Concept Text: *“The long-term strategy for water in Tulare County centers on protecting and conserving existing water supplies and identifying new sources of water. As Tulare County continues to grow, new methods for conserving, treating, and supplying water will enable County residents and farmers to continue to have an adequate supply of quality water that limits long-term impacts on groundwater.”*

Principle: **1. Protection**

Principle Text: *“Protect the supply and quality of urban, agricultural, and environmental water serving the County...”*

Principle: **2. New Sources**

Principle Text: *“Identify and encourage the development of new sources for water that do not deplete or negatively impact groundwater....”*

Principle: **3. Recharge**

Principle Text: *“Identify and encourage the development of locations where water recharge systems can be developed to replenish water supplies....”*

Principle: **4. Adequate Supply**

Principle Text: *“Plan delivery systems to ensure adequate water is available to meet demands...”*

Principle: **5. Conservation**

Principle Text: *“Encourage efficient use, conservation, and reuse of water...”*

Element: **10. Health and Safety**

Section: **10.2 Geologic and Seismic Hazards**

Policy: **HS-2.7 Subsidence**

Policy Text: *“The County shall confirm the development is not located in any known areas of active subsidence. If urban development may be located in such an area, a special safety study will be prepared and needed safety measures implemented. The County shall also request that developments provide evidence that its long-term use of groundwater resources, where applicable, will not result in notable subsidence attributed to the new extraction of groundwater resources for the use by the development.”*

Section: **10.5 Flood Hazards**

Policy: **HS-5.4 Multi-Purpose Flood Control Measures**

Policy Text: *“The County shall encourage multipurpose flood control projects that incorporate recreation, resource conservation, preservation of natural riparian habitat, and scenic values of the County’s streams, creeks, and lakes. Where appropriate, the County shall also encourage the use of flood and/or stormwater retention facilities for use as groundwater recharge facilities.”*

Element: **11. Water Resources**

Section: **11.1 General**

Policy: **WR-1.1 Groundwater Withdrawal**

Policy Text: *“The County shall cooperate with water agencies and management agencies during land development processes to help promote an adequate, safe, and economically viable groundwater supply of existing and future development within the County. These actions shall be intended to help the County mitigate the potential impact on groundwater resources identified during the planning and approval processes.”*

Policy: **WR-1.3 Water Export Outside County**

Policy Text: *The County shall regulate the permanent export of groundwater and surface water resources allocated to users within the county to cities and service providers outside the County to the extent necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The County shall strive for a “no net loss” where there may be exchanges serving a public purpose.”*

Policy: **WR-1.8 Groundwater Basin Management**

Policy Text: *“The County shall take an active role in cooperating in the management of the County’s groundwater resources.”*

Policy: **WR-1.11 Groundwater Overdraft**

Policy Text: *“The County shall consult with water agencies within those areas of the County where groundwater extraction exceeds groundwater recharge, with the goal of reducing and ultimately reversing groundwater overdraft conditions in the County.”*

Section: **11.2 Water Quality**

Policy: WR-2.1 Protect Water Quality

Policy Text: *“All major land use and development plans shall be evaluated as to their potential to create surface and groundwater contamination hazards from point and nonpoint sources. The County shall confer with other appropriate agencies, as necessary, to assure adequate water quality review to prevent soil erosion; direct discharge of potentially harmful substances; ground leaching from storage of raw materials, petroleum products, or wastes; floating debris; and runoff from the site.”*

Section: 11.3 Water Supply

Policy: WR-3.1 Develop Additional Water Resources

Policy Text: *“The County shall encourage, support and, as warranted, require the identification and development of additional water sources through the expansion of water storage reservoirs, development of groundwater banking for recharge and infiltration, and promotion of water conservation programs, and support of other projects and programs that intend to increase the water resources available to the County and reduce the individual demands of urban and agricultural users.”*

Policy: WR-3.3 Adequate Water Availability

Policy Text: *“The County shall review new development proposals to ensure the intensity and timing of growth will be consistent with the availability of adequate water supplies. Projects must submit a Will-Serve letter as part of the application process and provide evidence of adequate and sustainable water availability prior to approval of the tentative map or other urban development entitlement.”*

Policy: WR-3.4 Water Resource Planning

Policy Text: *“The County shall continue participation in State, regional, and local water resource planning efforts affecting water resource supply and quality.”*

Policy: WR-3.9 Establish Critical Water Supply Areas

Policy Text: *“The County shall designate Critical Water Supply Areas to include the specific areas used by a municipality or community for its water supply system, areas critical to groundwater recharge, and other areas possessing a vital role in the management of the water resources in the County, including those areas with degraded groundwater quality.”*

Additionally, the County prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as part of the development and adoption of the Tulare County GP. Included as Exhibit G of this EIR is the County's Phase 1 Water Supply Evaluation. This document provides an initial analysis to support the determination of environmental impacts to water resources within Tulare County as associated with the adoption of the General Plan Update. The analysis indicates that groundwater basins within Tulare County are in a state of overdraft, but states *“the actions contemplated in the General Plan Update are not anticipated to cause overall demand in the County to vary from*

within the range of demands seen historically and documented by DWR - a range of about 2,600,000 acre-feet to 2,850,000 acre-feet.” (Tulare County General Plan Update, Phase 1 - Water Supply Evaluation). Several issues that the EIR assumes may affect water supplies include changes in California groundwater law, water supply and use legislation, regulatory risk, groundwater adjudications, population growth, and ongoing groundwater overdraft.

Tulare County’s role in water management is broad and active, particularly through the implementation of its General Plan and its Zoning Ordinance (*Ordinance No. 352*), which translates GP policies into specific use regulations and development standards. The County also administers other ordinances that influence the use and management of water within the County, and it may adopt more in the future if deemed necessary. However, limited only to the implementation of its GP, Tulare County recognizes that its role in water management is neither comprehensive, nor is it to be construed as such; rather, water management within the County is carried out by way of dynamic interactions between the many participants who each bear a variety of responsibilities:

“Policies in this Element discussing the management of water resources are relative to the areas of water usage that the County has regulatory control, such as the approval of new land use development. The policies in this Element should not be construed to insert the County into the allocation or management of water resources. This is a complicated system over which the County does not have direct regulatory control.” (Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update)

1.4.13 Water Supply Assumptions § 354.8(f)(2)

Water supply assumptions within the recently adopted General and Community Plans active within Agency’s Plan area generally provide global estimations of future water supplies and demands. Additionally, these plans provide Goals and Policies that recognize the need and, when implemented, provide for sustainable water management.

As part of the EIR developed for the Tulare County GP, the *Phase 1- Water Supply Evaluation* contemplates four scenarios of future supplies assuming baseline groundwater use across the County to be 1,633,100 acre-feet per year. It should be noted that Scenarios 1 and 2 assume groundwater supplies to be available as historically used with projected groundwater use increasing or decreasing depending on hydrologic year type and implemented conservation measures, and Scenarios 3 and 4 assume constraints in available surface water supplies that project increases in average annual groundwater use. However, the EIR indicates that several issues may affect future water supplies, including changes in California groundwater law, water supply and use legislation, regulatory risk, groundwater adjudications, population growth, and ongoing groundwater overdraft.

Tulare County’s Water Resources Goal 3, which recognizes the importance of a sustainable water supply, is “[t]o provide a sustainable, long-term supply of water resources to meet domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational needs and to assure that new urban development is

consistent with available water resources” (Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update). This Goal resonates across all the Community Plans administered and adopted by Tulare County.

Development of this Plan has occurred in consultation with Tulare County who are member agencies of the Agency. This Plan provides for a sustainable groundwater management approach that appropriately observes the land use designations maintained by the county and has considered the relative impact that current land uses may have on existing groundwater supply and demand. The Agency anticipates an active role in the future development and facilitation of Tulare County’s respective land use plans.

The projects and management actions proposed provide a framework by which the opportunity to use lands according to existing land use designations as permitted by land use designations and zoning ordinances remains unaltered, subject to the sustainable use of groundwater. However, the assumptions made by the Agency anticipate a shift in water demand due to the implementation of certain projects and management actions that ultimately reduces the total volume of groundwater supply available for extraction on an annual basis and, therefore, current actual land uses reliant upon these groundwater supplies may change during the Plan’s implementation horizon.

1.4.14 Summary of Well Permitting Process § 354.8(f)(4)

Permitting of water supply wells within Tulare County is administered by the Tulare County Environmental Health Services Division. The Tulare County Ordinance Code, Part IV, Chapter 13 (Tulare County Well Ordinance) provides requirements for the design, construction, repair, and reconstruction of agricultural wells, domestic wells, cathodic protection wells, industrial wells, monitoring wells, observation wells, geothermal heat exchange wells, and test wells in such a manner that the groundwater of the county will not be contaminated or polluted, and that water obtained for beneficial uses will not jeopardize the health and safety or welfare of the people of Tulare County.⁵ Pursuant to Section 9 of the Governor’s Executive Order N-7-22 related to the ongoing drought, the Agency has coordinated with Tulare County on a well permit approval process that enhances coordination between the County, the Agency, and the landowner regarding throughout the well permit application and approval process.

The Tulare County Well Ordinance adopts the following standards, and any subsequent revisions to such standards:

- DWR Bulletin 74-81
- DWR Bulletin 74-90
- California Well Standards: Water Wells, Monitoring Wells, Cathodic Protection Wells (Supplement to Bulletin 74-81)
- Geothermal Heat Exchange Wells (Draft April 1999)

⁵ County of Tulare, Environmental Health Services Division, 2019

The procedures for applying for, completing, and obtaining a well permit to construct a well are also defined in the Tulare County Well Ordinance. In summary, submitted applications are reviewed by the Health Officer to determine if an annular seal would be required, accounting for location and groundwater quality data that may indicate differences in groundwater quality between unconfined and confined aquifers. The application is also reviewed by the Agency, accounting for location, localized groundwater elevations, subsidence, and other factors. A site inspection may be conducted before the permit is issued. A permit may be issued, denied, or issued with conditions. No permit is required for exploratory borings less than 45' unless groundwater is encountered. If groundwater is encountered, work must stop and an application for a permit must be filed.

Following the passage of SB 252 in 2017 and now pursuant WAT § 13808, the Tulare County Environmental Health Services Division is required to request certain information, to the extent that it can be reasonably known, from an applicant, or the applicant's agent, seeking to construct a new Agricultural, Dairy, or Industrial well as part of an application for a well permit. This information includes the well's proposed capacity in acre-feet and gallons per minute, size of service area, and estimated annual extraction volume in acre-feet. A copy of the County of Tulare's existing Well Permit Application and Agency approval forms are provided in **Appendix 1-C**.

1.4.15 Effects of Land Use Plans Outside of the Tule Subbasin § 354.10(f)(5)

All Subbasins adjacent to the Tule Subbasin, which include the Kaweah Subbasin, Tulare Lake Subbasin, and Kern Subbasin, are considered critically over drafted and must achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040. Moreover, DWR is required to evaluate all GSPs "... *Consistent with the objective that a basin be sustainably managed within 20 years of Plan implementation without adversely affecting the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its Plan that groundwater resources within their respective Subbasins are sustainability managed by 2040.*"

The Agency does not anticipate significant or adverse impacts resulting from the implementation of land use plans adjacent to the Tule Subbasin being this Plan does not rely on adjacent basins land use for successful implementation of this Plan.

1.5 Notice and Communications

The Agency's Plan is a two-part process that includes both the development and implementation of the Plan. Interested stakeholders' participation is a vital success of this Plan. The public has the opportunity to get involved with the Agency by signing up for the interested parties list on the District's website www.ltrid.org and attending meetings of the Agency which are scheduled on a regular basis to provide information to the public and interested parties and provide opportunities to ask questions and make suggestions. These meetings are posted on the Districts website and announced via email. See **Appendix 6-A: Communication, Engagement and Outreach Plan** for more information.

1.5.1 Beneficial Users § 354.10(a)

The beneficial groundwater uses supported by the Tule Subbasin include:

1. irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural activities (including but not limited to grazing, vineyards, and orchards);
2. rural domestic/residential wells;
3. municipal and industrial supply; and
4. aquatic ecosystems associated with rivers and streams.
5. Users of the various beneficial uses of groundwater have been actively involved in development of this Plan through stakeholder meetings held by the Agency. Through a management agreement with Lower Tule River Irrigation District, the Agency has also access to and funded a Resources Coordinator, to serve as an outreach and communication specialist to beneficial users who may not otherwise learn of the Agency's activities. This is further discussed in **Section 1.5.4 Communication**.

1.5.2 List of public meetings held by the Agency § 354.10(b)

The Agency is committed to encouraging the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic interests of the population within the Agency Plan area. **Appendix 6-A** includes a list of public meetings held by the Agency.

1.5.3 Comments Received on Plan and Agency Responses § 354.10(c)

All written comments submitted during this period will be cataloged with responses and attached to this Plan as **Appendix C: Comments Received on Plan by the TPDWD GSA**. Written comments will be considered during preparation of the final this Plan.

1.5.4 Communication

1.5.4.1 Agency Decision-Making Process § 354.10(d)(1)

Pursuant to SGMA regulations, the “governing body” of the Agency is the legislative body that is elected to serve as the Agency, in this case the Board of Directors of the Tea Pot Dome Water District. The decision to adopt this Plan, and all decisions to implement the Plan, are therefore made by the TPDWD Board of Directors, sitting as the governing body of the Agency. The decision-making hierarchy for the TPDWD Board of Directors is shown in **Figure 1-11: TPDWD GSA Decision Making Structure**.

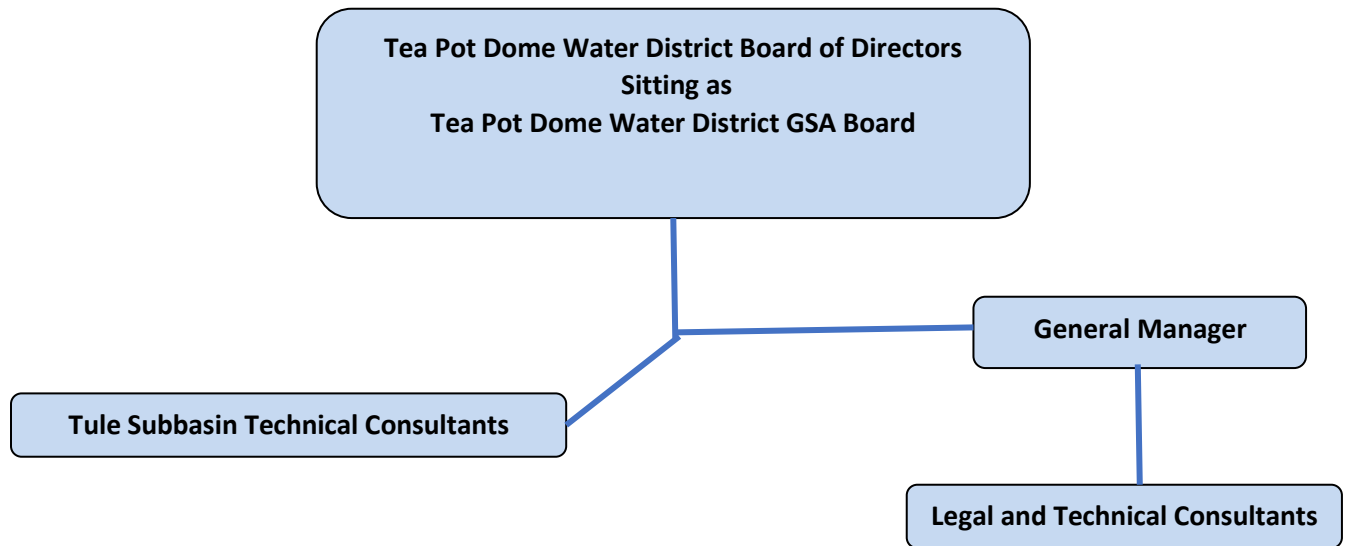


Figure 1-11: TPDWD GSA Decision Making Structure

The TPDWD Board of Directors anticipates convening as the Agency governing body on a monthly basis, immediately following or prior to the regular monthly meeting of the TPDWD Board of Directors for non-GSA purposes.

The Agency also anticipates continued stakeholder meetings as necessary during the implementation phase of this Plan.

In addition, the Agency participates in the Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a group comprised of the GSAs within the Tule Subbasin which operated under various MOUs between their respective entities after the passage of SGMA and worked on the preparation of a Coordination Agreement between the GSAs. The roles of the various Agency entities and their responsibilities are outlined and described in the Communication, Engagement and Outreach Plan (CEOP) (see **Appendix 6-A**). These groups are open to all interested parties or stakeholders who wish to participate; however, decisions regarding formal recommendations to be considered by the Agency’s governing body are made only by the appointed members of those bodies.

1.5.4.2 Public Engagement Opportunities § 354.10(d)(2)

Interested Parties can participate in public meetings and hearings, which are posted on the District website, and communicate with the Board of Directors to provide input, obtain information, and review and comment on Plan documents. An initial list of interested Parties identified for the Agency formation has been compiled. Any person may be added to the interested party list by visiting www.ltrid.org and subscribing to the newsletter. Once registered, interested parties will

receive invitations to meetings and workshops related to Plan development. A list of meetings can also be found in **Appendix 6-A, Section 5: Venues for Engaging**.

1.5.4.3 Encouraging Active Participation of the Public § 354.10(d)(3)

Communication, Engagement and Outreach Plan Section 1 subsection A.IV describes as follows: The communication objective is to encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Agencies boundaries, so far more to effectively educate/inform all the beneficial users of groundwater. Agency's goal during Plan implementation is to provide a meaningful opportunity for engagement and input to the final Plan. There are many opportunities for the public and stakeholders to provide input. Such opportunities will come from: events, workshops, educational material, meetings, leaving comments on the website (www.ltrid.org/SGMA), and most importantly setting a meeting with one of Agency staff. All input received from the public and stakeholders will be reviewed by the Agency and strongly considered during the implementation and development of this Plan.

1.5.4.4 Informing the Public § 354.10(d)(4)

The engagement part of this communication plan will require the Agency to meet in person or through digital channels, such as email, with the public and stakeholders. Word of mouth through the meetings is one of the keys to spread the information in regard to upcoming meetings of the Agency. Throughout the course of the development of this Plan, the Agency will be having a regular meeting, date and time will be posted in the website and additional notice through email blast will be sent out. Public meetings will be held within the GSA's boundaries and with an appropriate notice, prior publication of the agenda will be sent out to the public and stakeholders that have requested to be in the interested party list. There are a variety of opportunities, venues and methods for the Agency to connect with and engage with the beneficial users and the stakeholders throughout the Plan development. The Agency will use the traditional ways of engaging with its' beneficial users and stakeholders and encourages stakeholders and beneficial users to attend the Board of Director meetings. Agendas, meeting packets, additional and vital information will be posted on the website and will also be sent out to the subscribed users.

Regular Meetings are held according to the following schedule: *(Regular meetings are subject to change; notice will be sent out to the subscribed users.) Meetings will be held at the Tea Pot Dome Water District Office located at 105 W Teapot Dome, Porterville CA 93257, unless otherwise changed.*

- Board of Directors Meeting: the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 9:00 A.M.
- SGMA Technical Committee Meeting: Held quarterly on the 3rd Wednesday of applicable Month at 2:00 P.M.

DRAFT

Exhibit 1-1: Tulare County Proposed Land Use Map

Appendix 1-A: Notice of the Tea Pot Dome Water District to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as part of the Tule Subbasin



Teapot Dome

Water District

Since 1954

Matthew Leider
President

Dyson Schneider
Vice President

Tim Peltzer
Director

David Sherwood
Director

Ron Castro
Director

Eric Limas
General Manager

Alex Peltzer
Legal Counsel

July 18, 2024

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213A
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Delivery via E-Mail
(MarkNordberg@water.ca.gov)

RE: NOTICE OF THE TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT ELECTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR A PORTION OF THE TULE SUBBSIN

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.8, under the Sustainable Groundwater Act ("SGMA"), the Tea Pot Dome Water District ("Tea Pot Dome") provides this notice to the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") of its election to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") and to undertake sustainable groundwater management in the portion of the Tule Subbasin (DWR Subbasin 5-22.13) underlying Tea Pot Dome Water District boundary as indicated on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit "A-1" and "A-2"**.

On July 17, 2024, Tea Pot Dome held a noticed public hearing in accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b). Proof of publication in accordance with Government Code section 6066 is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"**.

After holding the public hearing, Tea Pot Dome's Board of Directors adopted Resolution Number 2024-7-1, attached hereto as **Exhibit "C"**, electing to become a GSA over the portion of the Tule Subbasin within Tea Pot Dome's boundary. Tea Pot Dome intends to work collaboratively with other formed GSA's in the Tule Subbasin to jointly manage groundwater and to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"). Tea Pot Dome's Board of Directors is planning to negotiate a memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreements, or other forms of agreements with other GSA's within the Tule Subbasin for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated structure for the management of groundwater and the development of a GSP.

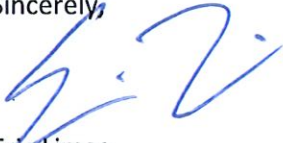
357 E. Olive Avenue
Tipton, Ca 93272
Phone: (559) 686-4716

Pursuant to California Water Code section 10723.2, Tea Pot Dome shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a GSP. An initial list of stakeholders and interested parties include, but not limited to the following:

- a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
 - 1) Agricultural users - The GSA area is composed almost entirely of agricultural users with the service boundaries.
 - 2) Domestic well owners - There are domestic wells within the proposed GSA management area. However, because SGMA excludes "de minimis extractors" it is anticipated that the GSP will exclude domestic wells from such requirements.
- b) Municipal well operators - No incorporated cities within the GSA boundary.
- c) Public Water Systems – City of Porterville.
- d) Local land use planning agencies - County of Tulare
- e) Environmental users of groundwater - U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies - None.
- g) The Federal Government, including, but not limited to, the military, and managers of federal lands - U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- h) California Native American tribes - None.
- i) Disadvantaged communities, including but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems - There are no DACs or small community water systems within the GSA boundary.
- j) Entities listed in Water Code section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency - None.

Tea Pot Dome intends to work cooperatively with stakeholders to develop and implement a GSP by collaborating with other qualified GSA's in the Tule Subbasin. Tea Pot Dome shall maintain a list of interested parties to be included in the formation of a GSP. Interested parties will have opportunities, both formal and informal to provide input to Tea Pot Dome throughout the process of developing, operating, and implementing the GSA and GSP. Such opportunities may include but are not limited to, public comment during Tea Pot Dome's regular and special meetings and at other times to be determined and noticed pursuant to Water Code section 10727.8(a). By this notification, Tea Pot Dome has provided DWR with all applicable information in California Water Code section 10723.8(a).

Sincerely,



Eric Limas
General Manager

Exhibits:

- Exhibit "A-1": Boundary Map
- Exhibit "A-2": Area Map
- Exhibit "B": Notice of Public Hearing
- Exhibit "C": Resolution 2024-7-1

Tea Pot Dome Water District

Notice of Election
to Become
GSA

Exhibit A-1

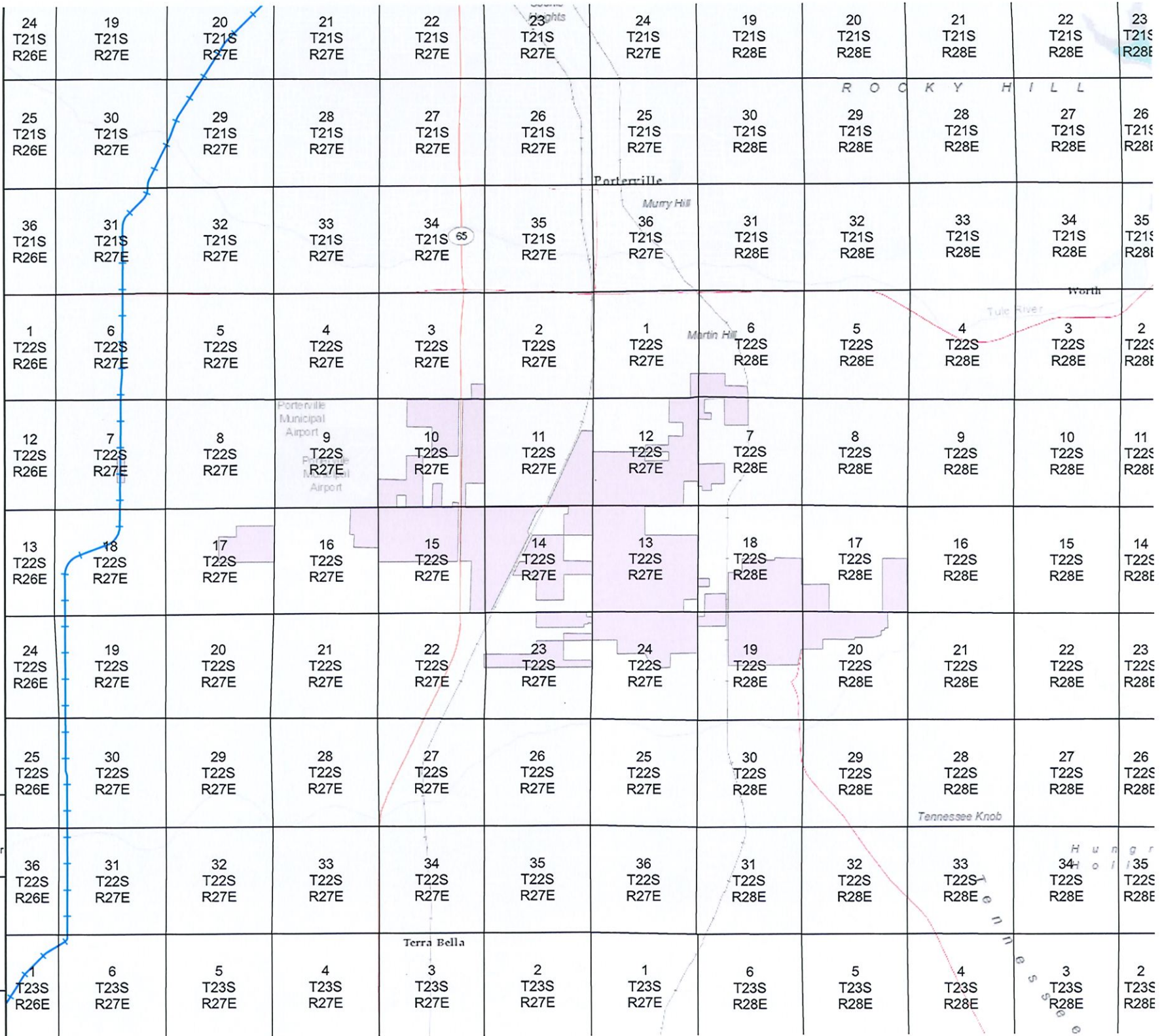
Legend

-  Sections
-  Tea Pot Dome WD
-  Friant Kern Canal

Note: None
Map Display: Grey Scale Map
Reference: Esri
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mer




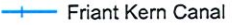
1 in = 1 miles



**Tea Pot Dome
Water District**
Notice of Election
to Become
GSA

Exhibit A-2

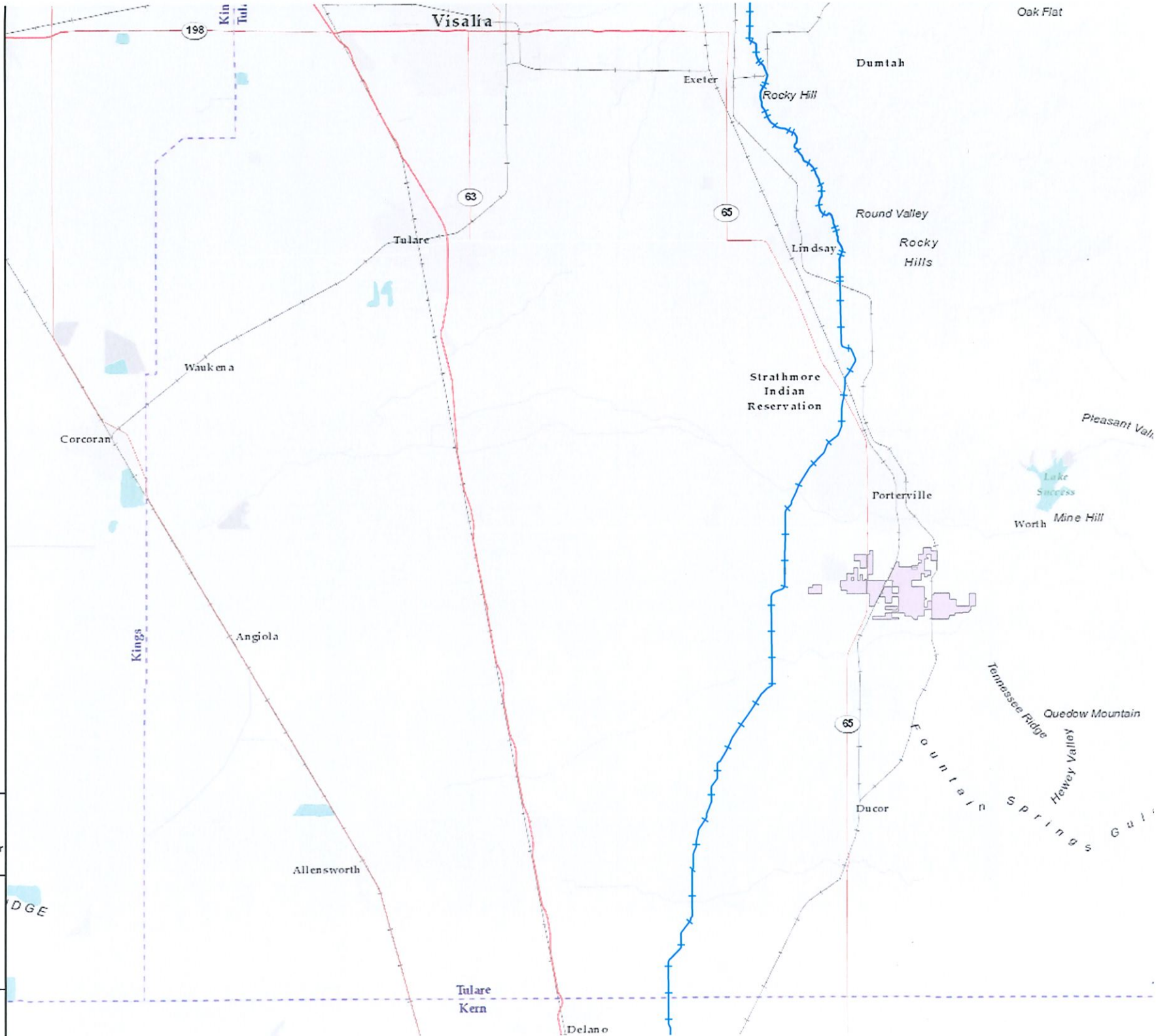
Legend

-  Tea Pot Dome WD
-  Friant Kern Canal

Note: None
Map Display: Grey Scale Map
Reference: Esri
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mer



1 in = 6 miles



In the Superior Court of the State of California In and for the County of Tulare

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10723(b) of the California Water Code and section 6066 of the California Government Code, that beginning at 9:30 a.m., July 17, 2024, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Directors (Board) of the Tea Pot Dome Water District at the Tea Pot Dome Water District office, 105 W Teapot Dome Ave. Porterville, CA 93257.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to consider and determine whether the District should file to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within its boundaries in the Tule Subbasin pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

After the public hearing, the Board may choose to adopt a Resolution of Intent to become a GSA and to submit notification to the California Department of Water Resources,

which shall be posted pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.8, and will include a description of the proposed boundaries of the portions of the subbasin the District intends to manage pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the office of the District at 559-686-4716, during regular business hours.

June 25, July 2
#350746

State of California

SS.

County of Tulare

Declarant says:

That at all times herein mentioned Declarant is and was a resident of said County of Tulare, over the age of twenty-one years; not a party to nor interested in the within matter; that Declarant is now and was at all times herein mentioned the Principal Clerk of the Porterville Recorder, a daily newspaper, which said newspaper was adjudged a newspaper of general circulation on October 15, 1951, by Superior Court Order No. 42369 as entered in Book 57 Page 384 of said Court; and that said newspaper is printed and published every day except Sunday published LEGAL NOTICE in said newspaper, **June 25, July 2, 2024** and that such publication was made in the regular issues of said paper (and not in any supplemental edition or extra there of). I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct. Executed **July 2, 2024** at Porterville, California.



Declarant TERESA JASSO



TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7-1

RESOLUTION OF THE TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT FOR THE PORTIONS OF THE TULE SUBBASIN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); and

WHEREAS, the SGMA went into effect January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires all high and medium priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs); and

WHEREAS, the Tule Subbasin has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723(a) authorizes a local agency with water supply, water management or local land use responsibilities, or a combination of local agencies, overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a GSA under SDMA; and

WHEREAS, the Tea Pot Dome Water District, formed pursuant to Division 10 of the Water Code of the State of California, is therefore eligible to serve as a GSA within the Tule Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723.2 requires that a GSA consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs); and

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10723.8 requires that a local agency electing to be a GSA notify DWR of its election and intention to undertake sustainable groundwater management with a basin; and

WHEREAS, Tea Pot Dome Water District held a public hearing on July 17, 2025, after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider the adoption of this Resolution and its election to be a GSA in the Tule Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, Tea Pot Dome Water District wishes to exercise the powers and authorities of a GSA granted by SGMA through the Water Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT does hereby resolve, declare and order as follows:

1. Tea Pot Dome Water District hereby elects to become a groundwater sustainability agency and undertake sustainable groundwater management in the portion of the Tule Subbasin (DWR Subbasin 5-22.13) underlying Tea Pot Dome Water District's boundary.
2. Tea Pot Dome Water District shall develop an outreach program to include all stakeholders to ensure all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are considered.
3. The Tea Pot Dome Water District Board of Directors intends to negotiate a memorandum of understanding, other necessary cooperative agreements or other forms of agreement with other agencies or entities utilizing groundwater in the Tule Subbasin, for the purpose of implementing a cooperative, coordinated structure for the management of the Tule Subbasin pursuant to SGMA.
4. The Board of Directors of the Tea Pot Dome Water District hereby authorize and direct the General Manager to submit to DWR on behalf of Tea Pot Dome Water District a notice of intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management in accordance with SGMA (Part 2.74 of the Water Code).
5. The General Manager is directed to send to DWR Tea Pot Dome Water District's notification of its election to be a GSA and such notification shall include: the boundaries of the subbasin that the Tea Pot Dome Water District intends to manage, which shall include lands within Tea Pot Dome Water District boundaries as set forth in the map attached hereto as Exhibit "1", a copy of this Resolution, a list of the interested parties developed pursuant to Section 10723.2 of SGMA, and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSA's groundwater sustainability plan.

All the foregoing being on motion of Director Schweider, seconded by Director Castro, and authorized by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Leider, Schweider, Castro, Sherwood, Peltzer

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 17 of July, 2024

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Board of Directors this 17 of July, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. S.", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Leider, President

Appendix 1-B: Recharge Policy

POLICY 6: DISTRICT GROUNDWATER BANKING

6.0 The Water District (District) owns and operates a Groundwater Storage and Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater Project. During times when surface water supplies beyond the irrigation needs of the landowners are available, the District uses a recharge basin to divert the surface water for groundwater storage and banking purposes. This happens most often in wetter years. These District owned facilities create additional opportunities for the District to supplement surface water deliveries to landowners. The District tracks how much water is both input and extracted from the bank.

DRAFT

Appendix 1-C: Tulare County Well Permit Application

WELL VERIFICATION FORM EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

WELL Number:	Date Submitted:	GSA Phone or Email
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Name	GSA Representative Name/Title	
Site Location:	APN:	
Property Owner:	Driller Business Name:	

- The above well permit application must comply with any and all groundwater extraction limitations imposed by the GSA to be consistent with sustainability goals established in the GSP. The purpose of the extraction limitations is to meet sustainability goals that the well is not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells and is not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby critical infrastructure. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is the Landowner Agreement to comply with any and all limitations imposed to reduce or eliminate well interference or land subsidence, in addition to other sustainability goals.
- The GSA does not oppose the issuance of the above well permit application.

The information contained herein is based on the information contained in the well permit application. The preceding statements are made upon information known at the time of this statement only. The GSA is currently amending its GSP, which may necessitate or cause changes to previously made statements. As of the date of this form, the State's Department of Water Resources has found the relevant GSP to be deficient and the GSA is in the process of amending the GSP.

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

GSA: Pixley Irrigation District GSA

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT

EXHIBIT A
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT

**LANDOWNER AGREEMENT
EXHIBIT A
TO
WELL VERIFICATION FORM
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22**

Landowner Name:

Mailing Address:

TPDGSA Account No

Landowner has submitted a well permit application with Tulare County. The County requests that the GSA provide written verification that approval of the well permit application will not be inconsistent with the GSA’s sustainability goals. Executive Order N-7-22 also provides the permit shall not be approved if the extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

The purpose of the TPDGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP), Rules and Regulations, and any other policies, rules or laws imposing restrictions on groundwater extractions is to avoid Undesirable Results as defined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) and obtain the Subbasin Sustainability Goal as defined in the GSP, which includes amongst other things the avoidance of neighboring well interference and the reduction or elimination of land subsidence.

Landowner hereby agrees and acknowledges that he or she shall comply with the TPDGSA’s GSP and any amendments thereto, the TPDGSA Rules and Regulations including any and all limitations on groundwater extractions, and any other rules, regulations, policies or other laws as may be required.

Landowner hereby agrees to hold TPDGSA harmless and indemnify the GSA for any liability stemming from or related to Tulare County issuing a well permit in response to application Number _____.

Provided the Landowner is in current “good standing” with the TPDGSA, including but not limited to, current on all fees, penalties or other monies owed to the TPDGSA, and not having exceeded groundwater allocations, TPDGSA will provide the “Verification Form” to which this Agreement is attached as Exhibit A, to the County of Tulare.

Landowner Signature

_____ Date _____

TPDGSA Signature

_____ Date _____

General Manager



**TULARE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
5957 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD. VISALIA, CA 93277
(559)624-7400**

WELL PERMIT APPLICATION

Application #: WWA-_____

Permit #: WELL_____

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

Applicant Name _____	Telephone _____
Contact Name _____	Telephone _____
Mailing Address _____	
Street	City/State
Zip Code	

LICENSED CONTRACTOR DECLARATION

Licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, as a well drilling contractor and such license is in full force and effect.

Business Name _____
E-Mail Address _____
Mailing Address _____
License # _____ Office Telephone _____ Cell _____

WELL INFORMATION

Well Location _____	Address/Cross Streets _____	City _____
APN _____	Township _____	Range _____ Section _____
Parcel Size _____ Acre(s)	Project Start Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Foothills/Mountains
Groundwater Basin: <input type="checkbox"/> Kaweah <input type="checkbox"/> Kings <input type="checkbox"/> Tulare Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Tule	GPS Data (Use Decimal Degrees Where Applicable)	
	Latitude _____	Longitude _____ Elevation (ft.) _____

TYPE OF WORK

Drilling Deepen Destruction Recondition
 Is this a Replacement Well? Yes No If Yes, then a Well Destruction Permit Application is Required.

DRILLING METHOD (Construction Only)

Cable Tool Rotary Reverse Rotary Air Rotary Other _____

WELL TYPE (All Permits)

<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic (1 – 4 Connections)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Supply	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Well
<input type="checkbox"/> Community (5+ Connections)	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Cathodic Protection
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Boring(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Well
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

WELL CONSTRUCTION

Casing Material: PVC Steel Diameter _____ in. Proposed Depth _____ ft.
 Slot Size _____ in. Gauge _____ Perforation Depths _____ to _____ ft.
 Conductor Casing Yes No Diameter _____ in. Depth _____ ft.
 Seal Depth _____ ft. (Minimum of 50 ft. Tremie pipe required for all well seals.)
 Seal Material: Neat Cement Sand Slurry Bentonite Other _____

WELL DESTRUCTION

Casing Material: PVC Steel Casing Diameter _____ in. Well Depth _____ ft.
 Depth to Water _____ ft. Excavation Depth _____ ft. Seal Depth _____ ft.
 Seal Material: Neat Cement Sand Slurry Bentonite Other _____

WELL SETBACKS (Construction Only)

Setbacks from surrounding properties must be taken into consideration when selecting a well site location. Setback requirements may be increased by Tulare County if dangers of pollution, contamination or other adverse conditions are known to be present.

If the well site is within a one mile radius of a landfill, there may be additional requirements.

Measuring in feet, list distances from proposed well drilling location. Minimum requirements in parentheses.

Front Property Line (25 ft.) _____	Storm Drain (50 ft.) _____
Side Property Lines (5 ft.) _____	Seepage Pit (150 ft.) _____
Septic Tank & Leach Field (100 ft.) _____	Animal/Fowl Enclosure (100 ft.) _____
Sewer Laterals (50 ft.) _____	Existing Active Well(s) (50 ft.) _____
Surface Water (25 ft.) _____	Underground Storage Tank (150 ft.) _____
Transmission Lines _____	

_____ I certify that I have read this application and declare under penalty of perjury that the information contained herein is true, correct and complete. I hereby agree to comply with all State and Tulare County regulations pertaining to well construction, deepening and destruction. **Within 30 days of work completed**, I will furnish Tulare County Environmental Health Services Division a completed well completion report for well drilling, deepening and destruction.

CONTRACTOR

APPLICANT

Print Name _____
 Signature _____
 Date _____

Print Name _____
 Signature _____
 Date _____

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Fee Amount _____ Receipt # _____ Invoice # _____
 Payment Type: Cash Check # _____ CC Approval # _____ Received by: _____
 Flood Zone Landfill Other _____
 GIS Review PALMS CSLB Check C-57 Expiration Date: _____


SITE MAP

The space below can be used to include a map. All maps must include:

- Major cross-streets associated with the parcel
- Structures on the parcel
- Setbacks documented above
- A directional arrow pointing North

For new wells, that are not replacement wells, include the following on the map:

- Surface water (ponds, lakes and streams) within 300 ft.
- Canals, ditches, pipelines, utility corridors and roads within 2 mi. (Only for wells drilled below Corcoran Clay)





TULARE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
5957 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD. VISALIA, CA 93277
(559)624-7400

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

(For Construction of Domestic, Community, Agricultural, Dairy or Industrial Wells)

Property Owner/Contact Person Name _____ **Telephone** _____

1. What type of well is being drilled?
 - Domestic** Serves 1 to 4 Service Connections/Homes.
 - Community** Serves 5 or more Service Connections/Homes
 - Agricultural** Exclusively used to supply water for irrigation or other agricultural purposes.
 - Dairy** Exclusively used by a Dairy Farm for the milk production process.
 - Industrial** Exclusively used by a Business for the processes related to producing goods or services.

2. How many homes will the new well serve? _____
3. How many employees will be served by this well? _____
4. How many wells are currently on this parcel?

Domestic _____ **Community** _____ **Agricultural** _____ **Dairy** _____ **Industrial** _____
5. Are there any **inactive** or **abandoned** wells on this parcel? **Yes** **No**
 (An **inactive** well is not routinely used but capable of being made operational with minimal effort. An **abandoned** well is a well that has not been used for at least one (1) year, or is in such disrepair that it can no longer produce water.)
6. What is/are the depth(s) of the existing well(s)? _____ **ft.**
7. Are there any animal or fowl enclosures on this, or any adjacent, parcel? **Yes** **No**
 If Yes, how far is the enclosure from the proposed well site? _____ **ft.** **(May require site visit to verify.)**
8. What is the reason for drilling a new well?
 - Current well went dry.** How long has the well been dry? _____
 - Current well about to go dry.**
 - Additional well due to lack of production from existing source(s).**
 - First well on parcel.**
 - Other** _____
9. What is/are the plan(s) for the existing well(s) once the new well(s) is/are drilled?
 - Keep the existing well(s) active. (Keep the pump(s) installed and connected to power.)**
 - Destroy the existing well(s) using a licensed C-57 well contractor.**
 - File an Inactivation Permit. (Requires an annual permit fee.)**
 - I don't know. (Please call Environmental Health at (559)624-7400 for more details.)**
10. Has the recent drought influenced your decision to drill a new well? **Yes** **No**

I certify that I have read this application and declare under penalty of perjury that the information contained herein is true, correct and complete.

Signature

Date



TULARE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
5957 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD. VISALIA, CA 93277
(559)624-7400

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT OR APPLICANT'S AGENT
(For construction of new Agricultural, Dairy or Industrial wells subject to Senate Bill 252)

Is this a replacement well? Yes No If Yes, this questionnaire is not required. However, a well destruction permit application must be submitted. The well being replaced must be destroyed prior to, or concurrently with, construction of the new well.

Pursuant to Section 13808 of the California Water Code, Tulare County Environmental Health is required to request the following information, to the extent that it can be reasonably known, from an applicant, or the applicant's agent, as part of an application for a well permit.

Proposed Capacity: _____ Acre-Feet Estimated Pumping Rate: _____ gpm
Anticipated Pumping Schedule: _____

Estimated Annual Extraction Volume: _____ Acre-Feet per Year Size of Service Area: _____ Acres
Seasonal Fluctuations: _____

Water Table Depth: _____ ft. Recharge Area: _____ Recharge Rate: _____ gpm
Location to Flood Plain: _____

Use the grid below to input information about existing wells on the parcel that will remain active, and attach any information of capacity or pumping tests completed for the existing wells.

	Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Well 5	Well 6
Well Use						
Depth (ft.)						
Diameter (in.)						
Screen Intervals						
Pump Rate (gpm)						

Estimated cumulative extraction volume of new well before January 1, 2020: _____ Acre Feet