

## MEMORANDUM

To: Tea Pot Dome Water District Board Members  
Members of the Public

From: Cinthia Canales  
Administrative Assistant

Date: June 5, 2025

Re: June Board Packet

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**Enclosed is this month's Board Packet, which includes:**

- Ground Sustainability Agency Agenda
- Regular Meeting Agenda
- GSA Draft Minutes – May 14, 2025
- Draft Minutes – May 14, 2025
- Mitigation Plan
  - Attachment 1 – Coordination Agreement
  - Attachment 2 – Mitigation Plan Tech Memo
  - Attachment 3 – Groundwater Level Impact Claim Process – Investigation Phase
  - Attachment 4 – Groundwater Level Impact Claim Process – Evaluation Examples
  - Attachment 5 – Claim Form
  - Attachment 6 – Well Inspection Form
  - Attachment 7 – Waiver and Release of Liability
  - Attachment 8 – Land Subsidence Impact Claim Process
  - Attachment 9 – Land Subsidence Impact Claim Form
  - Attachment 10 – Tule Basin Management Zone Sage Drinking Water Delivery
  - Attachment 11 – Water Quality and Tule Subbasin Management

**Notice of ADA Compliance:** The District is committed to making its meetings accessible to all citizens. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), if any person(s) requires special accommodations to participate, they should contact the District's secretary at 559-686-4716, preferably at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

**Tea Pot Dome Water District  
Board of Directors  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meeting Agenda  
June 11, 2025  
Location: 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257  
Time: 9:00 a.m.**

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1. Call to Order.
2. Public Comment.  
During this item, members of the public will be afforded an opportunity to address the Board on any matter within the jurisdiction of the District at the beginning of the session or before the Board's consideration of an agenda item regarding that item. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person, unless otherwise indicated by the Board President, with a maximum of 30 minutes for public comments overall. Cal. Gov. Code § 54954.3.
3. General Administration.
  - a. Agenda Approval – **Action Item**
  - b. Minutes of May 14, 2025 GSA Meeting – **Action Item**
4. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
  - a. Updates
  - b. Draft Mitigation Plan – **Action Item**
  - c. Other
5. Next GSA Meeting: July 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.  
105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257
6. Adjournment.

\*\*Agenda posted for public information on June 6, 2025, pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code 54954.2(a), in front of the District's office at 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257 and on the District's website at [www.ltrid.org](http://www.ltrid.org).

**Tea Pot Dome Water District  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
June 11, 2025**

**Location: 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

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1. Call to Order.
2. Public Comment.  
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3. General Administration
  - a. Agenda Approval – **Action Item**
  - b. Minutes of May 14, 2025 Regular Meeting – **Action Item**
4. Financial Statement / Bills
  - a. Treasurer's Report & Bills to approve – **Action Item.**
5. Water Operations
  - a. Water deliver report
  - b. 2025 Water Supply / Allocation
6. Company Operations and Maintenance
  - a. Operations and Maintenance Report
7. Friant Water Authority
  - a. Friant Kern Canal O&M
  - b. TPDWD Pump Station
  - c. Title Transfer District Facility – On Hold
8. Closed Session.
  - a. Legal – Pending Litigation
    - i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9(b): (one case)

**\*\*If Necessary**



ii. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING OR  
THREATENED LITIGATION (Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision  
(d) of GC Section 54956.9):

- Name of case: City of Fresno et. al. v. United States (2014 & 2015 Water Year claims)
- Name of case: NRDC v. United States

\*\*If Necessary

b. Real Property – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).

i. District Negotiator: General Manager Limas

\*\*If Necessary

9. Next Regular Meeting: July 9, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.  
105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257

10. Adjournment.

\*\*Agenda posted for public information on June 6, 2025, pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code 54954.2(a), in front of the District's office at 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257 and on the District's website at [www.ltrid.org](http://www.ltrid.org).

**Meetings Hearings and Notices**

A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 may request the District to provide a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in any public meeting of the District. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the District. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, facsimile, or written correspondence at the office of Tea Pot Dome Water District, at least 48 hours before a public Authority meeting.



**Tea Pot Dome Water District  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2025**

**Location: 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257  
Time: 9:00 a.m.**

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1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Lieder

2. Roll Call:

Director Dave Sherwood	November 2026
Director Ron Castro	November 2026
Director Matt Lieder	November 2026
Director Dyson Schneider	November 2028
Director Tim Peltzer	November 2028

District Staff:

Eric Limas (video conference), General Manager  
Mark Greenall, Controller  
John Michael Domondon, District Engineer  
Jack Lopez, Field Superintendent  
Kirk Masters, Water Resource Superintendent  
Alex Peltzer (video conference), General Counsel  
Jennifer Spaletta (video conference), Special Counsel

Landowners and Public:

None

3. General Administration

a. Agenda Approval –

On motion by Director SHERWOOD, second by Director CASTRO, and  
unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

b. Minutes of March 12, GSA meeting –

On motion by Director SCHNEIDER, second by Director SHERWOOD, and  
unanimously approved, the minutes of the March 12 GSA meeting were approved  
as presented.

- c. Minutes of April 9, 2025 GSA meeting –  
On motion by Director PELTZER, second by Director CASTRO, and  
unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 9, 2025, GSA meeting were  
approved as presented.
- 4. Public Comment  
No Public Comment
- 5. General Updates
  - a. Groundwater Accounting  
DOMONDON reviewed the groundwater accounting, monthly summary report,  
and State Water Control Board Correspondence. No action was taken.
  - b. Tule Subbasin SGMA Budget  
Manager LIMAS reviewed the Tule Subbasin SGMA Budget, After discussion,  
on motion by Director SCHNEIDER, second by Director SHERWOOD, and  
unanimously approved, the Tule Subbasin SGMA Budget was approved with the  
exemption of the Groundwater Model Update line item, where the Board said it  
needs to come back for separate approval in the future and grant funds should be  
sought to cover it.
  - c. Self-Help Enterprise Agreement  
Manager LIMAS reviewed the Self-Help Enterprise Agreement. After discussion,  
on motion by Director CASTRO, second by Director SHERWOOD, and  
unanimously approved, the agreement was approved subject to final General  
Manager and legal review.
  - d. Other  
DOMONDON presented the 2023/2024 Tule Subbasin Annual Report. No action  
was taken.
- 6. Closed Session. The board entered Closed Session at approximately 9:55 a.m.
  - a. Legal – Pending Litigation
  - b. Personnel – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee-  
related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
  - c. Real Property – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee-  
related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
    - i. District Negotiator: General Manager Limas

Closed Session adjournment. No reportable actions were taken during closed Session.

7. Next Regular Board Meeting: June 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257
8. Adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Board President Lieder

CERTIFICATION: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING AND GROUND SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY WAS POSTED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY 9 AM MAY 10, 2025.

IF ANYONE WANTS COPIES OF ANY OF THE REFERENCED BOARD MATERIALS THEY MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CINTHIA CANALES AT 559-686-4716 OR BY EMAIL [customerservice@ltrid.org](mailto:customerservice@ltrid.org).



**Tea Pot Dome Water District  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2025**

**Location: 105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257  
Time: 9:00 a.m.**

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1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Lieder

2. Roll Call:

Director Dave Sherwood	November 2026
Director Ron Castro	November 2026
Director Matt Lieder	November 2026
Director Dyson Schneider	November 2028
Director Tim Peltzer	November 2028

District Staff:

Eric Limas (video conference), General Manager  
Mark Greenall, Controller  
John Michael Domondon, District Engineer  
Jack Lopez, Field Superintendent  
Kirk Masters, Water Resource Superintendent  
Alex Peltzer (video conference), General Counsel  
Jennifer Spaletta (video conference), Special Counsel

Landowners and Public:

None

3. General Administration

a. Agenda Approval –

On motion by Director SHERWOOD, second by Director CASTRO, and  
unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

b. Minutes of March 12, 2025 meeting –

On motion by Director SCHNEIDER, second by Director SHERWOOD, and  
unanimously approved, the minutes of the March 12 Board of Directors meeting  
were approved as presented.

- c. Minutes of April 9, 2025 meeting –  
On motion by Director PELTZER, second by Director CASTRO, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 9, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were approved as presented.
- 4. Public Comment  
No Public Comment
- 5. Administration/Financial Statement/Bills
  - a. Financial Statement/Bills  
GREENALL reviewed the treasurer's report and bills paid for April. On motion by Director SCHNEIDER, second by Director CASTRO, and unanimously approved, the bills paid were approved, and the treasurer's report was ordered and placed on file.
- 6. Water Operations
  - a. Water Delivery Report  
DOMONDON reviewed current water conditions, operations, and delivery reports for April. No Action was taken.
  - b. 2025 Water Allocation / Supply  
Manager LIMAS reviewed the 2025 Water Supply/Allocation. May URF water was banked with LTRID for future return. No Action was taken.
- 7. District Operations
  - a. Operations & Maintenance report  
MASTERS reviewed the monthly water operations and maintenance activities, including valve replacement and potential well use to supplement demand as needed. No action was taken.
- 8. Friant Water Authority
  - a. Friant Kern Canal O&M  
Manager LIMAS reviewed activities related to the Friant Kern Canal operations. No action was taken.
  - b. TPDWD Pump Station Update  
Manager LIMAS reviewed activities related to the pump station. No action was taken.
  - c. Title Transfer – District Facilities  
On-Hold
- 9. Closed Session. The board entered Closed Session at approximately 9:55 a.m.

- a. Legal – Pending Litigation
- b. Personnel – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee-related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
- c. Real Property – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee-related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
  - i. District Negotiator: General Manager Limas

Closed Session adjournment. No reportable actions were taken during closed Session.

10. Next Regular Board Meeting: June 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
105 W Teapot Dome Ave, Porterville, CA 93257

11. Adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Board President Lieder

CERTIFICATION: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING AND GROUND SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY WAS POSTED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY 9 AM MAY 10, 2025.

IF ANYONE WANTS COPIES OF ANY OF THE REFERENCED BOARD MATERIALS THEY MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CINTHIA CANALES AT 559-686-4716 OR BY EMAIL [customerservice@ltrid.org](mailto:customerservice@ltrid.org).



**Tea Pot Dome Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Sustainability Plan Impact Mitigation Plan**

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION – Establishment of Groundwater Well Mitigation Program.**

Sustainable management criteria identified in each of the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies' (GSAs) Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) have been developed to address significant and unreasonable impacts to agricultural, municipal, and industrial beneficial uses of groundwater. However, analysis based on available data suggest that numerous shallow domestic wells and potentially other wells may be impacted during the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) GSP implementation period between 2020 and 2040 as a result of continued lowering of groundwater levels during this period. Wells, land use, property, and infrastructure may also be impacted from land subsidence and changes in groundwater quality during this period.

The Subbasin has been in overdraft for many years resulting in a significant lowering of regional and local groundwater levels. The GSPs are designed for the Subbasin to reach sustainability by 2040 and beyond. However, until sustainability is reached, some level of continued groundwater level decline and land subsidence is expected in areas of the Subbasin while the GSAs are in the process of implementing projects and management actions to achieve sustainability by 2040. The purpose of the GSAs' Mitigation Programs is to mitigate those wells, critical infrastructure, and land uses that are adversely affected by declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, and changes to groundwater quality while the GSAs reach sustainability.

As part of revisions to the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Coordination Agreement approved by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the Tule Subbasin, the GSAs each agreed to develop mitigation plans to address significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses of groundwater during the sustainability transition period between 2020 and 2040. The revised Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement submitted in July 2022 included a Mitigation Program Framework as Attachment 7, which outlined the general standards that each GSA would commit to in developing their respective Mitigation Programs. Tea Pot Dome Water District elected to become a GSA in July 2024 and committed to completing the mitigation claims process for domestic and municipal wells.. The Mitigation Framework is attached to this policy as Attachment 1.

### **1.1 Purpose and Scope**

Thomas Harder and Company prepared a Technical Memorandums, attached as Attachment 2, to provide the minimum technical requirements for use by each Tule Subbasin GSA to address claims of impact from lowered groundwater levels, subsidence impacts, and water quality impacts associated with GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. In consideration of the technical information provided therein, and in accordance with the Mitigation Framework in the Coordination Agreement, each GSA Mitigation Program will identify the specific criteria and processes for mitigating claims of impact caused by pumping within their respective GSA boundaries. The purpose of this policy is to establish a Mitigation Program for the Tea Pot Dome Water District GSA consistent with the Mitigation Framework (Attachment 1) and the Harder Technical Memorandums (Attachment 2).

## **2.0 GROUNDWATER WELL LEVEL IMPACT – MITIGATION CLAIM PROCESS**

The Mitigation Program allows for domestic, industrial, municipal, and certain agricultural well owners adversely affected by groundwater level impacts to file a claim with the GSA in which the well is located. The process for receiving and investigating claims of groundwater level impact is set forth in sections 2.1 through 2.3 is shown in Attachment 3, Groundwater Level Impact Claim Process – Investigation Phase. For groundwater levels, an "impact" is defined as the inability of a well owner to pump groundwater of sufficient quantity to meet their water supply needs due to lowered groundwater levels resulting from Tule Subbasin GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. The impact must be realized after January 2015. Responsibilities of the claimant are shown in green, and responsibilities of the GSA are shown in blue in Attachment 3. Decision points are shown in orange.



All claims will be investigated and evaluated within 45 days of receipt of the claim.

## 2.1 Filing a Claim

The claim process starts with the affected party ("Claimant") filing a claim with the GSA in which the party's well is located, or in which the Claimant asserts the activity was the cause of the Claimant's impacts. The claim will be filed using a form like that provided in Attachment 5 -Impact Claim Form.

- Claim forms will only be accepted for claim impacts occurring after January 1, 2025
- Claims can only be filed by the owner of the well
- Claim forms will only be accepted on wells that were in existence and actively in service as of December 31, 2024.
- Wells older than 25 years (per IRS depreciation schedules) will not be eligible for mitigation.

To process a claim, the Claimant must provide some basic information on the Impact Claim Form to enable further investigation of the claim, including:

- a) The Claimant's name and contact information,
- b) The type and location of the well,
- c) Request for interim water supply,
- d) Well construction information
- e) Pump information
- f) description of the issue with the well, and
- g) The applicant's signature.

The filing of a claim will require that the Claimant provide access to the well to verify the claim. In signing the impact claim form, the Claimant agrees to release all data associated with the well and provide access to the well for inspection by a GSA technical representative. Denial of access to the well for inspection by the GSA will result in denial of the claim.

## 2.2 Impact Assessment

### 2.2.1. Technical Review and Verification of Claimant-Provided Data

A GSA technical representative will review all available information provided by the Claimant for the affected well prior to inspection in the field. Data to be reviewed will include, but not limited to:

- a) The CDWR driller's log,
- b) Information on date the well was constructed,
- c) Well construction information (casing diameter, casing depth, perforation interval),  
Available downhole video surveys,
- d) Historical groundwater levels,
- e) Pump type and intake depth,
- f) Motor size,
- g) Pump age,
- h) Typical discharge rate,
- i) Last pump test date,
- j) Last service date,
- k) Last static and pumping groundwater levels, and
- l) Information on the nature of the problem.

Based on a review of the available data provided by the Claimant, the GSA will determine whether the claim can be verified based on the data.

Completeness of the dataset relative to the requested information will be reviewed for the following criteria, reliability of the



data provided, the nature and status of the issue, and evidence of well impact due to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, as opposed to impact from other sources.

If the completeness of the data supporting the claim can be verified based on available information, then the GSA technical representative will assess the claim pursuant to section 2.3.1, 2.3.2, or 2.3.3. If not, a GSA technical representative will need to inspect the well and collect supplemental information. The types of information to be collected will depend on the data available from the Claimant. Determination of the extent of additional data collection necessary to verify the claim will be at the sole discretion of the GSA.

In general, the minimum data to be collected in the field will include:

- Well name
- Pump size (horsepower)
- Casing type and diameter
- Static groundwater level
- Discharge rate
- Pumping groundwater level

The owner or owner's representative authorized to operate the pump will be asked to be onsite at the time of inspection to operate the pump. The GSA technical representative will record observations from the inspection. If a driller's log or other information is not available to confirm the total depth and condition of the well and if the pump intake depth cannot be confirmed from available information, it may be necessary to have the pump removed from the well and conduct a downhole video survey. Removing the pump will enable the GSA technical representative to measure the column pipe and thus confirm the pump intake depth and inspect the condition of the pump. The video log will enable inspection of the condition of the casing and perforations and confirm the perforation interval, total depth, and static groundwater level of the well. Upon completion of the investigation, the contractor will be required to reinstall the pump and reestablish all connections. If the pump was operating prior to removal, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the pump is functioning properly after reinstallation. A sounding port or flow meter may also be installed to collect pumping water level data or discharge rate data, respectively. The GSA will fund the contractor to remove the pump and conduct the video survey. If the claim is ultimately denied, the claimant will reimburse the GSA. The GSA require the well owner to sign a release of liability for any damage to the pump, pump column, or well resulting from removal of the pump and conducting the video log.

### 2.2.2 Evaluations of Claims of Groundwater Level Impacts

Based on the analysis of data for the impacted well, the GSA technical representative will provide a recommendation to the Groundwater Planning Commission whether the well qualifies for mitigation. In making the recommendation, the GSA technical representative will consider primarily that the foundational premise of the Mitigation Program, as it relates to groundwater levels, is to address impacts to domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural wells from GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. As SGMA does not require the GSAs to address impacts prior to January 2015, only impacts associated with groundwater level declines after this time will be considered.

The graphic in Attachment 4 provides a basis for evaluating claims based on the data provided by the Claimant or collected by the GSA. As shown, Examples 1 and 2 illustrate groundwater level impacts that would qualify for mitigation. Example 1 is a case where the static groundwater level is below the 2015 groundwater level and the pumping groundwater level, at the historical discharge rate, is within 10 feet of the bottom of the well. In Example 2, the static groundwater level is measured below the 2015 groundwater level and the pumping groundwater level, at the historical discharge rate, has dropped to within 20 feet of the pump intake. In both cases, the lowered groundwater levels can be attributed to transitional pumping overdraft and there is no option to restore the water supply without mitigation. The evaluation should consider whether there is adequate separation between the pump intake and the bottom of the well (e.g., 10 feet) and whether there is adequate pump submergence (e.g., 20 feet).

Examples 3 through 6 on Figure 2 illustrate cases where the well impact is not associated with lowered groundwater levels from GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. In these cases:

- The pumping groundwater level would have already been below the bottom of the well before January 2015 (Example 3),



- The pumping groundwater level would have already been below the bottom of the pump intake before January 2015 (Example 4),
- The static groundwater level would have been below the pump intake prior to January 2015 (Example 5),
- The pump is not functioning for reasons other than groundwater level decline (e.g. mechanical failure) (Example 6).

In many cases, it is anticipated that a static groundwater level measured in the impacted well from January 2015 will not be available. For those cases, the reference January 2015 static groundwater level will be inferred from a groundwater level contour map generated based on available data from other wells measured at that time. Separate groundwater contour maps will be generated for the Upper and Lower Aquifers. The reference static groundwater level will be assigned from the contour map of the aquifer in which the well is predominantly perforated.

There are other factors, independent of lowered groundwater levels, that can cause a well to stop functioning, such as pump mechanical failure due to age or malfunction, holes in the well casing allowing sand into the pump intake, holes in the pump column associated with corrosion and wear, excessive plugging of screens due to lack of maintenance (e.g. well rehabilitation), and others. All these factors will need to be taken into consideration when assessing the need for mitigation.

Other factors to be considered when evaluating a claim will include, but are not limited to:

- If the Claimant is asserting an impact to an agricultural well, and the Claimant has been utilizing groundwater under a transitional pumping allocation, or otherwise contributing to transitional overdraft, the GSA will reject the claim. This includes claims where a well is being used for both domestic use and irrigation.

If the relative contribution to the problem by the claimant, or by neighboring property owner actions or other overdraft results are not attributable to the GSP, the claim is not eligible for mitigation. If the problem is being caused by specific neighboring well issues, a claimant may be able to pursue corrections through the civil court process and will be so advised.

If the GSA Technical Representative recommends that the impact is eligible for mitigation, a specific mitigation measure as described in Section 2.3 will be considered for recommendation.

### 2.23 GSA Consideration of Technical Representative Recommendation

The Technical Representative Recommendation will be submitted to GSA General Manager. The GSA General Manager is delegated authority by the GSA Governing Body to determine whether to accept claims and to determine mitigation measures. The claimant has a right to appeal the staff decision to the GSA Governing Body.

Decisions by the GSA governing body to accept a mitigation claim are not an acceptance of liability and shall not be a legal determination of any parties' rights. The Mitigation Program is provided as an administrative action to further the goals and objectives of the GSP and SGMA in general.

## **2.3 IDENTIFICATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES FOR ACCEPTED CLAIMS**

In the event that, under the Impact Assessment process, the GSA determines that GSA or GSA-allowed activities have had an impact on an existing well (i.e., impacts related to post-2015 overdraft), the GSA will implement a mitigation measure(s) for the existing well. Mitigation measures that could be adopted to address impacts attributed to the GSA allowed activities could include the following:

- Providing a short-term emergency interim water supply to domestic well owners. Short-term emergency supplies shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but in all cases within 14 days of notification to the GSA of such needs.
- Providing funds to lower a well pump.
- Providing funds to complete a connection to an M&I water provider.
- Supplying an equivalent water supply from an alternate source.
- Providing funds to replace the affected well with a deeper well that meets state and local requirements; or with the consent of the affected landowner, providing other acceptable mitigation.



- The GSA require the well owner to sign a release of liability for any claims following mitigation implementation

Factors to be considered when determining the level of mitigation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Well age – mitigation measures may be prorated based on well age, per manufacturer well life specifications
- Well depth – mitigation measures may be prorated, per linear foot, based on the depth the current well is drilled to vs. the depth a new well needs to be drilled to.

Mitigation measures will be determined by the GSA BOD, on the recommendation of the technical representative. Once a long term solution is identified and offered by the GSA, if it is not accepted by the claimant within 30 days, the claim will be denied and not eligible for a future claim to be filed.

### **2.3.1 Provision for Interim Water Supply**

The claim process allows for the provision of an interim water supply should the Claimant request it. The interim water supply is meant to provide water to the applicant while the claim is investigated and prior to arranging a more permanent mitigation. If a claim is denied, it no longer qualifies for the provision of an interim water supply. Potential sources of interim water supply include (but are not limited to):

- Trucking water
- Connecting to the water supply of a neighboring landowner
- Obtaining a temporary/permanent connection to the municipal water supply system
- The GSA will fund the interim water supply or refer the claimant to existing programs that provide short term water supplies. If the claim is denied by the GSA, the cost is subject to reimbursement by the Claimant.

### **2.3.2 Evaluation of Potential for Municipal Water Supply Connection**

In some urban areas of the Tule Subbasin, impacted domestic or industrial wells may be in close proximity to existing municipal water supply infrastructure. If so, the GSA will contact the local municipality, on behalf of the Claimant, to determine the feasibility of connecting the Claimant to the existing municipal water supply system. If a connection is feasible, the Claimant will be provided with a contact person at the municipality to arrange the connection to the municipal system. For those claims that can be satisfied through a municipal water supply connection, the GSA will waive all well inspection requirements. However, the Claimant must agree to allow the GSA to destroy or properly abandon the impacted well, in accordance with California Department of Water Resources requirements and County of Tulare regulations.

- The GSA, or other existing program that provides short term water supplies, will continue to fund the interim water supply to the Claimant, until the connection to the municipal system is complete
- GSA, municipality, and Claimant will work together to determine cost share funding to connect the Claimant to the municipal water system and the cost to destroy the impacted well

If the Claimant refuses to connect to the municipal water system, the Claimant will be required to allow the GSA to inspect the well in accordance with Section 2 herein.

### **2.3.3 Assistance for Claimants Whose Claims have been denied**

For claimants who have denied claims, the GSA will provide references to other local, county and state programs that provide solutions.

## **3. SUBSIDENCE IMPACT – MITIGATION CLAIM PROCESS**



The Mitigation Program allows entities, whether public or private, adversely affected by land subsidence associated with GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, to file a claim with the GSA in which the impact is located. The process for receiving and investigating claims of subsidence impacts is set forth in sections 3.1 through 3.3 is shown in Attachment 8, Land Subsidence Impact Claim Process. For land subsidence, an “impact” is defined as damage and/or loss of functionality of a structure or a facility occurring to the extent that the structure or facility cannot reasonably operate without either repair or replacement, as determined by the GSA where the structure and facility are located or where beneficial use is impacted due to the damage and/or loss of functionality of the structure or facility.

All claims will be investigated and evaluated within 45 days of receipt of the claim.

### 3.1 Filing a Claim

The claim process starts with the affected party (“Claimant”) filing a claim with the GSA in which the party’s well is located, or in which the Claimant asserts the activity was the cause of the Claimant’s impacts. The claim will be filed using a form like that provided in Attachment 9 -Impact Claim Form.

- Claim forms will only be accepted for claim impacts occurring after January 1, 2025
- Claims can only be filed by the owner of the infrastructure claimed to be impacted

To process a claim, the Claimant must provide some basic information on the Impact Claim Form to enable further investigation of the claim, including:

- The Claimant’s name and contact information,
- The type and location of the structure or facility,
- Infrastructure construction information
- description of the issue with the infrastructure, and
- The applicant’s signature.

The filing of a claim will require that the Claimant provide access to the infrastructure to verify the claim. In signing the impact claim form, the Claimant agrees to release all data associated with the infrastructure and provide access for inspection by a GSA technical representative. Denial of access to the infrastructure for inspection by the GSA will result in denial of the claim.

### 3.2 Impact Assessment

#### 3.2.1. Technical Review and Verification of Claimant-Provided Data

A GSA technical representative will review all available information provided by the Claimant for the affected infrastructure prior to inspection in the field. Data to be reviewed will include, but not limited to:

- A description of the type of structure/facility and what it is used for,
- Original as-built drawings of the structure/facility,
- Information on the date the structure/facility was constructed,
- Any geotechnical reports, including borehole logs, generated prior to or at the time the structure/facility was constructed,
- Photographs of the structure/facility prior to the impact, and
- Information on the nature of the problem including photographs showing the impacted structure/facility.

Based on a review of the available data provided by the Claimant, the GSA will determine whether the claim can be verified



based on the data.

Completeness of the dataset relative to the requested information will be reviewed for the following criteria, reliability of the data provided, the nature and status of the issue, and evidence of infrastructure impact due to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, as opposed to impact from other sources.

If the completeness of the data supporting the claim can be verified based on available information, then the GSA technical representative will assess the claim pursuant to section 3.2. If not, a GSA technical representative will need to conduct an additional investigation and collect supplemental information. The types of information to be collected will depend on the data available from the Claimant. Determination of the extent of additional data collection necessary to verify the claim will be at the sole discretion of the GSA.

In general, the minimum data to be collected in the field will include:

- Structure/facility address,
- Nature and use of the structure/facility,
- Notes on the nature of the damage to the structure or facility,
- Photographs of the damage.

If the claim is related to gravity-driven water conveyance infrastructure (e.g. canals, turnouts, recharge basins, stream channels used to convey water, pipelines, and field irrigation), it may be necessary to inspect the entire facility to determine if factors other than land subsidence are impacting the functionality of the structure or facility. The GSA may arrange for water delivery to the facility to document the facility's operating condition. It may also be necessary to survey the structure/facility to obtain data needed to verify the structure's hydraulic capacity.

If the claim is related to well damage suspected of being caused by land subsidence, it may be necessary to have the pump removed from the well and conduct a downhole video survey. Removing the pump will enable the GSA technical representative to measure the column pipe and thus confirm the pump intake depth and inspect the condition of the pump. The video log will enable inspection of the condition of the casing and perforations and confirm the perforation interval, total depth, and static groundwater level of the well. Upon completion of the investigation, the contractor will be required to reinstall the pump and reestablish all connections. If the pump was operating prior to removal, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the pump is functioning properly after reinstallation. The GSA will fund the contractor to remove the pump and conduct the video survey. If the claim is ultimately denied, the claimant will reimburse the GSA. The GSA requires the well owner to sign a release of liability for any damage to the pump, pump column, or well resulting from removal of the pump and conducting the video log.

If the claim is related to flood control facilities it may be necessary to inspect the entire facility to determine if there are factors other than land subsidence impacting the functionality of the structure or facility. The GSA may survey the structure/facility to obtain data needed to verify the structure's hydraulic capacity. In certain cases, the GSA may also have a hydraulic analysis completed by an engineer.

Finally, additional data may be required to evaluate a claim (e.g. soil testing, materials testing, etc.) and will be obtained on a case-by-case basis depending on the structure/facility (e.g. roads, railroads, pipelines, bridges, wastewater collection) and the nature of the impact.

### 3.2.2 Evaluations of Claims of Groundwater Level Impacts

Land subsidence can manifest itself as a regional phenomenon or on a local scale. Regional land subsidence results in a large area (e.g. 10's to 100's of square miles) subsiding at similar rates such that the effect of the lowered land elevation cannot be discerned except through periodic surveying of bench marks or information from satellites. Impacts to land uses, property interests, and critical infrastructure from this type of land subsidence are most likely to occur in the form of reduced surface carrying capacity of gravity-driven water conveyance, well damage, and flood control. Differential land subsidence results in localized adjoining areas subsiding at different rates relative to each other. This can result in



land fissuring and often occurs along a fault or geologic boundary. Differential land subsidence has the most potential to cause damage to surface infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings.

Criteria for attributing structural/facility impacts to land subsidence include the following:

- The total amount of land subsidence and, if applicable, change in land surface slope at the structure/facility since 2015 based on the best available data.
- Evidence of ground fissures at the structure/facility that can be linked to active land subsidence in the area from other data.
- For gravity-driven water conveyance facilities, reduced flow capacity relative to 2015, that affects the functionality of the facility.
- For wells: observed casing collapse, damage, or protrusion attributable to subsidence.
- For flood control facilities, changes in water height or channel slope attributable to subsidence since 2015 that affects the functionality of the facility.

Other factors to be considered when evaluating a claim will include, but are not limited to:

If the Claimant is asserting an impact to an agricultural well, and the Claimant has been utilizing groundwater under a transitional pumping allocation, or otherwise contributing to transitional overdraft, the GSA will reject the claim. This includes claims where a well is being used for both domestic use and irrigation.

If the relative contribution to the problem by the claimant, or by neighboring property owner actions or other results are not attributable to the GSP, the claim is not eligible for mitigation. If the problem is being caused by specific neighboring issues, a claimant may be able to pursue corrections through the civil court process and will be so advised.

If the GSA Technical Representative recommends that the impact is eligible for mitigation, a specific mitigation measure as described in Section 3.3 will be considered for recommendation.

### 3.2.3 GSA Consideration of Technical Representative Recommendation

The Technical Representative Recommendation will be submitted to GSA General Manager. The GSA General Manager is delegated authority by the GSA Governing Body to determine whether to accept claims and to determine mitigation measures. The claimant has a right to appeal the staff decision to the GSA Governing Body. Decisions by the GSA governing body to accept a mitigation claim are not an acceptance of liability and shall not be a legal determination of any parties' rights. The Mitigation Program is provided as an administrative action to further the goals and objectives of the GSP and SGMA in general.

## **3.3 IDENTIFICATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES FOR ACCEPTED CLAIMS**

In the event that, under the Impact Assessment process, the GSA determines that GSA or GSA-allowed activities have had an impact on existing infrastructure (i.e., impacts related to post-2015 overdraft), the GSA will implement a mitigation measure(s) for the infrastructure. Mitigation measures that could be adopted to address impacts attributed to the GSA allowed activities could include the following:

n coordination with the affected landowner, developing a plan with acceptable mitigation.

Mitigation measures will be determined by the BOD, on the recommendation of the technical representative. Once a long-term solution is identified and offered by the GSA, if it is not accepted by the claimant within 30 days, the claim will be denied and not eligible for a future claim to be filed.

### **3.3.1 Assistance for Claimants Whose Claims have been denied**



For claimants who have denied claims, the GSA will provide references to other local, county and state programs that provide solutions.

#### **4. WATER QUALITY IMPACT – MITIGATION CLAIM PROCESS**

The monitoring and characterization of groundwater quality conditions has historically been conducted and reported by other public agencies and/or non-profits to meet requirements of other regulatory programs, which focus on the prevention of degradation of groundwater quality and providing mitigation to those who are found to be impacted.

To prevent duplication of efforts and competing datasets for the ILRP, CV-Salts Nitrate Control Program, and SGMA GSAs, the Tule Subbasin utilizes a single group to manage the monitoring efforts within the Subbasin for collectively meeting the various requirements of these programs being implemented at the local level. This level of coordination between these agencies and groups ensures that the efforts performed under each program help provide a cohesive response to providing short term and long-term solutions to groundwater management.

As it relates to providing replacement water for those impacted, the Tule Basin Management Zone (TBMZ), a local management zone formed to comply with the CV-Salts Nitrate Control Program is providing clean drinking water to residents within the Tule Subbasin who's drinking water supply is impacted from elevated concentrations of nitrate as nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N). As of recent, the Management Zone has begun working with the Tule Basin Water Foundation (TBWF) to expand their responsibilities for testing and providing short-term and long-term solutions replacement water solutions to include additional constituents of concern (COCs) found to be harmful for human consumption at elevated concentrations through the State funded SAFER program. The expansion of the TBMZ and TBWF efforts allows for the coordinated implementation efforts with the GSAs within the Tule Subbasin.

The Mitigation Program allows for domestic and municipal well users adversely affected by groundwater level impacts associated with GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities to file a claim with the GSA in which the well is located. Each GSA will allow for a domestic or municipal with potentially impacted groundwater quality to file a claim against the GSA the well is located within. Once a claim is filed against the GSA, the claim will be routed to the to the TBWZ/TBWF claim process which triggers an eligibility investigation as shown in Attachment 10, before the well can be tested for impacts.

For degraded groundwater quality, an "impact" is defined as a well user's groundwater quality degraded beyond the drinking water standards maximum contaminate level (MCL) for COCs defined in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement due to Tule Subbasin GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. The impact must be realized after January 2015.

For eligible claims that tests return results exceeding the MCL for the COCs, the process outlined in Section 4.1 will be followed to determine if the impact was caused by a Tule Subbasin GSA-/GSP- approved or authorized activity.

All claims will be investigated and evaluated within 45 days of receipt of the claim.

##### **4.1 Filing a Claim**

The claim process starts with the affected party ("Claimant") filing a claim with the GSA in which the party's well is located, or in which the Claimant asserts the activity was the cause of the Claimant's impacts. The claim will be filed using a form like that provided in Attachment 11 -Impact Claim Form.

- Claim forms will only be accepted for claim impacts occurring after January 1, 2025
- Claims can only be filed by the owner of the well

To process a claim, the Claimant must provide some basic information on the Impact Claim Form to enable further investigation of the claim, including:



- The Claimant's name and contact information,
- The type and location of the well,
- Request for interim water supply,
- description of the issue with the well, and
- The applicant's signature.

The filing of a claim will require that the Claimant provide access to the well to verify the claim. In signing the impact claim form, the Claimant agrees to release all data associated with the well and provide access to the well for inspection by a GSA technical representative. Denial of access to the well for inspection by the GSA will result in denial of the claim.

## 4.2 Impact Assessment

### 4.2.1. Technical Review and Verification of Claimant-Provided Data

A GSA technical representative will review all available information provided by the Claimant for the affected well prior to inspection in the field. Data to be reviewed will include, but not limited to:

Data from nearby groundwater quality Representative Monitoring Sites (RMS) wells designated for monitoring drinking water COCs will be evaluated.

Review readily available historical groundwater quality and level data within the vicinity of the potentially impacted well;

Evaluate potential GSA-/GSP- approved or authorized activities within the vicinity of the potentially impacted well that may have contributed to the exceedance; and

Evaluate other potential dischargers within the vicinity of the potentially impacted well to determine if activities outside of the GSA may have contributed to the exceedance.

If the findings from the above actions listed prove that a GSA-/GSP- approved or authorized activity have impacted the claim well, the GSA will address the impact as described in Section 4.2.2. Irrespective if the GSA is or is not found to have contributed to the impacted well, the GSA will coordinate with the TBMZ/TBWF to perform outreach to potentially impacted residents within the vicinity of the well, notifying them of the exceedance and offering resources for free well testing and replacement drinking water.

Based on a review of the available data provided by the Claimant, the GSA will determine whether the claim can be verified based on the data.

Completeness of the dataset relative to the requested information will be reviewed for the following criteria, reliability of the data provided, the nature and status of the issue, and evidence of well impact due to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, as opposed to impact from other sources.

The owner or owner's representative authorized to operate the pump will be asked to be onsite at the time of inspection to operate the pump. The GSA technical representative will record observations from the inspection. If a driller's log or other information is not available to confirm the total depth and condition of the well and if the pump intake depth cannot be confirmed from available information, it may be necessary to have the pump removed from the well and conduct a downhole video survey. Removing the pump will enable the GSA technical representative to measure the column pipe and thus confirm the pump intake depth and inspect the condition of the pump. The video log will enable inspection of the condition of the casing and perforations and confirm the perforation interval, total depth, and static groundwater level of the well. Upon completion of the investigation, the contractor will be required to reinstall the pump and reestablish all connections. If the pump was operating prior to removal, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the pump is functioning properly after reinstallation. A sounding port or flow meter may also be installed to collect pumping water level data or discharge rate data, respectively. The GSA will fund the contractor to remove the pump and conduct the video survey. If the claim is ultimately denied, the claimant will reimburse the GSA. The GSA require the well owner to sign a release of liability for any damage to the pump, pump column, or well resulting from removal of the pump and conducting the video



log.

#### 4.2.2 Evaluations of Claims of Groundwater Level Impacts

Based on the analysis of data for the impacted well, the GSA technical representative will provide a recommendation to the GSA Board of Directors whether the well qualifies for mitigation. In making the recommendation, the GSA technical representative will consider primarily that the foundational premise of the Mitigation Program, as it relates to water quality, is to address impacts to domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural wells from GSP-/GSA- approved or authorized activities. As SGMA does not require the GSAs to address impacts prior to January 2015, only impacts associated with water quality after this time will be considered.

Other factors to be considered when evaluating a claim will include, but are not limited to:

- If the Claimant is asserting an impact, and the Claimant has been utilizing groundwater under a transitional pumping allocation, or otherwise contributing to transitional overdraft, the GSA will reject the claim. This includes claims where a well is being used for both domestic use and irrigation.

If the relative contribution to the problem by the claimant, or by neighboring property owner actions or other overdraft results are not attributable to the GSP, the claim is not eligible for mitigation. If the problem is being caused by specific neighboring well issues, a claimant may be able to pursue corrections through the civil court process and will be so advised.

If the GSA Technical Representative recommends that the impact is eligible for mitigation, a specific mitigation measure as described in Section 4.3 will be considered for recommendation.

#### 4.23 GSA Consideration of Technical Representative Recommendation

The Technical Representative Recommendation will be submitted to GSA General Manager. The GSA General Manager is delegated authority by the GSA Governing Body to determine whether to accept claims and to determine mitigation measures. The claimant has a right to appeal the staff decision to the GSA Governing Body. Decisions by the GSA governing body to accept a mitigation claim is not an acceptance of liability and shall not be a legal determination of any parties' rights. The Mitigation Program is provided as an administrative action to further the goals and objectives of the GSP and SGMA in general.

### **4.3 IDENTIFICATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES FOR ACCEPTED CLAIMS**

In the event that, under the Impact Assessment process, the GSA determines that GSA or GSA-allowed activities have had an impact on an existing well (i.e., impacts related to post-2015 activities), the GSA will identify suitable mitigation to alleviate the impact either independent of the TBMZ/ TBWF or in coordination (i.e., financial contributions), may include one or more of the following:

- Adjusting groundwater pumping locations, rates, or schedules;
- Providing interim or permanent replacement water;
- Coordinating consolidation with existing water systems; or
- With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation.

Mitigation measures will be determined by the GSA BOD, on the recommendation of the technical representative. Once a long-term solution is identified and offered by the GSA, if it is not accepted by the claimant within 30 days, the claim will be denied and not eligible for a future claim to be filed.

#### **4.3.1 Provision for Interim Water Supply**

The claim process allows for the provision of an interim water supply should the Claimant request it. The interim water supply is meant to provide water to the applicant while the claim is investigated and prior to arranging a more permanent mitigation. If a claim is denied, it no longer qualifies for the provision of an interim water supply. Potential sources of interim



water supply include (but are not limited to):

- Trucking water
- Connecting to the water supply of a neighboring landowner
- Obtaining a temporary/permanent connection to the municipal water supply system

The GSA will fund the interim water supply or refer the claimant to the TBMZ that provides short term water supplies. If the claim is denied by the GSA, the cost is subject to reimbursement by the Claimant.

#### **4.3.2 Evaluation of Potential for Municipal Water Supply Connection**

In some urban areas of the Tule Subbasin, impacted domestic or industrial wells may be in close proximity to existing municipal water supply infrastructure. If so, the GSA will contact the local municipality, on behalf of the Claimant, to determine the feasibility of connecting the Claimant to the existing municipal water supply system. If a connection is feasible, the Claimant will be provided with a contact person at the municipality to arrange the connection to the municipal system. For those claims that can be satisfied through a municipal water supply connection, the GSA will waive all well inspection requirements. However, the Claimant must agree to allow the GSA to destroy or properly abandon the impacted well, in accordance with California Department of Water Resources requirements and County of Tulare regulations.

- The GSA, or other existing program that provides short term water supplies, will continue to fund the interim water supply to the Claimant, until the connection to the municipal system is complete
- GSA, municipality, and Claimant will work together to determine cost share funding to connect the Claimant to the municipal water system and the cost to destroy the impacted well

If the Claimant refuses to connect to the municipal water system, the Claimant will be required to allow the GSA to inspect the well in accordance with Section 2 herein.

#### **4.3.3 Assistance for Claimants Whose Claims have been denied**

For claimants who have denied claims, the GSA will provide references to other local, county and state programs that provide solutions.

### **5.0 Funding Plan**

The GSA will develop a budget and reserve account for in order to implement this plan. It is anticipated that the funding for the budget and reserve account will come from Transitional Fees collected by the GSA.

### **6.0 Reporting and Monitoring of Plan Implementation**

The GSA will monitor mitigation implementation activities on an ongoing basis. Mitigation Plan implementation and actions will be included in the GSA's annual GSP update to the Department of Water Resources.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – Mitigation Program Framework, Coordination Agreement Attachment 7
- Attachment 2 – Thomas Harder and Company Technical Memorandum – Technical Requirements for Addressing Impact Claims from Groundwater Levels for Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- Attachment 3 – Groundwater Level Impact Claim Process – Investigation Phase Flow Chart
- Attachment 4 – Groundwater Level Impact Claim Process – Evaluation Examples
- Attachment 5 – Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form
- Attachment 6 - Well Inspection Form
- Attachment 7-Release of liability forms
- Attachment 8 – Land Subsidence Impact Claim Process
- Attachment 9 – Land Subsidence Impact Claim Form
- Attachment 10- Tule Basin Management Zone Safe – Eligibility Investigation Process

Attachment 11 – Water Quality and Tule Basin Management Zone – Claim Forms

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MITIGATION PROGRAM FRAMEWORK  
COORDINATION AGREEMENT ATTACHMENT 7  
Framework for GSA Mitigation Programs to Address  
Groundwater Levels, Land Subsidence and Groundwater Quality Impacts

**Introduction**

Sustainable management criteria identified in each of the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies' (GSAs) Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) have been developed to address significant and unreasonable impacts to agricultural, municipal, and industrial beneficial uses of groundwater. However, analysis based on available data suggests that numerous shallow domestic wells and potentially other wells may be impacted during the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) GSP implementation period between 2020 and 2040 as a result of continued lowering of groundwater levels during this period. Wells, land use, property, and infrastructure may also be impacted from land subsidence and changes in groundwater quality during this period.

The Tule Subbasin GSAs agree to each individually implement a Mitigation Program (Program) as needed to offset impacts associated with GSP-allowed activities, subject to the following framework and subject to the schedule provided herein. The goal of this framework is to establish a standard for mitigation programs to be implemented by each GSA for the purpose of mitigating anticipated impacts to beneficial uses to a level that avoids the occurrence of an Undesirable Result.

Each Mitigation Program may be extended or revised based on groundwater conditions in the future.

**Mitigation Program Framework**

The Subbasin has been in overdraft for many years, resulting in a significant lowering of regional and local groundwater levels. The GSPs are designed for the Subbasin to reach sustainability by 2040 and beyond. However, until sustainability is reached, some level of continued groundwater level decline and land subsidence is expected in areas of the Subbasin while the GSAs are in the process of implementing projects and management actions to achieve sustainability by 2040. The purpose of the GSAs' Mitigation Programs is to mitigate those wells, critical infrastructure, and land uses that are adversely affected by declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, and changes to groundwater quality while the GSAs reach sustainability.

Each GSA shall include a Program as a project or management action identified in that GSA's GSP, describing the following elements:

a) Identification of Impacts to be Addressed by Mitigation Program

Each Tule Subbasin GSA will adopt and implement a Mitigation Program to identify the specific needs for mitigation caused by pumping within the GSA's boundaries. Each GSA Mitigation

Program will separately identify the impacts to beneficial uses that the Program is intended to address. Each GSA Mitigation Program must provide a claim process to address impacts to (i) domestic and municipal wells, (ii) agricultural wells, and (iii) critical infrastructure. Decisions to include or exclude impacted users from participation in a GSA's Mitigation Program shall be supported by appropriate written technical data and analysis.

b) Process

For claims of impact to wells related to groundwater level declines, the process to be adopted by each GSA's Mitigation Program may include:

- 1) an application process by the well owner;
- 2) data collection by the GSA to verify the claim;
- 3) identification of suitable mitigation; and/or
- 4) response to said affected user.

For claims of impact to land uses from land subsidence, the process may include:

- 1) an application process by the affected party;
- 2) data collection by the GSA to verify the claim;
- 3) identification of suitable mitigation; and/or
- 4) coordination, as necessary, with said affected parties to implement the mitigation.

For claims of impact to groundwater quality that is attributable to pumping allowed by a GSA/GSP, the process may include:

- 1) an application process by the affected party;
- 2) data collection by the GSA to verify the claim;
- 3) identification of suitable mitigation; and/or
- 4) coordination, as necessary, with said affected parties to implement the mitigation.

SGMA requires GSAs and GSPs to measure sustainability from 2015 forward. As a result, GSAs do not necessarily need to provide mitigation for impacts that occurred prior to January 1, 2015.

For those claims that are shown not to be related to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, the GSA will, to the extent possible, provide assistance to the affected party to identify programs for addressing their issue.

c) *Investigation*

Once a claim of adverse impact has been made to a GSA, whether it be for well, specific land use, critical infrastructure or groundwater quality issue(s), the GSA will investigate the claim.



d) *Qualifications for Mitigation*

GSA's may determine whether to provide full or partial mitigation based on a user's compliance with the GSA's GSP, Rules & Regulations, and other laws or regulations. For example, a user whose own pumping has caused or contributed to overdraft or damage to their own well may not qualify for mitigation under the Program. Further, mitigation will be applied only to those claims that are shown to be attributable to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. Each GSA's Program will also address how claims that a GSA determines are caused by pumping outside the GSA's boundaries will be addressed.

e) *Mitigation*

Once a claim of impact has been confirmed to be due to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities, the GSA will identify suitable mitigation to alleviate the impact.

For groundwater level impacts, this could be any of the following:

- 1) Deepening the well;
- 2) Constructing a new well;
- 3) Modifying pump equipment;
- 4) Providing temporary or permanent replacement water;
- 5) Coordinating consolidation of the domestic well owner with existing water systems;  
or
- 6) With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation.

For land use impacts, this could be any of the following:

- 1) Repair to canals, turnouts, stream channels, water delivery pipelines, and basins;
- 2) Repair to damaged wells;
- 3) Addressing flood control;
- 4) Addressing other damaged infrastructure; or
- 5) With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation.

For groundwater quality impacts (due to groundwater management/actions), this could be any of the following:

- 1) Adjusting groundwater pumping locations, rates, or schedules;
- 2) Modifying project operations;
- 3) Providing temporary or permanent replacement water;
- 4) Coordinating consolidation with existing water systems; or
- 5) With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation.

Various factors may reflect the proper mitigation methods for the specific issue. For example, age, location, financial impact to the beneficial user as a result of mitigation, and the beneficial user may reflect which mitigation measures are chosen by a particular GSA.

f) *Outreach*

Public outreach and education will be separately performed during development of the Mitigation Program and prior to implementation by each GSA.

Prior to implementation, extensive outreach will be needed to notify landowners of each GSA's Program requirements and how they can apply for assistance. Outreach may need to be performed in multiple languages as appropriate for each particular GSA. Outreach methods could include workshops, mailings, flyers, website postings, Board meeting announcements, etc.

g) Program Adoption Schedule

Each GSA will formulate and implement a mitigation claims process for domestic and municipal use impacts by December 31, 2022 and complete all other aspects of the Mitigation Program by June 30, 2023. During Program development, the GSAs will conduct community outreach and refer landowners and others to available local programs as well as other resources and funding programs from the County, State, or non-profit organizations, including the Tule Basin Water Foundation.

h) Mitigation Program Funding Source

Each GSA will develop a funding mechanism for the Program, which is dependent on the specific GSA needs for specific expected impacted wells, critical infrastructure, and land uses within each GSA. Funding is anticipated to be available for each GSA's Mitigation Program through implementation of assessments, fees, charges, and penalties. In addition, the GSAs will explore grant funding. The State has many existing grant programs for community water systems and well construction funding. County, state, and federal assistance will be needed to successfully implement the respective Mitigation Programs. Each GSA may, separately or in coordination with other GSAs, also work with local NGOs that may be able to provide assistance or seek grant monies to help fund the Program. GSAs may act individually or collectively to address and fund mitigation measures.



# ***Technical Memorandum***

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**To:** Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee

**From:** Thomas Harder, P.G., C.HG.  
Thomas Harder & Co.

**Date:** 13-Dec-22

**Re:** Technical Requirements for Addressing Impact Claims from Groundwater Levels for Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

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## **1 Background and Purpose**

In response to California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) comments to the Tule Subbasin draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Coordination Agreement, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) each agreed to develop mitigation plans to address significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses of groundwater during the sustainability transition period between 2020 and 2040. The revised Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement submitted in July 2022 included a Mitigation Program Framework as Attachment 7, which outlined the general standards that each GSA would commit to in developing their respective Mitigation Programs. The GSAs further committed to completing the mitigation claims process for domestic and municipal wells by December 31, 2022 and all other aspects of the Mitigation Programs by June 30, 2023.

The purpose of this document is to provide the minimum technical requirements for use by each Tule Subbasin GSA to address claims of impact from lowered groundwater levels associated with GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities or unmanaged pumping. In consideration of the technical information provided herein, and in accordance with the Mitigation Framework in Attachment 7 of the Coordination Agreement, each GSA Mitigation Program will identify the specific criteria and processes for mitigating claims of impact caused by pumping within their respective GSA boundaries. Each Mitigation Program must provide a claim process to address impacts to:

- (i) domestic and municipal wells,
- (ii) agricultural wells, and
- (iii) critical infrastructure.

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Impacts may be related to one or more of the three sustainability indicators related to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities:

1. Groundwater level declines
2. Land subsidence, and
3. Groundwater quality.

This TM addresses impacts related to groundwater levels.<sup>1</sup> Decisions to include or exclude impacted users from participation in a GSA's Mitigation Program shall be supported by appropriate written technical data and analysis, as described herein. In addition, this TM includes additional considerations, outside the technical requirements, for developing Mitigation Programs.

Each Mitigation Program will document:

1. Types of Impacts to be Addressed by the Mitigation Program
2. A Process for Responding to Claims of Impact
3. A Process for Investigating Claims
4. Qualifications for Mitigation
5. Types of Mitigation to Address Claims
6. An Outreach Program Prior To and During Mitigation Program Development
7. The Program Adoption Schedule
8. Mitigation Program Funding Source(s)

Mitigation will be applied only to those claims that are shown to be attributable to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities.

## 2 Process Overview for Claims of Groundwater Level Impacts

The Mitigation Program framework outlined in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement allows for domestic, industrial, municipal, and certain agricultural beneficial users of groundwater suffering from significant and unreasonable impacts (as defined in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement and Mitigation Program Framework) to file a claim with the GSA in which the well is located. The overall process for receiving and investigating claims of groundwater level impact is shown on Figure 1. For groundwater levels, a significant and unreasonable "impact" is defined as the inability of a beneficial user to pump groundwater of sufficient quantity to meet their water supply needs due to lowered groundwater levels resulting from Tule Subbasin GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. The GSAs are not required to address impacts that occurred prior to January 2015. Responsibilities of the claimant are shown in green and responsibilities of the GSA are shown in blue on Figure 1. Decision points are shown in orange. All claims will be investigated and evaluated within 45 days of receipt of the claim.

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<sup>1</sup> Technical requirements for mitigation of impacts associated with land subsidence and groundwater quality will be addressed in separate Technical Memoranda.





## 2.1 Filing a Claim

The claim process starts with the affected party (“Claimant”) filing a claim with the GSA in which the party’s well is located. The claim will be filed using a form like that provided in Attachment 1. To process a claim, the Claimant must provide some basic information to enable further investigation of the claim, including (but not limited to):

- The Claimant’s name and contact information,
- The type and location of the well,
- Request for interim water supply,
- Well construction information,
- Pump information,
- Historical operating and groundwater conditions for the well,
- A description of the issue with the well, and
- The applicant’s signature.

GSAs may determine whether to provide full or partial mitigation based on a user’s compliance with the GSA’s GSP, Rules & Regulations, and other laws or regulations. Further, mitigation will be applied only to those claims that are shown to be attributable to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. If the Claimant is pumping groundwater under a transitional pumping allocation, or otherwise contributing to transitional overdraft, a GSA may consider this fact in determining whether to accept or reject the claim.

## 2.2 Provision for Interim Water Supply

For claims not denied in Section 2.1, the claim process allows for the provision of an interim water supply should the Claimant request it. The interim water supply is meant to provide water to the applicant while the claim is investigated and prior to arranging a more permanent mitigation. Potential sources of interim water supply include (but are not limited to):

- Trucking water
- Utilizing filling stations
- Connecting to the water supply of a neighboring landowner
- Obtaining a temporary/permanent connection to the municipal water supply system

Considerations for each GSA Mitigation Program include:

- Funding
- If the GSA funds it, is the cost subject to reimbursement by the Claimant if the investigation finds that the issue is not associated with GSA activities or post-2015 overdraft?



### **2.3 Evaluation of Potential for Municipal Water Supply Connection**

In some urban areas of the Tule Subbasin (e.g. Porterville), impacted domestic or industrial wells may be in close proximity to existing municipal water supply infrastructure. If so, the GSA will contact the local municipality, on behalf of the Claimant, to determine the feasibility of connecting the Claimant to the existing municipal water supply system. If a connection is feasible, the Claimant will be provided a contact person at the municipality to arrange the connection to the municipal system. For those claims that can be satisfied through a municipal water supply connection, the GSA may waive well inspection requirements. However, the Claimant must agree to allow the GSA to destroy or properly abandon the impacted well, in accordance with California Department of Water Resources requirements and County of Tulare regulations, if it is in the GSA's interest to do so.

Considerations for each GSA Mitigation Program include:

- Will the GSA continue the interim water supply to the Claimant, free of cost, until the connection to the municipal system is complete?
- Who will fund the cost to connect the Claimant to the municipal water system (GSA, municipality, Claimant)?
- Who will fund the cost to destroy the impacted well?

If the Claimant refuses to connect to the municipal water system, the Claimant will be required to allow the GSA to inspect the well in accordance with Sections 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6, herein.

### **2.4 Provision of Access to the Well for Inspection by the GSA**

Mitigation of any claim of impact not rejected in Section 2.1 and not mitigated in Section 2.3 herein, will require that the Claimant provide access to the well to verify the claim. In signing the impact claim form (Attachment 1), the Claimant agrees to release all data associated with the well and provide access to the well for inspection by a GSA technical representative. Denial of access to the well for inspection by the GSA will result in denial of mitigation.

### **2.5 Preliminary Well Assessment Based on Existing Data**

A GSA technical representative will review all available information provided by the Claimant for the affected well prior to inspection in the field. Data to be reviewed will include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- The CDWR driller's log,
- Information on date the well was constructed,
- Well construction information (casing diameter, casing depth, perforation interval),
- Available downhole video surveys,





- Historical groundwater levels,
- Pump type and intake depth,
- Motor size,
- Pump age,
- Typical discharge rate,
- Historical electrical use,
- Historical production,
- End use of the water (e.g. agricultural irrigation, domestic supply, etc.),
- Land IQ satellite consumptive use data (if agricultural),
- Last pump test date,
- Last service date,
- Last static and pumping groundwater levels, and
- Information on the nature of the problem.

Based on a review of the available data provided by the Claimant, the GSA will determine whether the claim can be verified based on the data. Criteria for the determination will include:

- Completeness of the dataset relative to the requested information,
- Reliability of the data provided,
- Nature and status of the issue,
- Evidence of well impact due to GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities.

If the claim can be verified based on available information from the Claimant or the Tule Subbasin Data Management System, then the GSA technical representative will issue a recommendation for appropriate mitigation. If not, the GSA will conduct additional investigation to verify the claim as described in Section 2.6.

## **2.6 As-Needed Supplemental Well Inspection and Data Collection**

To verify a claim that cannot be confirmed from existing information provided by the Claimant, a GSA technical representative will need to inspect the well and collect supplemental information. The types of information to be collected will depend on the data available from the Claimant. Determination of the extent of additional data collection necessary to verify the claim will be at the sole discretion of the GSA.

In general, the minimum data to be collected in the field will include:

- Well name
- Pump size (horsepower)
- Casing type and diameter
- Static groundwater level



- Discharge rate
- Pumping groundwater level

The owner or owner's representative authorized to operate the pump will be asked to be onsite at the time of inspection to operate the pump. The GSA technical representative will record observations from the inspection on a form like that provided in Attachment 2.

If a CDWR driller's log or other information is not available to confirm the total depth and condition of the well and if the pump intake depth cannot be confirmed from available information, it may be necessary to have the pump removed from the well and conduct a downhole video survey. Removing the pump will enable the GSA technical representative to measure the column pipe and thus confirm the pump intake depth and inspect the condition of the pump. The video log will enable inspection of the condition of the casing and perforations and confirm the perforation interval, total depth, and static groundwater level of the well. Upon completion of the investigation, the contractor will be required to reinstall the pump and reestablish all connections. If the pump was operating prior to removal, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the pump is functioning properly after reinstallation. A sounding port or flow meter may also be installed to collect pumping water level data or discharge rate data, respectively.

Considerations for each GSA Mitigation Program include:

- Who will fund the contractor to remove the pump and conduct the video survey?
- If the GSA funds it, is the cost subject to reimbursement by the Claimant if the investigation finds that the issue is not associated with transitional overdraft pumping.
- Will the GSA require the well owner to sign a release of liability for any damage to the pump, pump column, or well resulting from removal of the pump and conducting the video log?

### **3 Evaluation of Claims of Groundwater Level Impacts**

The foundational premise of the Mitigation Program, as it relates to groundwater levels, is to address significant and unreasonable impacts to domestic, municipal, industrial and agricultural wells from GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities.

The graphic on Figure 2 provides illustrated examples of groundwater level conditions that could be cause to approve or deny claims based on the data provided by the Claimant or collected by the GSA. It is noted that the examples shown on Figure 2 are not exhaustive and are provided for guidance only. Further, as SGMA does not require the GSAs to address impacts prior to January 2015, the examples assume that impacts prior to this time will not be considered for mitigation. In practice, it will be up to each GSA to determine if impacts that occurred prior to January 2015 will be evaluated and factored into considerations of mitigation. As shown, Examples 1 and 2 illustrate groundwater level impacts that would qualify for mitigation. Example 1 is a case where the static





groundwater level is below the 2015 groundwater level and the pumping groundwater level, at the historical discharge rate, is within 10 feet of the bottom of the well. In Example 2, the static groundwater level is measured below the 2015 groundwater level and the pumping groundwater level, at the historical discharge rate, has dropped to within 20 feet of the pump intake. In both cases, the lowered groundwater levels can be attributed to overdraft and there is no option to restore the water supply without mitigation. The evaluation should consider whether there is adequate separation between the pump intake and the bottom of the well (e.g., 10 feet) and whether there is adequate pump submergence (e.g., 20 feet).

Examples 3 through 6 on Figure 2 illustrate cases where the well impact is not associated with lowered groundwater levels from GSP-/GSA-approved or authorized activities. In these cases:

- The pumping groundwater level would have already been below the bottom of the well before January 2015 (Example 3),
- The pumping groundwater level would have already been below the bottom of the pump intake before January 2015 (Example 4),
- The static groundwater level would have been below the pump intake prior to January 2015 (Example 5),
- The pump is not functioning for reasons other than groundwater level decline (e.g. mechanical failure)(Example 6).

In many cases, it is anticipated that a static groundwater level measured in the impacted well from January 2015 will not be available. For those cases, the reference January 2015 static groundwater level will be inferred from a groundwater level contour map generated based on available data from other wells measured at that time. Separate groundwater contour maps will be generated for the Upper and Lower Aquifers. The reference static groundwater level will be assigned from the contour map of the aquifer in which the well is predominantly perforated.

There are other factors, independent of lowered groundwater levels, that can cause a well to stop functioning, such as pump mechanical failure due to age or malfunction, holes in the well casing allowing sand into the pump intake, holes in the pump column associated with corrosion and wear, excessive plugging of screens due to lack of maintenance (e.g. well rehabilitation), and others. All these factors will need to be taken into consideration when assessing the need for mitigation.

Based on the analysis of data for the impacted well, the GSA technical representative will provide a recommendation to the GSA Board of Directors whether the well qualifies for mitigation.

A consideration for each GSA Mitigation Program includes:

- Will there be an appeal process available to the Claimant and, if so, what will that process consist of?



## 4 Potential Options for Mitigation

Mitigation measures, if approved, could include (but are not necessarily limited to) one or more of the following:

- Providing a short-term emergency water supply to domestic and municipal well owners. Short-term emergency supplies shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but in all cases within 14 days of notification to the GSA of such needs;
- Providing funds to lower a well pump;
- Providing funds to complete a connection to an M&I water provider;
- Supplying an equivalent water supply from an alternate source;
- Providing funds to replace the affected well with a deeper well that meets state and local requirements; or
- With the consent of the affected landowner, providing other acceptable mitigation.





Figure 1

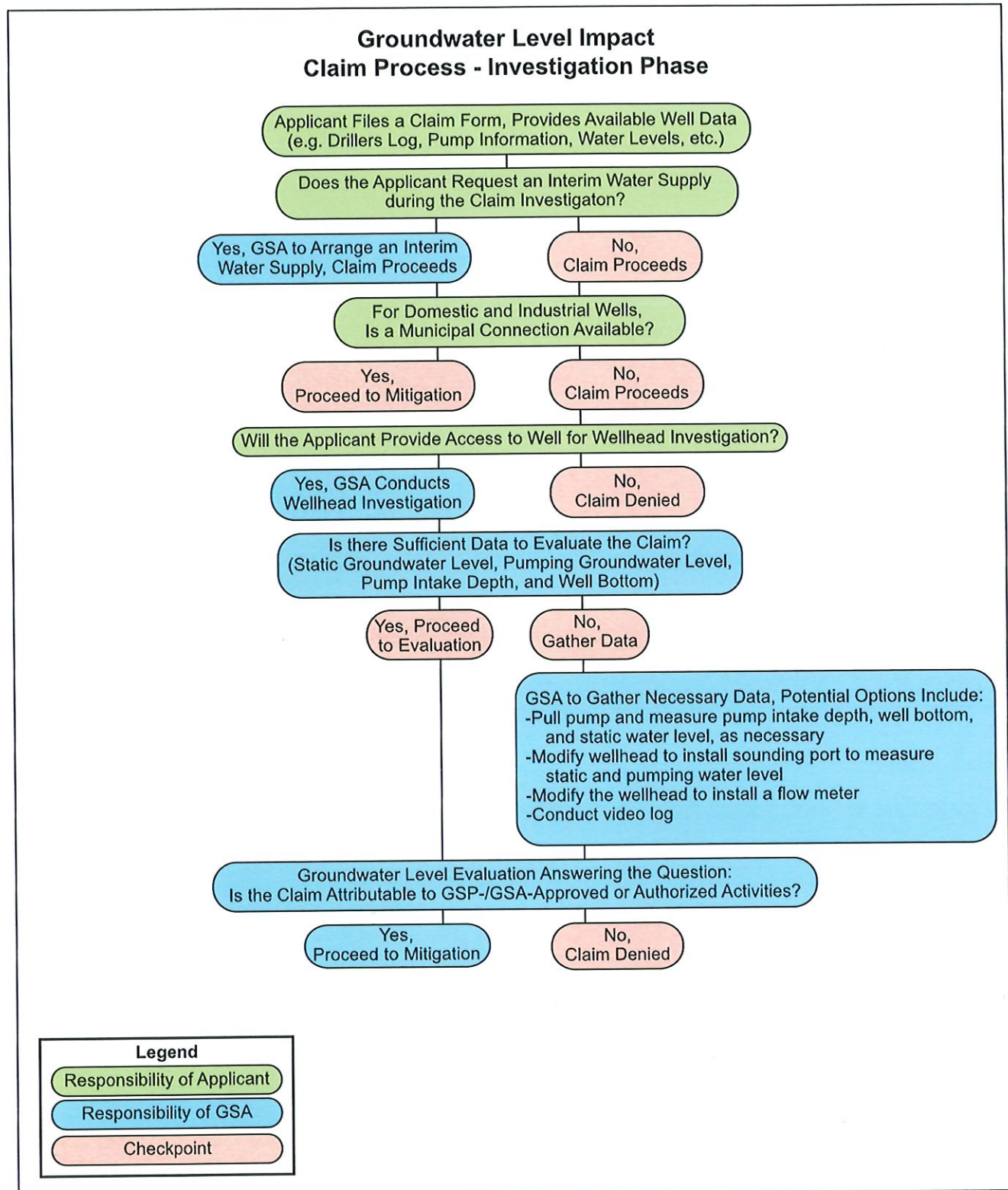
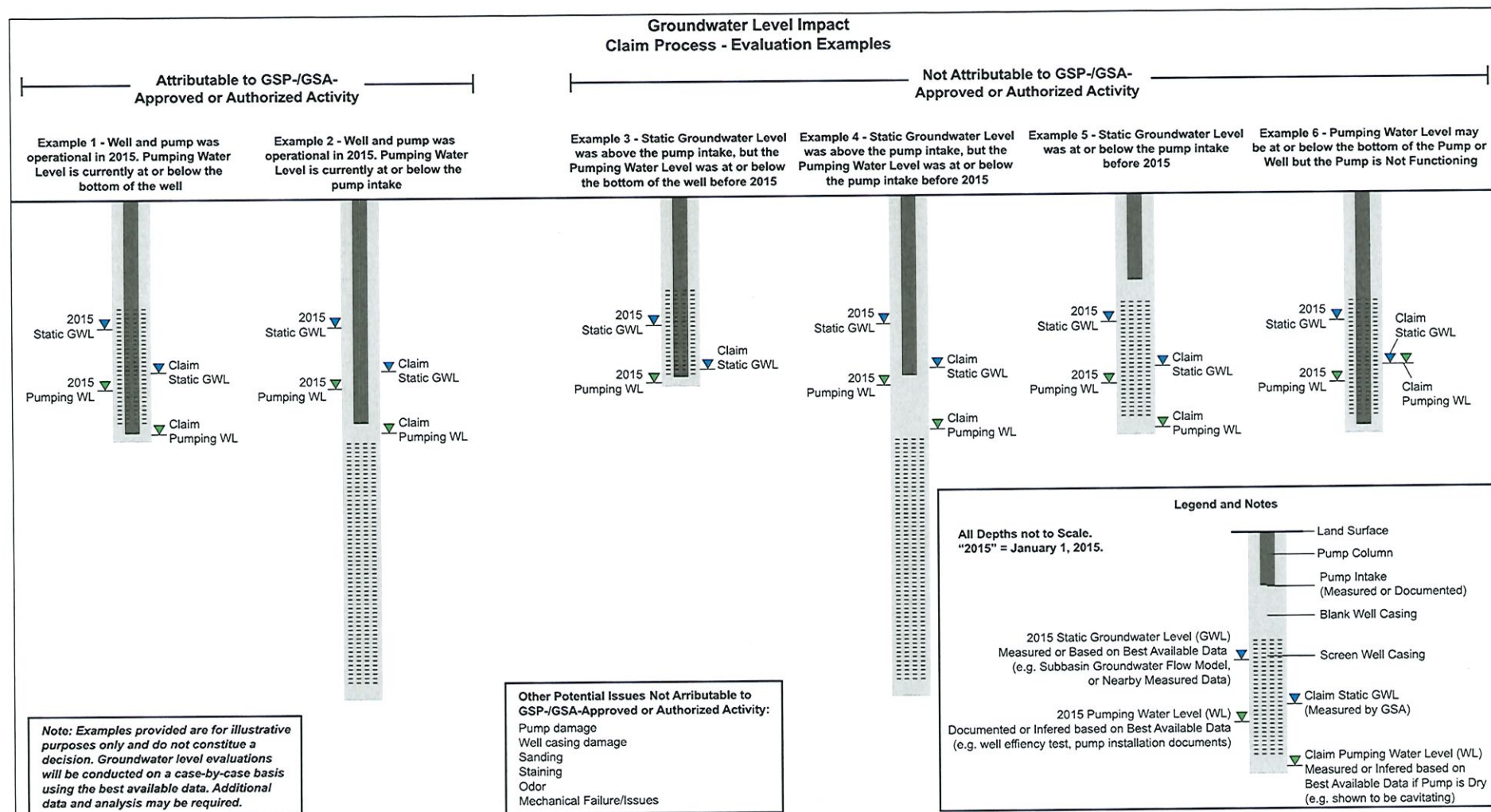


Figure 2





Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee  
Example Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form

**Attachment 1**

Claimant Information	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Well Location Sketch:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>Well Name:</b>	
<b>Well Location (Address/Description):</b>	
<b>Well Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	

Interim Water Supply	
<b>Does the Claimant Request an Interim Water Supply?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Number of Residences/Business Served (If Applicable):</b>	
<b>Number of Cropped Acres and Crop Type (If Applicable):</b>	
<b>Estimated Daily Water Use (Gallons, Cubic Feet, or Acre-Ft):</b>	

Well Construction Information	
<b>Is a Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report (i.e. Driller's Log) Available?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Attach if Available) <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Casing/Well Depth (ft):</b>	
<b>Perforation Interval(s) (ft):</b>	
<b>Casing Material:</b>	<b>Casing Diameter (inches):</b>
<b>Date Constructed (If Known) and/or Well Age (Estimated):</b>	
<b>Date of Last Video Survey (If Available):</b>	
<b>Well Photos Attached:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee  
Example Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form

**Attachment 1**

Pump Information	
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine
Intake Depth (ft):	Motor Size (horsepower):
Age (Known or Estimated):	Typical Discharge Rate (gpm):
Last Pump Test Date (Attach Record if Available):	
Last Service Date (Attach Record if Available):	

Issue Status	
Date Issue Arose:	
Issue: <input type="checkbox"/> No flow <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Flow <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking Suction <input type="checkbox"/> Future Concern	
Comments/Description:	
Static Water Level (ft):	Pumping Water Level (ft):
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor not Contacted (Note: Contacting a Contractor Not Required) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor Provided Estimate (attach estimate if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Resolved (attached records if applicable)	
Contractor Company Name:	
Contractor Contact Name:	Contact Phone Number:
Contractor Address:	

Applicant	
By signing this Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form, the applicant agrees to provide the GSA with access to the well for the Wellhead Investigation.	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

GSA Use Only	
Received By:	Date:



Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee  
Example Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Well Inspection Form

**Attachment 2**

Inspector	
Inspector Name:	Date:
Representing (e.g. Irrigation District, Consultant, etc.):	

Owner Information
Owner's Name:
Field Contact Name (If Different):
Address:
Phone Number:

Well Information
Well Name:
Date Constructed:
Casing/Well Depth:
Casing Material:
Casing Diameter (inches):
Perforation Interval(s):

Pump Information:	
Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Submersible <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine
Electrical Power (kW):	Motor Size (horsepower):
Intake Depth (ft):	
Equipped with Flow Meter:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Flow Meter Description (Attach Photo):	
Discharge Rate (gpm) and Source:	
Discharge Line Diameter (Inches):	

Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee  
Example Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Well Inspection Form

**Attachment 2**

Site Inspection	
Sounder Access Port Description and Opening Diameter (in):	
Reference Point Description and Stick Up (ft):	
Time Since Last Pumped:	Time Since Pumping Started:
Measured Static Water Level (ft):	Measured Pumping Water Level (ft):
Observed Pumping Description (e.g., working, won't turn on, dry after 5 minutes, pumping air, cavitating, etc.):	
Observed Pumping Rate (gpm) and Description (e.g., flow meter, bucket test, etc.):	
Distribution System Description (e.g., pressure tank, storage tank, residence, etc.)	

Location Sketch		
Well Coordinates:		
Survey Method:	Latitude:	Longitude:



Figure 1

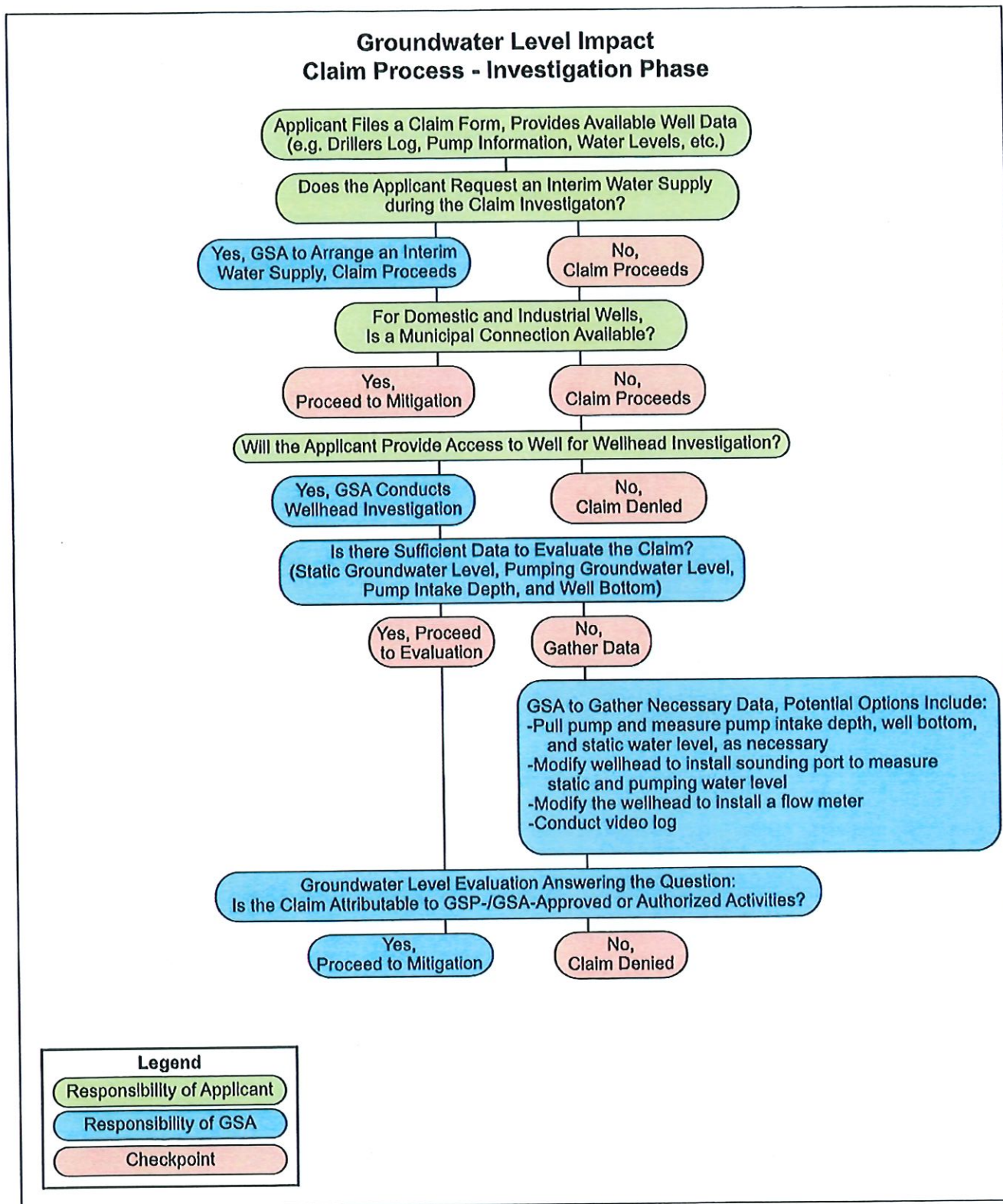
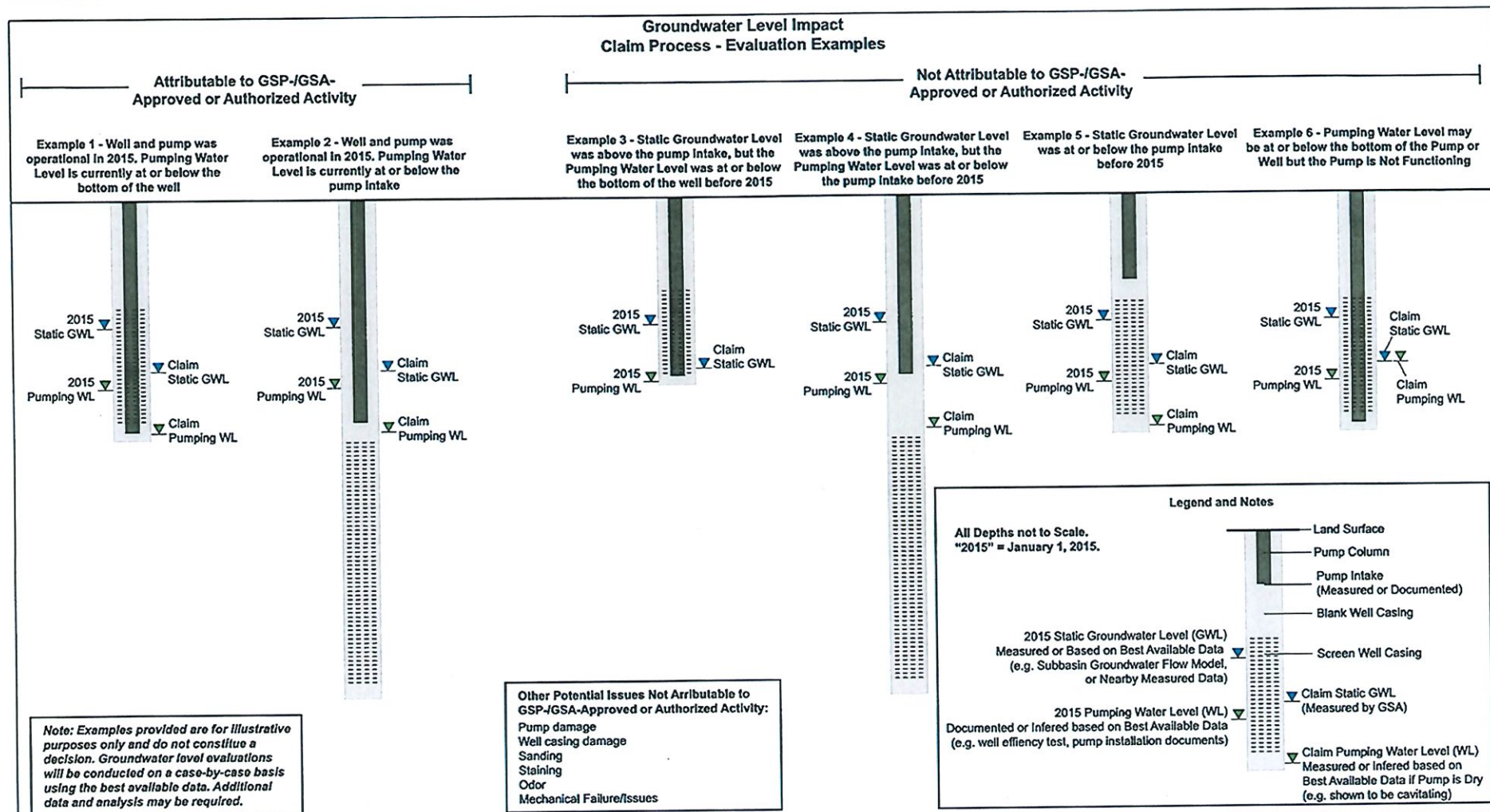


Figure 2





Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form

Claimant Information	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Well Location Sketch:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>Well Name:</b>	
<b>Well Location (Address/Description):</b>	
<b>Well Type:</b>	

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Domestic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Industrial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agricultural</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (Specify):</b>
--	--	--	--

Interim Water Supply
<b>Does the Claimant Request an Interim Water Supply?</b> <div style="float: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> </div>
<b>Number of Residences/Business Served (If Applicable):</b>
<b>Number of Cropped Acres and Crop Type (If Applicable):</b>
<b>Estimated Daily Water Use (Gallons, Cubic Feet, or Acre-Ft):</b>

Well Construction Information	
<b>Is a Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report (i.e. Driller's Log) Available?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes (Attach if Available)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Casing/Well Depth (ft):</b>	
<b>Perforation Interval(s) (ft):</b>	
<b>Casing Material:</b>	<b>Casing Diameter (inches):</b>
<b>Date Constructed (If Known) and/or Well Age (Estimated):</b>	
<b>Date of Last Video Survey (If Available):</b>	
<b>Well Photos Attached:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>

Pump Information	
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine
Intake Depth (ft):	Motor Size (horsepower):
Age (Known or Estimated):	Typical Discharge Rate (gpm):
Last Pump Test Date (Attach Record if Available):	
Last Service Date (Attach Record if Available):	

Issue Status	
Date Issue Arose:	
Issue: <input type="checkbox"/> No flow <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Flow <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking Suction <input type="checkbox"/> Future Concern	
Comments/Description:	
Static Water Level (ft):	Pumping Water Level (ft):
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor not Contacted (Note: Contacting a Contractor Not Required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor Provided Estimate (attach estimate if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolved (attached records if applicable)	
Contractor Company Name:	
Contractor Contact Name:	Contact Phone Number:
Contractor Address:	

Applicant	
By signing this Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form, the applicant agrees to provide the GSA with access to the well for the Wellhead Investigation.	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

GSA Use Only	
Received By:	Date:



**Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation  
Districts Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Level Impact Well Inspection  
Form**

Inspector	
<b>Inspector Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Representing (e.g. Irrigation District, Consultant, etc.):</b>	

Owner Information
<b>Owner's Name:</b>
<b>Field Contact Name (If Different):</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>

Well Information
<b>Well Name:</b>
<b>Date Constructed:</b>
<b>Casing/Well Depth:</b>
<b>Casing Material:</b>
<b>Casing Diameter (inches):</b>
<b>Perforation Interval(s):</b>

Pump Information:	
<b>Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine	
<b>Electrical Power (kW):</b>	<b>Motor Size (horsepower):</b>
<b>Intake Depth (ft):</b>	
<b>Equipped with Flow Meter:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Flow Meter Description (Attach Photo):</b>	
<b>Discharge Rate (gpm) and Source:</b>	
<b>Discharge Line Diameter (Inches):</b>	

Site Inspection	
Sounder Access Port Description and Opening Diameter (in):	
Reference Point Description and Stick Up (ft):	
Time Since Last Pumped:	Time Since Pumping Started:
Measured Static Water Level (ft):	Measured Pumping Water Level (ft):
Observed Pumping Description (e.g., working, won't turn on, dry after 5 minutes, pumping air, cavitating, etc.):	
Observed Pumping Rate (gpm) and Description (e.g., flow meter, bucket test, etc.):	
Distribution System Description (e.g., pressure tank, storage tank, residence, etc.)	

Location Sketch		
Well Coordinates:		
Survey Method:	Latitude:	Longitude:



**LOWER TULE RIVER AND PIXLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND  
INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

Landowner Names and Addresses (Please Print):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I have submitted an impact claim form to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"). It is understood that I must give access to my well for inspection and that the GSA may provide a temporary alternative water supply.

It is acknowledged and agreed that any temporary water supply being provided is non-potable and is not for human consumption, and that the entities providing such water make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the quality of the water provided or its suitability for any particular use. It is acknowledged and agreed that the temporary water supply provided shall be used for in-home emergency use only and shall not be used or applied outside of the home on, including but not limited to, hardscapes, landscapes, vegetation, plants, crops, etc. It is acknowledged and agreed that the provision of an interim water supply hereunder is temporary; neither this agreement nor the provision of water hereunder creates a water right, public utility service right or any right to continued or permanent water service; and the provision of this temporary water supply may be terminated in the sole discretion of the entities listed above.

In consideration for the provision of temporary water supplies to the Property, I, for myself and on behalf of any other person residing at or visiting the Property, if any (collectively "Water Users"), do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the above named irrigation district serving as the GSA, and the district's respective project participants, including the directors, officers, owners, employees, independent contractors or agents of all of the same (collectively referred to herein as the "GSA"), from liability for any and all claims for personal injury, illness, death, property damage, or any other claim, including but not limited to claims arising out of the negligence of the GSA that relates to or results from the provision of a temporary interim water supply to the Property.

It is expressly agreed that the GSA shall not be liable for any injuries or any damages to the Water Users, or the property of such persons, or be subject to any claim, demand, damages or causes of action arising out of or relating to any use of the interim temporary water supply, and well inspections by the GSA, regardless of whether the negligence of the GSA caused or contributed to the injury or damage. This waiver and release of claims is intended to be as broadly interpreted as allowed under California law but does not include gross negligence or willful misconduct by the GSA.

By signing this waiver and release the Water User is agreeing to waive all rights that they may have under the provisions of section 1542 of the Civil Code of California, which reads in part as follows:

"A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

\_\_\_\_\_ (Water User's initials)

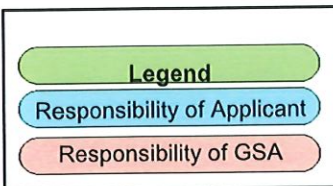
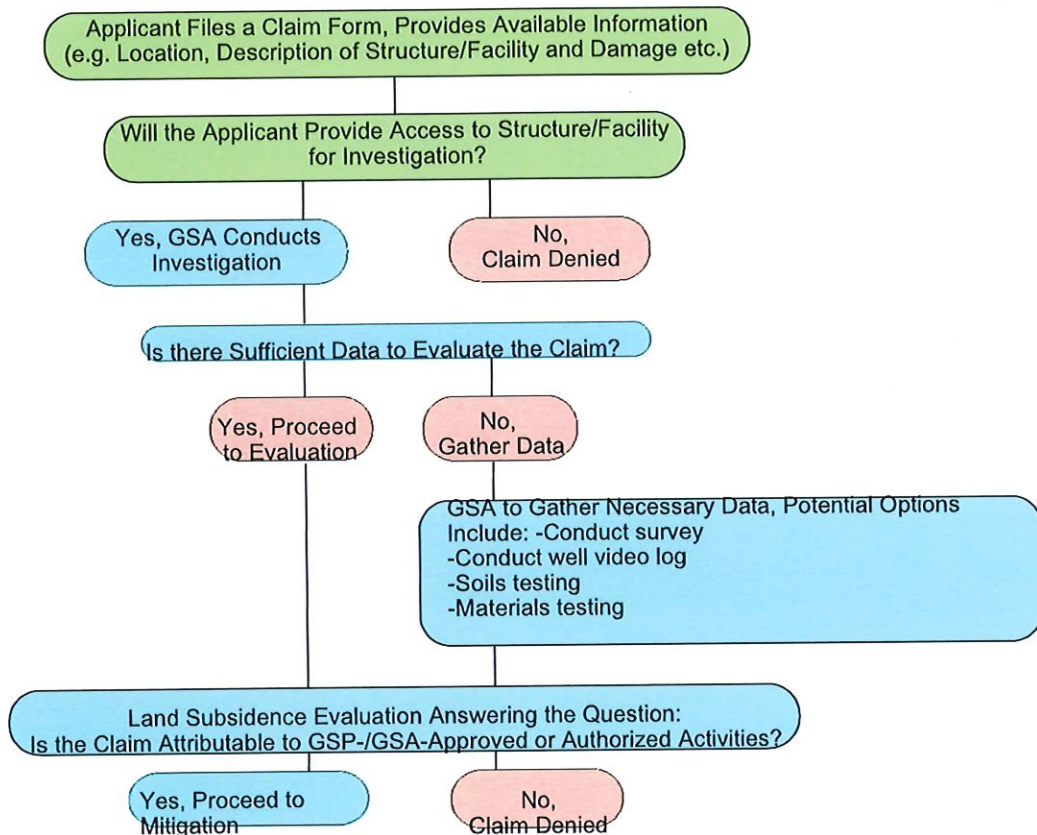
The Water User acknowledges that if the GSA ultimately accepts the claim and provides mitigation measures, the well subject to the claim is not eligible for future mitigation and the Water User releases the GSA from future claims regarding such well.

The Water User executing this waiver and release of liability hereby agrees to hold the GSA harmless from all claims which may be made by or on behalf of the Water User, and to indemnify the GSA from any such claims to the fullest extent allowed under California law. This express indemnification provision specifically includes reimbursement for all attorneys' fees and litigation costs incurred by the GSA or on their behalf as a result of any such claim. Neither this Agreement nor the provision (or offering) of temporary, emergency water supplies hereunder constitutes any admission of liability or wrongdoing, or an agreement or admission of any duty, fact, matter, or contention whatsoever.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Land Subsidence Impact Claim Process



Checkpoint





Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Subsidence Impact Claim Form

Claimant Information	
Contact Name:	Location Sketch:
Phone Number:	
Mailing Address:	
Well Name:	
Location (Address/Description):	
Infrastructure Type:	

<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---

Interim Water Supply	
Does the Claimant Request an Interim Water Supply?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number of Residences/Business Served (If Applicable):	
Number of Cropped Acres and Crop Type (If Applicable):	
Estimated Daily Water Use (Gallons, Cubic Feet, or Acre-Ft):	

Well Construction Information (If applicable)	
Is a Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report (i.e. Driller's Log) Available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Attach if Available) <input type="checkbox"/> No
Casing/Well Depth (ft):	
Perforation Interval(s) (ft):	
Casing Material:	Casing Diameter (inches):
Date Constructed (If Known) and/or Well Age (Estimated):	
Date of Last Video Survey (If Available):	
Well Photos Attached:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Pump Information	
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine
Intake Depth (ft):	Motor Size (horsepower):
Age (Known or Estimated):	Typical Discharge Rate (gpm):
Last Pump Test Date (Attach Record if Available):	
Last Service Date (Attach Record if Available):	

Issue Status	
Date Issue Arose:	
Issue: <input type="checkbox"/> No flow <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Flow <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking Suction <input type="checkbox"/> Future Concern	
Comments/Description:	
Static Water Level (ft):	Pumping Water Level (ft):
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor not Contacted (Note: Contacting a Contractor Not Required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor Provided Estimate (attach estimate if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolved (attached records if applicable)	
Contractor Company Name:	
Contractor Contact Name:	Contact Phone Number:
Contractor Address:	

Applicant	
By signing this Groundwater Level Impact Claim Form, the applicant agrees to provide the GSA with access to the infrastructure for the investigation.	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

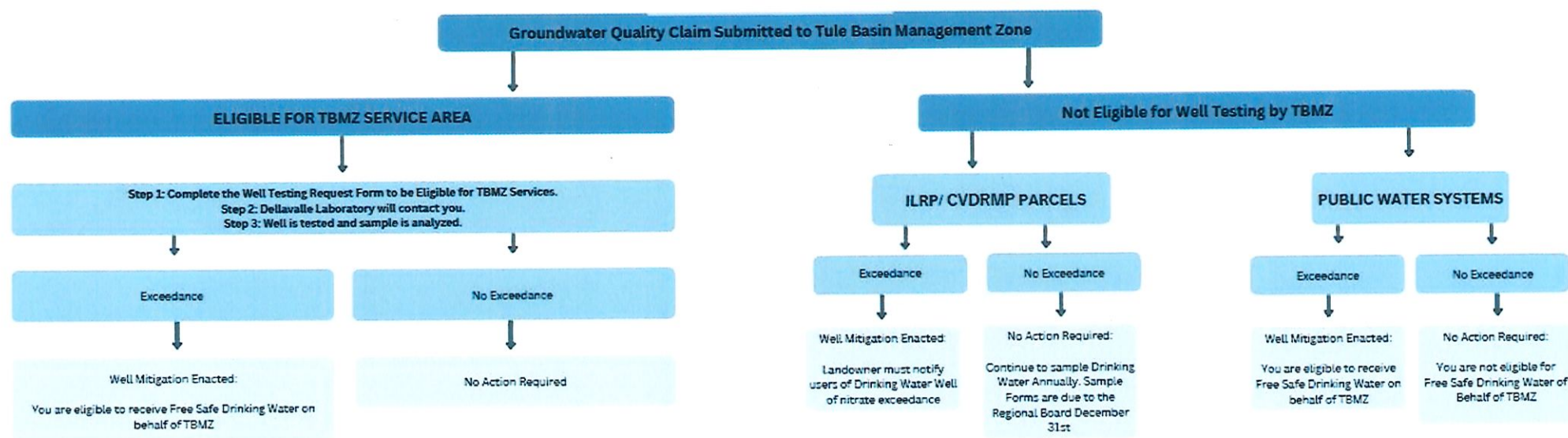
GSA Use Only	
Received By:	Date:



Figure 1 – TBMZ Potentially Impacted Well Eligibility Flow Chart

# TULE BASIN MANAGEMENT ZONE

Safe Drinking Water Delivery  
for All Water Systems



Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Groundwater Quality Impact Claim Form

Claimant Information	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Well Location Sketch:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>Well Name:</b>	
<b>Well Location (Address/Description):</b>	
<b>Well Type:</b>	

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Domestic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Industrial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agricultural</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (Specify):</b>
--	--	--	--

Interim Water Supply
<b>Does the Claimant Request an Interim Water Supply?</b> <div style="float: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> </div>
<b>Number of Residences/Business Served (If Applicable):</b>
<b>Number of Cropped Acres and Crop Type (If Applicable):</b>
<b>Estimated Daily Water Use (Gallons, Cubic Feet, or Acre-Ft):</b>

Well Construction Information	
<b>Is a Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report (i.e. Driller's Log) Available?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes (Attach if Available)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Casing/Well Depth (ft):</b>	
<b>Perforation Interval(s) (ft):</b>	
<b>Casing Material:</b>	<b>Casing Diameter (inches):</b>
<b>Date Constructed (If Known) and/or Well Age (Estimated):</b>	
<b>Date of Last Video Survey (If Available):</b>	
<b>Well Photos Attached:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>



Pump Information	
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Turbine
Intake Depth (ft):	Motor Size (horsepower):
Age (Known or Estimated):	Typical Discharge Rate (gpm):
Last Pump Test Date (Attach Record if Available):	
Last Service Date (Attach Record if Available):	

Issue Status	
Date Issue Arose:	
Issue: <input type="checkbox"/> No flow <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Flow <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking Suction <input type="checkbox"/> Future Concern	
Comments/Description:	
Static Water Level (ft):	Pumping Water Level (ft):
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor not Contacted (Note: Contacting a Contractor Not Required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Resolved, Contractor Provided Estimate (attach estimate if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolved (attached records if applicable)	
Contractor Company Name:	
Contractor Contact Name:	Contact Phone Number:
Contractor Address:	

Applicant	
By signing this Groundwater Quality Impact Claim Form, the applicant agrees to provide the GSA with access to the well for the investigation.	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

GSA Use Only	
Received By:	Date:

The Tule Basin Management Zone is a California nonprofit corporation created to serve Tulare County and a small portion of Kern County.

Our mission is to educate residents within the Management Zone Service Area of potential nitrate contamination in their drinking water and to ensure the availability of safe drinking water to these residents.

Our program offers free, safe drinking water to those residents whose drinking water supply is contaminated by nitrates.

**La Zona de Manejo de la Cuenca de Tule** es una corporación sin fines de lucro de California creada para servir al Condado de Tulare y a una pequeña porción del Condado de Kern.

Nuestra misión es educar a los residentes dentro del Área de Servicio de la Zona de Manejo de la posible contaminación de nitratos de su agua potable y garantizar la disponibilidad de agua potable segura para estos residentes.

Nuestro programa ofrece agua potable gratuita y segura a aquellos residentes cuyo suministro de agua potable está contaminada por nitratos.

## TULE BASIN MANAGEMENT ZONE

Service Area • Área de Servicio



### Free Water Fill Station

TBMZ has constructed a water fill station in the community of Terra Bella and is working towards constructing additional water fill stations.

The fill station is available to any person to access clean drinking water, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You must provide your own drinking water container and the size must be 5 gallons or less, but there is no limit on the number of containers you may fill. To learn more about water fill stations, including future locations, visit [www.tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/](http://www.tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/).

### Estación de Llenado de Agua Gratis

La TBMZ ha construido una estación de agua en la comunidad de Terra Bella y está en proceso de construir dos estaciones adicionales de llenado de agua.

La estación de agua está disponible para que cualquier persona pueda acceder agua potable limpia, las 24 horas del día los 7 días de la semana. Usted debe proporcionar sus propios garrafones y el tamaño del contenedor debe ser de 5 galones o menos, pero no hay límite en el número de contenedores que puede llenar. Para obtener más información sobre estaciones de lleno de agua, incluyendo sitios futuros, visite [www.tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/](http://www.tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/).



**TULE BASIN**  
MANAGEMENT ZONE

Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm | Friday 8am-12pm  
324 S. Santa Fe Visalia, CA 93292 | 559.429.6970  
[admin@tulebasin.com](mailto:admin@tulebasin.com) | Facebook @tulebasin

# Is your domestic well water safe to drink?

¿Es seguro beber el agua de su pozo domestico?



**TULE BASIN**  
MANAGEMENT ZONE

[www.tulemz.com](http://www.tulemz.com) | 559.429.6970



## Safe Drinking Water Program & Well Test Request

**FREE-SAFE drinking water programs are being offered by the Tule Basin Management Zone (TBMZ) to residents that use a private well for their drinking water and it is determined that the well water has an elevated nitrate concentration, which may be harmful for your health.**

To determine if you are eligible to enroll in the Safe Drinking Water Program, fill out the form to the right and return to:

Tule Basin Management Zone  
324 S. Santa Fe, Visalia, CA 93292

Or scan and email to: [admin@tulemz.com](mailto:admin@tulemz.com)

Or you can fill out the application online at:  
[tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/](http://tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/)

Eligibility will be contingent on TBMZ's review of the applicant's information. If eligible, TBMZ staff or consultant will contact you to schedule the collection of a water sample from the drinking water well at your residence.

TBMZ will share the results from your well test with the following determinations:

1. If the nitrate water quality sample exceeds 10 mg/L, this determines that you are eligible for the Safe Drinking Water Program which provides for you to receive safe drinking water by:
  - Bottled water regularly delivered to your home (limit of 60 gallon per month per household). TBMZ staff will coordinate the delivery of safe drinking water with you.Or
  - In-home water treatment device installed at your residence (subject to additional evaluation criteria).
2. If the nitrate content in your water sample is less than 10 mg/L, you will not be eligible for the Safe Drinking Water Program, but you may still access safe drinking water at our water fill station at no cost to you.

*Note: Results showing nitrate concentrations less than 10 mg/L does not guarantee your water is safe for drinking. Your water may contain other harmful constituents not covered under this program. If you have questions or concerns regarding well failure or a dry well, contact Self-Help Enterprises at 559.802.1685 or 559.802.1284 for water quality issues. Applicant information may be shared with other organizations operating safe drinking water programs.*

## Programa de Agua Potable Segura y Solicitud de Prueba de Pozo

**La Zona de Manejo de la Cuenca del Tule (TBMZ) ofrece programas de agua potable GRATIS y SEGURA a los residentes que usan un pozo privado para su agua potable y se determina que el agua del pozo tiene una concentración elevada de nitratos, lo que puede ser perjudicial para su salud.**

Para determinar si usted es elegible para inscribirse en el Programa de Agua Potable Segura, complete el formulario a la derecha y regreselo a:

Tule Basin Management Zone  
324 S. Santa Fe, Visalia, CA 93292

O por correo electronico: [admin@tulemz.com](mailto:admin@tulemz.com)

O puede completar la solicitud en línea en:  
[tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/](http://tulemz.com/safe-drinking-water/)

Su elegibilidad dependerá de la revisión de la información del solicitante por parte de TBMZ. Si es elegible, el personal o consultor de TBMZ se comunicará con usted para programar la colección de una muestra de agua del pozo de agua potable de su residencia.

TBMZ compartirá los resultados de su prueba de pozo con las siguientes determinaciones:

1. Si la muestra de calidad de agua de nitrato excede los 10 mg/L, esto determina que usted es elegible para el Programa de Agua Potable Segura que le proporciona recibir agua potable segura por medio de:
  - Agua embotellada entregada regularmente a su hogar (límite de 60 galones por mes por hogar). El personal de TBMZ coordinará la entrega de agua potable segura con usted. O...
  - Dispositivo de tratamiento de agua en el hogar instalado en su residencia (sujeto a criterios de evaluación adicionales).
2. Si el contenido de nitrato en su muestra de agua es menos de 10 mg/L, no será elegible para el Programa de Agua Potable Segura, pero aún puede acceder a agua potable segura en nuestras estaciones de llenado de agua sin costo alguno para usted.

*Nota: Los resultados que muestran concentraciones de nitrato menos de 10 mg/L no garantizan que su agua sea segura para beber. Su agua puede contener otros componentes dañinos no cubiertos por este programa. Si tiene preguntas o inquietudes acerca de la falla de su pozo o sobre un pozo seco, comuníquese con Self-Help Enterprises al 559.802.1685 o al 559.802.1284 para asuntos de agua. La información del solicitante puede compartirse con otras organizaciones que operan programas de agua potable segura.*

## Inquiry Form for Domestic Use Well

Do you receive water from a public water system or private domestic well? ☐ Public ☐ Private ☐ Not Sure

### Legal Owner of Property Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Authorization to Test for Nitrates:

I am the legal owner of the property described above as Domestic Well/Household information and I hereby grant the Tule Basin Management Zone (TBMZ) authority to test my domestic well for nitrate contamination. The cost to test my well for nitrate will bore by the TBMZ, and I will be provided a copy of the test results. I understand that my domestic well will be tested for nitrates only, and that lack of nitrate contamination does not construe that water in my private well is safe to drink. I have read the attached brochure and understand and accept the terms of the Bottled Water Delivery.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Formulario de Consulta de Uso de Pozo Doméstico

**¿Recibe agua de un sistema publico de agua o de un pozo domestico privado?**

☐ Público ☐ Privado ☐ No Estoy Seguro

### Informacion de Propietario Legal de la Propiedad:

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección de Calle: \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Correo Electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

### Autorización para la Prueba de Nitratos:

Yo soy el propietario legal de la propiedad descrita anteriormente como información de Pozo Doméstico/Hogar y por la presente otorgo a la Zona de Manejo de la Cuenca del Tule (TBMZ) autoridad para probar mi pozo doméstico para detectar contaminación de nitratos. El costo de probar mi pozo para detectar nitrato será soportado por el TBMZ, y se me proporcionará una copia de los resultados de la prueba. Entiendo que mi pozo doméstico será analizado solo para detectar nitratos, y que la falta de contaminación de nitratos no significa que el agua en mi pozo privado es segura para beber. He leído el folleto adjunto y entiendo y acepto los términos de la Entrega de Agua Embotellada.

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma: \_\_\_\_\_