

# TPDWD GSA

## Rules and Operating Policies



**A Summary of Policies Implemented by the GSA and how they Effect Landowners 2025**

# Groundwater Budget - 2026



2026 Groundwater Budget	AF/AC	Expiration	Transferable
<b>Precipitation Yield</b> Average from 1991 on. Add each new year as it comes.	0.89	5 Years	No
<b>Sustainable Yield</b> Natural TR/DC/WR losses and mountain block recharge	0.15	5 Years	Yes
<b>Landowner Developed Credits</b> Will differ by landowner.	0.00	5 Years	Yes

**1.04 AF/AC TOTAL**

## Water Measurements & Metering

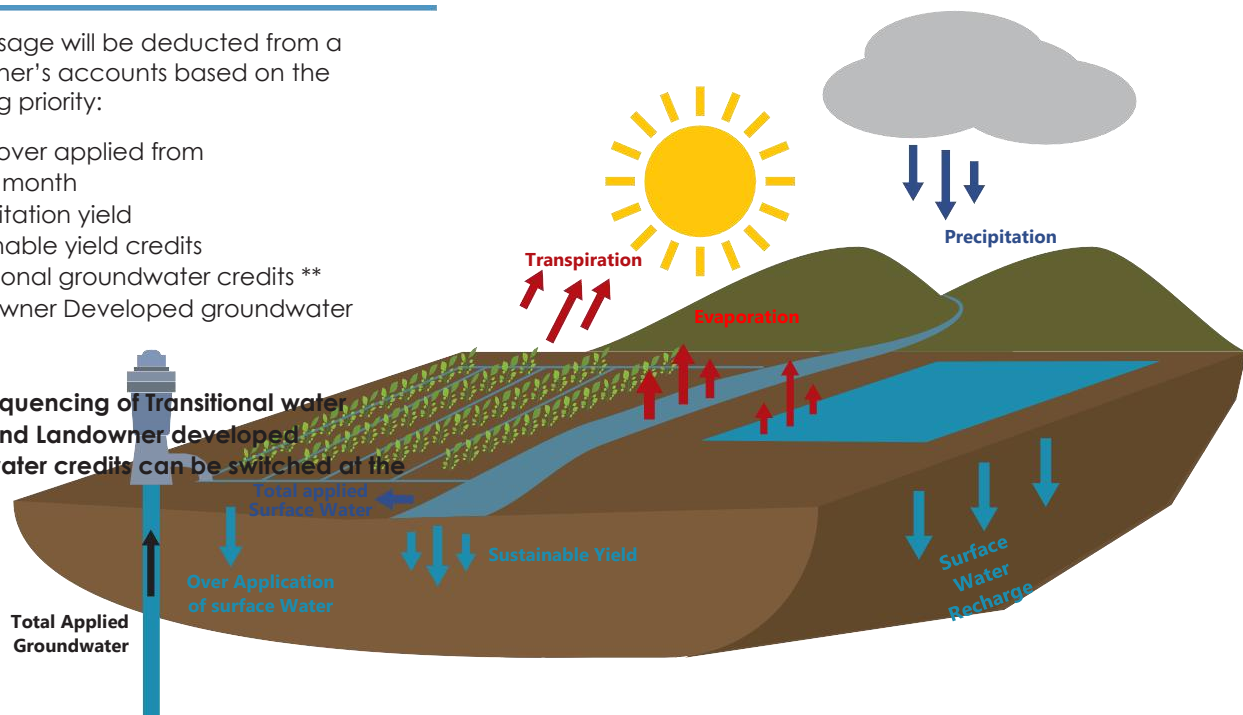
- Using Satellite imagery to measure Evapotranspiration, the debit of groundwater credits from Landowner accounts will be determined as follows; **Total Crop Demand (Evapotranspiration or ET) - Total Applied Surface Water = Net Applied Groundwater**

### Priority of Water Use

Water usage will be deducted from a landowner's accounts based on the following priority:

1. Water over applied from previous month
2. Precipitation yield
3. Sustainable yield credits
4. Transitional groundwater credits \*\*
5. Landowner Developed groundwater credits\*\*

\*\* The sequencing of Transitional water credits and Landowner developed groundwater credits can be switched at the



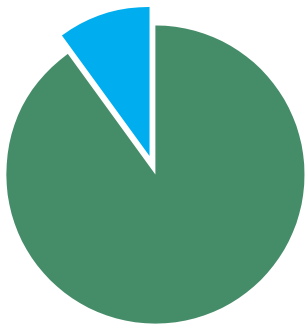
# Policies for District Developed Groundwater Credits

## District Surface Water Allocation Policy

The Water District (District) owns and operates a water bank for surface water storage banking purposes. The District directly delivers surface water to growers as well as banks and stores surface water in the water bank for the District to supplement surface water deliveries to landowners. The District tracks how much water is both inputted and extracted from the bank.

# Policies for Landowner Developed Groundwater Credits

## Landowner Groundwater Recharge/Banking Credits



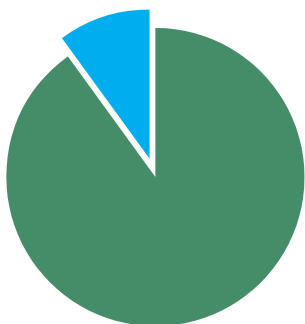
Landowners may purchase surface water from the District for banking in basins owned by the landowner. Credits generated from banking are allocated as follows:

- 90% credit of total surface water purchased/diverted allocated to landowner groundwater account; and
- 10% remaining with the GSA for the benefit of all landowners.

### All Landowner recharge activities must meet the following conditions:

1. The basin used for banking must be registered with the GSA and meet the minimum requirements set by the GSA.
2. Water diverted for banking will be metered by the GSA using a meter specified by the GSA at a dedicated District turnout.
3. The District has established the following priority order of water service and related canal capacities:
  - Deliveries for irrigation demand
  - District recharge/banking for the benefit of all landowners
  - Landowner recharge/banking

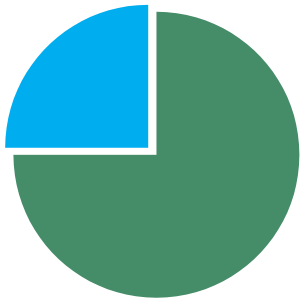
## Over-Application of Surface Water



Surface water above irrigation demand (as measured by ET) generates groundwater credits as follows:

- 90% credit of total surface water over-applied allocated to landowner groundwater account; and
- 10% will remain with the GSA to account for evaporation, groundwater migration, and for the benefit of all landowners.
- **The credits will be available as the first water used in the month following the overapplication**

## Landowner Use of District Owned Recharge Facilities



There may be times when landowners can use District owned recharge facilities to generate groundwater credits subject to the following criteria:

- Landowner provides water from purchases or water rights
- Use of the recharge facility is subject to available capacity as determined by the District and the District's operations on behalf of all landowners.

Groundwater credits from use of District owned recharge facilities are generated as follows:

- 75% credit allocated to the Landowner groundwater account; and
- 25% credit will remain with the GSA to account for evaporation, groundwater migration, and for the benefit of all landowners.

## Water Imported into the GSA

Surface water brought into the GSA by a landowner will be tracked and accounted for by the GSA and applied to the landowner's water account according to the following procedures:

- Surface water brought into the GSA and credited to the landowner will be subject to a loss/reduction factor as determined by the District Board of Directors.
- Surface water brought into the GSA will be delivered to the landowner based upon canal capacity. No surface water delivery brought into the GSA will interrupt or interfere with scheduled allocations of the Districts surface water supplies.
- Imported surface water may be used for groundwater recharge subject to the guidelines of the GSP.

## Policies for Water Allocations

### Transitional Water Allocations

Groundwater extractions above basin wide sustainable yield will be permitted, but phased out over the implementation period ending in 2040, per the guidelines of SGMA, as described in the GSP and consistent with the following criteria:

1. Use will be consistent with the policies established for avoiding the undesirable effects under SGMA;
2. Transitional water credits can be used only on landowner's properties within the GSA and cannot be transferred to other landowners.
3. The Board set the Transitional Water allocation at **0 AF/acre for 2026** and it will likely remain 0 going forward.
4. Historical Transitional Pumping Rate
  - 2025 (0.75 af/acre/year)

The Board will reevaluate transition allocation annually and adjust the allocation as needed to avoid undesirable results in SGMA Implementation.

1. A fee schedule for Transitional water allocations will be set annually by the Board.
2. Water consumption beyond allocated limits (exceedance consumption) will result in consumption charges, penalties, and reduced allocation in the next allocation period.
3. If a landowner has been determined to have consumed groundwater beyond the allowable limits, the landowner will be subject to enforcement, per Policy 7 of the GSA Rules and Regulations.

# Policies for Water Transfers

## Water transfers within the GSA

Landowners may transfer groundwater credits through direct sale or lease. The transferring of groundwater credits within the GSA are required to meet the following criteria:

- Written approval from the seller, describing the transferred amount to the buyer or lessee, must be provided to the District for approval in advance of the transfer occurring.
- Groundwater credits can only be transferred by a landowner that has a positive balance in their groundwater account. Deficit groundwater credit transferring is not allowed.
- For every acre-foot transferred out of their account, one acre foot of Transitional Groundwater Credit will be retired and paid for.
- Groundwater Credits cannot be transferred into the Friant Kern Canal Land Subsidence Management Zones.
- A groundwater credit transfer is a one-to-one transfer within the GSA.
- The GSA also has a policy allowing limited transfers outside the GSA. Such transfers will be considered in coordination with other Tule Subbasin GSAs. Lands under the same ownership and operation are eligible for transfers within a 2-mile radius of the GSA boundaries.

The GSA will keep an account of all transfers within the GSA Water Accounting Program. The sale or lease terms of groundwater credits is not subject to disclosure.

## Subsidence Management Regulation

The GSA has a policy to monitor in zones near the Friant Kern Canal to avoid undesirable results and impacts to the Canal. There are triggers for actions based on feet of cumulative subsidence relative to measurable objectives and minimum thresholds in the GSP to protect the Friant Kern Canal.

The Board will review subsidence monitoring data quarterly to determine the threat of exceedance of MTs and MOs. Once a potential impact or exceedance is determined an investigation will take place to find the cause of subsidence in the area. If a specific well or wells are determined to be the cause, a Corrective Subsidence Management Order will be adopted and implemented.

Wells subject to the CSMO shall have the following restrictions of use:

- a) Subsidence Zone: Tier 1 (Land Subsidence Between 0 feet and 1.49 feet):** Meter installation and well registry will be required.
- b) Subsidence Zone: Tier 2 (Land Subsidence Between 1.50 and 1.99):** Transitional allocation will be reduced to 60%. The landowner may not transfer groundwater credits into this management area.
- c) Subsidence Zone: Tier 3 (Land Subsidence Between 2.00 feet and 2.49 feet):** Transitional allocation will be reduced to 30%. The landowner may not transfer groundwater credits into this management area.
- d) Subsidence Zone: Tier 4 (Land Subsidence Between 2.50 feet and 2.99 feet):** Transitional allocation will not be allocated to this management area. The landowner may not transfer groundwater credits into this management area.

# Policies for Enforcement of Plan Actions

Per Policy 7 of the Rules and Regulations, The GSA will take actions to enforce the Policies for violations, including, but not limited to the following;

- Failure to pay GSA assessments or groundwater consumption fees and fines
- Consumption of groundwater beyond allowable limits (exceedance consumption)

Landowners will be given the opportunity to correct any non-compliance issues. If not corrected, the GSA will take the necessary actions to enforce, up to and including seeking civil mandate orders through a court.

## GSP Overview

### **Section 1. Introduction**

### **Section 2. Basin Setting**

### **Section 3. Sustainable Management Criteria**

1. Outlines Sustainability Goals to avoid six undesirable results

### **Section 4. Monitoring Networks & Monitoring Plan**

### **Section 5. Projects and Management Actions**

1. GSA specific Rules,
2. Projects,
3. Implementation,
4. Enforcement

### **Section 6. Plan Implementation**

1. Schedule, costs, funding, reporting schedule and descriptions

### **Section 7. References and Technical Studies**

# Tule Subbasin Overview

1. LTRID GSA: 104,525 ac.
2. Eastern Tule GSA\* (ETGSA)
3. Porterville Irrigation District GSA
4. Saucelito Irrigation District GSA
5. Terra Bella Irrigation District GSA
6. Tule East GSA: 83,042 ac.
7. Pixley ID GSA: 69,803 ac.
8. Delano Earlimart GSA (DEID GSA): 64,134 ac.
9. Tri-County GSA: 61,575 ac.
10. Alpaugh GSA: 14,437 ac.
11. Tulare County GSA: 2,408 ac.
12. Vandalia Water District: 1,374.95 ac.
13. Tea Pot Dome Water District: 3,018.64 ac
14. Kern Tulare Water District: 19,600 ac.

TOTAL Area: 488,690 ac.

Multiple GSA's with Multiple GSP's

All GSPs Must Be Coordinated –  
Otherwise, DWR can place basin in  
probationary status which could  
include the State Water Board  
implementing and interim plan for the  
Subbasin.



**Tule Subbasin**  
Sustainable Groundwater  
Management Act

**Groundwater  
Sustainability  
Agencies**

**Legend**

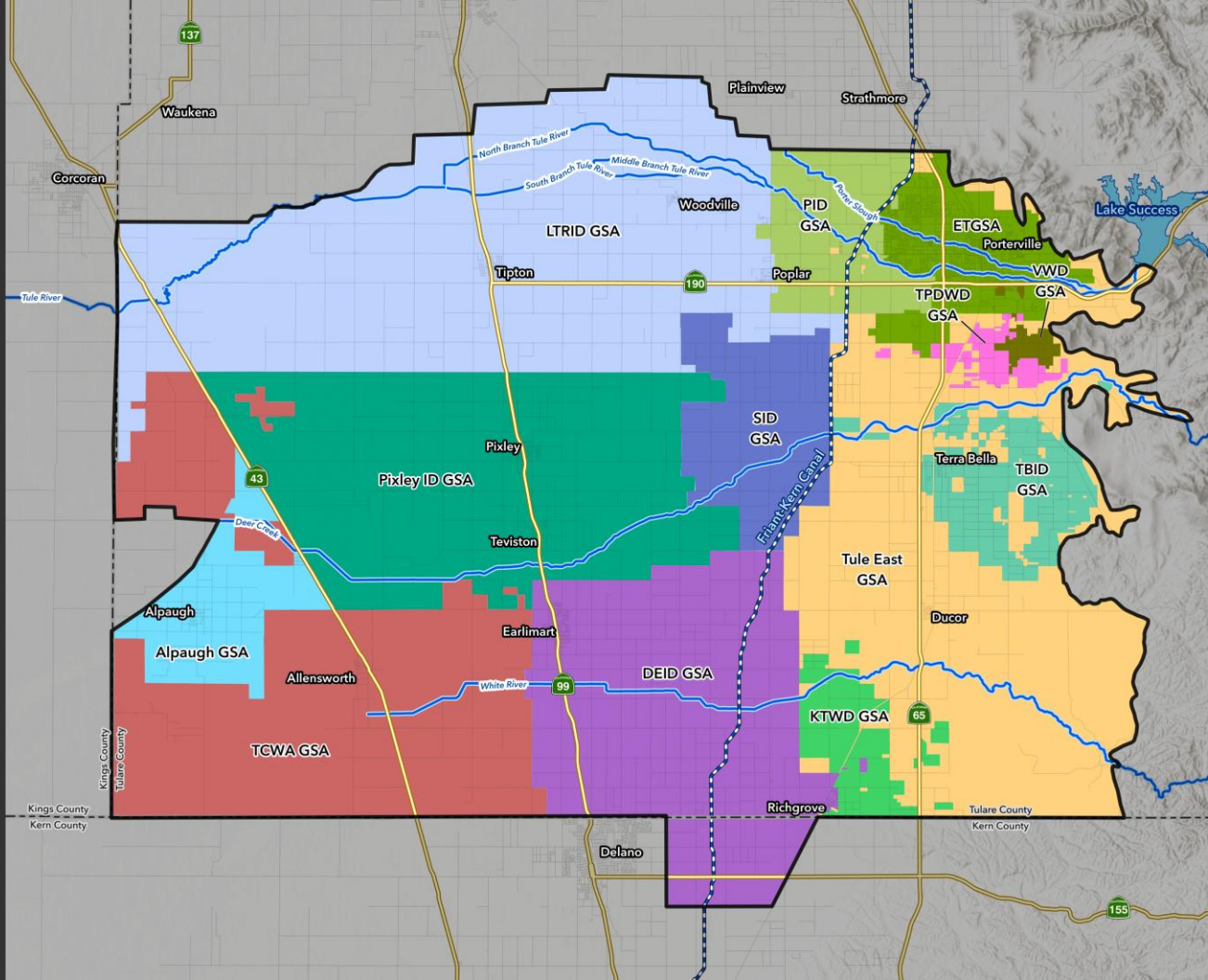
- Tule Subbasin Boundary
- County Boundary
- Lake Success
- Major Roads
- Roads
- Friant-Kern Canal
- Waterways
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**
- Alpaugh GSA
- COP GSA
- DEID GSA
- KTWD GSA
- LTRID GSA
- PID GSA
- Pixley ID GSA
- SID GSA
- TBID GSA
- TCWA GSA
- TPD GSA
- Tule East GSA
- VWD GSA



0 1.5 3 Miles



**4CREEKS**



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<http://www.ltrid.org/sgma-teapot-dome-gsa/>