



### Board Adopts Revisions to Groundwater Sustainability Plan

At the July 14 special meeting, the North Fork Kings Board adopted the revisions to the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The revisions were in response to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) ruling that the GSP was incomplete after a 2-year review. The North Fork King's GSP was one of seven GSPs in the Kings Subbasin ruled incomplete.

DWR stated the seven GSPs needed more coordination and consistency and identified several deficiencies. Most of DWR's comments centered around Sustainable Management Criteria, which are the quantitative metrics that define sustainable management of a subbasin. The deficiencies covered four main topics: groundwater levels, land subsidence, interconnected surface water, and water quality (details in the box on right).

The revised GSPs were submitted to DWR prior to the July 27 deadline. DWR is now reviewing the GSPs to determine whether the deficiencies were sufficiently addressed. If the GSAs failed to take sufficient actions to correct the deficiencies, the GSPs will not be approved. If this happens, the State Water Resources Control Board has the authority to intervene and take over management of the Subbasin. It is anticipated DWR will complete their review no later than early 2023. To view the revised GSP go to [www.northforkkings.org/gspdownload](http://www.northforkkings.org/gspdownload).

**Deficiency - Groundwater Levels:** GSPs do not set Sustainable Management Criteria for chronic lowering of groundwater levels in a manner consistent with the requirements of SGMA and the regulations.

**Response:** Changes to the GSPs included adding language stating groundwater levels will decline in dry periods to a point that they will not likely recover during normal/wet periods and a significant and unreasonable number of shallow domestic wells will go dry. A Shallow Well Mitigation Program was added to the GSPs.

**Deficiency - Subsidence:** GSPs do not set Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives for subsidence in a manner consistent with their undesirable result definition, SGMA requirements, and GSP regulations.

**Response:** Primary concern is loss of capacity in gravity flow water conveyance systems. Changes to the GSPs include focus on impacts on infrastructure on main irrigation canals based on canal capacity. It was noted that the Subbasin does not have good data on confined aquifer pumping.

**Deficiency - Interconnected Water Systems:** GSPs do not consistently identify interconnected surface water systems, or provide the location, quantity, and timing of depletions of those systems due to groundwater use. The GSPs do not define Sustainable Management Criteria for the depletions of interconnected surface water in the manner required by the regulations.

**Response:** Much of the language in the GSPs was revised to list this as a data gap. A plan was included to gather missing information and determine extent of interconnection, as well as estimate of possible groundwater pumping.

**Deficiency - Water Quality:** GSPs do not provide adequate information to support the selection of degraded water quality Sustainable Management Criteria.

**Response:** Language was revised to be more specific about the determination of undesirable results. Water quality data will be collected annually and compared against Minimum Threshold levels. If there is an exceedance, site-specific investigation will try to determine if GSA actions have contributed to groundwater quality degradation, and if so, management actions would be implemented.

### Board Approves \$10 per acre assessment, adopts budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23

**Assessment:** At their June 22th meeting, the North Fork Kings GSA Board approved an assessment of \$10 per acre for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Based on the assessable acres, this generates \$1,636,537 of projected revenue. The assessment rate is the maximum amount approved by the North Fork Kings GSA landowners in the Proposition 218 assessment election passed in 2018. The \$10 per acre assessment will be included on the Fresno and Kings counties tax bills.

**Budget:** The North Fork Kings GSA included expected grant revenues of \$300,000 in its recently approved budget for a total expected revenue of approximately \$1.9 million. In addition to administrative and professional services, items in the budget include project development costs, such as the upcoming well registration program and additional monitoring wells to fill in data gaps.

# Meet Justin Mendes North Fork Kings GSA New General Manager



Hello everyone, I am the new General Manager of the North Fork Kings GSA. I will be using this column in our newsletter to update you as the board works hard to comply with SGMA. I am very much committed to this new position, not just for the professional challenge, but because of my deep roots to the area. Both sides of my family are in their 5th generation of living in Riverdale. The Riverdale Education Center where we have our meetings is built on the land that was once Carreiro Bros. Auto Parts and 76 gas station owned by my grandfather Louie Carreiro and his brother Archie.

I admit that SGMA is an intimidating subject. It's filled with a lot of technical jargon that most of us don't understand meanwhile state deadlines are coming up that will determine how farms and communities will look for the next 20-30 years. There is no silver bullet to fix this but the beauty of having multiple

solutions is the need for collaboration. We need to have open communication within the North Fork Kings GSA to know what solutions work for the various landowners in our boundary. Communication creates trust and once we've achieved that trust we can freely discuss the incentives and programs you would like to see as we try to comply with this State mandate.

The board has recently approved opening an office in Riverdale to make it easy for community members who would prefer to have private meetings to discuss their concerns. The new office is the old insurance office next to the barber shop, 3384 W Mt Whitney Ave. As I take some time to furnish the office, feel free to reach me by phone at 559-240-4281.

I look forward to this challenge and want to help our communities succeed. Never hesitate to call with an idea or a problem.

North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
4886 E. Jensen Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93725

**Important groundwater updates for  
North Fork Kings GSA landowners enclosed.**



Email Manager Justin Mendes  
[jmendes@northforkkings.org](mailto:jmendes@northforkkings.org)



Call us at **559.242.6118**



Visit our website  
[www.northforkkings.org](http://www.northforkkings.org)



North Fork Kings  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## **SIGN UP FOR LOCAL GROUNDWATER EMAIL UPDATES**

Sign up to the North Fork Kings GSA Interested Persons e-mail distribution list to receive meeting notices and groundwater updates.

**Go to [www.northforkkings.org](http://www.northforkkings.org) to join the list.**

### North Fork Kings GSA Board Members

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5	Division 6	Division 7
<b>Buddy Mendes</b>	<b>Frank Zonneveld</b>	<b>Jim Petty</b>	<b>Mark McKean</b>	<b>Leonard Acquistapace</b>	<b>Stephen Maddox</b>	<b>Tony Campos</b>
County of Fresno	Clarks Fork Reclamation Laguna ID Upper San Jose Water Co.	Lanare CSD Laton CSD Riverdale PUD	Crescent Canal Co. Stinson Canal & Irrigation Co.	Reed Ditch Co. Riverdale ID	Burrel Ditch Co. Liberty Mill Race Co.	Liberty Canal Co. Liberty Water District