



North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

Fresno County Supervisors Approve Recharge Project in North Fork Kings GSA

The North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency is partnering with Fresno County to build a sixty-acre groundwater recharge facility near Highway 41 and Elkhorn Avenue. The County is working with the North Fork Kings GSA to offset groundwater overdraft in the unincorporated land within the North Fork Kings GSA boundaries. The County will use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund the \$6,000,000 design and construction of the Elkhorn Recharge Facility along with a conveyance system to transfer surface water from the Liberty Canal to the project.

Diverted water from the Liberty Canal will be used to recharge the groundwater aquifer, increasing the reliability of clean drinking water for member agencies of the North Fork Kings GSA. The project will also benefit the water supplies of disadvantaged communities within the North Fork Kings GSA including Riverdale and Lanare, which are down gradient from the project location. The Elkhorn Recharge Facility's estimated completion date is December 2026.

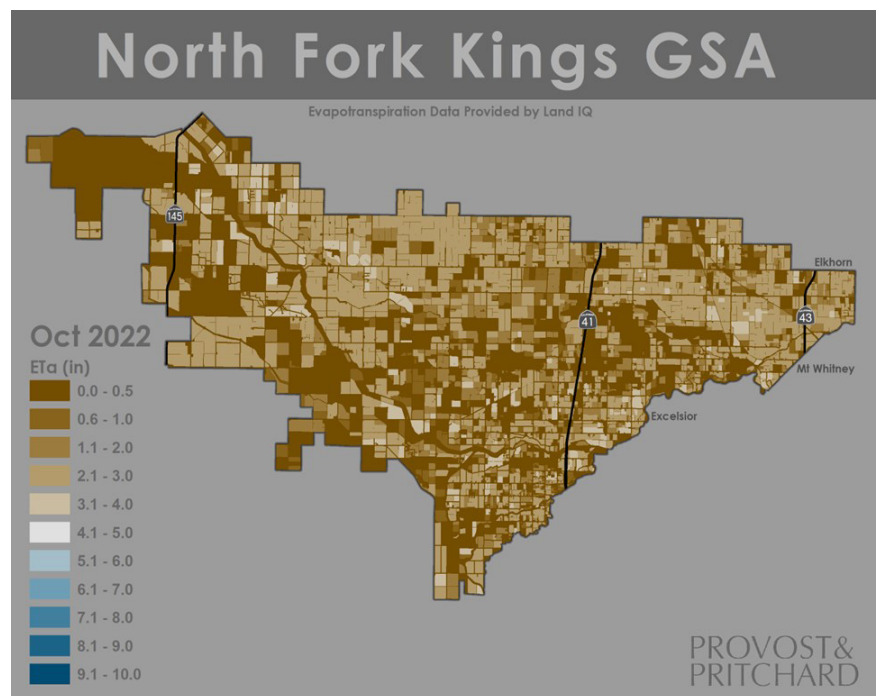
Evapotranspiration (ET) Used to Determine Groundwater Use

Measuring water consumption and calculating groundwater use has been occurring for over a year in the North Fork Kings GSA through the consultant Land IQ and their ET data-driven model. Land IQ was hired to determine groundwater use within the boundaries of the North Fork Kings GSA.

Land IQ utilizes satellite data, cropping data, and local weather stations within the North Fork Kings GSA to calculate, by field and by parcel, the amount of water consumed by the crop each month. The actual cropped acreage of a field is identified along with the crop itself. After accounting for surface water deliveries to the field and the amount of precipitation used by the crop, the amount of consumed groundwater can be obtained.

This data is available approximately 30 days after the end of each month. Maps are created to allow growers to view measured water use. Maps can be viewed on the North Fork Kings GSA website at www.northforkkings.org/maps.

At this time, the North Fork Kings GSA Board are using the crop consumptive use information to calculate groundwater use. Knowing groundwater use, allows the Board to effectively track progress and make management decisions to achieve groundwater sustainability as required by State law. You can learn more about ET and groundwater use by attending the January 25 Board meeting to hear a special presentation by Land IQ.



ET Data Accessible Through North Fork Kings Online Portal

Development is underway of an online portal for use by North Fork Kings GSA landowners. At the September Board meeting, a proposal by MLJ Environmental was approved to develop a North Fork Kings GSA portal. Included in the proposal is integration into the portal of Land IQ evapotranspiration (ET) and crop data on a monthly basis. This will allow users to see the Land IQ data for the parcels they have registered within the portal. The immediate use of the portal will be to register existing wells within the boundaries of the North Fork Kings GSA. It is anticipated the North Fork Kings GSA portal will be available for use by early 2023.

General Manager Justin Mendes Column



The final quarter of 2022 was very positive for North Fork Kings GSA. The Board of Directors created two committees, the Grower Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, to help increase landowner participation and technical expertise. In January, we will seat committee members who will be reviewing data and providing feedback on potential policies of the GSA. In the interest of transparency, the Board has asked me to develop a roadmap of the decisions that need to be made as we work towards a groundwater allocation. The roadmap will be posted on the website and will help guide the agenda items of our committees and board meetings.

In December, we received very good news. The County of Fresno approved a major project to renovate the old jail site on Elkhorn Avenue. Part of this project includes a 60-acre recharge pond for the North Fork Kings GSA. There is room for an additional 80-acre pond that will come later as CALTRANS expands Highway 41. For general information about the project, feel free to contact me. For those that are interested in participating in the recharge project, I would recommend talking to your surface water entity manager and/or board members.

As is the case for all projects and policies, we need to be mindful of potential impacts to the communities within our boundary. It has been a great experience meeting with Self-Help Enterprises and learning about the services they provide. I participated in a community meeting in Burrel in November where I was able to provide some groundwater level data while Self-Help staff encouraged members to fill out surveys to determine the needs of the community.

As we move into 2023, the first major event will be the response from the Department of Water Resources on our Groundwater Sustainability Plan. We have no way of knowing the result of that response at this time. The only thing we can do is collect data and develop the strategies we highlighted in our plan. With your participation at all public meetings, we will be able to put in place policies that work for our region and be better prepared for the challenges of drought and state regulations.

North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
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Fresno, CA 93725

Important groundwater updates for North Fork Kings GSA landowners enclosed.



Email Manager Justin Mendes
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Call us at **559.242.6118**



Visit our website
www.northforkkings.org

Join us for a **special presentation by Land IQ on ET and crop water use** at the January 25, 2023 Board meeting. North Fork Kings GSA Board meetings are held at the Riverdale Community Education Center at 3160 W. Mt. Whitney Ave, Riverdale, CA 93656. Meetings start at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to receive notices for future Board meetings and other North Fork Kings GSA events, sign up for our interested persons list on our website at northforkkings.org.

North Fork Kings GSA Board Members

| Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Division 4 | Division 5 | Division 6 | Division 7 |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Buddy Mendes | Frank Zonneveld | Jim Petty | Mark McKean | John L. Mendes | Stephen Maddox | Tony Campos |
| 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 |