



Huge Snowpack Creates Landowner Recharge Opportunities

SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act), with its requirement to have a sustainable groundwater supply by the year 2040, has fundamentally changed the assumptions of how groundwater is used as a resource in farming operations in dry and wet years. With the welcome relief from major storms, recharging the groundwater is the number one priority for the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NFKGSA) Board, and they need landowners who have access to surface water to help make this happen. By taking excess water to irrigate your fields, you can have a direct positive impact on the NFKGSA groundwater supply and maximize deliveries for the entire Kings River.

Winter's major storm events have created a Kings watershed snowpack that could generate over 235 percent of average spring runoff (April-July). This snowpack and similar above average snowpack throughout the Sierra Nevada have provided an opportunity to recharge the NFKGSA severely overdrafted groundwater supply that saw an additional 500,000 acre-feet depletion due to the recent dry years, which is equal to half of the capacity of Pine Flat Reservoir.

This excess water supply from the storms is an immediate recharge opportunity; however, the availability to capture all of this water supply is limited by the current infrastructure in the NFKGSA. There are several recharge ponds within the boundaries of the NFKGSA that can take some excess water and more ponds are planned to be built in the future.

To increase the opportunities to put water back into the ground, the NFKGSA Board urges all landowners with access to surface water to take advantage of this exceptional water year and take all the water you can to spread over your fields when it becomes available. This is the year to build back our groundwater supply through all possible methods.

If you would like to further discuss how you may be able to help with this effort, please contact General Manager Justin Mendes at (559) 240-4281.

Groundwater Plan is Approved!

The North Fork Kings GSA Board received positive news from the State that the GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved. North Fork Kings GSA is one of seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the Kings Subbasin that received approval from the State.

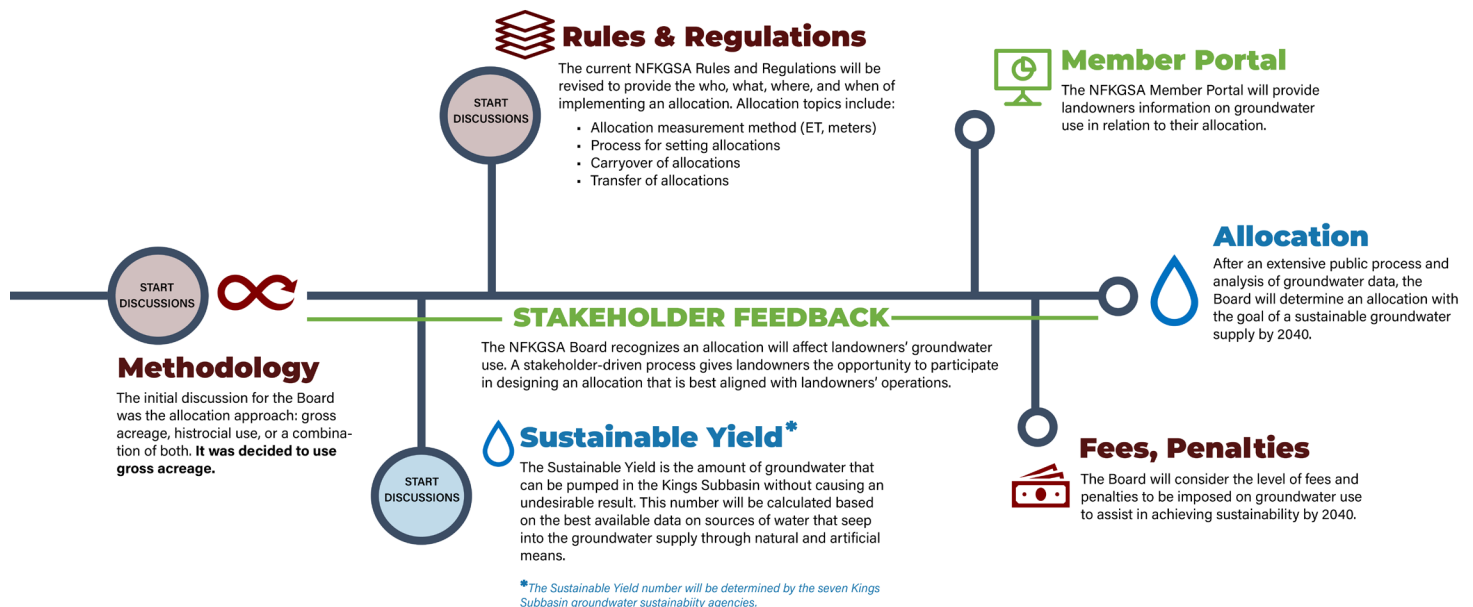
"The Department of Water Resources approval of the GSP is a huge milestone for our groundwater sustainability agency," stated Board Chair Mark McKean. "It allows us to continue our local efforts to bring our groundwater into balance without State intervention."

"With the approval behind us, our energy is focused on executing groundwater projects that achieve the best results for our residents, landowners, and businesses who are users of our groundwater supply," stated General Manager Justin Mendes. The GSA is advancing several groundwater sustainability efforts including partnering with Fresno County on the construction of a recharge basin, developing a well mitigation program, and registering landowner wells. Each of these efforts are pieces of a puzzle to solve the groundwater overdraft under the North Fork Kings area.

The next check in will be in 2025 when DWR will review the required GSP update.

Roadmap Visual Shows Milestones for Developing Groundwater Allocation

The North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board will engage over several months in a public process with stakeholders to discuss a potential groundwater pumping allocation. **The Roadmap to Allocations** (seen below) represents the main topics to be worked through during this public process. An allocation will limit the amount of groundwater that can be pumped over a period of time.



A Message From General Manager Justin Mendes



Many landowners within the NFKGSA have asked about “groundwater recharge credits” as an incentive to take water at this time. It is very important to break up that term “groundwater recharge credits” into two separate categories, 1) Recharge Credit and 2) Groundwater Credit. The purpose of two categories is because in most cases, a Recharge Credit would be delivering surface water into a recharge pond or allowing one’s surface water to infiltrate into the ground beyond the crop water needs. The GSA does not have any jurisdiction over your surface water. The concept of Groundwater Credits has not been fully developed by the GSA, but the concept is related solely to groundwater, or water in the underground. The GSA’s responsibility is to achieve groundwater sustainability by regulating groundwater pumping.

As the groundwater the NFKGSA manages is in a condition of critical overdraft, groundwater use must be reduced or cut back. To offset these cutbacks, the solution to this situation is for your surface water provider (irrigation district or mutual water company) to adopt a recharge policy and simply report to the GSA how much Recharge Credit is owed to each landowner. The NFKGSA is asking gross recharge amount is reported to the GSA, so we can keep track of the applications and report the appropriate Recharge Credit owed to each landowner. The additional Recharge Credits from surface water sunk in the underground will again offset any future restrictions which may be imposed on groundwater use.

With an abundance of rain and a huge snowpack, it is looking like a very good year on the Kings River (see related article, Huge Snowpack Creates Landowner Recharge Opportunities). We encourage North Fork units diverting water earlier than normal to maximize deliveries later during a possible flood release and also to prolong the duration of the river run. If you do possess recharge ponds, please have your surface water district contact the NFKGSA with how much you were able to recharge.

I hope this clears up any confusion. If you would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me at (559) 240-4281.

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Important groundwater updates for North Fork Kings GSA landowners enclosed.



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Call us at **559.242.6118**



Visit our website
www.northforkkings.org

Board Uses Fund Reserves, Holds Off On Assessing Landowners

The NFKGSA Board will not assess landowners in fiscal year 2023/24. In making this determination, the Board considered the amount of funds in reserve that are available for completing the GSA’s work in the upcoming fiscal year. Future assessments will include any additional Groundwater Sustainability Plan requirements from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), which completed their review process and approved NFKGSA’s GSP in early March. It is anticipated that DWR will be providing comments on any additional GSP requirements to the NFKGSA by April.

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