



North Fork Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Newsletter

Latest Groundwater Updates in Your Area



Join us for a Prop 218 Workshop!

Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the Prop 218 election and have your questions answered.

Riverdale Memorial Hall

3085 W Mt. Whitney Ave
Riverdale 93656

Workshop 1 *(Interpretación disponible en español)*

TUESDAY, MAY 21
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Workshop 2

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
8:00 - 9:30 AM



RSVP for a workshop
by scanning the QR
code or visit

northforkkings.org/218election

North Fork Kings GSA to Hold Proposition 218 Election

The North Fork Kings GSA Board of Directors approved the Engineer's Report at their March 27 meeting, a required initial step of conducting a Proposition 218 (Prop 218) election.

Through the Prop 218 election, landowners are being asked to approve a land-based assessment rate of up to \$18 per acre per year, maximum. The North Fork Kings GSA Board of Directors will set the rate annually and is planning on drawing some money from reserves to gradually increase the assessment over the next five years. In its proposed budget, the Board plans to start with a rate of \$6 per acre in fiscal year 2024-25, escalating each year until it reaches the \$18 per acre maximum.

In 2023, North Fork Kings GSA received approval on its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) from the CA Department of Water Resources, marking a significant milestone for the agency and its landowners by allowing the North Fork Kings GSA to locally carry out sustainability efforts. This approval allows GSA Board and staff to implement its GSP at a pace that allows for landowner and stakeholder input and awareness on future projects and programs.

Although GSP approval was received, funding is required to implement GSP activities and programs essential to keep the North Fork Kings GSA's good standing with the State. Because SGMA is an unfunded mandate, GSAs like the North Fork Kings must generate their own funding to implement the law. The North Fork Kings GSA is seeking this funding through the Prop 218 election.

Landowners should be on the lookout for the Prop 218 ballot and notice in their mailboxes in early May. Ballots must be submitted by the Public Hearing on June 26.



OUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED!

TO CONTACT THE NORTH
FORK KINGS GSA, CALL
(559) 632-7032.



To view the Engineer's Report and proposed budget for the Prop 218 election, **visit www.northforkkings.org/218election**. In the coming weeks, additional resources and information will become available, and **the webpage will serve as a key resource for the election.**



North Fork Kings GSA support team member assisting a landowner at a well registration workshop.

Well Registration Program Update



362

agricultural and domestic wells registered



50%

of North Fork KingsGSA total acreage has been enrolled in the well registration program on Watermark



728

parcels have been claimed to Watermark user accounts



Watermark

Thank you to those landowners who have participated in the new well registration program over the last several months. Well registration is taking place on Watermark, a new online SGMA tool for landowners.

REGISTER YOUR WELL(S) TODAY! FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER, VISIT NORTHFORKKINGS.ORG/WATERMARK

Una copia en español de este informativo se puede encontrar en el sitio web: www.northforkkings.org/resources



Justin Mendes,
General Manager

A Note From the General Manager

We have finished the first quarter of 2024 and I wanted to provide the latest updates to North Fork Kings GSA landowners. Our top priority is maintaining our approved status with the State, the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR), which we will achieve by addressing the corrective actions they submitted with our Groundwater Sustainability Plan approval letter. Those actions focus on 3 important items:

- 1) Domestic Well Mitigation,
- 2) Confined Aquifer Study, and
- 3) Interconnected Surface Waters.

These items need to be addressed by January 31, 2025 and are crucial to maintaining local control over SGMA regulations. Some neighboring GSAs will be before the State Water Resources Control Board in April for failing to meet DWR's requirements. While we sympathize with our neighbors, it is not a process we want to endure.

The studies and implementation of the 3 items is going to come at a cost. The Domestic Well Mitigation program itself needs a dedicated funding stream through at least 2040. The Board of Directors is fully committed to utilizing reserves to keep landowner assessments low, but we will need additional funding to carry out the program to 2040. At the March Board meeting the board voted



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IMPORTANT UPDATES ON GROUNDWATER: PROP 218 ELECTION, WELL REGISTRATION, AND MORE.

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to conduct a Prop 218 election that will conclude with a Public Hearing at the June 26 Board meeting.

The GSA plans to hold multiple workshops to go over the Prop 218 proposal and the 5-year budget of the GSA. There is no silver bullet solution to groundwater sustainability. The GSA is studying as much as we can to provide quality analysis at an effective cost. I invite you to stay engaged and learn more by signing up for our email list (you can do so at northforkkings.org), attending an upcoming workshop, or giving us a call. Please reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss the election and our priorities as a GSA at (559) 632-7032.



KINGS COUNTY LANDOWNERS, you may have seen information published in the news or heard from your neighbors about the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) decision on April 16th to put the Tulare Lake Subbasin on probation, meaning the State Board has intervened to manage groundwater. If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because you have parcels within the North Fork Kings GSA. The North Fork Kings GSA is located in the Kings Subbasin, and **currently has an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan and IS NOT going through the probationary hearing process with the State Board. Groundwater will continue to be managed locally for parcels within the North Fork Kings GSA.** If you have questions or concerns, contact the North Fork Kings GSA at (559) 632-7032.