



Dear Landowner,

In previous outreach and communications, the East Kaweah GSA projected your Allocation Year 2022 summary report would be mailed to you in mid-January. It was anticipated you would have the opportunity to reconcile your groundwater account, transfer groundwater credits, and/or challenge the evapotranspiration (ETa) readings on the summary report during the month of February. Following reconciliation, a final billing statement was projected to be sent at the end of March.

We are sending this letter to follow up on this projected timeline and provide an update on our progress. As a reminder, the Allocation Year 2022 refers to the period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, during which groundwater pumping was limited to an emergency allocation (measured by consumptive use, or ETa) of 1.65 acre-feet per acre, plus a precipitation credit.*

The East Kaweah GSA Board and staff know how important it is to make sure the billing process is done right. This involves a high level of coordination and cooperation among all twelve surface water delivery entities within the GSA, modernized and accurate water accounting, and landowner outreach and education. Each of these areas includes their own complex set of challenges, many of which we continue to work through diligently.

Because of this, our timeline for the summary report, reconciliation, and billing has been delayed.

Our goals over the coming weeks are to:

1. Ensure accurate groundwater use measurement after obtaining surface water delivery data.
2. Ensure a pathway for you to communicate with us about your groundwater use measurements with the ability to reconcile, transfer credits, and/or challenge ETa readings.
3. Keep you up to date on our progress and the latest information regarding groundwater use report summaries and subsequent billing. Sign up for our email news at www.ekgsa.org/keep-informed to stay informed on timely updates.

In the meantime, we encourage you to view your historic water use for the Allocation Year 2022 by setting up a Water Dashboard account today at www.gsawd.com. The Water Dashboard delivers monthly water use by field and parcel, with data available from 2020 through the current reporting period. Over 700 growers in the Kaweah Subbasin are currently using the Water Dashboard to view their water use information.

Groundwater allocations were adopted so our area can stay on track to achieve a sustainable groundwater supply under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). We are your local agency implementing SGMA and want to work alongside you to maintain local control over groundwater management.

Sincerely,

Chris Hunter

Chris Hunter
Program Manager

Scott Maskell

Scott Maskell
Management Analyst

*for more information on the Allocation Year 2022 groundwater allocation amounts, fees, and how consumptive use (ETa) is used to measure groundwater use, visit our website www.ekgsa.org/allocation. You will find past outreach event resources where these topics were covered in depth.

Groundwater Allocation FAQs

1. WHAT IS A GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION?

A groundwater allocation is a limit on groundwater use. In the East Kaweah GSA, allocations limit how much groundwater can be used per acre, measured by consumptive use (evapotranspiration).

2. HOW IS MY GROUNDWATER USE MEASURED UNDER THE ALLOCATION?

The East Kaweah GSA is contracted with Land IQ, a company that provides monthly evapotranspiration (ETa) data at the field level. This data provides detailed estimations of the amount of water consumed by the plant through evaporation and transpiration rather than just total water applied. You can view this data by setting up your Water Dashboard account at www.gsawd.com. Surface water deliveries as reported by surface water entities, and any other credits to a landowners' account (e.g. groundwater credits, transfers, recharge) will be subtracted from total water use (ETa) to arrive at the groundwater use amount.

3. WHY AM I GOING TO RECEIVE A BILLING STATEMENT?

An emergency ordinance, effective October 1, 2021, limited groundwater pumping to a total allocation of 1.65 acre-feet (AF) per acre for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Groundwater use exceeding 1.65 AF/acre is subject to a \$500/AF fee.

4. WHAT WILL MY BILL ENTAIL?

If your total groundwater use for Allocation Year 2022 exceeded the allocated 1.65 AF/acre, you will receive a bill for excess use at a rate of \$500/AF.

5. WHAT AUTHORITY DOES THE EAST KAWEAH GSA HAVE TO IMPOSE AND ENFORCE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS?

Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) like the East Kaweah GSA are granted the authority through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into California law in 2014. Under SGMA, the East Kaweah GSA may adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions to reach the law's groundwater sustainability requirements by 2040.

6. WHY IS A GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION NEEDED?

Due to persistent drought and chronic groundwater overdraft from pumping demands, an allocation was deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to stay on track to achieve sustainable groundwater supply as required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). If continued progress towards sustainability is not achieved, the State can intervene and takeover groundwater management in our area. The East Kaweah GSA is your local agency implementing SGMA. We want to work alongside you to maintain local control over your groundwater supply.

7. I HAVE QUESTIONS. WHERE SHOULD I DIRECT THEM?

We have resources available on our website. Visit www.ekgsa.org/allocation. If you have questions or concerns, you can send us an email at groundwater@ekgsa.org or call us at (559) 697-6095.

STAY INFORMED ON THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION AND OTHER AGENCY UPDATES.

Fill out the form at www.ekgsa.org/keep-informed to sign up for email updates.

QUESTIONS ON THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION? CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE RESOURCES.

Visit www.ekgsa.org/allocation to view helpful resources. You can also contact us at the info below.