

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.