



EAST KAWEAH
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

2024

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

A LETTER FROM THE MANAGERS

Dear Stakeholders,

Of all the hard work accomplished over the last year, perhaps most noteworthy is our collective progress on updating our Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) standards. Many of you attended the State of the Subbasin in June where we provided a status update on the GSP and probationary hearing preparations. This event showcased commitment to transparency and education, coordination on technical work and stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to work with the State Board to maintain local control.

After months of intensive technical work and coordination with State Board staff and board members, the Kaweah Subbasin received notice that the January 2025 Probationary Hearing was canceled. This is a testament to the dedication of our technical team, committees, and stakeholders in crafting a Plan that meets state expectations. We'd like to thank all of our stakeholders for staying engaged in this effort. By sharing your perspectives and keeping informed through meetings, workshops and newsletters, you all played a key role in the mission to keep groundwater management local.

While updating the GSP was critical, we've also advanced on sustainability projects and management actions. We refined groundwater allocation processes and launched new Water Dashboard tools to simplify invoicing and reduce landowner bills. Through workshops, mailers, and one-on-one meetings, we supported landowners in adapting to these updates.

Implementing the Domestic Well Mitigation Program was also a fundamental achievement for the year. Through a first-of-its-kind partnership with Self-Help Enterprises, monthly community outreach is being done throughout the Kaweah Subbasin to spread awareness about the expansion of assistance for rural residents who lose household water due to lowering groundwater levels.

We also launched a new Project Website featuring an interactive map and project descriptions so our stakeholders can stay updated on water projects in the area. These projects will increase the volume of water we can recharge back into the aquifer to balance our water budget while improving the water table for nearby groundwater users.

We want to express our appreciation to all who have followed along through our email newsletters, website blogs, in the press, social media, and through direct mail. We will continue to remain committed to transparent communication with our stakeholders as we pursue a sustainable future, involving you every step of the way!



MICHAEL D. HAGMAN

Executive Director

Michael D. Hagman



CHRISTOPHER R. HUNTER

Program Manager

Christopher R. Hunter

GSP AMENDMENTS

The East Kaweah GSA completed two amendments of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in 2024. Each GSP version was made available for public review and comment. Amending the GSP twice was an ambitious undertaking made possible by a dedicated team of technical consultants, committee members, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations. **Our commitment to engaging our stakeholders and maintaining transparent and timely communications is reflected by the many individuals who joined us for stakeholder meetings, public events, and workshops, as well as those who tuned in to read our website blogs, email news, social media postings, and took the time to open and review our informational mailers.**



STATE OF THE SUBBASIN

On June 19th and 20th, the East Kaweah GSA coordinated with Mid-Kaweah and Greater Kaweah GSAs to host the “State of the Subbasin”, held in-person at the International Agri-Center and online as a webinar. Attendees heard directly from the Kaweah Subbasin GSA general managers and received the latest updates on the Subbasin’s progress on GSP revisions. GSA managers also updated on the ongoing efforts to ensure groundwater management continues under local leadership.

GSP STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

9 GSP EMAIL UPDATES

2 STATE BOARD TOURS

2 STATE BOARD-HOSTED PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

5 GSP BLOG POSTS

1 SUBBASIN-WIDE EVENT

1 JOINT SUBBASIN BOARD MEETING

6 GROWER WORKSHOPS

7 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

2 DIRECT MAIL NEWSLETTERS

STATE BOARD SEES KAWEAH SUBBASIN PROGRESS IN ACTION

STATE BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TOUR KAWEAH SUBBASIN

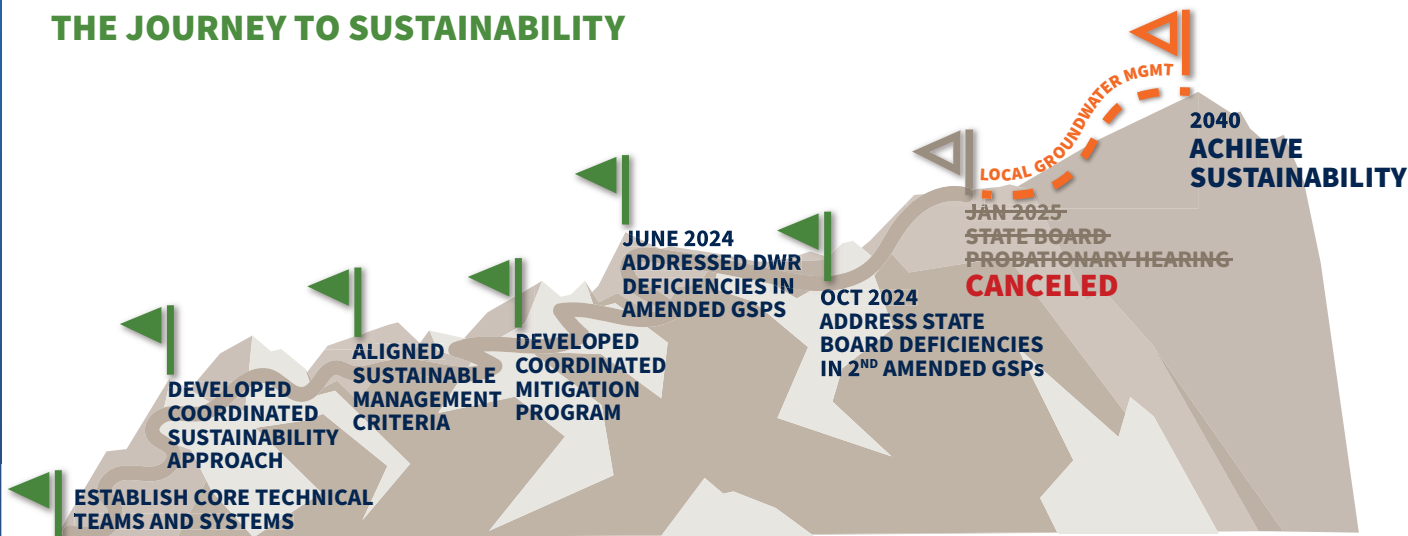
In June 2024, the Kaweah Subbasin hosted two tours for the State Board to see boots-on-the-ground progress toward sustainability. The Kaweah Subbasin managers took the State Board board members Joaquin Esquivel and Dee Dee D’Adamo on the first tour, and Sean Maguire and Laurel Firestone on the second tour to see its groundwater sustainability projects, where managers explained the Subbasin’s challenges. Board members, key staff, and technical consultants used the opportunity to speak directly to the State Board to find common ground and understanding on technical issues. Communities and local agencies were recognized for their efforts to protect disadvantaged communities and work toward the common goal of SGMA implementation. The tours allowed the Kaweah Subbasin GSA managers to show the State Board how hard local growers, technical consultants, and fellow Non-Government Organizations are working to keep local groundwater control and become sustainable.



STATE BOARD PUBLIC WORKSHOPS ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

The State Board held public workshops – one virtual and one in Visalia – as part of its preparation for the now-canceled Probationary Hearing. The workshops allowed stakeholders to give valuable input and public comments to the State Board that were considered during GSP revisions. Ultimately the Hearing was canceled and the Kaweah Subbasin thanks its stakeholders for participating in the effort to maintain local groundwater control.

THE JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



STATE BOARD MEETING CANCELED

On November 15, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) canceled the Kaweah Subbasin’s January 2025 Probationary Hearing. The cancellation came shortly following the adoption of the second amended GSP. The State Board staff will be taking additional time to review the GSP in detail to ensure that the amendments address all deficiencies. The Kaweah Subbasin remains hopeful that the hearing cancellation is a signal that the GSPs are on the right track from the State’s perspective.

East Kaweah GSA alerted stakeholders of the cancellation via email and blog post, and will continue to keep stakeholders apprised as developments occur.

Stay up to date on developments at the state level by signing up for our email list at ekgsa.org/keep-informed and on social media via [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#).



GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS

ALLOCATION YEAR 2023 INVOICING PERIOD IS HERE

Growers should:
 Review the new information to ensure you understand the changes and update your account as needed.
 Review the new information to ensure you understand the changes and update your account as needed.
 Review the new information to ensure you understand the changes and update your account as needed.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ALLOCATIONS AND CREDIT MANAGER TOOL:
 The Credit Manager tool was updated to include...
 The Credit Manager tool was updated to include...
 The Credit Manager tool was updated to include...

Allocation Year 2023 Priority of Use	Allocation Year 2023 Priority of Use
2023 Surface Water	2023 Carryover Tier 1
2023 Surface Field 1-5.5 AF/acre	2023 Carryover Tier 2
2023 Tier 1-5.5 AF/acre	2023 Carryover Surface Water
2023 Tier 2-5.5 AF/acre	2023 Surface Water
2023 Tier 3-5.5 AF/acre	2023 Tier 2-5.5 AF/acre, 5000 per AF

Take Control Over your Priority of Use
 The Priority of Use is determined by the order of water credits...
 The Priority of Use is determined by the order of water credits...
 The Priority of Use is determined by the order of water credits...

Credit Manager Features
 The Credit Manager was updated to include...
 The Credit Manager was updated to include...
 The Credit Manager was updated to include...

Don't want these changes to apply to your account?
 Log in to your new dashboard account by August 31st to adjust these new features to better suit your needs.

ekgsa.org | groundwater@ekgsa.org | 559-697-6095

GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS

Several important changes were implemented to East Kaweah GSA's groundwater allocation system in 2024, including surface water credits for purchase, new Credit Manager features, and adjustments to water supply. These updates were implemented to help growers avoid penalty fees, receive the lowest invoice possible, and support the GSA's groundwater management. We applaud our agricultural landowners for their adaptability and diligence in navigating these changes.

East Kaweah GSA is committed to keeping landowners informed on groundwater allocations to continue to build clarity on the process, ensuring landowners have a clear understanding of their water options for the irrigation season.

8
WEBSITE
BLOG POSTS

15
EMAIL NOTICES
OVER 2,000 VIEWS

4 DIRECT MAILERS SENT TO OVER 2,000 LANDOWNERS:

- Announcement of surface water credits for sale, also known as the Mitigation Tier
- New Credit Manager features starting with Allocation Year 2023 invoicing
- Changes to supply for Allocation Year 2025
- Urgent policy announcement regarding water credits and overdraft fees



ONGOING WATER DASHBOARD GROWER SUPPORT

When the new Allocation Year 2023 invoicing changes were announced in August, Scott Maskell, our valued team member and Water Dashboard pro, provided support for growers by hosting workshops every Tuesday and Thursday. These workshops provided an opportunity for growers to stop by and ask questions about allocations, invoicing, and the Water Dashboard.

MET WITH 2-10 GROWERS PER WEEK DURING THE INVOICING PERIOD

TOOK 2-3 PHONE CALLS PER DAY

Scott is always ready to help our growers manage their allocations and confidently navigate the Water Dashboard. Ongoing assistance is available for growers online, over the phone, and in person. For questions or help with managing your Water Dashboard account, contact us at:

SCOTT MASKELL



GROUNDWATER@EKGSA.ORG
(559) 697-6095

MITIGATION PROGRAM

In June, the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs partnered with Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), a nonprofit organization, to implement the new Well Mitigation Program. SHE provides on-the-ground support, delivering emergency bottled water within 24 hours and installing tanks while enrolling domestic well owners in a hauled water program within 72 hours. This first-of-its-kind partnership, funded by the Kaweah Subbasin GSAs, is securing reliable drinking water solutions for well owners impacted by declining groundwater levels, including well replacements when needed.

SHE brings valuable water resource information directly to the community through outreach events like Summer Night Lights held in June, July, and August. Since partnering with Kaweah Subbasin GSAs, SHE has hosted **more than thirteen community events**, connecting well owners with essential resources and support. Events have taken place in Exeter, Lindsay, and other communities beyond the East Kaweah boundary. Attend SHE's community events to learn more about the support available to domestic well owners. Find monthly schedules on the website blog at ekgsa.org or through our email newsletter, and discover more about SHE and their services at selfhelpenterprises.org.



MORE THAN MITIGATION




As a trusted housing and community development organization, SHE works with low-income families to build homes and establish healthy communities. It offers diverse programs and services that go beyond securing water for homes—including Build Your Own Home, Rental Communities, Housing Rehabilitation, Community Development, Financial Assistance, and more.

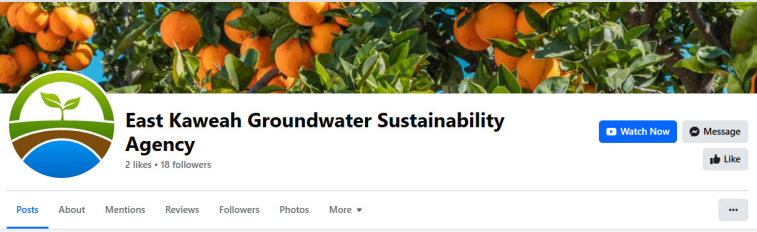
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

FOLLOW EAST KAWEAH GSA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

East Kaweah GSA uses social media in conjunction with email, mail, and website updates to notify stakeholders of the latest groundwater news. Follow along on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X to stay engaged. We also encourage signing up for email updates to be the first to hear about the latest groundwater updates.

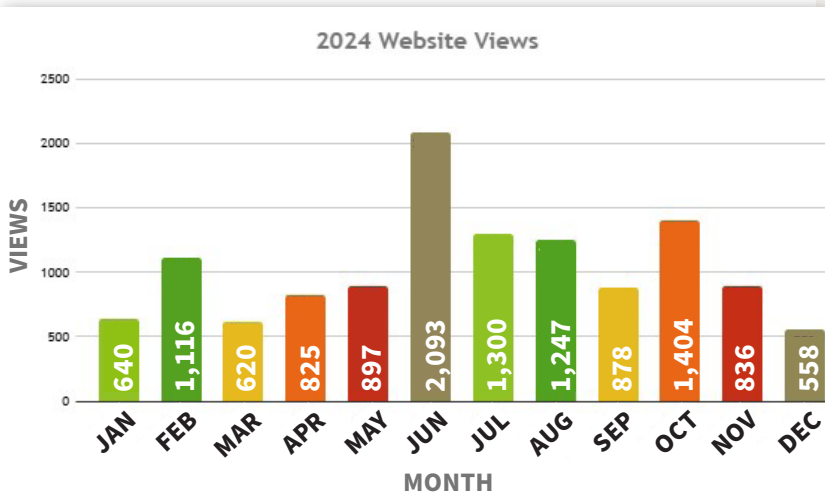
YEAR-END SOCIAL MEDIA RECAP

	22 POSTS	12,822 IMPRESSIONS
	18 POSTS	441 IMPRESSIONS
	17 POSTS	2,256 IMPRESSIONS



East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
2 likes • 18 followers

WEB PERFORMANCE



	ON THE BLOG	24 ARTICLES POSTED
	ON THE WEBSITE	NEARLY 12,500 TOTAL WEBSITE VIEWS

IN THE NEWS

The East Kaweah GSA made headlines this year with some major announcements. In June, we launched our well mitigation program with a press release that caught the attention of news outlets like The Sun Gazette, SJV Sun, and SJV Water, helping spread the word.

By November, more good news followed. SJV Water, Water Wrights, and ACWA highlighted the Kaweah Subbasin GSP progress, announcing that the State Board hearing had been canceled. Industry newsletters like Maven's Notebook and DWR updates reshared the milestone, keeping stakeholders informed far and wide.

PROBATIONARY HEARING



MITIGATION



OTHER



Read the articles online by clicking the logos!

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS IN MOTION: CHECK OUT OUR PROJECT WEBPAGE

We launched a new Project Webpage this year! This interactive webpage showcases the many groundwater recharge projects completed or underway by East Kaweah GSA and its member agencies. Through an interactive mapping feature, this webpage leads you through project locations, descriptions, benefits and more, so stakeholders can see how new projects in their backyard benefit their water supply and help balance the aquifer for all.



**500
VIEWS**

The webpage below can be viewed at ekgsa.org by navigating to the “Projects” menu item under “More.” [CLICK HERE to view.](#)

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



FLYING DRAGON

Flying Dragon is a multi-benefit land repurposing project. The GSA completed the land purchase process in February. Once constructed, the Flying Dragon Recharge Basin project will provide 1,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge, an environmental habitat, and recreational benefits with a new recharge basin and walking trail through a conservation easement area.

The conservation project spans approximately 58 acres and is located at the northeast corner of Road 156 and Road 160 intersection near the area of Seville, an area where domestic households and growers are primarily groundwater dependent.

By using high-quality surface water from the Friant-Kern Canal for recharge, it is anticipated to provide both a water quality and water supply quantity benefit for community members who rely on groundwater for drinking water.



LEWIS CREEK

Lewis Creek Groundwater Recharge Project uses an existing stream to recharge groundwater. This project involved constructing a siphon from Friant-Kern Canal into Lewis Creek to capture Central Valley Project water supplies when available to recharge the aquifer. The project uses 9 miles of Lewis Creek to recharge an estimated 3,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually. The project broke ground last December and was completed this year.

Flying Dragon and Lewis Creek are two examples of groundwater sustainability projects that help East Kaweah GSA manage its groundwater locally under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

To see more projects listed in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), visit our [Project Webpage here.](#)

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PROVOST & PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP