

# STATE

*of the*

# SUBBASIN

***HOSTED BY THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES***





# AGENDA

**STATE**  
*of the*  
**SUBBASIN**

Welcome & Introductions

State of the Subbasin Presentation

Moderated Panel

Q&A Session

# INTRODUCTIONS



**Mark Larsen**  
General Manager  
Greater Kaweah GSA



**Aaron Fukuda**  
Interim General Manager  
Mid-Kaweah GSA



**Michael Hagman**  
Executive Director  
East Kaweah GSA

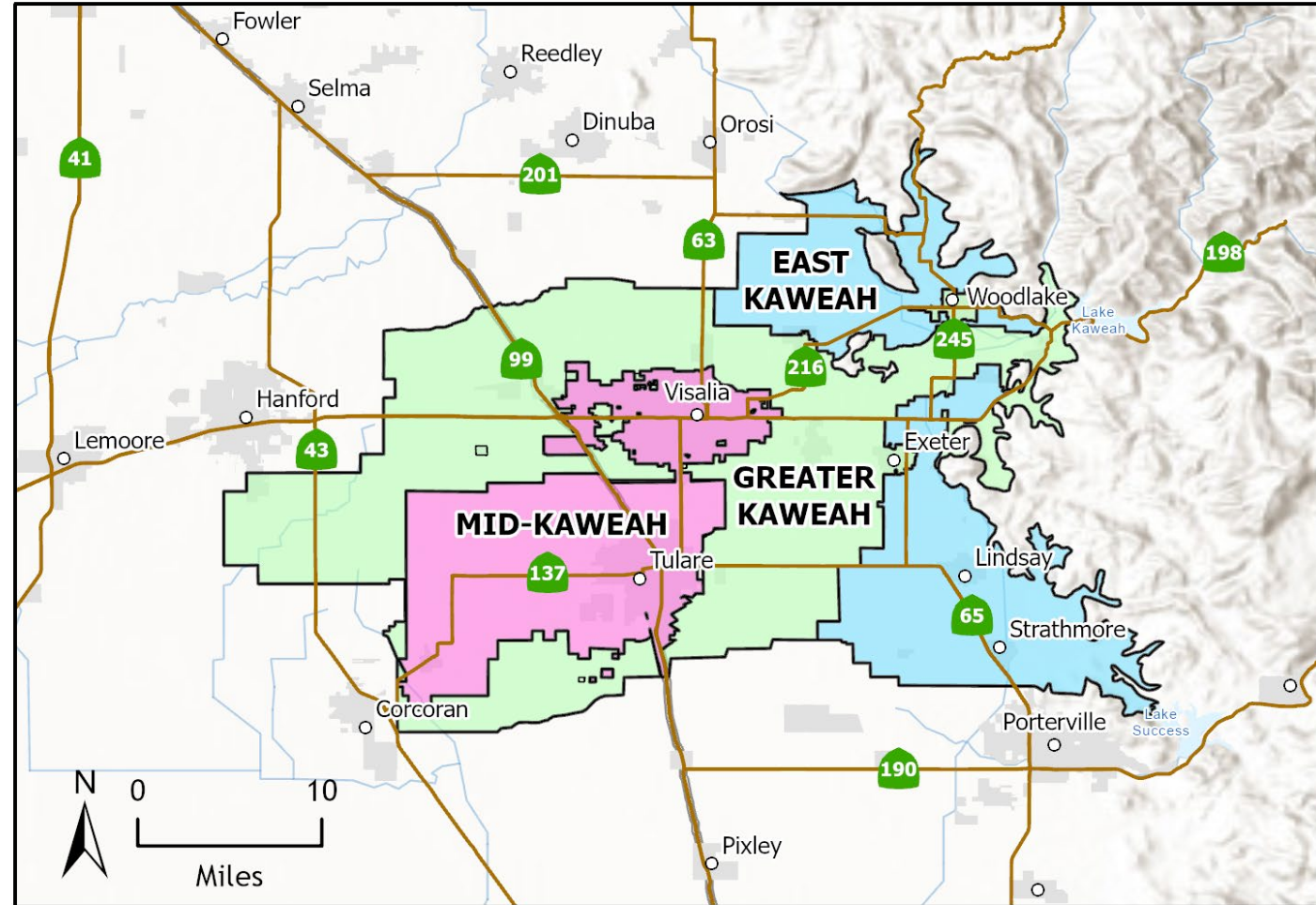


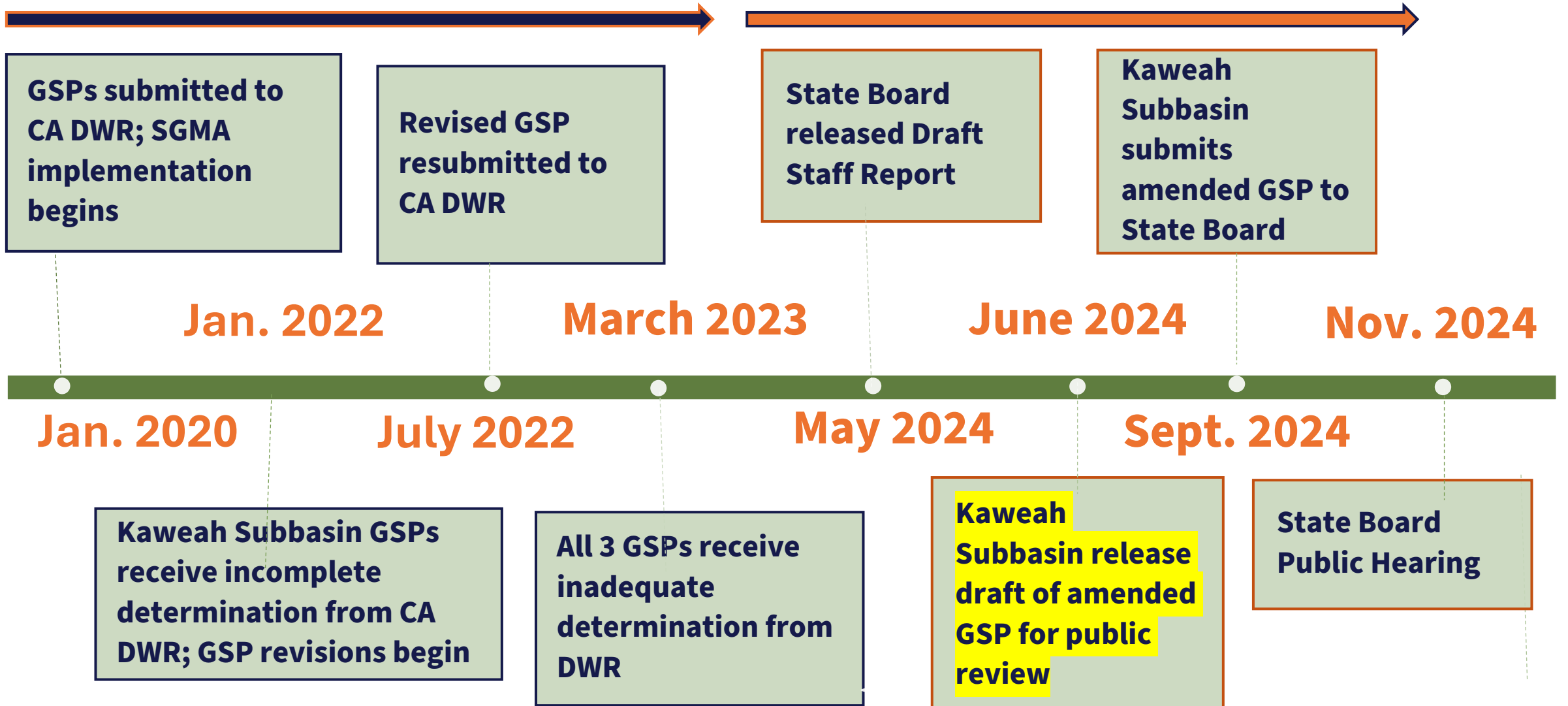
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# ABOUT THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN

## Greater Kaweah, Mid-Kaweah, & East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) signed into law in 2014 - mandates groundwater sustainability by 2040
  - Grants local control to GSAs
- Each GSA is required to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) looks at entire subbasin for sustainability
- **Current status: amended inadequate GSPs to keep in right standing with the State**





# PROBATIONARY PROCESS



**Jurisdiction over Kaweah Subbasin shifts to State Board (March 2023)**

**Kaweah Subbasin working to address deficiencies in GSPs**

**State Board releases Draft Staff Report; announces probationary hearing for Kaweah Subbasin (May 2024)**

**Kaweah Subbasin releases joint response on Draft Staff Report highlighting ongoing efforts**

**State Board holds workshops as opportunities for public comment from Kaweah Subbasin landowners/stakeholders**

**State Board holds probationary hearing to determine if Kaweah Subbasin enters probation (Nov. 2024)**



# IF STATE BOARD DESIGNATES KAWEAH SUBBASIN AS *PROBATIONARY*



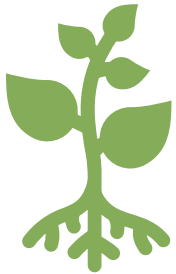
- State manages groundwater resources (Interim Plan)
  - Additional to local management; lasts until GSAs demonstrate they can adequately manage their respective areas
- Groundwater pumpers must submit groundwater extraction report to State
- Landowners pay additional fees to the State



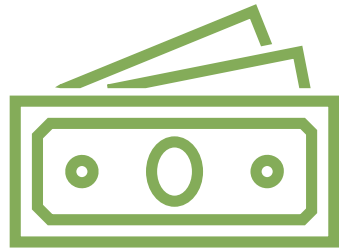
**State  
Board fees  
for Tulare  
Lake  
Subbasin**

Fee Category	Fee Amount
<b>Base Fee</b>	<b>\$300 per well</b>
<b>Volumetric Rate</b>	<b>\$20 per acre-feet</b>
<b>Automatic Late Fee</b>	<b>25% per month</b>

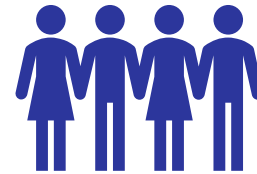
# IF STATE BOARD DOES NOT DESIGNATE KAWEAH SUBBASIN AS PROBATIONARY



**GSA's keep local control over groundwater management**



**Funding goes towards local projects and efforts**



**Maintain local leadership representation**



**Implement supply-side projects, not just demand management**



# WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

DWR found GSPs inadequate due to:

- Lack of coordination of the Sustainable Management Criteria (goal-posts/benchmarks)
- Discrepancies in subsidence analysis
- Insufficient clarity in Mitigation Framework and Plan
- Failure to consider how sustainable indicators affect one another
- **Kaweah Subbasin amended their GSPs and are leading the area with demand management and new water supply projects**

**2040  
ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY**

**NOV 2024  
PROBATIONARY HEARING**

**SEPT 2024  
ADDRESS STATE BOARD  
DEFICIENCIES IN 2<sup>ND</sup> AMENDED GSPs**

**ADDRESSED DWR DEFICIENCIES  
IN AMENDED GSPs**

**DEVELOPED COORDINATED  
MITIGATION PROGRAM**

**ALIGNED SUSTAINABLE  
MANAGEMENT CRITERIA**

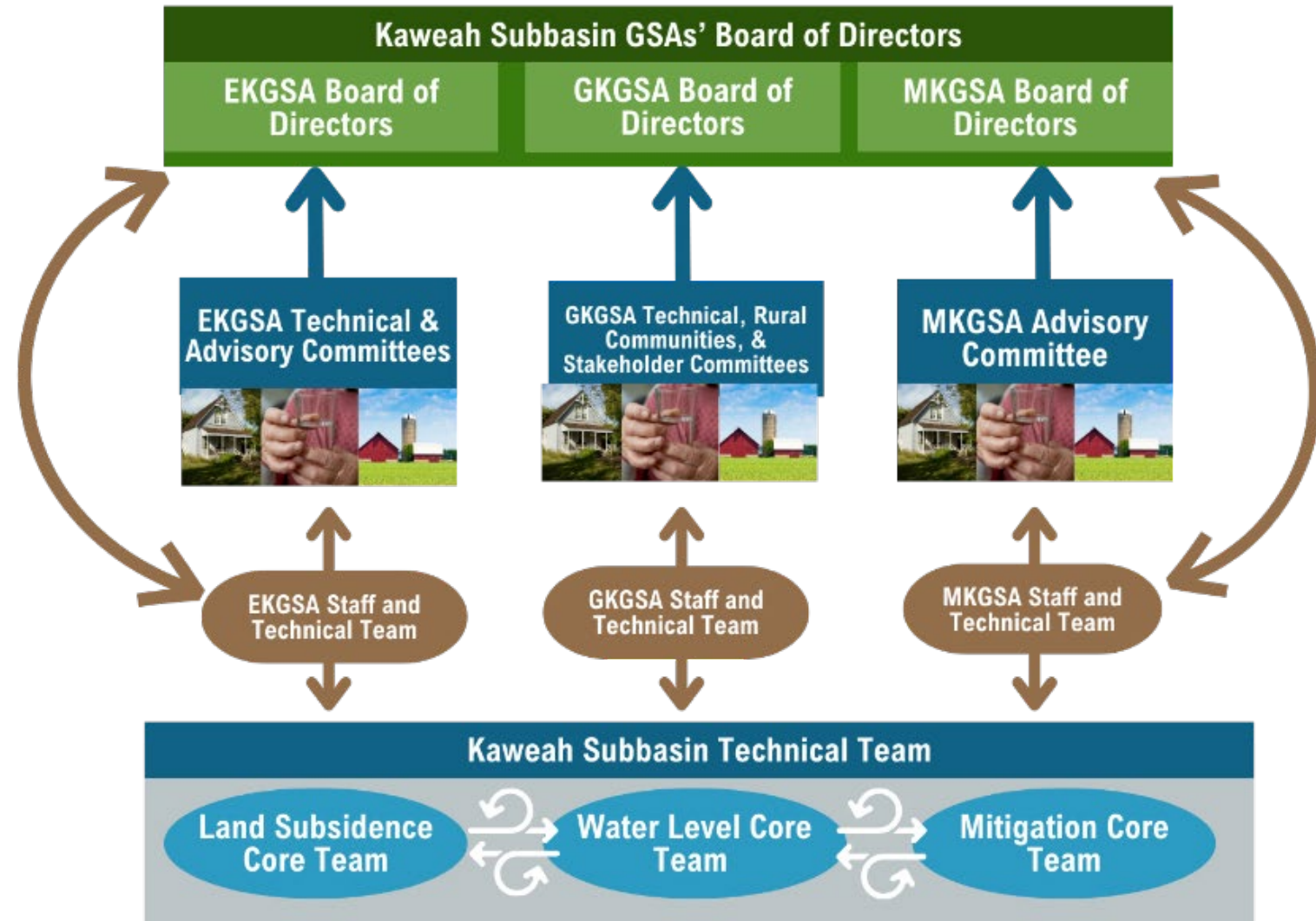
**DEVELOPED COORDINATED  
SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH**

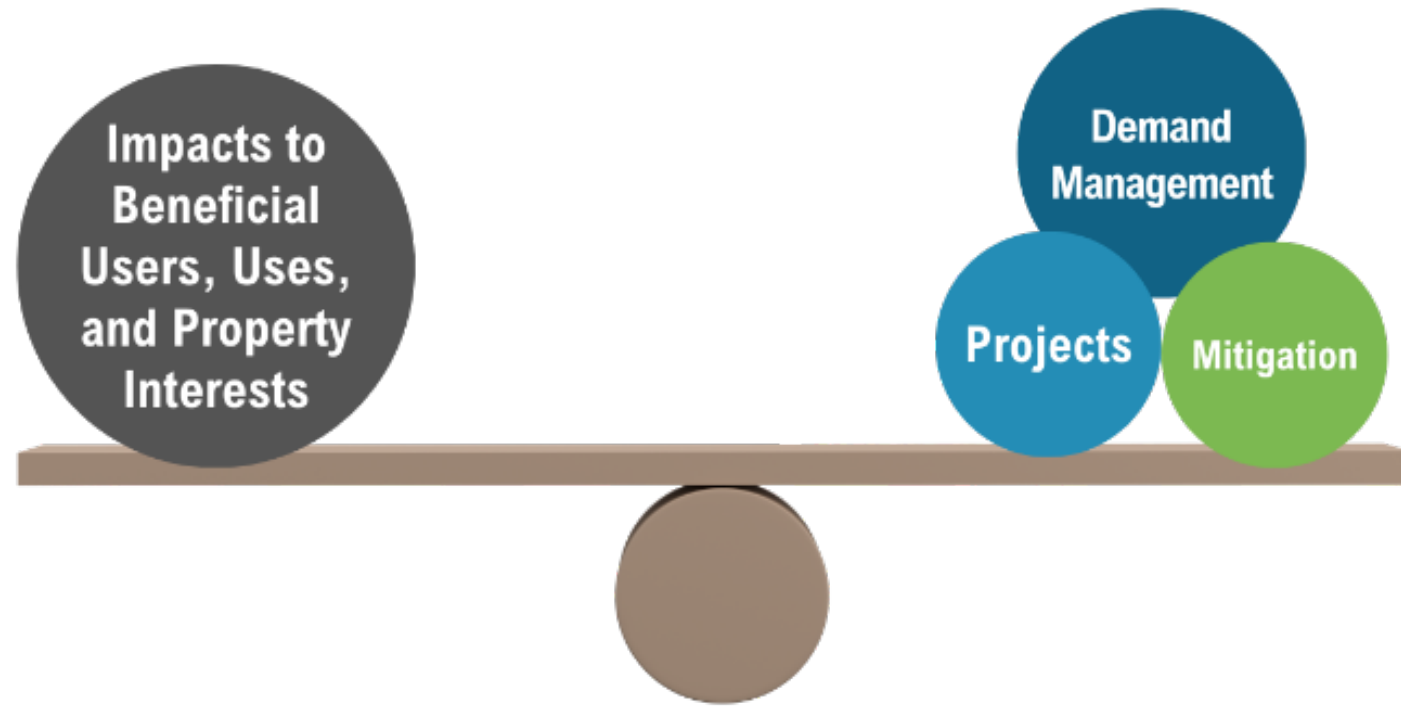
**ESTABLISHED CORE  
TECHNICAL TEAMS  
AND SYSTEMS**

# TECHNICAL TEAMS & SYTEMS IN PLACE

Assembled technical teams and established systems to:

- ✓ **Improve coordination between the three GSAs**
- ✓ **Ensure consistent progress**
- ✓ **Maximize public engagement**





**AGREE ON THE APPROACH:  
Balancing Sustainability  
Efforts**

Revised GSPs show coordinated efforts to address State's concerns, while balancing impacts to groundwater users

# SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

These are the benchmarks set by GSAs to ensure the sustainable management of groundwater across Kaweah Subbasin (*the State looks closely at these*)

Address all DWR deficiencies



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graph TD; A[Address all DWR deficiencies] --> B[Use best available data and analytic tools]; B --> C[Revise to be even more protective of all beneficial users, uses, and property interests]; C --> D[Capture input from stakeholders & build support]; D --> E[Coordinated Subbasin-wide]
```

Use best available data and analytic tools

Revise to be even more protective of all beneficial users, uses, and property interests

Capture input from stakeholders & build support

Coordinated Subbasin-wide

# MITIGATION PROGRAM

## Coordinated Mitigation Framework and Plan across Kaweah Subbasin

- The State needs to see that during the period before sustainability is achieved (now - 2040), the impacts of groundwater overdraft are "mitigated"
- Mitigation services and technical assistance for those impacted by groundwater overdraft conditions funded by the GSAs
- Partnership with Self-Help Enterprises to administer the new Mitigation Program



# ADDRESSING DWR DEFICIENCIES

A total of **108 public meetings** took place to coordinate revisions across all three Kaweah Subbasin GSPs

<b>DWR DEFICIENCIES</b> Released in March 2023	<b>STATUS</b>
✓ <b>Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
✓ <b>SMC Relationships</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
✓ <b>Mitigation Program</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
✓ <b>Land Subsidence SMC</b>	<b>Addressed</b>

**2040  
ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY**



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**ADDRESSED DWR DEFICIENCIES  
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**ALIGNED SUSTAINABLE  
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**ESTABLISHED CORE  
TECHNICAL TEAMS  
AND SYSTEMS**





# ADDRESSING STATE BOARD DEFICIENCIES

State Board added comments for additional revisions in May 2024. While some overlap with DWR comments, there are some items remaining for the next round of GSP amendments.

<b>STATE BOARD DEFICIENCIES</b> Released in May 2024	<b>STATUS</b>
✓ Groundwater Quality	In Progress
✓ Interconnected Surface Water	In Progress

# WHAT'S NEXT: KEY DATES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROBATIONARY PROCESS



[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/public\\_meetings.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/public_meetings.html)

- Kaweah Subbasin State Board Workshop (*these are State Board-run events*)
  - Virtual – Monday, June 24, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM via Zoom
  - In-person – Thursday, June 27, 5:30 – 8:30 PM at Sequoia High School, 1040 N Woodland Ave., Visalia, CA 93291
- Deadline for public comment on Draft Staff Report – Monday, July 8 at noon
- Public Hearing – Tuesday, November 5, 9:00 AM, Sacramento or online

# STATE *of the* SUBBASIN

## *Greater Kaweah GSA Efforts*



GREATER KAWEAH  
GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY

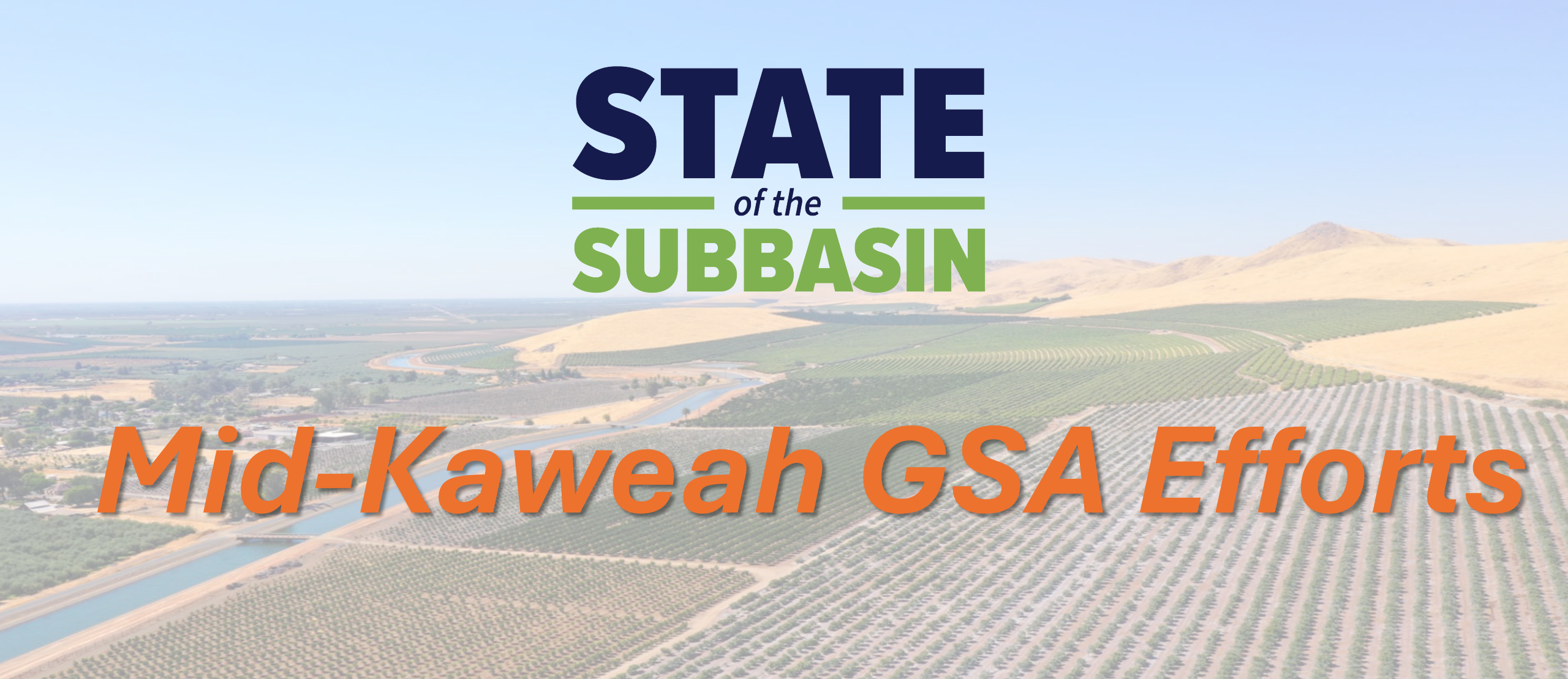
# GREATER KAWEAH GSA



**Projects  
Completed**

**Projects  
Pending**

**Allocation  
Systems**



**STATE**  
*of the*  
**SUBBASIN**

***Mid-Kaweah GSA Efforts***



# MID-KAWEAH GSA



**Projects  
Completed**

**Projects  
Pending**

**Allocation  
Systems**

# STATE *of the* SUBBASIN

## *East Kaweah GSA Efforts*



**EAST KAWEAH**  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

# EAST KAWEAH GSA



**Projects  
Completed**

**Projects  
Pending**

**Allocation  
Systems**



# STATE of the SUBBASIN

# MODERATED PANEL

**Mark Larsen**  
General Manager  
Greater Kaweah GSA



**Aaron Fukuda**  
Interim General Manager  
Mid-Kaweah GSA



**Michael Hagman**  
Executive Director  
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# STATE *of the* SUBBASIN

# Q&A SESSION



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# THANK YOU!

