

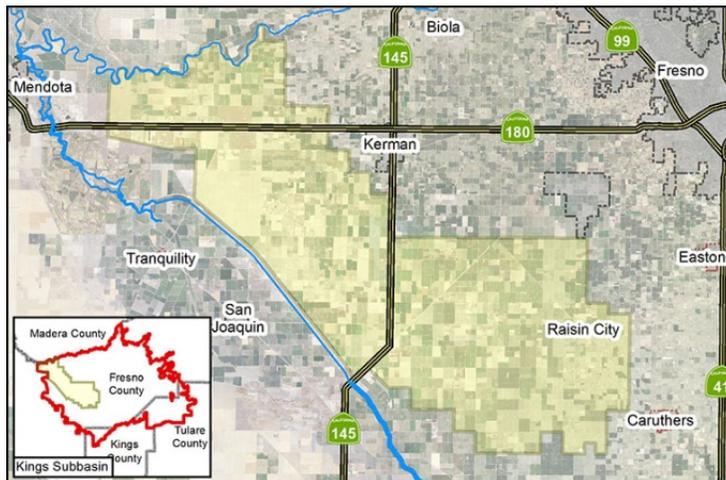


McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

The Law

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is a law governing the management and use of groundwater in the State. SGMA's intent is to allow local agencies to sustainably manage groundwater; however, if SGMA's requirements are not met, the State will intervene.

The McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was formed to locally implement SGMA in a portion of the Kings Subbasin. Agency members include Fresno County, Raisin City Water District, and the Mid-Valley Water District.



McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

SGMA Implementation Deadlines

Deadline	Action	Status
6/30/2017	Formation of GSAs (McMullin Area GSA Formed on 1/31/17)	Completed
1/31/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption by McMullin Area GSA of a compliant Groundwater Sustainability Plan Coordination Agreement signed between the seven Kings Subbasin GSAs 	In Progress
1/31/2040	Entire Kings Subbasin must achieve sustainability	Pending

Groundwater Sustainability Plan

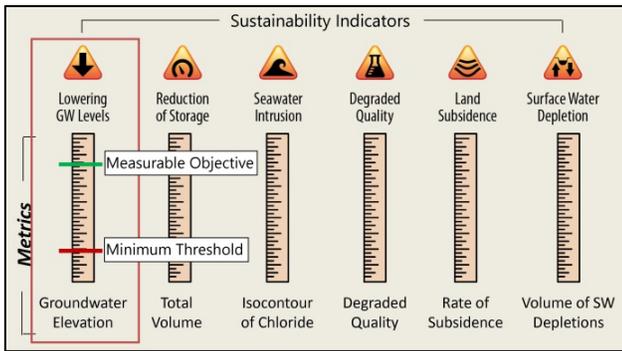


The McMullin Area GSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). It is one of seven GSAs in the Kings Subbasin developing GSPs. While the State's requirements for a GSP's content are the same for all GSAs, the McMullin Area's issues and solutions will be very specific to the unique challenges within the groundwater management area that it serves. McMullin's GSP will include a physical description of the groundwater management area including groundwater conditions, a water budget, groundwater management criteria, a monitoring program, and projects and measurable objectives to become sustainable within 20 years.

What Does Sustainability Look Like?

SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that does not cause undesirable results for the following sustainability indicators:

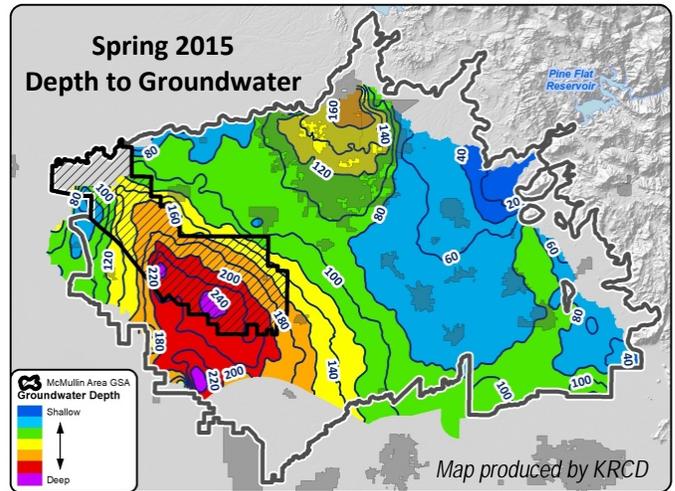
-  Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply.
-  Significant and unreasonable reductions in groundwater storage.
-  Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion.
-  Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality.
-  Significant and unreasonable land subsidence.
-  Depletions of interconnected surface water depletions that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.



The McMullin Area's GSP will establish minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator to avoid undesirable results and measurable objectives for sustainability. SGMA's regulations identify the role of local agencies in managing their basins, which includes designing projects and management actions to address problems, responding to changing conditions, and helping achieve sustainability. It is the goal of the McMullin Area GSA Board to develop a GSP that will allow flexibility in supply and demand-side solutions to achieve sustainability.

McMullin Area Groundwater Conditions

Surveys and studies show a downward trend of groundwater levels within the Kings Subbasin over the last several decades. This overdraft condition is created when more water is pumped out of the ground than is replenished by rainfall, runoff or recharge. In the McMullin Area, this decline is exacerbated by the lack of surface water supply. In the Spring of 2015, the groundwater levels in the McMullin Area reached as low as 200-240 feet. In comparison the eastern side of the Kings Subbasin depth to groundwater in the same timeframe was around 60-100 feet.



McMullin Area GSA Costs

The most significant costs for the McMullin Area GSA are the development of a GSP and any projects or programs identified to achieve sustainability. It is estimated GSP development costs alone range from \$1 to \$1.5 million. Expenses include the services of hydrologists and other technical consultants to develop the studies necessary for a compliant GSP. The McMullin Area Board is minimizing expenses where it can by utilizing agency staff to support GSA administration.

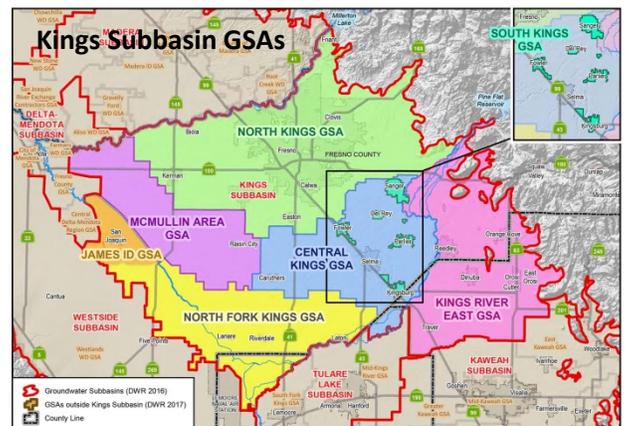


State Intervention Costs

SGMA is an unfunded mandate from the State with severe consequences for landowners if the requirements are not met. If the McMullin Area GSA is unable to comply with SGMA, the law allows the State to intervene. Intervention means a State version of a GSP that may be limited to mostly demand-side solutions, like restrictions on groundwater pumping. State intervention also means a very severe fee structure imposed on every groundwater pumper in the McMullin Area.

Kings Subbasin Coordination

SGMA requires that an entire subbasin be sustainable. In subbasins where GSAs develop multiple GSPs, like the Kings Subbasin, a single Coordination Agreement must be submitted to the State with information necessary to show how multiple GSPs can achieve the sustainability goals for the entire subbasin. The seven Kings Subbasin GSAs have started discussions on how to coordinate their individual GSPs. Coordination includes elements like utilizing the same data and methodologies and a coordinated data management system.



Go to www.mcmullinarea.org to learn more.

KRCD 10/06/17