

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY

November 10th, 2021

This notice is to inform you that a draft Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) has been developed for the Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin within Tulare and Kings counties and will be available on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) website for a public review and comment period beginning November 10, 2021 and ending at 5:00 PM on January 10, 2022.

The draft Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin RCIS (and public comment instructions) is available at [CDFW's Draft and Approved RCIS Program Documents web page](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation/Documents):

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation/Documents>

Description of the Kaweah Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Regional Conservation Investment Strategies are voluntary, landscape-scale conservation planning tools, guided by state legislation (AB 2087) that took effect January 1, 2017. The Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin (Kaweah Subbasin) Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (Kaweah RCIS) is a locally-driven, non-binding, and voluntary conservation strategy to guide conservation investments and compensatory mitigation in portions of Tulare and Kings Counties (Figure 1).

The Kaweah RCIS is intended to support the implementation of Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (refer to Figure 1 for a map of the Kaweah Subbasin and the Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies) by identifying conservation and habitat enhancement actions that can be used to provide multi-benefit compensatory mitigation projects for infrastructure or other development projects, as well as conservation investments, in the Kaweah Subbasin.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, critically over-drafted basins, including the Kaweah Subbasin, should achieve sustainability within 20 years of implementing their groundwater sustainability plan. The Kaweah RCIS will provide a tool that could be used to provide financial incentives to working landowners that voluntarily participate in groundwater sustainability projects and management actions that also provide habitat values for focal species and other conservation elements addressed by the RCIS.

For more information on the Kaweah RCIS: <http://kaweahrcis.org/>

Submittal of Public Comments

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1854(c)(3), the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency will sponsor a public meeting to provide information about the Kaweah RCIS and to give the public an opportunity to provide oral or written comments. Comments must be provided in written form to ensure that the comments are considered by the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the draft Kaweah RCIS that will be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for final review. Comment cards will be available to provide written comments at the public meeting. Interested parties are invited to attend.

Comments on the draft Kaweah RCIS must be submitted in writing by 5:00 PM, January 10, 2022. Comments should be submitted by email to both CDFW and the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (East Kaweah GSA), or by hard copy provided only to CDFW to minimize postage costs and effort.

EMAIL (comments should be emailed to both CDFW and to East Kaweah GSA):

CDFW: rcis@wildlife.ca.gov
East Kaweah GSA: RCIS@ekgsa.org

MAILED COPY (comments may be mailed to CDFW alone):

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
ATTENTION: Kaweah RCIS Comments

DROPPED-OFF COPY (comments may be dropped off to CDFW alone):

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
1700 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
ATTENTION: Kaweah RCIS Comments

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Figure 1. Geographic Area Covered by the Kaweah RCIS

