



Groundwater Sustainability: Public Meeting for the Ag Industry

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 – Ivanhoe Memorial Building

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – Lindsay Wellness Center



Ag Industry Public Meeting Agenda

- Agenda Overview
- Overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- About the East Kaweah GSA
- Kaweah Subbasin groundwater sustainability-related work
- Preliminary Water Budget
- Frequently Asked Questions
- How to Get Involved and Stay Informed

Groundwater Usage – Common Uses of Groundwater





What is SGMA?

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act = SGMA
- Combination of three bills passed by State Legislature and signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown in September 2014
 - Assembly Bill 1739, Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319
- Provides local agencies with framework to manage groundwater basins in a sustainable manner, as groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must reach sustainability by 2040

What is SGMA? – Sustainability Indicators

- Sustainable groundwater management defined as “management of groundwater supplies in a manner that can be maintained in planning and implementation phases without causing **undesirable results**”

Undesirable Results



Chronic Lowering
of Groundwater
Levels



Reduction of
Groundwater
Storage



Degraded Water
Quality



Sea Level Rise



Land Subsidence



Interconnected
Surface Waters

What is SGMA?

- Groundwater Sustainability Timeline

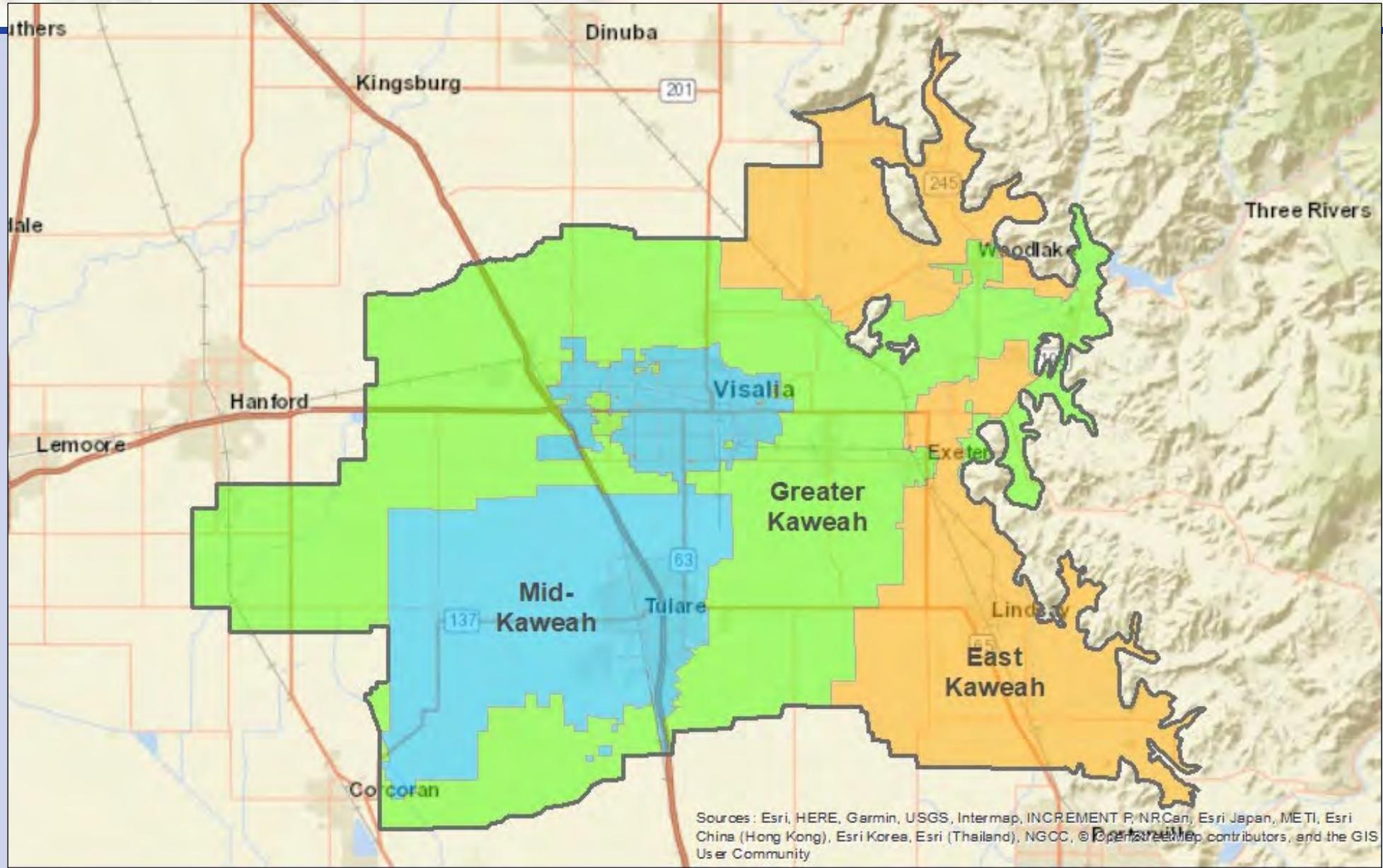
Phase 1: GSA Formation & Coordination
2015–2017

Phase 2: GSP Preparation & Submission
2017–2020

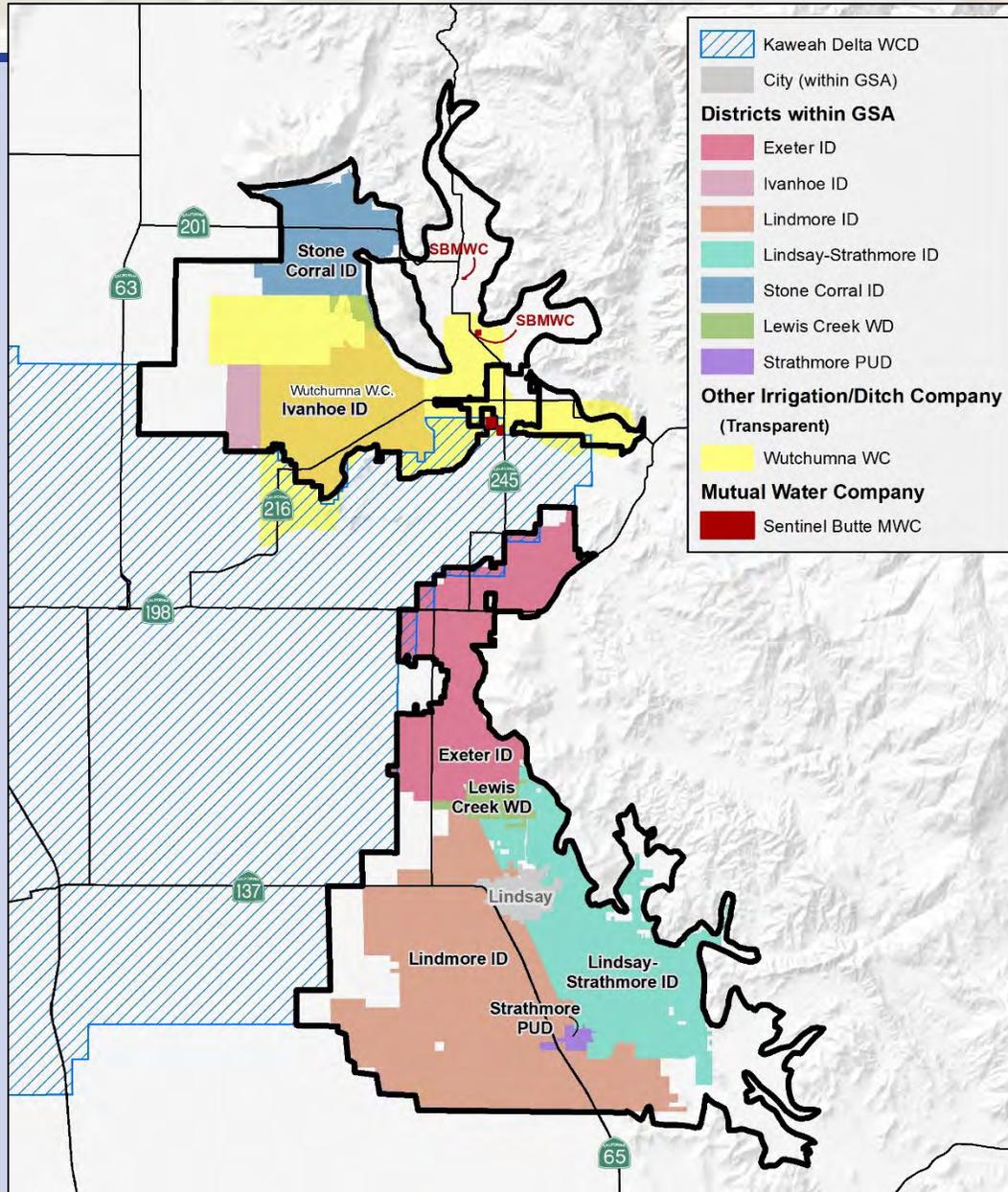
Phase 3: GSP Review & Evaluation
2019–2020

Phase 4: Implementation & Reporting
2020–ongoing

Kaweah Subbasin GSAs



About the East Kaweah GSA



Member Agencies:

- City of Lindsay
- Exeter Irrigation District
- Lindmore Irrigation District
- Stone Corral Irrigation District
- County of Tulare
- Ivanhoe Irrigation District
- Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District



About the East Kaweah GSA

- Formed on May 31, 2017
- Part of the Kaweah Sub-basin
- Comprised of over 117,000 acres within the eastern portion of Tulare County
- Responsible for submitting a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2020
- Coordinate with the other GSAs within the Kaweah Sub-basin: Mid-Kaweah and Greater Kaweah GSAs

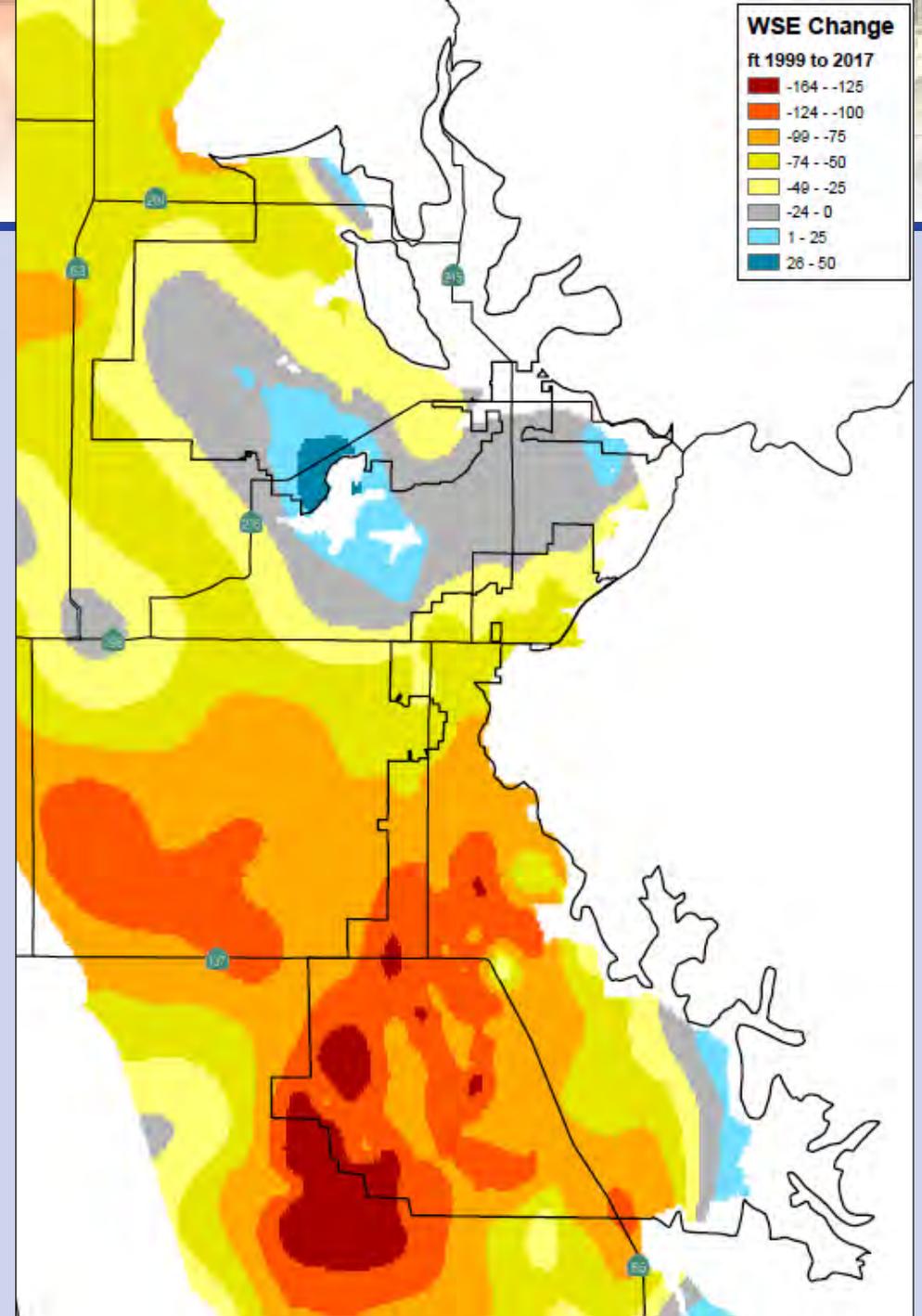


About the East Kaweah GSA

- East Kaweah GSA's Purpose:
 - To develop and implement a GSP that uses a holistic approach to reach groundwater sustainability by mitigating undesirable results affecting the East Kaweah GSA, with the least amount of impacts to industry and every day life.
- SGMA gives broad power to the GSAs to implement ways to reach sustainability specific to each GSA's jurisdiction
 - Usage fees and/or assessments to pay for sustainability projects will likely be established after January 2020
 - Policies and rules regarding how much groundwater can be pumped, when it can be taken, etc.

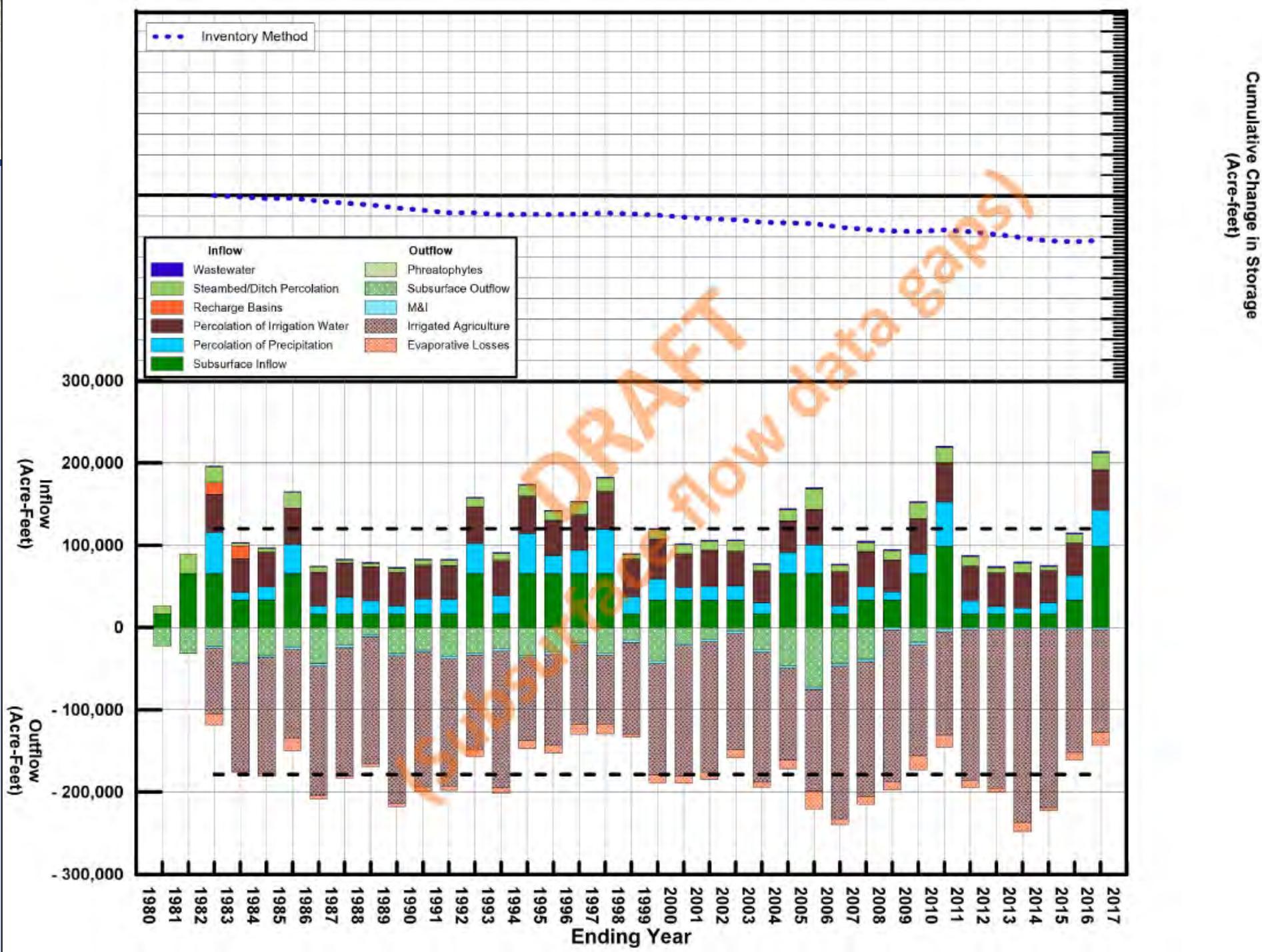
Groundwater Surface Change

- Spring 1999 to 2017
- Well measurements were pulled from the DWR WDL database. Contours are in feet above sea level for the groundwater surface in wells.



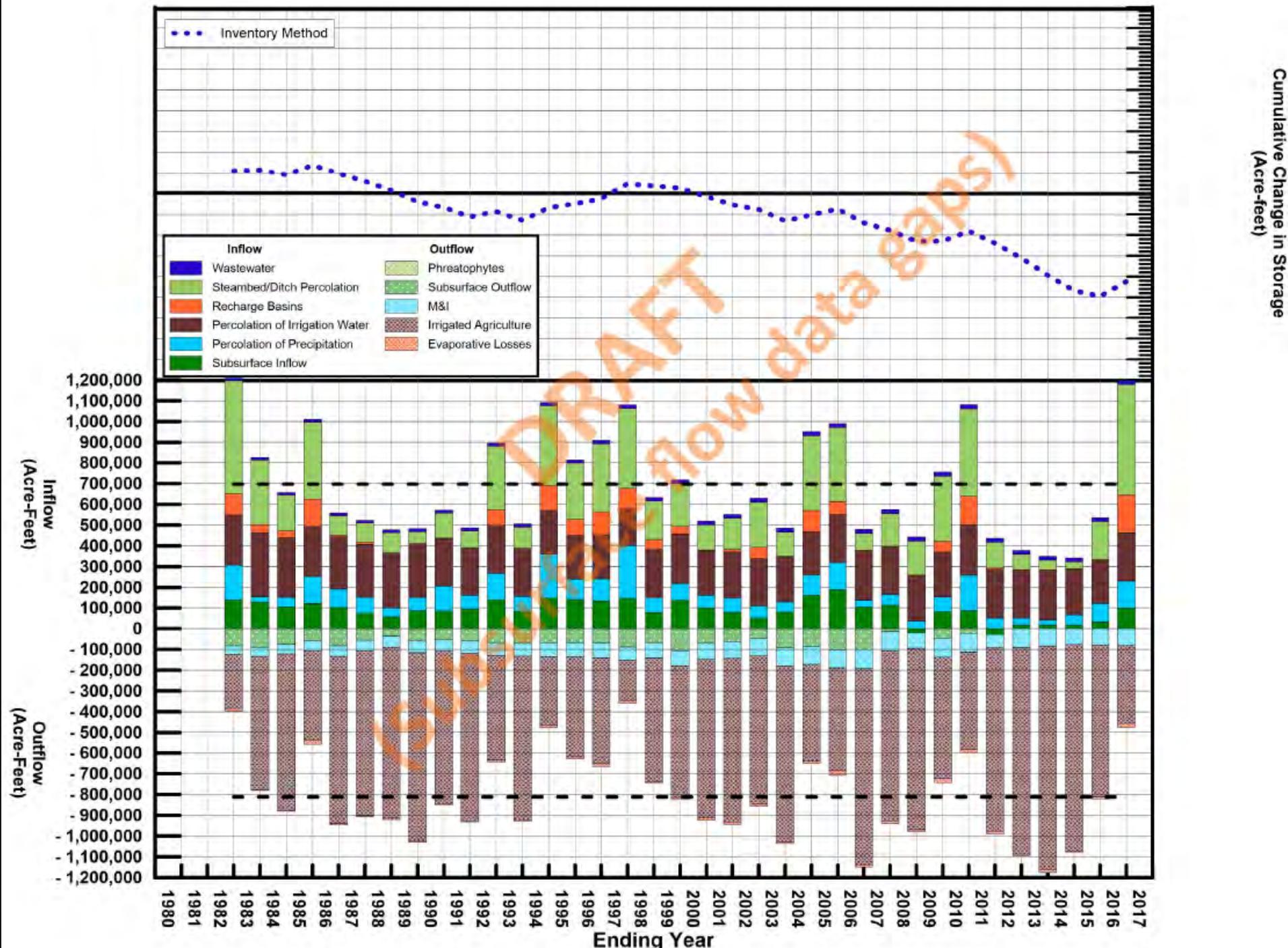


Preliminary Water Budget Overview – East Kaweah GSA





Preliminary Water Budget Overview - Kaweah Subbasin





Frequently Asked Questions

1. Explain to me why East Kaweah GSA thinks their efforts are for the betterment of the ag community?

- The State of California has passed SGMA. There is nearly no or very little hope of changing the law. However, the law recognizes a problem and has turned over the solution of the problem to the local groups of people. This will aid us in avoiding draconian and bureaucratic implementation of a set of policies and rules. We have been given the responsibility to solve the problem.



Frequently Asked Questions

2. Who do I bring a lawsuit against if I think my livelihood is or will be impacted because of East Kaweah GSA's actions?

- Well hopefully, that won't occur (the lawsuit or economic impacts). We (all of us in the sub-basin) will have to make sacrifices and some of those will hurt. GSAs will avoid deciding what crops are best to plant considering the potential for reduced pumping, cost of importing wet year supply and banking it, and other groundwater management programs. If you feel you need to bring a lawsuit against someone, start with a lawyer. Hopefully they will direct you to the law and your opportunity to influence is best at the local level.



Frequently Asked Questions

3. When will I really feel the impacts of SGMA in the Kaweah Sub-basin?

- EKGSA, has a lot of data gaps (lack of understanding). To be honest, the entire sub-basin has data gaps. EKGSA Board is viewing the first five years an extended study period. During that time the GSA will likely impose minimal actions. EKGSA needs this time to better understand how things occur in the EKGSA. Much of the extraction data is ET based on historical satellite analysis. We will be adding measurement points, setting thresholds, and measurable objectives in the next six months. But those will be adjustable as we develop a better understanding of groundwater.



Frequently Asked Questions

4. What is the amount of water I will be able to pump on my land?

- The Board of the EKGSA has not established a number yet. As noted earlier, the EKGSA is on a trajectory that is currently over drafting. EKGSA will need to better understand its conditions to develop the correct balance. The Board could ask for reduced pumping, voluntary land retirement, subsidized land retirement, importing more water etc. to arrest the over draft.



Frequently Asked Questions

5. When will EKGSA put a meter on my well?

- That has not yet been determined. It will take both time and money. Therefore, no sooner than two or three years down the road if at all. This decision will be developed more as we look at changes in groundwater elevations.



Frequently Asked Questions

6. Will I be charged for water I pump?

- Most likely there will be a groundwater charge. This is the most equitable way to approach groundwater use. The more a person uses the more they will need to pay.

7. Will I have an assessment on my property?

- It is likely the EKGSA will seek an assessment on land within its boundaries.



Frequently Asked Questions

8. If I have developed ground in one part of the sub-basin/GSA, will I be able to not pump on another piece of ground in the sub-basin/GSA and use that unused supply on my developed ground?
- There will likely be management areas. There are areas in the sub-basin and the GSA that are being over drafted more than others. The sub-basin/GSAs will have to determine, as an example, using water in one management area that has a more severe groundwater condition in lieu of taking it from an area that is in good shape. There will likely be different rules that are intended to reduce overdraft.



Frequently Asked Questions

9. Will there be a formal “market” for groundwater management?
 - That has not yet been determined.
10. If I take actions as a private individual to secure surface supply and apply it for recharge, how long will I get credit for that water?
 - That has not yet been determined.



How to Get Involved...

- Attend/participate in public outreach meetings
- Attend an East Kaweah GSA Board or Committee Meeting
 - **Board of Directors Meetings** – Fourth Monday of every January, April, July and October at 3 p.m. at the Exeter Courthouse Gallery
 - **Advisory Committee Meetings** – Third Monday of every month at 4 p.m. at the Exeter Courthouse Gallery
 - **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting** – First Friday of every month at 10 a.m. at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

How to Get Involved...

- Complete a Stakeholder Survey
 - Complete the survey and turn in before you leave today.
 - Visit www.ekgsa.org and complete the survey online.
 - Available in English and Spanish

SGMA will affect everyone...
We want to hear from you!

Date: _____

Stakeholder Type (check all that apply):

- Agricultural User Domestic Well Owner/User Municipal Well Operator Public Water Systems
 Environmental User Surface Water User Disadvantaged/Rural Community Resident

Note: The East Kaweah GSA is a public agency. Please complete your name and contact information if you'd like to be added to the GSA's email and mailing list for future updates and information regarding Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the East Kaweah GSA.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

1. Are you familiar with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations? Yes No
2. Are you currently engaged in activity or discussions regarding groundwater management in this region? Yes No
3. Do you own or manage/operate land in this region? Yes No
4. Where are you getting your water supply? Surface Groundwater Both
5. Agriculture & Domestic Well Users: What is your well(s) depth? _____
6. Agriculture & Domestic Well Users: Has your well(s) ever gone dry? Yes No
If yes, when (month/year)? _____
7. How adequate is your current groundwater supply? _____

8. If you grow crops, do you use irrigation for frost protection? Yes No
9. Do you manage water resources? Yes No
If yes, what is your role? _____
10. What is your primary interest in land or water resources management? _____



Contact the East Kaweah GSA

Questions/Comments/Further Discussions?

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