

Chapter Four

TRANSITIONAL GROUNDWATER PUMPING

To assist landowners with the transition to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, groundwater use and extraction above basin wide safe yield will be phased based on periodic reviews of the GSP per the guidelines of SGMA.

The GSA will provide access to water accounting program to track all land based water credits including landowner banking of groundwater, safe yield allocations, and surface water allocations. The groundwater credits will be tracked and managed on a 10-year rolling basis. Landowners will be allowed to exceed the available account balance as part of the transition to balanced groundwater pumping.

During the period of GSP implementation, groundwater above the basin wide safe yield level may be pumped consistent with the following criteria:

1. Use will be consistent with the policies established for avoiding the undesirable effects under SGMA;
2. First water to be pumped will be accounted from the safe yield allocation (10 year rolling average amount);
3. An upper limit for net groundwater use will be established
4. There will also be a phased approach to the allocation of groundwater for transitional pumping. The GSP will provide for levels of groundwater pumping that will be higher during the initial phases and may decrease to reach sustainable pumping levels (as required by SGMA) by 2040.
5. The first phase of transitional pumping will be from 2020 through the 2025
6. The second phase of transitional pumping will be from 2026 through 2030
7. The final phase of transitional pumping will be from 2031 through 2040
8. There will be a fee schedule for pumping over the amount allocated by the basin safe yield. Revenues will be used to mitigate impacts and implement the following programs:
 - Surface water development
 - Water conservation grants to GSA members
 - Land conservation and set-aside programs
 - Monitor impacts and effects of groundwater pumping.