

## Chapter Four

### TRANSITIONAL GROUNDWATER CONSUMPTION

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 a water accounting program to track all land based water credits including landowner banking of groundwater, safe yield allocations, surface water and transitional water allocations.

During the period of GSP implementation, transitional water allocations (groundwater above the basin wide safe yield level), may be consumed consistent with the following criteria:

1. Use will be consistent with the policies established for avoiding the undesirable effects under SGMA;
2. Transitional water will be available after all other water supplies are used, based on the following sequencing:
  - i. Surface water allocation
  - ii. Safe yield groundwater allocation
  - iii. District allocated groundwater credits
  - iv. Landowner developed groundwater credits
  - v. Transitional water allocation
3. Transitional water credits will be allocated based on assessed acres and made available in 5-year blocks.
4. Transitional water credits stay with the landowner to be used on properties within the GSA and cannot be transferred to other landowners. Tier 1 transitional water allocations can be transferred to lease tenants on an annual basis.
5. An upper limit for net groundwater use, including transitional water allocations, will be established. Exceeding this limit will result in fines and reduced allocations in the next year, per section **XXX of the GSP**.
6. There will also be a phased approach to the allocation of groundwater for transitional water. The GSP will provide for levels of groundwater consumption that will be higher during the initial phases and may decrease to reach sustainable consumption levels (as required by SGMA) by 2040. The amount of Transitional water available will be determined at the beginning of each phase.
  - a. The first phase of transitional water will be from 2020 through the 2025
  - b. The second phase of transitional water will be from 2026 through 2030
  - c. The third phase of transitional water will be 2031 through 2035
  - d. The final phase of transitional water will be from 2031 through 2040
7. There will be a fee schedule for transitional water consumption.
  - i. Tier 1 of transitional water consumption is 50% of the total transitional water allocated for the period and priced annually by the

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Board based on a formula using three times the Friant Class 1 water rate.

- ii. Tier 2 is transitional water consumption over Tier 1, up to the total transitional water allocation and priced at two times the rate of tier 1 transitional water consumption.
8. 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.
  - Other projects that may be identified in the GSP.