

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

Lower Tule River and Pixley Id Groundwater
Sustainability Agencies

January 14-17, 2019

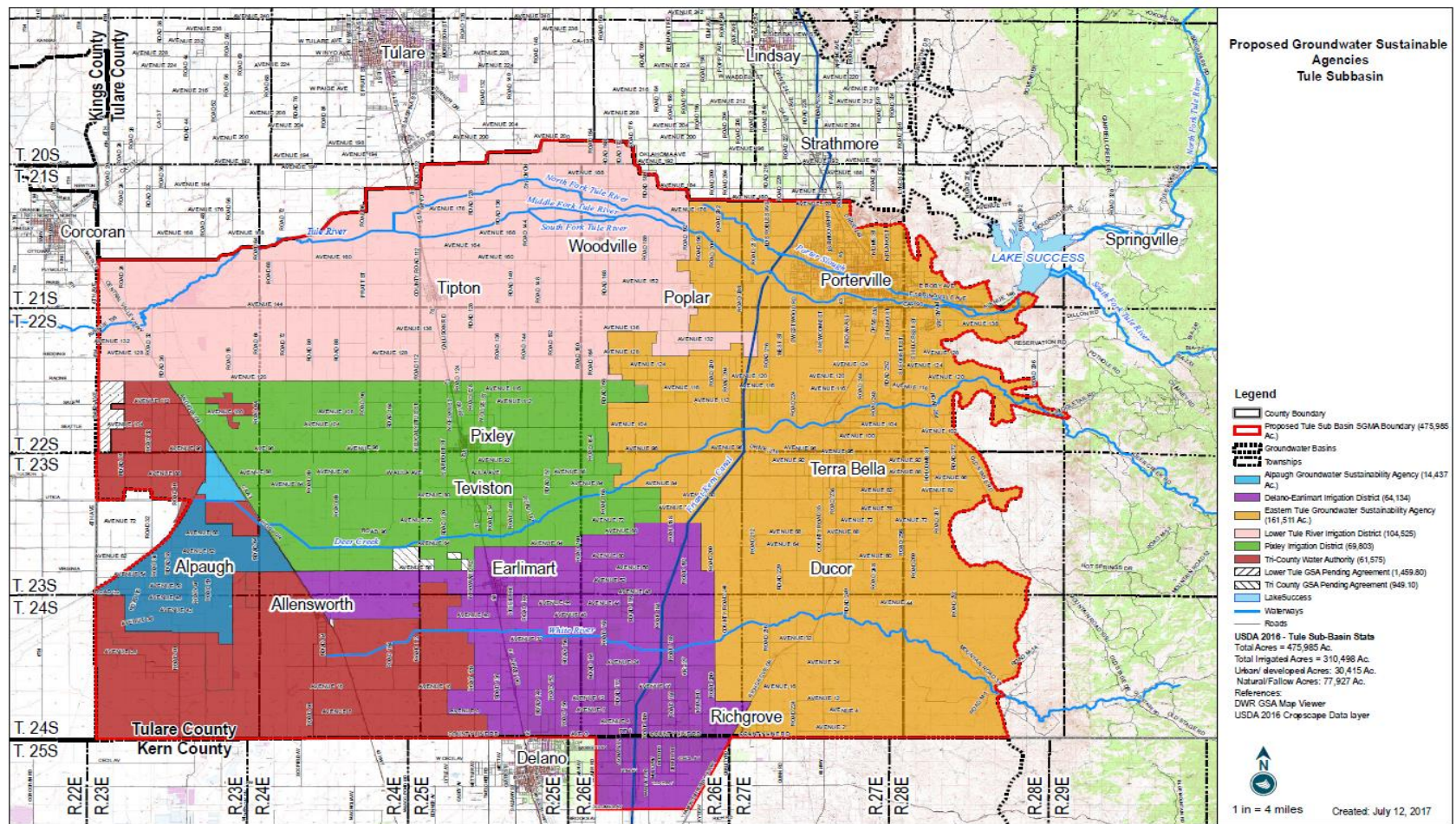
KEY SGMA TERMS

- **SGMA:** Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Described in the Water Code – A Law of the State of California
- **GSA:** Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Overarching body responsible for implementing SGMA – Defined by boundaries
- **GSP:** Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Each GSA adopts a GSP – GSP describes how the GSA will meet the requirements of the SGMA
- **MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding – The “MOU” for the Tule Sub-basin defines the rules by which the GSAs in the sub-basin will coordinate their GSPs to comply with SGMA

SGMA OVERVIEW

1. Passed in 2014
 2. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies formed by 2017
 3. Law Requires GSAs Develop and Implement Sustainability Plans by January 31, 2020
 4. Achieve Sustainability by January 31, 2040
 5. What is Sustainability? Measured largely by the avoidance of Six undesirable results:
 - Chronic Lowering of Groundwater levels
 - Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
 - Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
 - Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality
 - Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
 - Depletions of interconnected groundwater and surface water
- 

TULE BASIN OVERVIEW



TULE BASIN OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- Multiple GSA's with Multiple GSP's
- Plans Must Be Coordinated – Otherwise DWR can place basin in probationary status which could include the State Water Board determining use of surface water rights
- 477,000 acres total in the Tule Sub-basin
- 257,725 acre-feet Sustainable yield (0.54 acre-ft/acre)
 - How is that calculated?
 - Total of “naturally occurring” water in the basin divided by gross the acreage
 - Amount of groundwater each acre could use absent any other imported, or surface water rights held

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONTENT OVERVIEW

- Section 1 – Introduction (General Info, Agency Info, Background info)
- Section 2 - Basin Setting (Technical Section, descriptions, and methodologies regarding; Aquifer descriptions, groundwater elevations, land subsidence, water budget accounting, overdraft, surface water, sustainable yield, etc.)
- Section 3 – Sustainable Management Criteria (Sustainability Goals to avoid six undesirable results)
- Section 4 – Monitoring Networks (Monitoring Plan for Groundwater Levels, Water Quality, Land Subsidence Monitoring, etc)
- Section 5 – Projects and Management (GSA specific Rules, Projects, Implementation, Enforcement, etc.)
- Section 6 – Plan Implementation (Schedule, costs, funding, reporting schedule and descriptions)
- Section 7 – References and Technical Studies (maps, backup data, etc)

GSP OVERVIEW (CONTINUED) –LTRID & PIXLEY SPECIFIC (SECTION 5- RULES, IMPLEMENTATION, PROJECTS, ENFORCEMENT

- Chapter 1 – Water Measurement and Metering –
 - CalPoly ITRC – METRIC, using NASA Landsat
 - Crop Demand (Etc) vs. Applied water (Gross pumping)
 - Overapplication results in groundwater pumping credits
- Chapter 2 – Groundwater Banking at the Landowner Level
 - Specific recharge will result in Groundwater pumping credits (90/10)
- Chapter 3 – Water Accounting and Water Transfers
 - Each Landowner to have an account
 - Landowners may lease or sell Sustainable yield credits and landowner developed credits

GSP OVERVIEW –LTRID & PIXLEY SPECIFIC (SECTION 5- RULES, IMPLEMENTATION, PROJECTS, ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED))

- Chapter 4 – Transitional Groundwater Pumping
 - Transitional GW pumping = continued overdraft for a period of time while other portions of plan are implemented
 - Transitional blocks allocated in 5 year blocks through 2035 or 2040
 - Fees to be charged on transitional pumping – Tiered pricing
 - Can be used anytime in 5 year block
 - Cannot be transferred to other landowners
 - Defined upper limit – noncompliance will result in Per acre-foot penalty and reduction in next year allocation
- Chapter 5 – Landowner Surface Water Imported into GSA
 - Canal Capacity and availability to be determined by Irrigation District
 - Water usage and generation of groundwater pumping credit must follow GSP rules

GSP OVERVIEW –LTRID & PIXLEY SPECIFIC (SECTION 5- RULES, IMPLEMENTATION, PROJECTS, ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED))

- Chapter 6 – District Level Groundwater Credits
 - Done on behalf of all landowners
 - Will be used first to meet Sustainability requirements
 - May be allocated to landowners – equally, per assessed acres
- Chapter 7 - CSD & PUD Water Use
 - Designated Management Area
 - Current water use to be monitored, reported and evaluated
 - Future growth must include water supply plan
- Chapter 8 – Implementation and Enforcement of Plan Actions
 - Notice of Non-compliance – time to correct
 - Penalty for overpumping
 - No access to surface water if outstanding fees for a prior year owed
 - Fees collected to be used for GSP project funding

LTRID & PIXLEY SPECIFIC DATA

- Very preliminary numbers
 - LTRID Acres = 103,000
 - LTRID Overdraft – Approximately 9,000 acre-feet per year (1990-2016)
 - This number has been much higher (100,000 plus) recently (2007-2016)
 - LTRID Demand – 2007-2016 – 289,000 acre-feet on average (ETc)
 - Pixley Acres = 69,000
 - Pixley Overdraft – Approximately 77,500 acre-feet per year (1990-2016)
 - Pixley Demand – 2007-2016 - 168,000 acre-feet on average (ETc)

LTRID & PIXLEY SPECIFIC DATA

Projects & Actions

Intended to improve overall landowner allocations of surface and groundwater

- Success Reservoir Enlargement Project (LTRID)
- Friant Kern Canal pump-back and capacity restoration
- Import Additional Water Supplies
- Additional Recharge Basins
- Land Fallowing/Conservation
- Distribution System Expansion (Pixley)

All of these options will require an increase in land based fees

QUESTIONS

