KINGS RIVER EAST
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

PROP 218 ELECTION:
GROWER HANDOUT

MANAGING GROUNDWATER LOCALLY

Prop 218 Will Fund Local Efforts to Sustainably Manage Groundwater

Why a Prop 218 is Needed:

SGMA is a State Requirement

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires critically overdrafted basins like ours to reach sustainability by 2040.

Local Funding is Required

SGMA is an unfunded State mandate. Funding the Kings River East GSA is needed to continue meeting State requirements for groundwater planning, monitoring, reporting and coordination.

The Kings River East GSA has not collected revenue from landowners since 2021. From 2017 through 2020, the GSA funded is start-up activities through a $1.45 per acre-foot pumping fee and nominal contributions from public agencies. Those funds have now been exhausted and new revenue is required to support the ongoing activities required under SGMA.

Prop 218 Will Fund:

Local Autonomy

Funding is needed to support planning, reporting, and drought impact mitigation activities required under SGMA and to maintain local control over groundwater management. **Without funding, we risk the State Water Resources Control Board intervening to impose fees, pumping reporting requirements, and pumping restrictions.**

Coordinated Regional Strategies

Staying coordinated with our stakeholders and the six neighboring GSAs in the Kings Subbasin helps minimize conflicts and duplicated efforts, reducing costs for everyone.

Proactive Decision-Making Tools

Better groundwater data leads to better management decisions. Funding will help improve groundwater monitoring capabilities and support more precise, proactive management decisions rather than reactive measures.

The Value of Local Management

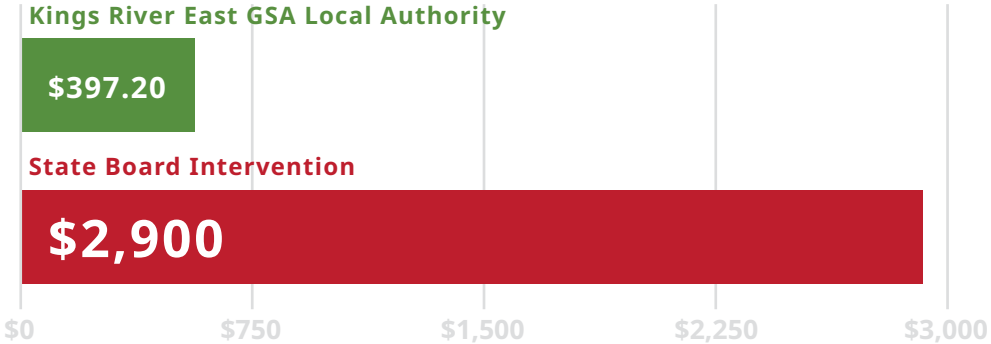
The Kings Subbasin is one of 15 critically overdrafted subbasins to have made it through the first major SGMA hurdle – an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

In basins without an approved GSP:

- **Pumpers are required to report their pumping data to the State Board,**
- **Pay fees directly into the State's bank accounts,**
- **and experience a high degree of uncertainty regarding State-directed pumping restrictions and requirements.**

Passing the Prop 218 will fund the work necessary to maintain our local autonomy and reduce the risk of direct State intervention.

LOCAL VS STATE FEES COMPARISON FOR A 40-ACRE PARCEL



Kings River East GSA fees were calculated using the Prop 218 proposed $9.93 per acre maximum fee. State Intervention pumping fees were calculated using historical average irrigation demands within Kings River East GSA. This scenario assumes: 40-acre parcel, groundwater only, approx. 134 acre-feet of applied water, served by one well.

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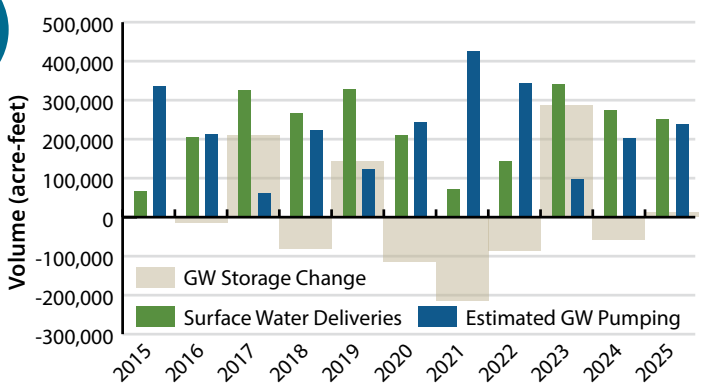
Groundwater Conditions

+8,600 AF AVERAGE ANNUAL GROUNDWATER STORAGE INCREASE IN KINGS RIVER EAST GSA, 2015 - 2025

Recharge, rainfall, irrigation return flow, and expanded surface water diversions into Alta Irrigation District have improved groundwater storage by enough water to fill nearly 2,200 forty-acre fields one foot deep, equivalent to nearly 80% of Alta Irrigation District's cropped acreage.

Kings River East GSA Groundwater Storage Change by Water Year



This data is promising, but it doesn't mean we can sit back.

When we remove the record-crushing 2023 wet water year from the picture, the cumulative groundwater storage change number for the period from 2015 to 2025 dips far into the negative at -197,000 acre-feet.

What does this mean? Large swings between dry and wet hydrologic conditions significantly affect our ability to achieve sustainable conditions. We need to remain prepared to address the impacts of drought periods on our sustainability targets while planning effectively to maximize water use in wet years.

Visit kingsrivereast.org/prop218 or scan the QR code to learn more.

Leading Strategy: Capture More Surface Water

Alta Irrigation District Recharge Basins

+120 acres of basins anticipated to start construction in 2026, over a 60% increase in Alta ID owned basins.

+80 acres planned for purchase.

Upper Kings River Districts Pursue Basins Together

+3,300 acres of recharge planned by Alta, Fresno, and Consolidated Irrigation Districts to maximize Kings River wet year water supplies.

Alta's "FARM" Program

+170,000+ acre-feet of additional supplies captured since 2017 through Alta's Functional Aquifer Recharge Management "FARM" program.

Spanish interpretation provided

GROWER WORKSHOP #1

July 8, 4 – 5 PM

Kings River Union Elementary in the Multipurpose Room
3961 Ave 400, Kingsburg, CA 93631

Spanish interpretation provided

GROWER WORKSHOP #2

July 9, 4 – 5 PM

Dinuba Community Center
1390 E Elizabeth Way, Dinuba, CA 93618

PUBLIC HEARING

July 27, 2 PM

City of Dinuba, Council Chambers
405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618

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