Kern Groundwater Authority GSA
Groundwater Workshop

April 26, 2018
Shafter, California
Members of the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA)

- Arvin Community Services District
- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- City of Shafter
- County of Kern
- Kern County Water Agency
- Kern-Tulare Water District
- North Kern Water Storage District
- Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water District
- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
- South San Joaquin Municipal Utilities District
- West Kern Water District
- Westside Water District Authority
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
KERN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

- Largest Subbasin in California
- Formed with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on July 1, 2017
- Received exclusive status from DWR on August 28, 2017
- Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) provides overall Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP framework for individual water districts)
- Individual water districts to develop functional GSPs
- KGA will coordinate GSPs:
  - With other Kern County GSPs
  - Among KGA’s member water districts
Self-Help Enterprises is a nationally-recognized housing and community development organization (non-profit organization).

Our mission is to work together with low income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities.

Community Development Program provides technical assistance and leadership development in rural communities who face challenges providing clean water, sanitary sewer and other infrastructure.

Since 1965, Self-Help Enterprises’ (SHE) efforts have touched the lives of over 50,000 families in the San Joaquin Valley.
WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- California’s New Groundwater Law – The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Kern Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) & Efforts to Develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for the Kern Subbasin
- Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities (including DACs)
- Share Your Thoughts – Stakeholder Questionnaire
On average Californians get **40%** of their water from groundwater. During droughts, that number can go up to **60%**.

- In the Central Valley, we are even more dependent on groundwater than the state as a whole.
- **90%** of Central Valley residents rely on groundwater for at least part of their drinking water supply.
- Most unincorporated communities are **100%** reliant on groundwater – includes many of our small school districts.
HOW COMMUNITIES & SCHOOLS USE GROUNDWATER
Previously, groundwater management was voluntary in certain areas of the state.

Groundwater levels have been declining due to over-pumping, excessive restrictions on surface water imports, and not enough recharge.

The drought (2012-2016) had an unprecedented impact on our state.

Dry wells (i.e. Arvin, Lamont, area and many others)

Subsidence
CALIFORNIA’S SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”
- Governor Jerry Brown, September 2014

- Three-bill package: SB 1168 (Pavley), AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1319 (Pavley)
- Signed by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014
- Objective: Ensure the long-term reliability of our groundwater resources and connected surface water resources requiring “sustainable” management
- Core Principle: Local control
Basins identified by DWR as:

- Critically Over-Drafted
- High-Medium Priority
- All of our region must comply!

WHO MUST COMPLY WITH SGMA?
WHOSE INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE?

- Holders of overlying groundwater rights (ag and domestic)
- Public water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Environmental users of groundwater
- Surface water users
- California Native American tribes
- Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems
WHAT MIGHT A GSA DO?

GSA’s Authorities & Responsibilities

- Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- Well registration, metering, reporting, monitoring
- Regulate, limit or suspend groundwater production
- Procure surface water for replenishment
- Adopt rules, regulations, & ordinances
- Enforcement actions
- Administrative fees and assessments
GSPs due by January 31, 2020 (2022 if not in critical overdrafted)

GSPs will include important information
- Description of plan area & basin setting
- Sustainability Criteria
- Monitoring program and projects

GSP will serve as a roadmap to achieve sustainability within 20 years

GSAs will need to develop GSPs with stakeholder input
WATER BUDGETS
Prevent “Undesirable results that are significant and unreasonable”

At this time, the only undesirable result that we can be certain doesn’t apply to the KGA area is Seawater intrusion.
MONITORING PROGRAM AND PROJECTS
After submitting its GSP, a GSA has 20 years to reach sustainability.

- **Sustainability must be reached by 2040 (2042 for areas not in critical overdraft)**

- DWR will review all plans every five years to assess progress and recommend corrective actions as needed.

- Sustainability in 20 years
- Measurable objectives/thresholds
- Annual reporting
- State review every 5 years
GSAS AND GSPS IN KERN SUBBASIN (AS OF APRIL 2018)

- **GSA’s Preparing their own GSPs**
  - Kern Groundwater Authority
  - Kern River GSA
  - Buena Vista WSD GSA
  - Henry Miller WD GSA
  - Olcese WD GSA

- **GSA’s That Have Not Formalized GSP Preparation Plans**
  - City of McFarland GSA
  - Greenfield County WD GSA

- **GSA’s Participating in Kern Groundwater Authority GSP**
  - Semitropic WSD GSA
  - Cawelo WD GSA
  - West Kern WD GSA
  - Pioneer Project GSA
Questions & Answers
WHAT IS MY ROLE IN GSP DEVELOPMENT?

Share Your Thoughts – You can help shape what is included in the plan by:

- Providing information about your water challenges
- Share information about your water use
- Identifying projects that can help address the groundwater conditions
- Stay informed by participating outreach and education activities
- Fill out the Stakeholder Survey
OPPORTUNITY FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Participate in GSP Development

- Attend GSA public meetings
  
  KGA GSA Monthly Board Meeting
  
  4th Wednesday of each month 8am

  1115 Truxten Ave 3rd Floor, Bakersfield CA

- Share topic ideas for additional public workshops
- Get on the “interested parties” list to receive correspondence about KGA GSA
- Visit the website to learn more: www.kerngwa.com
We want to hear from you!

- What do you know about SGMA?
- How do you use water?
- What else should we know?
THANK YOU!

Visit the Water Resources Table

KGA Contact Information:

www.kerngwa.com
Patty Poire, KGA Planning Manager
Telephone: 661-479-7171, Email: ppoire@kerngwa.com

SHE Contact Information:

Abigail Solis, Self Help Enterprises
Telephone: 559-802-1659, Email: abigails@selfhelpenterprises.org
Maria Herrera, Self Help Enterprises
Telephone: 559-802-1676 Email: Mariah@selfhelpenterprises.org