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## Staff Report

ITEM NO. SS-1

**To:** Lemoore City Council  
**From:** Ron Hoggard, Interim City Manager *RH*  
**Date:** April 16, 2015 **Meeting Date:** April 21, 2015  
**Subject:** Kings River Conservation District – Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Tulare Basin

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### **Discussion:**

Kings River Conservation District has asked to update City Council on the Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Tulare Basin. David Orth, General Manager of Kings River Conservation District, will present a PowerPoint presentation and be available to answer any questions.

### **Budget Impact:**

No budget impact at this time.

### **Recommendation:**

None. Informational only.



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation in the Tulare Basin

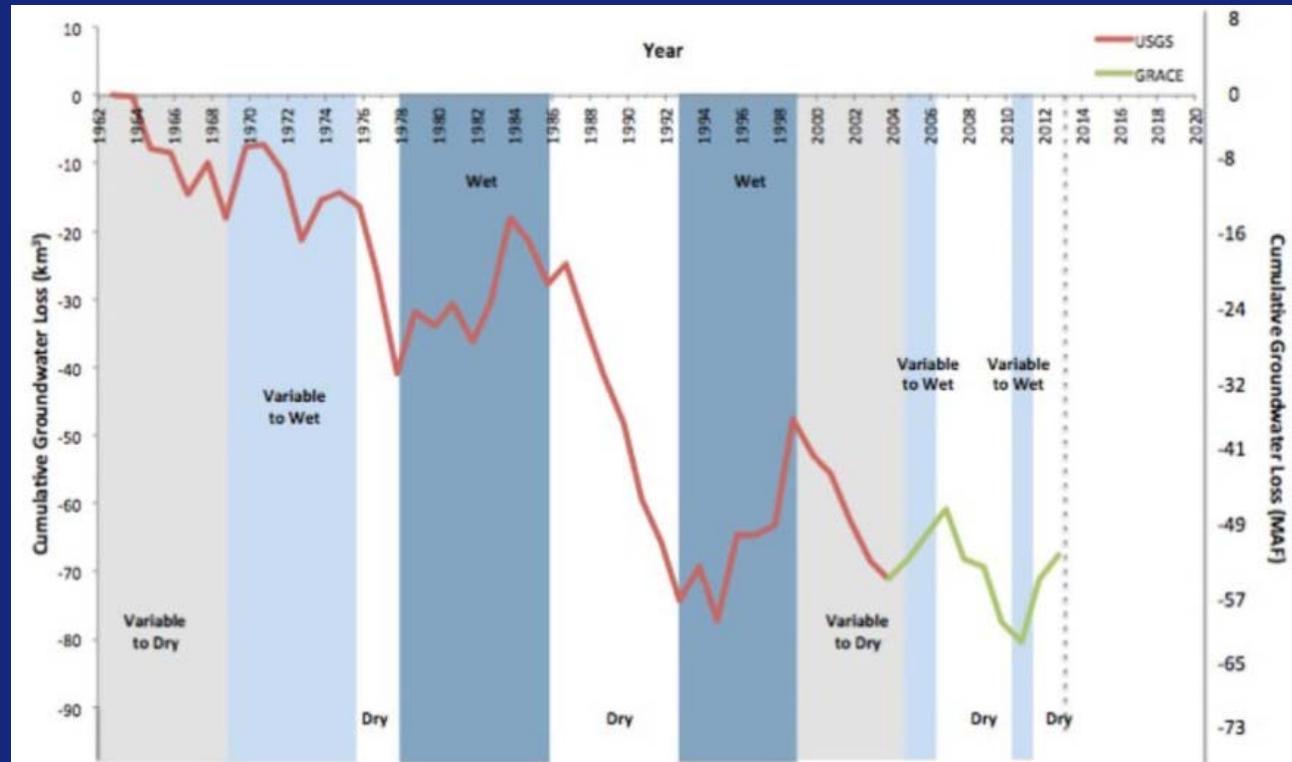
David Orth, General Manager  
Kings River Conservation District

April 21, 2015



# How We Got Here

## Drought worsened a growing groundwater crisis

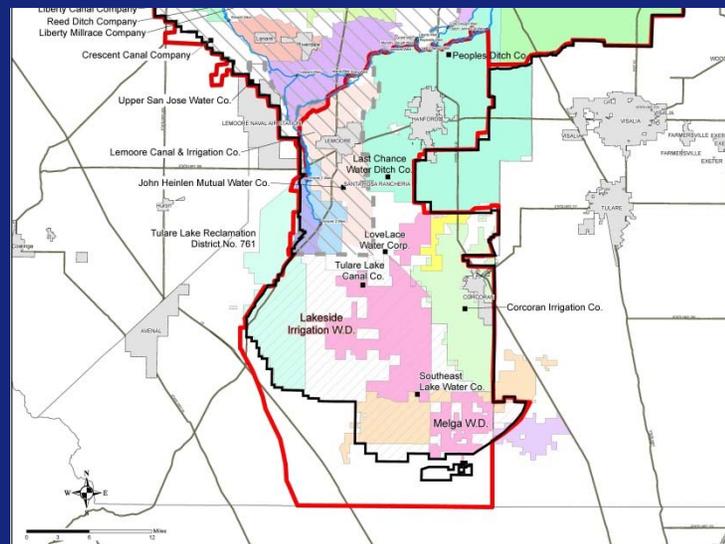


Cumulative groundwater losses in Central Valley since 1962



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Design

- Local management
- 20-year timeframe to become sustainable
- State intervention if no local governance or unable to manage basin sustainably





# What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?

Management and use that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing “undesirable results,” based on “significant and unreasonable” standard:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reductions in groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Surface water depletions that have adverse impacts on beneficial uses



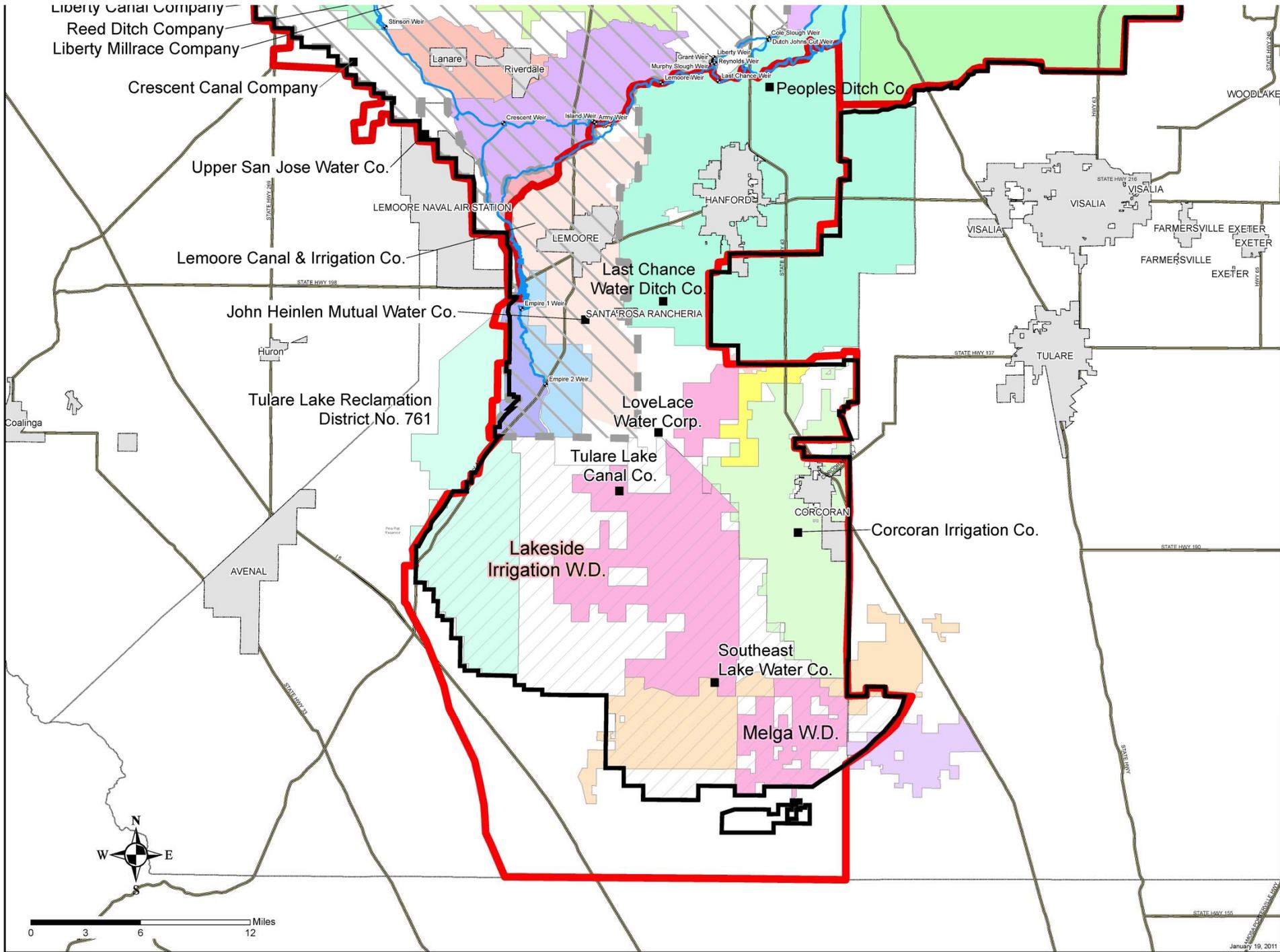
# Essential Provisions

- Mandatory for “Priority Basins”
- Groundwater Sustainability Agency(s)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s)



# Groundwater Sustainability Agency

- Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
  - “Local Agencies” – public agency with water or land use authority
  - Counties presumed to be responsible for areas not otherwise covered
- May be formed from more than one local agency
- Legal Entities
  - JPA
  - Memorandum of Agreement or other legal agreement
  - Special Purpose Entity (legislation)
  - Coordination Agreement





# Governance Structure Examples

- One agency forms GSA for entire basin
  - County, KRCDD
  - New Entity made up of many agencies
- Multiple agencies form individual GSAs and coordinate for basin sustainability
  - KRWA units
  - Cities, counties, irrigation districts



# GSA Responsibilities/Authorities

- Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions
- Conduct investigation of water rights
- Well registration, metering, reporting, monitoring, investigation
- Replenishment, reclaimed water, and other programs
- Regulate, limit or suspend groundwater production and/or new groundwater wells, or otherwise establish groundwater production allocations
- Enforcement actions
- Administrative fees and assessments
  - 218 election
  - Regulatory fee



# Groundwater, Surface Water Rights

- GSAs are not allowed to determine or alter surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law or any provision of law that determines or grants surface water rights. Water Code Section 10720.5(b)
- Legislative intent to “respect overlying and other proprietary rights to groundwater”



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) Components

- Requirements of Groundwater Management Plans (AB 3030/SB1938)
- General Plan linkage
- Water budget – 50 year planning horizon
- Sustainability in 20 years
- Interim milestones – 5 year increments
- Measureable objectives



# Department of Water Resources' Role

- Basin Prioritization (1/31/15)
- Basin boundary adjustments (1/1/16)
- Regulations (6/1/16)
  - Groundwater Sustainability Plan components
- Technical assistance
  - Best management practices for sustainable groundwater management (1/1/17)
- Assessment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans



# State Water Resources Control Board's Role

- May intervene if GSA not formed or fails to adopt / implement compliant GSP
- Designate basin as “probationary”
- Create interim plan until GSA formed and develops compliant GSP

After	Cause of Intervention
June 30, 2017	No GSA
Jan. 31, 2020	In critically overdrafted basins, no GSP or GSP is inadequate
Jan. 31, 2022	In other basins, no GSP or GSP is inadequate and basin is in long-term overdraft
Jan. 31, 2025	GSP is inadequate and significant depletions of interconnected surface waters



# Upcoming Activities

- GSA Formation
- Basin Boundary Adjustments
- Rulemaking and Regulations



# Memorandum of Understanding

- Purpose is to facilitate cooperative and ongoing working relationships between the agencies in Area C
- Allows parties to explore, study, and evaluate beneficial approaches and strategies for implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.



# Questions?