



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, Convenes at 10:30 a.m.

Or immediately following the Porterville Irrigation District Meeting

<http://www.portervilleid.org> / PIDGSA@ocsnet.net

22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257

Web Meeting Attendance Available for Interested Parties:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84319138554>

Meeting ID: 843 1913 8554

Passcode: Hu9n5p

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,6707587901#,,,,*478530# US

+17207072699,,6707587901#,,,,*478530# US

-----**AGENDA**-----

Action items are listed in **bold**.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Flag Salute

All items on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may consider agenda items in any order. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Porterville Irrigation District, 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257, during regular business hours.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to provide comments at the time the Board considers the item. Any person addressing the Board will

be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes, or at the Chairman's discretion. At all times, please state your name for the record.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Status of Prop 218 Extraction Fee Public Outreach.
- b. Scheduled Meeting with State Board Member Nicole Morgan and Staff on July 16, 2026.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Consideration and Approval of June 9, 2026, GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes (Action).**

5. ADMINISTRATION

- a. No Items for Discussion.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- a. Provide a report to Board Members on meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress.

7. CLOSED SESSION:

- 1. **Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.**

8. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

- a. Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, June 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. (Discussion of schedule possible conflict)

10. ADJOURNMENT

A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 may request that the PIDGSA provide a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in any public meeting. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the GSA. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, facsimile, or written correspondence to the General Manager of the Porterville Irrigation District GSA at (559) 782-6321, at least 48 hours before a public meeting.

MICHAEL L. KNIGHT
General Manager

JEFFREY S. ROW
Secretary-Treasurer
Assessor/Collector

AUBREY A. MAURITSON
Ruddell, Stanton, Bixler,
Mauritson & Evans LLP



ERIC L. BORBA
President

DAVID E. GISLER
Vice-President

TIMOTHY J. WITZEL
Director

JOSEPH "BRETT" McCOWAN
Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("PID GSA") will conduct a public hearing on August 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257, to consider adoption of a proposed groundwater extraction fee-related GSA charge for lands located within the PID GSA boundary.

The proposed fee is based on the PID GSA proposed 2026 budget and the costs necessary to administer the GSA, implement SGMA requirements, conduct monitoring and technical analysis, maintain data systems, support compliance activities, and fund legal, engineering, and administrative services. The net impact on landowners will vary based on acreage and any final methodology adopted by the Board after the public hearing.

WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

You are receiving this notice because you are the owner of record of one or more parcels located within the service area of the PID GSA, and extraction on parcel(s) may be subject to the proposed fee if adopted.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), which requires that medium and high-priority groundwater basins be managed sustainably by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs"). SGMA authorizes GSAs to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans, conduct investigations and monitoring, collect groundwater data, administer allocations, and take actions necessary to achieve groundwater sustainability.

The PID GSA was formed to provide local groundwater management within its boundary and to support the implementation of SGMA in the Tule Subbasin. To fund these activities, the PID GSA is proposing a groundwater extraction fee-related GSA charge for Water Year 2025-2026. If approved, the fee would be used solely for PID GSA groundwater sustainability, administration, compliance, monitoring, technical and legal support, outreach, and program implementation costs.

This notice is intended to comply with applicable public notice and protest procedures, including the California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6 (Proposition 218), and applicable provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Water Code.

BASIS OF PROPOSED FEE

The PID GSA is required to collect revenues sufficient to cover the reasonable costs of operating the GSA and implementing SGMA within the PID GSA boundary. Costs to be recovered through the proposed fee include administration, professional services, legal services, engineering and consulting services, monitoring of groundwater conditions, data management, compliance assistance, enforcement support, and program implementation. The PID GSA may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover the reasonable costs of providing these services.

| Proposed 2026 Fee Component | Amount / Basis |
|--|-----------------------|
| Proposed PID GSA Budget 2026 | \$785,343 |
| GSA Acres Used for Cost Allocation | 15,500 acres |
| Available Native Sustainable Yield | 2,325 acre feet |
| 2026 Allocation Reference - Native Sustainable Yield | 0.15 AF/acre |
| Equivalent Cost Based on Native Sustainable Yield | \$337.78 per 0.15/AF |

PROPOSED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE / GSA CHARGE

The proposed annual fee is \$337.78 per 0.15 acre-foot extracted. It is calculated by multiplying the GSA acres (15,500 acres) by the Native Sustainable Yield (0.15 acre-feet/acre), yielding the total volume of Native Sustainable Yield available to the GSA (2,325 acre-feet). The proposed PID GSA 2026 Budget of \$785,343 is divided by 2,325 acre-feet. The proposed fee is intended to recover the reasonable and necessary costs of PID GSA operations and SGMA implementation for the affected lands. If adopted, the fee would be billed to affected landowners for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (October 2025 retroactive through December 2026 and forward, until additional cost recovery is necessary) and may be collected directly by the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency or by another lawful billing or collection method approved by the Board.

For informational purposes, the proposed per-acre charge is equivalent to approximately \$337.78 per 0.15 AF, based on the 0.15 AF/acre Native Sustainable Yield amount shown in the Rate Calculation. The Board may consider comments and written protests before taking final action.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data supporting the proposed fee, including the budget, rate calculations, and supporting materials, will be available for public review at the Porterville Irrigation District office and/or on the Porterville Irrigation District website at <https://portervilleid.org/resources/public-notice/>. Copies may also be requested by contacting Michael Knight, PID GSA Manager, at (559) 782-6321 or mknight@portervilleid.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing will be held on August 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257. At the hearing, the Board will consider all oral comments and written protests submitted prior to the close of the public hearing. After the close of the public hearing, the Board may consider adoption of the proposed fee.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND MAJORITY PROTEST

The proposed fee is subject to applicable public notice and protest procedures. Any property owner of record subject to the proposed fee may submit a written protest. If written protests are submitted by a majority of

the affected property owners or parcels, as applicable under law, the PID GSA may not adopt the proposed fee. Absent a majority protest, the Board may adopt the proposed fee at the conclusion of the public hearing.

To submit a written protest, the protest should: (1) identify the property owner; (2) state that the property owner opposes the proposed fee; (3) identify the affected parcel(s) by Assessor Parcel Number (APN) or street address; and (4) include the name and original signature of the property owner submitting the protest.

Written protests must be received before the close of the public hearing to be counted. Written protests may be submitted by mail to:

ATTN: PID GSA Extraction Fee Protest
Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
22086 Avenue 160
Porterville, CA 93257

Written protests may also be submitted in person at the public hearing before the close of the hearing. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest that satisfies the requirements above. Protests may be submitted by mail or hand-delivered directly to the District Office during regular business hours. All Protests deemed incomplete or submitted after the close of the Public Hearing will not be accepted unless expressly authorized by the PID GSA Board at the close of the hearing. Any protest submitted via email, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

QUESTIONS

For questions regarding this notice, the proposed fee, the basis for the fee, or the public hearing process, please contact Porterville Irrigation District Office at (559) 782-6321 or PIDGSA@ocsnet.net.

Notificación en español: Este aviso se proporciona para informar a los propietarios que la Agencia de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas del Distrito de Riego de Porterville (“PID GSA”) llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el 20 de agosto de 2026 a las 2:00 p.m., en 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257, para considerar la adopción de una tarifa propuesta relacionada con la extracción de aguas subterráneas para las tierras ubicadas dentro de los límites del PID GSA. La tarifa propuesta se basa en el presupuesto proyectado del PID GSA para 2026 y en los costos necesarios para administrar el GSA, implementar los requisitos de la SGMA, realizar monitoreo y análisis técnicos, mantener sistemas de datos, apoyar actividades de cumplimiento y financiar servicios legales, de ingeniería y administrativos.

Una versión en español de este aviso está disponible en la oficina del Distrito de Riego de Porterville y en el sitio web del distrito: <https://portervilleid.org/resources/public-notice/>. El personal de la oficina del distrito está disponible durante el horario laboral regular para ayudar a facilitar la traducción, responder preguntas y asistir a los propietarios en la comprensión del aviso, la tarifa propuesta, el proceso de audiencia pública y los procedimientos para presentar protestas por escrito.

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT GSA PROPOSED 2026 EXTRACTION FEE

| 2026 PROPOSED | Presented Budget | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Payroll - Gross Wages | \$ | 191,870 |
| Payroll Tax | \$ | 15,350 |
| Pension Expense | \$ | 15,350 |
| Health Insurance | \$ | 35,212 |
| Dental Insurance | \$ | 1,536 |
| Vision Insurance | \$ | 525 |
| Supplies - General | \$ | 2,500 |
| Computer Expenses | \$ | 75,000 |
| Engineering Services | \$ | 373,000 |
| Legal Expenses | \$ | 75,000 |
| TOTAL Expenses | \$ | 785,343 |

Basis of Groundwater Extraction Cost:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Expenses: | | \$785,343 |
| Native Sustainable Yield: 0.15 (aft/acre) | 2,325 (acre-ft) Cost/ 0.15: | \$337.78 |
| GSA Acres: 15,500 | | |

Example: Acreage x Native Sustainable Yield x Rate = Cost
 1Ac x 0.15NSY x \$337.78 = \$50.67

CONSENT CALENDAR

Staff Report to the Porterville Irrigation District GSA Board of Directors

Subject: CONSENT CALENDAR / Consideration and approval of June 9, 2026, GSA Special Board Minutes (Action).

Submitted By: General Manager

PORTERVILLE

IRRIGATION DISTRICT



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD JUNE 9, 2026

At approximately 10:40 p.m. on June 9, 2026, at the Porterville Irrigation District Board Room, President Eric Borba called to order the Special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“PIDGSA”). The meeting was also conducted remotely for members of the public.

Members Present: Eric Borba, David Gisler
Brett McCowan Timothy Witzel

Members Absent:

Others Present: Michael Knight, *GSA Manager*
Sean Geivet, *District Manager*
Aubrey Mauritsen, *District Legal Counsel*
Nick Keller, *District Engineer*
Jeff Row, *District Secretary-Treasurer*

List of signed-in attendees:

Terry Schuler Bill Morgan
Matt Kidder Adam Mendoza
Blake Wallace Brandon Sargent
Alan Lombardi Kathy Briano

Additional members of the public were present in person and via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Eric Borba called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.
Flag salute: Michael Knight

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Borba opened the floor for public comment.
No public comments were received.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. No Announcements.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Consideration and Approval of May 21, 2026, GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes (Action).

The Board considered approval of the May 21, 2026, GSA Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Motion by Director McCowan, seconded by Vice President Gisler, to approve the GSA Board Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

5. ADMINISTRATION

a. Consideration and Approval of Proposed Draft GSP/Coordination Agreement Cost-share MOU. (Action)

The GSA Manager presented the proposed Tule Subbasin Interim Cost Sharing Memorandum of Understanding. Staff explained that the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies continue to coordinate on Subbasin-wide efforts necessary to support SGMA compliance, including technical analyses, reporting, development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans, implementation activities, and coordination with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board.

Staff explained that the purpose of the MOU is to establish an interim funding and administrative framework for approved Subbasin-wide activities through December 31, 2026. The MOU is intended only as a cost-sharing and administrative mechanism and does not replace or supersede any existing coordination agreement unless expressly stated.

Staff further noted that the MOU allocates costs based on each GSA's proportional acreage within the Tule Subbasin. Porterville ID GSA's acreage is identified as 15,497.36 acres, representing 3.26% of the Tule Subbasin acreage. Lower Tule Irrigation District is designated as the fiscal agent and administrator for purposes of the agreement.

Action: Motion by Vice President Gisler, seconded by Director Witzel, to approve the Tule Subbasin Interim Cost Sharing Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the GSA Manager to execute the agreement, subject to final legal review and any non-substantive revisions. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consider and Approve a Mandatory Deadline for Well Registration for PID GSA BasinSafe Accounts. (Action)

The GSA Manager presented the need to establish a mandatory deadline for well registration within PID GSA BasinSafe accounts. Staff explained that complete and accurate well registration is necessary for PID GSA to administer groundwater accounting, confirm account information, coordinate extraction reporting, and implement PID GSA requirements.

Staff noted that BasinSafe is being used to support account-level groundwater management, allocations, surface water postings, and reporting coordination. Establishing a deadline would allow staff to improve the accuracy of account records and provide clear expectations for landowners and groundwater users.

Action: Motion by Vice President Gisler, seconded by Director Witzel, to approve a mandatory deadline of September 1, 2026, for well registration in PID GSA BasinSafe accounts and authorize staff to issue related notices and outreach materials. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Consider and Approve Participation in a Tule Subbasin Land Repurposing Economic Analysis, in Coordination with Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust. (Action)

GSA Manager presented the proposed Tule Subbasin Land Repurposing Economic Analysis prepared by ERA Economics, LLC for the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust. Staff explained that ERA is performing similar work for the Kaweah Subbasin and proposed extending and adapting that analysis to the Tule Subbasin.

Staff explained that the purpose of the analysis is to evaluate the potential economic and fiscal impacts of land-repurposing scenarios associated with the implementation of groundwater sustainability. The proposed analysis would help quantify impacts to agriculture, downstream industries, local agencies, school districts, communities, tax base, and related local services.

Staff reported that the item had been presented to the Stakeholder Committee and that the Stakeholder Committee did not support PID GSA participation in the effort.

Action: Motion by Vice President Gisler, seconded by Director Witzel, to decline participation in the Tule Subbasin Land Repurposing Economic Analysis. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Consider, Review, and Schedule a 218 Public Hearing to Set the 2026 PID GSA Extraction Fee. (Action)

The GSA Manager presented the proposed 2026 PID GSA Groundwater Extraction Fee and related Budget. Staff explained that PID GSA is responsible for implementing groundwater management activities within its jurisdictional boundary, including administration, accounting, technical support, legal review, engineering services, BasinSafe implementation,

and coordination with the Tule Subbasin GSAs and the State Water Resources Control Board.

Staff presented the proposed revised 2026 GSA budget totaling \$785,343. The proposed budget is intended to recover costs necessary to operate and administer PID GSA's groundwater management program for 2026.

Staff explained that, with Board approval, PID GSA would proceed with the required public-noticing process and schedule a Proposition 218 Public Hearing at the August 20, 2026, GSA Board Meeting to consider adopting the 2026 PID GSA extraction fee.

Action: Motion by Director McCowan, seconded by Director Witzel, to authorize staff to proceed with the public noticing process and to schedule a Proposition 218 Public Hearing for August 20, 2026, to consider adoption of the 2026 PID GSA groundwater extraction fee. Motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- a. Provide a report to Committee Members on meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress.

The GSA Manager provided a report regarding meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress. Staff summarized continued coordination among the Tule Subbasin GSAs related to groundwater sustainability planning, consultant coordination, regulatory response strategy, cost-sharing, technical work, and communications with the State Water Resources Control Board.

7. CLOSED SESSION: The Board did not convene into closed session.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session pursuant to:

1. Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.

8. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

1. Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.

- a. Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

There was no reportable action pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting of the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Action: Motion by Vice President Gisler, seconded by Director Witzel, to cancel the regularly scheduled GSA Board Meeting for June 18, 2026, for 2:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Borba adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Knight, GSA General Manager

DRAFT

ADMINISTRATION

Staff Report to the Porterville Irrigation District GSA Board of Directors

Subject: ADMINISTRATION / No Items to Discuss at this time.

Submitted By: General Manager

ADMINISTRATION

Staff Report to the Porterville Irrigation District GSA Board of Directors

Subject: REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / Provide a report to Board Members on meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress.

Submitted By: General Manager

This report provides an update on recent Tule Subbasin coordination meetings, technical working group activities, policy discussions, and preparation for the July 16, 2026 meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board. The ongoing work supports development of the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the implementation of coordinated measures intended to achieve groundwater sustainability and address identified State Water Board concerns.

The Subbasin's current coordination structure includes regular Policy Group, Manager Group, and Technical Working Group meetings. Technical assignments are generally led by designated consultant teams, with consultants representing other GSAs participating in review and coordination. This structure is intended to improve accountability, reduce inconsistencies among individual GSA efforts, and provide a coordinated technical foundation for policy decisions.

STATE WATER BOARD RECORDS REQUEST

The State Water Board requested records of surface water diverted to underground storage and extractions of legally stored surface water from 2020 to the present. For the Tule Subbasin, the requested extraction-accounting period was January 1 through December 31, 2025, and records back to 2020 if available. The requested information was originally due to the State Water Board by July 1, 2026.

PID GSA is compiling available surface water banking and extraction records from September 2025 onward, corresponding with the formation and effective operation of PID GSA. Any relevant records inherited from Eastern Tule GSA will be identified separately and may require additional review and interpretation.

While staff continues to compile and review the requested information, PID GSA has requested an extension of the July 1 submission deadline. The extension will provide additional time to evaluate the available records, address inherited data, and submit information that is as complete and accurate as reasonably possible.

Staff will continue coordinating with State Water Board representatives regarding the requested extension, applicable data formats, and any follow-up questions concerning the submitted records.

MULTI-GSA SINGLE GSP DEVELOPMENT

Participation and cost-sharing arrangements for development of the Multi-GSA Single GSP are substantially in place. Lower Tule River Irrigation District is serving as the fiscal agent, and the participating GSAs have been working through a coordinated scope, budget, and technical review process.

A master schedule is being developed to identify critical technical tasks, dependencies, milestones, and anticipated completion dates. This schedule is expected to be an important component of future discussions with State Water Board staff because it will demonstrate the Subbasin's work plan and accountability structure.

Current priority work areas include:

- Revised basin setting and aquifer delineation.
- Updated groundwater budgets through 2025.
- Groundwater-flow model revisions.
- Land-subsidence modeling and critical-head analysis.
- Friant-Kern Canal and Southern Land Subsidence Study Area coordination.
- Groundwater-quality monitoring and management.
- Drinking-water well mitigation.
- Monitoring-network revisions.
- Projects and Management Actions.
- Development of coordinated Sustainable Management Criteria.

SOUTHERN LAND SUBSIDENCE STUDY AREA TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The Southern Land Subsidence Study Area Technical Working Group met on June 25, 2026, to review the proposed future baseline, the groundwater model calibration process, the critical-head assumptions, and the development of pumping-attribution scenarios.

The proposed future baseline would repeat the 1999–2025 hydrologic sequence over the future projection period. Projects and Management Actions, including recharge, fallowing, and demand-management measures, would then be added to the baseline to evaluate their effectiveness.

The groundwater model is being prepared for calibration using the PEST parameter-estimation process. The calibration will evaluate boundary conditions, groundwater recharge, irrigation efficiency, consumptive use, aquifer properties, well characteristics, and subsidence-related parameters. Because the model contains a substantial number of adjustable parameters, the Technical Working Group emphasized the importance of appropriate parameter limits, weighting, technical constraints, and peer review.

A primary discussion concerned the groundwater elevation at which permanent land subsidence begins, commonly referred to as the critical or preconsolidation head. The working group generally supported using INTERA's interpolated 1986 critical-head surface as the initial condition, with carefully controlled adjustments during calibration. Participants emphasized that the initial

critical-head condition can significantly affect the timing and magnitude of projected subsidence.

The group also identified the need to develop attribution scenarios evaluating the relationship between subsidence and pumping location, pumping amount, consumptive use, and well depth. Attribution analysis will be important for future policy discussions regarding responsibility, management obligations, and protection of critical infrastructure.

LAND SUBSIDENCE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The Land Subsidence Technical Working Group scheduled Meeting No. 11 for July 9, 2026. The agenda included review of comments on the preliminary PEST calibration setup, the initial critical-head condition, groundwater-pumping attribution scenarios, and next steps.

FRIANT-KERN CANAL SUBSIDENCE COORDINATION

The Friant-Kern Canal Land Subsidence Technical Working Group has elevated several matters requiring policy direction from the Tule Subbasin GSAs.

The principal questions include:

- How “significant and unreasonable” subsidence conditions should be defined for the canal.
- Whether technical and policy criteria should apply to the entire canal within the Subbasin or be developed by individual canal reach.
- What mitigation opportunities may be available.
- What criteria should be used to assign mitigation responsibilities or costs.
- What level of financial commitment Friant Water Authority would consider sufficient to support the GSP.
- How GSA-related and non-GSA-related causes of subsidence should be evaluated.

Policy materials indicate that Friant Water Authority considers subsidence resulting in a reduction of canal capacity to be an undesirable impact. The materials also recognize that the severity and urgency of subsidence vary by canal reach and that some locations require more immediate attention. These matters remain under technical and policy review, and no final Subbasin-wide policy position has been adopted.

POLICY GROUP ACTIVITIES

The Tule Subbasin Policy Group has continued to meet to address State Water Board communications, the Multi-GSA planning process, observer participation, DWR coordination, and land-subsidence policy.

The Policy Group has agreed that observers may continue attending meetings, while recognizing that GSA directors and their designated representatives remain responsible for policy direction. The group is also reviewing how technical questions should be presented, refined, and advanced to individual GSA boards for action.

The July 6 Policy Group agenda included preparation for the July 16 State Water Board meeting, initial planning for the upcoming DWR subsidence meeting, Friant-Kern Canal policy questions, future policy topics, and confirmation that each GSA has updated its State portal information and designated the Subbasin Plan Manager.

STATE WATER BOARD COORDINATION MEETING

The State Water Board has convened an in-person coordination meeting for July 16, 2026. The meeting is intended to bring together two representatives from each GSA and representatives from the State Water Board to establish a shared understanding of what is required to achieve sustainability and potentially exit probationary status. Kearns & West will serve as the third-party facilitator.

The Tule Subbasin's primary objective is to demonstrate unity, measurable progress, and a coordinated path toward sustainability. The current process differs from previous coordination efforts by linking technical analysis, management review, policy direction, Board action, and implementation.

Examples of progress to be communicated include:

- Establishment of the Policy, Manager, and Technical Working Group structure.
- Approval of participation and cost-sharing arrangements.
- Development of a coordinated master schedule.
- Active work on subsidence, groundwater quality, basin setting, modeling, monitoring, mitigation, and Projects and Management Actions.
- Implementation of individual GSA management and enforcement measures.
- Reduction or elimination of overdraft allocations by several GSAs.
- Coordination with Friant Water Authority and other critical-infrastructure operators.
- Development of drinking-water well mitigation and reserve-funding concepts.

UPCOMING DWR SUBSIDENCE MEETING

A meeting with the Department of Water Resources regarding land subsidence is anticipated for July 30 or 31. The meeting is expected to address critical head analysis, Sustainable Management Criteria, groundwater modeling, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

PID GSA ACTIVITIES

PID GSA is continuing its Proposition 218 process for the proposed Native Sustainable Yield Extraction Fee. Notices are being mailed and posted, and the public hearing remains scheduled for August 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

The next PID GSA Stakeholder Committee meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026. The anticipated primary discussion item is the draft Projects and Management Actions section of the Multi-GSA Single GSP.

CONCLUSION

Recent meetings demonstrate meaningful progress in coordination among the Tule Subbasin GSAs. A structured process is now in place to move technical findings through manager review, policy consideration, individual GSA Board action, and implementation.

Substantial work remains underway, particularly regarding groundwater model calibration, critical-head analysis, pumping attribution, Friant-Kern Canal impacts, mitigation responsibilities, and the development of enforceable, coordinated policies. Several current materials remain drafts or discussion documents and should not be interpreted as final Subbasin policy.

The July 16 meeting with the State Water Board will provide an important opportunity to present the Subbasin's improved coordination structure, demonstrate implementation progress, identify unresolved issues, and obtain clearer direction regarding the State Water Board's expectations and potential interim-plan process.