

APPENDIX H

Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan

Outstanding Items or Pending Updates

Item (Section #)	Description	Notes
MAC Section 4.3	Need to include specific information as to who is on the MAC and provide details on the meeting cadence, whether there are meetings in the absence of claims, and deadlines for meetings and determination of eligibility following the submission of a claim.	Develop legal description of the MAC member nomination and decision making Proposed Members: • Third-party Professional ○ Montgomery & Assoc. ○ P&P ○ Dee Jaspar • Self-Help Enterprises/ Tule Basin Water Foundation • Local domestic well representative ○ Licensed Well Driller?
GSA Contact Information Table 2	Confirm GSA Contact Information	
Mitigation Plan Funding Section 10.2	Need to determine how mitigation program will be funded. Reserve fund or direct GSA contributions.	Proposal to GSA Boards in April
Funding Structure Section 10.2.1	Need to describe funding structure. How are costs split between GSAs, who is responsible for mitigation costs, etc.	<i>GSA in which impact occurs shall be responsible. That GSA may fund an inter-GSA attribution analysis to determine if another GSA has caused the impact.</i>
General	Need to determine where references to the proactive and protective action plan for CWSs should be included in this mitigation plan	

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1.0 Introduction

On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, composed of AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and codified in § 10720 of the California Water Code (CWC). In his signing statement, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., emphasized that “groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.” This legislation created a statutory framework for groundwater management in a manner that can be sustained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

SGMA requires governments and water agencies acting as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in high and medium priority basins to achieve sustainability by avoiding undesirable results. Under SGMA, a basin is to achieve its sustainability goal within 20 years of implementing its sustainability plan(s) (CWC § 10727.2(b)(1)). For critically over-drafted basins, including the Tule Subbasin, the deadline for achieving the sustainability goal is 2040.

In order to comply with the requirements of SGMA, the Tule Subbasin GSAs have prepared groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs). The GSPs:

- Describe the basin setting (Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model) to define and describe the geographic, geologic and hydrogeologic conditions, as we understand them.
- Identify and describe the Sustainability Goal for the Tule Subbasin.
- Identify and describe the six sustainability indicators set forth in SGMA, as they pertain to the Tule Sub-Basin GSAs jurisdictional area.
- Identify and describe the specific Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives required for the Tule Subbasin GSAs to achieve the Sustainability Goal.
- Define and identify Projects and Management Actions proposed by Tule Subbasin GSAs to achieve the Sustainability Goal.

1.1 Description of the Tule Subbasin

The Tule Subbasin is located in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin in the Central Valley of California. The area of the Tule Subbasin is defined by the latest version of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 (DWR, 2016). The Tule Subbasin area is approximately 744 square miles (475,895 acres) and includes the jurisdictional areas of multiple water management and service entities. The Subbasin has been divided into 12 individual Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs): Alpaugh GSA, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA, Kern-Tulare Water District GSA, Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA, Pixley Irrigation District GSA, Porterville Irrigation District GSA, Saucelito Irrigation District GSA, Tea Pot Dome Water District GSA, Terra Bella Irrigation District GSA, Tri-County Water Authority GSA, Tule East GSA, and Vandalia Water District GSA.

Communities within the Subbasin include Porterville, Tipton, Pixley, Earlimart, Richgrove, Ducor and Terra Bella. Neighboring DWR Bulletin 118 Subbasins include the Kern County Subbasin to the south, the Tulare Lake Subbasin to the west, and the Kaweah Subbasin to the north.

2.0 Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan Overview

The Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program (or “Program”) outlined in this Mitigation Plan is designed to provide the framework for the provision of mitigation services for drinking water wells impacted by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. The Program covers impacts arising from the chronic lowering of groundwater levels as well as degraded groundwater quality. The Program is available to all drinking water well owners and GSAs within the Tule Subbasin, regardless of whether they are located within the boundaries of a GSA participating in the Program. As such, any drinking water well owner or GSA may apply for mitigation to the extent that they believe that GSA management activities have adversely impacted the water quality or infrastructure at their well(s). In March 2023, the DWR released a guidance document which outlines additional considerations for identifying and addressing drinking water well impacts. The DWR document has informed this Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program.

Mitigation under this Program is not available for impacted drinking water wells if the impact; 1) has been assessed and settled under a separate mitigation plan or program; 2) occurred before January 1, 2015; or 3) occurred more than 2 years before the mitigation application was submitted. For impacts which occurred between January 1, 2015, and the date of adoption of this Program, an application for mitigation must be submitted within 2 years of the date of adoption of this Program.

2.1 Purpose and Need for the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan

Prior to the establishment and implementation of SGMA, collective groundwater management activities within the Tule Subbasin contributed to adverse impacts to beneficial uses and users, including physical impacts to well infrastructure and degraded water quality. As part of the implementation of the Tule Subbasin GSAs’ GSPs, the GSAs have identified and begun to implement, where feasible, projects and management actions to correct these impacts and achieve groundwater sustainability no later than 2040.

During the SGMA implementation period, as GSAs and landowners are transitioning management practices to achieve groundwater sustainability, there may continue to be impacts to beneficial uses and users which are caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and which require mitigation. As such, there is a demand for a comprehensive Mitigation Program in the Tule Subbasin to protect drinking water wells and domestic users, which represent the most vulnerable group of beneficial users.

This Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan is a critical component of the Tule Subbasin GSA’s coordinated approach to groundwater management and represents a Subbasin-wide Project and Management Action (P&MA) linked to the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) outlined in the Tule Subbasin GSPs. The GSPs include specific triggers to avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users and which initiate the evaluation of mitigation needs under this Program. The Mitigation Program closes the loop on the protection of beneficial uses and users and links monitoring efforts, SMCs, and the

Exceedance Policy for groundwater quality and groundwater levels to mitigation. In addition to those users referred to this Program through regular groundwater monitoring efforts, domestic well owners are encouraged to apply for mitigation directly through this Program, if they believe their well to have been impacted by groundwater level decline or degraded water quality caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015.

2.2 Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater Covered by the Program

The Tule Subbasin GSAs recognize that adverse impacts caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, may impact multiple groups of beneficial uses and users. AS stated in CWC § 106.3, the highest use of water is domestic use and thus the Program described in this Mitigation Plan is focused on impacts to domestic uses and users and is limited to the mitigation of drinking water wells. The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) define domestic use as “the use of water in homes, resorts, motels, organization camps, campgrounds, etc., including the incidental watering of domestic stock for family sustenance or enjoyment and the irrigation of not to exceed one-half acre in lawn, ornamental shrubbery, or gardens at any single establishment” (23 California Code of Regulations [CCR] § 660).

2.2.1 Drinking Water Wells

Drinking water wells are wells used for any potable water supply and include private domestic wells, agricultural wells used for domestic potable supply, state small water systems, and community water systems. Under the Mitigation Program outlined in this Plan, the Tule Subbasin recognizes 4 types of drinking water well: private domestic wells owners, multi-use drinking water well owners, state small water systems, and community water systems (including small community water systems). Under this Program, domestic wells and multi-use wells are defined as having a maximum of 4 service connections to a maximum of 4 households. The terms state small systems, community water systems and small community water systems as used in this Mitigation Plan mean the same as defined in Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 116275.

Private Domestic Well Owners

As stated in CWC § 106.3, “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes”. Many private residences in small communities and rural portions of the Tule Subbasin rely solely on private wells to meet their domestic water supply needs. These private wells are typically shallow and are almost exclusively perforated in the upper aquifer throughout the Subbasin. As such, private domestic wells are vulnerable to declining groundwater levels and degraded groundwater quality from groundwater management activities.

Accordingly, the Mitigation Program is structured to ensure a reliable water supply exists for domestic well owners impacted by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. The Program stipulates full mitigation and funding for domestic well owners impacted because of GSA management activities, if the owner of the well has not damaged their own well or caused or contributed to groundwater level decline or degraded water quality. In cases where the well owner has contributed to or caused the well impact

(e.g. due to improper equipment use or maintenance, groundwater extractions in excess of sustainable yield, improper chemical storage etc.), the well owner shall not be eligible for mitigation under this Program.

Multi-use Drinking Water Wells Owners

Some private well owners use their wells for both domestic potable supply and irrigation beyond what qualifies as “domestic use” under State regulations. For these well owners, the Tule Subbasin Mitigation Plan stipulates full mitigation and funding for impacts attributed to GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. Mitigation shall not be required where the landowner’s groundwater management activities have caused or contributed to groundwater level decline, groundwater quality degradation, or have damaged their own well. Agricultural wells not used for drinking water supply are not eligible for mitigation under the Program.

State Small Water Systems (SSWSs)

Pursuant to HSC § 116275(n), state small water systems (SSWSs) are defined in this Plan as a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year. For the Mitigation Program described in this Mitigation Plan, SSWSs shall be treated the same as domestic and multi-use wells and are therefore eligible for full mitigation if impacted by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. Mitigation shall not be required where the water system’s or municipalities’ own groundwater management activities have caused or contributed to groundwater level decline, groundwater quality degradation, or have damaged their own well.

Community Water Systems (CWSs)

Pursuant to HSC § 116275(i), a community water system (CWS) is a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system. In this Plan, the category of CWSs includes small community water systems (SCWSs) which are defined in HSC § 116275(z) as a community water system that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons. Under this Mitigation Program, CWSs are eligible for technical assistance for the impacts of groundwater level decline, caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015.

2.3 Partnerships with Existing Mitigation Programs

There are two existing programs within the Tule Subbasin that offer mitigation services and support to those affected by impaired access to drinking water: (1) The Tule Basin Water Foundation (TBWF) and (2) Self-Help Enterprises (SHE). The TBWF offers free drinking water replacement options, domestic well testing, and long-term mitigation services for impacted domestic users while SHE offers emergency drinking water supplies, long-term mitigation support, and well stewardship educational resources. The Tule Subbasin shall coordinate the development and implementation of this Mitigation Plan with both the

TBWF and SHE programs. Both the TBWF and SHE have recommended that the Tule Subbasin GSAs partner with their existing services rather than develop additional programs with overlapping objectives. The Tule Subbasin GSAs have chosen to partner with SHE for mitigation services resulting from groundwater level impacts and with the TBWF for mitigation services pertaining to degraded water quality impacts. The details of these partnerships are described below.

2.3.1 SHE Partnership

The Tule Subbasin GSAs have entered into agreements to financially support SHE's existing well mitigation program for drinking water wells impacted by declining groundwater levels. The agreement states that the GSAs shall reimburse SHE for the costs associated with program administration, interim drinking water supplies, and long-term mitigation measures for all drinking water well claims resulting from groundwater level decline and which qualify for mitigation under this Mitigation Plan (see Section 4.0 for details on eligibility criteria). As part of the partnership between the Subbasin and SHE, outreach materials specific to this Mitigation Plan shall be presented and distributed to residents during regular SHE daily operations and during public outreach activities hosted and attended by SHE.

SHE separately offers emergency drinking water assistance and mitigation for households that have lost drinking water supplies due to non-SGMA related pumping-induced well failure ¹. The funding for those programs comes from other State initiatives which aid in the protection of the human right to water.

2.3.2 TBWF Partnership

The TBWF was established as a California Public Benefit Nonprofit Corporation in 2022 and provides residents of southern Tulare County and a small portion of Kern County with free access to alternative drinking water solutions where their primary drinking water supply is contaminated. The TBWF hosts and attends various public outreach events to encourage the participation of stakeholders, interested parties, and public representatives in their program. The TBWF conducts ongoing monthly outreach activities throughout the TBWF service area, which includes sixteen communities: Allensworth, Alpaugh, a portion of Delano, Ducor, Earlimart, Pixley, Plainview, Poplar, Porterville, Richgrove, Springville, Strathmore, Terra Bella, Tevison, Tipton, and Woodville. As part of the partnership between the Subbasin and the TBWF, outreach materials specific to this Mitigation Plan shall be presented and distributed to residents during regular TBWF daily operations and public outreach activities.

¹ In instances in which a drinking water well is ineligible for mitigation under the Mitigation Plan, the GSAs encourage the users of such wells to contact Self-Help Enterprises to access mitigation assistance via alternative programs.

Website: www.selfhelpenterprises.org SHE's Phone Number: (559) 651-1000

Presently, TBWF is in the process of executing a final agreement with the Department of Financial Assistance (DFA) to participate in the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program. Funding Approval was received on March 23, 2023, and TBWF has been providing domestic well testing for an expanded list of contaminants since October 2023. This expanded list of contaminants includes the constituents of concern (COCs) identified for monitoring within the Tule Subbasin under the SGMA program. The SAFER agreement identifies cost sharing responsibilities between TBWF and SAFER depending on the constituent makeup of the impact and the determined cause of the impact. This cost share matrix has been expanded to include contributions to mitigation by the SGMA program under this Mitigation Plan and is broken out in Table 1. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been developed to formalize the coordination between the TBWF, SAFER, and SGMA groups. The MOU outlines roles and responsibilities and highlights the shared objectives of the TBWF and GSAs. A key shared objective is providing access to free clean drinking water to individuals whose drinking water has been impacted.

Table 1: Cost Share Matrix for Degraded Groundwater Quality Impacts

Exceedance Type	Cause	TBWF	SAFER	SGMA
Nitrate only	Not Attributable to GSA Management Activities	100%	0%	0%
Nitrate + Other Constituents		50%	50%	0%
Other Constituents		0%	100%	0%
Nitrate only	Attributable to GSA Management Activities	100%	0%	0%
Nitrate + Other Constituents		50%	0%	50%
Other Constituents		0%	0%	100%

2.4 Proactive Mitigation Efforts

The Tule Subbasin GSAs have committed to identifying and implementing proactive mitigation measures with the goal of preventing future well failures and impacts. These projects and management actions include ongoing community outreach efforts, the review of prospective well permits, and well registration programs.

2.4.1 Drinking Water Well User Outreach

The Tule Subbasin GSAs, in partnership with the TBWF and SHE, have established a community outreach program to inform, to the extent possible, individuals and communities within the Tule Subbasin about the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan. The outreach efforts leverage the existing community

relationships and outreach programs implemented by the TBWF and SHE to maximize the reach and impact of the Program. Outreach materials contain information on what forms of assistance are available, what types of well impact are covered by the Program, and how domestic well owners can apply for mitigation through the TBWF and/or SHE. Outreach communications shall be provided by the GSAs to residents and well owners as well as via the TBWF and SHE through the following channels:

- Specific mitigation page on the GSAs' websites
- Email communications
- Mass mailings and/or distribution of flyers and/or postcards
- TBWF and/or SHE established outreach channels, community events, and face-to-face conversations during the implementation of daily programs
- Stakeholder and community engagement meetings or events attended by the TBWF, SHE, or GSAs
- Dedicated community outreach events organized and hosted by the Subbasin and/or GSAs

All outreach materials relating to the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan shall, at minimum, be provided in both English and Spanish and shall include all or a combination of the information below:

- General information about SGMA, the Tule Subbasin, and the GSAs
- Specific information about overdraft and groundwater quality conditions within the Subbasin and/or GSA
- Information regarding specific well types and/or conditions that increase the risk of impact
- Submission information for claims under each Mitigation and Technical Assistance Track included in this Mitigation Plan
- Information about the proactive mitigation efforts of the Subbasin and GSAs

In addition to the outreach efforts described above, the Dry Well Mitigation Track, Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, and Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track each have specific outreach requirements which are further described in Sections 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0, respectively.

2.4.2 Well Permit Review

Within the Tule Subbasin, Tulare County (or the County) is the primary well permitting agency. With the goal of preventing the construction of new wells at high risk of being impacted by degraded groundwater conditions, the Tule Subbasin GSAs are actively working with the County to review and evaluate new well permits. The GSA in which the proposed well is located, shall review best available data and provide a recommendation to the County before the well permit is improved. The GSA recommendation shall include:

- The location of the proposed well
- The planned depth, perforation interval, and construction specifications of the proposed well
- The aquifer unit the proposed well will extract groundwater from
- The planned use of the water from the proposed well

- The location and construction details of the closest groundwater levels and groundwater quality RMS
- Details of existing wells and critical infrastructure nearby to the proposed well
- Evaluation of impact risk for the proposed well based on nearby groundwater quality and groundwater level conditions
- Recommended adjustments to well permit to reduce impact risk, as applicable.

Should the GSA identify that the proposed well may be at a high risk of impacts from ambient groundwater quality or groundwater level conditions, the GSA shall recommend appropriate adjustments to the well permit to reduce impact risk. The GSAs retain the right to restrict new wells from being drilled in locations and to depths that would cause or contribute to undesirable results.

2.4.3 Well Registration and Reporting

Well registration is a critical component of any mitigation program. It establishes a baseline record of well locations and construction details, enabling GSAs to identify at-risk domestic wells and effectively implement outreach, notification, and claim assessment efforts. Within the Tule Subbasin, current data relating to the construction, maintenance, and precise location of drinking water wells is patchy. As such, many of the GSAs within the Subbasin have already begun implementing a well registration program. These programs require well owners to provide information on the primary use, location, construction details, water quality, and maintenance history of the well. It is anticipated that having a well registered will expedite the process of assessing claim eligibility under this Mitigation Plan.

In addition to well registration, GSAs may require meter reporting of groundwater use for wells within their boundary. Outside of this Mitigation Plan, GSAs use meter data to proactively manage groundwater pumping to protect groundwater conditions and to prevent significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users. It is anticipated that meter data will be a primary dataset considered when determining the eligibility of a claim for mitigation under this Program.

2.4.4 Adaptive Management

The Tule Subbasin GSAs intend the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program to be iterative and to evolve as new information, funding, and management efficiencies are understood. As the GSAs gather more data, refine analytical tools, and adapt to the specific needs of each Mitigation and Technical Assistance Track, the costs and timelines associated with Program implementation are expected to evolve. It is anticipated that the projects and management actions identified and implemented by the GSAs and which relate to this Mitigation Program will also evolve over time to meet the specific mitigation demands of the Subbasin.

3.0 Overview of Well Mitigation Program Tracks

The Tule Subbasin Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program includes 3 program tracks: (1) Dry Well Mitigation Track; (2) Dry Well Technical Assistance Track; and (3) Degraded Water Quality Mitigation

Track. A detailed description of each track, including the eligibility criteria, application process, and implementation approach, is provided in the respective sections of this Mitigation Plan (Section 5.0 for the Dry Well Mitigation Track, Section 6.0 for the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, and Section 7.0 for the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track).

For the first 2 years of Program implementation, all claims shall be considered for impacts occurring after January 1, 2015. Following the first 2 years of Program implementation, claims for impacts more than 2-years old shall no longer be eligible for mitigation. Current well conditions would not be representative of conditions 2-years prior and hence it would be unfeasible to conduct a robust assessment of the impact as described for each Track in Sections 5.0 , 6.0 , and 7.0. The Tule Subbasin has designated the first two years of implementation as an exemption to this standard, thus giving well owners sufficient time to learn about the Mitigation Program through public outreach, understand available resources, and meet required timelines.

3.1 Dry Well Mitigation Track

Under the Dry Well Mitigation Track, the Tule Subbasin, in partnership with SHE, offers emergency drinking water supplies, interim drinking water supplies, and long-term mitigation solutions for domestic wells, multi-use wells, and SWSs which have been impacted by groundwater level declines caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and which meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 5.0 of this Plan. See Section 5.0 more details.

Pursuant to the Tule Subbasin GSA's proactive mitigation efforts (see Section 2.4), which includes the review of all new well permits, claims shall not be eligible for mitigation if the impacted well was constructed after the implementation of this Program and was installed at a screen interval depth shallower than minimum threshold for groundwater levels at the impacted well.

3.2 Dry Well Technical Assistance Track

Under the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, the Tule Subbasin offers up to \$20,000 in funding to CWSs which have been impacted by groundwater level declines caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and which meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 6.0 of this Plan. The technical assistance funding may be used to support grant development efforts, feasibility planning, or other management activities. See Section 6.0 more details.

3.3 Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track

Under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track, the Tule Subbasin, in partnership with the TBWF, offers emergency, interim, and long-term drinking water solutions for domestic wells and multi-use wells which have been impacted by degraded water quality caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. Emergency and interim solutions may include the provision of replacement bottled water until a long-term solution can be implemented, or until the degraded water no longer exceeds the relevant water

quality objective (WQO). Long-term solutions may include the installation of point-of-use or point-of-entry water treatment systems at the home or impacted well. See Section 7.0 more details. Mitigation Claims Process and Eligibility

This section describes the eligibility framework for the Well Mitigation Program. Since not all well impacts are caused by GSA groundwater management activities after January 1, 2015, and thus not all claims are eligible for GSA funded mitigation, each claim shall be evaluated against established qualification criteria to determine whether it falls within the scope of responsibility of the Tule Subbasin GSAs. Eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis using best available data, technical analysis, and committee review, as applicable. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 outline the specific qualification criteria and evaluation processes for the Dry Well Mitigation Tracks and the Degraded Groundwater Quality Track, respectively.

To be considered eligible for mitigation under the Dry Well Mitigation Track, the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track, or the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, a claim must satisfy 2 key criteria, as outlined below:

1. The impact to the well must have been caused by GSA management activities; and,
2. The impact to the well must have occurred after January 1, 2015.

As such, not all claims submitted under this Mitigation Program qualify for the provision of mitigation. For example, well impacts caused by equipment failure (e.g. electrical or mechanical faults) may have occurred independent of the management activities of the GSA. Claims submitted for impacts already receiving mitigation services under another mitigation program are also ineligible to receive mitigation under this Program. Additionally, well impacts may have occurred due to conditions occurring prior to January 1, 2015, and thus do not fall within the scope of SGMA. Claimants are therefore encouraged to submit claims as close to the date of impact as possible and include detailed documentation of the impact. Claims which occurred more than 1-year before claim submission and which are not accompanied by documentation of the impact shall not be eligible for mitigation under this Program. At minimum, each claim submission should be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Photographs of the impacted well and any nearby well infrastructure (including model specifications)
- Map and/or a detailed description of the impacted site and site history
- Any available groundwater levels or groundwater quality data, as applicable

4.0 Eligibility Criteria and Assessment for Claims submitted under the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan

The below sections outline the process for determining claim eligibility and specific considerations for each of the Tracks included for drinking water wells in this Mitigation Plan. Only domestic wells, multi-use agricultural wells, and SWSs are eligible for mitigation under the Dry Well Mitigation Track and the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track. CWSs, including SCWSs, are eligible for technical assistance for

impacts due to groundwater level decline under the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track. Table 2 summarizes which types of drinking water well are eligible under which Program Track and the process of assessing eligible claims is described in Section 4.1 and Section 4.2, below.

Table 2: Eligibility of Drinking Water Well Types Under Each of the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan Tracks

	Dry Well Mitigation Track	Dry Well Technical Assistance Track	Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track
Domestic Well	✓	✗	✓
Multi-use Ag. Well	✓	✗	✓
State Small Water System (SSWS)	✓	✗	✓
Community Water System (CWS)	✗	✓	✗
Small Community Water System (SCWS)	✗	✓	✗

4.1 Dry Well Mitigation and Technical Assistance Tracks

Under both the Dry Well Mitigation Track and the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, claims are assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the claim qualifies for GSA-funded mitigation under this Program. Eligibility is assessed at 2 different steps during the claim assessment processes (described in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 for the Dry Well Mitigation Track and the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, respectively) by both a third-party qualified professional, during the initial eligibility assessment, and the Tule Subbasin Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC). The composition and role of the MAC is discussed in detail in Section 4.3 below.

Initial Eligibility Assessment

A third-party qualified professional (e.g. PG, CHG, PE) shall perform a comprehensive technical assessment of the claim to evaluate whether the impact was caused by groundwater level decline as a result GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and thus meets the eligibility criteria for mitigation under this Program. The assessment shall include the consideration of all relevant and available datasets such as those outlined in Attachment B. The third-party qualified professional shall provide their assessment and recommendation to the MAC for secondary assessment.

MAC Eligibility Assessment

The MAC is a 3-seat committee which provides a secondary assessment of claims and of the assessment and recommendations provided by the third-party qualified professional. The MAC is designed to minimize bias in the claims assessment process. After reviewing the claim, the MAC shall provide a written

recommendation to the Board of Directors for the GSA in which the impacted well is located. More information about the MAC is provided in Section 4.3.

4.2 Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track Claims

As for the Dry Well Tracks, not all claims submitted to the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track will qualify for GSA-funded mitigation. All claims shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis using best available data, as described in Section 7.0. Claims considered under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track may arise through 2 distinct pathways:

- **Pathway A:** A claim submitted by a well owner who believes their well has been impacted by degraded water quality resulting from GSA management activities occurring after January 1, 2015.
- **Pathway B:** A claim for a confirmed impacted domestic well referred to the Mitigation Program following an exceedance of the WQO for a COC at a groundwater quality RMS and subsequently investigated through the Attribution Analysis, as per the Exceedance Policy.

Similar to the Dry Well Tracks, claims submitted under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track are assessed by both a third-party qualified professional and the MAC. However, there are some key differences in how claims are managed, depending on which of the 2 pathways the claim originated from. These differences are discussed below.

Initial Eligibility Assessment

For claims submitted to the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track via Pathway A, the process of assessing eligibility is similar to that for the Dry Well Tracks. A third-party qualified professional (e.g. PG, CHG, PE) shall perform a comprehensive technical assessment of the claim to evaluate whether the impact was caused by degraded groundwater quality as a result GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. The assessment shall include the consideration of all relevant and available datasets such as those outlined in Attachment B. The third-party qualified professional shall provide their assessment and recommendations to the MAC for secondary assessment.

For a claim to have been referred to the Mitigation Program via Pathway B, the Attribution Analysis component of the Exceedance Policy shall have already determined that the well impact was caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. In these cases, the third-party qualified professional shall review the outcome of the Attribution Analysis and provide the appropriate recommendation to the MAC.

Where the Exceedance Policy determines that an impact has not been caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, impacted wells shall not immediately be eligible for mitigation under this Program. In these circumstances, impacted well owners may be eligible for mitigation under other mitigation programs. Well owners shall be directed to submit a claim via Pathway A if they disagree with the outcome of the Exceedance Policy.

MAC Eligibility Assessment

The 3-seat MAC shall provide a secondary assessment of claim and of the recommendations provided by the third-party qualified professional. The MAC is designed to minimize bias in the claims assessment process. After reviewing the claim, the MAC shall provide a written recommendation to the Board of Directors for the GSA in which the impacted well is located. More information about the MAC is provided in Section 4.3.

4.3 Tule Subbasin Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC)

The MAC will meet quarterly, or more frequently as necessary to evaluate pending claims. A meeting notice will be provided 72 hours in advance and will comply with the Ralph M Brown Act.

The MAC is a standing technical advisory committee established under this Mitigation Program to minimize bias in the claims assessment process. The MAC shall review the assessments and technical evaluations completed at each stage, including the assessment by SHE/TBWF staff, the third-party qualified professional, and the GSA, as well as the cost estimate for appropriate mitigation measure(s), as provided by SHE/TBWF staff. The MAC make the final determination as to whether the well impact was caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and thus qualifies for mitigation under this Mitigation Program. Additionally, the MAC shall review any appeal case referred to them from the GSA Board of Directors for the GSA in which the impacted well is located (see Section 9.0 for more information on the appeals process). The MAC provides its written report outlining the committee's determination and recommendation for the appropriate mitigation measure(s) to the GSA Board of Directors for the GSA in which the impacted well is located. The MAC report shall include the following components:

- Determination of the cause of well impacts;
- Eligibility for mitigation under this Mitigation Plan;
- Appropriate mitigation measure(s), if any;
- Estimated costs and recommended implementation schedule

The MAC shall consist of a representative from each of the following agencies to ensure it considers input from both technical personnel and locally relevant community stakeholders:

- Third-Party Qualified Professional (PG, CHG, or PE)
- Local Drinking Water Focused Non-Profit
- Local Drinking Water Focused Non-Governmental Organization

Each representative shall possess relevant technical expertise in hydrogeology, engineering, water resources, or a related field. As needed, the MAC may consult with or request technical input from other public agencies or subject matter experts, including but not limited to the California Department of Water Resources, County of Tulare, United States Geological Survey (USGS), or other relevant entities.

5.0 Dry Well Mitigation Track Claims Assessment Process

The Dry Well Mitigation Track covers domestic wells, multi-use wells, and SWSs that are experiencing a loss of access to drinking water as a result of GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. The Dry Well Mitigation Track is implemented by the Tule Subbasin, in partnership with SHE, and stipulates the provision of emergency, interim, or long-term mitigation for qualifying impacted wells. The assessment process for evaluating mitigation claims received under the Dry Well Mitigation Track is outlined below.

Step 1. Drinking Water Well User Outreach

The Tule Subbasin GSAs are committed to ensuring that stakeholders and residents are informed of the services available to them should their wells be impacted by groundwater level decline. To minimize the barriers to engagement, outreach materials and communications shall be provided in multiple languages, including English and Spanish. To maximize the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the GSAs will leverage the existing relationships and community engagement activities conducted by SHE, who shall include information pertaining to the Dry Well Mitigation Track in their regular outreach activities. The GSAs will conduct both initial and ongoing outreach efforts, as described below.

Initial Outreach

Prior to the adoption of the Tule Subbasin Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan, the GSAs shall conduct an initial outreach effort to inform drinking water well owners of the Program. These outreach efforts will include information regarding the eligibility criteria discussed in Section 4.0 and a description of how stakeholders can engage with the Program and apply for mitigation through the existing SHE system. Initial outreach shall occur across a range of public-facing communication channels and forums hosted by the GSA and/or SHE, including but not limited to:

- a. GSA advisory committee meetings
- b. GSA websites
- c. Email updates to GSA members and stakeholders
- d. Presentations and Q&A sessions at community outreach events

Ongoing Outreach

Following the adoption of the Mitigation Plan, the GSAs shall continue regular engagement and outreach to ensure continued stakeholder engagement with the Program. The GSAs shall conduct ongoing outreach efforts across the following channels either directly or through the activities of SHE:

- Public workshops. If possible, the workshop shall be held in an underrepresented community and be presented in both English and Spanish
- Quarterly implementation updates at GSA advisory committee meetings

- GSA websites
- Education materials provided by the GSA and/or SHE following mitigation services, community outreach events, or by request

Step 2. Identify Need for Mitigation

Claimants who have lost access to drinking water due to groundwater level declines are encouraged submit an application consistent with SHE's existing application protocols and systems. The Tule Subbasin GSAs shall provide information within outreach materials regarding how to submit a drinking water mitigation claim through SHE. The information shall include links to the SHE website and contact information for the GSAs and SHE. In addition, the GSAs shall also provide information concerning emergency access to drinking water. TBWF provides access to free drinking water 24 hours per day at the following locations:

Terra Bella (three locations)

- Terra Bella Post Office - 23601 Ave 96, Terra Bella, CA 93270
- Terra Bella Irrigation District Office - 24790 Ave 95, Terra Bella, CA 93270
- Terra Bella Park - 9450 Rd 236, Terra Bella, CA 93270

West Porterville (in progress)

- Porterville Irrigation District Office - 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257

Tipton Area (in progress)

- Site to be determined.

Claim applications must be submitted by landowners on whose property the adversely impacted well is located. In the event a tenant is experiencing loss of access to drinking water, the tenant is encouraged to contact the GSA, and the GSA will work with SHE to notify the well owner how to apply for mitigation and access the benefits of the Mitigation Program.

Step 3. Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies

Following a Claimant notifying SHE of the need for mitigation, SHE shall arrange for emergency drinking water supplies (e.g., replacement bottled water) to be provided within 24 hours. Within 72 hours, SHE shall arrange interim replacement water supplies (often tank water deliveries). In cases where the GSA is found to have caused the impact, the Tule Drinking Water Well Reserve Fund (see Section 10.2; herein referred to as the "Reserve Fund") shall fund and/or reimburse SHE for administering and supplying emergency and interim drinking water supplies for qualifying Claimants. The GSA shall then be responsible for reimbursing the Reserve Fund.

Step 4. Mitigation Need Assessment

To evaluate the mitigation needs of the Claimant, SHE field staff shall perform a Mitigation Need Assessment. The goal of the assessment is to verify the impact outlined in the claim submission and determine the most appropriate mitigation measure(s) required to mitigate the impact. At a minimum, the assessment shall include a site visit and discussions with the landowner and/or tenants. Translation services for Spanish, Punjabi, and/or Hmong shall be made available by SHE, as needed.

SHE shall provide the MAC and the Claimant with a report summarizing the findings of the assessment. The report shall include copies of relevant documentation, photos, and an initial recommendation for appropriate mitigation measure(s). SHE shall also provide a planning level cost estimate for the implementation of the recommended mitigation measure(s).

Step 5. Funding Qualification Assessment

Upon receipt of the Mitigation Need Assessment and mitigation cost-estimate, the MAC shall initiate a Funding Qualification Assessment of the claim. The Funding Qualification Assessment shall be conducted by the third-party qualified professional occupying a seat on the MAC. The assessment shall review and evaluate the claim to determine if it qualifies for mitigation, as per the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 4.0. To qualify for GSA funding reimbursement, the well impact must have (1) occurred after January 1, 2015, and (2) been induced by GSA authorized groundwater management activities.

The third-party qualified professional shall conduct a technical evaluation of the information provided in the Mitigation Need Assessment alongside any other relevant datasets including but not limited to historical groundwater levels, well construction details, and land use (see Attachment B for the list of datasets considered). To support the technical evaluation, the third-party qualified professional may conduct an additional field inspection of the impacted well (see Attachment B). Criteria for determining whether well impacts resulting from groundwater level decline have been caused by GSA management activities are further discussed in Section 8.1 of this Mitigation Plan.

The third-party qualified professional shall provide a report containing the findings and recommendations of the Funding Qualification Assessment to the Claimant, the GSA within which the impacted well is located, and the MAC. In cases where the claim is found not to qualify for mitigation under this Program, the GSA within which the impacted well is located shall notify the Claimant of the determination and provide the Claimant with resources pertaining to the claims appeal process (see Section 9.0). In these cases, SHE shall work with Claimants to determine if they qualify for mitigation under other, unrelated mitigation programs. The MAC maintains the power to reexamine such cases and override the findings of the initial Funding Qualification Assessment.

Step 6. Mitigation Measure Selection Agreement

Where the claim is determined to meet the eligibility criteria and thus qualifies for mitigation under this Program, the MAC shall review the Mitigation Needs Assessment, mitigation cost-estimate, and Funding Qualification Assessment to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure(s).

The MAC shall consider each claim on a case-by-case basis to identify the most effective long-term mitigation measure(s). Long-term mitigation measures for drinking water wells may include, but are not limited to:

- Deepening the well.
- Constructing a new well.
- Modifying pump equipment, including lowering the pump.
- Consolidating with an existing nearby water system.
- Establishing a new small public water system.
- Other acceptable means of mitigation.

In cases where the claim does not qualify for mitigation under this Program, a Claimant may still qualify for mitigation support under a different program that SHE administers. In these cases, SHE will work directly with the Claimant to discuss available options.

Step 7. GSA Board Approval of Funding

Where the MAC determines a claim to meet the eligibility criteria and thus qualify for the provision of mitigation services by the GSA, the MAC shall submit the findings of the Mitigation Needs Assessment and Funding Qualification Assessment to the Board of Directors of the GSA in which the impacted well is located. The MAC shall also outline the mitigation measure(s) identified as most appropriate in Step 6.

To minimize the delay between the MAC determination and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measure(s), the Reserve Fund shall be used to fund and/or reimburse SHE for the provision of the agreed upon mitigation measure(s) to the Claimant.

Within 1 Board Meeting cycle from the completion of Step 6, the GSA Board of Directors shall review this information and consider approval of the funding required to reimburse Reserve Fund. The GSA shall reimburse the Reserve Fund commensurate to the amount that the Reserve Fund was used to fund and/or reimburse SHE for the services provided to the Claimant for all mitigation support, including interim supplies and Program administration.

Step 8. Mitigation Funding Award

Following the completion of the MAC determination, SHE shall advance the funding required to implement the agreed upon mitigation measure(s). The Claimant shall comply with all SHE legal requirements and complete all necessary documentation before the Tule Subbasin transmits funding reimbursements to SHE from the Reserve Fund. As described above, the Reserve Fund shall be used to fund and/or reimburse SHE for all qualifying mitigation support services including the provision of emergency and interim supplies and Mitigation Program administration. The GSA in which the impacted well is located shall then reimburse the Reserve Fund for the amount used to reimburse the costs incurred by SHE. The Tule Subbasin GSAs may agree to deposits to maintain sustainable cashflow for SHE's administration of the Mitigation Program.

SHE does not directly implement all mitigation services and may act as a contract coordinator and funding source between the Claimant and any other qualified professionals (e.g. well drillers, pump contractors) required to provide the agreed upon mitigation measure(s). While the Tule Subbasin funds the provision of mitigation services, neither the GSA, member agencies of the GSA, nor SHE shall be liable or responsible for any work performed by contractors.

Step 9. Well Stewardship Education

Following the implementation of the agreed upon mitigation measure(s), SHE shall administer a Well Stewardship Training workshop for the Claimant. The Well Stewardship Training involves maintenance training for wells and water filtration systems as well as financial planning guidance for long-term well maintenance. The goal of the Well Stewardship Training is to encourage the Claimant to maintain the mitigated well or water system.

6.0 Dry Well Technical Assistance Track Claims Assessment Process

The Dry Well Technical Assistance Track covers CWSs (including small community water systems) which have been impacted by groundwater level declines caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. Under this mitigation track, the Tule Subbasin offers up to \$20,000 in funding to qualifying CWSs to support grant development efforts, feasibility planning, well planning, or other management activities. The assessment process for claims received and evaluated under the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track is outlined below.

Step 1. Drinking Water Well User Outreach

Stakeholder outreach efforts conducted by the Tule Subbasin GSAs for the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track is consistent with the outreach efforts outlined for the Dry Well Mitigation Track in Step 1 of Section 5.0 of this Mitigation Plan.

Step 2. Identify Need for Technical Assistance

Claimants seeking technical assistance for impacts to CWSs shall complete and submit a Technical Assistance Claim Application (see Attachment A). The application may be submitted via email, mail, or may be hand delivered to the GSA in which the Claimant CWS is located. Additionally, some GSAs may choose to allow the submission of the application directly through the GSA website. Contact Information for each GSA is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Contact Information for each Tule Subbasin GSA

GSA [website link]	Mailing Address	Contact Name (position) and E-mail	Contact Phone
Alpaugh GSA	5458 Road 38 Post Office Box 129 Alpaugh, CA 93201	Michael Battles General Manager michaelb@alpaughid.com	(559) 949-8323
Delano Earlimart Irrigation District GSA	14181 Avenue 24 Delano, CA 93215	David Weirenga District Engineer dwierenga@deid.org	(661) 725-2526
Kern-Tulare Water District GSA	5001 California Ave. Suite 102 Bakersfield, CA 93309	Vanessa Escobedo District Engineer vanessa@kern-tulare.com	(661) 327-3132
Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA	357 E. Olive Avenue Tipton, CA 93272	John-Michael Domondo District Engineer jdomondon@ltrid.org	(559) 686-4716
Pixley Irrigation District GSA	357 E. Olive Avenue Tipton, CA 93272	John-Michael Domondo District Engineer jdomondon@ltrid.org	(559) 686-4716
Porterville Irrigation District GSA	22086 Avenue 160 Porterville, CA 93257	Michael Knight Assistant General Manager mknight@portervilleid.org	(559) 782-6321
Saucelito Irrigation District GSA	20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, CA 93257	Sean Geivet General Manager sgeivet@ocsnet.net	(559) 784-1208
Tea Pot Dome Water District GSA	357 E. Olive Avenue Tipton, CA 93272	John-Michael Domondo District Engineer jdomondon@ltrid.org	(559) 686-4716

Terra Bella Irrigation District GSA	24790 Ave 95 Terra Bella, CA 93270	Sean Geivet General Manager sgeivet@ocsnet.net	(559) 535-4415
Tri-County Water Authority	944 Whitley Ave. Suite E Corcoran, CA 93212	Deanna Jackson Executive Director djackson@tcwater.org	(559) 762-7240
Tule East GSA		Rogelio Caudillo General Manager rcaudillo@ci.porterville.ca.us	
Vandalia Water District GSA	357 E. Olive Avenue Tipton, CA 93272	John-Michael Domondo District Engineer jdomondon@ltrid.org	(559) 686-4716

Step 3. Meeting with Claimant and GSA Staff

Within 10 days of receiving the Technical Assistance Claim Application, staff of the GSA in which the Claimant CWS is located shall contact the Claimant to schedule a meeting to discuss the application and any additional data and/or information required for the review process. All documentation reviewed during this meeting and a summary of the discussion shall be provided to the third-party qualified professional tasked with formally assessing the claim.

Step 4. Funding Qualification Assessment

The MAC shall review and evaluate the claim, all documentation provided following the meeting between the Claimant and the GSA, and best available data to determine whether the claim qualifies for technical assistance under this Program (see Attachment B for a list of datasets considered). The assessment shall determine whether the reported impact resulted from groundwater level declines caused by GSA management activities occurring after January 1, 2015, and thus whether the claim qualifies for technical assistance.

During the assessment, the MAC may consider additional localized data, such as groundwater level trends, recent-historic subsidence, groundwater quality, land use, and more to determine if the claim qualifies for funding reimbursement under the Mitigation Plan. The eligibility criteria for claim submitted under the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track are described in Section 4.0.

The MAC shall provide a report including the findings and recommendations of the Funding Qualification Assessment to the Claimant, and the GSA within which the impacted well is located. In cases where the claim is found not to qualify for mitigation under this Program, the Claimant shall be provided resources regarding the Appeals Process (see Section 9.0). The MAC maintains the power to reexamine claims and to override the findings of the initial Funding Qualification Assessment.

For claims determined to be eligible for technical assistance, the MAC, in collaboration with the Claimant, shall identify the type of technical assistance for which the funding may be used. The types of technical assistance include, but are not limited to:

- Replacement well design
- Feasibility plan development
- Grant application development
- Contingency plan development

The MAC shall provide a summary of their determination, including technical justification and relevant supporting documentation, to the Claimant and the GSA Board of Directors for the GSA in which the impacted CWS is located.

Step 5. GSA Board Approval for Funding

Where the MAC determines a claim to meet the eligibility criteria and thus qualify for the provision of technical assistance, the MAC shall submit the findings of the Mitigation Needs Assessment and Funding Qualification Assessment to the Board of Directors of the GSA in which the impacted well is located. The MAC shall also outline the type of technical assistance identified as most appropriate in Step 4.

To minimize the delay between the MAC determination and the transfer of technical assistance, the Reserve Fund may be used to deliver funding to the Claimant. Before technical assistance funding can be provided, the GSA and Claimant must enter into a legal agreement acknowledging the amount of funding, intent of use, and indemnification of liabilities. An agreement template is provided in Attachment C. The actual agreement may vary on a case-by-case basis to account for the nuances of individual impacts and claims.

Within 1 Board Meeting cycle following the completion of Step 4, the GSA Board of Directors shall review the MAC findings and determination and consider approval of the funding required to reimburse Reserve Fund. The GSA shall reimburse the Reserve Fund commensurate to the amount that the Reserve Fund was used to fund the technical assistance provided to the Claimant.

Step 6. Technical Assistance Funding Award

After the qualifying Claimant and GSA enter into the required legal agreement, the Reserve fund may be used to transmit the technical assistance funding either as an up-front deposit to the Claimant or as a contracted reimbursement. The GSA in which the Claimant CWS is located shall then reimburse the Reserve Fund to an amount commensurate with the amount of technical assistance awarded to the Claimant.

7.0 Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track Claims Assessment Process

The Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track covers domestic wells, multi-use wells, and SSWSs that are impacted by degraded water quality as a result of GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. The

claims assessed under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track may either have been submitted directly by landowners or be referred to the Mitigation Program for confirmed impacted domestic wells associated with groundwater quality exceedances at RMS, as determined by the Exceedance Policy. The Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track is implemented by the Tule Subbasin, in partnership with the TBWF, and stipulates the provision of emergency, interim, or long-term mitigation for qualifying impacted wells. The assessment process for mitigation claims received and evaluated under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track is outlined below.

Step 1. Drinking Water Well User Outreach

The Tule Subbasin GSAs are committed to ensuring that stakeholders and residents are informed of the services available to them should their wells be impacted. To minimize the barriers to engagement, outreach materials and communications shall be provided in multiple languages, including English and Spanish. To maximize the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the GSAs will leverage the existing relationships and community engagement activities conducted by the TBWF, who shall include information pertaining to the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track in their regular outreach activities. The GSAs will conduct both initial and ongoing outreach efforts, as described below.

Initial Outreach

Prior to the adoption of the Tule Subbasin Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan, the GSAs will conduct an initial outreach effort to inform drinking water well owners of the Program. These outreach efforts will include information regarding the eligibility criteria discussed in Section 4.2 and a description of how stakeholders can engage with the Program and apply for mitigation through the existing TBWF system. Initial outreach shall occur across a range of public-facing communication channels and forums hosted by the GSA and/or the TBWF, including but not limited to:

- e. GSA advisory committee meetings
- f. GSA websites
- g. Email updates to GSA members and stakeholders
- h. Presentations and Q&A sessions at community outreach events

Ongoing Outreach

Following the adoption of the Mitigation Plan, the GSAs shall continue regular engagement and outreach to ensure continued stakeholder engagement with the Program. The GSAs shall conduct ongoing outreach efforts across the following channels either directly or in partnership with the activities of the TBWF:

- Public workshops. If possible, the workshop shall be held in an underrepresented community and be presented in both English and Spanish
- Quarterly implementation updates at GSA advisory committee meetings

- GSA websites
- Education materials provided by the GSA and/or TBWF following mitigation services, community outreach events, or by request

Step 2. Identify Need for Mitigation

Claimants who have lost access to drinking water or who believe their well may be otherwise impacted by degraded groundwater quality conditions are encouraged submit an application consistent with the TBWF's existing application protocols and systems. The Tule Subbasin GSAs shall provide information within outreach materials regarding how to submit a drinking water mitigation claim through the TBWF. The information shall include links to the TBWF website and contact information for the GSAs and the TBWF. In addition, the GSAs shall provide information concerning emergency access to drinking water. The TBWF provides access to free drinking water 24 hours per day at the following locations:

Terra Bella (three locations)

- Terra Bella Post Office - 23601 Ave 96, Terra Bella, CA 93270
- Terra Bella Irrigation District Office - 24790 Ave 95, Terra Bella, CA 93270
- Terra Bella Park - 9450 Rd 236, Terra Bella, CA 93270

West Porterville (in progress)

- Porterville Irrigation District Office - 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257

Tipton Area (in progress)

- Site to be determined.

Claim applications must be submitted by landowners on whose property the adversely impacted well is located. In the event a tenant is experiencing loss of access to drinking water, the tenant is encouraged to contact the TBWF, and the TBWF shall notify the well owner how to apply for mitigation and access the benefits of the Mitigation Program.

Step 3. Well Testing

Within 5 days of receiving an application, the TBWF shall coordinate with the Claimant to have the well sampled for the COCs identified in the TBWF's SAFER funding agreement. Within 2 days of receiving the laboratory results from the well sampling, the TBWF shall contact the landowner and the GSA within which the potentially impacted well is located and notify them of the results and of any exceedances of the WQO for any COC.

The COCs in the TBWF's SAFER agreement include the 10 COCs identified within the Tule Subbasin under the SGMA program including 1,2,3-trichloropropane, arsenic, chloride, dibromo-3-chloropropane,

hexavalent chromium, nitrate as N, perchlorate, tetrachloroethene, total dissolved solids, and uranium. A summary of the WQO for each of the COCs identified within the Tule Subbasin under the SGMA program is provided in Table 4. The provision of mitigation services by the Tule Subbasin GSAs under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track is limited to impacts for the 10 COCs identified and monitored within the Tule Subbasin under the SGMA program. For exceedances for COCs not identified under the SGMA program, or for exceedances not caused by GSA management activities (as determined by the exceedance policy and/or this Mitigation Program), the Claimant may qualify for mitigation under other mitigation programs administered by the TBWF.

Table 4: Groundwater Quality Water Quality Objectives for Tule Subbasin Constituents of Concern

Constituent of Concern	Units	WQO
		MT/MO
WQO (California Primary MCL)		
Arsenic	µg/L	10
Nitrate as N	mg/L	10
Hexavalent Chromium	µg/L	10
Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)	ppb	0.2
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)	µg/L	0.005
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	µg/L	5
Perchlorate	µg/L	6
Uranium	pCi/L	20
WQO (California Secondary MCL – Upper Threshold)		
Chloride	mg/L	500
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1,000

Step 4. Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies

If the TBWF well testing indicates an exceedance of the WQO for any of the COCs identified in Table 4, the TBWF shall arrange for emergency drinking water supplies (e.g., replacement bottled water) to be provided to the Claimant within 24 hours of receiving laboratory results. Where applicable, the TBWF shall also arrange for interim replacement water supplies (often tank water deliveries). In cases where the GSA is found to have caused the impact, the Reserve Fund shall fund and/or reimburse the TBWF for administering and supplying emergency and interim drinking water supplies for qualifying Claimants. The GSA shall then be responsible for reimbursing the Reserve Fund.

Step 5. Mitigation Need Assessment

To evaluate the mitigation needs of the Claimant, TBWF staff shall perform a Mitigation Need Assessment. The goal of the assessment is to verify the impact outlined in the claim submission and determine the most appropriate mitigation measure(s) to mitigate the impact. At a minimum, the assessment shall include a site visit and discussions with the landowner and/or tenants. Translation services for non-English speakers shall be made available, as needed.

Following the assessment, the TBWF shall provide a report summarizing the findings of the assessment to the MAC and the Claimant. The report shall include copies of relevant documentation, photos, and an initial recommendation for the most appropriate mitigation measure(s). The Mitigation Needs Assessment should also include a planning level cost estimate for the implementation of the recommended mitigation measure(s).

Step 6. Funding Qualification Assessment

Upon receipt of the Mitigation Need Assessment and mitigation cost-estimate or following the identification of a 'confirmed impacted' domestic well as per the Exceedance Policy, the MAC shall initiate a Funding Qualification Assessment. The assessment shall be conducted by the third-party qualified professional occupying a seat on the MAC. The Funding Qualification Assessment shall review and evaluate the claim with consideration of all relevant and available data to determine if the claim qualifies for mitigation under this Program, as per the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 4.2. To qualify for GSA funding reimbursement, the well impact must have (1) occurred after January 1, 2015, and (2) been induced by GSA authorized groundwater management activities.

The third-party qualified professional shall conduct a technical evaluation of the information provided in the Mitigation Need Assessment alongside any other relevant datasets including but not limited to historical groundwater quality data, well construction details, and land use (see Attachment B for the list of datasets considered). For domestic wells identified as 'confirmed impacted' following an MT exceedance at a nearby groundwater quality RMS, the Funding Qualification Assessment may be more limited in scope given that the likely cause of the impact should already have been evaluated under the Exceedance Policy. To support the technical evaluation, the third-party qualified professional may conduct an additional field inspection with (see Attachment B). Criteria for determining whether well impacts

resulting from degraded groundwater quality have been caused by GSA management activities are further discussed in Section 8.2 of this Mitigation Plan.

The third-party qualified professional shall provide a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the Funding Qualification Assessment to the Claimant, the GSA within which the impacted well is located, and the MAC. In cases where the claim is found not to qualify for mitigation under this Program, the GSA within which the impacted well is located shall notify the Claimant of the determination and provide the Claimant with resources pertaining to the claims appeal process (see Section 9.0). In these cases, the TBWF shall work with Claimants to determine if they qualify for mitigation under other, unrelated mitigation programs. The MAC maintains the power to reexamine such cases and override the findings of the initial Funding Qualification Assessment.

Step 7. Mitigation Measure Selection Agreement

Where the claim is determined to meet the eligibility criteria and thus qualifies for mitigation under this Program, the MAC shall review the Mitigation Needs Assessment, mitigation cost-estimate, and Funding Qualification Assessment to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure(s). The MAC and TBWF shall develop an agreement on the proposed mitigation measure(s) and costs associated with administering and implementing the mitigation measure(s) (including interim supplies).

The MAC shall consider each claim on a case-by-case basis to identify the most effective long-term mitigation measure(s). Long-term mitigation measures for drinking water wells may include, but are not limited to:

- In-home Point of Use (POU) or Point of Entry (POE) treatment systems
- Consolidation with an existing water system in the vicinity
- Establishment of a new small public water system
- With the consent of the affected user, providing other acceptable means of mitigation

In cases where the claim does not qualify for mitigation under this Program, the Claimant may still qualify for mitigation support directly through the TBWF or through a different mitigation program. In these cases, the TBWF will work directly with the Claimant to discuss available options.

Step 8. GSA Board Approval of Funding

Where the MAC determines a claim to meet the eligibility criteria and thus qualify for the provision of mitigation services by the GSA, the MAC shall submit the findings of the Mitigation Needs Assessment and Funding Qualification Assessment to the Board of Directors of the GSA in which the impacted well is located. The MAC shall also outline the mitigation measure(s) identified as most appropriate in Step 7.

To minimize the delay between the MAC determination and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measure(s), the Reserve Fund shall be used to fund and/or reimburse the TBWF for the provision of the agreed upon mitigation measure(s) to the Claimant.

Within 1 Board Meeting cycle from the completion of Step 7, the GSA Board of Directors shall review the MAC findings and determination and consider approval of the funding required to reimburse Reserve Fund. The GSA shall reimburse the Reserve Fund commensurate to the amount that the Reserve Fund was used to fund and/or reimburse the TBWF for the services provided to the Claimant for all mitigation support, including interim supplies and Program administration.

Step 9. Mitigation Funding Award

Following the completion of the MAC determination, the TBWF shall advance the funding required to implement the agreed upon mitigation measure(s). The Claimant shall comply with all TBWF legal requirements and complete all necessary documentation before the Tule Subbasin transmits funding reimbursements to the TBWF from the Reserve Fund. As described above, the Reserve Fund shall be used to fund and/or reimburse the TBWF for all qualifying mitigation support services including the provision of emergency and interim supplies and Mitigation Program administration. The GSA in which the impacted well is located shall then reimburse the Reserve Fund for the amount used to reimburse the costs incurred by the TBWF. The Tule Subbasin GSAs may agree to deposits to maintain sustainable cashflow for the TBWF's administration of the Mitigation Program.

In cases where the TBWF does not directly implement mitigation services and employs the services of any other qualified professionals (e.g. well drillers, pump contractors), neither the GSA, member agencies of the GSA, nor the TBWF shall be liable or responsible for any work performed by contractors.

Step 10. Well Stewardship Education

Following the implementation of the agreed upon mitigation measure(s), the TBWF shall administer a Well Stewardship Training workshop for the Claimant. The Well Stewardship Training involves maintenance training for wells and water filtration systems as well as financial planning guidance for long-term well maintenance. The goal of the Well Stewardship Training is to encourage the Claimant to maintain the mitigated well or water system. As applicable, mitigation awarded for impacts caused by degraded water quality may include the provision of 3-years of replacement filters, at a total cost of ~\$600, to ease the initial financial burden of the treatment system's stewardship.

8.0 Criteria for Determining if the Impact is Within the Scope of Responsibility of the Tule Subbasin GSAs

Central to both the Dry Well Mitigation Track and the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track is the evaluation of claims against the two eligibility criteria (see Section 0). To be considered eligible for mitigation under this Program, the well impact must satisfy both of the criteria below:

1. The impact must have occurred after January 1, 2015; and
2. The impact must have been caused by GSA management activities

In addition to the above criteria, the Claimant's own groundwater management activities must not have caused or contributed to the well impact.

A third-party qualified professional shall conduct a Funding Qualification Assessment of groundwater conditions to determine if a claim satisfies the above criteria and thus qualifies for mitigation, as described in Sections 5.0 and 7.0. Using a third-party qualified professional to conduct the assessment minimizes bias in the Mitigation Program and ensures that all qualifying claims receive mitigation.

The following sections describe the specific datasets, information, and analyses necessary for consideration as part of the Funding Qualification Assessment for impacts related to groundwater level decline and degraded groundwater quality.

8.1 Groundwater Level Impacts

Unsustainable groundwater pumping results in systemic, long-term decline of groundwater levels. The most vulnerable infrastructure to declining groundwater levels is drinking water wells, and particularly shallow wells. In a drinking water well, if groundwater levels decline such that a pump in the well is no longer adequately submerged, the pump may not operate correctly. If groundwater levels continue to decline to below the pump's intake, the pump will be rendered inoperable. If there is no room to further lower the pump in the well, the well may be considered a 'dry well' (see Figure 1).

For the Dry Well Mitigation Track, the eligibility of claims for mitigation shall be assessed during the Funding Qualification Assessment (Section 5.0; Step 5). The assessment shall be conducted by a third-party qualified professional to determine if the impact was caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015. A key consideration of the Funding Qualification Assessment is distinguishing long-term chronic declines in groundwater levels from fluctuations driven by seasonal and longer-term precipitation patterns. Accordingly, a core component of the assessment shall be the plotting and analysis of groundwater level hydrographs at groundwater level RMS nearby to the impacted well. Where available, this analysis should be extended to include hydrographs for all nearby wells with groundwater levels data.

Other data to be considered as part of the Funding Qualification Assessment are included in Attachment B and include land use (current and historical), well construction details, and groundwater extraction trends (local and regional).

Following the completion of the Funding Qualification Assessment, the third-party qualified professional shall provide a summary report and recommendation to the MAC for consideration.

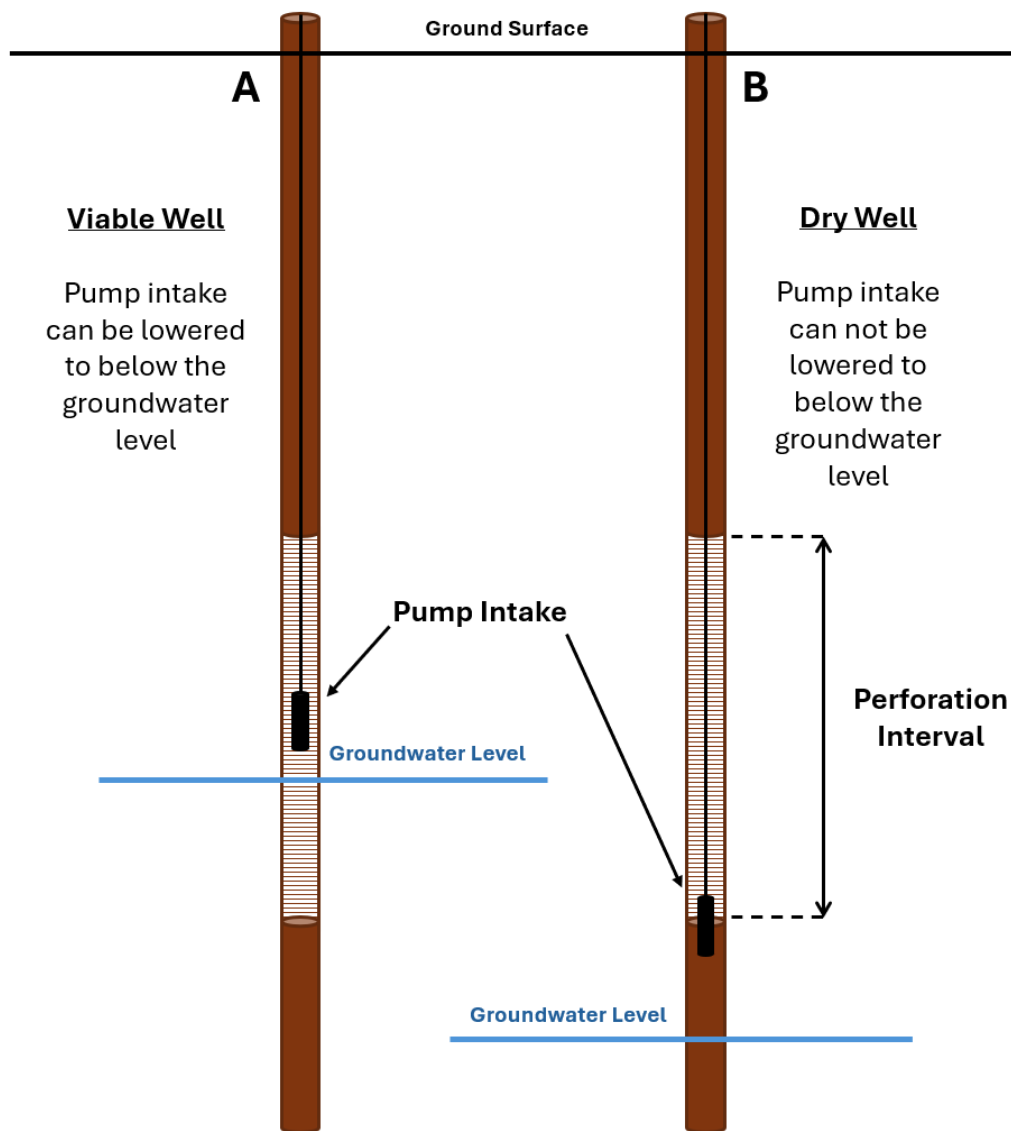


Figure 1: Schematic illustrating the distinction between a viable well (A) and a dry well (B) based on construction characteristics and groundwater levels.

8.2 Groundwater Quality Impacts

Under the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track, a well may be considered impacted if it tests above MT (set at the relevant WQO) for any of the COCs identified within the Tule Subbasin for monitoring under the SGMA program (see Section 7.0; Table 4). Exceedances may be identified through either 1) well testing by the TBWF following the submission of a claim under this Mitigation Program, or 2) the implementation

of the Exceedance Policy following an MT exceedance at a groundwater quality RMS. Qualification for mitigation shall be assessed accordingly, either through the Funding Qualification Assessment outlined in Section 7.0; Step 6 or through the implementation of the Exceedance Policy.

Regardless of whether a claim is submitted directly to this Mitigation Program or is referred from the Exceedance Policy, the assessment of whether the impact was caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015, and thus qualifies for mitigation, shall include the same core considerations. Where possible, the assessment shall consider the following datasets:

- Local lithology and stratigraphy;
- Characteristics of the local aquifer system including primary aquifer units screened by the impacted well;
- Current and historical land uses and land management practices;
- Operating conditions of the GSA or relevant Water Management Agency including (but not limited to) surface water availability, distribution systems, water demand, and pumping regulations;
- Location and source water of nearby recharge operations;
- Historical presence of the COC within the Subbasin and the potential pathways and sources of contamination;
- Well construction details, well age, and available well logs for the impacted well and any nearby wells;
- All available groundwater quality data for the COC with the MT exceedance, any associated COCs, and applicable indicator constituents;
- GeoTracker and Envirostor databases to identify any known contamination sites;
- Any previous studies or investigations;
- All available groundwater level and subsidence data;
- All available groundwater extraction and well pumping data;
- Current and historical consumptive water use.

Using the above datasets, the assessment shall include quantitative statistical and/or spatial analyses to evaluate the relationship between groundwater quality, groundwater levels, groundwater pumping, recharge, and land use. Where sufficient data is available, the following analyses may be conducted:

- Develop time series plots for the identified COC at the impacted well and any nearby wells. Perform Mann-Kendall trend analysis across the full dataset and pre- and post-January 1, 2015 periods to determine whether groundwater quality degradation exhibits a statistically significant increasing trend;
- Develop time series plots for the groundwater levels at the impacted well and any nearby wells. Perform Mann-Kendall trend analysis across the full dataset and pre- and post-January 1, 2015 periods to determine whether groundwater levels exhibit a statistically significant decreasing trend;

- Perform bivariate Granger causality testing to evaluate the relationship between groundwater quality and groundwater levels at wells where both datasets contain greater than 5 data points and a temporal overlap exists;
- Perform spatial analysis between location of recharge operations and other key land uses (e.g. dairies, animal feeding operations, waste treatment facilities) and nearby groundwater quality data;
- Develop time series plots for any indicator constituents relevant to the identified COC at the impacted well and any nearby wells. Perform Mann-Kendall trend analysis across the full dataset and pre- and post-January 1, 2015 periods to determine whether groundwater quality degradation exhibits a statistically significant increasing trend;

The outcome of the Funding Qualification Assessment shall consider the above datasets and analyses to evaluate the likely source of contamination at the impacted well and thus determine whether impact was caused by GSA management activities after January 1, 2015.

If the Funding Qualification Assessment is performed as part of the Exceedance Policy, the third-party qualified professional shall review Exceedance Policy report and provide a summary and recommendation to the MAC for consideration. If the Funding Qualification Assessment is performed as part of this Mitigation Program following a claim unrelated to an MT exceedance at a groundwater quality RMS, the third-party qualified professional shall conduct the above assessment and provide a summary report and recommendation to the MAC for consideration.

9.0 Claims Appeals Process

If a Claimant disagrees with the determination of eligibility for mitigation under this Plan, they may submit an appeal to the Board of Directors of the GSA in which the impacted well is located. The Claimant may appeal either the GSA's preliminary determination or the MAC's eligibility determination following their review of the assessment conducted by the third-party qualified professional. The appeal must be submitted within 30 days of notification of the GSA's or MAC's eligibility determination. The GSA Board of Directors shall consider the appeal at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting, or within 45 days of receiving notice of the appeal, whichever occurs first.

The Claimant must provide sufficient technical documentation to support the appeal and to allow the third-party qualified professional and MAC to thoroughly evaluate the claim. At a minimum, the documentation shall include:

- Well sampling data, if available
- Well operating records (i.e. maintenance logs, usage records, etc.)
- Well construction information (i.e. well completion report, well plans, well depth, perforation intervals, casing details, etc.)
- Site information (i.e. well location, nearby well locations, nearby well construction information, nearby infrastructure (e.g. septic systems), land use records, etc.)

Given that the GSA and third-party qualified professionals have already reviewed the claim during the initial submission, it is the responsibility of the Claimant to fund any additional technical analyses necessary to support the claim during the appeal process.

At the GSA Board of Directors meeting, the Claimant (or their representative) must present the justification for the appeal, supported by the technical documentation described above. At the same meeting, the Board of Directors shall decide whether to 1) approve the appeal as eligible for mitigation, or 2) refer the appeal to the MAC for further consideration.

Where appeals are referred to the MAC, the committee shall consider the technical documentation submitted alongside the appeal as well as documentation from the initial claim process. The MAC shall either recommend a revision of the eligibility determination made during the initial claims process or recommend an affirmation of the initial determination. The MAC shall provide its recommendations, alongside technical justification of its determination, to the Board of Directors of the GSA in which the impacted well is located, prior to the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The MAC shall take no longer than one Board of Directors meeting cycle to provide its recommendation.

9.1 Claims Privacy

Once a claim has been submitted to a GSA and the Claimant has provided technical documentation in support of the claim, the claim becomes subject to the California Public Records Act, which may require public disclosure of the information on request. If a Claimant has concerns regarding the potential release of sensitive information submitted as part of the claim, the Claimant is encouraged to contact the GSA to discuss data and information sharing confidentiality solutions.

10.0 Anticipated Mitigation Plan Costs and Funding

This section outlines the anticipated costs and the structure of funding for the implementation of the Drinking Water Mitigation Program within the Tule Subbasin. Program costs include the physical mitigation of qualifying impacted wells, the provision of emergency and interim drinking water supplies, the administration of the MAC and technical assessments, contractor contributions to mitigation efforts, and the administration and implementation of the SHE and TBWF programs. As such, the Tule Subbasin GSAs have established the Reserve Fund (see Section 10.2) to meet the anticipated mitigation needs of the Subbasin, as described below, and to ensure the uninterrupted implementation of the Program.

10.1 Anticipated Mitigation Plan Costs

The Tule Subbasin GSAs have estimated the costs associated with implementing the Dry Well Mitigation Track, the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, and the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track under the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program. A summary of these estimates is provided in Table 5 and is further described in Sections 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 below.

Table 5: Estimated costs for each Track of the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Plan

Impact Type	Basis of Cost Estimate	Annual Cost	Program Total Cost
Groundwater Level Impacts			
Mitigation	185 wells @ \$90,400 ea.	\$1,114,933	\$16,724,000
Technical Assistance	26 wells @ \$20,000 ea.	\$34,667	\$520,000
	Total	\$1,149,600	\$17,244,000
Groundwater Quality Impacts			
Mitigation	200 wells @ \$2,500 ea.	\$500,000	\$7,500,000
	Total	\$500,000	\$7,500,000

10.1.1 Cost Estimates for Mitigation and Technical Assistance of Potentially Impacted Drinking Water Wells from Declining Groundwater Levels

The cost estimate for the implementation of the Dry Well Mitigation Track was calculated using the number of upper aquifer domestic wells potentially impacted by declining groundwater levels should levels decrease to the MTs throughout the Subbasin. This analysis identified 185 potentially impacted domestic wells within the Subbasin. SHE provided a cost estimate of \$90,400 for the full mitigation of a dry domestic well via the drilling of a new replacement well. The breakdown of the cost estimate components is provided in Table 6. While the actual cost of mitigation may ultimately involve less expensive mitigation measures (e.g., lowering the pump), the more extreme cost estimate was used to ensure adequate funds are available fully mitigate all potentially impacted wells.

Table 6: Dry well mitigation cost estimate (per well)

Component	Cost
Technical Support Labor	\$12,500
Well Drilling and Construction	\$60,000
Tank/Pump Installation	\$5,500
Hauled Interim Water (Assume 12 Months)	\$9,500

Bottled Water (Assume 12 Months)	\$400
Other	\$2,500
Total	\$90,400

For the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track, a maximum of \$20,000 in funding is available for qualifying claims for grant development efforts, feasibility planning, or other management activities. The cost estimate for the implementation of the Dry Well Technical Assistance Track was based on the number of CWSs potentially impacted by declining groundwater levels should levels decrease to the MTs throughout the Subbasin. This analysis, conducted as part of the Tule Subbasin CWS Well Proactive and Protective Action Plan, identified 26 potentially impacted wells within the Subbasin during the SGMA implementation period.

10.1.2 Cost Estimates for Mitigation of Potentially Impacted Drinking Water Wells from Degraded Groundwater Quality

The cost for providing mitigation for qualifying claims for drinking water wells impacted by degraded water quality is based on the per well mitigation cost of \$2,500. The breakdown of the cost estimate components is provided in Table 7. As applicable, the cost of mitigation may include an additional \$600 to cover the provision of 3 years of replacement filters to ease the initial financial burden of the treatment system's stewardship. Where possible, this additional cost shall first be absorbed by the inflation and uncertainty buffers included in the \$2,500 estimate. Based on the distribution of domestic wells and groundwater quality RMS in the Subbasin, the median number of domestic wells potentially impacted by degraded water quality before triggering an undesirable result and thus representing a significant and unreasonable impact to beneficial uses and users is 160 (10% of known domestic wells Subbasin-wide). To ensure that the mitigation budget is robust to variations in the number of impacted domestic wells and to any qualifying claims requiring mitigation in excess of the \$2,500 estimate, the annual cost estimate for implementing the Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track is based on the annual mitigation need of 200 drinking water wells.

Table 7: Degraded water quality mitigation cost estimate (per well)

Component	Cost
Base Cost	\$1,250
Inflation Buffer	\$500
Uncertainty Buffer	\$500

Emergency Water Supply	\$250
Total	\$2,500

10.2 Mitigation Plan Funding

The Tule Drinking Water Well Reserve Fund (herein referred to as the “Reserve Fund”)

10.2.1 Funding Structure

[GSAs contribute to the reserve fund based on XXX]

11.0 References

- Burton, C.A., Shelton, J.L., and Belitz, Kenneth, 2012, Status and understanding of groundwater quality in the two southern San Joaquin Valley study units, 2005–2006—California GAMA Priority Basin Project: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2011–5218, 150 p.
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5218/pdf/sir20115218.pdf>
- DWR. 2016. Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin Boundaries shapefile, Update 2018.
http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin_boundaries.cfm
- DWR. March 2023. Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts.
https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Files/Considerations-for-Identifying-and-Addressing-Drinking-Water-Well-Impacts_FINAL.pdf
- DWR. June 2023. Dry Well Reporting System. <https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/>
- Levy, Z. F., Jurgens, B. C., Burow, K. R., Voss, S. A., Faulkner, K. E., Arroyo-Lopez, J. A., & Fram, M. S. 2021. Critical aquifer overdraft accelerates degradation of groundwater quality in California's Central Valley during drought. Geophysical Research Letters, 48, e2021GL094398.
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL094398>

ATTACHMENT A

Technical Assistance Claim Application

Tule Subbasin Technical Assistance Claim Application

If you are unsure of which GSA your claim is in, contact any of the Tule Subbasin GSAs via number and email listed on their websites and they can assist you in identifying. If you are unsure of how to answer any questions, please leave blank and this can be further discussed during a meeting with GSA staff.

Please circle which GSA your impact claim applies:

Alpaugh GSA	Delano-Earlimart ID GSA	Eastern Tule GSA
Kern Tulare WD GSA	Lower Tule River ID GSA	Pixley ID GSA
Tri-County Water Authority GSA		

Claimant Name: _____

Claimant Contact Information: _____

Are you the landowner of the property in which this Claim Application applies?

Yes No

If no, please provide the name and contact information of the landowner and the GSA shall contact the landowner to notify of the need for their participation in the Claim process.

Landowner Name: _____

Landowner Contact Information: _____

As the Claimant, will you allow physical access to the adversely impacted well(or critical infrastructure for the GSA staff or authorized case worker to perform a field assessment?

Yes No

Please attach available documentation for the well (for example the State Department of Water Resources Driller's Log, other well construction information, pump depth, groundwater level, or other information) .

Please describe the nature of your well or critical infrastructure impact:

Tule Subbasin Subbasin
Technical Assistance Claim Application
to be completed with GSA staff

This portion of the claim application is to be completed with GSA staff during the Data and Information Request Meeting. Please gather all potentially relevant data and information related to your Claim in advance of the meeting with GSA staff to support your Claim. This may include level data, well construction, driller information, and water quality reports for wells and design and construction documentation for critical infrastructure..

Claimant information:

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Middle Initial: ____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone # Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Text Ok? Yes No

Accessors Parcel Number: _____

Does the impacted well or critical infrastructure support access to safe drinking water? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Impacted Non-Drinking Water Well Information

This section of the application shall be completed with GSA staff during initial meeting. If making a claim regarding critical infrastructure, please skip this section and proceed to the "Critical Infrastructure Information" section.

Please circle response:

Impacted Well's Use	Monitoring	Agricultural	Municipal/Industrial	
Shared Well?:	Yes	No	Unsure	
Shared Well Agreement?:	Yes	No	Unsure	
Well Water Source:	Aquifer	Spring	Other	_____
Units Connected to Well:	1	2	3+	

Please provide as much of the following documentation as is available:

Provide all the information that you have. Ask neighbors and family that might know. More information helps the Claims process and not information might stall or disqualify the Claim.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well completion report (well drillers log) • Well design documentation • Water level records • Water quality records and/or laboratory/test reports • Photographs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintenance records • Well driller name and contact information • Well pump contractor and contact information • Documentation from neighboring wells' construction, operations, and maintenance |
|---|--|

Please fill out the following information to the best to your ability. Additional information may be requested and/or a site visit may be requested by the GSA:

When was the well drilled?	
When was water first pumped from the well?	
When did the pump stop working?	
Depth of well	
Depth and length of well screen	
Size of pump (horsepower (HP))	
Depth of pump in well	
Can the pump be fixed?	
Has the pump been removed from the well?	
When was the well last worked on by a pump contractor? What did they work on?	

Has the well been abandoned? If so, why?	
Does the well have a pump saver? <i>A pump saver is a PVC sleeve with slots on the lower end to allow water to enter while keeping sand particulate out.</i>	
How much water should this well be pumping?	
How much water has the well been pumping recently? (note units including daily or monthly)	
Has the well experienced water quality issues? Describe the issue and when it started	
Have neighboring wells experienced water quality issues? Describe the issue and when it started.	
Is the well located near septic tanks? If so, please provide the distance between well and septic tank and/or leaching field.	

Well Site Map Sketch

Include in sketch:

- Property boundaries
- Structures
- Cross Streets/Roads
- Fences/Gates
- Access
- North Arrow
- Ponds/Ponds
- Septic Tank/Leach Lines
- Driveways
- Trees
- Power Poles/Lines
- Existing Wells
- Neighboring Homes/Properties (left, right, across)
- Distance of Connection(s) if known
- Dogs/Animals on the Property

Annotated photos or aerial images of the property may be used in place of a sketch.

Please also attach photos of the impacted well and pump.

Mark the well impacted and any other wells on the property.

Impacted Critical Infrastructure Information

This section of the Claim Application shall be completed with GSA staff during initial meeting. If making a claim regarding a well, please skip this section and ensure the "Well Information" section is completed.

Please circle response:

Infrastructure Type canal road pipeline ditch Other

If other, please explain: _____

Privately Owned? Yes No Unsure

Please provide as much of the following documentation as is available:

Provide all the information that you have. Ask neighbors and family that might know. More information helps the Claims process and not information might stall or disqualify the Claim.

- Infrastructure design documentation
- Photographs
- Operation and maintenance records
- Documentation from neighboring infrastructure's construction, operations, and maintenance
- Any permits relevant to the parcel and/or infrastructure

Please fill out the following information to the best to your ability. Additional information may be requested and/or a site visit may be requested by the GSA:

When was the infrastructure constructed?	
When did the infrastructure become operational?	
When did the infrastructure stop working??	
When was the last modification to the infrastructure made? What was the modification?	
Have neighboring infrastructure experienced subsidence related issues? If so, when?	

Impacted Critical Infrastructure Site Map Sketch

Include in sketch:

- Dogs/Animals on the Property
- Property boundaries
- Structures
- All Known Water Conveyance Infrastructure (above and below ground)
- All Known Water Storage Infrastructure
- Cross Streets/Roads
- Fences/Gates
- Access
- North Arrow
- Pools/Ponds
- Septic Tank/Leach Lines
- Driveways
- Trees
- Power Poles/Lines
- Existing Wells
- Neighboring Homes/Properties (left, right, across)

Annotated photos or aerial images of the property may be used in place of a sketch.

ATTACHMENT B

Considerations for the Funding Qualification Assessment and On-site Assessments

Funding Qualification Assessment

Desktop Analysis

Dry Well Mitigation Track

The following data should be reviewed:

- Historic static groundwater levels at and nearby impacted well
- Historic groundwater extraction levels
- Well operation and maintenance history
- Well construction history
- Historic monthly production volume
- Potential for consolidation to public water system
- Proximal historic land and water use
- Depth to bedrock
- Nearby conjunctive water use activity
- Well depth, perforation intervals, pumping depth

Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track

The following data should be reviewed:

- Historic groundwater quality data at and nearby impacted well
- Historic static groundwater levels
- Historic groundwater extraction levels
- Local geology and aquifer conditions
- Well operation and maintenance history
- Historic monthly production volume
- Potential for consolidation to public water system
- Proximal historic land and water use
- Nearby conjunctive water use activity
- Well depth, perforation intervals, pumping depth

On-site Assessment

Dry Well Mitigation Track

The following actions may be performed:

- Pull pump and measure pump intake depth, well base, static water level
- Modify wellhead to install sounding port to measure static and pumping water level
- Modify wellhead to install flowmeter
- Conduct a video log of the well
- Site investigation to inform water demand estimate and determine proximal land and water use
- Investigate consolidation feasibility

Degraded Water Quality Mitigation Track

The following actions may be performed:

- Pull pump and measure pump intake depth, well base, static water level
- Modify wellhead to install sounding port to measure static and pumping water level
- Modify wellhead to install flowmeter
- Conduct a video log of the well
- Collect water samples from the well and from nearby wells with sampling permissions
- Site investigation to inform water demand estimate and determine proximal land and water use
- Investigate consolidation feasibility

ATTACHMENT C

Technical Assistance Indemnification Agreement

Tule Subbasin Technical Assistance and Indemnification Agreement

The undersigned (“the Claimant”) having been awarded funding to support technical assistance by _____ Groundwater Sustainability Agency of the Tule Subbasin (“the GSA”) hereby agrees as follows:

1. The Claimant will indemnify and hold harmless the GSA, its Board of Directors, Staff, Consultant Staff, Advisory Committee Members, Technical Advisory Committee Members, Offices, Third-Party Facilitators from any and all claims, suits, actions, and liability of any character arising or alleged to arise, out of injuries or damages sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of the Claimant’s act or omission, neglect, or misconduct, or in violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation, which was caused to occur during the Claimant’s mitigation development or implementation.
2. The GSA shall not be liable to the Claimant’s staff or guests for any injury incurred while on the property in which mitigation will take place.
3. The Claimant is responsible for paying all taxes owed for income or property value the Claimant receives as a result of the mitigation measure.
4. The GSA is awarding the Claimant funding for the following technical assistance activities:

Name of Claimant

Signature of Claimant

Date

Name of GSA General Manager

Signature of GSA General Manager

Date