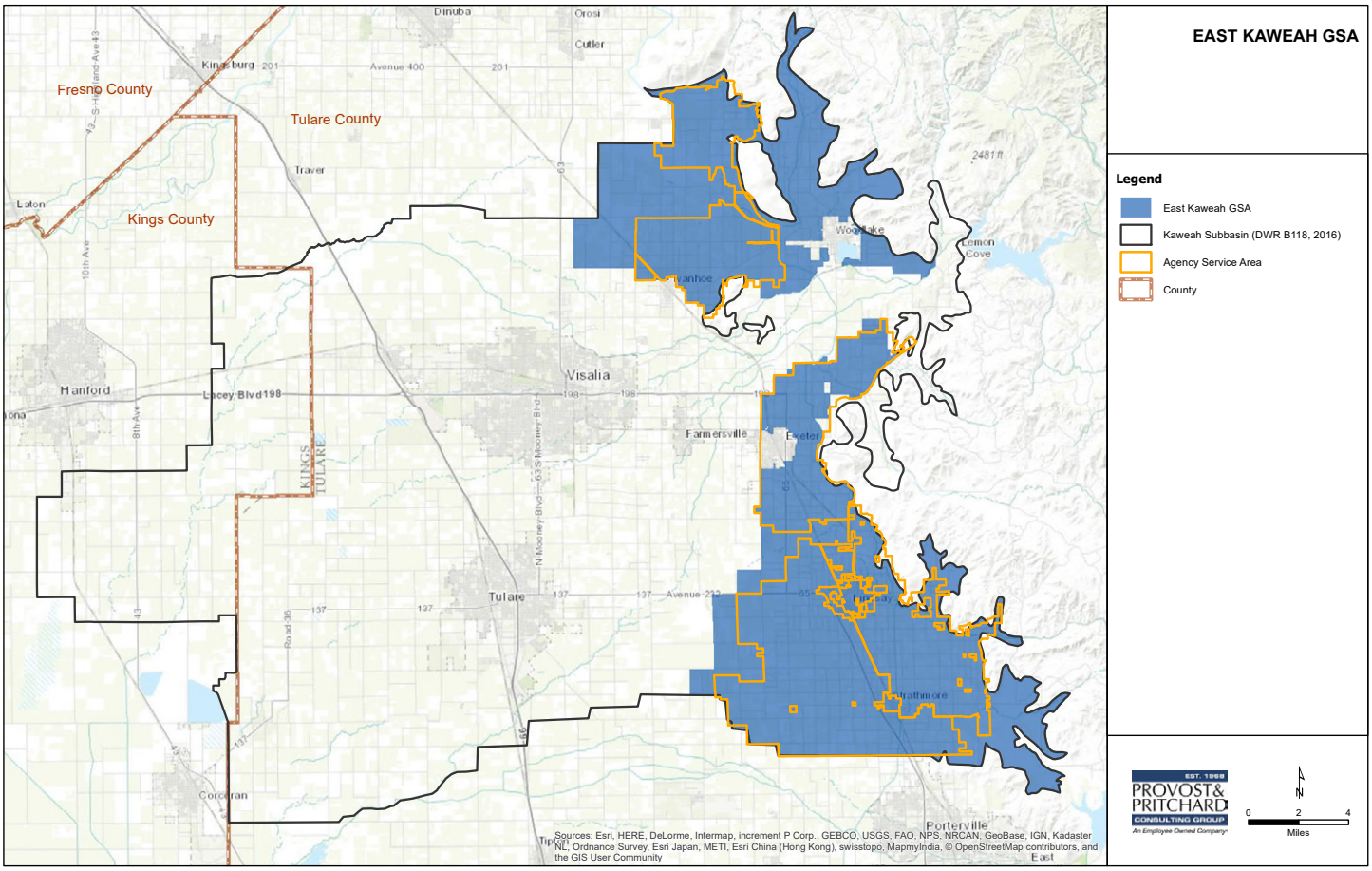
EAST KAWEAH
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

EAST KAWEAH GSA

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is a local agency tasked with halting groundwater overdraft and achieving groundwater sustainability on behalf of groundwater users in its boundary, including growers, domestic well owners, businesses, and community residents. The agency formed in 2017 to implement the California law, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

East Kaweah GSA is governed by 11 locally appointed individuals representing:

- Stone Corral Irrigation District
- Wutchumna Water Company
- Exeter Irrigation District
- the City of Lindsay
- the County of Tulare
- Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District
- Sentinel Butte Mutual Water Company
- Lindmore Irrigation District
- Ivanhoe Irrigation District



EAST KAWEAH GSA STATS

East Kaweah GSA is a joint powers groundwater regulatory agency formed in 2017, representing approximately 117,300 acres of the most productive agriculture in the world. Located within Sierra Nevada's Kaweah Watershed, East Kaweah GSA is rich in natural wonders and prime agricultural land. East Kaweah GSA's top crops include citrus fruits, milk and dairy, grapes, and corn.

THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into California law in 2014. SGMA provides a formal framework for local governments and water agencies to manage groundwater resources sustainably through the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). Over 260 local GSAs formed statewide to implement the SGMA and meet required milestones to achieve sustainable groundwater pumping. In areas that are considered critically overdrafted, like East Kaweah GSA, groundwater sustainability must be achieved by 2040. Achieving sustainability will ensure groundwater users will be able to access groundwater in the future.

LOCAL CONTROL, STATE OVERSIGHT

A central element of SGMA is that sustainable groundwater management is best accomplished at the local level. While East Kaweah GSA has the freedom to determine what projects and programs it will implement locally to reach sustainability, there are requirements and milestones that must be met. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) are the state agencies responsible for keeping the local GSA accountable to meeting these requirements. Historically, groundwater pumping in the East Kaweah GSA area has outpaced replenishment of the resources, resulting in chronic overdraft conditions. Groundwater overdraft must be addressed under SGMA.

DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

Groundwater sustainability under SGMA is defined by six Sustainability Indicators that the GSA is responsible to manage. The GSA is responsible for avoiding undesirable results across these indicators to accomplish sustainability, while considering changing hydrogeologic conditions as the 2040 deadline approaches. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is the plan that details how the GSA will avoid undesirable results over incremental milestones by 2040. The GSP is the written plan that guides the GSA along its sustainability milestones. You can find the latest GSP and GSP revision history at **ekgsa.org/gsp**.

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

- **Lowering GW Levels**
- **Groundwater-Storage Reductions**
- **Seawater Intrusion**
  Not applicable to the Kaweah Subbasin
- **Water-Quality Degradation**
- **Land Subsidence**
- **Interconnected Surface-Water Depletion**

BALANCING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

There are two ways to achieve sustainability under SGMA. Reduce groundwater demand, and increase available water supply. East Kaweah GSA is working toward sustainability by 2040 using a combination of the two through its groundwater allocation program (demand reduction) and through groundwater recharge project development (increase supplies).

THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN

East Kaweah GSA is one of three GSAs in the Kaweah Subbasin, neighboring Mid-Kaweah and Greater Kaweah GSAs. While each GSA is responsible for addressing their own groundwater overdraft by 2040, SGMA requires that the Kaweah Subbasin coordinate to reach sustainability together.

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