Managing Kings River Resources

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Kings River Conservation District
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Kings River Watershed were it all begins

Originates in the Sierra Nevada around 13,000 feet elevation within Kings Canyon National Park.
flowing downward

As the snow melts it cascades down the mountains into tributaries like the Roaring River that feeds into the South Fork, the best-known branch of the Kings River because of its accessibility as it flows through beautiful Kings Canyon.
Kings River Runoff starting in 1895

Highly variable
4.5 mill. AF – 263%
360,972 AF – 21%
And every in between
Pine Flat Dam and Reservoir regulating the flows

Built by the Corps of Engineers
Completed in 1954
1,000,000 AF capacity
Managing a fully appropriated river

1890 Vineyard
Moving Kings River water through the Valley
Groundwater Management in the Kings River Service Area
Using data to analyze regional groundwater

Average annual overdraft (1963-2009) approx. 120 acre feet

Largest GW depression located near Raisin City, beyond Kings River place of use

Flows move westerly, drawn to the cone of depression
Kings Subbasin
Groundwater Recharge (Flood-MAR) in Kings Subbasin
Water Quality in the Kings River Service Area
Kings DACs

Tulare Lake Basin DAC Water Study

Lack of funding

Lack of technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity

Poor water quality

Inadequate or unaffordable funding to make improvements

Lack of informed, empowered, or engaged residents
Created by Kings River agencies to support growers in General Order implementation

Requirements

- Farm Evaluation Surveys
- Nitrogen Management Plans
- Nitrogen Summary Reports
- Continuing Education
- Domestic Well Testing

Outcomes

Data collected has given growers new insight into nitrogen use

Solutions

- Construct water kiosks
- Develop Best Management Practices and tools to limit impacts on water quality
10 year stakeholder process

Develop long-term management plan for salts & nitrates

Focuses mostly on groundwater

Assure safe drinking water and sustain agricultural economy

CV-SALTS video
Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Regional Water Quality Control Plans
Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (1969)

Tulare Lake Basin Plan (1975)

Beneficial Uses
  municipal, industrial, ag

Water Quality Objectives
drinking water standards

Permits

WDR

ADOPTED
suitable for municipal drinking water

water quality objective attaches

nitrate drinking water standard = 10 mg/L
Tulare Lake Basin General Order

Adopted

- All irrigators are potential dischargers to groundwater
- Institutes Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
new agency formed
fees
compliance reporting
required training
penalties
Irrigated Ag Regulatory Perspective

- 1969
- 1975
- 1988
- 2013
- 2014
- 2019
- 2019
- 2019
- KRCD

Kings River Consolidated District
Reliable resources for the Valley
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Most consequential water law passed in 100 years!
new agency formed
additional fees
compliance obligations
stakeholder engagement
penalties

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- new agency formation
- additional fees
- compliance reporting
- required training
- penalties
Irrigated Ag Regulatory Perspective
Tulare Lake Basin General Order Amendments

ADOPTED

additional requirements, additional costs
testing requirements

new compliance obligations

additional costs

penalties
Irrigated Ag Regulatory Perspective

- 1969
- 1975
- 1988
- 2013
- 2014
- 2019
- 2019
- ∞
Tulare Lake Basin Amendments

ADOPTION PENDING

approves CV-SALTS program
new agency formed
coordinate w/ stakeholders
compliance obligations
additional costs
penalties
Regulatory Impacts

2020 and beyond

ILRP
SGMA
CV-SALTS

three PLANS for each program
three AGENCIES for each program
three FEES and collection methods for each program

same data collected for each program
same monitoring requirements
same local agencies managing each program
KINGS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rebecca Quist
Public Affairs Associate
A leading resource management agency for the Kings River region providing flood protection, cooperating with other agencies to achieve a balanced and high quality water supply, providing on-farm support in efficient water practices, and developing power resources for the public good.
Special Act Resources Agency

Established 1951
Striving to protect one of our valley's most precious resources, the water of the King's River service area.
Program Implementation
ILRP
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

SGMA
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

IRWMP
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Kings River
Water Quality Coalition

North Fork Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

McMullin Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

South Fork Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Kings Basin
Water Authority
Flood Protection
KINGS RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dedicated to improving and enhancing the lower Kings River watershed and fishery habitat while maintaining its beneficial uses, recognizing that a healthy river is essential to the region's well-being and future quality of life.
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JEFF L. TAYLOR PINE FLAT POWER PLANT

Built, owned, and operated by KRCD, Pine Flat Power Plant has generated renewable clean energy to the CA DWR State Water Project since 1984.
KINGS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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THANK YOU!

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