Eastern Tule

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Joint Powers Authority

Communication and Engagement Plan

Adopted: October 4, 2018

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Agency Background:

Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority ("ETGSA", "Agency") is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") that was formed via Joint Powers Agreement on December 6th, 2016 pursuant the requirements of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Agency was approved by the California Department of Water Resources to serve as an exclusive GSA on June 6th, 2017.

Eight member agencies form ETGSA (County of Tulare, City of Porterville, Kern-Tulare Water District, Porterville Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Terra Bella Irrigation District, Tea Pot Dome Water District, Vandalia Water District). The Agency is governed by a 9-member Board of Directors.

ETGSA is charged with preparing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") across its 161,174 acre jurisdiction. The Agency is one of seven GSAs located within the Tule Subbasin (Bulletin 118, 5-22.13).

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Disclaimer: This Communication and Engagement Plan is current as of the Adoption Date listed on the Cover Page, but is to be considered "Living" and is subject to continual update and review throughout the development, review, and implementation of ETGSA's GSP. Members of the Public and Interested Parties are encouraged to provide their feedback to improve this document across the planning and implementation horizon.

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Introduction

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA", "Act") was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 and consists of three bills: Senate Bills ("SB") 1168, SB 1319, and Assembly Bill ("AB") 1739. The Act provides a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater within California through the formation of new Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSA") that will develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSP") in order to achieve groundwater sustainability within certain prioritized basins by 2040, at the latest.

In order to achieve sustainability, GSAs must manage groundwater so as to avoid causing and/or perpetuating certain significant and unreasonable undesirable results. As defined by the Legislature, these unreasonable results include:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels;
- Reduction in groundwater storage;
- Seawater intrusion;
- Degradation of water quality;
- Land subsidence; and
- Depletion of interconnected surface waters.

Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

The framework provided in SGMA recognizes that groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level. Moreover, the Act requires that GSAs consider the interests of all beneficial users and uses of groundwater and include them in the GSP development process. California's Department of Water Resources ("DWR") further enumerates the public engagement and consideration requirements in its Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations ("Regulations", "Regs.", "23 CCR"), which were adopted June 30th, 2017.

DWR has broken down the development of a GSP into four phases, each of which has different stakeholder engagement requirements per SGMA's sections of the California Water Code ("CWC") and the Regulations:

1. **Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination (2015-2017)**
    a. Public notice and public hearing prior to formation (CWC § 10723 (b))
    b. Establish and maintain an Interested Parties list (CWC § 10723.4)
    c. Describe how Interested Parties may participate (CWC § 10723.8)
2. **Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission (2017-2020)**
    a. GSP Initial Notification via DWR online portal (Regs. §353.6)
    b. Encourage active involvement and consider beneficial uses and users of groundwater during GSP Preparation (CWC § 10727.8 and § 10723.2)
    c. Describe GSA decision-making process and how GSA provided opportunities for engagement and encouraged active involvement (Regs. § 354.10)
    d. Public notice and hearing prior to adopting or amending a GSP (CWC § 10728.4)
    e. Summarize communications as part of GSP submittal (Regs. § 354.10)
3. **Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation (2018+)**

a. Any person may comment on adopted GSP via DWR online portal during 60 day comment period (Regs. § 353.8)

4. **Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting (2020+)**
    a. Public notice and meetings prior to amending GSP or imposing new/increased fees (CWC § 10730)
    b. Encourage active involvement (CWC § 10727.8)

In addition to phase-specific requirements, there are outreach requirements that are applicable to all phases:

a. Consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater (CWC § 10723.2)
b. GSAs may appoint and consult with an advisory committee (CWC § 10727.8)
c. Public notices and meetings (CWC § 10730)
d. Native American Tribes may voluntarily agree to participate (CWC § 10720.3)
e. Federal Government may voluntarily agree to participate (CWC § 10720.3)
f. Encourage active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin (CWC § 10727.8)

Communication and Engagement Plan

Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority ("ETGSA") recognizes the importance and requirement of stakeholder engagement throughout the GSP development process. In order to address how ETGSA will fulfill the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, the Agency has developed this Communication and Engagement Plan ("CEP").

The CEP will describe how ETGSA intends to consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within its jurisdiction and will further describe how ETGSA intends to encourage active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within its boundaries. Moreover, the CEP will address:

- ETGSA's background;
- ETGSA's major stakeholder groups;
- ETGSA's decision making process;
- Methods and venues for public engagement;
- Opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement, education, and input; and
- Descriptions of how public input will be used to inform the development and implementation of the GSP.

The CEP follows the outline set forth by the DWR's GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document, which can be found at: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/Guidance-Document-for-Groundwater-Sustainability-Plan---Stakeholder-Communication-and-Engagement.pdf

1. Goals and Desired Outcomes

This section of the CEP provides a brief description and background of ETGSA, explains ETGSA's decision-making process, defines the goals and desired outcomes of the GSP development process, outlines the general communication objectives during each phase of GSP development, and indicates how ETGSA intends to address major regulatory and stakeholder engagement challenges.

1.1 GSA Description and Background

ETGSA is one of seven exclusive GSAs within the Tule Subbasin (Table 1), as defined in Bulletin 118. The Tule Subbasin is a high-priority basin in critical overdraft. Per SGMA, ETGSA is required to submit a GSP to DWR by January 31, 2020.

Table 1: Tule Subbasin GSAs and their Member Entities

Tule Subbasin GSAs	GSA Member Entities	
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA	Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District	Earlimart Public Utilities District
Alpaugh GSA	Alpaugh Irrigation District Atwell Island Water District	Alpaugh Community Services District
Eastern Tule GSA	County of Tulare City of Porterville Saucelito Irrigation District Tea Pot Dome Water District	Vandalia Water District Terra Bella Irrigation District Kern-Tulare Water District Porterville Irrigation District
Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA	Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Poplar Community Services District
Pixley Irrigation District GSA	Pixley Irrigation District	Pixley Public Utility District
Tri-County Water Authority	Angiola Water District	Deer Creek Storm Water District
Tulare County GSA	Areas not managed nor claimed by any other GSA within the Tule Subbasin	

ETGSA is made up of eight member agencies (Table 2) joined together via Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA"). These agencies initially came together in early 2016 under a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") (Tulare County Agreement No. 27537) with the intent of forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Later that year, the member agencies signed a Joint Powers Agreement (Tulare County Resolution No. 2016-0939) officially creating ETGSA on December 6th, 2016, The Agency began maintaining an Interested Parties List on January 16th, 2017. Following public notification and comment, ETGSA resolved to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Resolution No. 1-2017) on February 23, 2017 and was recognized as such by DWR on June 6, 2017.

Table 2: ETGSA Member Agencies

ETGSA GSA Member Agencies	
County of Tulare	City of Porterville
Kern-Tulare Water District	Porterville Irrigation District
Saucelito Irrigation District	Terra Bella Irrigation District
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Vandalia Water District

ETGSA's boundaries encompass 161,174 acres and approximately 70,000 residents (Figure 1). The land within ETGSA is primarily agricultural in nature, with approximately 85,000 acres under production. Primary crops include almonds, citrus, grain and hay, grapes, pistachios, walnuts and pecans. Permanent crops predominate and make up more than 2/3 of the irrigated landscape. Three major sources of surface water flow from east to west through ETGSA: Tule River, Deer Creek, and White River.

The City of Porterville, which is the largest urban area within the Tule Subbasin, sits in the northeastern portion of ETGSA. Unincorporated communities within ETGSA include Ducor, East Porterville, Richgrove, and Terra Bella. All of ETGSA's unincorporated communities are considered Severely Disadvantaged Communities ("SDAC"). The City of Porterville is considered a Disadvantaged Community ("DAC"). (See Figure 2)

As a Member Agency, the County of Tulare represents a heterogenous land area within ETGSA that covers >50% of the ETGSA's jurisdiction and is commonly referred to as "white area."

As a GSA serving in a basin with multiple GSAs, ETGSA must coordinate with the other GSAs within the Tule Subbasin pursuant Regs. §353.6. Coordination began in mid-2015 when those agencies that would eventually form the exclusive GSAs that now cover the Tule Subbasin came together under an MOU (County Agreement No. 27407) and began meeting to discuss agency formation and basin coordination. Following formation of the Tule Subbasin GSAs, these new agencies signed an MOU in late-2017 and formed a TAC that meets regularly in order to coordinate their GSPs' development and develop a Coordination Agreement.

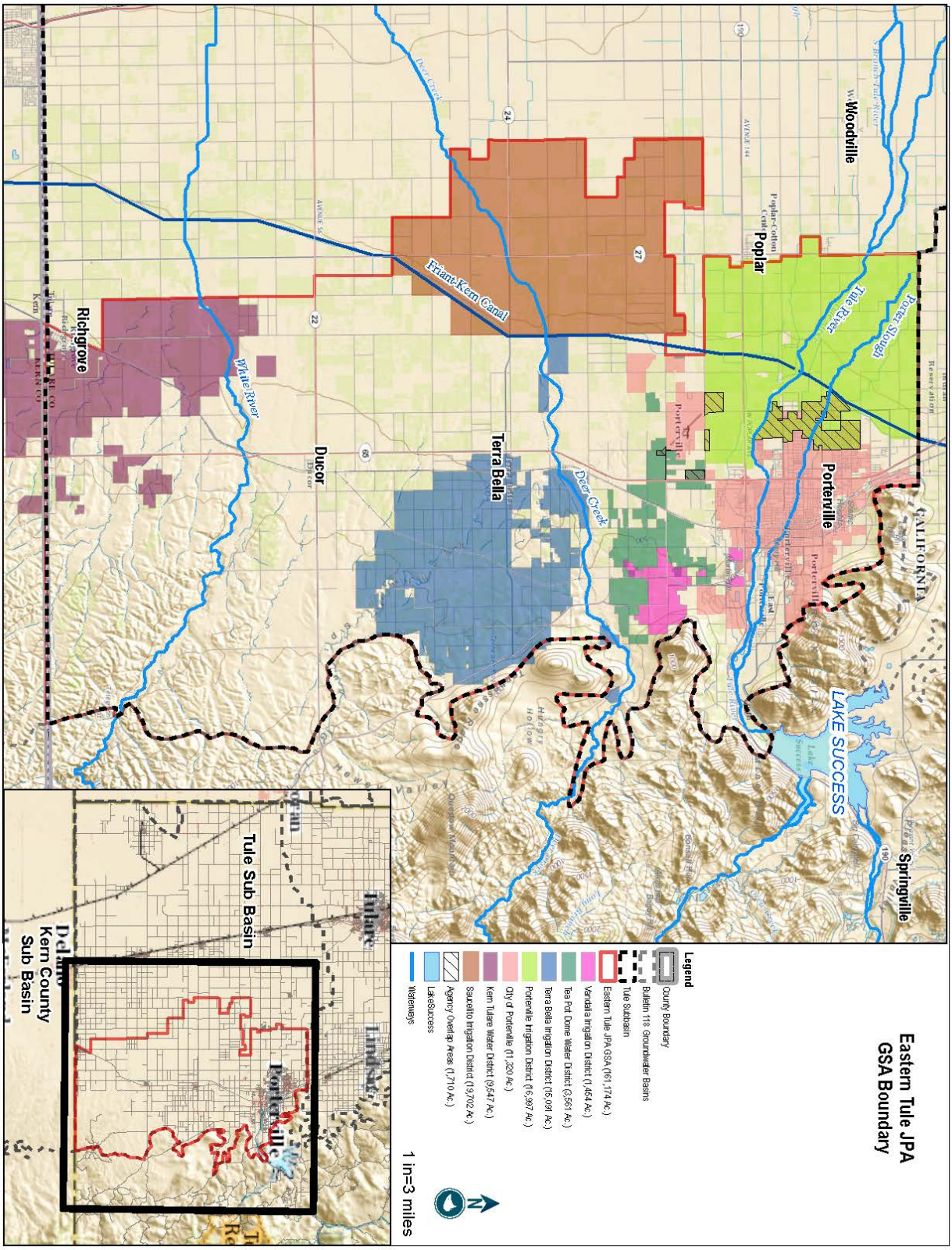

Figure 1: Eastern Tule GSA Boundary

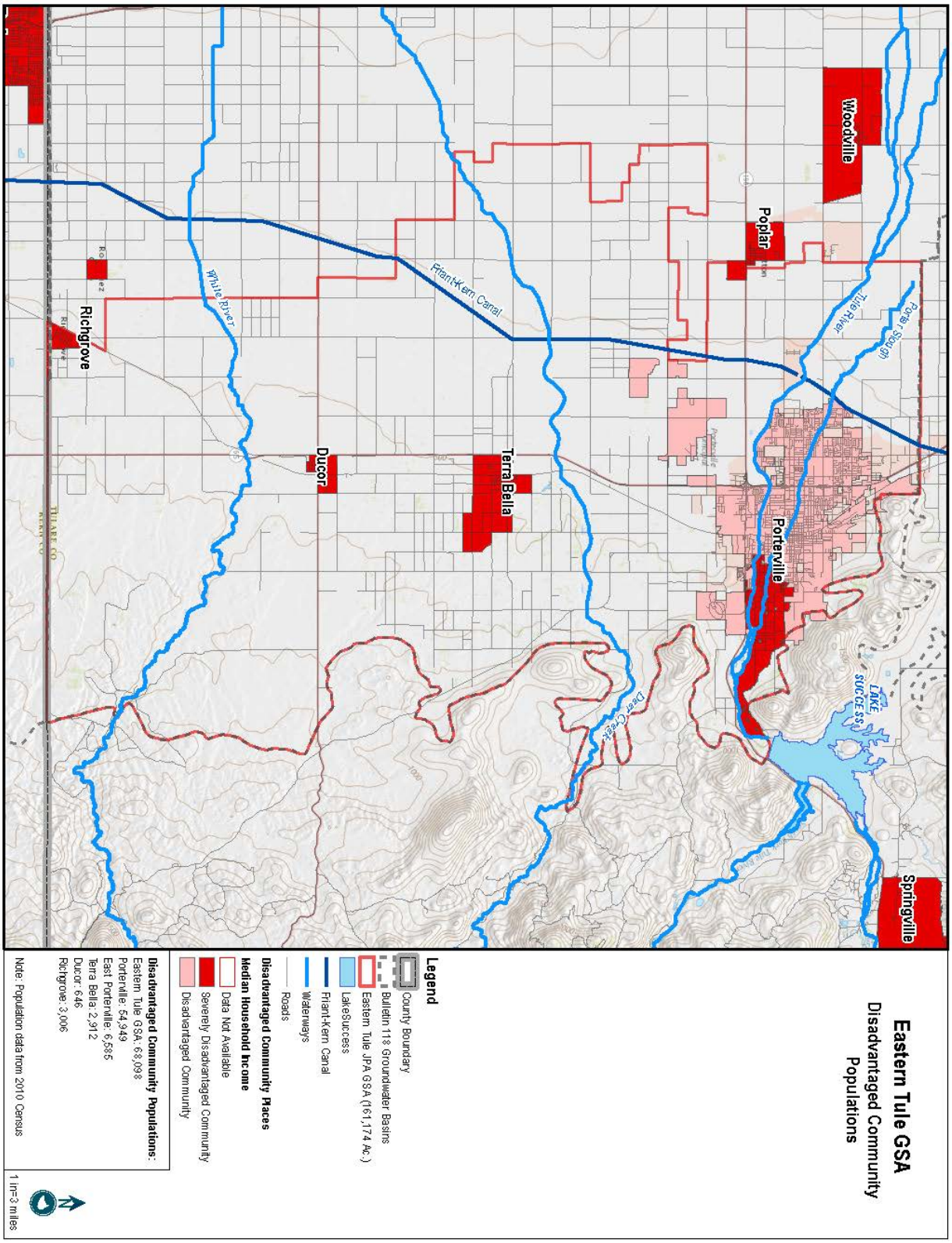

Figure 2: Eastern Tule GSA Disadvantaged Community Populations

1.2 ETGSA's Decision-Making Process

ETGSA's JPA and Bylaws govern the Agency's decision-making process. Three entities currently serve as standing bodies of the Agency that contribute to the decision-making process: Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Stakeholder Committee. These bodies are subject to the Brown Act and open to the public. Their regular meeting times and locations can be found in Section 5.1. The roles and responsibilities of these bodies are outlined below:

- **Board of Directors:** Responsible for all final decisions related to the governance of the GSA, the development of the GSP, GSP adoption, implementation of the GSP, and all other matters related to the administration of the Agency. A quorum of the Board consists of a majority of the Directors or designated Alternates, and a majority of those Directors or alternates present in a quorum of the Board are required for any general action of the Board. Certain matters require a two-thirds majority of the Board for approval, and these matters include: approval or revision of the Budget, assessments, litigation, the hiring or termination of the chief executive director, adoption of the Bylaws, adoption of the GSP, addition or termination of Members, and amendments to the Bylaws.
- **Executive Committee:** An advisory committee composed of staff or constituent members of the ETGSA's member agencies whose role is to provide technical advice to the Board on all matters related to SGMA. The Board often recommends items for consideration by the Executive Committee who, in turn, provides its recommendation back to the Board. The Executive Committee also considers and reports on the recommendations of the Stakeholder Committee. A quorum of the Executive Committee consists of a simple majority of the members, and an affirmative vote of at least a majority of those in attendance of the meeting is required for any action.
- **Stakeholder Committee:** An advisory committee composed of eleven members of the public appointed by the Board who represent the interests of the environment, Richgrove Community Services District, Ducor Community Services District, agriculture, and all other interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater. The Board often recommends items for consideration by the Stakeholder Committee who reports its recommendation to the Executive Committee who reports the recommendations of the Stakeholder Committee to the Board. However, the Stakeholder Committee can, if directed by the Board or upon request, report directly to the Board. A quorum of the members consists of a simple majority of the members, and an affirmative vote of at least a majority of those in attendance at the meeting is required for any action.

ETGSA encourages stakeholders and members of the public to participate in the meetings of its Board and Committees. While not formalized at this time, the Board will often request that the Executive and/or Stakeholder Committee(s) review major policy points and documents and provide their recommendations to the Board prior to the Board making a decision, allowing for at least a month of consideration by these Committees and members of the public.

1.3 Goals and Desired Outcomes of GSP Development

The primary goal of ETGSA is to develop and implement a GSP that ensures groundwater resources within its boundaries are stewarded into sustainability, as required by SGMA. By

actively and purposefully engaging stakeholders throughout the GSP development process, ETGSA desires to develop the creative solutions that are necessary to allow for the accomplishment of this goal in a manner that causes the least socio-economic disruption to the productive agriculture, communities, and beneficial users and uses of groundwater within its boundaries.

1.4 GSP Communication Objectives

Per SGMA, ETGSA's communication objective is to encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within its boundaries so as to more effectively consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. ETGSA will provide stakeholders with meaningful opportunities for engagement during each phase of development. Such opportunities, depending on the phase, may include legally required notices and hearings, events, workshops, roundtables, advertisements and educational materials, newsletters, feedback and input surveys, and public comment during the meetings of the Board and Committees. For events where a notice period is not already legally defined, such as outreach meetings and workshops, ETGSA will attempt to finalize general event details 4-6 weeks in advance of the event in order to provide adequate time to conduct outreach and advertisement of such events. ETGSA firmly believes that opportunities for meaningful engagement will allow members of the Board and Committees to better represent the needs and concerns of their local constituents. All input received from the public will be reviewed and considered during the phases of GSP development.

1.5.1 Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination

Phase 1 is complete. This phase began in 2015 and ended in mid-2017. Those agencies overlying the Tule Subbasin that would eventually become the exclusive GSAs for the subbasin initially came together on November 3, 2015 under an MOU (County Agreement No. 27407) and began meeting to discuss agency formation and basin coordination. Thereafter, the eight member agencies that would eventually form ETGSA came together under a Memorandum of Understanding (Tulare County Agreement No. 27537) for the purpose of creating the ETGSA. Constituents of each of the member agencies were informed via correspondence and/or notice from their respective member agencies regarding the intent of the MOU group to form a GSA. On December 6, 2016, ETGSA was officially formed via Joint Powers Agreement, County of Tulare Resolution 2016-0939.

Following formation, the Agency formed its Interested Parties List, distributed applications for the appointment of members of the public to the Stakeholder Committee, advertised in local media regarding its formation and solicitation of Stakeholder Committee members, posted notice and held a hearing regarding its intent to become an exclusive GSA, resolved to become a GSA, notified DWR of its resolve to become a GSA, and was approved by DWR on June 6, 2017 to serve as one of seven exclusive GSAs within the Tule Subbasin. Input from stakeholders and beneficial users of groundwater was received throughout this process during Board and Executive Committee meetings, which were held during this time and open to both the public and to public comment.

1.5.2 Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission

Phase 2 is ongoing. This Phase began on June 7th, 2018 (following approval from DWR to serve as an exclusive GSA). On June 19, 2017, ETGSA gave notice to DWR of its intent to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The current goal of ETGSA is to prepare a draft GSP for public review and comment by mid-2019. During the development of the draft, ETGSA will engage with stakeholders directly through a number of venues for the purpose of educating the general public, soliciting feedback and input, ensuring that all beneficial users of groundwater are given the opportunity to have their concerns considered, and developing a draft GSP that is informed by an engaged constituency.

The Board of Directors approved a Timeline for Draft GSP Completion at its September 6th, 2018 meeting that outlines ETGSA's intended draft GSP development schedule (Figure 3). The Timeline is posted on the Agency's website and a link was distributed to ETGSA's Interested Parties List on September 7, 2018 in an effort to communicate its intended schedule with members of the public and to invite their participation in the draft GSP development process in an up-to-date manner.

Additionally, the Board of Directors approved at its September 6th, 2018 meeting a series of Policy Points for consideration. These Policy Points, and their associated schedule and process for consideration, are intended to assist ETGSA in developing various potential Management Actions and other components of its GSP in a manner that provides for stakeholder participation and input. The Policy Points can be found on ETGSA's website (http://easterntulegsa.com/resources/). In addition to being discussed at the Executive and Stakeholder Committees, members of the public may also submit their comments using this link (https://goo.gl/forms/BXWrzQf3l5bmS6Ct2). The intent is to receive all comments and recommendations by the December 6th, 2018 Board meeting.

Note: This Timeline serves as a general representation of ETGSA's intended draft GSP development schedule, which is subject to change. This Timeline is current as of September 6, 2018.

Figure 3. ETGSA Visual Timeline, Draft GSP Creation Schedule

1.5.3 Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation

Phase 3 will begin in mid-2019, when ETGSA intends to have completed its draft GSP. Phase 3 will begin the public review process whereby a 90-day comment period will allow stakeholders and other interested parties to comment on the draft GSP prior to the adoption of the GSP. Public notice will be given indicating that ETGSA intends to adopt the draft GSP. ETGSA will distribute the draft GSP via electronic correspondence to its Interested Parties List, will post it online on its website for download and review, and will consider other methods of notifying constituents of the document's availability and the ongoing opportunity to comment on its contents. Throughout the course of this 90-day period, ETGSA will host a variety of community meetings that will provide a platform for public comment and public forum. An online portal will also be created through which stakeholders may submit comments to the draft GSP. All comments will be considered in any revisions made to the draft GSP during this time period.

Following public review and the revising of the draft GSP though the consideration of the public comment received, the Board will adopt the draft GSP after Public Hearing. ETGSA will submit the final version of the GSP to DWR by January 31, 2020, after which stakeholders may submit comments during a second 60-day comment period through the DWR SGMA portal (link: http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/). All comments made will be posted to the DWR's website. The State will then conduct its evaluation, assessment, and approval process.

1.5.4 Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting

Phase 4 will begin following submission of the adopted GSP to DWR, which is expected to occur between mid-2019 and January 31, 2020. ETGSA's Phase 4 communication will focus on educating constituents of the new policies, ordinances, rules, and long-term plans that will come into effect in order to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040. Active involvement will be continually encouraged during the implementation and reporting phase, and ETGSA will provide public notice prior to the imposition or increase of any fees (pursuant SGMA's requirements).

1.6 Major Challenges

The major concerns within ETGSA's boundaries focus on the impacts of groundwater extraction on the Friant-Kern Canal ("FKC"), the economic effects on the agricultural industry, ensuring clean and adequate water supplies to communities served by public water systems (all of whom are considered Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged), and providing adequate outreach to lands and communities that are represented by the County ("White Areas"). Decreases in Friant-Kern Canal's flow capacity will adversely affect GSAs that intend to rely on surface water supplies to mitigate the effects of groundwater overdraft in their area. Lack of surface water and the cost of retrofitting the canal have further economic consequences. Groundwater management could adversely affect the agricultural industry through job loss, reductions in cropped acres, diminished tax revenues, and diminished farm income. Communities served by public water systems communities may confront increased costs as they undertake conservation and supplemental supply programs, which may disproportionality effect DACs. ETGSA's will focus on ways to engage those affected by loss of Friant-Kern Supplies, the agricultural community (particularly those farming in White Areas), and DACs.

2. Stakeholder Identification

2.1 Stakeholder Groups

The following list identifies stakeholder groups who have an interest in the beneficial use of groundwater, as assessed by ETGSA to date, pursuant to CWC § 10723.2:

- **Agricultural users** - Approximately half of the Agency's area is composed of agricultural land. Many of those who farm this land use groundwater to irrigate their crops. A significant number of agricultural groundwater users within ETGSA are solely reliant on groundwater for their irrigation needs. Eastern Tule White Area Growers, Inc. is a non-profit group that represents a significant majority of the irrigated agricultural land within ETGSA that is solely reliant upon groundwater.
- **Domestic well owners** - Domestic well owners are located primarily in East Porterville, around the edges of City of Porterville's service area, and across ETGSA in farmsteads and ranches.
- **Municipal well operators** – The City of Porterville is an incorporated municipal well operator and exists within the Agency's boundaries.
- **Public Water Systems** - Public water system operators within the Agency not included in the municipal well operator category above include the California Water Services Company, Del Oro Water Company, Ducor Community Services District, Porter Vista Public Utility District, and Richgrove Community Services District. Terra Bella Irrigation District also provides drinking water to residents within its jurisdiction.
- **Local land use planning agencies** - Local land use planning agencies include the County of Tulare and City of Porterville.
- **Environmental users of groundwater** - At this time, the Agency is not aware of any environmental users of groundwater within the Agency's boundaries. Nonetheless, environmental groups are encouraged to partake in the phases of GSP development and a member of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust serves on the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee.
- **Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies** - It is unknown at this time if such users exist in the Tule Subbasin. The Agency will consider and evaluate whether such users do exist.
- **The Federal Government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands** – Multiple member agencies of ETGSA hold federal water contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation through the Central Valley Project ("CVP"), largely supplied by the Friant-Kern Canal. These member agencies routinely interact with the Bureau of Reclamation and many ETGSA Board Members also sit on the Friant Water Authority Board of Directors. The operation of the Friant-Kern Canal is affected by unsustainable groundwater use.
- **California Native American Tribes** - The Agency has not identified at this time any Native American Tribes located within the boundaries of the Agency. However, the Tule Indian Tribe on the South Fork of the Tule River is located to the east of ETGSA's boundaries.
- **Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems** -SDACs include the communities of Terra Bella, Ducor, Richgrove and East Porterville. City of Porterville is considered a DAC.

- **Entities listed in Water Code section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of the groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency** – Deer Creek & Tule River Authority (which includes Lower Tule River Irrigation District, Pixley Irrigation District, Porterville Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, and Terra Bella Irrigation District), Kern-Tulare Water District, and the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition monitor and report on groundwater elevation within ETGSA's boundaries as part of the CASGEM program. The Agency will continue to evaluate and consider any potential entities which might fall within Section 10927.

ETGSA will continue to evaluate the above list of stakeholder groups and add new groups and entities as they are identified.

2.2 Agencies, Organizations, and Other Entities

Many entities that may represent and advocate for the interests of the above stakeholder groups have been identified by ETGSA (Table 3). ETGSA sees these entities as a critical part of ETGSA's outreach plan and will attempt to engage with as many of these entities as possible.

When possible and/or when requested by these entities, notices, resources, and other ETGSA materials will be provided to these entities at appropriate intervals and times in order to provide the entities' members with helpful information and to invite them to participate in the GSP development process. ETGSA will seek to further engage with these entities and their members through:

- Co-hosting workshops and events
- Sitting in on roundtables
- Making presentations
- Participating in group or one-on-one discussions

Should members of ETGSA's Committees or the Board also be a member of any of these entities, then ETGSA will encourage those members to undertake additional SGMA outreach efforts through their participation in that entity's regular events or meetings.

The below list of agencies, organizations, and other entities is not exhaustive and will continue to grow throughout the process of plan development, adoption, and implementation.

Table 3: Organizations and Stakeholder Groups within ETGSA

Organization Type	*Group Name/ Entity*	*Stakeholder Group*	*Contact Information*
Agricultural	Almond Board of California	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	1150 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Modesto, CA 95354 Telephone: (209) 549-8262 Email: staff@almondboard.com Website: http://www.almonds.com
	California Cattleman's Association	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	1221 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 444-0845 Email: n/a Website: www.cacattlemen.org
	California Citrus Mutual	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	512 N. Kaweah Avenue, Exeter, CA 93221 Telephone: (559) 592-3790

			Email: lauren@cacitrusmutual.com Website: https://www.cacitrusmutual.com/
	Eastern Tule White Area Growers, Inc.	Agricultural users, domestic users	4550 California Ave, 2nd Floor Bakersfield, CA 93309 Telephone: (661) 401-7755 Email: jhughes@kleinlaw.com Website: n/a
	Milk Producers Council	Agricultural users, domestic users	1407 Monsecco St. Tulare, CA 93274 Telephone: (909) 730-1240 Email: geoff@milkproducers.org Website: www.milkproducerscouncil.org
	Tulare County Farm Bureau	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	737 N. Ben Maddox Way Visalia, CA 93292 Telephone: (559) 732-8301 Email: tcfb@tulcofb.org Website: www.tulcofb.org
	Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition	Agricultural users, domestic well owners, entitles responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations	2904 W. Main Street Visalia, CA 93291 Telephone: (559) 733-2948 Email: info@tbwqc.com Website: www.tbwqc.com
Disadvantaged Communities	Community Water Center	DACs, domestic well owners	900 W. Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291 Telephone: (559) 733-0219 Email: info@communitywatercenter.org Website: www.communitywatercenter.org
	Porterville Area Coordinating Council	DACs, domestic well owners	368 East Date Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: 559-793-0213 Email: pacc@ocsnet.net Website; www.pacc12.org
	Porterville United for Justice	DACs, domestic well owners	716 E. Success Dr. Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 310-8015 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Self-Help Enterprises	DACs, domestic well owners	PO Box 6520 Visalia, CA 93290 Telephone: (559) 802-1676 Email: mariah@selfhelpenterprises.org Website: https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org
	Sí Se Puede en Ducor	DACs, domestic well owners	PO Box 225 Ducor, CA 93218 Telephone: (559) 310-6213 Email: n/a Website: n/a
Environmental	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Environment	427 S Garden Street Visalia, CA 93277 Telephone: (559) 738-0211 Email: soapy@sequoiariverlands.org Website: www.sequoiariverlands.org

Irrigation Districts, Water Agencies, CSDs, and other Water Providers	California Water Services (Mullen Service Area)	DACs, public water systems	216 N. Valley Oaks Drive Visalia, CA 93292 Telephone: (855) 225-9283 Email: infoVIS@calwater.com Website: www.calwater.com
	Del Oro Water Company (Tulare District)	DACs, public water systems	Drawer 5172 Chico, CA 95927-5172 Telephone: (530) 717-2514 Email: n/a Website: www.delorowater.com
	Ducor Community Services District	DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	PO Box 187 Ducor CA 93218 Telephone: (559) 534-2318 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Deer Creek & Tule River Authority	Entitles responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations	357 E Olive Ave Tipton, CA 93272 Telephone: (559) 752-5050 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Kern-Tulare Water District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners, entities responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations	5001 California Ave, Ste. 102 Bakersfield, CA 93309 Telephone: (661) 327-2132 Email: sdalke@kern-tulare.com Website: n/a
	Friant Water Authority	Agricultural users, federal government	155 E. Shaw Ave, Ste 301 Fresno, CA 93710 Telephone: (559) 562-6305 Email: n/a Website: www.friantwater.org
	Pioneer Water Company	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	357 E Olive Ave Tipton, CA 93272 Telephone: (559) 752-5050 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Porter Vista Public Utility District	DACs, public water system	1124 E Success Dr Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 781-7555 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Porterville Irrigation District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners, entities responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations	22086 Ave 160 Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 784-0716 Email: sgeivet@ocsnet.net Website: n/a
	Richgrove Community Services District	DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	20986 Grove Dr Richgrove, CA 93261 Telephone: (661) 725-5632 Email: ben@richgrovewater.com Website: n/a

	Saucelito Irrigation District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners, entities responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations	20712 Ave 120 Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 784-1208 Email: sgeivet@ocsnet.net Website; n/a
	Tea Pot Dome Water District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	105 W Teapot Dome Ave Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 784-8641 Email: elimas@ltrid.org Website: n/a
	Terra Bella Irrigation District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners, entities responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations, public water systems	24790 Ave 95 Terra Bella, CA 93270 Telephone: (559) 535-4414 Email: sgeivet@ocsnet.net Website: n/a
	Vandalia Water District	Agricultural users, domestic well owners	2032 S Hillcrest St Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 784-0121 Email: sdrumrightvid@yahoo.com Website: /n/a
Municipalities, Counties & CDPs	Ducor	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners	n/a
	East Porterville	DACs, domestic well owners	n/a
	City of Porterville	DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems, municipal well operator, local land use agencies	291 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 782-7499 Email: mreed@ci.porterville.ca.us Website: www.ci.porterville.ca.us
	County of Tulare – Board of Supervisors	DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems, local land use agencies	1115 Truxtun Avenue 5th Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Telephone: (661) 868-3601 Email: board@kerncounty.com Website: https://www.kerncounty.com/bos/
	County of Tulare – Office of Economic Development	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	5961 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA 93277 Telephone: (559) 624-7000 Email: economicdevelopment@co.tulare.us Website: www.tularecountyeconomicdevelopment.org
	Richgrove	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners	n/a

	Terra Bella	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners	n/a
Service Groups	Rotary Club of Porterville	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners	831 W. Morton Ave Porterville, CA 93258 Telephone: (559) 793-6231 Email: sk143dwk@gmail.com Website: www.portervillerotary.org
	Kiwanis of Porterville	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners	450 N Newcomb St Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 781-4291 Email: stjohn@ocsnet.net Website: https://www.facebook.com/kiwanisofporterville/
School Districts	Alta Vista Elementary School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	2293 E. Crabtree Ave Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 782-5700 Email: n/a Website: www.altavistaesd.org
	Burton Elementary School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	264 N. Westwood St Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: (559) 781-8020 Email: n/a Website: www.burtonschools.org
	Ducor Union Elementary School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	23761 Avenue 56 Ducor, CA 93218 Telephone: 559-534-2261 Email: n/a Website: www.ducorschool.com
	Hope Elementary School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	613 W. Teapot Dome Ave Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: 559-784-1064 Email: n/a Website: n/a
	Porterville Unified School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	600 W. Grand Ave Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: 559-793-2400 Email: n/a Website: www.portervilleschools.org
	Richgrove School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	20908 Grove Dr, P.O. Box 540 Richgrove, CA 93261 Telephone: 661-725-2427 Email: n/a Website: www.richgrove.com
	Rockford School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	14983 Rd 208 Porterville, CA 93257 Telephone: 559-784-5406 Email: n/a Website: http://rockfordschooldistrict.org/
	Saucelito School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	17615 Ave. 104 Terra Bella, CA 93270 Telephone: 559-784-2164 Email: n/a Website: n/a

	Terra Bella Union Elementary School District	Agricultural users, DACs, domestic well owners, public water systems	9121 Road 240 Terra Bella, CA 93270 Telephone: (559) 535-4451 Email: n/a Website: www.tbuesd.org

2.3. Interested Parties List

Per SGMA § 10723.4, ETGSA maintains and continually updates an Interested Parties list. Those individuals subscribed to this list receive regular notices regarding meeting announcements, meeting agendas, plan preparation, the availability of relevant resources, and invitations to events and workshops hosted by the Agency. Members of the public can subscribe to this list through a variety of portals on ETGSA's website. ETGSA also distributes the Interested Parties sign-up link through the emails and newsletters of various community organizations. As of September 28, 2018, ETGSA had over 200 interested parties on this list.

3. Stakeholder Survey and Overview

Stakeholders will have ongoing opportunities to provide input and perspective throughout the GSP development process. ETGSA will collect stakeholder input through formal surveys, public comment periods at regular meetings, direct correspondence, open discussion at events, and other forms of both direct and indirect communication. Recognizing the broad and diverse area for which ETGSA is responsible, ETGSA will also use its relationships with entities named in Section 2 to inform stakeholders of input opportunities.

This section provides a brief overview of the activities ETGSA has undertaken to date to survey stakeholders regarding the GSP development process.

3.1 Stakeholder Surveys

Modelled after DWR's Stakeholder Survey Template, ETGSA has created an initial Stakeholder Survey with the following questions:

- Are you familiar with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Regulations?
- Are you familiar with ETGSA?
- Are you currently engaged in particular activities or discussions regarding groundwater management in this region?
- If so, how would you describe your involvement?
- Do you own or manage land in this region?
- Where are you getting your water supply?
- What are your primary concerns about surface water supply in this region?
- What are your primary concerns about groundwater supply in this region?
- What are your primary concerns about groundwater quality in this region?
- SGMA defines 6 sustainability indicators that ETGSA must consider within our region and work to mitigate. Which of the below are concerning to you? (Check all that apply)
- What are your primary concerns regarding the indicators that you checked above?
- What are your primary concerns about SGMA and future groundwater management in this region?
- Do you have recommendations about groundwater management in this region? If so, what are they?
- What else should ETGSA consider as it develops its GSP?
- What else would you like ETGSA to know?

The Stakeholder Survey was made available online on ETGSA's website in mid-August, 2018. It is being advertised at ETGSA's regular meetings and has been included in the correspondence and regular newsletters of some of the entities identified in Section 2. The survey can be found at: https://goo.gl/forms/q4uXuK7fmxxzrdY62

The ETGSA has also made available a Policy Points survey that allows members of the public to provide their input with regards to ETGSA's Policy Points currently under consideration. The survey can be found at: https://goo.gl/forms/BXWrzQf3l5bmS6Ct2

Additional surveys will also be considered, developed, and distributed throughout the GSP development process. For example, ETGSA is currently working with 4-Creeks and Thomas Harder & Company to develop a survey that will allow stakeholders within ETGSA's jurisdiction to submit information regarding their wells that might also be able to serve as monitoring wells. By screening for particular well characteristics that meet minimum criteria, ETGSA's consultants will be able to identify additional wells for potential inclusion in the Tule Subbasin Monitoring Plan.

ETGSA will distribute stakeholder surveys through a variety of media, including printed surveys at events or workshops and links to digital versions of the survey via email blasts.

3.2 Regular Meetings and Lay of the Land Overview

ETGSA is composed of a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee, and a Stakeholder Committee. Members of each of these entities are stakeholders in the broader GSP Development process and represent groups such as landowners, municipal purveyors, public water systems, environmental interests, surface water users, disadvantaged communities, small farmers, corporate farmers, property owners. All meetings of these entities, per the requirements of the Brown Act, are open to the public and open to public comment. Furthermore, the Executive Committee and Stakeholder Committee Meetings are carried out in a fashion that facilitates both public comment and public discussion related to the issues on the agenda.

Regular meetings have been a key venue for documenting and discussing stakeholder-relevant issues. Additionally, meetings with individual stakeholder groups and stakeholders have provided staff with additional insights related to key issues. To date, the discussions had at these meetings provide ETGSA with an initial "Lay of the Land" that will be described below.

3.2.1 "Lay of the Land" Overview

A "Lay of the Land" overview is intended to identify:

- Types of Stakeholders
- Stakeholder key interests related to groundwater
- Key documented issues

Types of Stakeholders

Stakeholders with the greatest interest in ETGSA's GSP development process include agricultural users, disadvantaged communities, domestic well owners, municipal water purveyors, public water systems, local land use planning agencies, federal government, state government, and entities monitoring and reporting on groundwater elevations. Stakeholders from these groups actively participate in ETGSA's regular meetings, schedule one-on-one and group conversations, participate in outreach efforts, provide verbal and written input to ETGSA, and seek further collaboration with ETGSA. ETGSA actively engages these groups to expand its outreach efforts.

Stakeholder Key Interests Related to Groundwater

Stakeholders have identified the following key interests related to groundwater within ETGSA:

- Access to groundwater
- Economic effects of transition into sustainability

- Groundwater quality, domestic and agricultural
- Groundwater supply, domestic and agricultural
- Lack of access to supplemental surface water
- Land subsidence
- Land values

Key Documented Issues

While not exhaustive, ETGSA has documented four key issues that have, are currently, or may in the future affect the key interests of stakeholders within its boundaries. Additional issues will be documented and added to this list as they arise through continued public engagement.

- **Access to Reliable, Affordable, and High Quality Groundwater for Disadvantaged Communities:** Disadvantaged communities within ETGSA struggled with adequate water supply during the most recent drought and, in some cases, faced significant well failures. East Porterville experienced domestic well failures that left 330 properties without running water at the height of the drought. While the City of Porterville, with assistance from DWR, has now extended sits service area into East Porterville, stakeholders from disadvantaged communities note that financing similar projects for other disadvantaged communities within ETGSA may face significant hurdles due to lack of funding and the cost it might incur on residents. Additionally, groundwater quality is of particular importance since the primary use of groundwater in these communities is for domestic and drinking water purposes. In many areas, disadvantaged community residents have limited treatment options due to lack of existing treatment infrastructure, the possibility of un-affordable water rates/costs should new infrastructure be installed, and/or their sole reliance on a domestic well with minimal treatment capabilities.
- **Well Failure as a Result of Unstable and Declining Groundwater Levels:** The Tule Subbasin experienced precipitous drops in depth-to-groundwater during the most recent drought. As a result of this, many wells failed; over 1700 well failures were reported across Tulare County during the course of the drought. As a Subbasin in critical overdraft, it is also recognized that groundwater levels will likely continue to drop (on average) until it is sustainably managed. Stakeholders recognize that there is a significant cost that will be incurred by private well owners should levels continue to drop.
- **Loss of Productive Agricultural Land:** The preliminary Water Budget for the Tule Subbasin[1] indicates that beneficial users of groundwater within ETGSA will likely need to reduce groundwater extraction by up to 50-70% in order to pump within the threshold of the sustainable yield. Without additional surface water supplies, it is likely that the total number of farmed acres within ETGSA will need to be reduced in order to achieve SGMA's goal of sustainable groundwater management. Agricultural groups, landowners, and those governments and business that rely on agricultural for their income worry about the future economic effects of this possibility.
- **Land Subsidence near Critical Infrastructure:** The Friant-Kern Canal is a critical piece of infrastructure that supplies service water to Central Valley Project Contractors on the eastern side of the South San Joaquin Valley. Its ability to supply contract water alleviates

[1] *Hydrogeological Conceptual Model and Water Budget of the Tule Subbasin,* Thomas Harder & Co. (2017). http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/PublicWorks/documents/Tule_MOU_Report_Final_170801_Vol1.pdf

the need, in many areas, to pump groundwater to supply agricultural and municipal water needs. Land subsidence, which accelerated during the drought as a result of groundwater pumping, has reduced the Canal's capacity by 60% in its southernmost stretch. It is estimated that a fix to the Canal would cost at least $500 million.

4. Messages and Talking Points

ETGSA understands that clear and consistent messaging is critical during the various phases of GSP development and implementation. The Agency has developed a series of key messages and talking points that will allow the Agency to effectively communicate with various stakeholder groups and will allow the Agency to clearly convey the major themes of SGMA and ETGSA's GSP development process to all those involved. It should be understood that these key messages and talking points are subject to change and further development as ETGSA progresses through GSP development.

This section will describe the key messages, talking points, and answers to likely questions that members of the ETGSA Board, Committees, and staff might encounter. Additionally, ETGSA will develop supplemental materials and events throughout GSP development that will help to address these communication points.

4.1. Key Messages and Talking Points

Key messages and talking points will vary from phase to phase. Some of these will be developed and further enhanced at a later date when ETGSA approaches that phase.

4.1.1. Overarching Key Messages

Overarching key messages and their related talking points are those that will remain a consistent focus throughout the GSP development process. They include:

- What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- What is the role of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- What is sustainable groundwater management and why is it important
- How can stakeholders get involved
- Who is Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- ETGSA Goal: "*ETGSA aims to develop and carry out a program of sustainable management that ensures groundwater resources within its boundaries are stewarded in a manner that minimizes the economic effects of transition and, though innovative projects and management actions, allows for the preservation of productive agricultural operations within the region while also maintaining sufficient, high quality supply for domestic and environmental uses for current and future generations.*"

4.1.2. Phase 1 (GSA Formation and Coordination) Key Messages

Phase 1 is complete. Key messages and talking points during this phase focused on:

- What is SGMA
- What is a GSA and how are they formed
- How will the interests of beneficial users and uses of groundwater be considered in the formation and structuring of ETGSA

4.1.3. Phase 2 (GSP Preparation and Submission) Key Messages

Phase 2 is currently ongoing. Key messages and talking points during this phase include:

- What is the timeline for GSP development
- What are the components of a GSP
- How can interested parties and stakeholders be involved
- What educational resources, events, and materials will be made available to the public
- What are Sustainable Management Criteria and how will ETGSA develop them
- What Projects and Management Actions are being considered
- What is a Coordination Agreement and implications does it have on groundwater users within ETGSA
- What will occur if ETGSA is unable to adopt a GSP, or if DWR does not approve the GSP

4.1.4. Phase 3 (GSP Review and Evaluation) Key Messages

Phase 3 will likely begin in mid-2019, following the completion of ETGSA's draft GSP. Key messages and talking points during this phase will include:

- What are the main points and proposals of the draft GSP
- How do the Tule Subbasin GSAs intend to coordinate their GSPs
- What Projects and Management Actions does ETGSA intend to adopt
- What is the timeline for GSP review and submission
- How can interested parties and stakeholders be involved

4.1.5. Phase 4 (GSP Implementation and Reporting)

Phase 4 will begin following submission of the adopted GSP to DWR, which is expected to occur between mid-2019 and January 31, 2020. Messages and talking points during this phase will focus on the implementation timeline, new policies and their effect on stakeholder groups, and future projects and developments within ETGSA's jurisdiction.

4.2 Common Questions and Answers

Questions that ETGSA expects to encounter, and ETGSA's response(s) to those questions, have been listed in the table below (Table 4). The list is subject to further update as ETGSA progresses through the process of GSP development.

Table 4: Common Questions and Responses

Question	Response
What is SGMA?	SGMA is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. It was passed in 2014 and is composed of three bills: SB 1168, SB 1319, and AB 1739. The Act provides a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater through the creation of new local agencies and implementation of local plans.
Who is ETGSA?	ETGSA is Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency, one of many agencies formed as a result of SGMA.ETGSA is one of seven GSAs operating in the Tule Subbasin, which is the hydrologic groundwater basin that largely encompasses the southern half of Tulare County. ETGSA is formed as a Joint Powers Authority with 8 member agencies: County of Tulare, City of Porterville, Kern-Tulare Water District, Porterville Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Terra Bella

	Irrigation District, Tea Pot Dome Water District, Vandalia Water District.
What does sustainable groundwater management mean?	According to SGMA, sustainable groundwater management is the management of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained over the course of a GSA's planning and implementation horizon without causing six significant and unreasonable undesirable results: 1) Chronic lower of groundwater levels, 2) reduction in groundwater storage, 3) degraded water quality, 4) seawater intrusion, 5) land subsidence, 6) impacts to interconnected surface waters.
How is ETGSA working with other GSAs in the Tule Subbasin?	As the Tule Subbasin is a basin with multiple agencies and multiple plans, the GSAs within the basin must coordinate their efforts through a Coordination Agreement. The GSAs generally meet monthly to discuss developments to this agreement and to coordinate the development of their plans.
How can I stay informed?	All regular meetings of ETGSA, as required by the Brown Act, are open to the public and you are invited to attend to stay informed and to provide your input regarding the GSP development process. You can also add your contact information to the Interested Parties list (found on our website) to receive regular updates and notices. ETGSA will also host a number of events and public meetings intended to provide additional education around the GSP development process and to solicit further public input.
How is ETGSA involving "White Areas" in the GSP development process?	The County of Tulare is the member agency responsible for all ETGSA lands not currently within th jurisdiction of ETGSA's other 7 member agencies ("White Area"). This White Area encompasses more than half of ETGSA's jurisdiction. ETGSA is working with the County, White Area landowners, and other community groups to ensure stakeholders in this area are informed regarding ETGSA's ongoing GSP development. All members of the public are invited to attend our regular meetings and reach out to the Agency with their input.
Will ETGSA meter my well?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
How is ETGSA going to track my groundwater usage?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
How much groundwater can I pump	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
What if I have a domestic well?	Domestic well owners are considered beneficial users of groundwater and ETGSA understands the need for reliable and quality groundwater supplies for domestic users. ETGSA's GSP

	will address the needs of domestic well owners in a manner that complies with SGMA. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
What types of projects and management actions is ETGSA considering?	ETGSA has not adopted any projects or management actions. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
How deep do I need to drill my well to keep having access to groundwater?	Minimum thresholds for groundwater elevation have yet to be determined and many variables related to future expected groundwater levels will be discussed at the Subbasin level. Depending on the projects and management actions taken, the subbasin GSAs will likely be able to provide rough estimate of future groundwater conditions, but these estimates should not be construed as a promise of future realty.
What is a sharing system and is ETGSA considering it?	The sharing system is a market-facilitating system of groundwater management that shares access to the available sustainable yield of groundwater within an aquifer through the use of shares, volumetric allocations of groundwater, and conditions around use, transfer, and banking.
Will I be issued a groundwater allocation?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
Will I be able to trade my groundwater allocation?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
Will I be able to save my groundwater allocation?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
Will I receive credit for water that I overapplied on my crops, or that I intentionally recharged?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
Will there be fees related to be groundwater use?	That is a policy point that has not been determined yet. You are encouraged to attend our regular meetings where points like this will be discussed as a part of our ongoing GSP development.
How long will the transition period be?	That is a discussion that will be had at the subbasin level and coordinated by the GSAs within the Tule Subbasin.
How are the Tule Subbasin GSAs going to address subsidence?	That is a discussion that will be had at the subbasin level and coordinated by the GSAs within the Tule Subbasin.
How is ETGSA going to address the needs of DACs?	ETGSA actively engages and seeks to engage members, representatives, and organizations of the DAC community. ETGSA does or intends to do this through open meetings, one-

	on-one conversations, co-hosting events, and engaging with community leaders and members.

5. Venues for Engaging

ETGSA will engage stakeholders through a variety of meetings, media, materials, methods, and events to provide adequate opportunities and mediums ("venues") of engagement throughout the phases of GSA formation, GSP development, GSP review, and GSP implementation. This section will describe these venues and how ETGSA intends to leverage them for the benefit of the various stakeholder groups participating in the phases of GSP development

5.1 ETGSA Regular Meetings

ETGSA holds regular meetings that are always open to the public and public comment. These meetings are held at regular times at regular places to encourage the attendance of all interested stakeholders and to provide a consistent schedule that can be relied upon by members of the public wishing to set aside time for these meetings. Members of the public are given notice of all meetings of the Board and Committees at least 72 hours prior to such a meeting. Meeting notices, agendas, and agenda packets are distributed through the Interested Parties List and the ETGSA's Website. Meeting agendas are posted at the location of the meeting and at the ETGSA Offices. Agendas and agenda packets are also provided in physical form at the meeting venue to attendees.

Regular meetings are held according to the following schedule:

- **Board of Directors:** Held every 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm, unless cancelled or otherwise noted, at the City of Porterville Council Chamber, located at 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 92357
- **Stakeholder Committee:** Held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm, unless cancelled or otherwise noted, at the Transit Multi-Purpose Center located at 15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville, CA 92357
- **Executive Committee**: Held every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm, unless cancelled or otherwise noted, at the Transit Multi-Purpose Center located at 15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville, CA 92357

5.2 Tule Subbasin MOU Group Meetings

ETGSA is a member of the Tule Subbasin MOU Group, which is the formal group of seven GSAs who have jurisdiction over and must implement their coordinated GSPs within the boundaries of the Tule Subbasin. The meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee are open to the public and public comment. The meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm, unless otherwise noted or cancelled, and are held at the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Offices, which are located at 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272.

5.3 Public Meetings and Presentations

Stakeholders will be invited to various forms of public meetings throughout the GSP development process to receive relevant information (in both layman's and technical terms) and to provide their input. Meetings may take the form of:

- General Events
- Presentations

- Public Hearings
- Q&A Sessions
- Roundtable Discussions
- Study Sessions
- Workshops

Depending on the content of the meeting and the level of outreach either feasible or required at the time, members of the public may be notified of upcoming meetings through:

- Door-to-door outreach conducted by local organizations
- Email notification via ETGSA's Interested Parties List
- Email notification via local organizations' mailing lists
- Fliers and promotional materials, distributed via print or email
- Press releases
- Print notice at the meeting location
- Print notice at frequented locations
- Print notice on member agency and partner organization's billboards
- Print notice through postal correspondence supplied by ETGSA, member agencies, and/or local organizations
- Public service announcements
- Website postings on ETGSA's or other organizations' websites

Unless another legal notice period is required, ETGSA will attempt to finalize the details of these meetings and events 4-6 weeks in advance of their occurrence in order to provide adequate time for outreach and advertisement of such events.

In collaboration with stakeholder groups and local organizations, and in addition to those events geared and open to the general public, ETGSA will work to host particular events that aim to provide information and/or discussions that may more pertinent to a particular stakeholder group – such as DACs or White Area growers. When possible, these events will be hosted in areas that are more accessible to members of those stakeholder groups.

Venues currently identified for meetings include:

- **City of Porterville, Council Chamber:** 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 92357
- **City of Porterville, Transit Multi-Purpose Room:** 15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville, CA 92357
- **Ducor Union Elementary School:** 23761 Ave 56, Ducor, CA 93218
- **ETGSA Main Office:** 881 W Morton Ave, Porterville, CA 93257
- **Lower Tule River District Main Office:** 357 E Olive Ave, Tipton, CA 93272
- **Porterville Memorial Auditorium:** 415 W Olive Ave, Porterville, CA 93257
- **Porterville Veterans Memorial Building:** 1900 W Olive Ave, Porterville, CA, 93257
- **Richgrove School District:** 20898 Grove Dr, Richgrove, CA 93261
- **Richgrove Memorial Building:** 607 Richgrove Dr, Richgrove, CA 93261
- **Terra Bella Veterans Memorial Building:** 23941 Ave 95, Terra Bella, CA 93270

5.4 Printed Materials, Advertisements, and Postage

ETGSA will develop a variety of printed materials that will be distributed at regular meetings, at outreach events, through local media sources, and via post printed materials. When possible, ETGSA will also work to have these materials translated and made available in Spanish. Printed communication will include:

- **Agenda Packets:** The Agenda Packets for all regular meetings of the ETGSA Board of Directors, Stakeholder Committee, and Executive Committee are made available in print form for members of the public attending the meeting. These packets include the Agenda and any materials related to the Agenda Items that can be prepared in advance of the meeting. Additionally, these items are available online on ETGSA's website prior to and following each meeting.
- **Advertisements, Press Releases, and Public Service Announcements:** At regular intervals, ETGSA will place advertisements in local print media outlets, such as Porterville Recorder (see Figure 4. and Figure 5. for examples of advertisements ETGSA has already run with the Porterville Recorder). Pertinent information, such as meeting locations, website addresses, and general suggestions on how to stay involved with ETGSA, will be included. ETGSA will work with these outlets to determine during what days and time periods it should run the advertisements in order to optimize stakeholder outreach. ETGSA will also consider press releases and public service announcements, when appropriate, through various media outlets.
- **Business Cards:** Staff of ETGSA will be provided business cards that they can distribute to members of the public.
- **Fact Sheets and Fliers:** Fact sheets and fliers will be developed on an as-needed basis in order to provide a source of information around general and phase-specific developments related to SGMA and the developments of ETGSA. These printed materials will be made available at ETGSA meetings, will be distributed at events and workshops, and will also be digitally distributed through the ETGSA website and Interested Parties mailing list. When possible, ETGSA will also work with stakeholder groups to distribute the materials through their own avenues of correspondence.
- **Meeting Postings and Notices:** All locations that host ETGSA regular meetings or events bear posted notice at their entry way and/or posting boards in order to inform individuals of the meeting's intended occurrence. ETGSA will also work with its member agencies and other local organizations to post printed notice at their respective locations to inform their constituents of ETGSA's upcoming meetings (including details of time and place). When special events are to be held, ETGSA will also attempt to place postings in commonly frequented areas across its jurisdiction.
- **Presentations:** Presentations are a common form of outreach that allow ETGSA (or its invited guests) to present materials, ideas, or summaries of important information related to the GSP Development process. When presented digitally in Power Point, Keynote, or another form, ETGSA will also provide printed versions of the presentation at the meeting location and, later, post it to it website.
- **Postal Correspondence:** The distribution of postal correspondence will be considered and implemented throughout the GSP development process when necessary. ETGSA will send a letter, at a rate of no less than once per year, to all unique APN-owners within its

boundaries to inform them of SGMA, to invite them into the ongoing GSP development process that ETGSA is undertaking, and to inform them of ways to stay informed. ETGSA will also work with member agencies and other stakeholder groups to include stuffers, postcards, or other printed materials into their regular postal correspondence to inform their constituents pertinent information related to the ongoing GSP development process. Certain postal correspondence will also be translated into Spanish.

- **Surveys:** ETGSA's Stakeholder Survey (see Section 3) will be made available in print form at ETGSA's regular meetings and other events. Additional surveys will be developed and distributed when necessary.
- **Other Materials:** At the discretion of the Board and staff of ETGSA, other materials may be developed that are relevant to the various phases of GSP development.

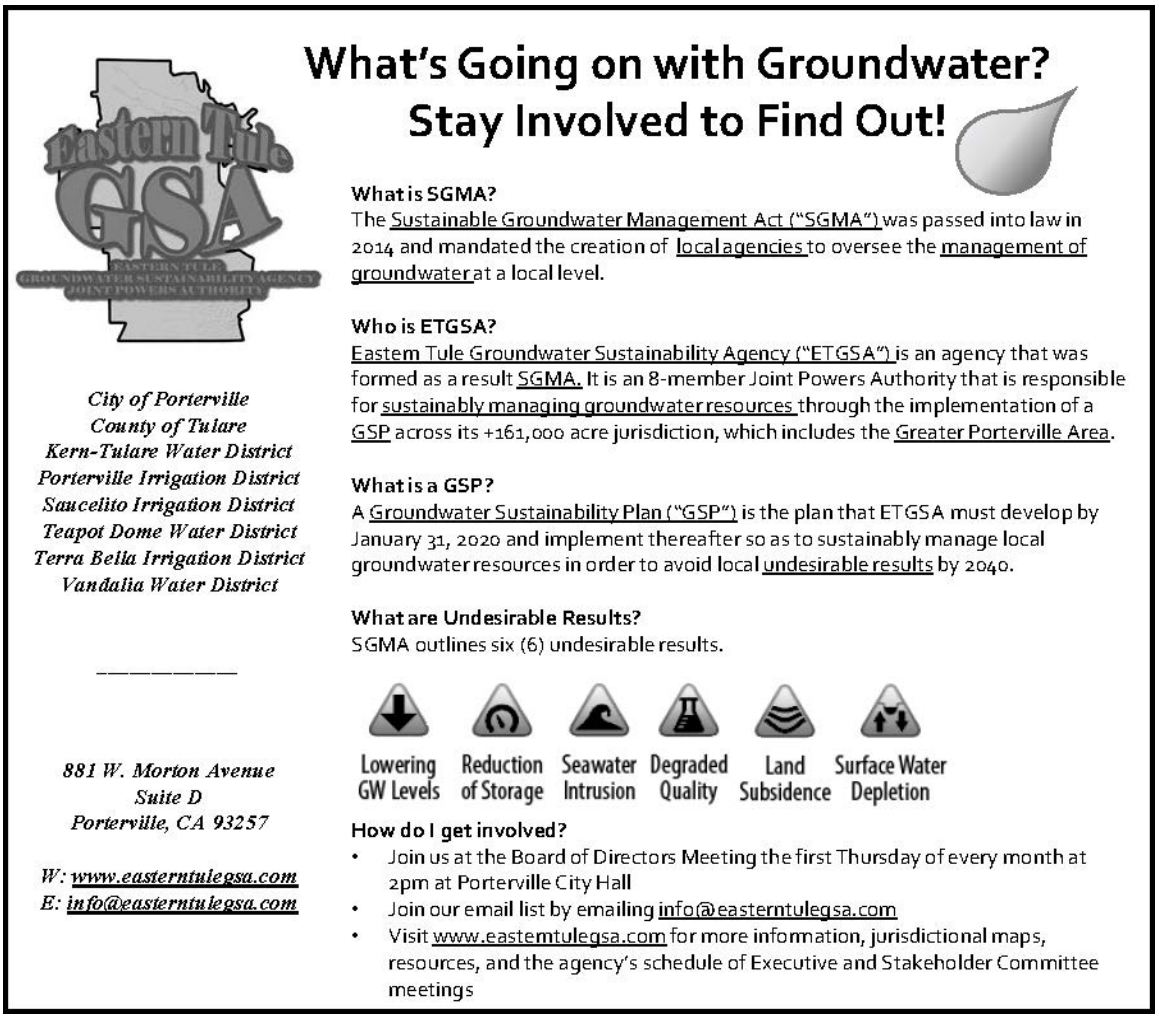

Figure 4. ETGSA Ad with Porterville Recorder, Version 1

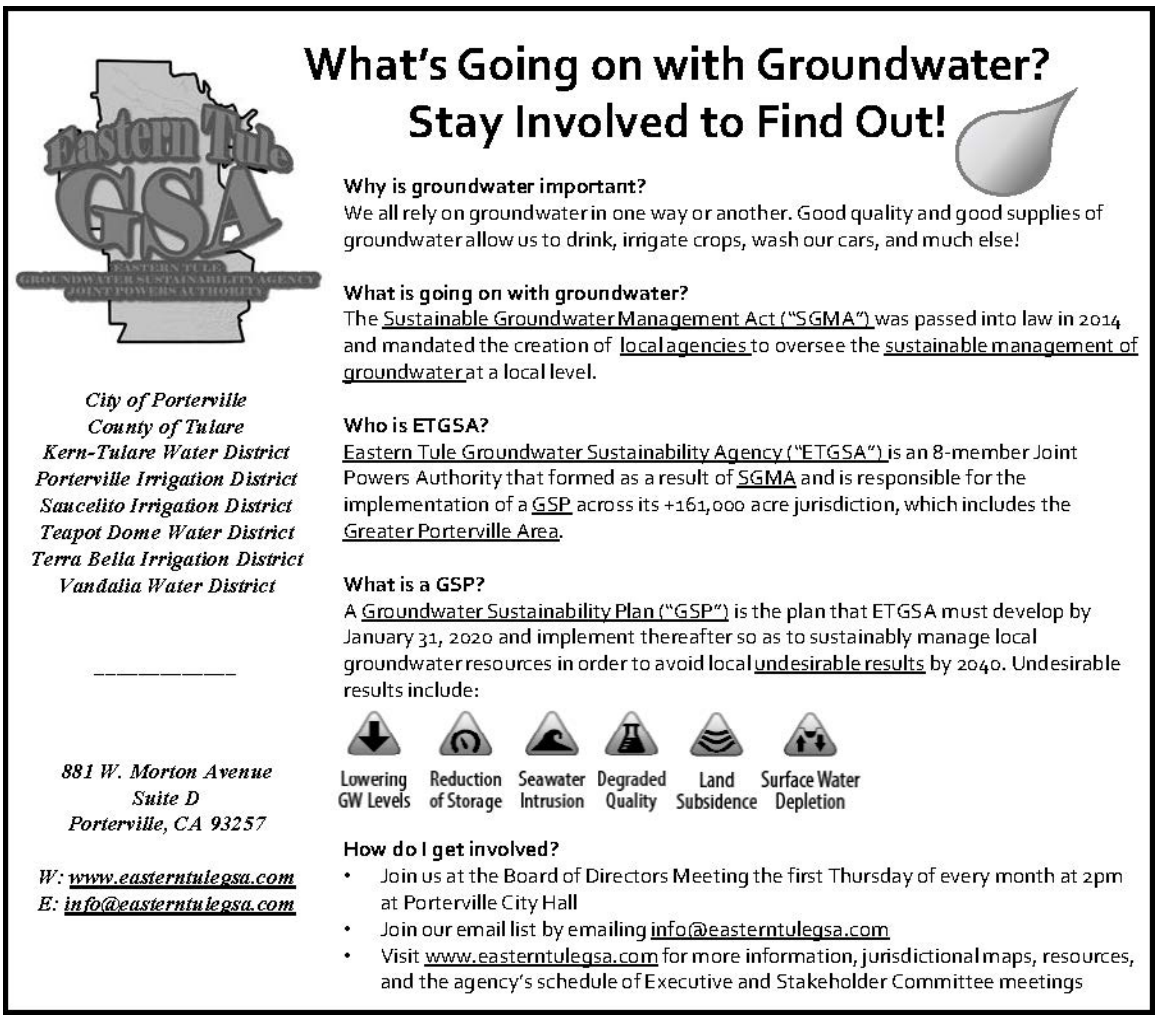

Figure 5. ETGSA Ad with Porterville Recorder, Version 2

5.5 Digital Communication

ETGSA will rely heavily on the use of digital communication to provide notice, communication, and materials related to all phases of GSP development, review, and implementation. Forms of communication will include:

- **ETGSA Website:** The ETGSA website serves as the main source and library of ETGSA information, files, and resources. (See Figure 6. for a front-page view of ETGSA's website). All agenda packets, materials created on behalf of the Agency or the Subbasin MOU Group, presentations, reports, and documents related to ETGSA's GSP development, review, and implementation are posted to the site. The website also maintains an actively updated calendar that includes ETGSA's regular meetings, Tule Subbasin Meetings, and other events. Viewers are able to contact ETGSA through a "Contact Us" portal, may provide input through the Stakeholder Survey portal, and can add their names to the Interested Parties list. Links to reliable news and information sources are also included.
- **Interested Parties Mailing List:** Per the requirements of SGMA, ETGSA maintains an Interested Parties list that is regularly updated. Individuals can add their contact information to the list upon request or through submitting their information to our online

Interested Parties list form. Those subscribed to the list receive agenda packets, meeting announcements, notices regarding plan preparation and the availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents or newsletters.

- **Newsletter and/or Announcements Email:** On a regular basis, ETGSA will provide members of its Interested Parties List a newsletter or email detailing pertinent announcements, updates and events related to ETGSA and SGMA.
- **Other Organizations' Mailing Lists:** ETGSA relies heavily on other local organizations (especially those noted in Section 2) to assist the Agency in distributing relevant information, meeting notices, and other resources. In addition to its member agencies, ETGSA currently works with California Citrus Mutual, Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition, and Tulare County Farm Bureau on a regular basis to distribute such information. Depending on the relevance of certain notices or information to particular stakeholder groups, ETGSA will also call on other local organizations to help distribute pertinent information. ETGSA continually seeks to expand its relationships with other organizations to leverage their mailing lists as well.

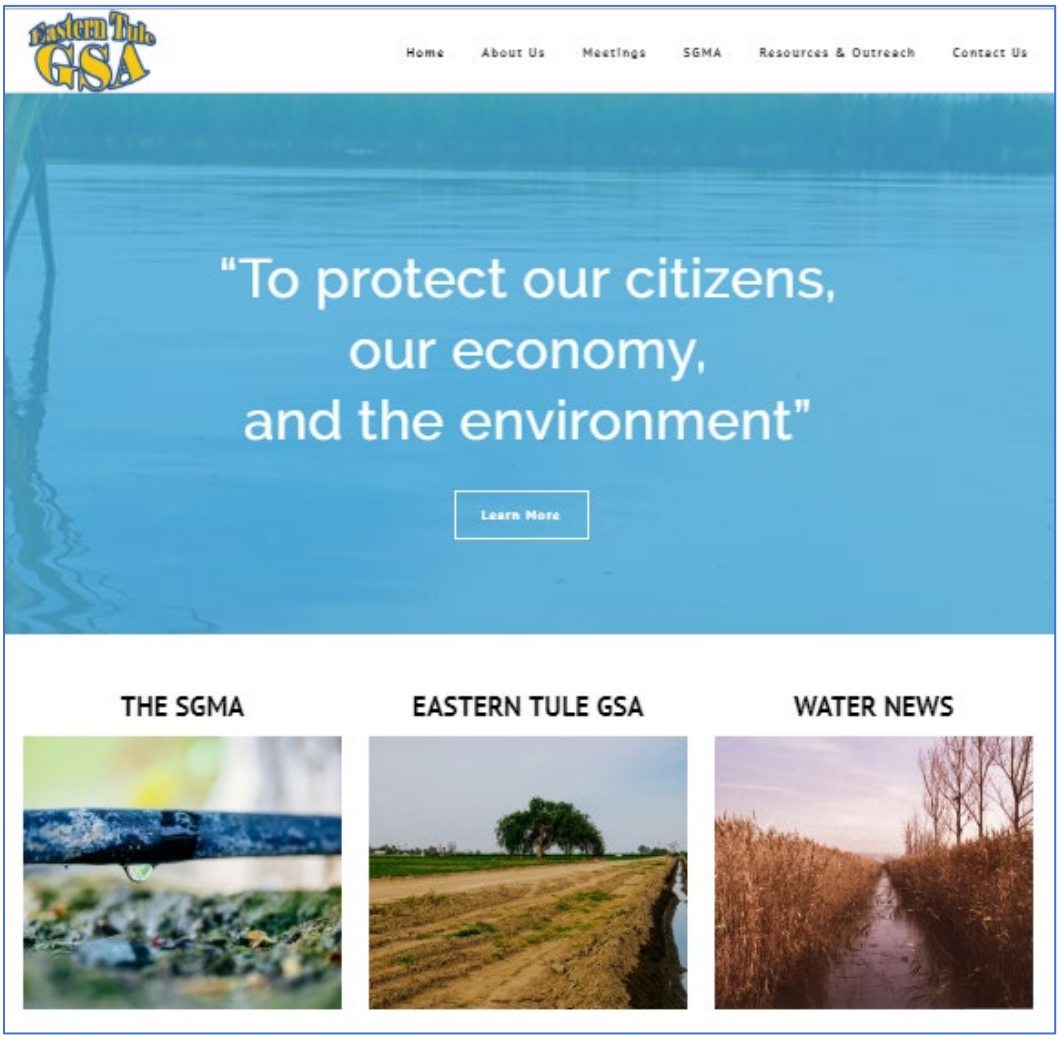

Figure 6. Screenshot of Front Page of ETGSA Website

5.6 Media and News Articles

When appropriate, ETGSA may engage certain print, online, and radio media outlets to provide relevant information and updates regarding the GSP development process through these outlets' platforms. It is recognized that no single media outlet perfectly represents nor reaches all stakeholder groups within the boundaries of ETGSA and so soliciting these outlets' engagement will be left up to the discretion of the ETGSA staff and Board, advised by the Executive and Stakeholder Committees. Media outlets that are active or may have a following within ETGSA's jurisdiction include:

- K-TIP (radio)
- La Preciosa (Spanish-language radio)
- Porterville Recorder (print, online)
- Porterville Recorder, Noticiero Semenal (Spanish-language print, online)
- Radio Campesina (Spanish-speaking radio)

Should a media outlet request information regarding GSP development, ETGSA will be responsive to their request.

6. Outreach Timeline

ETGSA understands that its outreach is under continual development and that this Communication and Engagement Plan will help spur on further planned and realized opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

The timeline provided below highlights historical events related to ETGSA's outreach and its planned future activities. This timeline should not be construed as an exhaustive list of events nor a prescription of its planned activities. This list is subject to further update as ETGSA moves through the phases GSP planning, review, and implementation. Future events public engagements that are governed by SGMA and DWR's Regulations, such as public review periods and postings, will be carried out in a manner that complies with state-mandated requirements.

Key	
Bolded Black Dates and black text	Historical events that have occurred
Bolded Blue Dates and blue text	Planned future events and activities

Note: Where a month and year but no day is listed, the reader can assume that the event occurred or is planned to occur during an unspecified day or period of that month.

Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination || 2015 through Mid-2017

- **March 16, 2015** – Workshop is convened by various water agencies to begin discussions regarding the coordinated management of the Tule Subbasin, per SGMA's requirements; this group of agencies will eventually form into the seven GSAs of the Tule Subbasin and their regular convening results in the Tule Subbasin MOU Group
- **November 3, 2015** – MOU is signed among various water agencies, districts, and other entities overlying the Tule Subbasin with the intent of forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and coordinating SGMA development
- **March 8, 2016** – Boards and Councils of 8 soon-to-be member agencies approve MOU (County Agreement No. 27537) agreeing to work together with the intent of forming the Eastern Tule GSA
- **June 29, 2016 –** Workshop convened by Tulare County Farm Bureau, County, and Local agencies at Porterville Veterans Hall to discuss SGMA, landowner engagement, and groundwater law
- **December 6, 2016** – Joint Powers Agreement between 8 member agencies is approved by County of Tulare via Resolution No. 2016-0939, officially forming Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority
- **January 16, 2017** – Interested Parties List is formed and begins to be maintained (contact information added upon request or by meeting sign in)
- **January 19, 2017** – First Board of Directors Meeting held at 2pm in City of Porterville Council Chambers
- **January 19, 2017** – Board of Directors discuss formation of Stakeholder Committee (and criteria for applicants (technically formed as a result of JPA) and Executive Committee

- **January 26, 2017** – Notice of Public Hearing posted with regards to ETGSA resolving to become an exclusive GSA within the Tule Subbasin
- **February 2, 2017** – Executive Committee First Meeting
- **February 9 and 16, 2017** – Notice of Public Hearing posted in Porterville Recorder regarding Authority resolving to become an exclusive GSA within the Tule Subbasin
- **February 23, 2017** – Application for Stakeholder Committee members is approved by the Board and solicitation begins for applicants
- **February 23, 2017** – Public hearing held regarding subject of Authority resolving to become an exclusive GSA within the Tule Subbasin
- **February 23, 2017** – ETGSA, via Resolution No. 1-2017, resolves to become a GSA
- **February 28, 2017** – Letter dated February 28 sent to DWR indicating that ETGSA resolved to become a GSA
- **March 3, 2017** – ETGSA uploads documents to DWR SGMA Portal
- **March 8, 2017** – Notice of ETGSA's resolve to become a GSA is "posted" on SGMA portal
- **April, 2017** – ETGSA advertises in Tulare County Farm Bureau Monthly Newspaper to solicit Stakeholder Committee applicants
- **April 25, 2017** – ETGSA advertises in Porterville Recorder to solicit Stakeholder Committee members
- **June 6, 2017** – ETGSA becomes an exclusive GSA

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission || Mid-2017 through Mid-2019

- **June 15, 2017** – Board of Directors appoints and officially forms Stakeholder Committee
- **June 19, 2017** – ETGSA submits its initial Notice to Develop a Plan to DWR
- **July 21, 2017** – Notice to Develop a Plan is uploaded to DWR SGMA Website
- **September 14, 2017** – First Stakeholder Committee meeting held
- **August, 2017** - ETGSA advertises with Tulare County Farm Bureau Newspaper to invite growers to presentation on potential management actions
- **August 3, 2017** – ETGSA hosts event with Tulare County Farm Bureau to discuss potential management actions related to groundwater sharing and allocations
- **August, 2018** – ETGSA contact info appears in Tulare County Farm Bureau monthly newspaper
- **August 14, 2018** – Tulare County Farm Bureau weekly newsletter invites stakeholders to join ETGSA Interested Parties List
- **August 14, 2018** – Digital Interested Parties List sign-up added to ETGSA website
- **August 14, 2018** – Digital Stakeholder Survey added to ETGSA website
- **August 21, 2018** – Tulare County Farm Bureau weekly newsletter invites stakeholders to join ETGSA Interested Parties List
- **September 6, 2018** – Draft Communication & Engagement Plan ("CEP") is reviewed by ETGSA Board of Directors and recommended for review by Executive Committee, Stakeholder Committee, and interested members of the public; Board agrees to Timeline on Draft GSP Creation; Board approves Policy Points for consideration and general process and timeline for the Policy Points' consideration by the Committees and members of the public

- **September 7, 2018 –** ETGSA begins sending out regular "Announcement and Events" emails to its Interested Parties List regarding developments, events, and other information related to GSP development
- **September 7 & 20, 2018 –** Invitation to review and comment on Draft CEP distributed via ETGSA's Interested Parties List and link is posted on ETGSA's Website
- **September 8-9, 15-16, 22-23** – ETGSA runs advertisements with the Porterville Recorder's weekend newspaper describing SGMA, ETGSA, GSP, undesirable results, and providing information on how to get involved (including Board meetings, email, and website)
- **September 12, 2018 –** ETGSA hosts workshop on preliminary results from the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Flow Model and its relation to drafting Sustainable Management Criteria
- **September 13, 2018 –** ETGSA Stakeholder Committee begins meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday of every month
- **September 13, 2018 –** California Citrus Mutual sends email blast to all members informing them of ways to stay involved in ETGSA's ongoing GSP development process
- **September 20, 2018 –** ETGSA receives comments and recommendations from Self-Help Enterprises and incorporates these into its Draft CEP
- **September 24, 2018 –** ETGSA receives a Comment Letter and recommendations from Community Water Center and incorporates these into its Draft CEP
- **September 28, 2018 –** ETGSA and other Tule Subbasin GSAs join Kern Groundwater Authority for inter-basin coordination meeting
- **October 4, 2018** – ETGSA Board of Directors approves Communication & Engagement Plan as living document

Future highlighted events to be added following their occurrence.

- **September through October, 2018 –** ETGSA posts weekly advertisements in the Porterville Recorder informing them of SGMA and ETGSA and inviting them to participate in the ongoing GSP development process
- **September through November, 2018 –** ETGSA hosts a series of presentations and discussions at its Executive and Stakeholder Committees related to GSP Policy Points and invites members of the public to comment on these Policy Points as well; input and recommendations made at these meetings are used to assist the Board in directing the drafting of the GSP
- **October, 2018 –** Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition sends correspondence to all Coalition Members within ETGSA's boundaries who have listed email addresses notifying them of ways to stay involved in ETGSA's ongoing GSP development process
- **October, 2018 –** Letter is sent to all unique owners of APNs within ETGSA's jurisdiction informing them of SGMA and ETGSA and inviting them to participate in the ongoing GSP development process
- **November, 2018** – ETGSA begins distribution of monthly newsletter
- **February through March, 2019 –** ETGSA hosts a series of study sessions, workshops, and presentations across the community to discuss the most recent updates to the draft

version of the GSP and to solicit stakeholder input; ETGSA partners with stakeholder groups and member agencies to ensure adequate outreach across its jurisdiction
- **April, 2019 –** Initial Draft GSP is completed and presented to the Board and Committees for review

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation || Mid-2019 though January 31, 2020

Future highlighted events to be added following their occurrence.

- **April through May 2019 -**Draft GSP is finalized and authorized by Board to enter 90-day public review period
- **May through July, 2019** – Draft GSP undergoes 90-day public review period and ETGSA makes presentations and hosts events across the community to solicit input; ETGSA partners with stakeholder groups and member agencies to ensure awareness of the public-review period across its jurisdiction in order to foster public review and comment
- **August, 2018 through January 31, 2020 –** Following revisions to the Draft GSP, ETGSA must adopt and submit its plan to DWR by January 31, 2020

Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting || Following Submission of GSP to DWR (Mid-2019 to January 31, 2020) and thereafter

Future highlighted events to be added following their occurrence.

- **Following Submission of GSP to DWR (Mid-2019 to January 31, 2020) and thereafter –** ETGSA continues voluntary and required outreach within its jurisdiction. Outreach will focus on educating constituents of the new policies, ordinances, rules, and long-term plans that will come into effect in order to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040. Active involvement will be continually encouraged during the implementation and reporting phase, and ETGSA will provide public notice prior to the imposition or increase of any fees (pursuant SGMA's requirements). ETGSA will continue to reach stakeholders through postal correspondence, its website, its Interested Parties list, and through collaboration with local stakeholder groups.

7. Evaluation and Assessment

Regular evaluations and assessments of ETGSA's ongoing approach to outreach will be important in determining how to improve stakeholder involvement across the phases of GSP, development, review, and implementation. Comprehensive outreach must be accomplished in order for ETGSA to have considered all the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater within its jurisdiction. ETGSA will compare the outcome of its various outreach activities against the goals and objectives provided in Section 1 of this CEP as it seeks to accomplish comprehensive outreach.

7.1 Regular Outreach Reviews by the Board and Committees

In order to evaluate and assess ETGSA's approach to outreach at regular intervals, meetings of the Board, Stakeholder Committee, and Executive Committee will have posted on its Agenda section titled "Outreach" (or synonymous verbiage). The purpose of this Agenda section and the items listed under that section will be to:

- Report on past outreach activities
- Review the outcome and success of past outreach activities, materials, and events that that have
- Discuss potential new outreach activities, materials, and events
- Recommend and authorize new outreach activities, materials, and events

7.2 Other Tools for Review

ETGSA will consider other tools and forms of review on an as-needed basis. These may include:

- Surveys to stakeholder groups, community groups, and previous attendees
- One-on-one interviews with stakeholders and previous attendees
- Event-specific comment cards that can be given to event attendees and returned to ETGSA for review

7.3 Stakeholder Input as a Part of Evaluation and Assessment

Stakeholders and members of the public may always provide their feedback to ETGSA regarding their evaluation and assessment of ETGSA's outreach efforts. To provide such feedback, individuals may:

- Submit a comment through the "Contact Us" form on the ETGSA Website (www.easterntulegsa.com/contact-us/#contact)
- Provide public comment during the Board, Stakeholder Committee, and/or Executive Committee meetings
- Email ETGSA at info@easterntulegsa.com
- Schedule a time to meet with ETGSA staff

Input received will be reported by GSA staff to the Board and Committees during the Outreach section or other relevant section of the regular meeting and will be incorporated to improve ETGSA's future outreach efforts.