



DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH GROUNDWATER IN CALIFORNIA?

Because groundwater is not easily visible, it is often taken for granted. As a result, groundwater basins around California have been overdrafted, which has put important drinking water and irrigation sources in jeopardy. The state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), adopted by the Legislature in 2014, requires local agencies managing groundwater basins to develop and carry out sustainability plans so this water can be a resource communities can depend on for the future for drinking water, agriculture, habitat, and other needs.

Do you know what is happening with groundwater in the Tulare Lake basin?

The Tulare Lake groundwater basin is critically overdrafted; on average, water is being pumped out of the basin faster than it is recharged by rain and other sources. This threatens groundwater levels and drinking water quality, and causes the land surface to sink, potentially damaging infrastructure. In March 2023, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) determined that the plan that local agencies in the basin wrote to manage groundwater is inadequate, meaning the plan does not do enough to protect groundwater resources for the future. After making that determination, as required by law, DWR referred the basin to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for further review.

Now, through a public process, the State Water Board will decide in April, 2024 whether to place the Tulare Lake basin on probation. If this happens, some groundwater pumpers will need to report how much water they use and pay fees to the State Water Board until the state determines local agencies have a plan in place that protects groundwater in the basin.

You have a voice in the future of groundwater in the basin.

As someone who relies on groundwater in the Tulare Lake basin, you have a voice in the State Water Board's decision-making process. Sharing your comments can help shape the recommendations that staff will provide to the State Water Board and help the Board decide if the Tulare Lake basin needs to be put on probation and, if so, what improvements to the basin's plan should happen to better manage groundwater in your area.

Tulare Lake basin



How you can participate:

- ▶ **In writing:** You can provide a comment on the Draft Staff Report.
- ▶ **Online:** Join the virtual public workshop on Zoom:
November 3, 2023
11:00 am – 1:30 pm
- ▶ **In person:** Join the public workshop in Hanford, CA:
November 8, 2023
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
- ▶ **Attend the hearing:** April 16, 2024

For more details on how to participate, please review the [notice](#).

Stay informed! Visit our website to subscribe to the Board's Groundwater Management email list and learn more: www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma