

Minimal Impact Exclusion: Tulare Lake Subbasin

Proposed Resolution 2026

April 7, 2026

Item No. 5



Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management

Presentation Overview



Brief background on the Tulare Lake Subbasin



Development of the Minimal Impact Exclusion



Comments received



Staff Recommendation to the Board

Tulare Lake Subbasin

Notable Dates

April 2024 - Designated Probationary

May 2026 – Reporting Due

Governance



Five Groundwater
Sustainability Agencies



Single Groundwater
Sustainability Plan (2024)



Groundwater Use

Sustainable Yield – 299,220 Acre-Feet per Year (AFY, 1998-2010)

Groundwater Extractions – ~549,000 AFY (WY 2022)

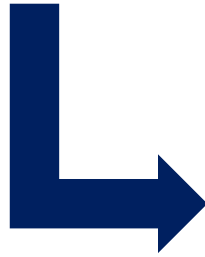
Overdraft – ~249,700 AFY (WY 2022)

Staff heard requests for relief for smaller-volume pumpers during public engagement



Challenges facing small farms

- Limited broadband access
- Linguistic isolation
- Probationary fees



Consultation with Subject Matter Experts

Board staff engaged with NGOs and other experts to better understand challenges faced by small-scale extractors

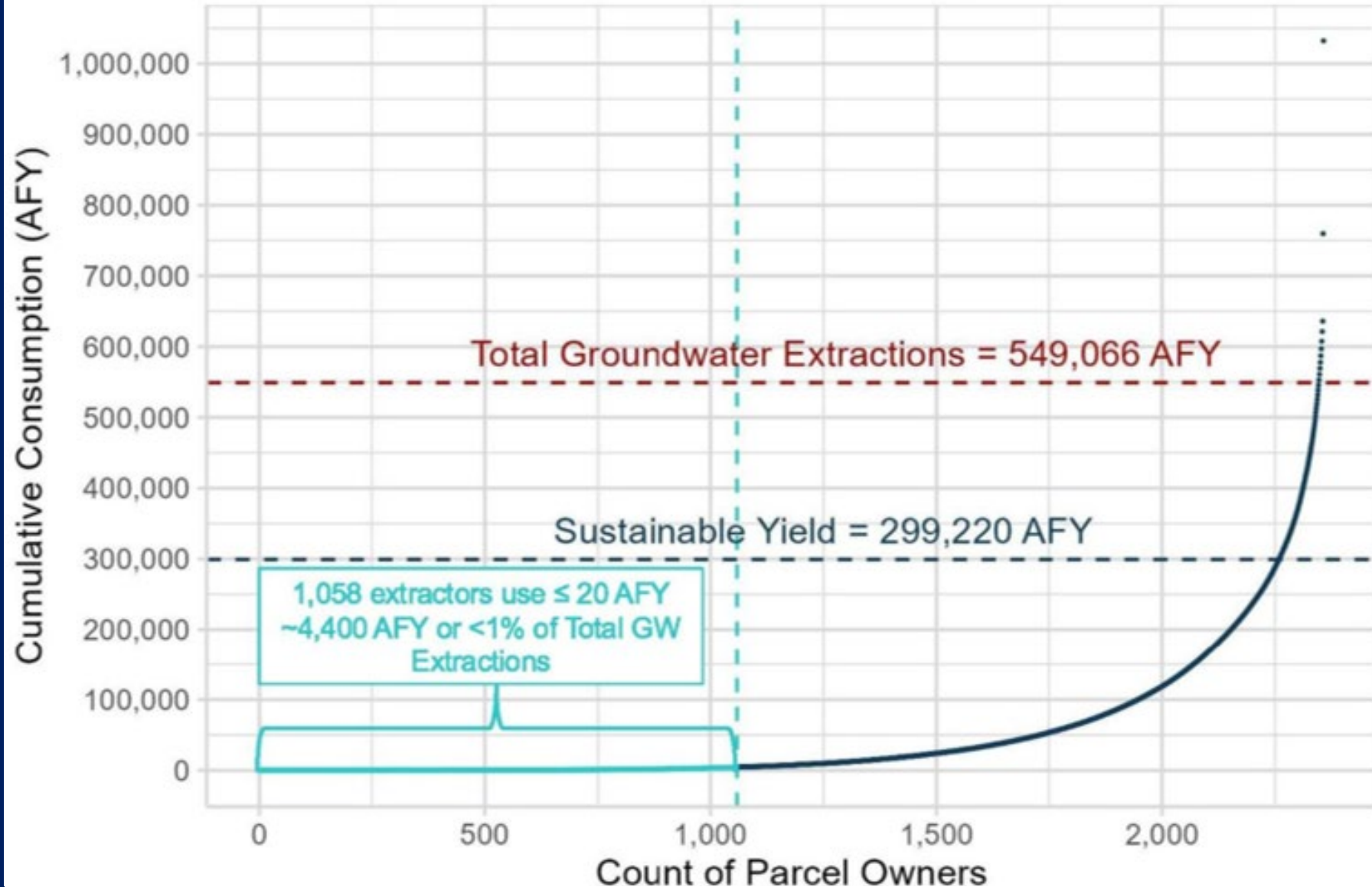


Board Staff Assessment

Assessed scope and potential impact of excluding certain extractors from reporting and fees

Approximately 1,000 pumpers use less than 1% of the total groundwater extracted.

Cumulative Water Consumption (AFY) by Parcel Owner
Ordered by Lowest to Greatest Water Consumption



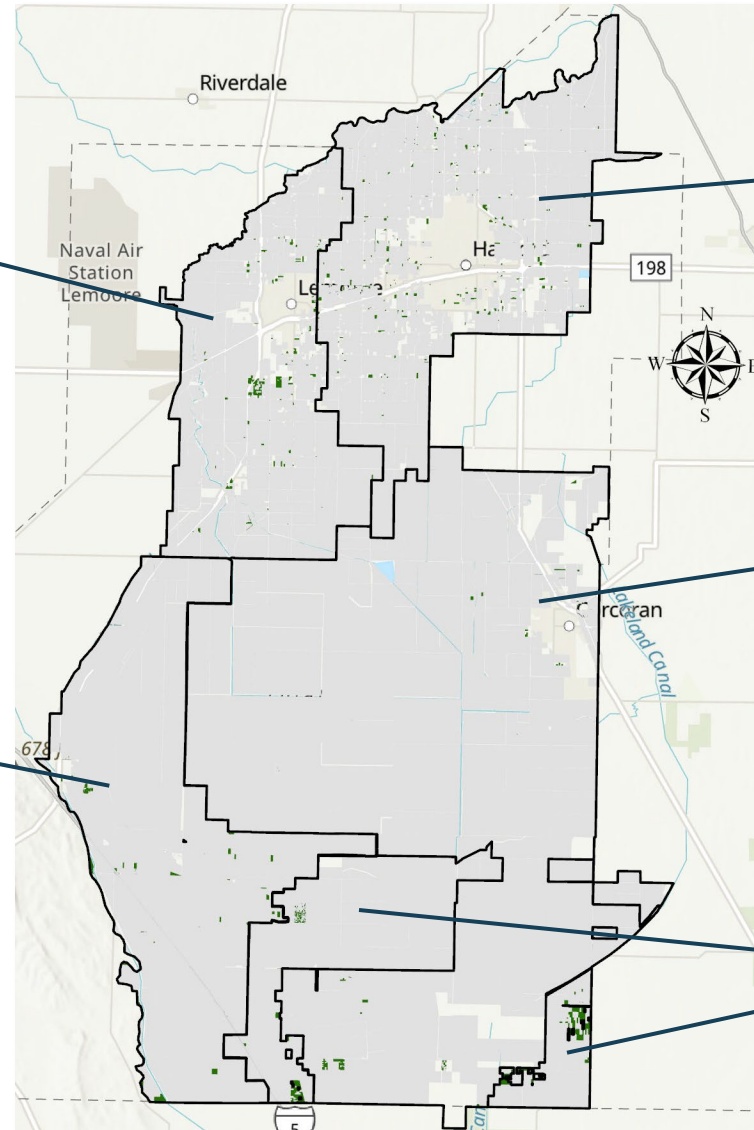
Pumpers Who May Be Excluded (Estimate)

South Fork Kings GSA

186 pumpers
1.2% of area
0.8% of water use

Southwest Kings GSA

179 pumpers
0.7% of area
0.3% of water use



Mid-Kings River GSA

249 pumpers
1.2% of area
0.8% of water use

El Rico GSA

123 pumpers
0.2% of area
0.1% of water use

Tri-County Water Authority GSA

383 pumpers
2.5% of area
1.7% of water use

Green parcels = parcel owner uses less than 20 acre-feet per year (total across all parcels) as measured by remote-sensed evapotranspiration

Extractors who pump 20 AFY or less have a minimal impact on subbasin groundwater withdrawals

In the Tulare Lake Subbasin, 99% of groundwater pumping would be reported.

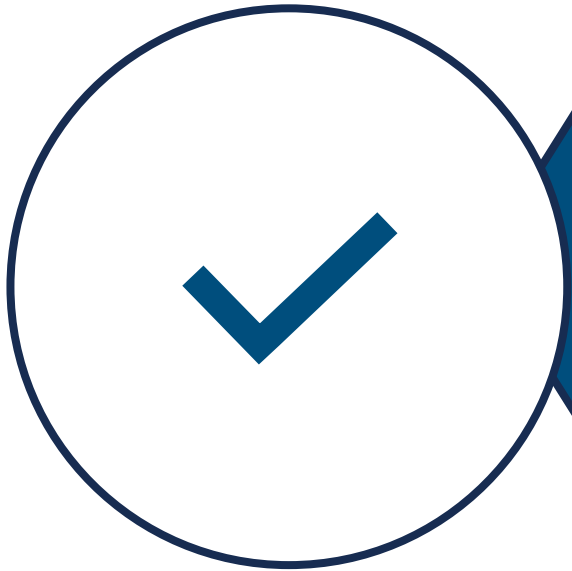


The Resolution was released for public comment on February 27th.

Public comments were due on March 30th.



Staff Recommendation to the Board



Adopt the Minimal Impact Exclusion

- Exclude extractors who pump 20 AFY or less from reporting and fee requirements.
 - Over 1,000 expected reporters are eligible
 - 99% of extractions still required to report

Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management

SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma

