

**Recommendations for the Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee to consider and pass on to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors & STRGBA and MID, OID & TID Irrigation Districts.**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

To evaluate the status of the groundwater resources of Stanislaus County to identify and develop programs and practices that ensure a reliable and sustainable groundwater supply for the benefit of its citizens, present and future, and to make recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors to adopt a public policy that empowers such identified actions.

**Proposed WAC Recommendations,**

1. The Stanislaus County Supervisors should consider amending the Stanislaus County Groundwater Ordinance Chapter 9.37 of the Stanislaus County Code to prohibit the private and irrigation district groundwater depletion and the pumping of groundwater for export sales out of the Modesto Groundwater Sub-Basin. Out-of-basin surface and groundwater transfers should immediately be prohibited per these proposed amendments of the Stanislaus County Ordinance Chapter 9.37.
  
2. **Recommendations to Stanislaus County Irrigation Districts, OID, MID & TID for their Farmer-to-Farmer Water Transfer Policies.**
  - A. Every year the districts have a percentage of fallowed acreage that is out of production and has surface water available.
  - B. The Irrigation Districts should amend their Farmer-Farmer District Policies so that the in-district farmers can transfer their unused water from their fallowed lands to the District's Sphere of Influence lands including the Groundwater Basins that the districts are responsible for such as the Modesto Groundwater Sub-Basin, the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-Basin & the East Turlock Sub-Basin.
  - C. Conditions for F-F Out-of-District Water Transfers are:

1. No transfers will be permitted out of the district's groundwater basins.
2. The districts receive \$50.00 an acre-foot for transferring the water with a limit of 2 ½ acre-feet per acre to be transferred from the fallowed in district lands.
3. The in-district transferees negotiate price increases above \$50.00 an acre-foot on their own with in-basin buyers.
4. These district policy changes will provide needed cash flow for the districts and help keep the Modesto Groundwater Sub-Basin, the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-Basin & the East Turlock Sub-Basin sustainable and SGMA compliant.

3. Stanislaus County and STRGBA should address the Modesto Sub-Basin issues as **a Whole-Basin Approach** and address all areas in the Modesto Sub-Basin equally including all areas the cities like Riverbank, Waterford & Oakdale that are solely dependent on groundwater.

4. The OID, MID & TID Irrigation Districts should develop a policy that charges a high enough per acre foot amount for pumping groundwater that discourages and makes groundwater pumping fiscally unfeasible when surface water is available.

Thank you for considering & discussing these important Modesto Groundwater Sub-Basin, Eastern San Joaquin Sub-Basin & the East Turlock Sub-Basin, and SGMA compliance issues.

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