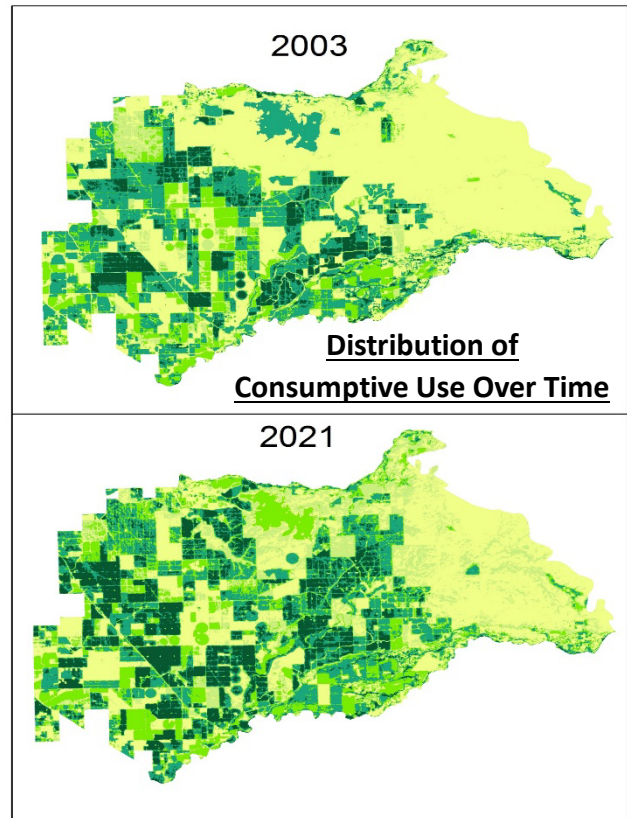


WORKSHOP SERIES FOR PUMPING MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

The first workshop in our series to support development of a Pumping Management Framework in the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETSGSA) was held on October 18th in Cortez Hall in Ballico. Over 100 people came to hear more about our efforts to comply with the requirements of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Sarah Woolfe (General Manager for Eastside Water District and ETSGSA Technical Advisory Chair) talked about the requirements of SGMA, what our GSA has done to date, and our goal to reach sustainable management under local control by 2042 through a combination of recharge projects and demand management actions. Dr. George Paul (Formation Environmental) gave a presentation about using evapotranspiration (ET) calculated from satellite data to estimate groundwater pumping, and how groundwater use has varied across the area and over time in the last 20 years. Mike Tietze (Coordinator/General Manager for ETSGSA) then talked about the available options for measuring groundwater extraction, how groundwater allocations could be set and tracked, and how groundwater extraction fees could be assessed to help fund projects.



The presentations were interactive, and members of audience expressed their concerns and opinions and asked many questions. A common concern was the tendency in our State to over-regulate, to which the panel responded that our goal is maintain local control, and to use an adaptive management approach that implements projects and management actions gradually over time so we neither overreact nor underreact, but assure the security of our long term groundwater supply and avoid State intervention. A number of attendees wanted to know how allocations and fees would be developed, who would approve them and when they would be implemented. The panel responded that a framework for allocations and fees would be developed over the next six months and discussed in a series of public workshops, and would be adopted by the GSA Board for implementation on a "virtual trial" basis during the 2023/2024 water year. After a one-year trial period, they would be adopted following a public process during board meetings. Members of the public and stakeholders will be able to provide input during the workshops and at public meetings.

The next workshop in our series is scheduled for December 13 from 9:30 AM to noon at Cortez Hall in Ballico. A Zoom link will also be available for those that are not able to attend in person. All stakeholders and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend. The topics covered will include:

- Update regarding GSA activities, including news regarding our proposal for the next round of grants under the SGMA Implementation Grant program;
- Review of what other GSAs are doing and how it is working out;
- Review of the timeline for implementation of projects and demand management actions;
- Results of our analysis of baseline pumping conditions, proposed targets for the initial phase of pumping reductions, and example outcomes during wet, dry and normal years; and
- The recommended approach to groundwater extraction measurement.