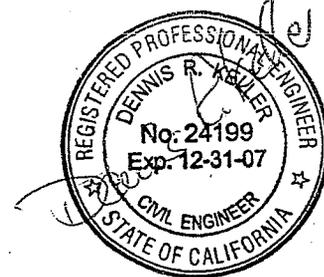


GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

JULY 2007



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CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEERS

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SECTION 1

PURPOSE

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 1
PURPOSE
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PLAN OBJECTIVE

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (District) desires to formalize its existing groundwater management practices for the continuance of local management and to enhance existing monitoring activities in a coordinated manner. Through this Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) the District will identify and implement modifications to ongoing practices in order to preserve and enhance groundwater resources. The District will organize existing and expanded groundwater management activities to facilitate the implementation of the Plan.

Preservation and enhancement of the groundwater resource is vital to sustaining the local economy which has been built up in reliance, in whole or in part, on this resource. The District's objective is to preserve the utility of the groundwater resource, both in terms of quantity and quality at the least possible cost to sustain the agricultural production and support urban development within the boundaries of the District. Enhancement or augmentation of the resource is necessary to mitigate the present level of overdraft and the attendant long-term decline in groundwater levels in the overall groundwater basin. The Plan objectives can be accomplished, at least on a cost basis, by joint implementation of the Plan through the District as opposed to individual implementation by District landowners.

DISTRICT

The District is organizing current and proposed groundwater management activities under provision of Part 2.75 of Division 6 of the California Water Code commencing with Section

10750, otherwise known as AB3030, the Groundwater Management Act of 1992. The 1992 Act was amended in 2002 and 2004 to describe specific requirements for the Plan.

For the purpose of groundwater management, powers granted to an entity which adopts a Plan include the powers of a water replenishment district (Part 4, Division 18, California Water Code), to the extent not already possessed by the entity, but not limited to the following:

- a. Acquire and operate facilities, waters and rights needed to replenish the groundwater supplies;
- b. Store water in groundwater basins, acquire water rights, import water into the District and conserve water;
- c. Participate in legal proceedings as required to protect and defend water rights and water supplies and to prevent unlawful exportation of water from the District;
- d. Under certain conditions to exercise the right of eminent domain;
- e. Act jointly with other entities in order to economically perform required activities;
- f. Carry out investigations required to implement the Plan;
- g. Fix rates for water for replenishment purposes; and
- h. Fix the terms and conditions of contracts for use of surface water in-lieu of groundwater.

PLAN ELEMENTS

Part 2.75, Groundwater Management, of the Water Code establishes required (§10753.7) and recommended (§10753.8) elements of a groundwater management plan. Bulletin 118

prepared by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) also provides recommendations for groundwater management plans.

The District's Plan has been prepared to address the requirements and recommendations for groundwater management plans. Table 1-1 summarizes these elements and their respective location within the District's Plan.

TABLE 1-1
PLAN SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION REFERENCE	SUBJECT	PLAN LOCATION
REQUIRED PLAN ELEMENTS (Water Code §10753.7 (a))		
(1)	Basin management objectives	Section 4
(1)	Monitoring and Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groundwater levels - groundwater quality - land surface subsidence - changes and quality 	Section 5, Section 6 Section 5, Section 6 Section 5, Section 6 Section 5, Section 6
(2)	Plan to involve other agencies	Section 2, Section 5, Section 7
(3)	Map of groundwater basin and local agencies	Section 2
(4)	Monitoring protocols	Section 6
RECOMMENDED PLAN ELEMENTS (Water Code §10753.8)		
a.	Saline Water Intrusion	Section 5
b.	Wellhead Protection (Recharge Areas)	Section 5
c.	Migration of Contaminated Water	Section 5
d.	Well Abandonment/Destruction	Section 5
e.	Overdraft Mitigation	Section 5
f.	Groundwater Replenishment	Section 5
g.	Groundwater Extractions	Section 5
h.	Groundwater Monitoring	Section 5, Section 6
i.	Conjunctive Use	Section 5
j.	Well Construction Policies	Section 5
k.	Operation of Facilities	Section 5, Section 7
l.	Relationships with Other Agencies	Section 5
m.	Land Use Planning	Section 5

TABLE 1-1 (cont'd)
PLAN SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ADDITIONAL PLAN ELEMENTS (DWR Bulletin 118, Appendix C) (1)		
(4)	Advisory Committee of Stakeholders	Section 7, Appendix A
(5)	Groundwater basin description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical features and characteristics - historical data - issues of concern - historical and project water demands and supplies 	Section 2
(8)	Existing and planned management actions	Section 5, Section 6
(10)	Monitoring program features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - map of monitoring sites - type and frequency of monitoring 	Section 6
(12)	Groundwater Management Reports	Section 7
(13)	Plan re-evaluation	Section 7

Note: (1) DWR Bulletin 118, Appendix C outlines 14 required and recommended components for groundwater management plans. Required elements have been documented.

PLAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or requests for additional information regarding the District's Plan should be directed to the Program Manager at the following address:

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
16294 Highway 43
Wasco, CA 93280-8068
Phone: 661/758-5153 FAX: 661/758-6167

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

The District meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. District meetings are held at above address and are open to the public.

SECTION 2
GENERAL
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 2
GENERAL
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (District) is a California Irrigation District. The District covers 38,766 acres with approximately 30,300 acres being farmed. The District was formed in 1937 with the primary purpose of finding ways and means to replenishing the dwindling underground water supply. Groundwater levels declined an average of 2.3 feet per year from 1921 to 1949. A contract for Friant Division CVP supply was executed on February 11, 1955, with the first deliveries under the contract taking place in 1957. Continuous deliveries have been made since that time.

As the surface supply is supplemental, groundwater still plays a principal role. AB 3030 provides a means for local agencies to manage their individual water supplies. In order to preserve local management and enhance existing groundwater management programs operated over many years by the District, the Board of Directors of the District, on September 12, 2006, instructed the preparation of this Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) under the provisions of AB 3030. The Plan will enable the District to establish policies that will serve to enhance the overall management of the water supplies available to the District.

In 2002 and 2004, Senate Bill (SB) 1938 and Assembly Bill (AB) 105, respectively, amended the requirements of groundwater management plans. This Plan incorporates the necessary elements to comply with the provisions of that legislation.

AB 3030 provides for the development of a groundwater management plan within the boundaries of the District. The underlying groundwater basin is part of the larger Tulare Lake Basin as identified in State of California Bulletin 118. The management area for the District's Plan may include, by agreement, adjacent entities whose activities would influence the common groundwater resource. The District's boundaries are shown on Figure 2-1.

Plan Participants

The District will be responsible for the implementation of the Plan. The District will be the primary Plan Participant. The identification and involvement of additional Plan Participants will result from Plan activities.

A Plan Participant tabulation is presented in Appendix A. This Appendix will be revised from time-to-time to reflect the Plan's then current participants.

Stakeholders

For the purposes of the Plan, a stakeholder will be defined as any individual, group, or entity located within the Plan Area that may be affected by the implementation of the Plan. Stakeholders can be Plan Participants.

An initial compilation of District Plan stakeholders is presented in Appendix A. Additional stakeholders may be identified through Plan activities.

Advisory Committee

To date, the District has not created an Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation and subsequent refinement of the Plan. This function will be performed by District management, staff and consultants until otherwise determined by the District Board of Directors.

SECTION 3
GROUNDWATER BASIN CHARACTERISTICS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 3
GROUNDWATER BASIN CHARACTERISTICS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

GENERAL

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (District) is located within the Kern County Sub-basin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin No. 5-22.13). The Kern County Sub-basin is bounded by the following groundwater sub-basins; Tule River (north) and Tulare Lake (northwest). The District portion of the groundwater basin includes the Poso Creek drainage as its major surface drainage.

Typical annual rainfall in the District is approximately 6.6 inches. The western portion of the Basin is typically more arid. The eastern edge of the Basin along the mountains experiences slightly higher rainfall amounts.

The region encompassed by the District's Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) is shown on Figure 3-1. The cities of Shafter and Wasco represent the major population centers within the District. The Basin is rural in nature, dominated by agricultural land use as shown in Figure 3-2.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics of the groundwater basin influence the content of the Plan. In particular, the manner in which groundwater is replenished is directly affected by surface and subsurface characteristics, such as the permeability of the overlying and subsurface soils. The permeability of the soils within the groundwater basin is limited. In general, the soils having higher permeability rates are associated with the Poso Creek delta.

The District overlies areas of both unconfined and confined aquifers. There are limited areas of perched water and shallow groundwater tables. These conditions result from subsurface geologic conditions. A general depiction of the aquifer and subsurface geologic conditions is presented on Figure 3-3. Figure 3-4 shows the groundwater elevations for spring, 2004, as compiled and prepared by the Department of Water Resources. Recent average depths to groundwater are presented on Figure 3-5.

The District overlies an unconfined aquifer. There are no perched zones or shallow groundwater tables in the District. The District lies in the San Joaquin Basin Hydrologic Study Area as described in Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 118-75 and 118-80. The District is located in the Kern Basin which is composed of contiguous older and younger alluvium. The Basin is one (1) of eight (8) in the basin hydrologic study area which has been identified as subject to critical condition of overdraft. There are no District or on-farm surface or subsurface drainage systems installed in the District. Drainage is not a problem in the District.

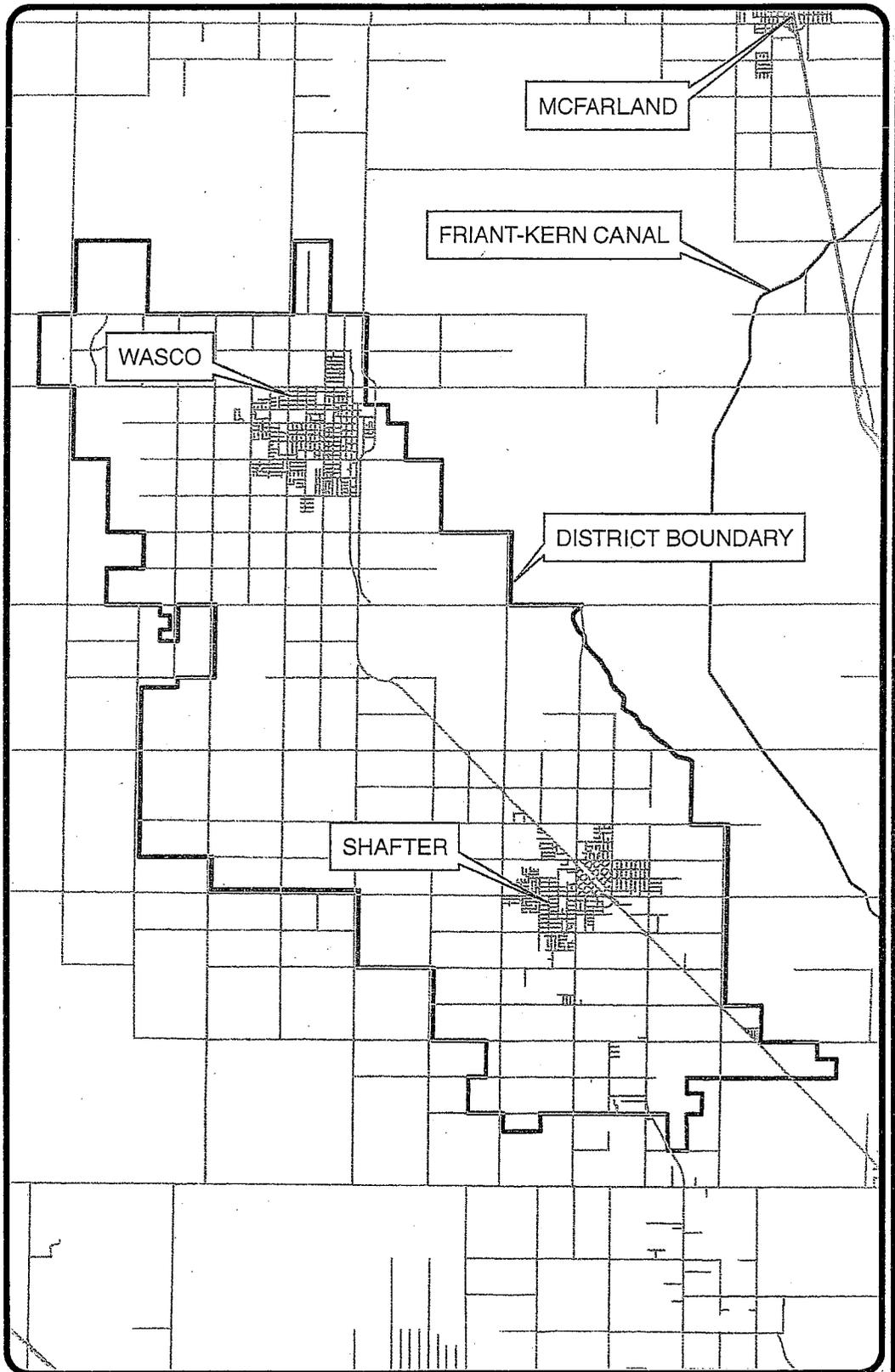
The groundwater supply is pumped with privately owned wells by individual water users from an unconfined aquifer. The surface water is to be used conjunctively with the groundwater by storing non-storable District surface water in the groundwater reservoir by in-lieu of pumping groundwater recharge.

The District is a surface water groundwater supply conjunctive use district in which the water users' water supply comes from imported water from the Friant Unit of the CVP, local precipitation and groundwater from water user owned pumps. The hydrologic cycle for the San Joaquin River varies greatly, providing a variable surface supply to the District. The frequency and magnitude of the surface supply for the District is expected to continue to fluctuate in the future as it has in the past. The water users stabilize their water supply by maximizing the

surface supply when it is available, and utilizing the groundwater supply when the surface supply is deficient.

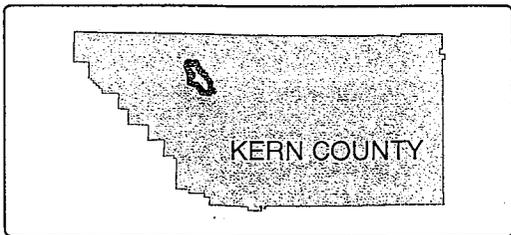
The District encompasses 38,766 acres of which approximately 30,290 acres is farmed. Imported water is delivered to 27,100 of the 30,290 farmed acres. The imported water varies from 0.5 acre-feet per acre to 4.0 acre-feet per acre, depending on the water year. The water users recharge the imported water to the groundwater supply in large water years by using the imported water to meet their irrigation requirements and not pumping the groundwater supply. Some of the imported water is also recharged to the groundwater supply through deep percolation.

The District staff monitors the groundwater levels in the District by measuring approximately 74 groundwater wells in January and September of each year. This information is used to monitor the amount of groundwater used by the water users in the District.

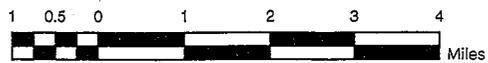


Legend

-  Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
-  water_course
-  kernroads



VICINITY MAP



**PLAN BOUNDARIES
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Legend

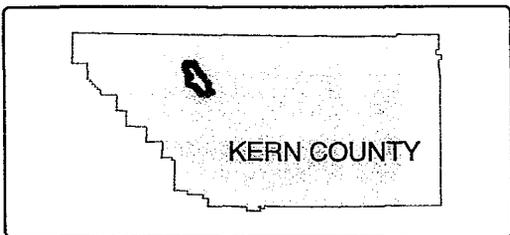
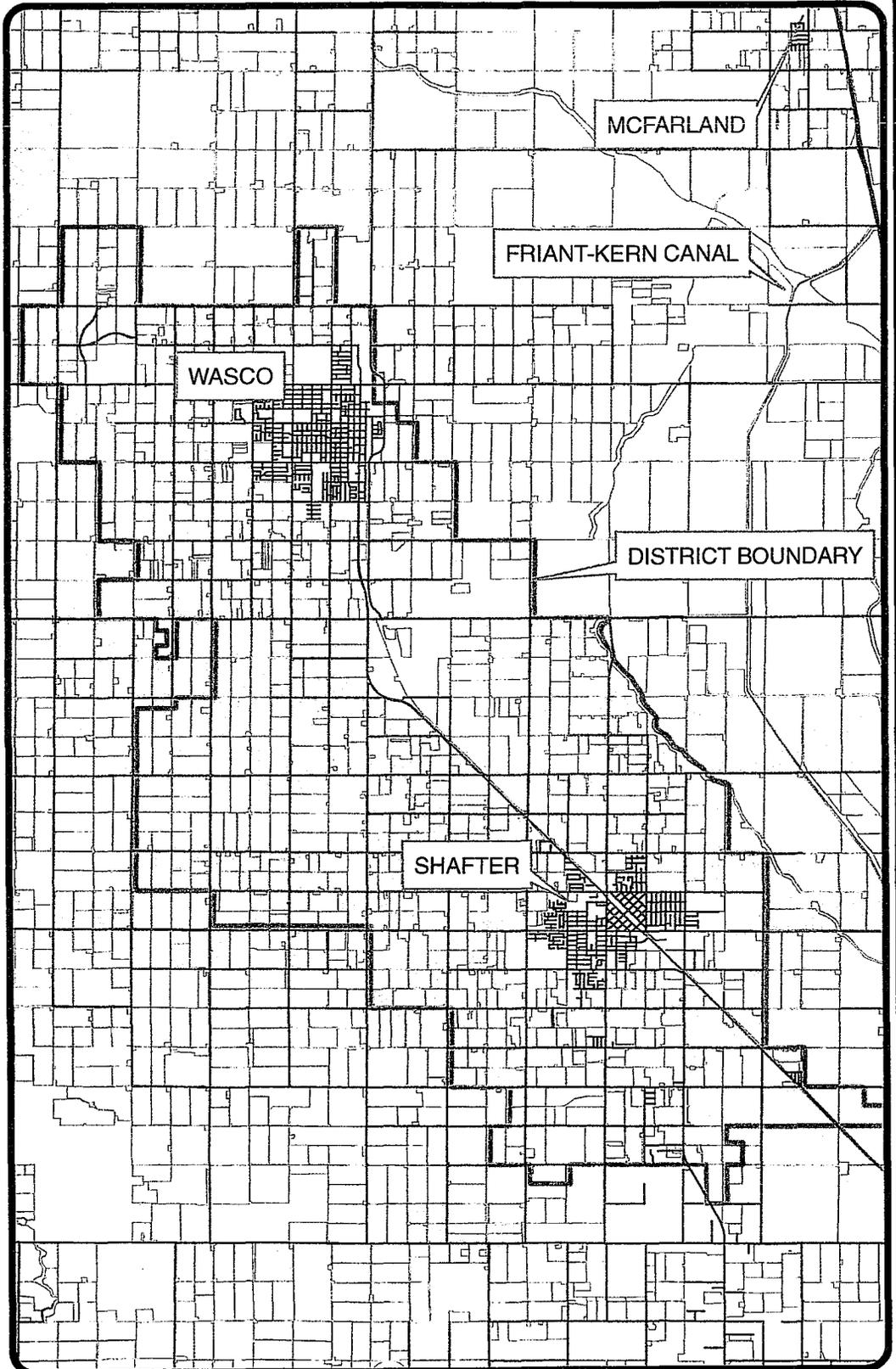
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District

2005 Crops

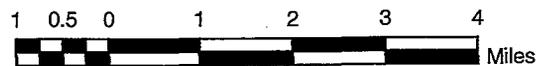
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COMMODITY

- ALFALFA
- ALMOND
- APRICOT
- BARLEY
- BEAN DRIED
- CARROT
- CHERRY
- CORN FOR/FOD
- COTTON
- GARLIC
- GRAPE
- GRAPE, RAISIN
- GRAPE, WINE
- LETTUCE ROMAINE
- N-GRNHS PLANT
- N-OUTDR PLANTS
- OAT
- OAT FOR/FOD
- OP-CHRSTMS TREE
- OP-DEC. TREE
- OP-PALM
- OP-ROSE
- PEACH
- PERSIMMON
- PISTACHIO
- PLUM
- POTATO
- SUGARBEET
- TOMATO PROCESS
- UNCULTIVATED AG
- VEGETABLE
- WALNUT
- WATERMELON
- WHEAT
- WHEAT FOR/FOD
- water_course
- water_bodies
- kernroads



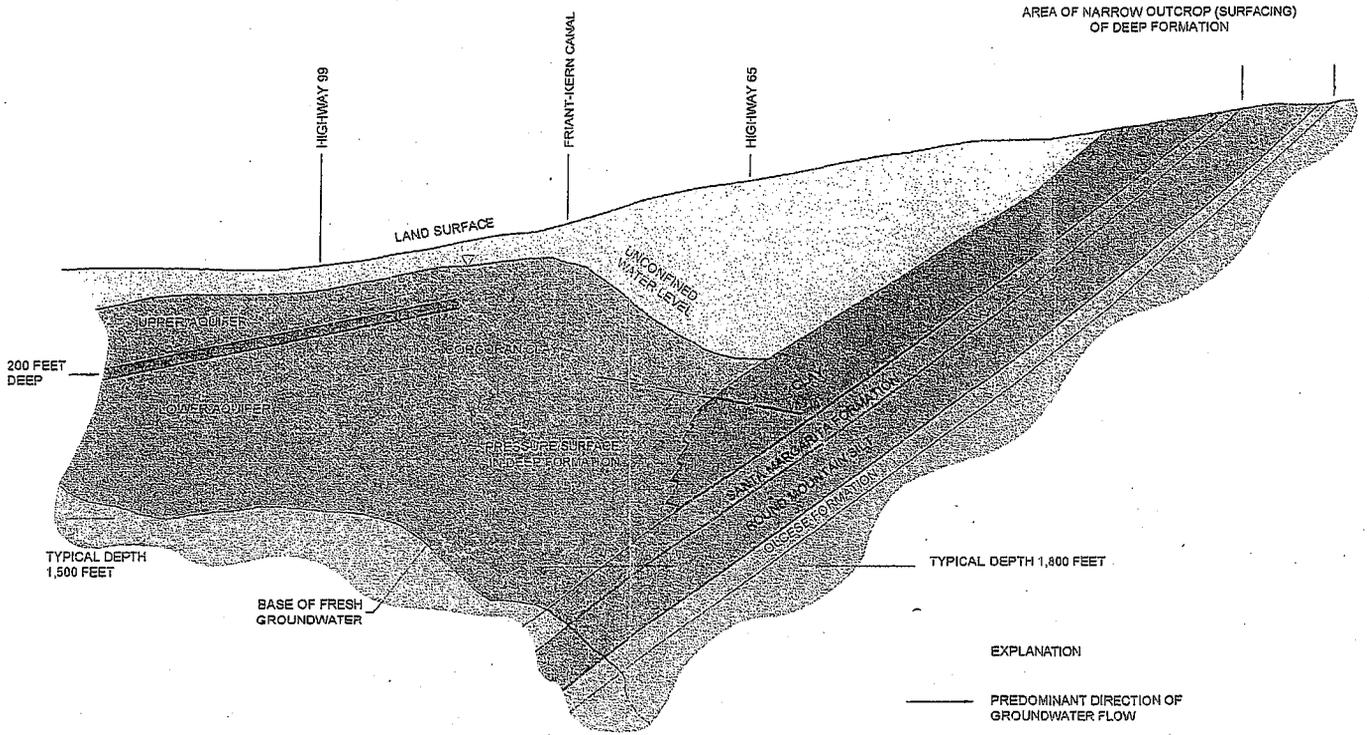
VICINITY MAP



**LAND USE
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

WEST

EAST

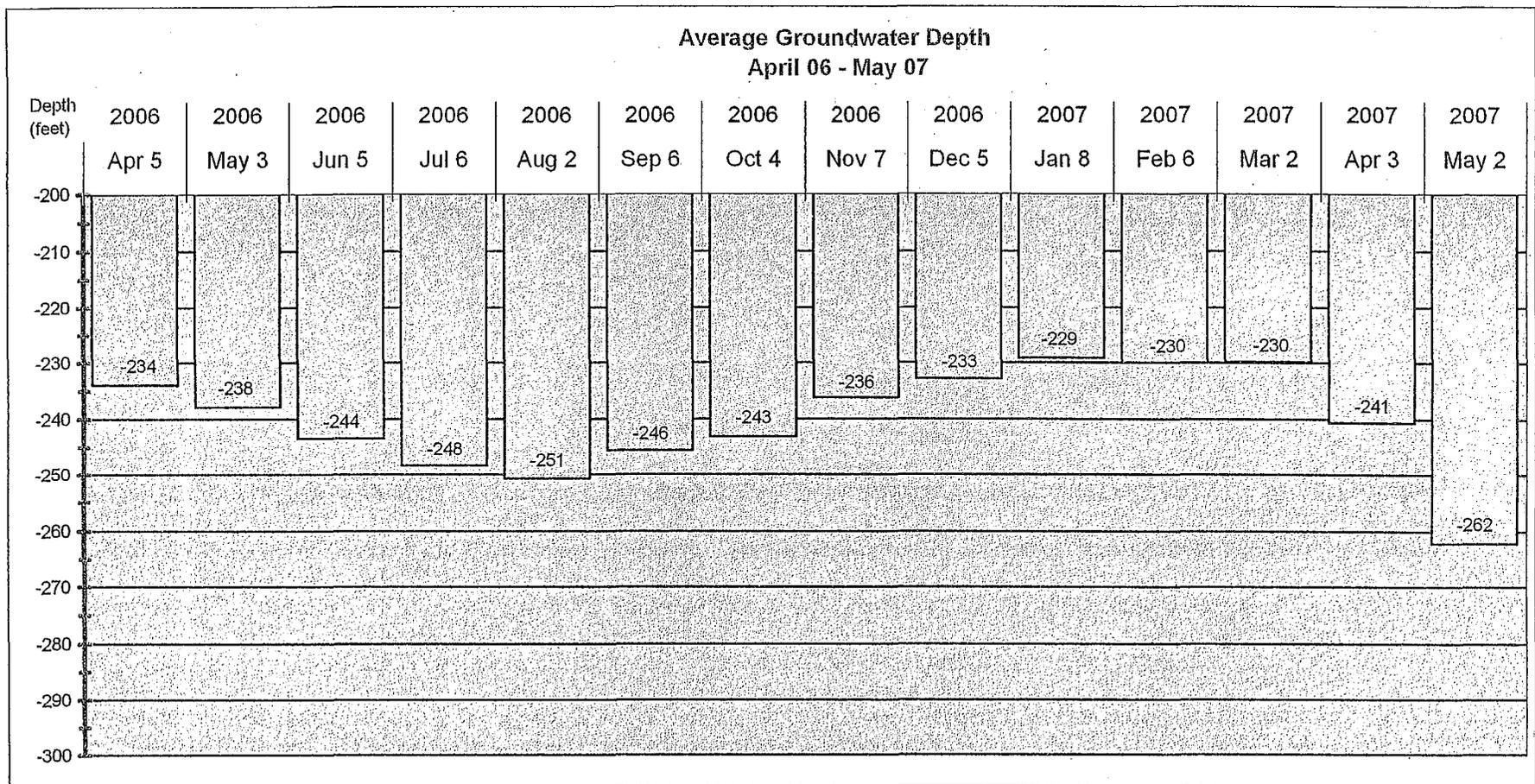


SOURCE: FIGURE 9, ANALYSIS OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES
PROVOST AND PRITCHARD 2001.

**SURFACE CONDITIONS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

SHAFTER - WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT AVERAGE GROUNDWATER DEPTH

LOCATION	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007
(From North)	Apr 5	May 3	Jun 5	Jul 6	Aug 2	Sep 6	Oct 4	Nov 7	Dec 5	Jan 8	Feb 6	Mar 2	Apr 3	May 2	
	-223	-230	-242	-250	-256	-245	-240	-228	-222	-217	-219	-221	-238	-276	
	-226	-232	-242	-250	-252	-244	-240	-229	-225	-220	-220	-221	-238	-273	
	-235	-242	-249	-253	-255	-249	-246	-238	-234	-231	-230	-230	-245	-276	
	-240	-244	-246	-251	-255	-252	-250	-243	-239	-234	-239	-236	-246	-261	
	-247	-247	-250	-254	-254	-252	-250	-247	-245	-242	-242	-241	-247	-255	
	-233	-232	-232	-232	-233	-232	-233	-232	-232	-231	-230	-230	-230	-231	
AVERAGE	-234	-238	-244	-248	-251	-246	-243	-236	-233	-229	-230	-230	-241	-262	



SECTION 4
BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 4
BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

GENERAL

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (District) has developed five (5) basin management objectives to guide the implementation of the Groundwater Management Plan (Plan). By accomplishing these objectives, the District believes that a more reliable groundwater supply for long-term beneficial uses within the Plan area will be realized. The District's basin management objectives within the Plan area are:

1. To promote and realize groundwater resource protection;
2. To facilitate groundwater resource sustainability;
3. To develop groundwater resource understanding;
4. To develop groundwater basin understanding; and
5. To promote and facilitate information dissemination regarding the groundwater resource.

Each basin management objective is described below.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

Groundwater needs to have water quality that will sustain its beneficial uses to remain a viable water resource within the groundwater basin. This objective focuses the District's management strategies to maintain the good water quality of the Plan Area's groundwater. The District will utilize the following strategies to achieve this objective.

- Wellhead/Recharge Area Protection;
- Migration of Contaminated Water Controls;
- Well Abandonment and Destruction Policies; and
- Well Construction Policies.

Protection of the groundwater beneath the District ensures that the maximum amount of groundwater remains available. Achieving this basin management objective minimizes the potential to lose groundwater volumes to contamination.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY

Groundwater is the primary water supply in the Plan Area for both domestic and agricultural purposes. This objective emphasizes the maintenance and/or increase of the available groundwater supply. The following management strategies will be used toward achieving this objective:

- Overdraft Mitigation;
- Groundwater Recharge Policies;
- Groundwater Extraction Management;
- Conjunctive use Policies; and
- Operation of Facilities.

This basin management objective will identify and quantify the surface and groundwater supplies available to the District landowners and define the interaction between these supplies. Groundwater storage is affected by groundwater pumping and groundwater recharge as water users attempt to meet their water use demands. The net result of the interactions between the

available water supplies and the demands for water is a change in groundwater storage. This basin management objective is intended to provide the District with the information and tools required to maintain and improve the total water supply through coordinated management of groundwater.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCE UNDERSTANDING

The purpose of this basin management objective is to further develop knowledge regarding the Plan Area's groundwater. With detailed information regarding the groundwater resource, improved characterization will lead to future groundwater management decisions. The primary Plan element that will achieve this objective is groundwater monitoring.

Continued monthly monitoring of six (6) wells and semi-annual monitoring of 64 wells will assist in conclusions as to the status (availability) of the resource. Groundwater levels also reveal the effectiveness of other strategies, such as groundwater recharge efforts. Monitoring data developed over time will serve as the foundation of conclusions regarding groundwater reliability and management strategy effectiveness.

GROUNDWATER BASIN UNDERSTANDING

This basin management objective garners basin information to facilitate evaluations regarding basin features and potential groundwater resource impacts.

Changes to the groundwater basin's topographic, geologic and hydrologic conditions may adversely affect the groundwater. Land use development can impact both the quantity and

quality of groundwater. The availability of surface water reduces overall demand on the groundwater.

This objective will be achieved through the following management strategies:

- Land Subsidence Monitoring;
- Land Use Planning; and
- Surface Water Management.

Through these strategies, the District will remain familiar with the Plan Area's topographic, geologic and hydrologic conditions that may affect the groundwater resource. The District will have the capability to react to proposed projects and changing conditions and potentially avoid adverse groundwater impacts.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Groundwater resource and basin information and knowledge will result from the active implementation of this Plan. The District will serve as the primary conduit of information regarding the Plan and subsequent results.

This Basin management objective will result from the following plan elements:

- Groundwater Basin and Resource Information Management;
- Groundwater Basin and Resource Reports; and
- Local Agency and Stakeholder Involvement.

The Plan and its management strategies will result in the compilation of various data and information regarding the groundwater basin and its resources. The District will compile, manage and disseminate this information to facilitate improved coordination and use of the Plan

Area's hydrologic resources. The Plan will also result in various opportunities for the Basin's stakeholders to respond to basin management efforts.

SECTION 5
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 5
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

GENERAL

California Water Code Sections 10753.7 and 10753.8 set forth required and recommended elements that establish strategies for groundwater management. Each strategy and the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District's (District) planned activities conducted in support of the strategy are described in this section. Some activities have been in use since the inception of the District. Planned activities describe proposed District efforts that will be utilized during the implementation of this Plan.

SALINE WATER INTRUSION CONTROL

The Groundwater Basin underlying the District is a subbasin of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The western edge of the Plan Area is situated about 90 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The District does not consider saline water intrusion controls a management strategy that warrants consideration.

Plan Activities

None - The District reserves the right to decide whether or not it will be involved with this strategy in the future as authorized by Water Code Section 10753.8.

WELLHEAD AND RECHARGE AREA PROTECTION

The management strategy consists of the identification, establishment and management of wellhead and recharge protection areas. Areas where groundwater pumping and recharge occur warrant dedicated attention by the District. Wells represent a direct conduit to groundwater. No wells are currently owned by the District. No recharge basins currently exist within the District boundaries. The District does, however, participate in out of District recharge areas.

The District will monitor and participate in land use development activities within the recharge areas. As all areas within the District are currently farmed, the District has evaluated areas where land being farmed does not have to be taken out of production. Fortunately, these areas are adjacent to the District to the east and have a direct nexus to groundwater underlying lands within the District.

Plan Activities

1. Land use and development monitoring;
2. Participation in pertinent land use/zoning planning procedures; and
3. Incorporation of security measures such as fencing, as necessary.

MIGRATION OF CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER CONTROLS

This management strategy incorporates regulations and controls for contaminated groundwater. The District has not identified specific plumes of contaminated groundwater. Source specific plumes of contaminated groundwater, such as those from leaking underground storage tanks, fall under the jurisdiction of various state and federal agencies. The District is not in a position at this time to pursue regulations regarding unattributed groundwater contamination.

The District will develop and implement protocols to obtain and compile information regarding contaminated groundwater. Monitoring of groundwater quality will also be conducted.

Plan Activities

1. Monitoring of regulatory activities and records regarding contaminated groundwater within Plan Area; and
2. Complete an inventory of and evaluate available groundwater quality data.

WELL ABANDONMENT/DESTRUCTION POLICIES

Improper well abandonment may allow contamination of the groundwater. Well abandonment must be conducted in conformance with standards adopted by the County of Kern. The District will monitor these activities by reviewing abandonment records compiled by the County. Appropriate information on proper abandonment of wells within the Plan area will be made available through the District.

In lieu of well abandonment, the District will pursue the conversion of a production well to a monitoring well if such suitable opportunities arise and funding is available.

Plan Activities

1. Establish and maintain a protocol with Kern County regarding review of well abandonment records;
2. Develop record keeping system/database of abandoned wells;
3. Establish public education activity to inform stakeholders of well standards and policies; and
4. Develop and implement program to convert abandoned production wells to monitoring wells.

WELL CONSTRUCTION POLICIES

The increase in groundwater extraction resulting from the construction of additional wells affects the long-term water balance of the region. Well construction may allow contamination of the groundwater if not done properly. Well construction must be conducted in conformance with standards adopted by the County of Kern. The District will monitor these activities by reviewing well construction records compiled by the County. Appropriate information on proper construction of wells within the Plan area will be made available through the District.

Opportunities for additional groundwater monitoring wells may arise through the abandonment of existing production wells. The District will consider such a conversion to eliminate the construction of additional wells.

Plan Activities

1. Establish and maintain a protocol with Kern County regarding review of well construction records;
2. Develop a record keeping system/database of constructed wells;
3. Establish public education activity to inform stakeholders of well construction standards and policies; and
4. Develop guidelines for monitoring well conversion.

OVERDRAFT MITIGATION

The groundwater basin is experiencing groundwater overdraft as evidenced by lower groundwater levels within the Plan Area.

This management strategy is best achieved through the implementation of several companion management strategies. Overdraft mitigation is accomplished through the integration of the following strategies:

- Groundwater Recharge/Management;
- Groundwater Extraction Policies;
- Conjunctive Use Policies; and
- Surface Water Management.

These strategies will be implemented to attempt to achieve a hydrologic balance within the Plan area, thereby reducing overdraft of the groundwater resource.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE MANAGEMENT

The replenishment of the underlying groundwater occurs naturally and through deliberate, controlled means. The District's groundwater replenishment is achieved by controlled means principally through the delivery of surface water, when available, to lands otherwise relying on the groundwater resource.

Direct recharge is achieved through the placement of surface water in areas to the east of the District on permeable soils for the express purpose of percolation to the underground. It is the intention of the District to expand the opportunities with neighboring districts. The monitoring of groundwater conditions under this Plan will enable the District to identify the extent of need in this regard.

Delivery of surface water for irrigation purposes reduces the need for water users to draw on groundwater, thereby conserving the water available in the aquifer for later use. The use of surface water in this manner is known as in-lieu recharge and is practiced by the District landowners. Some additional benefit is derived when irrigation water applied beyond crop water needs percolates to the underground.

Plan Activities

1. Maintain and/or expand relationships involving networks of groundwater recharge facilities;
2. Maintain and/or expand surface water deliveries within the Plan area; and
3. Pursue additional surface water supplies for specific purposes of in-lieu groundwater recharge.

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION POLICIES

Effective groundwater replenishment and maintenance of groundwater levels involves the management of water supplies available to the basin and extractions from the basin.

Groundwater extractions within the management area are primarily by private wells.

Management of groundwater extractions can best be achieved through economic incentives, rather than through the regulation of extractions. This current practice will continue to be implemented through the pricing of surface water at rates which encourage water users to use surface water in-lieu of pumping groundwater.

Plan Activities

1. Secure surface water quantities and establish subsequent pricing that encourages maximum surface water use;
2. Develop and implement an educational program focused on:
 - a) Timing of use of groundwater;
 - b) Timing of use of surface water; and
3. Evaluate grower incentive based banking program.

CONJUNCTIVE USE POLICIES

Groundwater management in California is rooted in the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources. Use of the water supplies from the two sources is integrated to accomplish the optimum utilization of each source.

In years of shortage, that previously stored water is pumped to supplement available surface water. District landowners will be encouraged to maximize the utilization of available facilities and resources for conjunctive use through cooperative management.

Conjunctive use opportunities motivated the District to enter into a long-term contract with the United States beginning in the 1950's for the importation of supplemental surface water supply from the Friant Unit of the CVP.

Water transfers and exchanges are an integral part of the existing conjunctive use programs. Under the Plan, the District will seek to preserve and enhance conjunctive use activities through coordinated use of available supplies made possible by water transfers and exchanges and through expansion of recharge facilities. Enhancement of conjunctive use activities could include the development of water banking arrangements with other agencies by utilizing available groundwater storage capacity for the temporary storage of water. This management strategy will result from the integration of the following plan elements:

- Groundwater Recharge Policies;
- Groundwater Extraction Policies; and
- Surface Water Management.

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

Surface Water Quantity

The District imports surface water supplies from the Central Valley Project through the Friant Division under a long-term contract with the United States. Also, the District makes short-term and year-to-year arrangements to secure additional Central Valley Project (CVP) water and other supplies. The District has in place and operates an extensive system of conveyance, distribution and recharge exchange facilities throughout their service area to make use of available surface supplies. The contract of Class 1 supply and water supply amounts available to the District consist of 50,000 af of Class 1 supply and 39,600 af of Class 2 supply,

Under this Plan, the District will seek to preserve the existing water rights and contract and will pursue opportunities to supplement these supplies through importation of additional water supplies for District landowners. Supplemental supplies may be obtained through purchase of additional CVP water from other entities, "Section 215 water" from the United States and through other programs as may be available. Efficient water use and distribution within the management area will be encouraged through the use of transfers and exchanges among District water users.

Importation of affordable water supplies, in quantities sufficient to achieve a long-term water balance within the service area of the District, is a prerequisite for successful implementation of the recharge groundwater management strategy. All opportunities to supplement the regular supplies of the District through water exchange and banking agreements with outside entities, proposed by individual District landowners, will be evaluated for compatibility with the goals of this Plan.

This evaluation process will consist of the following steps:

1. Submittal of a written proposal and technical report to the District;
2. District and consultant evaluation;
3. Proponent and District Coordination; and
4. District staff recommendation and Board of Directors action.

For any proposed Project, the Proponent will initiate the process through the transmittal of a written proposal describing the Project, including the anticipated benefits. A technical report will be prepared by the Proponent and evaluated by the District. The report must describe:

1. Quantities and sources of water;
2. Structures and other physical features of the proposed Project;
3. Water accounting measures and/or methods;
4. Funding;
5. Schedule, including CEQA compliance;
6. Anticipated benefits; and
7. Proponent's evaluation of compliance with Plan's management objectives.

The District staff and consultant will evaluate the Technical Report prior to any Board determination regarding the proposed Project.

The District will utilize outside consultants, as necessary, for further evaluations. The proposal and technical report will be reviewed for consistency with the Plan's basin management objectives and utilization of adopted management strategies.

The resulting evaluation will be returned to the Project Proponent. The District will coordinate with the Proponent to develop the final proposed Project. Upon finalization of the

proposed Project, the District Board of Directors will act to determine the compatibility of the proposed Project with the goals of this Plan. Similarly, water exchange and banking agreements among the District and adjacent banking partners will be used where they may enable the District to distribute water to areas identified under this Plan as suffering from groundwater depletion and as being suitable for groundwater storage.

Surface Water Quality

The surface waters of the Plan area are singular. Imported surface water originates in the San Joaquin Delta for exchange with waters from the San Joaquin River watershed (Friant-Kern Canal). Current surface water monitoring programs are summarized in Table 5-1. Under this management strategy, the District will review results of existing monitoring programs. Additional surface water quality monitoring will be developed if deemed necessary.

Plan Activities

1. Maintain or increase quantities of imported surface water;
2. Preserve existing surface water rights;
3. Promote efficient water use through the use of water exchanges and transfers;
4. Investigate potential for water banking opportunities adjacent to the Plan area;
5. Develop additional water storage capacity within the Plan area; and
6. Monitor existing surface water quality testing efforts by other agencies.

TABLE 5-1
SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SURFACE WATER	MONITORING AGENCY	FREQUENCY
Friant-Kern Canal	Reclamation District 770	Annually
	Terra Bella Irrigation District	Varies - monthly to annually

OPERATION OF FACILITIES

This management strategy consists of the construction and operation of facilities that address groundwater recharge, storage extraction, conservation contamination clean-up and water recycling. Current efforts primarily address groundwater recharge through percolation basins and unlined irrigation distribution channels. In general, the current projects are implemented jointly with adjacent water supply districts.

Additional groundwater facilities will be needed to sustain the resource as demands placed on the groundwater resource increase. The District will evaluate potential projects that will address this need. The current scope of this strategy will be expanded as necessary. Opportunities to incorporate recycling and reclamation and water conservation may be possible through coordination with domestic utility providers.

Plan Activities

1. Maintain policy which facilitates maintenance of joint recharge areas.
2. Develop and implement protocol to identify operations projects.
3. Upgrade and expand surface water conveyance facilities.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Groundwater monitoring will be used by the District to assess the quantity and quality of the groundwater resource. The details of this management strategy are described in Section 6.

The District currently participates in annual monitoring of groundwater levels. Additional groundwater level information is available from domestic water providers.

In general, regular groundwater quality assessments are conducted by domestic water providers within the region. The District will develop a protocol to compile groundwater quality data. Additional groundwater quality monitoring efforts will be developed as needed.

LAND SUBSIDENCE MONITORING

The District does not have any substantial information regarding land subsidence within the Plan area. This management strategy consists of developing and implementing monitoring protocols to determine the pressure of land subsidence. The District's efforts will establish a starting point for future evaluations.

Plan Activities

1. Identify and establish an elevation control network throughout the Plan area.
2. Conduct periodic survey of control network to determine presence, if any, of land subsidence.

LAND USE PLANNING

This management strategy consists of reviewing land use plans and coordination with local planning agencies. Under this strategy, the District will review projects and basin activities that affect land use and the potential for groundwater resource impacts.

Plan Activities

1. Develop and maintain protocols to participate in local land use planning efforts.
2. Continue participation in California Environmental Quality Act as a responsible agency.

GROUNDWATER BASIN AND RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Many strategies to be utilized by the District will produce groundwater resource and basin data or information. This information will need to be completed and inventoried.

The purpose of this management strategy is to ensure that data and information gathered during the implementation of the Plan is readily available for evaluation purposes. Many Plan efforts could be implemented by other Plan Participants. Centralizing this data and information will be critical to groundwater management.

Under this management strategy, the District will also conduct assessments and evaluations of the implementation data. These efforts will serve as the basis of development for the District's annual reports and other Plan documents.

A conjunctive groundwater use model has not been developed by the District. Such a model could be a productive tool which could provide an additional method to evaluate Plan data and conduct groundwater resource assessments.

Plan Activities

1. Establish data management authority and responsibilities.
2. Develop and implement data collection and inventory protocols and standards.
3. Determine feasibility of development and use of predictive groundwater model.

GROUNDWATER BASIN AND RESOURCE REPORTS

This management element consists of the preparation of reports and other documents used by the District to disseminate information and findings regarding its efforts under the Plan. Reports will be used to document Plan activities and subsequent effectiveness. These reports will also be used to present new and/or additional knowledge regarding the Basin characteristics and resources.

Detailed information regarding the District's reporting efforts can be found in Section 7, Implementation.

Plan Activities

1. Prepare Annual Groundwater Management Plan Report.
2. Prepare technical memoranda as necessary to disseminate information regarding Plan activities.

LOCAL AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

This management strategy consists of efforts to engage individuals and agencies within the Plan area in Plan participation. Three primary elements will form the foundation of this management strategy: Plan participation, Advisory Committee and Public Review. The first element is Plan Participation. There exists many agencies within the Plan area that will realize benefits from the District's coordinated Plan efforts to manage the groundwater resource. The District will pursue opportunities to engage such agencies as Plan Participants. Additional Plan Participants increase the extent of coordinated groundwater resource management and the amount of resources available to implement the Plan.

The second element of this strategy is the consideration of the development and utilization of a Plan Advisory Committee (Committee) to assist in the implementation of the Plan. The District will establish the need for such a Committee and, if need is determined to exist, will establish the criteria regarding Committee formation and participation. To be effective, the Committee must include individuals and agencies that represent the various resource interests of the Plan area. The District will endeavor to enlist sufficient representation for the Committee. Additional committees may be created as necessary to facilitate implementation of the Plan.

The third element of this strategy consists of public participation and review. The meetings of the District are open to the public. Public notification will be developed to encourage public participation. During Plan reporting efforts, the public will be afforded opportunity to review and publicly comment on the Plan and its implementation. The Plan will be considered public record and available for inspection.

Plan Activities

1. Pursue Plan participation by local agencies within Plan Area;
2. Maintain advisory committee of Plan Participants and Plan stakeholders; and
3. Establish and maintain public notification and participation procedures regarding Plan activities.

SECTION 6
MONITORING
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 6
MONITORING
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

GENERAL

Optimal use of the groundwater resource is dependent on the acquisition of good basic data respecting both geology and hydrology. The purpose of this element of the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District's (District) Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) is to monitor conditions within the groundwater basin to identify changing conditions which may require attention. Monitoring includes gathering and analyzing basic data generated from Plan management activities to characterize the basin to provide the information necessary for future management decisions. Existing and proposed management activities in this regard may be enhanced to provide a more complete picture of the condition of the groundwater resource. The Plan's primary monitoring effort will be directed at the groundwater resource. Additional monitoring efforts will result from activities proposed by management strategies.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Groundwater monitoring will consist of two components which are groundwater levels and groundwater quality.

Groundwater Levels

Data regarding groundwater levels is used to evaluate groundwater movement and storage conditions. Groundwater contour maps showing lines of equal elevation of the water surface indicate the direction of groundwater movement and can be used to develop estimates of

groundwater flow entering or leaving the management area. Maps of depth to groundwater can provide insight into the distribution of pumping lifts and resulting energy costs for extraction. Maps showing changes in groundwater levels, when used in conjunction with data on specific yield, can also be used to estimate changes in groundwater storage.

The District staff routinely measures groundwater levels in approximately 64 wells. The locations and details related to the current wells are presented in Table 6-1. Measurements are made in the spring and fall of each year. The present monitoring networks will be maintained or enhanced to assure the availability of sufficient data for the preparation of groundwater contour maps. Measurement of groundwater levels will continue to be performed in both spring and fall in order to show seasonal variations.

Groundwater Quality

Monitoring of groundwater quality provides the information required for determinations of the suitability of groundwater for various uses. Comprehensive groundwater quality data for the Plan area does not exist. The District will develop protocols to obtain groundwater quality data from domestic water providers and other sources and consolidate it for management purposes.

Sampling of District landowner wells will be considered, if necessary, to provide sufficient data to allow identification of water quality problem areas. Supplemental sampling may also be performed to better define localized areas of impaired water quality. Testing will typically include standard agricultural type analysis, but may also include additional testing such as Title 22 parameters, as required.

ADDITIONAL MONITORING

Data related to the hydrologic inventory will be collected annually for quantification and analysis. Components of the inventory include precipitation, runoff, imported supplies, amounts of groundwater replenished and quantities of groundwater extracted. Additional monitoring efforts will result from the following Plan management strategies:

- Groundwater Recharge Management;
- Groundwater Extraction Policies;
- Surface Water Management;
- Land Use Planning;
- Well Abandonment/Destruction Policies; and
- Well Construction Policies.

SECTION 7
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SECTION 7
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

GENERAL

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (District) will serve as the custodian of the District's Groundwater Management Plan (Plan). The District will act as the Plan's resource center and data clearinghouse. Monitoring Data and information gathered during Plan Implementation will be compiled and stored at the District office. The District will also lead Plan activity, report preparation and information dissemination efforts.

PLAN PARTICIPATION

The Plan officially recognizes stakeholders through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and an interested entity. The purpose of the MOU is to document the interests and responsibilities of participants in the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The MOU also promotes the sharing of information, the development of a course of action and the resolving of differences that may arise regarding the Plan. It is foreseen that stakeholder involvement will increase with time. The District will continue to pursue new stakeholder involvement and shall endeavor to enter into an agreement with other local agencies in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding in compliance with California Water Code § 10750.8. A sample of one form of Memorandum of Understanding is included in Appendix "B".

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Plan acknowledges that controversial issues could arise concerning the groundwater resource. Stakeholders are encouraged to work through the Plan in addressing and resolving differences. When this process proves insufficient, the District has adopted in this Plan, an applicable policy for dispute resolution. The policy is presented in Appendix "C".

ANNUAL REPORT

Documentation in the form of an annual report will be prepared as required to record the results of the management activities monitoring elements of the Plan. The contents of the annual report will include:

1. Maps and/or tables showing:
 - spring and fall groundwater elevations;
 - changes in groundwater levels between subsequent spring readings; and
 - groundwater quality;
2. Estimation of the changes in groundwater storage computed using specific yield data and maps of change in groundwater levels;
3. Summary of water resource data; and
4. Assessment of the effectiveness of management activities.

PLAN OF EVALUATION

The Plan will be re-evaluated annually subsequent to the findings of the Plan's annual report. The District staff will be responsible for monitoring the Plan's activities and progress towards its management objectives.

The re-evaluation of the Plan will include an assessment of the effectiveness of Plan activities and a determination of potential modification(s) to the Plan.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Additional reports and technical memoranda may be produced as a result of Plan activities, grant funding requirements or other need for documentation. The content of any supplemental documents will address the informational requirements.

SCHEDULE

Implementation of the District's Plan will be structured according to the schedule presented in Table 7-1.

TABLE 7-1
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PLAN ACTIVITY	OCCURRENCE
Plan Management Strategies and Activities	Monthly (As Required)
District General Meeting	Monthly
Plan Report	Annually
Plan Re-evaluation	5-year Basis
Groundwater Monitoring	Annually (Additional As Required)

PLAN FUNDING

Implementing the Plan will require dedicated funding through the District and potentially with Plan Participants. In general, funding for the Plan and its activities will be derived from grants, in-lieu contributions, cost-sharing agreements and/or assessments.

Grants

The District will pursue opportunities to fund Plan activities through grants offered by DWR and other agencies. Plan participants may be asked to support grant applications.

Cost-Sharing Agreements

Costs for annual groundwater reports, Plan updates and other reporting efforts will be distributed according to any cost-sharing provisions entered into as part of participation agreement provisions.

Additional cost-sharing agreements may be developed as necessary to fund other projects considered during the implementation of the Plan.

In-lieu Contributions

Some Plan activities, such as groundwater elevation activities will be funded through the District's own operations.

Assessments

Upon adoption of this Plan, the District is authorized to levy and collect general groundwater replenishment assessments, as well as water extraction fees based on the amount of groundwater extracted from the aquifer within the Plan Area. Any assessment or fees proposed to be collected by the District under this Plan for the purpose of groundwater management must be approved by an area-wide election as provided in AB 3030.

APPENDIX A
PLAN PARTICIPANTS AND STAKEHOLDERS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

TABLE A-1
PLAN PARTICIPANTS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PARTICIPANT	DATE OF FORMALIZED PARTICIPATION

TABLE A-2
STAKEHOLDERS
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

STAKEHOLDER	INTEREST
	District Landowners
City of Wasco	Domestic Water Supply/Use
City of Shafter	Domestic Water Supply/Use
	Domestic Water Supply/Use
	Domestic Water Supply/Use
	Domestic Water Supply/Use
Kern Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife
Bureau of Reclamation	Surface Water Supplies
Friant Water Authority	Surface Water Supplies
National Resources Conservation Service	Natural Resources
Audubon Society	Wildlife/Monitoring
Kern County	Land Use/Planning

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AND
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ARTICLE I – AGREEMENT

The articles and provisions contained herein constitute a bilateral and binding agreement by and between SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT (hereinafter the “District”) and _____ (hereinafter “Agency”).

ARTICLE II – RECOGNITION

The District has developed a Groundwater Management Plan (hereinafter the “Plan”) with input from several local agencies located within the District. It is the intent of the District to allow and encourage such agencies to coordinate efforts and be a part of the District’s Plan by means of a separate Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the “MOU”) between each agency and District.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the MOU, entering into willingly, between District and Agency, to document the interests and responsibilities of both parties in the adoption and implementation of the Plan. It is also hoped that such MOU will promote and provide a means to establish an orderly process to share information, develop a course of action and resolve any misunderstandings or differences that may arise regarding the Plan.

ARTICLE IV – COORDINATE

There shall be an annual coordinating meeting (hereinafter the “Meeting”) between the District and the Agency. District shall give notice to the Agency thirty (30) days prior to date of the Meeting to discuss the manner in which the Plan is being implemented and other items related to the Plan. If there are concerns or questions regarding the Plan, Agency shall transmit its concerns in writing to District seven (7) days prior to the Meeting.

ARTICLE V – OBLIGATIONS

The Plan shall be binding on the parties hereto unless superseded by the MOU or amendment thereto.

ARTICLE VI – AREA OF PLAN

The Plan shall be effective in all areas within the Agency boundaries. The Plan shall also be effective in any area annexed to the Agency subsequent to the adoption of the Plan.

ARTICLE VII – TERM

The initial term of the MOU shall commence on the date hereof and continue for five (5) years, and shall continue year to year thereafter, unless terminated by written notice given at least one (1) year prior to such termination.

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2007.

**SHAFTER-WASCO
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

APPENDIX C
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY
SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Purpose. The District recognizes that defending or prosecuting lawsuits can be expensive and time-consuming, resulting in a drain on District resources that should be avoided, if reasonably possible. To that end, the District hereby implements this policy to encourage the resolution of disputes, claims and lawsuits through alternative dispute resolution procedures related to their adopted Groundwater Management Plan.

Procedures. Whenever the District is named in a lawsuit or receives a written claim or a serious threat of imminent litigation, the District staff shall immediately consult with the District General Counsel regarding the same. Together, the District staff and the District General Counsel shall formulate a recommended response to be considered by the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Whenever the District becomes aware of any unasserted potential lawsuit, claim or dispute, with a reasonable likelihood of being asserted, against the District, the District staff shall consult with the District's counsel regarding the best method for responding to the same. Possible responses include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Do nothing.
2. A verbal communication from the District or its general counsel.
3. A written communication from the District or its general counsel.
4. An offer to meet and discuss the matter with District personnel.
5. An offer to mediate the matter before a neutral third-party mediator.
6. An offer to arbitrate the matter before the American Arbitration Association.
7. An offer to arbitrate the matter using the rules of judicial arbitration found in California statutes.

District staff shall advise the Board of Directors of any unasserted lawsuit, claim or dispute, with a reasonable likelihood of being asserted, including the District's response to the same. The Board of Directors shall be advised whether or not the matter is resolved. If the potential lawsuit, claim or dispute becomes an actual lawsuit, claim or dispute, the response of the District shall be handled as set forth above in the previous paragraphs.

It shall be the practice of the District to encourage mediation of lawsuits, claims or disputes, whenever reasonably practical, in order to resolve such matters. Mediation shall be by a neutral third-party qualified to mediate such matters.