

ATTACHMENT 4: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Deer Creek and Tule River Authority (Authority) was formed in 1994 with the purpose to better collectively manage groundwater within the Tule Basin (Basin). Since then, the Authority has prepared Groundwater Management Plans and monitoring plans to better understand the existing basin conditions and to focus their efforts on projects in areas that have groundwater concerns, primarily due to groundwater overdraft. But, due to the lack of consistent and historical data, the Authority has been unable to adequately address areas of concern and there is a lack of agreement between members on the best projects or areas to address. Monitoring programs have been established only within the past few years and the data is too recent to identify consistent trends and it may take years before trends can be identified to substantiate a project.

In addition to groundwater quantity concerns, the Authority has recently become concerned with groundwater quality and would like to understand the existing groundwater quality conditions within the Basin. Quality data collected by the Authority has been sporadic and inconsistent; therefore baseline conditions and trends have not been identified for the overall Basin.

The DCTRA members are proposing to prepare a Groundwater Assessment Analysis and Report (Project) to better define the existing Basin conditions using readily available historical data completed for other regulatory requirements, such as for a requirement by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for a Waste Discharge Permit. The purpose of this Project is to establish Basin baseline conditions, evaluate historical trends, and determine recommendations and priority projects for the Authority to better manage groundwater throughout the Basin. As part of the Project, all the historical data that is analyzed will be summarized and posted to a website for all members and stakeholders to review.

Following is a brief summary of the physical basin conditions and a detailed description of the proposed Project.

Existing Basin Description:

The Tule Basin (Basin) has been defined by DWR Bulletin 118 as a groundwater basin that is critically overdrafted. The Tule Basin is bordered by Kern County to the South, Tulare Lake on the West, Kaweah Basin to the North and the foothills on the East. There are three major surface watersheds located within the boundary of the Tule Basin: Tule River, Deer Creek, and White River. The Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region is described in more detail in DWR Bulletin 118, Appendix B: Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region.

The DCTRA is located completely within the Tule Basin. The DCTRA Plan Boundary area (DCTRA Boundary) coverage includes the areas of the member districts and some additional land not within a particular member boundary. The DCTRA Boundary is located entirely within the County of Tulare and encompasses an area of approximately 289,000 acres bounded by:

East: Foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains

West: Kings/Tulare County Line

North: Northern boundary of Lower Tule Irrigation District and Porterville Irrigation District

South: Southern boundary of Pixley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, and Terra Bella Irrigation District.

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GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS AND REPORT

The City of Tulare is approximately 5 miles north of the Basin. Elevations range from approximately 250 feet above mean sea level in the western portion of the Basin to 500 feet above mean sea level in the eastern portion of the Basin. Two of the three major surface watersheds within the Tule Basin, the Tule River and Deer Creek, are within the DCTRA Boundary. Enclosed is a map which identifies the general location of the DCTRA Boundary within the Tule Basin along with the member agencies and stakeholders within the DCTRA Boundary.

Detailed Project Description:

The Proposed DCTRA Groundwater Assessment Analysis and Report (Project) is described in detail as follows:

Location: The Project involves gathering existing historical data from within the entire boundary of the Authority. The Project includes reviewing historical data from each of the stakeholders and member participants within the DCTRA Boundary, along with data from different regulatory agencies.

Goals: The DCTRA Groundwater Management Plan identifies several Basin Management Objectives (BMO) and Goals. The highest priority BMO in the current Plan is Groundwater Basin Understanding, secondly Information Dissemination. Other BMO's within the GWMP, such as Groundwater Sustainability or Groundwater Resource Protection can be better implemented once the DCTRA Basin is better understood. The primary goal of the proposed Project is to develop a better understanding of the DCTRA Basin so that the Authority can make informed decisions on how to better manage groundwater and areas that need improvement. Collecting the historical data and compiling the data into a consistent database will provide trends and information that might have otherwise taken years to collect. Using this historical data, the Authority will be able to better outreach to the members and stakeholders through a website and brochures, using a collective overall approach for the entire Basin rather than for a small, industry focused approach.

Usefulness/Quality of Data Collected: The data collected is historical data that has been completed by industry groups, commodity groups, municipalities, public utility districts within the DCTRA Basin for different regulatory requirements. This data has been collected and submitted as required by the regulatory agency; therefore the quality of the data is very good and accurate. The Authority is proposing to gather this data and compile into one standard database that can be utilized by the Authority for the overall basin. This compilation of the data will be extremely useful in determining trends and the location of future projects to address groundwater overdraft and quality concerns.

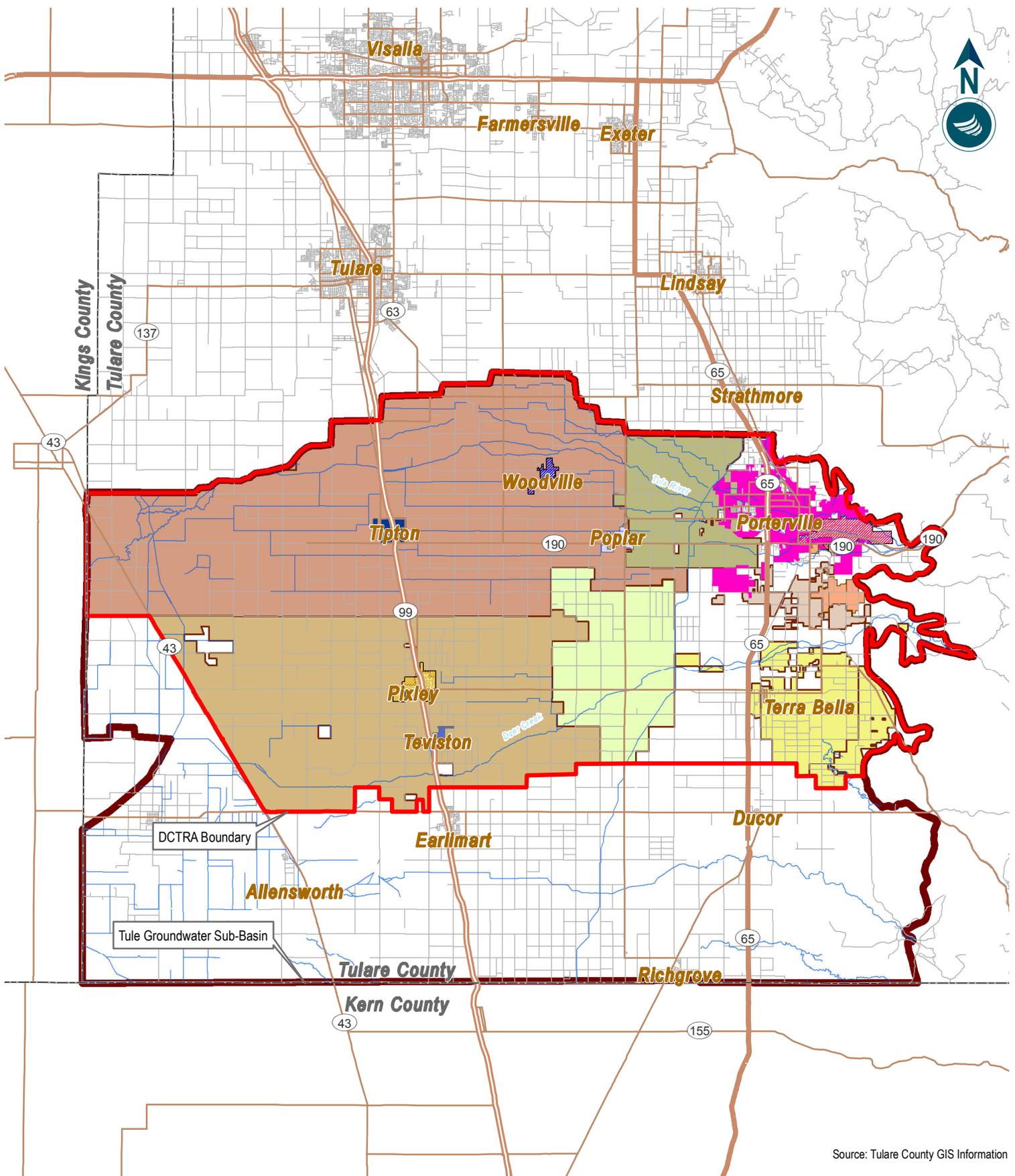
Collaboration with Stakeholders: The purpose of the Project is to better understand the DCTRA Basin by getting data and information from those within the Basin that may not be members of the Authority. During the initial tasks of the Project, meetings will take place with those stakeholders to gather any groundwater data that might be available to help better understand the historical basin conditions. This initial meeting will get the Stakeholders involved in the Project. Once the final Report has been completed, the final Task of the Project is to create a website and brochures summarizing the basin conditions that can easily be accessed by any person within the Basin. A final presentation will be given to the DCTRA Board, which is a public meeting, and notice will be provided to the Stakeholders for this presentation as well as the DCTRA Board members and participants.

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Continued Project Implementation: After the Project has been completed, a data management system with the historical data will be established, analysis of the historical conditions will be completed, historical maps and graphs identifying trends will be completed, and a website will be set-up as an outreach tool to the Stakeholders and Participants. With these items established, the Authority will update the database annually as part of the Groundwater Management Plan Annual Reports, already budgeted and funded. By having an organized database for both the data and the maps will save time with each Annual Report. In addition, the data resulting from this Project will provide better insight to the DCTRA Board on areas that the Authority should focus their annual budget and time.

ENCLOSURES:

- Deer Creek and Tule River Authority Vicinity Map



Source: Tulare County GIS Information



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

2929 W. Main St., Ste. A
Visalia, California 93291
(559) 802-3052

Legend		City/Communities	Member Districts
	County Boundary		Porterville (9,064 Ac.)
	DCTRA Boundary (289,448 Ac.)		Pixley PUD (896 Ac.)
			Porter Vista PUD (1,743 Ac.)
			Woodville PUD (348 Ac.)
			Poplar CSD (410 Ac.)
			Teviston CSD (199 Ac.)
			Tipton CSD (692 Ac.)
			Lower Tule River ID (103,034 Ac.)
			Pixley ID (69,014 Ac.)
			Porterville ID (16,997 Ac.)
			Saucelito ID (19,702 Ac.)
			Tea Pot Dome WD (3,481 Ac.)
			Terra Bella ID (15,053 Ac.)
			Vandalia ID (1,379 Ac.)

Attachment A

DCTRA Member Districts

Deer Creek Tule River Authority
Groundwater Management Plan