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**KINGS WATER ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT ZONE
FINAL MANAGEMENT ZONE PROPOSAL
ADDENDUM (FOR PRIORITY 2 TULARE LAKE
SUBBASIN AREA)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

PREPARED FOR



PREPARED BY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1. Management Zone Overview

The Kings Water Alliance (KWA) initiated the formation of the KWA Management Zone to comply with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or CVWB) Nitrate Control Program requirements. To address the growing needs of this large region of California to solve the nitrate problem in groundwater, representatives from local growers, dairies, and other permitted dischargers in the Kings and Tulare Lake Subbasins formed the KWA. The KWA elected to pursue Path B to comply with the Nitrate Control Program, which meant forming a Management Zone.

The KWA Management Zone includes the Kings Groundwater Subbasin, the Tulare Lake Groundwater Subbasin, a portion of the Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin, and smaller areas of other neighboring groundwater subbasins (**Figure ES-1**). Due to differences in nitrate groundwater conditions within the subbasins of the Central Valley, the CVWB assigned priorities based on the urgency of addressing nitrate problems in each groundwater subbasin. The Kings and Kaweah Subbasins and four other subbasins were deemed the highest priority, Priority 1, which means that their compliance with the Nitrate Control Program is on a fast track compared to the Priority 2 subbasins, including Tulare Lake Subbasin and seven other subbasins.

The overarching management goals of the Nitrate Control Program are (Central Valley Water Board, 2020):

1. Ensure safe drinking water supply;
2. Reduce salt and nitrate loading so that ongoing discharges neither threaten to degrade high-quality waters absent appropriate findings by the CVWB nor cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives; and
3. Implement long-term, managed restoration of impaired water bodies as reasonable and feasible.

Kings Water Alliance Management Zone
 Final Management Zone Proposal Addendum
 Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin Area – Executive Summary

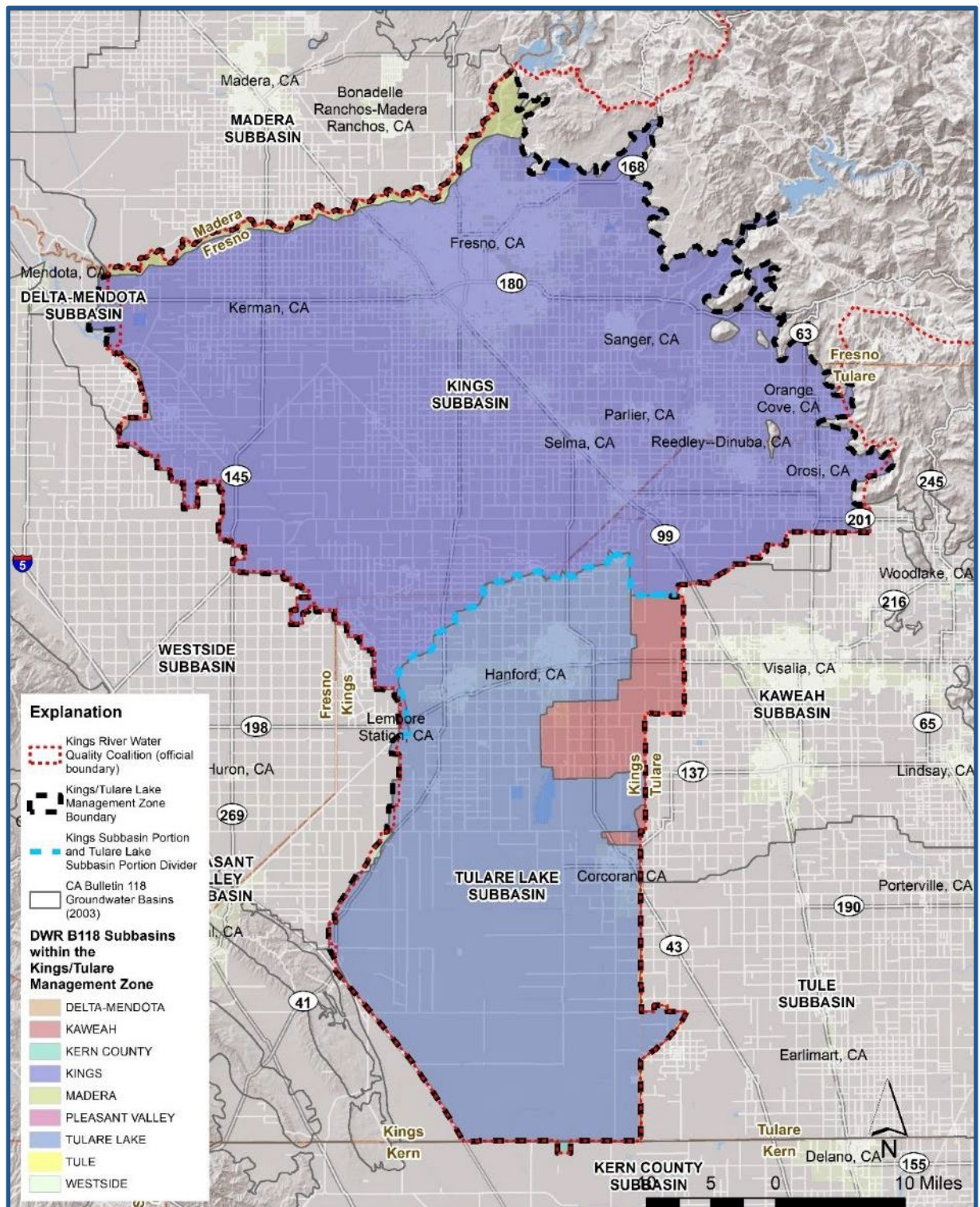


Figure ES-1. Kings Water Alliance Management Zone

The KWA worked collaboratively with permittees to form a Management Zone to achieve these goals. The formation of the KWA Management Zone (Path B) to comply with the Nitrate Control Program allows an exception from the nitrate drinking water standard compared to Path A. Path A is for Individual Permitting and imposes requirements to the discharger that may be difficult and expensive (potentially including making significant upgrades to a discharger's facility, conducting extensive monitoring of discharge and local groundwater, providing replacement drinking water to local residents, etc.). The Path B option encourages partnerships and teamwork among its discharging members to solve the nitrate problem within their Management Zone boundary.

Several documents are required to comply with Path B of the Nitrate Control Program. The first was the Preliminary Management Zone Proposal (PMZP), including a key companion document, the Early Action Plan. For Priority 1 subbasins, these were submitted to the CVWB within 270 days of dischargers receiving a Notice to Comply. The KWA submitted these documents to the Regional Board on March 8, 2021. Implementation of the Early Action Plan began within 60 days of submittal, on May 8, 2021. The Final Management Zone Proposal (FMZP) was submitted on August 29, 2022, 180 days after public comment and the CVWB's review of the Preliminary Management Zone Proposal. The Management Zone Implementation Plan was due 180 days after public comment and the CVWB's review of the Final Management Zone Proposal; KWA submitted its Management Zone Implementation Plan for the Priority 1 Kings Subbasin and a portion of the Kaweah Subbasin on September 5, 2023.

Although the KWA's PMZP and FMZP incorporated the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin, this document, the Final Management Zone Proposal Addendum, along with one of its main attachments, the Early Action Plan Addendum, is the next step to complying with the Nitrate Control Program and continuing the process of solving the nitrate problems that occur within the Management Zone boundary, particularly for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion. One of the most important components of the development of the Preliminary and Final Management Zone Proposals and Early Action Plan is public outreach and community engagement. California State law (AB 685) declares that "every person in the state has a right to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water." This policy is commonly referred to as the Human Right to Water. To promote this effort, the KWA has been engaging the community through various outlets (including but not limited to mailings, flyers, radio announcements, advertisements, emails, public webinars, public surveys) to empower residents within the Management Zone to become engaged and involved in the decision-making process associated with solving their local nitrate problems.

This Final Management Zone Proposal Addendum document is designed to address the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area, which is also part of the Kings River Water Quality Coalition area.

ES.2. Updated Sections of the KWA Preliminary Management Zone Proposal Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin Portion

The contents of this Final Management Zone Proposal Addendum include updated sections of the original PMZP and FMZP submitted in March 2021 and August 2022, as well as the Preliminary Management Zone Proposal Addendum submitted in December 2024, that require updating to specifically address the Final Management Zone Proposal requirements for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area. The selection of sections included in this Addendum were discussed and agreed upon by the Regional Board through meetings and email communications in January 2024 through April 2024 and again in November and December 2025 (see **Attachment J**):

Section 1: Management Zone Overview

- Section 1.3.1 Priority 1 and Priority 2 Requirements and Timeline: This section is updated to reflect the timing and requirements associated with the Priority 1 and Priority 2 deadlines.
- Section 1.4.5 Public Participation Addendum for Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin: This section provides an overview of the public outreach and engagement activities associated with the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 1.5 Updated List of Participants in the Proposed Management Zone: This section is updated to reflect additional participants in the KWA Management Zone, including participants from the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 1.5.2 Tulare Lake Subbasin Initial List of Participants: This section is updated to reflect additional participants in the KWA Management Zone, including participants from the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.

Section 3: Tulare Lake Subbasin Characterization and Initial Assessment of Groundwater Conditions

- Section 3.1.5 Drinking Water Systems: This section is updated to reflect public water systems in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.1.6 Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities: This section is updated to reflect the most recent information on disadvantaged communities in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion of the KWA Management Zone.

- Section 3.1.7 Land Use: This section is updated to reflect the most recent information on land use for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.2.2 Groundwater Elevations and Flow: This section is updated to reflect the most recent groundwater contour data and flow directions for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.2.2.1 Areas of Potential Contribution: This section is updated to reflect the most recent groundwater contour data and flow directions as they pertain to potential areas of contribution outside of the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin portion of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.2.5 Updated Nitrate Water Quality Data and Analysis for Priority 2 Tulare Lake FMZP Addendum: This section is updated to reflect the most recent publicly available groundwater nitrate quality dataset used for the analysis of groundwater nitrate conditions including ambient mapping of recent nitrate concentrations in depth-specific aquifer zones and nitrate trends analyses (parametric, recent, long-term, and recent).
- Section 3.2.6 Existing Ambient Conditions: This section is updated to reflect the most recently publicly available groundwater nitrate quality dataset used for ambient mapping of recent nitrate concentrations for the Upper, Lower, and Below Lower Zones.
- Section 3.2.7 Groundwater Nitrate Trends Analysis: This section is updated to reflect the most recently available groundwater nitrate quality dataset used for parametric and non-parametric trends analyses on wells of all depth zones for the full record of measurements and the more recent time frame.
- Section 3.2.8 Inactive Drinking Water Supply Wells: This section is updated to reflect the most recent nitrate conditions with respect to inactive drinking water supply wells.
- Section 3.2.9 De-Designated Areas Discussion: This section includes a description of the de-designated area in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.3 Management Zone Participants: This section is updated to reflect participants in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area of the KWA Management Zone.
- Section 3.3.1 Permitted Dischargers: This section is updated to reflect permitted dischargers that received a Notice to Comply (NTC) in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake

Subbasin area of the KWA Management Zone, with attention to any intersection of the de-designated area.

- Section 3.3.1.1 Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program: This section was updated to reflect the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program participation in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 3.3.1.2 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: This section was updated to reflect the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations participants in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 3.3.1.3 Individually Permitted Dischargers: This section was updated to reflect the participation of Individually Permitted Dischargers in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 3.3.2 Non-Discharger/Stakeholder Participation: This section was updated to reflect the participation of non-dischargers and stakeholders in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 3.4.3 Individual Permitted Dischargers: This section was updated to reflect the current nitrate treatment and control efforts or management practices for individual permitted dischargers.

Section 4: Early Action Plan Development

- Section 4.1.1 Identification of Public Water Supplies and Domestic Wells Potentially Exceeding Nitrate Water Quality Objective: This section is updated to reflect the development of the Early Action Plan Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 4.1.1.1 Nitrate-Impacted Areas: This section is updated to reflect the development of the Early Action Plan Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 4.1.1.2 Potentially Impacted Public Supply Wells: This section is updated to reflect the development of the Early Action Plan Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.
- Section 4.1.1.3 Potentially Impacted Domestic Wells: This section is updated to reflect the development of the Early Action Plan Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area, with attention to any domestic wells in de-designated areas.
- Section 4.2 Community Outreach: This section is updated to reflect the development of the Early Action Plan Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.

Attachment B: Permitted Milk Cow Dairies, Confined Bovine Feeding Operations, and Poultry Operations in the Management Zone

- This Attachment was updated to reflect Management Zone participation in the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.

Attachment C: Outreach Records for Development of FMZP; Public Draft Comments and Response Log

- This Attachment was updated to reflect outreach and public input pertaining to the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area.

Attachment D: Early Action Plan

- This Attachment was updated for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area as the Early Action Plan (EAP) Addendum

Attachment F: Kings Water Alliance Management Zone Participation Agreement

- This Attachment was updated to reflect the Priority 2 participation agreement for the KWA Management Zone.

Attachment J: KWA PMZP and FMZP Addendum Approach Communications with CVWB

- This Attachment was updated to reflect communications held with CVWB during preparation of this FMZP Addendum.

This document is an Addendum to the original FMZP developed for the KWA, and as such the numbering and sequence of sections contained in this document follow the list above. For more information about the Priority 1 areas within the KWA Management Zone, readers are encouraged to refer to the previously submitted and accepted PMZP and FMZP documents available online (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/resources/management-zone-development/>).

The following table lists the Nitrate Control Program requirements for the Preliminary Management Zone Proposal and where these requirements are addressed within this document (**Table ES-1**).

Table ES-1. Preliminary Management Zone Proposal Requirements	
FMZP Requirement	Location in FMZP Addendum
Initial and updated identification of public water supplies or domestic wells within the Management Zone areas with nitrate concentrations exceeding the water quality objective	Summary in Section 1; detailed information in EAP Addendum (see Attachment D)

Table ES-1. Preliminary Management Zone Proposal Requirements	
FMZP Requirement	Location in FMZP Addendum
An EAP to address drinking water needs for those that rely on public water supply or domestic wells with nitrate levels exceeding the water quality objective.	Summary in Section 4; complete proposed Priority 2 Management Zone EAP in Attachment D
Documentation of the process utilized to identify affected residents and the outreach utilized to ensure that they are given the opportunity to participate in the development of an EAP.	Summary in Section 4; Section 2 in the EAP Addendum (see Attachment D)
Identification of areas within or adjacent to the Management Zone that overlap with other management areas/activities	Section 2.1
Any constituents of concern that the individual discharger/group of dischargers intend to address besides nitrate (not required but is an option available)	Section 5 of the EAP Addendum (see Attachment D) discusses the use of Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) funding to augment the well sampling program.
Documentation of actions to implement the EAP	Section 4
Proposed timeline for: Identifying additional participants; Further defining boundary areas; Developing proposed governance and funding structure for administration of the Management Zone; Additional evaluation of groundwater conditions across the Management Zone boundary area, if necessary; and, Preparing and submitting a Final Management Zone Proposal (FMZP) Addendum and Management Zone Implementation Plan (MZIP)	Sections 4 and 5

Source: Central Valley Water Board, 2020

ES.3. Early Action Plan Addendum Development

The establishment of a Management Zone requires the preparation of an Early Action Plan (EAP) that identifies actions the KWA has initiated to address sources of drinking water with unsafe nitrate levels. The key element of the EAP, which was developed in collaboration with the community, is the Interim Replacement Water Program. This Program provides immediate

alternative sources of drinking water for those who depend on groundwater with unsafe levels of nitrate for their drinking and cooking needs, that is, water with more than 10 mg/L as nitrogen (N).

The FMZP Addendum includes a summary of the key elements of the EAP, a brief overview of key EAP elements such as community outreach, the interim replacement water options (e.g., bottled water delivery, point-of-use treatment systems, and water fill stations), a well-testing program to support EAP implementation, and a general schedule for implementation. The EAP Addendum for the Priority 2 Tulare Lake Subbasin area, which includes more comprehensive information, is attached to this FMZP Addendum as **Attachment D**.