

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE WOLF PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING #3
13 APRIL 2023



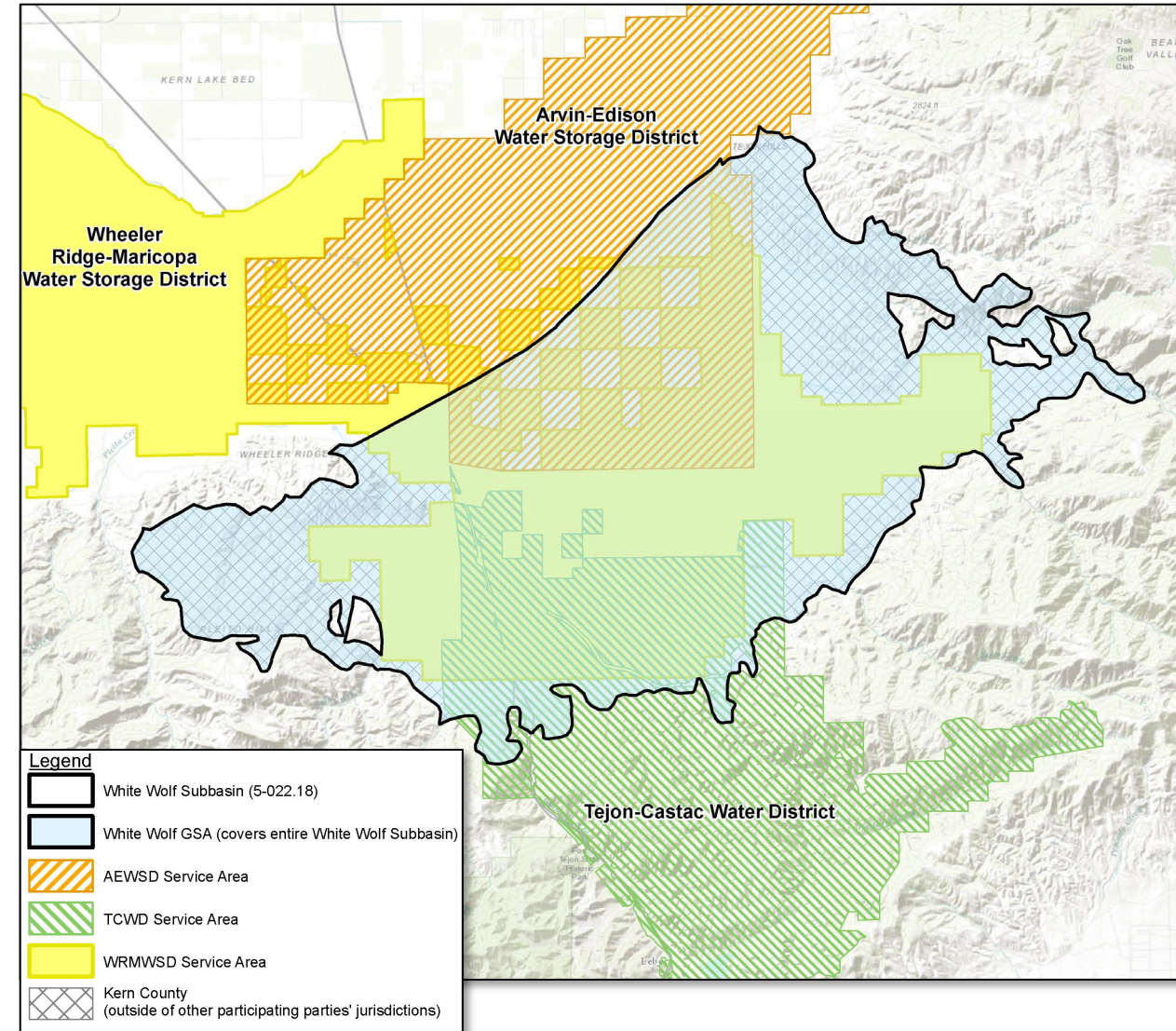
OUTLINE

Meeting Objective: Discuss recharge credit policies and develop recommendations for the White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board of Directors

- Introductions
 - Merging TAC and Board ad-hoc Committee
- Executive Order N-4-23
 - Key take-aways and relevance for White Wolf
- Discussion of potential landowner recharge credit policies
 - Recharge credit policy considerations
 - Examples from other GSAs
- Landowner recharge policy recommendations for the GSA Board of Directors

INTRODUCTIONS

- Who we are: White Wolf GSA
 - Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 - Tejon-Castac Water District
 - Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
 - Kern County
- Around the room – please introduce yourself!

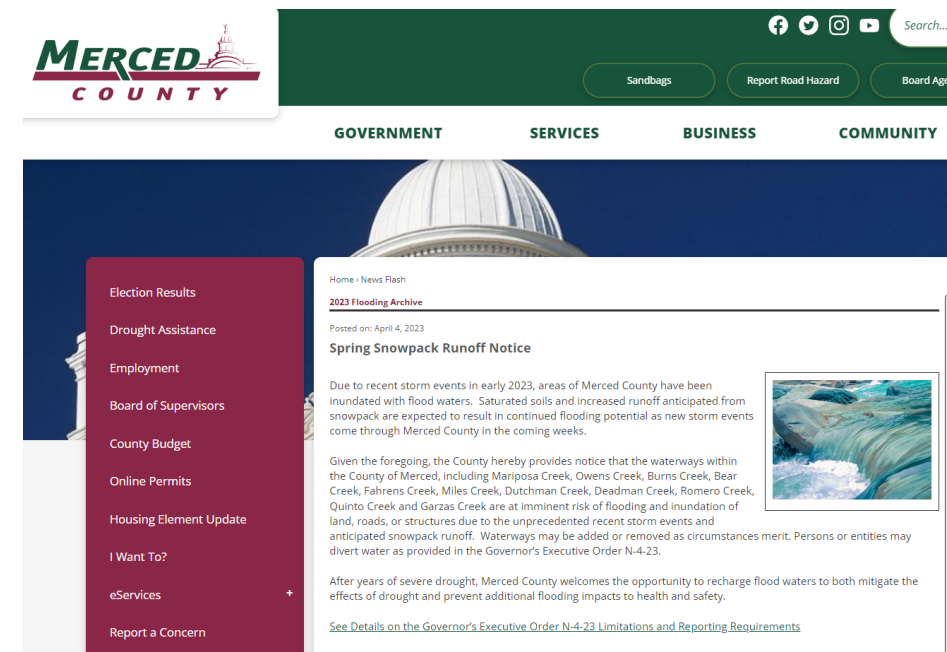


EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) N-4-23

- Temporarily allows diversion and **recharge** of **flood stage water** without state permits using existing infrastructure
- Local flood authority must announce that **flood is imminent**
- **No water rights** established – diverter does not maintain control of the water
- **No limit** on amount diverted, but must be reported to SWRCB
- **GSA**s can establish an **accounting** program and **may credit** individual landowners, and account for benefits during annual reporting
- **Expires** 1 June 2023

EO – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR WHITE WOLF?

- EO's primary objective is to alleviate flooding
- Before landowners could divert under EO, Kern County would need to issue a flood warning (example – see Merced County)
- GSA may consider establishing landowner recharge credit policy to allow for accounting and crediting in the future



<https://www.countyofmerced.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2412>

INITIAL QUESTIONS ON INITIATING P/MAS IN THE WWB

Who, what, and how for enrolling, tracking, and crediting recharge projects?

Leave behind for recharge projects?

Does the GSA support landowner-developed recharge projects?

How will member-district P/MAs be established and enforced in the GSA structure?

- Three example groundwater banking/recharge policies with varying complexity were included in the November 2022 GSA Board meeting packet
- Board gave preference to simpler policies

EXAMPLE POLICIES – GSA MEMBER DISTRICTS

1. AEWSD Landowner/Grower On-Farm Recharge Program
2. WRMWSD Landowner/Water User Recharge Program (draft as of 4/10/23)
 - District pay water users to recharge fallow fields with District water at times and volumes determined by the District
 - AEWSD pays water users \$40/acre-foot
 - WRMWSD pays water users \$25/acre-foot
 - Land must be fallow and deemed eligible for participation
 - District maintains ownership of and any credits for the water recharged
 - Landowner to communicate flows daily to the District

DISCUSSION: LANDOWNER RECHARGE CREDIT POLICIES

- Open discussion on participation in recharge crediting programs in other GSAs.
- Most important considerations for the White Wolf GSA?
 - How to register with and report to the GSA?
 - Through what mechanisms can water be recharged?
 - Incentives?
 - How can recharged water be recovered?

TOP 10 THOUGHTS ON LANDOWNER RECHARGE CREDIT POLICIES



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA, Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS



QUESTIONS



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