

## 8.3 Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District GSA

As a Kern County Subbasin member, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District GSA (RRBWSD) adopted a new Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in August of 2025. During 2023 Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District formed a RRBWSD GSA and expended much effort in preparing an updated Subbasin-wide GSP with all the other GSA's in collaboration with the SWRCB. A draft GSP was distributed to the public and SWRCB for comment in June 2025. The GSP described Rosedale's planned projects and management actions focused on reducing its projected deficit of 9,850 AFY through demand reduction and water supply augmentation.

### 1) Compliance with Groundwater Levels Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)

The RRBWSD GSA maintains a comprehensive network of 19 representative monitor wells. The wells are a combination of agricultural, domestic, and dedicated monitor wells of known well construction and offer reliable long-term data.

#### a) Compliance with SMC

Groundwater elevations were measured below (exceeded) their minimum thresholds at 0 of the 19 RMW-WLs within the RRBWSD GSA during the Fall 2024 monitoring event. 9 RMW-WLs were between the minimum threshold and measurable objective, and the remaining 10 RMW-WLs were measured above their measurable objectives.

Groundwater elevations were measured below (exceeded) their minimum thresholds at 0 of the 19 RMW-WLs within the RRBWSD GSA during the Spring 2025 monitoring event. 8 RMW-WLs were measured between the minimum threshold and measurable objective, and the remaining 11 RMW-WLs were measured above their measurable objectives.

#### b) SMC Monitoring Activities

Consistent with the Subbasin's Groundwater Level Sampling SOP, water level measurements were collected from 19 of the GSA's designated 19 RMW-WLs in Fall 2024 and from 19 of the GSA's designated 19 RMW-WLs in Spring 2025.

#### c) Assessment of Potential Impacts to Beneficial Users

There were no mitigation applications submitted for dry wells within the RRBWSD GSA during WY 2025.

### 2) Compliance with Additional Sustainable Management Criteria

The relationship between groundwater levels, quality, and subsidence are monitored across the Subbasin, as described in Section 7 Current Conditions of Sustainability Indicators. During WY 2025, [no MT Exceedances occurred within the RRBWSD GSA] OR [exceedances were observed with {describe the sustainability indicator and action taken}].

#### a) Water Quality

The GSP established Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) for six water-quality constituents of concern. In accordance with the Subbasin's Water Quality Sampling SOP, samples were collected from three of the RRBWSD GSA's four designated RMW-WQ sites. WY 2025 results indicate that groundwater quality within the RRBWSD GSA is not degrading. One representative well, however, showed exceedances of the MCL for 1,2,3-TCP. Because the well's depth and perforation interval do not align with State Board Staff domestic well data gaps analysis, the RRBWSD GSA plans to replace it with a nearby alternate well for future monitoring and to fill a Subbasin-defined water-quality data gap.

A second representative private well was not directly sampled by the RRBWSD GSA this year, but water-quality data

were obtained through GAMA, the State Water Resources Control Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program, which provides publicly accessible groundwater quality data. Since GAMA data does not appear on a schedule aligned with the Kern Subbasin's sampling cycle, the RRBWSD GSA has confirmed with the well owner that results for all six constituents of concern will be provided directly to the RRBWSD GSA beginning in spring and fall 2026. All remaining RMW-WQ sites within the RRBWSD GSA were sampled by the Kern Fan Monitoring Committee, and results were entered into the Kern Subbasin Data Management System (DMS).

## **b) Subsidence**

WY 2025 Subbasin-wide conditions and progress for subsidence is provided in Section 7, Current Conditions for Sustainability Indicators and Section 9, Progress on Subbasin-Wide Coordination. No specific RRBWSD GSA activities other than coordination with Subbasin-wide activities occurred in WY 2025.

## **c) Interconnected Surface Water**

Subbasin-wide analysis determined that the vast majority of surface water features in the Kern Subbasin are not connected to groundwater. Subsequently, the RRBWSD GSA is not independently taking any actions specific to the sustainability indicator.

## **3) Implementation of Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)**

The RRBWSD GSA in the adopted 2025 GSP revised several projects and management programs identified in previous GSP's to more accurately address current conditions and has made significant progress towards implementation as summarized by the following:

**RRB-1 Stockdale East Storage and Recovery Project:** This project was fully completed in 2019 in anticipation of SGMA implantation goals. The 200-acre project west of Bakersfield followed active farming and was converted into a conjunctive-use project. The land retirement of the project has yielded 520 AFY in demand reduction and since 2020 the District recharged 12,855 AF to offset GSA demands.

**RRB-2 McCaslin Recharge Improvements Project:** This project was added in 2019 as an adaptive management action and includes a 195-acre project west of Bakersfield to recharge, store, and recover water. RRBWSD completed relevant environmental analysis and applied for grant funding. Subsequent addenda to a previous conjunctive-use EIR were adopted. WaterSmart grants were awarded in 2020 and 2021 towards development and construction. Almond trees were removed from the property in 2021, construction of recharge ponds and intake was completed in 2022, and approximately 17,700 AF was spread in 2023 that otherwise would not have been stored. The construction of two Conjunctive-Use banking wells and recovery pipelines were under construction in 2024.

**RRB-3 McCaslin/Dillard Recharge Improvements Project:** During 2024 two nearby properties currently used for agricultural purposes came up for sale totally approximately 155 acres. RRBWSD acquired both properties and removed the crops and is developing the necessary environmental documents to convert them into groundwater recharge areas.

**RRB-4 Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Phase 1:** This project would develop a regional water bank in the Kern Fan area to store State Water Project (SWP) Article 21 water when surface water is abundant. The Kern Fan Project's feasibility analysis was completed in March 2020 and a FEIR was certified in December 2020. RRBWSD has commenced permitting and design efforts, now having acquired 350 acres of property for new recharge and recovery. Recharge ponds and control structures were constructed on all 350 acres in 2024-2025.

**RRB-5 Onyx Ranch Project:** This project is connected to RRBWSD-owned lands and water rights in the Kern River Valley. The project involves a change in the point of diversion that would bring water supplies to the Kern

Subbasin. A Draft EIR was circulated, and the FEIR was certified in January 2021. During 2023 approximately 6,114 AF was delivered for groundwater storage in the Kern Subbasin. Unfortunately, in 2024 due to legal action the project was paused and irrigation resumed in the Kern River Valley. In 2025 the project cleared legal challenges and resumed operation and brought 631 AF to the Subbasin.

The RRBWSD GSA made progress toward implementing several of its planned GSP Management Actions as summarized by the following:

**RRB-13 White Land Water Budget/Demand Imbalance Reduction:** This action has been implemented for demand reduction on a linear basis over the planning period of 2020-2040. It is expected that Rosedale-Rio Bravo White Lands would seek to acquire water supplies for in lieu and direct groundwater recharge via banking agreements with RRBWSD, or others to offset demands. A web-based water budget platform was completed in 2020 to allow users to begin tracking water usage for initial 2020-2024 reduction requirements. Landowners are being regularly updated as to their demands and remaining balances requiring balance by the end of 2024. **Eleven out of the thirteen** landowners are within their allocated supply. The GSA is discussing an imbalance penalty charge to better enforce lapses in milestone achievement.

**RRB-14 District Land Water Budget/Water Charge Demand Reduction:** This action imposes a water charge on District landowners for the use of water over native yield, precipitation, and project water supplies. A web-based 5 WY 2023 Annual Report KERN COUNTY SUBBASIN water budget platform was completed in 2020 and real-time evapotranspiration (ET) data incorporation commenced in 2021 allowing users the ability to track their water usage for background information. RRBWSD Board approved water charge implementation in late 2023 starting in the 2024 calendar year and assessed \$95/AF to incentivize water conservation and project financing. The initial 2024 water charges were collected in 2nd quarter 2025 and the Board set a rate at \$145/AF for 2026.

**RRB-15 Conversion of Ag Land to Urban:** The City of Bakersfield continues to develop in a westerly direction creating the reality of converting land from agricultural uses to urban. With it the net demand per acre is expected to decrease by 1.5 AF/Acre/yr. From 2020 to 2025 approximately 166 acres was converted resulting in a net savings of 249 AFY.

#### 4) Coordination with Stakeholders

In addition to Subbasin-wide outreach and engagement activities, RRBWSD GSA routinely communicates GSA-specific information to its landowners, stakeholders, and other interested parties via:

- Monthly District board meetings (second Tuesday of each month).
- RRBWSD GSA bi-monthly stakeholder meetings, both in person and via Zoom (fourth Tuesday every other month).
- Rosedale Recap bi-monthly newsletters (via email, board/stakeholder packets, and LinkedIn).

#### 5) Summary of Other GSP-related Special Studies or Activities

RRBWSD GSA is actively participating in the Subbasin-wide efforts described in Section 9, Progress on Subbasin-wide Coordination on GSP Implementation. The GSA is currently working to fill two Subbasin-defined water-quality data gaps and to verify wells included in the Subbasin's well inventory. In addition, RRBWSD GSA staff are collecting and field-verifying domestic well locations within the GSA boundary using an online GIS-based survey tool ([survey link here](#))

WY2025	Planned Demand Reduction						Planned Water Supply Augmentation				
P/MA Types	Land Retirement AREA (acres)	Land Retirement VOLUME (acre-feet)	Demand Reduction VOLUME (acre-feet)	Ag to Urban Conversion AREA (acres)	Ag to Urban Conversion VOLUME (acre-feet)	Water Conservation Efficiency VOLUME (acre-feet)	Supplemental Water Recharge VOLUME (acre-feet)	Supplemental Water Use VOLUME (acre-feet)	Third-Party Banking VOLUME (acre-feet)	New Local Supply VOLUME (acre-feet)	Exercise of Rights VOLUME (acre-feet)
TOTALS	850	2,210	1,800	166	249	0	0	0	0	0	631
<b>PMA LIST</b>											
RRB-1 Stockdale East Storage and Recovery Project	200	520									
RRB-2 McCaslin Recharge Improvements Project	195	507									
RRB-3 McCaslin/Dillard Recharge Improvements Project Phase 2	105	273									
RRB-4 Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Phase 1	350	910									
RRB-5 Onyx Ranch Water Acquisition											631
RRB-13 White Land Water Budget/Demand Imbalance Reduction			1300								
RRB-14 District Land Water Budget/Water Charge Demand Reduction			500								
RRB-15 Conversation of Ag Land to Urban				166	249						

Summary Table of WY2020-2025 P/MA Implementation Benefits							
Benefit - WATER VOLUME (acre-feet)							
Category	TOTAL	WY2020	WY2021	WY2022	WY2023	WY2024	WY2025
Planned Demand Reduction							
Land Retirement	7,254	520	520	520	1,547	1,937	2,210
Demand Reduction	4,400	0	260	520	780	1,040	1,800
Ag to Urban Conversion	1,125	0	129	249	249	249	249
Water Conservation Efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Water Supply Augmentation							
Supplemental Water Recharge	16,050	200	0	0	13,789	2,061	0
Supplemental Water Use	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Third-Party Banking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Local Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exercise of Rights	7,859	0	1,697	1,115	4,416	0	631
RRBWSD GSA 2040 = 9,850	36,688	AF					
	7,338	AFY					