

Special Drinking Water Districts Fact Sheet - Tule Subbasin

There are ten groundwater dependent special drinking water districts in the Tule Subbasin. Together they cover more than 13,000 acres (or about 3% of the Tule Subbasin) and serve more than 23,000 residents.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Water System Name	Population	Number of Connections	District Acreage
Lower Tule River ID GSA	Woodville PUD	1,673	467	336.3
Lower Tule River ID GSA	Poplar CSD	2,200	582	455.1
Lower Tule River ID GSA	Tipton CSD	1,792	600	683.3
Pixley ID GSA	Pixley PUD	3,310	825	888.9
Pixley ID GSA	Tevison CSD	343	104	191.5
Eastern Tule River JPA GSA	Ducor CSD	612	164	263.3
Eastern Tule River JPA GSA	Richgrove CSD	3,400	524	361.9
Delano-Earlimart GSA	Earlimart PUD	8,300	1,585	1,006.1
Tri-County Water Authority GSA	Allensworth CSD	516	163	783.1
Alpaugh GSA	Alpaugh CSD	1,026	379	9,028
	Totals	23,172	5,393	13,997.5

Vulnerability:

Each of these ten districts are 100% reliant on groundwater. In addition, many of these districts only have one or two active wells leaving them vulnerable to changing groundwater conditions. Most, if not all, do not have the financial means to access drill new wells or seek new sources of water if they find themselves facing water quantity or quality challenges.

Quality:

In the Tule Subbasin, many special drinking water districts have multiple water quality violations including for arsenic, nitrates, and coliform among others. Districts with fewer wells generally have more water quality violations. Combined with their small size, which often results in higher rates, this has resulted in some Tule communities paying high prices for contaminated drinking water.

Drought impacts:

Public water systems in South Tulare County were some of the hardest hit during the drought. Between 2014 and 2016, Tule Subbasin communities received more than \$4.5 million in state and federal drought funding, including grants to seven of the ten special districts, in addition to Tulare County emergency relief resources and services.

Conservation:

Based on the available information from the State Water Resources Control Board, on average, special drinking water districts in the Tule Subbasin reduced their water consumption between 2013 and 2015 by 28%.

Other municipal groundwater users in the Tule Subbasin:

While prevalent in the Tule Subbasin, special drinking water districts serving unincorporated communities are by no means the only municipal groundwater users in the Subbasin. In addition to these ten districts, the City of Porterville serves groundwater 61,946 residents. The Subbasin also includes private well communities such as Plano and Tracts 24 - 41; rural schools; state small water systems; and many private domestic wells.

Data and Reporting:

Small Public Water Systems (those serving less than 10,000 people or 3,300 service connections) are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW). These systems submit Annual Electronic Reports (AERs) each year to the DDW for the previous calendar year. AERs are commonly submitted between April and July 1, when annual Consumer Confidence Reports are due as well. AERs include the total population served, number of connections (broken down by type), water sources, water produced (by month and total annual), water rates, metered water deliveries (if metered, monthly and total annual) etc. Some of this information for each system can be found online on the state's safe drinking water information system: <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>.