



870 Greenfield Ave.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559)584-3557

March 25, 2024

Chairman McCutchen
Mid-Kings River GSA
200 Campus Dr.
Hanford, CA 93230

RE: KCFB opposition to MKRGSA Prop. 218

Dear Chairman McCutchen,

The Kings County Farm Bureau (KCFB) has closely followed the progress of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) since its inception in 2014. It supports local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) efforts to bring the Tulare Lake Subbasin (TLSB) into compliance with the law and wishes to see local control maintained. However, KCFB opposes the Mid-Kings River GSA (MKRGSA) Proposition 218 as presented.

KCFB's Water Committee and Board of Directors disagree with many components of the Prop: 218 fee study budget and the MKRGSA's overall decision-making. Specifically, a budget of over **\$11 million per year** is unfathomable. The MKRGSA has not justified such exorbitant expenses to landowners who ultimately fund those expenditures in the GSA. Additionally, the MKRGSA has operated in a silo while creating its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), refusing to develop stakeholder advisory committees or receive input from landowners in the GSA.

KCFB is committed to MKRGSA's success and will assist the GSA in creating and serving on stakeholder advisory committees. The GSA will also provide outreach to growers on its plans and efforts and encourage landowners to support the next Prop 218 election if it is created with more reasonable ideas and costs.

Kings County needs the MKRGSA to succeed, but not to the financial detriment of landowners. This issue is not agriculture vs. an opponent. Without agriculture, there is no Kings County. We must work together so everyone thrives through the difficult transition the SGMA created.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dusty Ference".

Dusty Ference
Executive Director