



Groundwater Management Implementation Plan

Approved: October 11, 2023

This Groundwater Management Implementation Plan (Plan) is designed to complement and augment the Rules and Regulations of the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Rules). This Plan is not intended to supersede or replace the Rules, either in whole or in part, but rather provide further guidance, clarity and additional provisions to enhance the application and interpretation of the Rules. Further, they provide a framework and additional detail for, among other things, the accounting of Groundwater extraction to count against the Allocation, including for example, accounting for Carryover, Pooling, Reallocations, Developed Water Supply credits and Intentional Recharge credits, as described in the Rules, and as further described herein. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Rules and this Plan, this Plan shall prevail and control.

- 1) Pooling – Pooling will be accomplished through the use of Groundwater Accounts and Reallocation, as described herein.
- 2) Groundwater Accounts
 - a) Each parcel within a Place of Use will be Pooled together and assigned a Groundwater Account.
 - i) Parcels not included in any Place of Use, or the service area for municipalities or community water systems, will be assigned its own Groundwater Account.
 - ii) If any Place of Use is made up of parcels with different Owners, all parcels will nonetheless be grouped into one Groundwater Account on the appropriate MIUGSA form.
 - a. On a case by case basis, MIUGSA will consider applications from Owners of different parcels who do not want to be grouped into one Groundwater Account. Any such application shall include all information requested by MIUGSA, and will be approved (with or without conditions as determined by MIUGSA) or denied, in MIUGSA’s sole discretion. Any approval of such an application shall include, at a minimum, sufficient Flow Metering so that MIUGSA may be able to differentiate how much Groundwater each Well extracts, and how much Groundwater is delivered to each Place of Use.
 - b) If a parcel(s) is included in the Place of Use of more than one Well, the Place of Use for each Well will be combined into one Groundwater Account.
 - i) On a case by case basis, MIUGSA will consider applications from Owners who do not want to include each Place of Use into one Groundwater Account. Any such application shall include all information requested by MIUGSA, and will be approved (with or without conditions as determined by MIUGSA) or denied, in MIUGSA’s sole discretion. Any approval of such an application shall include, at a minimum, sufficient Flow Metering so that MIUGSA may be able to differentiate how much Groundwater each Well extracts, and how much Groundwater is delivered to each Place of Use.
 - ii) The parcel(s) will be assigned to its Owner’s Groundwater Account or be assigned its own Groundwater Account, as determined by MIUGSA.
- 3) Owner Accounts and Master Accounts

- a) Each Owner will be assigned an Owner Account, consisting of one or more Groundwater Accounts.
 - i) Owner, or their authorized representative, will have the authority to make allowable transactions on each Groundwater Account assigned to the Owner Account, such as for example, Reallocate Groundwater to another Groundwater Account.
 - ii) Groundwater Accounts with multiple Owners may designate in writing the authorized representative with access to the Groundwater Account. Absent written agreement amongst the Owners as to the authorized representative, MIUGSA will refuse to allow any of the Owners to enter into any transaction(s) associated with the Groundwater Account, such as for example, Reallocate Groundwater to another Groundwater Account.
 - b) Owners may apply for a Master Account, which would consist of two or more Owner Accounts.
 - i) As part of the application for a Master Account, an authorized representative from each Owner Account must sign the required Master Account Setup Form and designate an authorized representative with the authority to make allowable transactions on each Groundwater Account assigned to each Owner Account contained within the Master Account. MIUGSA reserves the right to reject any such application, in its sole discretion.
- 4) Allocations, Carryover, Reallocations, Developed Water Supply credits and Intentional Recharge credits, etc. are typically accounted for at the parcel level based on County assessed parcel acreage, and typically managed at a Groundwater Account level.
- 5) Pooling and Reallocations
- a) Six (6) Pooling Zones have been established, labeled 'A' through 'F' to help manage applications for Reallocation.
 - i) A summary map of the six (6) Pooling Zones is included herein as Attachment 'A'.
 - b) A Groundwater Account containing land located in multiple Pooling Zones shall be assigned one Pooling Zone.
 - c) Upon application by an Owner, Reallocation of all or a portion of a Groundwater Account's unused Allocation may be authorized (with or without conditions) or denied, in MIUGSA's sole discretion. Any approval of an application shall be consistent with the following:
 - i) As a precondition to MIUGSA approval of any request for Reallocation, either to reallocate or receive Reallocation, Flow Meter(s) shall be required on all Wells within the Places of Use subject to the requested Reallocation.
 - ii) From one Groundwater Account to another Groundwater Account within the same Pooling Zone.
 - iii) From a Groundwater Account within one Pooling Zone to a Pooling Zone with a lower letter designation (i.e., from Pooling Zone 'E' to Pooling Zone 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D').

- a. Exception: Reallocations are not allowed from Pooling Zone 'F' to 'E'.
 - d) A Groundwater Account within one Pooling Zone cannot Reallocate unused Allocation to a Pooling Zone with a higher letter designation (i.e. from Pooling Zone 'A' to Pooling Zones 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' or 'F').
 - e) Reallocation to areas outside of the Management Area is not allowed.
- 6) Intentional Recharge Credits
- a) Intentional Recharge Credits shall not be recognized by MIUGSA unless the activity is approved by MIUGSA, in advance and at MIUGSA's sole discretion, and complies with these Rules.
 - b) Prior to approval of Intentional Recharge Credits, MIUGSA will set standards for any activity intended to generate Intentional Recharge Credits, determine performance metrics and require monitoring and/or reporting requirements.
 - c) As a precondition to MIUGSA approval of any use of Intentional Recharge credits, Flow Meter(s) shall be required on all Wells within the Place(s) of Use which the Intentional Recharge credits are used.
- 7) Developed Water Supply Credits
- a) Upon application by an Owner, the use of Developed Water Supply credits may be authorized (with or without conditions) or denied, in MIUGSA's sole discretion.
 - b) MIUGSA will not recognize Developed Water Supply Credits within an Allocation Period for a Groundwater Account if said account Reallocates any portion of their Allocation to another Groundwater Account(s) within the Allocation Period.
 - c) As a precondition to MIUGSA approval of any use of Developed Water supply credits, Flow Meter(s) shall be required on all Wells within the Place(s) of Use which the Developed Water supply is used.
- 8) Parcels Added or Removed from a Place of Use during an Allocation Period
- a) If a parcel is removed from a Place of Use at any time within an Allocation Period, MIUGSA, at its sole discretion, will determine the remaining Allocation, Carryover, Reallocation, Developed Water Supply credits or Intentional Recharge Credits for said parcel, and for the Place of Use and Groundwater Account it is being removed from, as follows:
 - i) Per Owner(s) request, as long as there is sufficient remaining volumes within the Groundwater Account to accommodate the request.
 - a. If the Groundwater Account, prior to removal of the parcel, consists of parcels from more than one Owner, each Owner must sign the appropriate MIUGSA form agreeing to the remaining Allocation, Carryover, Reallocation, Developed Water Supply credits or Intentional Recharge Credits.
 - ii) Based on proportioning the unused volumes by parcel acreage or by using the best information available, as determined by MIUGSA in its sole discretion.

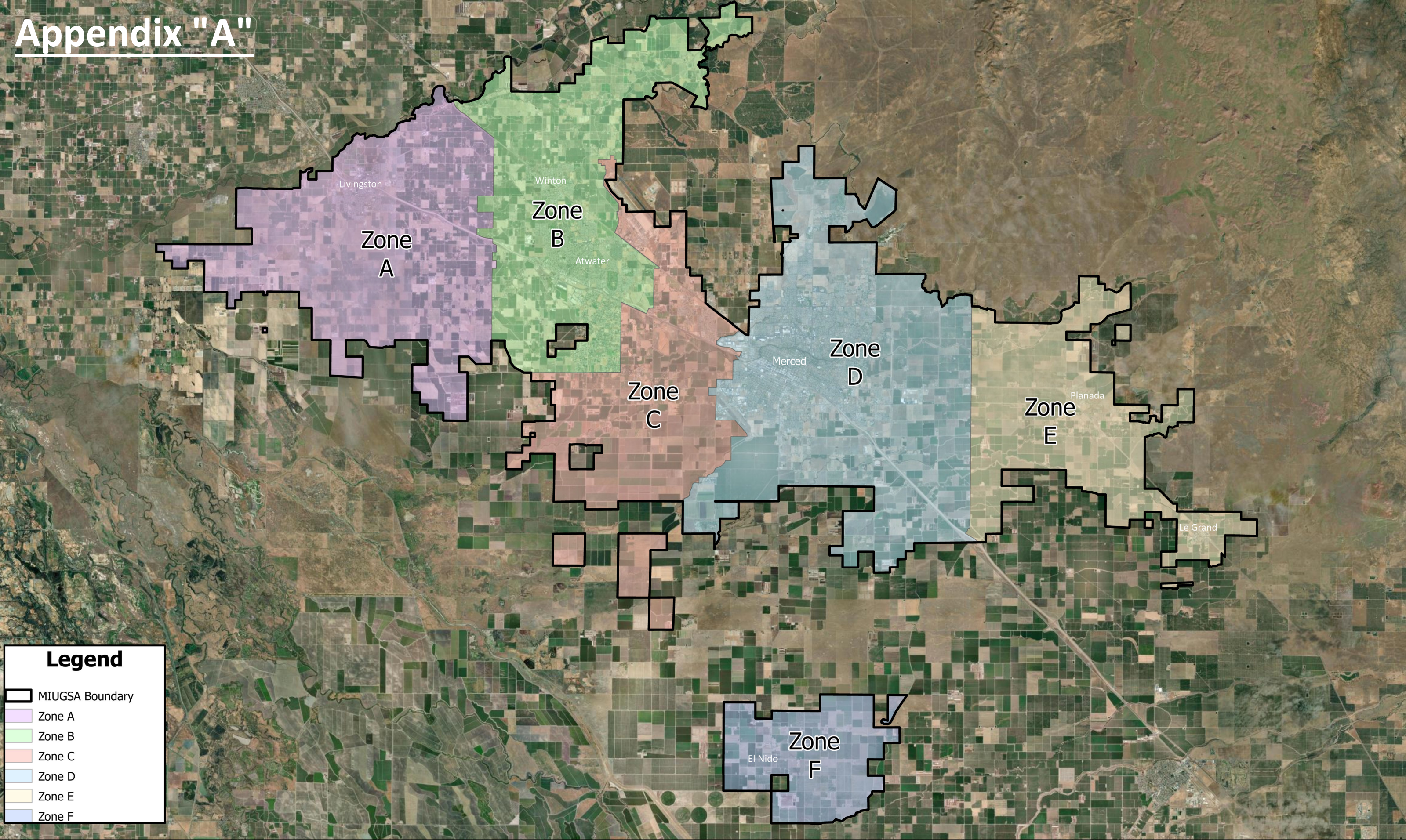
9) Borderland Parcels

- a) Borderland parcels within the Management Area are subject to the Allocation.
 - i) A Groundwater Account will be established for the portion of the Place of Use within the Management Area.
 - a. The total volume of Groundwater extracted and applied to the Groundwater Account, including from Well(s) located within and outside of the Management Area, shall not exceed the Allocation for the parcels within the Groundwater Account, after considering Carryover, Developed Water Credits, Reallocations and Intentional Recharge credits.
 - b. The total volume of Groundwater extracted from Wells located within the Management Area shall not exceed the Allocation for the Groundwater Account, after considering Carryover, Developed Water Credits, Reallocations and Intentional Recharge credits.
 - c. Flow Meter(s) shall be installed such that MIUGSA can differentiate the total volume of Groundwater extracted and applied to lands within versus outside the Management Area.
 - b) Alternatively, upon request of an Owner and in MIUGSA's sole discretion:
 - i) A Groundwater Account may be established for Borderland parcels, including the Place of Use of all Wells on each side of the Management Area.
 - ii) The Groundwater Account will be managed as if it was wholly within the Management Area.
 - iii) Flow Meter(s) shall be installed on each Well within the Groundwater Account.
 - c) When accounting for volumes of Groundwater extracted against the Allocation, accounting will be performed at the Groundwater Account level, including Carryover, Developed Water Supply credits, Reallocations and Intentional Recharge credits.

10) Flow Meters

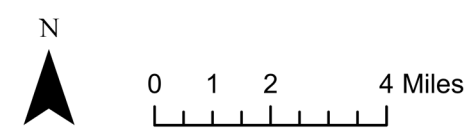
- a) Schedule for installation of Flow Meters – a schedule for installation of Flow Meters shall be developed, and this Plan shall be updated accordingly at the appropriate time.
- b) Flow Meter standards – a set of standards for the installation, operation and accuracy of Flow Meters shall be developed, and this Plan shall be updated accordingly at the appropriate time.

Appendix "A"



Legend

- MIUGSA Boundary
- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Zone D
- Zone E
- Zone F



Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Pooling Zones

