

August 20, 2026

Dear GSA Manager:

On August 12, the Kings County Superior Court issued a ruling in Kings County Farm Bureau's ongoing lawsuit challenging the State Water Resources Control Board's decision to place the Tulare Lake Subbasin on probation.

You are receiving this letter because the court's ruling provides protection from State Board probationary enforcement in two of the five GSAs within the Tulare Lake Subbasin. That protection does not currently extend to your GSA.

Please share this letter with the landowners and growers within your GSA. KCFB does not have contact information for everyone who may be affected, and we want growers to know where things stand before they potentially receive communication from the State Board.

The August 12 ruling is an important step forward in KCFB's case. In granting part of our request for a preliminary injunction, the court found that KCFB demonstrated a likelihood of success on our argument that the State Board improperly applied probation across the entire subbasin.

For growers in your GSA, however, State Board enforcement remains possible while the lawsuit continues. This means the State Board may issue invoices for probationary fees. At this time, we do not know whether the State Board intends to send those invoices or wait until later in the litigation. We simply want growers to be aware of the possibility so an invoice, if one is issued, does not come as a surprise.

This is where things stand today, and it could change.

The court is scheduled to hear the merits of KCFB's lawsuit on October 6. A final ruling may not be issued that day, but the court's decision on the case could again change the status of probation within the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

KCFB will continue pursuing this case and will keep growers and GSAs informed as things develop. In the meantime, we would appreciate your help distributing this letter to the landowners and growers within your GSA so they have the same information we have today.

Sincerely,

Dusty Ference
Executive Director
Kings County Farm Bureau