

# **County of Monterey**

Government Center - Board Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901



## **Meeting Agenda - Final**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747> or in person at the  
address listed above**

## **Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency**

*Chair Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3*

*Vice Chair Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - District 4*

*Supervisor Kate Daniels- District 5*

*Supervisor Luis A. Alejo - District 1*

*Supervisor Glenn Church - District 2*

## **Participation in meetings**

While the Board chambers remain open, members of the public may participate in Board meetings in 2 ways:

1. You may attend the meeting in person; or,
2. You may observe the live stream of the Board of Supervisors meetings at <https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>, [www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV](http://www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV) or <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>

If you choose not to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting but desire to make general public comment, or comment on a specific item on the agenda, you may do so in 2 ways:

a. submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at [cob@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:cob@co.monterey.ca.us). In an effort to assist the Clerk in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Supervisors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

b. you may participate through ZOOM. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 253 215 8782 US  
+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 224397747 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push \*9 on your keypad.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.**

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## **Participación en reuniones**

Mientras las cámaras de la Junta permanezcan abiertas, los miembros del público pueden participar en las reuniones de la Junta de 2 maneras:

- 1. Podrá asistir personalmente a la reunión; o,**
- 2. Puede observar la transmisión en vivo de las reuniones de la Junta de Supervisores en <https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>, [www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV](http://www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV) o <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>**

Si elige no asistir a la reunión de la Junta de Supervisores pero desea hacer comentarios del público en general o comentar un tema específico de la agenda, puede hacerlo de 2 maneras:

a. envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el lunes anterior a la reunión de la Junta. Envíe su comentario al Secretario de la Junta a [cob@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:cob@co.monterey.ca.us). En un esfuerzo por ayudar al secretario a identificar el tema de la agenda relacionado con su comentario público, indique en la línea de asunto el cuerpo de la reunión (es decir, la agenda de la Junta de Supervisores) y el número de artículo (es decir, el artículo n.º 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro en la reunión de la Junta.

b. puedes participar a través de ZOOM. Para participar en ZOOM, únase por audio de computadora en: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

O para participar por teléfono llame a cualquiera de estos números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 EE. UU. (San José)  
+1 346 248 7799 EE. UU. (Houston)  
+1 312 626 6799 EE. UU. (Chicago)  
+1 929 205 6099 EE. UU. (Nueva York)  
+1 253 215 8782 EE. UU.  
+1 301 715 8592 EE. UU.

Ingrese este número de ID de reunión: 224397747 cuando se le solicite. Tenga en cuenta que no hay un código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación lo solicite.

Se le colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando esté listo para hacer un comentario público si se une al audio de la computadora, levante la mano; y por teléfono, presione \*9 en su teclado.

**TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, LA PARTICIPACIÓN DEL PÚBLICO POR ZOOM ES ÚNICAMENTE POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES REQUERIDA POR LA LEY. SI LA ALIMENTACIÓN DE ZOOM SE PIERDE POR CUALQUIER MOTIVO, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE MIENTRAS SE INTENTA UNA SOLUCIÓN, PERO LA REUNIÓN PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.**

**NOTE: All agenda titles related to numbered agenda items are live web links. Click on the title to be directed to the corresponding Board Report.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public may address comments to the Board concerning each agenda item. The timing of public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.**

**9:00 A.M. - Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Additions and Corrections for Closed Session by County Counsel**

County Counsel will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code. The public may comment on Closed Session items prior to the Board's recess to Closed Session.

**Closed Session**

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
  - a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), the Board will provide a performance evaluation for the Water Resources Agency General Manager.

**Public Comments for Closed Session**

**The Board Recesses for Closed Session Agenda Items**

Closed Session may be held at the conclusion of the Board's Regular Agenda, or at any other time during the course of the meeting, before or after the scheduled time, announced by the Chairperson of the Board. The public may comment on Closed Session items prior to the Board's recess to Closed Session.

**10:30 A.M. - Reconvene on Public Agenda Items**

**Roll Call**

**Additions and Corrections by Clerk**

The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

**General Public Comments**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. Board members may

respond briefly to the statement made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a future meeting.

### **Consent Calendar**

2. Adopt a resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

**Attachments:**     [Board Report](#)  
                             [Supplemental Memorandum on the GMP](#)  
                             [Map of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee Area](#)  
                             [Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual](#)  
                             [Draft GMP Fee Study](#)  
                             [Summary Table of FY25-26 GMP Regulatory Fees](#)  
                             [Board Order#25-28](#)  
                             [Draft Resolution](#)

3. Adopt a resolution to nominate Monterey County Water Resource Agency Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**Attachments:**     [Board Report](#)  
                             [SVBGSA Advisory Committee Charter and Bylaws](#)  
                             [Resolution](#)

4. a. Rescind previously adopted Resolutions Numbers 25-251, 25-254 and 25-255 approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 due to a clerical error in certain rates contained in the Resolutions; and  
b. Adopt revised resolutions approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 to address the clerical errors.

**Attachments:**     [Board Report](#)  
                             [UPDATED Summary Charts](#)  
                             [REVISED Resolution Flood Zones 1 and 1A](#)  
                             [REVISED Resolution Flood Zones 8, 9 & 12](#)  
                             [REVISED Resolution Flood Zones 17](#)

### **Read Out from Closed Session**

Read out by County Counsel will only occur if there is reportable action(s).

**Adjournment**



# County of Monterey

## Item No.1

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: CS 25-034**

**August 05, 2025**

**Introduced:** 7/29/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** General Agenda Item

Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), the Board will provide a performance evaluation for the Water Resources Agency General Manager.





# County of Monterey

## Item No.2

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-114

August 05, 2025

Introduced: 7/22/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Adopt a resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

#### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Historically, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) conducted groundwater monitoring across portions of the Salinas Valley in a discretionary manner as funding allowed. However, with passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) in 2014 came the establishment of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) and a need for consistent, reliable collection of groundwater and well data to develop, implement, and monitor progress of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”). In the interest of improving operational efficiency and reducing costs, some local GSAs have chosen to leverage the data collection, analysis, management, and reporting expertise of the Agency rather than creating a separate, parallel, monitoring program. This approach was solidified through approval and adoption of Agency Ordinance No. 5426 and the Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual by the Board of Supervisors in October 2024. The Agency’s Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) comprises four data collection and monitoring services that, collectively, produce the data necessary to meet the rigorous reporting requirements mandated by SGMA to maintain local governance and oversight of groundwater resources. Additional detail on the background, purpose, and implementation of the GMP is provided in Attachment 1.

The geographic extent of the reconceived GMP is expanding to cover areas within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin that are within the jurisdiction of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) (Attachment 2). Well registration and groundwater extraction reporting requirements for most well owners within the historically monitored area will remain largely the same. New well registration and reporting requirements will apply to small system well owners in the historically monitored area and all well owners in the new geographic areas (Attachment 3). The

most widespread difference for all well owners will be the proposed new annual GMP Regulatory Fee to ensure program reliability, which will be billed directly by the Agency on an annual basis. Unlike other unrelated Agency assessments, this new fee will not be included on property tax bills.

The Agency Act (California Water Code, Appendix §52) and Ordinance No. 5426 authorize the Agency to "...recover costs associated with the development, implementation, enforcement, and perpetuation of a regulatory groundwater monitoring program on a per-well basis, not based on extraction data, within Monterey County." The Agency worked with Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants to establish a schedule of cost-based fees for the GMP (Attachment 4).

The Groundwater Monitoring Program Fee Study ("Study") describes the regulatory functions covered by the GMP and associated costs for staff time to implement the monitoring programs, including data collection, analysis, and reporting; equipment, vehicles, and supplies; technological support for data collection and management applications; and indirect costs. The indirect cost rate is 21% which consists of Agency overhead (approximately 12%) and County of Monterey overhead (approximately 9%). The indirect cost rate covers salary and benefits of Agency Administrative staff, insurance, office furnishings and supplies, computer hardware and software, internet service, communications devices, and County services such as Facilities, Auditor Controller, Human Resources, Records Retention, and County Counsel.

The proposed GMP Regulatory Fees are Proposition 26 regulatory fees and are imposed for regulatory costs that do not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the monitoring service. Proposition 26 fees can be adopted at any time through the approval of the respective legislative body.

The proposed GMP Regulatory Fees will be charged on per-well basis, regardless of how much water a well extracts from the groundwater basin, because the cost of the program is dependent upon the number of wells in a basin, not how much water is extracted. For FY 2025-2026, the fees will apply to water production wells in the six subbasins within the jurisdiction of the SVBGSA, namely the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside, Forebay, Langley, Monterey, and Upper Valley Subbasins (Attachment 5). Data collected and reported under programs funded by the GMP Regulatory Fees will be provided to the SVBGSA for use in implementing the GSPs for the aforementioned subbasins.

For FY 2025-2026, the recommended GMP Regulatory Fees are: a one-time Initial Well Registration Fee of \$160.16 per well that is not already registered with the Agency; an Annual Well Registration Renewal Fee of \$21.86 per well; Groundwater Extraction Reporting Fee of \$64.82 per well; Groundwater Level Monitoring Fee of \$117.68 per well; and Groundwater Quality Monitoring Fee of \$73.92 per well. Additional information about each fee is available in the Study (Attachment 4) and on the summary table (Attachment 5).

A presentation on the FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee was made to the Agency's Board of Supervisors on April 22, 2025. Following this presentation, staff coordinated with the County Communications Director and SVBGSA to prepare and disseminate additional public outreach materials including an informational flyer describing the proposed GMP Regulatory Fees and social media graphic promoting the Board of Supervisor's June 3, 2025 consideration of the GMP Regulatory Fees, both of which were distributed through traditional media, social media, on multiple

websites, and in newspapers with circulation throughout the County.

The Agency's Finance Committee received presentations on the Study in March and April 2025, and the Agency hosted a stakeholder workshop about the GMP Regulatory Fee on April 3, 2025. The Agency's Board of Directors considered recommendation of this item to the Agency Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2025, at which time the Board of Directors approved staff's recommendation by a 7-2 vote (Attachment 6). The Agency's Board of Supervisors considered this item on June 3, 2025, at which time it was continued to July 8, 2025 following a request for staff to provide more information about funding options to cover GMP fees for de minimis well owners. At its July 8, 2025 meeting, the Agency's Board of Supervisors continued the item to August 5, 2025 at the request of the Chair.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The County Public Information Office assisted with development of public outreach materials. The SVBGSA coordinated with Agency staff to identify the scope of data under the GMP that is required to satisfy their regulatory obligations for monitoring and reporting under SGMA.

FINANCING:

Financial impacts of the proposed GMP Fees were reviewed during the Agency's FY 2025-26 Budget Workshop, held on March 17, 2025. Total FY 2025-26 cost recovery for GMP is estimated at \$800,000.

For FY 2025-26, the SVBGSA has proposed use of state grant funds to offset the GMP Fees for all well owners, as described in Attachment 1. The Agency and SVBGSA will execute a service agreement for the Agency to implement GMP for FY 2025-26 and invoice the SVBGSA for all associated tasks.

Prepared by: Amy Woodrow, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. Supplemental Memorandum on the GMP
2. Map of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee Area
3. Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual
4. Draft GMP Fee Study
5. Summary Table of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fees
6. Board Order 25-28
7. Draft Resolution



# County of Monterey

**Item No.**

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Chambers  
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**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-114**

**August 05, 2025**

**Introduced:** 7/22/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WR General Agenda

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Prepared by: Amy Woodrow, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

DocuSigned by:

Approved by:



Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860  
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4. Draft GMP Fee Study
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6. Board Order 25-28
7. Draft Resolution



## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

# MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: June 26, 2025

**TO:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ara Azhderian, General Manager

**SUBJECT:** Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Monitoring Program & Regulatory Fee

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the California legislature enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the purpose of achieving and maintaining sustainability in the State's groundwater basins. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) was delegated authority to identify groundwater basins and prioritize management actions. Today's SGMA efforts are focused on high and medium priority basins, as designated by DWR, to achieve sustainability by 2040 or 2042, respectively. In the Monterey County portion of the Salinas Valley Basin (Basin), DWR designated seven groundwater [subbasins](#)<sup>1</sup>. Generally, from south to north, beginning at the San Luis Obispo County line, they are:

- Upper Valley Aquifer
- Forebay Aquifer
- 180/400 Foot Aquifer
- Eastside Aquifer
- Seaside Aquifer<sup>2</sup>
- Monterey Aquifer
- Langley Area Aquifer

Key tenets of SGMA are the preservation of **local control**, the **use of best available data and science**, and active engagement with and **consideration of all beneficial uses and users** of groundwater. SGMA allows localities to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to develop, achieve, and manage groundwater basins sustainably. Locally, the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVB) was formed in 2017 to manage the preponderance of the Basin, in cooperation with other local entities<sup>3</sup>, including the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency). The SVB has prepared six Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to address the

<sup>1</sup> <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bp-dashboard/final/>

<sup>2</sup> The Seaside Aquifer was adjudicated and falls under the management of a court appointed Watermaster.

<sup>3</sup> These include the Arroyo Seco GSA, the County of Monterey GSA, the Marina Coast Water District GSA, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and the Seaside Watermaster.

specific, and differing, characteristics of each subbasin. The important elements of each GSP include:

- Sustainability goals;
- Description of the subbasin geographic boundaries, i.e. “Plan Area”;
- Description of the subbasin, including groundwater conditions and a water “budget”;
- Locally defined “Sustainable Management Criteria”;
- Monitoring protocols for each sustainability indicator;
- Description of project and/or management actions to achieve sustainability.

Development of these GSPs was guided by subbasin specific committees comprised of [interested parties](#)<sup>4</sup>, in cooperation with local entities, and with active public outreach.

For each GSP, SGMA requires the SVB develop a monitoring network and describe the conventions necessary to establish and monitor Sustainable Management Criteria, which define the conditions that constitute groundwater sustainability, including characterizing undesirable results and establishing minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator. The monitoring networks were developed pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23 ([23 CCR](#)), [Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2, Article 5, Sections 354.32 et seq.](#)<sup>5</sup> More specifically, § 354.34 establishes the minimum requirements for a monitoring network, including:

§ 354.34 (a) Each Agency shall develop a monitoring network capable of collecting sufficient data to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and yield representative information about groundwater conditions as necessary to evaluate Plan implementation.

§ 354.34 (b) Each Plan shall include a description of the monitoring network objectives for the basin, including an explanation of how the network will be developed and implemented to monitor groundwater and related surface conditions, and the interconnection of surface water and groundwater, with sufficient temporal frequency and spatial density to evaluate the affects and effectiveness of Plan implementation. The monitoring network objectives shall be implemented to accomplish the following:

- (1) Demonstrate progress toward achieving measurable objectives described in the Plan.
- (2) Monitor impacts to the beneficial uses or users of groundwater.
- (3) Monitor changes in groundwater conditions relative to measurable objectives and minimum thresholds.
- (4) Quantify annual changes in water budget components.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://svbgsa.org/about-us/board-and-committees/subbasin-committees/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/docs/ccr\\_ch16\\_202010.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/ccr_ch16_202010.pdf)



In order to reliably implement its monitoring networks, the SVB partnered with the Agency to develop a new groundwater monitoring [ordinance](#)<sup>6</sup>, adopted in October 2024, along with a [Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual](#)<sup>7</sup>. The decision for the SVB to partner with the Agency was driven by stakeholder support for leveraging the Agency's groundwater monitoring expertise and historical, long-term trend data to avoid creating a duplicative program, with additional costs. The partnership establishes one cohesive [Groundwater Monitoring Program](#) (GMP)<sup>8</sup> to comply with the SGMA driven monitoring requirements, while ensuring efficiency and transparency. The key goal is to improve the availability of accurate, timely, and reliable groundwater information, which aids in effectively managing all water resources.

To meet the rigorous requirements of 23 CCR § 354.32 et seq., the Agency must establish a reliable funding mechanism to recover the reasonable costs<sup>9</sup> necessary to ensure regulatory compliance. To meet this need, the Agency initiated a nexus study in July 2024, the initial draft of which was presented to the public in March 2025. Subsequently, through numerous public meetings and stakeholder engagement, the draft was refined and presented in its [final form](#)<sup>10</sup> for consideration at the Agency's Board of Supervisors (Board) June 3, 2025, meeting. During development of the new ordinance, GMP Manual, and the nexus study, stakeholders and governance bodies have raised many questions that have been addressed directly and through development of a list of Frequently Asked Questions maintained on the Agency's GMP web page referenced above, which is also linked to a reciprocal SVB web page. At the June 3, 2025, meeting, the Board raised additional questions that are the subject of this memorandum.

#### **QUESTIONS FROM JUNE 3, 2025, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING:**

Q: Can we exclude de minimis<sup>11</sup> groundwater users from the monitoring network?

A: No, 23 CCR § 354.32 requires monitoring networks to be developed to collect data of sufficient quality, frequency, and distribution to accurately and reliably characterize the groundwater subbasin, and related surface water conditions, to allow for evaluation of changing conditions through GSP implementation to ensure compliance with SGMA, including § 354.34 (b)(2) to "Monitor impacts to the beneficial uses or users of groundwater".

Q: How do de minimis well owners benefit from the GMP?

A: Quality of Life: While all well owners benefit from the decision to access a groundwater basin, de minimis well owners are the most vulnerable as they are often wholly dependent upon that single source of water for their domestic needs, including health and safety. Being both at greatest

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/135947/638651013205370000>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/135929/638648527079730000>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/groundwater-monitoring-program>

<sup>9</sup> Gov. Code § 53758(c): "...that the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs to the local government in providing the specific benefit or specific government service..."

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/140514/638841376022900000>

<sup>11</sup> De minimis groundwater users are defined by the State as: "a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year."

risk to the potential disruption of groundwater and, often, most challenged to respond when disruptions occur, the need for a monitoring network becomes essential. Indeed, SGMA recognizes this reality thus mandating monitoring networks for the protection of de minimis well owners. In addition to quality of life and legal compliance reasons, there are financial benefits that accrue from monitoring and managing groundwater at scale.

Economy of Scale: While industrial and large service providers can afford individual well monitoring equipment, de minimis well owners often cannot; therefore, dependence upon an external entity to provide the monitoring service becomes necessary and is cost effective due to the economy of scale achieved by not monitoring each, individual well but, rather, monitoring an appropriately sized, representative network of wells to inform management decisions on a subbasin scale. Absent high quality, comprehensive, reliable data, management decision may be too much, wasting resources and incurring avoidable costs, or too little, risking disruption of the groundwater subbasin and/or State intervention, both of which come at an additional cost. Good monitoring data supports right-sized, cost effective, management decisions.

Avoided Costs and Preserved Property Value: While extraction data is not collected from de minimis groundwater users, de minimis wells are frequently the shallower wells within a basin. To ensure that groundwater level goals to achieve and maintain sustainability for all users are set to a target that is protective of de minimis users, knowing where and how deep their wells are screened aids in assessing how wells could be affected by changing groundwater conditions. DWR's approvals of the SVB's 2022 GSPs<sup>12</sup> include "recommended corrective actions"<sup>13</sup> to obtain additional well information and consider potential impacts to supply wells, including domestic wells, at the selected minimum threshold for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. This requirement includes consideration of the degree/extent of potential impacts including the percentage, number, and location of potentially impacted wells at the proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. Implementation of the GMP is needed to obtain additional well information through the registration component and to conduct this analysis of potential impacts.

The GMP monitoring data and analysis of groundwater conditions relative to sustainability criteria sets the basis for effective management actions, which reduces the risk of de minimis well owners having to pay for well repairs, replacement, or water treatment to maintain viable use of the groundwater, thus reducing well ownership cost and preserving private property value.

Compliance with the Law: SGMA was enacted in 2014 and mandates monitoring networks be established for each GSP to meet the requirements of 23 CCR § 354.32 et seq., including for the protection of de minimis well owners. Therefore, the question is not whether groundwater monitoring will occur but by whom and at what cost. As the SVB considered the question of how to meet its new legal requirements, it was widely agreed that the Agency stood as the best and most cost effective

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<sup>12</sup> The Eastside, Forebay, Langley, Monterey, and Upper Valley Subbasins. The 180/400 Amendment 1 review by DWR is still pending but the same Recommended Corrective Actions are expected.

<sup>13</sup> DWR Recommended Corrective Actions apply to GSPs that have been **approved** but need additional information, detail, and/or clarification. DWR expects Recommended Corrective Actions to be addressed in the GSP 5-Year Update, in this case by 2027 – see: <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans/Files/GSP/SGMA-Evaluation-Pathways-Factsheet.pdf>

solution, culminating in the adoption of Ordinance 5426 in October 2024. Absent a reliable revenue stream, the Agency cannot meet the SVB's 21<sup>st</sup> century monitoring needs. In the alternative, the SVB would establish and recover its own fee from the very same well owners rather than risk intervention by the State. Costs for the SVB to establish its own program would be greater, as it would have to acquire the specialized staff, systems, and equipment the Agency already has to perform the necessary work.

Q: What if a GSA fails to implement a GSP's monitoring network?

A: SGMA describes GSA powers and authorities, which include the authority to charge fees, conduct investigations, register wells, require reporting, and take other actions to sustainably manage the basin. To ensure groundwater resources are sustainably managed, SGMA gives the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) authority to protect groundwater resources through a process called "intervention", which is triggered if DWR determines that a GSA is unable or unwilling to sustainably manage their basin(s). Lack of compliance by well owners, or suitable funding, could lead to a determination that the GSA is unable to implement the GSP, thus triggering the State intervention process.

Intervention<sup>14</sup> is **additional** to local management and is intended to be temporary, lasting only until local agencies demonstrate that they are ready to adequately manage their respective basin(s). Under intervention, any well owner who extracts or pumps groundwater must file an annual groundwater extraction report with the SWRCB, unless it decides to exclude certain types of groundwater extractions, which is considered on a basin-by-basin basis through a public hearing process. De minimis users in probationary basins can be required to report if collectively they make up a significant amount of the groundwater pumping, as would be the case for the Langley and Monterey Subbasin Corral de Tierra Management Area. When intervention occurs, the SWRCB imposes fees and other requirements on all well owners required to report, including an annual fee of \$300 per well (\$100 per well for de minimis users) plus a volumetric charge of \$20 per acre-foot of groundwater extracted during the preceding water year. Fees can increase due to lack of remedy and fines may be imposed due to lack of compliance [23 CCR § 1040(b) & (c)].

Q: Why are the proposed GMP costs allocated on a per-well basis?

A: During the 2024 development of Ordinance 5426, different GMP cost allocation methods were considered. Ultimately, a per-well fee was decided upon because the cost of the GMP program relates most directly to the number of wells in the program, not the number of acres in a subbasin or the volume of water extracted. Each owner of a well benefits specifically and equally from the information gathered to determine groundwater conditions and whether minimum thresholds are being met to ensure sustainability for all beneficial uses, including de minimis.

Well ownership subjects the well owner to the provisions of SGMA. SGMA requires groundwater monitoring to protect and preserve the resource on a regional basis for all well owners

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/gmp/intervention.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/intervention.html)

through annual reporting and ongoing GSP implementation. In order to achieve the SGMA mandates, GPSs have been prepared with extensive input from local interests engaged with the SVB. The GPSs contain the mandated monitoring requirements and implementation of these subbasin specific monitoring networks results in the estimated costs for specific services being provided by the Agency, as described in the regulatory fee study referenced above.

The cost to implement the monitoring plan depends upon the staff time, equipment, software, supplies, and lab costs necessary to perform the work. The amount of staff time to register a well or process an extraction report does not vary by the volume of extraction from each well, but it does vary by the number of wells that must be registered and report. The cost to perform groundwater level and water quality sampling does not vary by the number of wells because the respective, representative monitoring networks are fixed annually; however, the information developed by the monitoring effort benefits every well owner in the subbasin specifically and equally. In the end, monitoring actions are not management actions, but monitoring is required to assess the effects of management actions. The level of monitoring is equal throughout a subbasin whereas the level of management may vary, depending upon the issue being managed and the type of action. The costs of management actions will require separate and specific funding mechanisms and are unrelated to the cost of monitoring. Each well owner in a subbasin has equal access to its groundwater and equal access to the monitoring information developed to inform sustainable management of the resource.

The GMP per-well cost allocation was proposed for both practical and legal reasons. First, not all landowners are well owners. While there are over 500,000 acres in the Salinas Valley groundwater basin but there are only an estimated 3,500 wells, almost all of which are privately owned. The Agency knows not every parcel of land has a well, in fact, many do not. Allocating costs on a per-acre basis, as one might under a Prop 218 special benefit assessment, would have meant all landowners pay for a program that only confers a specific benefit to well owners. Also, hypothetically, two landowners that own the same amount of land, but have a different number of wells, would have paid the same amount though the one with more wells requires more service. In addition to this equity issue, there are legal restrictions that affect the Agency's allocation of cost for the GMP.

Under Government Code § 53758, the GMP is considered a "specific government service", which means a service that is provided by a local government directly to the payor, the well owner in this case, and is not provided to those not charged, and that the costs allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity. Landowners without wells have no need for a groundwater monitoring program. Under SGMA, individual well ownership comes with the responsibility to safeguard the resource that all well owners are so dependent upon, today and in the future. This is especially true for domestic well owners, who have limited ability to independently manage their groundwater, therefore are dependent upon local government to achieve sustainability, and limited means to respond if it is not done adequately.

Q: Under Proposition 26, can we charge some well owners more, e.g. ag/industrial wells, to subsidize others, e.g. low-income/single family residences?

A: No, voter approved Prop 26 does not allow the Agency to charge one group of well-owners more in order to subsidize others.

This has been tested in a number of different contexts, but as a general rule: Prop 26 regulatory fees can't exceed the reasonable cost of providing the service and/or regulatory activity and can't be levied for an unrelated revenue purpose.

If that end result (reduced costs to a certain group) is one the Board wants to pursue, it would need to levy the charge as a special tax subject to standard balloting requirements or implement some other offset not funded by Prop 26 (general fund or grant revenue) in order to achieve the same functional result.

Q: What are the water quality services being provided by the Agency and how are they different?

A: There are three entities performing groundwater quality sampling in the Basin: 1) the County's Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau; 2) Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., and 3) the Agency. Each entity performs a specific service.

The Environmental Health Bureau, in addition to being the entity responsible for the issuance of permits to construct, repair, or destroy a well, is responsible for the Drinking Water Protection Services (DWPS) program that regulates domestic water systems serving 2-199 connections or systems that serve at least 25 people at least 60 days a year. The DWPS is responsible for permitting, inspection and enforcement of over 1,250 water systems throughout the County. The DWPS provides assistance to non-State regulated public and private potable water distribution systems to comply with local, State and Federal regulations, and to resolve water quality and quantity issues; operates a cross-connection control program and a water reuse program; and permits and inspects desalination treatment facilities. This water quality monitoring program focuses on the possible contamination of a well used for potable water by constituents that may affect human health, such as arsenic, and is fiscally supported by an independent, per-well, annual fee. DWPS performs its monitoring at each domestic connection (e.g., at a faucet or tap), not at the well. If a problem is detected, it may ultimately be traced back to the well, but otherwise the wells themselves are not monitored directly.

The Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., is responsible for compliance with a 1999 State law that relates to the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and federal Clean Water Act. The law required the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to review waivers of water quality monitoring for irrigated agriculture and either renew them or adopt Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). In 2004, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated lands within the Central Coast Region. Given the large geographical range of the region, growers formed a non-profit organization to implement a Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) that would perform the surface water monitoring and reporting requirements for enrolled growers. The original waiver and the CMP have undergone two program updates, one in 2012 (Ag Order 2.0) and one in 2017 (Ag Order 3.0), with an Ag Order 4.0 currently in development. Preservation Inc. manages the CMP and reports to the Water Board on behalf of the Central Coast grower community. This water quality monitoring

program focuses on the possible contamination of irrigation drainage water, including shallow groundwater, by constituents that may affect human health, such as nitrogen, and is fiscally supported by an independent, per-acre, annual fee.

The Agency is responsible for monitoring the intrusion of seawater, which occurs in four of the SVB subbasins where the individual GSPs describe the presence or potential for seawater intrusion and establish a seawater intrusion monitoring network: the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Langley Area, and Monterey Subbasins. Seawater intrusion monitoring involves the collection of groundwater samples from wells at specified depths, using protocols and equipment consistent with an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that a representative sample of water from a specific aquifer is properly procured for analysis. Per Agency Ordinance 3790, the concentration of chloride ion is used to define the threshold for seawater intrusion; however, the Agency monitors a suite of constituents<sup>15</sup> which allows for use of multiple geochemical tools in determining the phase of seawater intrusion, or lack thereof, that is occurring. Data from samples collected at a representative network of wells are used to map the regional extent of seawater intrusion, though site-specific data are also reported to capture localized variations in conditions that do occur.

#### **ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

While State law prohibits the Agency from cross-subsidizing one group using Proposition 26 regulatory fee revenue from another group, there are alternative approaches that could be exercised to support participation in the State mandated SGMA monitoring network by certain user groups. Agencies *may* lawfully use non-fee revenue sources, such as taxes, grants, or general fund revenues, to reduce costs for particular groups without violating Prop 26, so long as those subsidies are not funded by other users' fees. Most commonly, this offset comes in the form of alternative revenue from grants or general tax revenue.

Several examples may be useful when considering whether and how to alleviate the financial burden of the proposed Groundwater Monitoring Program fees on certain user groups:

- In its 2020 Proposition 218 proceeding, the Kings River East GSA established groundwater pumping fees but also allocated state grant funds from DWR to reduce those fees for disadvantaged communities. Because the subsidy came from grants, not from other ratepayers, the structure complied with Proposition 26.
- Through another grant program (DWR's LandFlex Program), GSAs in the Central Valley paid growers directly to fallow land and reduce pumping, thereby limiting the impact that groundwater extraction fees would otherwise have on this group. Payments from outside sources like this one can be used to offset the overall costs borne by a group of users (even if they do not alter the fee structure itself).

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<sup>15</sup> Samples collected for evaluating seawater intrusion are analyzed for calcium, cation-anion balance, chloride conductivity, magnesium, nitrate, pH, potassium, sodium, sulfate, total alkalinity, and total dissolved solids. This data enables the Agency to monitor the progression of seawater intrusion.

- In the related context of water service, Santa Clara Valley Water District uses property tax revenues collected under separate statutory authority to fund flood protection and safe drinking water projects. This allows it to lower water rates for some customer classes without violating cost-of-service principles, as those funds are not derived from other ratepayers.
- The City of Sacramento uses a combination of general fund contributions and external grants to support water affordability programs. These programs reduce water bills for qualifying low-income customers. The general fund revenue is not considered a user fee, so it does not implicate Proposition 26. Similar programs in other municipalities provide rebates to target groups separate and apart from their regulatory fee levy.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Agency and SVB recognize that, notwithstanding SGMA was enacted over 10 years ago, to many, SGMA requirements, the GMP, and the associated regulatory fee will be unfamiliar. To help facilitate GMP implementation, the SVB has proposed that the first year be grant funded. Subject to DWR approval, the SVB would make minor amendments to its current grant agreements with the State and modify its sub-grant agreement with the Agency to fund the full cost of GMP implementation for the 2025-2026 fiscal-year. The Agency would produce a GMP regulatory fee invoice for each well owner currently of record so that well owners could see the specific services that apply to each well, and then concurrently apply a credit from the SVB grant funds to entirely offset the initial cost for all well owners within the Basin.

Utilizing grant funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal-year provides many advantages:

- First, it would ease entry into the GMP, particularly for those well owners unfamiliar with the SGMA mandates, the planning and management work of the SVB, and the specific monitoring services provided by the Agency.
- Second, it would provide an opportunity for well-owners currently unidentified in existing databases to register cost-free. By incentivizing entry into the mandatory monitoring program, the quality of well data – presence, location, characteristics, etc. – would be improved. This improved data would enhance understanding of each subbasin, resulting in better future management decisions, while reducing future monitoring costs, as all well owners benefit from the GMP’s economy of scale.
- Third, initiating the first year of the GMP cost-free to well owners would alleviate the year-one impact to low-income, rural residents and provide the Agency time to consider development of non-fee revenue sources, such as taxes, grants, or general fund revenues, to reduce costs for particular groups.
- Fourth, adopting and invoicing the proposed 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fees, with the grant funded offset credit, would transparently introduce to well owners the

specific services and costs that apply to each of their wells. Establishment of the fee, and going through the administrative process, will improve the Agency's administrative practice and refine future fee calculations. Too, adopting the fee will avoid the need for the SVB to establish and recover its own fee, which would ultimately be applied to the very same well owners.

- Fifth, providing year-one funding for the GMP will maintain the quality and reliability of the data reported to DWR annually; will help inform the GSP updates required in 2027; and alleviate the risk State intervention.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

The Agency will work with the SVB to roll out the recommended GMP implementation approach. This would entail preparation of a letter from the SVB to all parcels of record within the six affected subbasins to explain the requirements of SGMA, the role of the SVB in governance, planning, and implementation of management actions to achieve the State mandated, locally developed, sustainability objectives, and the role of the Agency in performing the specific monitoring services. The letter would summarize the GMP requirements and direct well owners to contact the Agency for further information and well registration. This outreach effort would be attended by traditional and social media outreach efforts. In order to achieve the DWR reporting requirements, the letter and outreach would need to occur in late August or early September.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

With all the technical and legal complexities relating to development and implementation of the GMP, it is easy to lose sight of its objectives. Paramount is protecting today's groundwater resources for tomorrow because it is the lifeblood of the County's economy, communities, and culture. By implementing a robust, yet cost effective, monitoring network, the SVB and Agency strive to maintain local control of governance and planning, improve operational efficiency while maintaining regulatory compliance, and, with the benefit of high quality, reliable data, develop and implement right-sized projects that minimize the risk of over managing – avoidably wasting resources and increasing costs – or under managing, which could result in further degradation of groundwater levels and quality, and risk State intervention. Does SGMA require groundwater monitoring networks? Yes. But, moreover, we should be striving to implement the GMP, and resultant regulatory fee, because it is the best practice, one that ensures better management decisions for all well owners. As State Water Resource Control Board member, Sean Maguire, said at the recent Association of California Water Agencies conference, "You can't manage what you can't measure."

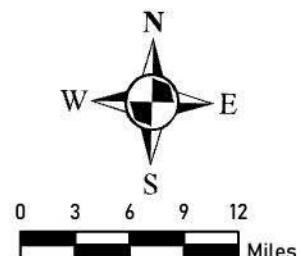




Esri, CGIAR, USGS, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, PAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS

# **Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fee Area FY 2025-2026**

- Legend**
- Groundwater Monitoring Program Area
  - Monterey County Boundary



# Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual

October 1, 2024

## Section 1 Introduction

This Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual (“Manual”) is a supplement to Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) Ordinance No. 5426. The purpose of the Manual is to establish guidelines for the types of data collected, the schedule and time frames for data submittals, the applicability of certain programs based on geography or water user type, and methods and equipment for data collection.

The Manual also establishes the guidelines for data that is requested from the Agency by external entities, in accordance with Ordinance No. 5426 and outlines requirements associated with those requests. The Manual is reviewed regularly and may be updated as the Agency’s or external entity’s needs evolve.

Four Agency groundwater monitoring programs are covered by the Manual: Well Registration, Groundwater Extraction Monitoring, Groundwater Level Monitoring, and Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

## Section 2 Definitions

1. Abandoned well – means any well whose original purpose and use has been permanently discontinued or which is in such a state of disrepair that it cannot be used for its original purpose. A well is considered abandoned when it has not been used for a period of one year, unless the owner demonstrates his or her intent to use the well again for supplying water or other associated purposes.
2. Accuracy – means the measured value relative to the actual value, expressed as a percentage and calculated as:  $\text{Accuracy} = 100\% * (\text{Measured Value} - \text{Actual Value}) / \text{Actual Value}$ .
3. Actual Value – means the value as determined through laboratory, design, or field-testing protocols.
4. Agency – means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.
5. Agency Act – means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act, California Water Code, Appendix Chapter 52 (Stats. 1990, Chap. 1159).
6. Board – means the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

7. County – means the County of Monterey.
8. De minimis extractor – means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year (California Water Code section 10721(e)).
9. Human consumption – means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, food preparation, cooking, or oral hygiene.
10. Inactive or standby well – means a well not routinely operating but capable of being made operable with a minimum effort.
11. Local Small Water System – means a system for the provision of piped water for human consumption that serves at least two, but not more than four, service connections. It includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system which are used primarily in connection with such system. “Local small water system” does not include two or more service connections on a single lot of record where none of the dwellings are leased, rented, or offered for remuneration.
12. Measured Value – means the value indicated by a Measuring Device or determined through calculations using other measured values.
13. Measuring Device – means any device capable of recording the date, time, and a numeric value of either water flow rate, water velocity, water elevation, or volume of water diverted.
14. Monterey County – means the geographical area of Monterey County.
15. Qualified Individual – means any person meeting the criteria specified in the Manual who can perform the required tasks for using and installing a Measuring Device.
16. Reference Point – means the fixed location from which a groundwater level measurement is collected at a well and the elevation of that fixed location.
17. Requesting Entity – means an entity engaged in the management of groundwater resources within Monterey County, either through the monitoring and reporting of groundwater level, usage, and/or quality data; scientific investigations; or in the administration and compliance of a regulatory program(s).
18. Service connection – means a connection to any habitable structure, except a guesthouse, or parcel which uses potable water from a water system for domestic and not agricultural purposes.

19. Small Public Water System – means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that has at least fifteen but not more than one hundred ninety-nine service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five individuals at least sixty days out of the year. A small public water system includes “community water system” and “noncommunity water system” as defined in Section 116275(i) and (j), respectively, of the California Health and Safety Code, and “non-transient noncommunity water system” as defined in Section 116275(k) of the California Health and Safety Code, and a “transient-noncommunity water system” as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 116275(o), as these sections may be amended from time to time.
20. State Small Water System – means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than fourteen (14), service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of twenty-five (25) individuals daily for more than sixty (60) days out of the year. It includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system which are used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator which are used primarily in connection with such system.
21. Water Year – means the 12-month period between October 1, of any given year, through September 30, of the following year, as defined by the United States Geological Survey.
22. Well – means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into, the underground. “Well” includes abandoned wells, inactive wells, monitoring wells, and observation wells. For the purposes of this Manual, “well” does not include: (1) oil and gas wells, or geothermal wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation, except those wells converted to use as water wells; (2) wells used for the purpose of dewatering excavation during construction, or stabilizing hillsides or earth embankments; (3) cathodic protection wells; or (4) test wells or dry wells.
23. Well Operator – means a person or entity authorized by a Well Owner to operate a Well.
24. Well Owner – means a landowner or landowners that own a Well.

## Section 3 Well Registration Program

### 3.1 Geographic Extent

The Well Registration Program applies to all wells located in Agency Zone 2C and/or the following subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: 180/400 Foot Aquifer (3-004.01), East Side Aquifer (3-004.02), Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04), Langley Area (3-004.09), Monterey (3-004.10), and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05). Such geographic locations are depicted in a map attached to this Manual as Attachment A.



### 3.2 General Requirements

Well registration must be completed by submitting the required data to the Agency using the well registration portal available at *[insert link when available]*. Information about and assistance with completing well registration are available at *[insert URL when available]* or by contacting the Agency at 831-755-4860. Wells that are currently registered with the Agency and which meet the data requirements in Section 3.3 will not have to re-register but the Well Owner may be asked to verify the well registration data on file with the Agency and provide updates as applicable.

### 3.3 Data Requirements

The following data must be submitted to the Agency when a well is initially registered and must be updated by contacting the Agency when any changes occur.

1. Well owner name, address, phone number, and email address.
2. Well operator name, address, phone number, and email address.
3. Name of Local Small Water System, Small Public Water System, or State Small Water System, if applicable.
4. Number of connections to Local Small Water System, Small Public Water System, or State Small Water System, if applicable.
5. Geographic coordinates of the well location collected via GPS, with accuracy within 20 feet. Note that GPS-enabled smartphones are typically accurate to within a 16-foot radius under open sky ([www.gps.gov](http://www.gps.gov)).
6. Scaled map showing the well location and the area served water from the well, with relevant geographic features and landmarks labeled (e.g., roads, intersections).
7. Well name (owner-given well identification).
8. Well construction details including all the following information:
  - a. Date of construction
  - b. Drilling method
  - c. Total well depth
  - d. Perforation/screen interval(s)
  - e. Annular seal depth
  - f. Casing diameter
  - g. Casing material
  - h. Depth of pump
  - i. Pump motor horsepower
  - j. Discharge pipe diameter
9. Use category(ies) for which water from the well will be used (e.g., domestic, municipal, agriculture).
10. Status of the well (active, inactive or standby, or abandoned).
  - a. A well owner may demonstrate the inactive or standby status of a well by actions including, but not limited to, keeping the well structure in good condition; preventing the accumulation of vegetative growth or debris at the well and in adjacent areas; and retaining equipment and infrastructure necessary for operation of the well, such as pumps, piping, or a power source for operating the well.
11. Number of existing and anticipated service connections.

12. Description of water quantity measuring device(s) on the well.
13. Description of each water quantity measuring device on all service connections receiving water from the facility.
14. Electrical meter service numbers and plant numbers for each well having such a number.
15. Copy of the Well Completion Report.
16. Copy of the County of Monterey well construction permit that was issued for the well, and any other related County well permits.
17. Copy of any borehole geophysical logs collected during the well drilling.
18. Copy of any pump testing data obtained during well drilling and development.

## Section 4 Groundwater Extraction Monitoring Program

### 4.1 Geographic Extent

The Groundwater Extraction Monitoring Program applies to non-*de minimis* extractors located in Agency Zone 2C and/or the following subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: 180/400 Foot Aquifer (3-004.01), East Side Aquifer (3-004.02), Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04), Langley Area (3-004.09), Monterey (3-004.10), and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05). Such geographic locations are depicted in a map attached to this Manual as Attachment A.

### 4.2 General Requirements

1. Groundwater extraction data are required from all non-*de minimis* users i.e., wells pumping more than 2 acre-feet per year (AF/yr.) for domestic use.
2. Groundwater extraction data must be collected on a monthly basis for each Water Year (i.e., October 1 through September 30).
3. Monthly totals of groundwater extracted must be reported to the Agency no later than November 1 for the prior Water Year.
4. Data that are reported to the State Water Resources Control Board Electronic Water Rights Management System (eWRIMS) must also be reported to the Agency and be identified as being reported to both entities.
5. Any Measuring Device required by this Manual must be purchased, installed, and maintained by the well owner or operator.

### 4.3 Data Collecting and Reporting

1. Well owners or operators must collect and maintain monthly records of groundwater extraction volumes and cumulative totals including:
  - a. Quantity of water produced by each well.
  - b. Quantity of water produced for each use type.
2. Annual reporting submitted to the Agency must specify the type of approved Measuring Device that was used to collect data at each well. Currently approved Measuring Devices include all of the following: flow meter, electrical meter, or hour meter. Additional types of Measuring Devices or equipment may be considered and approved for use in the future. When new Measuring Devices are approved by the Agency as described in Ordinance

5426, Well Owners or Well Operators of Wells currently registered with and reporting extractions to the Agency using a currently approved Measuring Device as described in this Manual or “Alternative Compliance Plan” will not have to re-request approval from the Agency to continue using a currently approved Measuring Device or “Alternative Compliance Plan”.

a. Annual reporting occurs online through an application maintained by the Agency at [https://apps.co.monterey.ca.us/wra\\_gems/](https://apps.co.monterey.ca.us/wra_gems/).

b. Information about how to use the application is available at <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/groundwater-extractions-gems>.

3. Well owners or operators using the flow meter method must abide by the following:

a. Flow meters must be tested every five years by a Qualified Individual and calibrated to comply with applicable Agency specifications in (b) and (c) below. Upon completion of the test, a copy of the test report including the flowmeter reading must be submitted to the Agency.

i. A Qualified Individual may be any of the following:

I. Anyone trained and experienced in water measurements and reporting.

II. A California-registered Professional Engineer or a person under their supervision.

III. A California-licensed contractor for C-57 well drilling or C-61/D-21 Limited Specialty: Machinery and Pumps.

IV. Any individual who has completed a class on measurement devices and methods offered through the University of California Cooperative Extension.

V. Hydrologist or Professional Engineer experienced and trained in water measurement.

b. Flow meters must be installed per manufacturer instructions.

c. Flow meters must come from the manufacturer with a provable accuracy of +/- 2%. The Measured Value must read within +/- 10% at all times after installation.

d. Reported data must include monthly readings from the flow meter and associated meter number.

4. Well owners or operators using the electrical meter method must abide by all of the following:

a. Quantities of water must be reported based on calculations using accurate electrical bills, data from pump efficiency tests, and formulas that are approved by the Agency.

- b. Electrical bills must be based on electrical meters on the well. The well's use of electricity must be the only electrical use measured by the electrical meter.
  - c. Reported data must show the kilowatt hours used each month by each well.
  - d. A pump efficiency test must be completed annually. The test must be a three-point efficiency test which evaluates three discharge pressures and is obtained during the period from March through June. Upon completion of the test, the tester must submit to the Agency a report of the testing that includes the electrical meter reading on the date of the test. The pump efficiency test report must be submitted to the Agency no later than October 31 of the year in which it was conducted.
  - e. Reporting party must submit all computations necessary to show the quantity of water used, including the raw data, the computation itself, and the result as prescribed by the Agency.
5. Well owners or operators using the hour meter method must abide by all of the following:
- a. Quantities of water must be reported based on calculations using readings from hour meters, discharge rates from pump efficiency tests, and formulas approved by the Agency.
  - b. Hour meters must be accurate to within 2% of correct time.
  - c. Information showing the total number of hours each facility was operated in each month must be submitted to the Agency.
  - d. A pump efficiency test must be completed annually. The test must be a three-point efficiency test which evaluates three discharge pressures and is obtained during the period from March through June. Upon completion of the test, the tester must submit to the Agency a report of the testing that includes the hour meter reading on the date of the test and discharge rates determined pursuant to the test.
  - e. Reporting party must submit all computations necessary to show the quantity of water used, including the raw data, the computation itself, and the result as prescribed by the Agency.

## Section 5 Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

### 5.1 Geographic Extent

The Agency monitors groundwater levels throughout Monterey County, primarily within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, but also in areas of Lockwood Valley (Attachment B).



## 5.2 Record Keeping

Wells that are part of the Agency's groundwater level monitoring network are required to be registered, per the criteria described in Section 3 of this Manual. In addition to the data requirements therein, the Agency will collect data regarding the Reference Point elevation of the well.

The Agency may install a well data tag at the well site to indicate that the well is part of a monitoring program. The well data tag will be labeled with the site's State Well Identification Number.

## 5.3 Data Collection

The Agency measures groundwater levels on a monthly basis at some well sites and biannually or annually at other well sites. The Agency adheres to the following field methods and data management practices.

### 5.3.1 Field Methods

Groundwater level data collected from wells is intended to reflect static (i.e., non-pumping) groundwater conditions. Best efforts are made to ensure that wells are not pumping and have not recently been pumped prior to collecting a groundwater level data point. Depth to water measurements are made using one or more of the methods discussed in the following sections. The Agency's groundwater level data collection methodology is based on the standardized *Groundwater Technical Procedures of the U.S. Geological Survey* (2011) available at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/1a1/> and the State of California Department of Water Resources *Groundwater Elevation Guidelines* (2010).

#### 5.3.1.1 Graduated Steel Tape

The following steps must be completed prior to taking a measurement:

- Ensure that the reference point on the well can be clearly determined. Check notes in the field data collection notebook or application.
- Review the notes and comments associated with previous measurements to determine if there are any unique circumstances at the well.
- Take note of whether oil has previously been present at the well. This will be recorded in the comments section of the data collection form.
- Evaluate the well and surrounding area to determine if the well may have recently been operating.

To collect a measurement:

- Use the previous depth to water measurement to estimate a length of tape that will be needed.
- Lower the tape into the well, feeling for a change in the weight of the tape, which typically indicates that either (a) the tap has reached the water surface or (b) the tape is sticking to the side of the well.

- Continue lowering the tape into the well until the next whole foot mark is at the reference point. This value on the tape should be recorded in the field data collection notebook or application.
- Bring the tape to the surface and record the number of the wetted interval to the nearest foot.
- In an oil layer is present, read the tape at the top of the oil mark to the nearest foot. Note in the comments section of the data form that oil was present.
- Repeat this procedure a second time and note any differences in measurement in the field data collection notebook or application. If needed, repeat additional times until two consistent depth readings are obtained.
- After completing the measurement, disinfect and rinse the part of the tape that was submerged below the water surface.

#### *5.3.1.2 Electric water level meter*

This method of measurement employs a battery-powered water level meter and a small probe attached to a ruled length of cable. Depth to water measurements collected using this equipment are recorded to the nearest tenth of an inch. This instrument is sometimes referred to as a “sounder.”

The following steps must be completed prior to taking a measurement:

- Review the field data sheet for the well and note whether oil has been present at this well in the past. The electric water level meter should not be used in wells where oil is present.
- Ensure that the reference point on the well can be clearly determined. Check notes in the field data collection notebook.
- Confirm that the water level meter is functioning and is turned on so that the beeping indicator will operate properly.

To collect a measurement:

- Review previous depth to water measurements for the well to estimate the length of tape that will be needed.
- Lower the electrode into the well until the indicator sounds, showing the probe is in contact with the water surface.
- Place the tape against the reference point and read the depth to water to the nearest 0.1 foot. Record this value on the field data sheet.
- Make a second measurement and note any differences in measurement in the field data collection notebook or application. If needed, repeat additional times until two consistent depth readings are obtained.
- After completing the measurement, disinfect and rinse the part of the tape that was submerged below the water surface.

#### *5.3.1.3 Sonic water level meter*

This meter uses sound waves to measure the depth to water in a well. The meter must be adjusted to the air temperature outside the well. There is a card with reference temperatures in the case with the sonic meter.

Making a measurement:

- Insert the meter probe into the access port and push the power-on switch. Record the depth from the readout.
- Record the depth to water measurement in the field data collection notebook or application.
- No disinfection of the instrument is required because it does not come into contact with the water surface.

#### *5.3.1.4 Pressure transducer*

Automated water-level measurements are made with a pressure transducer attached to a data logger. Pressure transducers are lowered to a depth below the water level in the well and fastened to the well head at a reference point. Data points are logged on an hourly basis.

The Agency uses factory-calibrated, vented pressure transducers; the specific model and cable length is customized for each well. A desiccant is also used to avoid damage to the equipment from moisture.

Agency staff collects the pressure transducer data once per quarter. During the data collection process, data loggers are stopped, and the data is downloaded onto a laptop, and then the data logger is reactivated and scheduled to begin collecting data again on the next hour.

## **Section 6 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program**

### **6.1 Geographic Extent**

The Agency monitors groundwater quality in the coastal region of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and at selected monitoring wells in the Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04) and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05) Subbasins (Attachment C).

### **6.2 Record Keeping**

Wells that are part of the Agency's groundwater level monitoring network are required to be registered, per the criteria described in Section 3 of this Manual.

### **6.3 Data Collection**

The Agency collects groundwater quality samples twice per year from wells in the groundwater quality monitoring program. Additional samples may be collected as needed for special projects or to meet the needs of a Requesting Entity.

Field blanks and field duplicates are collected as part of the groundwater quality monitoring program to evaluate the sample collection process for contamination from exposure to ambient conditions, sample containers, or improper sampling and handling techniques. Field blank

samples are obtained by pouring deionized (DI) water acquired from the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory into a sample container that has been triple-rinsed with DI water at the sampling location. If target analytes are identified in field blanks, sampling and handling procedures will be reevaluated and corrective actions, consisting of but not limited to re-training of field personnel, contact with the laboratory, invalidation, or qualifying of results, will be taken.

Field duplicates are collected and analyzed for the same analytical parameters as the native samples. The duplicate sample will be collected immediately after collection of the native sample, following the same sampling protocols.

The Agency adheres to the protocols set forth in the *Quality Assurance Project Plan for Water Quality Monitoring Associated with the Salinas Valley Integrated Water Management Plan* (EPA R9#03-238, X-97994701-0) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in August 2007.

#### 6.3.1 Groundwater Quality Sample Identification and Handling

Sample containers are high density polyethylene (HDPE), 0.25-gallon (approximately 1 liter) size for complete mineral analysis. Sample containers and caps are purchased in bulk and the caps for the containers are packaged separately. Sterility of the sample containers is not of importance because samples are not analyzed for microbiological testing. No chemical field preservation of the samples is required.

Sample containers are labeled with pre-printed labels. The collection date, collection time, and sampler name are recorded in the field with an indelible marker.

All samples are handled, prepared, transported, and stored in a manner so as to minimize contamination and spills. After collection, samples caps are checked for tightness, and the samples are immediately placed in an ice chest. During travel between sites, ice chest lids are kept tightly closed. Blue ice packs are used in sufficient quantity so that all samples are stored at  $4\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Chain-of-custody (COC) forms are provided by the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory and filled out by field personnel while in the field. The COC accompanies the samples at all times in order to ensure the custodial integrity of the samples. The COC form includes the sample site, which is identified by State Well Identification Number or Quality Control sample, if appropriate.

Upon relinquishing the sample(s) to the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory, the sampler signs and dates the COC form. Lab personnel will then receive the sample(s), check the temperature, mark the date and time received, assign unique lab identification numbers (lab IDs) to each sample, and sign the COC form. The signed COC form is copied; the lab keeps the

original and a copy is given to the sampler. Hard copies of COC forms are maintained by Agency for a period of ten years.

### 6.3.2 Analytical Methods

Groundwater samples, including field blanks and field duplicates, are analyzed for an “Ag Waiver Panel” consisting of the following analytes: calcium, cation-anion balance, chloride, conductivity, magnesium, nitrate, pH, potassium, sodium, sulfate, total alkalinity, and total dissolved solids.

Samples are analyzed at the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory, which is part of the Monterey County Health Department and holds Certification Number 1395 from the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). ELAP is part of the Division of Drinking Water at the State Water Resources Control Board.



# **Groundwater Monitoring Program Fee Study for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency**

**Final Report  
May 2025**



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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency” or “MCWRA”) was formed under Chapter 699 of the Statutes of 1947 as the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. In 1990, the State Legislature updated the Agency’s mandate through passage of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act to provide for the control of flood and storm waters, conservation of such waters through storage and percolation, control of groundwater extraction, protection of water quality, reclamation of water, exchange of water, and the construction and operation of hydroelectric power facilities (California Water Code Appendix, Chapter 52 {“Agency Act”}). The Agency has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to water within the entire area of Monterey County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas (Agency Act, Section 4).

In addition to the Agency’s responsibility for stream monitoring, flood management, and emergency flood-related preparedness, the Agency is authorized to conserve water in any manner; to buy, sell, and purvey water; and to prevent the waste or diminution of the water extractions which are determined to be harmful to the groundwater basin. Relevant here, the Agency Act authorizes the MCWRA Board of Supervisors to impose fees. (Agency Act, Section 70(c)). More specifically, as it relates to the establishment of this Groundwater Monitoring Program regulatory fee, under the Agency Act and Agency Ordinance No. 5426, the Agency has authority to carry on technical and other necessary investigations, make measurements, collect data, make analyses, studies, and inspections pertaining to water supply. Section 10 of Ordinance No. 5426 states, “[f]or the purposes of implementing this Ordinance, the Agency may allocate and recover costs associated with the development, implementation, enforcement, and perpetuation of a regulatory groundwater monitoring program on a per-Well basis, not based on extraction data, within Monterey County. Such regulatory fees shall be established by a resolution of the Board.”

Since 1947, the Agency has performed groundwater monitoring in the Salinas Valley, initially of groundwater levels and later expanded to include groundwater quality. In the 1990s, the Agency voluntarily created the Groundwater Extraction Monitoring System (“GEMS”) to monitor the use of groundwater throughout Agency Zones 2, 2A, and 2B of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, which necessitated well registration and reporting requirements. The purpose of GEMS and water quality/level monitoring was to investigate and produce the data necessary to perform a thorough review, or audit, of the hydrologic budget within the monitored area. Investigations conducted as part of the Agency’s previous programs furthered the purposes of the Agency, such as protection of water quality, and conservation of flood and storm waters. Data resulting from these programs facilitated implementation and enforcement of the Agency Act and supported management that allowed for continued well owner operations throughout the community.

In 2014, the State enacted a three-bill legislative package, composed of AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), which established new regulatory requirements to achieve the sustainability of groundwater



basins throughout California by 2040 or 2042, depending on subbasin. Subsequently, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) including the Arroyo Seco GSA, County of Monterey GSA, Marina Coast Water District GSA, and Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) were formed to achieve the State’s SGMA mandates within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, which substantially, but not entirely, overlaps with Agency Zones 2, 2A, and 2B.

To meet its SGMA regulatory obligations, each GSA needed to address the data gaps between its areas of responsibility and the Agency’s previous groundwater level, water quality, and groundwater extraction monitoring programs. In the interest of improving operational efficiency and reducing costs, rather than creating a separate, parallel monitoring program, the SVBGSA chose to leverage the data collection, analysis, management, and reporting expertise of the Agency. SVBGSA’s request to expand the Agency’s work resulted in the Agency’s Board of Supervisors repealing the three 1990s ordinances that established the original GEMS program and related well registration and reporting requirements, and the adoption of a new ordinance and Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual, on October 1, 2024, to support current regulatory mandates. The new ordinance, Ordinance No. 5426, also established a regulatory fee, which is the subject of this fee study, to sustain the new Groundwater Monitoring Program.

The Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) is comprised of four components with five associated proposed fees: Well Registration (Initial Registration and Annual Renewal), Groundwater Extraction Reporting, Groundwater Level Monitoring, and Groundwater Quality Monitoring. The purpose of the GMP is to continue the investigation and auditing of the hydrologic budget within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The GMP regulatory fees will cover the reasonable costs of identifying the location of wells and collecting data necessary to reliably perform hydrologic investigations on a scale and schedule compatible with the needs of GSAs operating in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The proposed GMP regulatory fees currently only cover the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. However, Ordinance No. 5426 and the GMP Manual authorize the Agency to collect data anywhere within Monterey County. As such, the GMP regulatory fees may be modified in the future if other groundwater sustainability agencies request the Agency collect data.

The Well Registration component is necessary for obtaining data on the location, construction, and operation of wells in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, which, in turn, can be linked to data collected through other components of the Groundwater Monitoring Program. The Groundwater Extraction Reporting component provides data on the location and volume of water extracted on an annual basis, which is a critical element of monitoring the hydrologic budget. Data collected from the Groundwater Level Monitoring component are the basis for the Agency’s evaluation of regional, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater levels. Groundwater level data are also used to investigate the following: changes in groundwater storage for the hydrologic budget; the regional direction of groundwater movement; mechanisms for seawater intrusion; quantification of short- and long-term impacts to the groundwater basin from public and private well extraction; conservation releases from the reservoirs; and operation of water projects like the Salinas Valley Water Project or Monterey County Water Recycling Projects, which was constructed to reduce extraction of groundwater

in the 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers. The Groundwater Quality Monitoring component is conducted biannually to investigate changes to the extent of seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Samples collected through Groundwater Quality Monitoring provide laboratory-derived chemistry data for major cations and anions that is analyzed using a suite of geochemical tools and paired with groundwater level and extraction data to evaluate the movement of seawater intrusion and accompanying change in usable groundwater storage. Coupling this analysis with data obtained through the Well Registration component allows for the identification of wells that may be experiencing adverse water quality impacts. The Groundwater Quality Monitoring program does not analyze the same constituents that are evaluated by other programs focused on health and human safety.

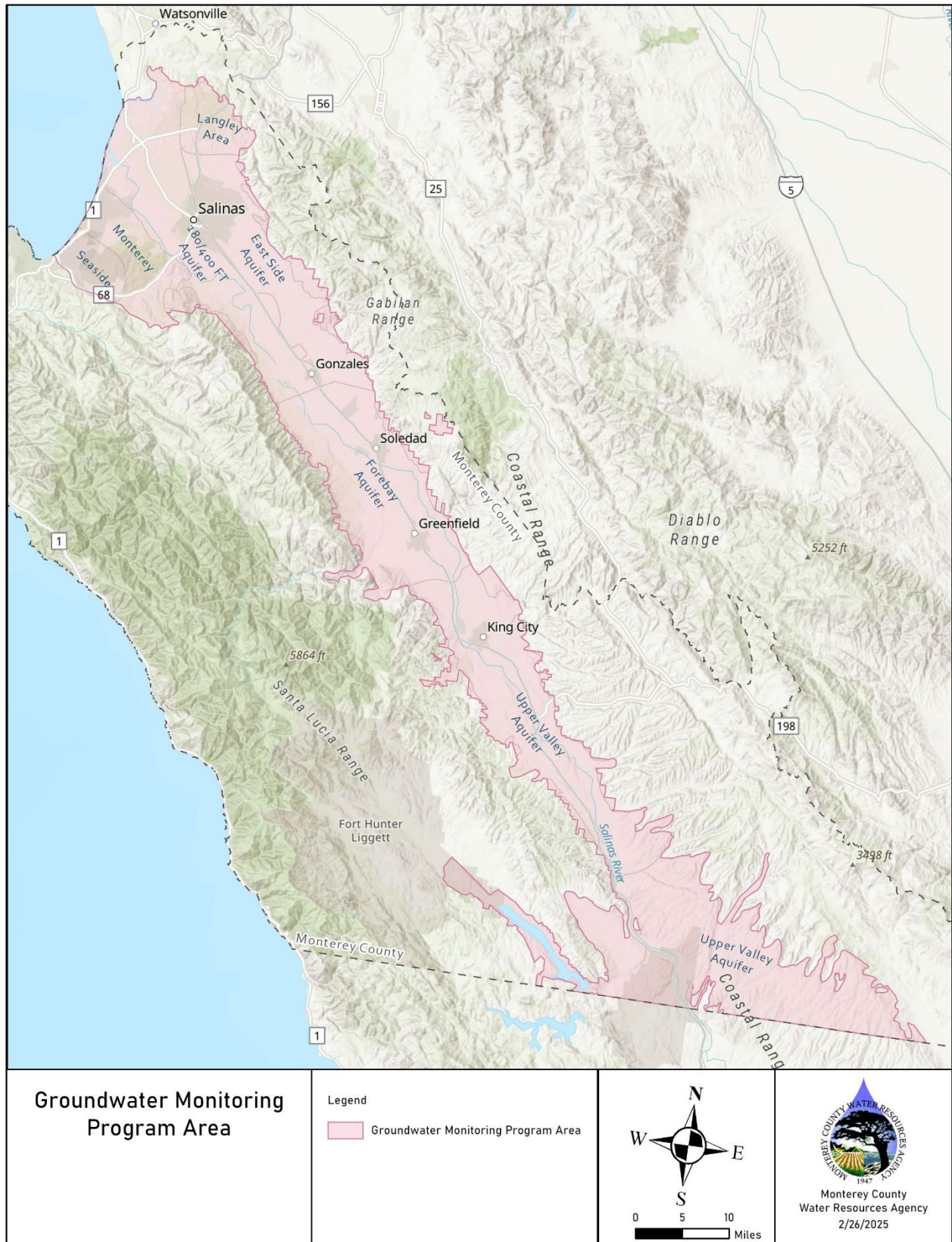
The GMP, as contemplated for this fee study, consists of well registration and monitoring of public and private wells within the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, and Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (Figure 1). As described above, the Groundwater Monitoring Program is accomplished via four regulatory programs or services:

- 1) Well Registration - Initial wellhead registration (“Reg”)
- 2) Well Registration - Annual wellhead registration renewal (“Renew”)
- 3) Groundwater extraction reporting (“Extract”)
- 4) Monitoring groundwater levels (“GWL”)
- 5) Monitoring water quality (“WQ”)

The goal of this study is to establish a schedule of cost-based fees for these regulatory functions. This study was conducted consistent with the Agency’s 2020 Strategic Plan to identify more targeted funding sources for regulatory programs and more fairly recover costs from regulated entities.

The GMP fees are not taxes and are exempt from voter approval under section 1(e)(3) of Article XIII C of the California Constitution (Proposition 26). The fees are imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to the Agency for conducting the Groundwater Monitoring Program, and do not exceed the reasonable costs to the Agency of providing these services. The fees were calculated based on staff time and materials. A summary of the proposed fees is provided below in Table 1.

**Figure 1: Groundwater Monitoring Program Area**



**Table 1: Summary of Proposed Annual Fees for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 ("FY26")**

<b>Fee Category</b>	<b>Proposed FY26 Annual Fee per participating well</b>
Initial wellhead registration	\$160.16
Annual wellhead registration renewal	\$21.86
Groundwater extraction reporting	\$64.82
Monitoring groundwater levels	\$117.68
Monitoring water quality	\$73.92

This fee study does not include delinquency or penalty fees for noncompliant well owners. Section 11 of Ordinance No. 5426 provides for the enforcement, penalties, and appeal process for the GMP.

Table 2 estimates the cost recovery for the Groundwater Monitoring Program resulting from the proposed fees for FY26. Cost recovery per fee type varies based on the amount of the fee and the number of annual services to which the fee applies. In total, the fees proposed in this report are estimated to cover about \$802,000 of Agency expenses. This revenue will be used to directly offset the cost of implementing the monitoring programs and will not be used for non-regulatory functions or programs.

**Table 2: Estimated FY26 Cost Recovery from Fees**

<b>Fee Category</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Proposed FY26 Fee</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Annual Services</b>	<b>Total Annual Cost Recovery</b>
Initial wellhead registration	Reg	\$160.16	50	\$8,010
Annual wellhead registration renewal	Renew	\$21.86	3,500	\$76,510
Groundwater extraction reporting	Extract	\$64.82	2,100	\$136,122
Monitoring groundwater levels	GWL	\$117.68	3,500	\$411,880
Monitoring water quality	WQ	\$73.92	2,300	<u>\$170,016</u>
				\$802,536

## SECTION 2: Legal Requirements & Methodology

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### 2.1 Legal Requirements

California voters enacted Proposition 26 in 2010 to define the term “tax” for purposes of Articles XIII A and XIII C of the California Constitution. Under Proposition 26, all levies, charges, and exactions “imposed” by local governments are considered taxes, unless they fit into one of the seven stated exceptions for local government:

- 1) A charge that is imposed for a special benefit or privilege provided to an individual, does not exceed the reasonable cost of service, and does not provide broad, general benefits to others in the community;
- 2) A charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the person paying the fee, that does not exceed the reasonable cost of providing service;
- 3) A charge imposed for reasonable regulatory costs (i.e. licenses, audits, inspections, permits) that does not exceed the reasonable cost of service;
- 4) A charge imposed for entrance to or use of local government property, or the purchase, rental, or lease of local government property;
- 5) Fines or penalties imposed for violations of the law;
- 6) A charge imposed as a condition of property development; and
- 7) Assessments and property-related fees imposed under the provisions of Proposition 218, such as water and sewer service charges.

The fees proposed in this study are exempt from voting requirements as they are regulatory fees (exemption #3 listed above) that do not exceed the cost of the Agency’s regulatory action.

### 2.2 Methodology

To calculate the cost of service for each fee, the Agency estimated the number of staff hours needed to complete each groundwater monitoring service, the hourly rate for each staff member, and the cost of applicable materials, vehicles, and supplies. Table 3 provides a list of staff and hourly rates. The hourly rates represent the fully burdened rate of each staff member, including the cost of salary and benefits.



**Table 3: Staff Hourly Rates for FY26**

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Fully Burdened Hourly Rate</b>
Accountant II	\$88.10
Accounting Technician	\$77.17
Deputy General Manager	\$206.09
Finance Manager III	\$175.53
General Manager	\$224.87
Office Assistant III	\$63.69
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	\$156.11
Water Resources Hydrologist	\$80.27
Water Resources Technician	\$67.07

Table sorted alphabetically

For all fees except initial wellhead registration, staff time and materials costs were determined on a programmatic level. Total costs to provide each regulatory function over the course of the year were divided by the estimated number of services provided each year to determine a fee (i.e. cost per service). Table 4 provides the total staff hours estimated for each regulatory service as well as the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) based on 1,700 hours of productive time. The Groundwater Monitoring Program functions described in this report reflect a staff time of about 3.47 FTEs over the course of each fiscal year.

**Table 4: Total Staffing by Fee Category**

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Reg</b>	<b>Renew</b>	<b>Extract</b>	<b>GWL</b>	<b>WQ</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Accountant II		120				<b>120</b>	<b>0.07</b>
Accounting Technician		200				<b>200</b>	<b>0.12</b>
Deputy General Manager			8	8	8	<b>24</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Finance Manager III		40				<b>40</b>	<b>0.02</b>
General Manager			8	8	8	<b>24</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Office Assistant III			24			<b>24</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Senior Water Hydrologist	7.5	11	150	120	75	<b>364</b>	<b>0.21</b>
Water Resources Hydrologist	25	10	300	700	100	<b>1,135</b>	<b>0.67</b>
Water Resources Technician	<u>50</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>750</u>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Total Hours	82.5	401	1,140	3,336	941	<b>5,901</b>	<b>3.47</b>
<b>Total Full Time Equivalents</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>3.47</b>	

The proposed fees also include the Agency's cost of supplies, materials, and vehicles needed to provide each regulatory function. The cost of materials or supplies for each fee is calculated as the total annual cost of materials for each service divided by the estimated number of annual regulatory functions the Agency will provide. As an example, tablets for data collection are used for both groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality. Thus, the cost of tablets is divided by 5,800 wells, which is the sum of the number of wells in the groundwater level monitoring program (3,500) and the number of wells in the groundwater quality monitoring program (2,300).

Some materials and supplies are longer-lived assets that the Agency will use over multiple years. The annual cost of multi-year supplies is calculated as the purchase price of the supplies divided by the expected useful life, see Table 5. The cost of vehicles is based on prevailing hourly rental rates multiplied by the number of hours to perform each regulatory function. The supplies and materials listed in Table 5 are used by one or more of the monitoring programs to collect groundwater level measurements, collect groundwater samples, label wells using information obtained through well registration, and electronically store data gathered while in the field.

Each fee also includes an indirect cost rate of approximately 21%, which is added to the cost of staff time, supplies, materials, and vehicles. The indirect cost rate was determined by the Agency and consists of approximately 12% of Administration/Agency overhead and 9% of County of Monterey overhead. The indirect cost rate for the Agency covers items such as computer hardware and software, internet service, communications devices, and rental costs of Agency buildings. The indirect cost rate for the County includes facilities, human resources, records, and county counsel. The calculations for each cost-based fee are provided in Section 3.

**Table 5: Multi-year Supplies**

<b>Material or Supply</b>	<b>Cost Per Item</b>	<b># Needed</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Purchasing Frequency</b>	<b>Useful Life (years)</b>	<b>Annual Cost [1]</b>	<b>Applicable Program</b>
Electronic sounder	\$760	3	\$2,280	1 every 3 years	9	\$253.33	GWL
Steel tape	\$1,000	3	\$3,000	1 every 2 years	6	\$500.00	GWL
Nylon-coated steel tape	\$200	2	\$400	1 every 2 years	4	\$100.00	GWL
Sonic water level meter	\$2,200	1	\$2,200	1 every 10 years	10	\$220.00	GWL
Well labeling equipment	\$400	1	\$400	1 every 5 years	5	\$80.00	GWL
Pump and Variable Frequency Drive	\$10,000	1	\$10,000	1 every 10 years	10	\$1,000.00	WQ
Generator for pump operation	\$1,500	1	\$1,500	1 every 10 years	10	\$150.00	WQ
Tablets for data collection	\$5,000	3	\$15,000	1 every 3 years	9	\$1,666.67	GWL and WQ

1 – total cost divided by useful life



## SECTION 3: Proposed Cost-Based Fees

This section provides the calculation of each cost-based regulatory fee. The total cost of each fee includes the cost of estimated staff time required to complete each regulatory function, the cost of materials, vehicles, and supplies, and an indirect cost rate of 20.91%.

### 3.1 Initial Well Registration

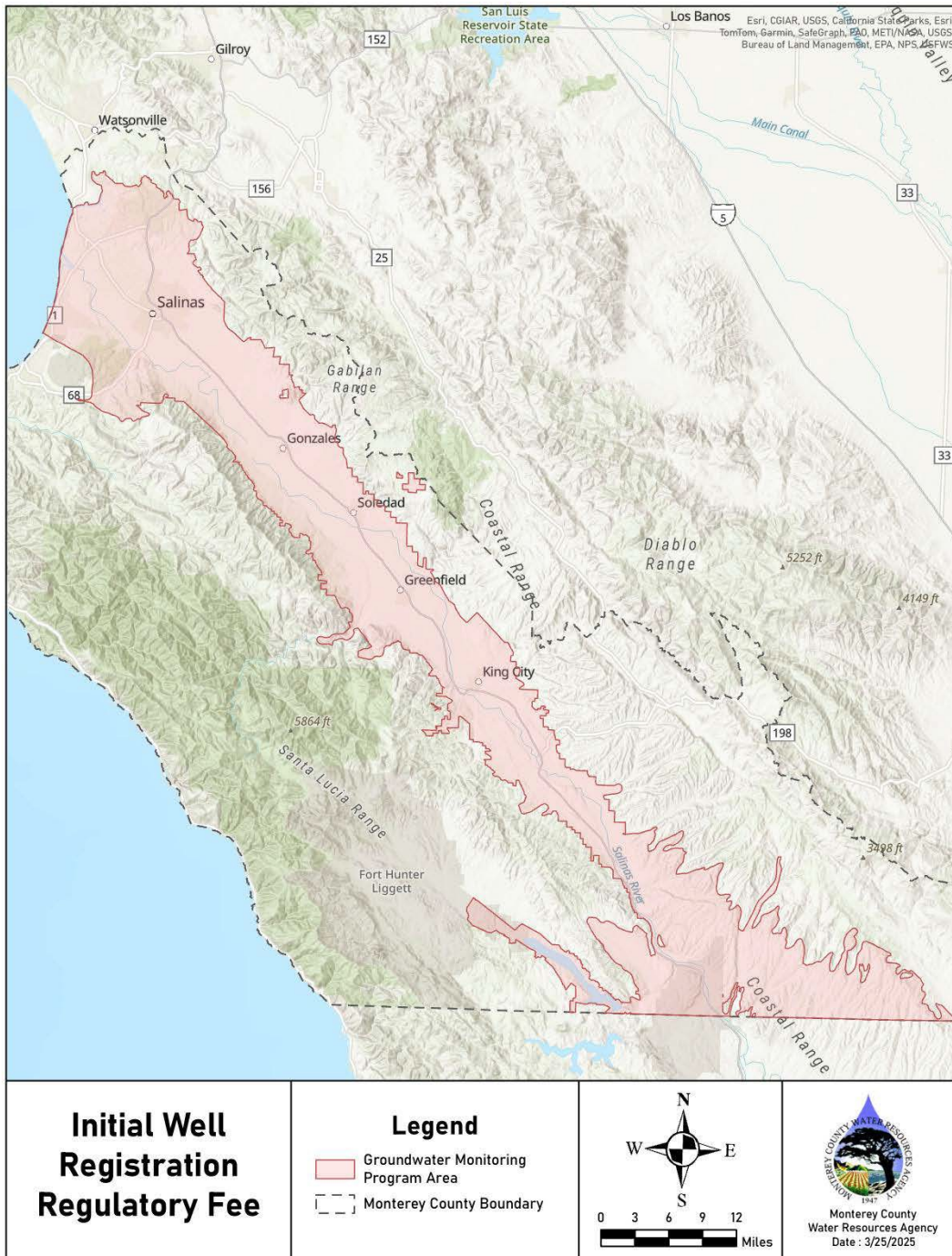
A well must be registered with the Agency if it is in one of the following six subbasins: 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, or Upper Valley Aquifer (see Figure 2). The initial registration of a well occurs once and is required within 30 days of completed construction or upon request from the Agency, per Ordinance No. 5426. Registration requires providing information about the well's location, owner, operator, status, and construction specifications.

The initial wellhead registration fee amount per well is calculated in Table 6. The initial registration fee is calculated as \$160.16 and is proposed to be the same for all types and sizes of wells because the level of effort is the same, regardless of well usage or size. In addition to the estimated staffing costs per well, the initial registration fee is proposed to recover portions of the Information Technology (IT) support required for the well registration software and supplies for printing notifications. IT support and printing charges are shared with the annual renewal fee and are divided by an estimated 3,500 renewals and registrations per year to calculate a fee per well.

**Table 6: Initial Wellhead Registration or Registration Charge Proposed for FY26**

Staffing	Hours	Hourly rate	Total Cost	Identifier	Calculation
Water Resources Technician	1	\$67.07	\$67.07		
Water Resources Hydrologist	0.5	\$80.27	\$40.14		
<u>Senior Water Resources Hydrologist</u>	0.15	\$156.11	<u>\$23.42</u>		
Subtotal Staffing			\$130.63	A	
<b>Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles</b>					
County IT support			\$5,000.00		
<u>Supplies for printing notifications</u>			<u>\$1,500.00</u>		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$6,500.00		
# of annual renewals & new registrations			3,550		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$1.83	B	
<b>Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)</b>			<b>\$132.46</b>	C	C = A + B
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>20.91%</b>	<b><u>\$27.70</u></b>	D	D = C x 20.91%
<b>Total Fee</b>			<b>\$160.16</b>		C + D

**Figure 2: Initial Well Registration Regulatory Fee**



### 3.2 Annual Renewal & Billing

Following initial registration, all registered wells are required to annually renew their registration. Registered well owners will be asked to verify well registration data on file with the Agency and provide updates as applicable. Table 7 summarizes the proposed fee for annual wellhead registration renewal. The total fee amount per well is \$21.86 based on the estimated total annual costs for the program (staff time throughout the year and direct expenses) divided by an estimated 3,550 renewals and registrations per year. Costs for the registration renewal program include staffing costs and costs for software, IT support, and printing notifications.

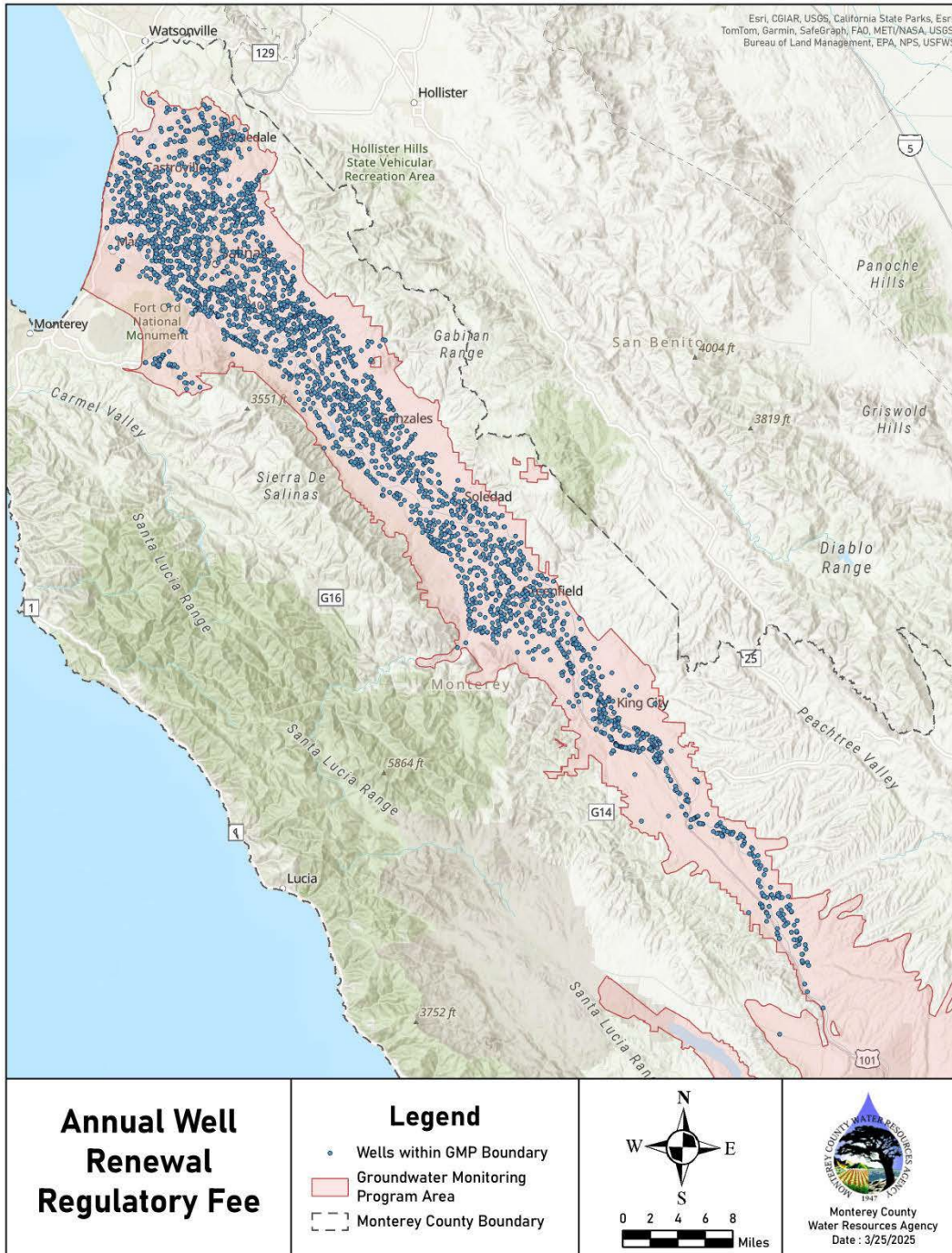
**Table 7: Annual Wellhead Registration Renewal Proposed for FY26**

Staffing	Hours	Hourly rate	Total Cost	Identifier	Calculation
Accountant II	120	\$88.10	\$10,572.00		
Accounting Technician	200	\$77.17	\$15,434.00		
Finance Manager III	40	\$175.53	\$7,021.20		
Water Resources Technician	20	\$67.07	\$1,341.40		
Water Resources Hydrologist	10	\$80.27	\$802.70		
<u>Senior Water Resources Hydrologist</u>	11	\$156.11	<u>\$1,717.21</u>		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			\$36,888.51		
# of annual renewals			3,500		
Staffing cost per renewal			\$10.54	A	
<b>Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles</b>					
Well registration software subscription [1]			\$20,000.00		
# of annual renewals			3,500		
Software cost per renewal			\$5.71	B	
County IT support			\$5,000.00		
<u>Supplies for printing notifications</u>			<u>\$1,500.00</u>		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$6,500.00		
# of annual renewals & new registrations			3,550		
County IT support & Supplies per new registration/renewal			\$1.83	C	
<b>Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)</b>			<b>\$18.08</b>	D	D = A + B + C
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>20.91%</b>	<b><u>\$3.78</u></b>	E	E = D x 20.91%
<b>Total Fee</b>			<b>\$21.86</b>		D + E

1 – Initial software cost of \$50,000 amortized over five years plus \$10,000 annual subscription cost.



**Figure 3: Annual Well Renewal Regulatory Fee**



### **3.3 Groundwater Extraction Reporting**

In addition to well registration, the Agency's Groundwater Monitoring Program includes Groundwater Extraction Reporting. The Groundwater Extraction Reporting program requires all wells located within the area shown in Figure 1 that are extracting more than two acre-feet per year (i.e. non-de minimis users) to report extraction data to the Agency through the online reporting portal in accordance with the criteria specified in the Agency's Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual. SGMA defines "de minimis extractor" as a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year (California Water Code Section 10721) so the same threshold is being used by the Agency for the Groundwater Monitoring Program to ensure consistency with meeting the regulatory needs of the Agency and/or Requesting Entities. The Agency will be contacting well owners required to report groundwater extraction data by mail with instructions on how to register for the program and will also send at least one annual reminder notice.

To comply with the GMP, extractors are required to purchase and install an approved measuring device at each well then use it to collect monthly data and report that data at least annually. Groundwater extraction data must be collected on a monthly basis for each Water Year, which is defined by the United States Geological Survey as October 1 through September 30, and monthly totals of groundwater extracted must be self-reported to the Agency no later than November 1 for the prior Water Year. Agency staff then audit all data collected and produce an annual summary report.

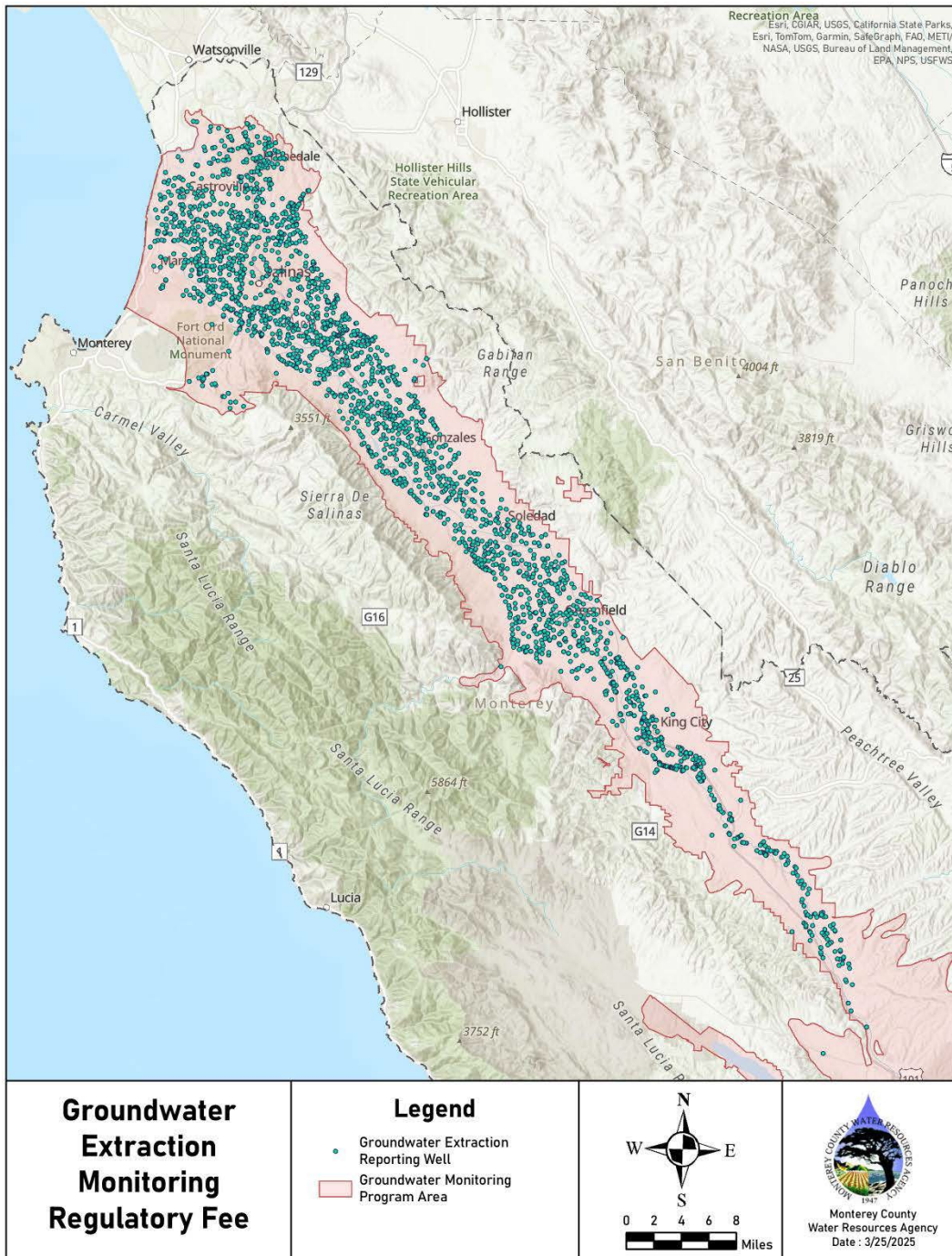
The groundwater extraction monitoring fee is intended to recover the cost of implementing this regulatory program and is proposed to be \$64.82 per well, as shown in Table 8. The Agency has an estimated 2,100 extractors who will share the annual staffing costs of about \$96,000 and materials costs of \$16,500 to run the program.

**Table 8: Groundwater Extraction Reporting Fee Proposed for FY26**

<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Hourly rate</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Calculation</b>
Water Resources Technician	650	\$67.07	\$43,595.50		
Water Resources Hydrologist	300	\$80.27	\$24,081.00		
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	150	\$156.11	\$23,416.50		
Office Assistant III	24	\$63.69	\$1,528.56		
Deputy General Manager	8	\$206.09	\$1,648.72		
<u>General Manager</u>	8	\$224.87	<u>\$1,798.96</u>		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			\$96,069.24		
# of annual services			2,100		
Staffing cost per service			\$45.75	A	
<b>Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles</b>					
County IT support of GEMS application			\$5,000.00		
County IT app. development			\$10,000.00		
Supplies for printing mailouts			\$500.00		
<u>Postage for mailouts</u>			<u>\$1,000.00</u>		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$16,500.00		
# of annual services			2,100		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$7.86	B	
<b>Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)</b>			<b>\$53.61</b>	C	C = A + B
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>20.91%</b>	<b><u>\$11.21</u></b>	D	D = C x 20.91%
<b>Total Fee</b>			<b>\$64.82</b>		C + D



**Figure 4: Groundwater Extraction Reporting Regulatory Fee**



### 3.4 Monitoring Groundwater Levels

The Agency monitors groundwater levels throughout Monterey County, primarily within the 180/400 Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, and Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Wells that are part of the Agency's groundwater level monitoring program are required to be registered. The Agency measures groundwater levels on a monthly basis at some well sites and biannually, annually, or continuously at other well sites. Data collected from the Groundwater Level Monitoring program are the basis for the Agency's evaluation of regional, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater levels. Groundwater level data are also used to investigate changes in groundwater storage for the hydrologic budget, understand the regional direction of groundwater movement, evaluate mechanisms for seawater intrusion, and quantify short- and long-term impacts to the groundwater basin from public and private well extraction, conservation releases from the reservoirs, and operation of water projects like the Salinas Valley Water Project or the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects.

Agency staff use one of several standardized data collection methods to take measurements at each site, using either graduated steel tape, electric water level meters, sonic water level meters, or pressure transducers. Best efforts are made to ensure that wells have not recently been pumped when collecting a groundwater level data point.

Table 9 provides the calculation for the proposed groundwater level monitoring fee. Most costs for the program are divided between all 3,500 wells within the groundwater level monitoring program, with the exception of the costs for tablets for data collection, which are shared between the program for monitoring groundwater levels and the program for testing groundwater quality. Total costs exclusive to monitoring groundwater levels include about \$246,000 for staff time and about \$94,000 for supplies, materials, and vehicles. The proposed fee per well for FY26 for the groundwater level monitoring program is \$117.68.



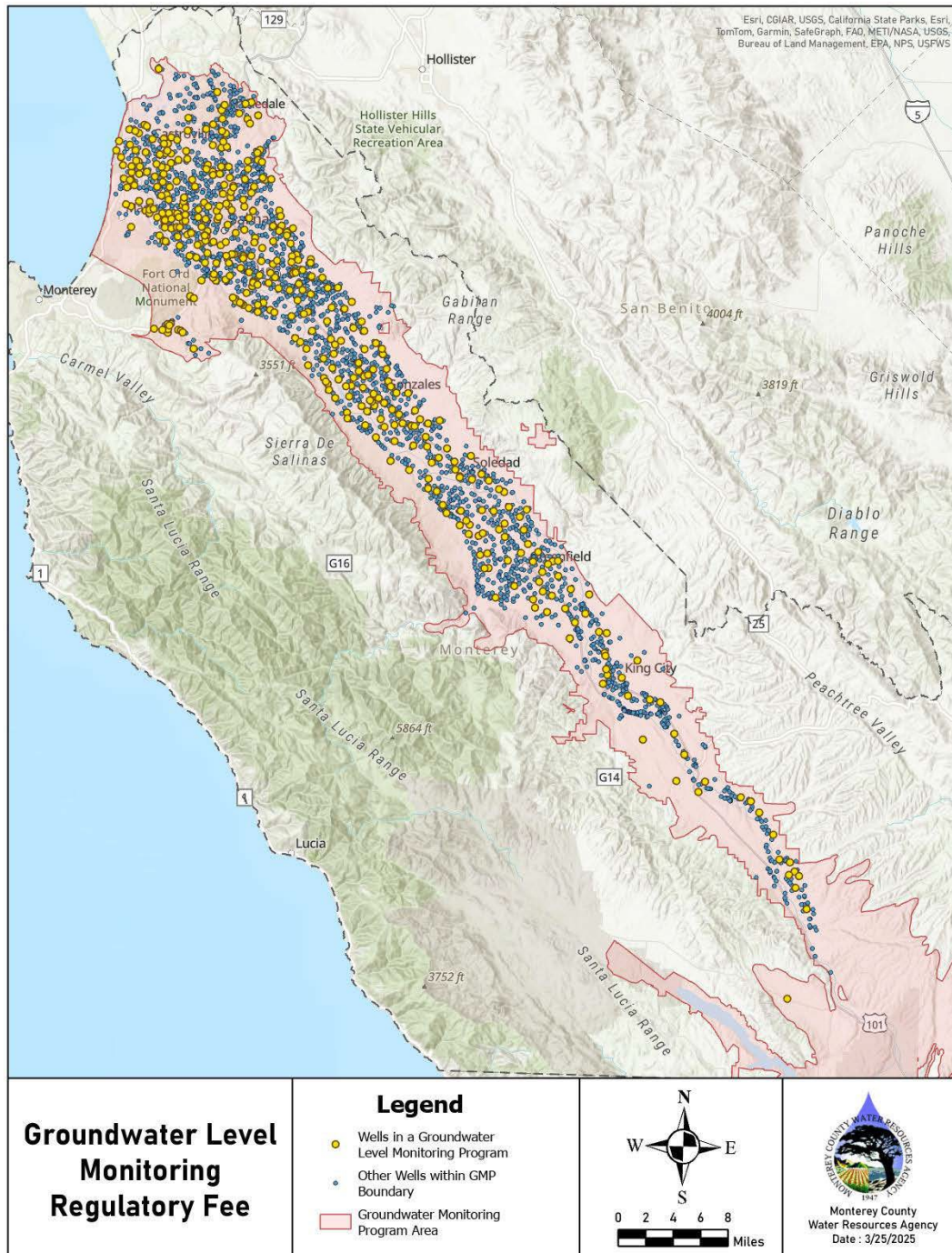
**Table 9: Groundwater Level Monitoring Fee Proposed for FY26**

Staff	Hours	Hourly rate	Total Cost	Identifier	Calculation
Water Resources Technician	2,500	\$67.07	\$167,675.00		
Water Resources Hydrologist	700	\$80.27	\$56,189.00		
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	120	\$156.11	\$18,733.20		
Deputy General Manager	8	\$206.09	\$1,648.72		
<u>General Manager</u>	8	\$224.87	<u>\$1,798.96</u>		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			\$246,044.88		
# of annual services			3,500		
Staffing cost per service			\$70.30	A	
<b>Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles</b>					
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (1 of 3)	600	\$37.19	\$22,314.00		
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (2 of 3)	600	\$37.19	\$22,314.00		
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (3 of 3)	600	\$37.19	\$22,314.00		
Monitoring well maintenance			\$20,000.00		
Equipment decontamination supplies and PPE			\$300.00		
Repair of sounders			\$2,000.00		
In-Situ Aqua Troll 200 Level Sensor [1]			\$1,995.00		
In-Situ Rugged Twist Lock cable (vented), 200 ft [1]			\$1,000.00		
In-Situ large desiccant [1]			\$85.00		
Toolbox with equipment and supplies			\$100.00		
Electronic sounder [2]			\$253.33		
Steel tape [2]			\$500.00		
Nylon-coated steel tape [2]			\$100.00		
Sonic water level meter [2]			\$220.00		
<u>Well labeling equipment [2]</u>			<u>\$80.00</u>		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$93,575.33		
# of annual services			3,500		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$26.74	B	
Tablets for data collection [2]			\$1,666.67		
# of annual services (GW + WQ)			5,800		
Tablets divided by total annual services			\$0.29	C	
<b>Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)</b>			<b>\$97.33</b>	D	D = A + B + C
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>20.91%</b>	<b><u>\$20.35</u></b>	E	E = D x 20.91%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$117.68</b>		D + E

1 – One purchased per year

2 – See Table 5

**Figure 5: Groundwater Level Monitoring Regulatory Fee**



### 3.5 Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Groundwater quality is monitored in the coastal region of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin as required to meet the reporting necessary for each subbasin's respective Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and at selected monitoring wells in the Forebay Aquifer and Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins to inform an understanding of the groundwater quality in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Langley Area, and Monterey Subbasins. The Agency collects groundwater quality samples twice per year from wells in the groundwater quality monitoring program. Additional samples are occasionally collected for special projects or to meet the needs of a requesting entity. Wells in the program are required to be registered. Once groundwater samples are collected from each well, the sample containers are brought to the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory where they are analyzed for major cations and anions, including chloride, by lab personnel. Data from the groundwater quality program are utilized for developing data products, such as seawater intrusion contour maps, and understanding regional changes in groundwater quality that are relevant to all well owners.

The annual cost of supplies for the groundwater quality monitoring program includes supplies, materials, and vehicles to collect, store, and transport samples as well as \$40,000 annually in laboratory costs. The total annual cost of supplies including laboratory costs is estimated at about \$66,000. The annual cost for staff time is about \$73,000. Both staffing and supplies costs are divided between 2,300 wells in the area where the water quality monitoring occurs to calculate the proposed fee as shown in Table 10. The cost of tablets for data collection is shared between 5,800 annual services since the tablets are used for both the groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality monitoring programs. The proposed fee for testing groundwater quality is \$73.92 per well.

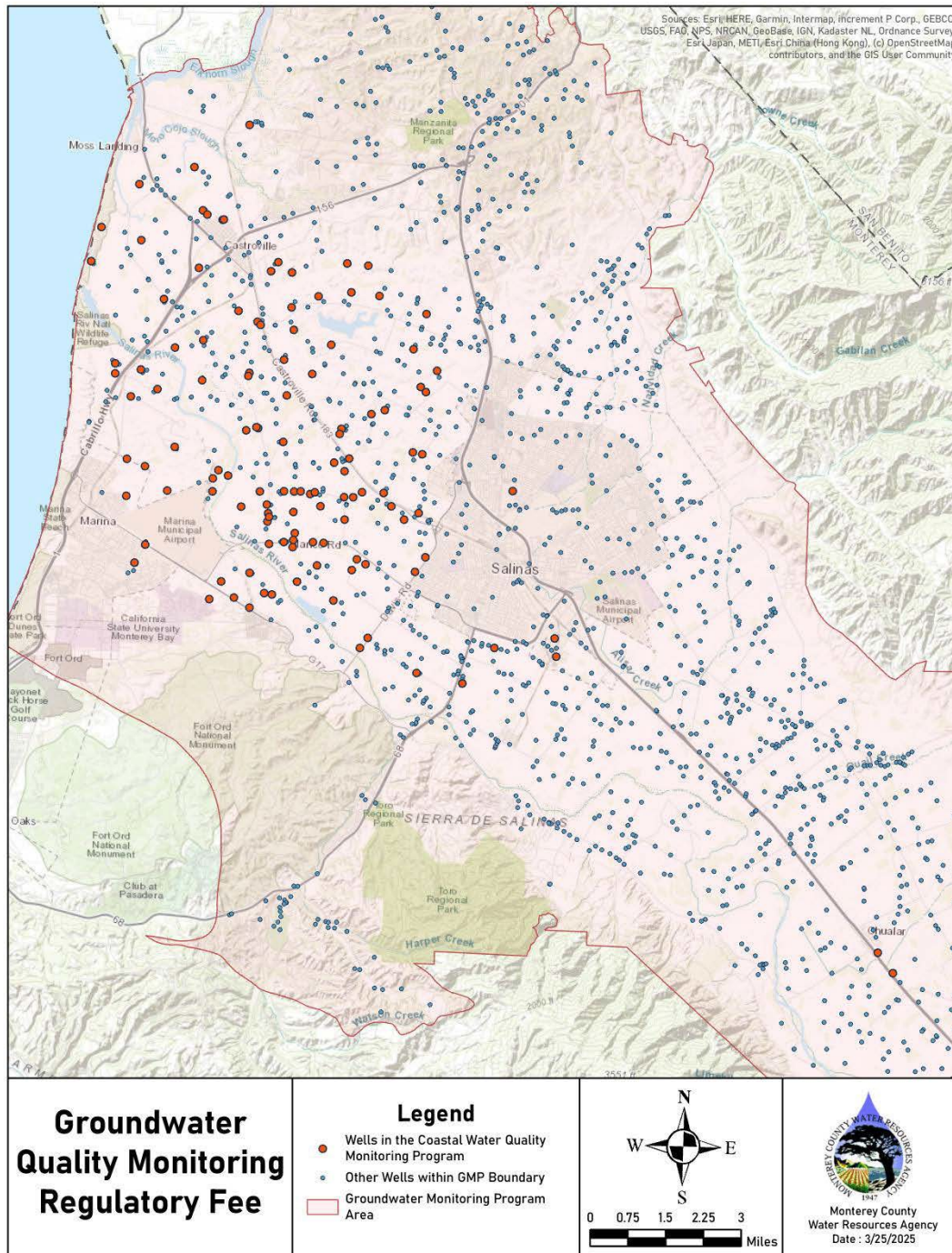
**Table 10: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Fee Proposed for FY26**

Staff	Hours	Hourly rate	Total Cost	Identifier	Calculation
Water Resources Technician	750	\$67.07	\$50,302.50		
Water Resources Hydrologist	100	\$80.27	\$8,027.00		
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	75	\$156.11	\$11,708.25		
Deputy General Manager	8	\$206.09	\$1,648.72		
<u>General Manager</u>	8	\$224.87	<u>\$1,798.96</u>		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			\$73,485.43		
# of annual services			2,300		
Staffing cost per service			\$31.95	A	
<b>Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles</b>					
Bottles and lids			\$600.00		
Labels			\$100.00		
Ice			\$200.00		
Ice chests			\$100.00		
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (1 of 3)	200	\$37.19	\$7,438.00		
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (2 of 3)	200	\$37.19	\$7,438.00		
Jeep or similar off-road capable truck (3 of 3)	200	\$37.19	\$7,438.00		
Laboratory costs			\$40,000.00		
Pump supplies and generator fuel			\$2,000.00		
Pump and VFD for dedicated monitoring well sampling [1]			\$1,000.00		
<u>Generator for pump operation [1]</u>			<u>\$150.00</u>		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$66,464.00		
# of annual services			2,300		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			\$28.90	B	
Tablets for data collection [1]			\$1,666.67		
# of annual services (GW + WQ)			5,800		
Tablets divided by total annual services			\$0.29	C	
<b>Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)</b>			<b>\$61.14</b>	D	D = A + B + C
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>20.91%</b>	<b><u>\$12.78</u></b>	E	E = D x 20.91%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$73.92</b>		D + E

1 – See Table 5



**Figure 6: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Regulatory Fee**



## SECTION 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

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The purpose of the Groundwater Monitoring Program is to gather data on wells, groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and groundwater extractions to complete the investigation of short- and long-term changes to the hydrologic budget and do analyses pertaining to water supply of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Fees for the Groundwater Monitoring Program are being proposed to cover the reasonable regulatory costs to the Agency for conducting the Groundwater Monitoring Program, and do not exceed the reasonable costs to the Agency of providing these services.

It is proposed that after initial adoption of the Groundwater Monitoring Program regulatory fees as part of the Agency's FY26 budget, the Agency will evaluate and adopt the Groundwater Monitoring Program fees annually to continue implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Program. The level of effort necessary to implement the program may increase or decrease based upon changes in the regulatory environment or utilization of technology, as example variables. The annual fees may go up or down depending on changes in the Groundwater Monitoring Program's level of effort, costs, or the number of wells subject to a specific regulatory function.

The Agency's annual fees and assessment of charges, including the Groundwater Monitoring Program fees, are subject to public engagement through multiple meetings of the Agency's committees, Board of Directors, and Board of Supervisors, including noticed, public workshops generally held in March and May, respectively. Final adoption of fees is performed by the Agency's Board of Supervisors in May of each year and the Agency's budget is approved in June.

The Agency may set fines and penalties, as described in Ordinance No. 5426, for noncompliant well owners at its discretion, provided, however, that the penalties are not "grossly disproportional" to each offense. Additionally, the Agency should ensure that it documents how and why the amount of each delinquency or penalty fee is related to the seriousness of the offense.

### Summary of FY 25-26 Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees

GMP Regulatory Fee per Category*	FY 25-26 Fee
Initial Well Registration (one-time)	\$ 160.16
Annual Well Registration Renewal	\$ 21.86
Groundwater Extraction Reporting	\$ 64.82
Groundwater Level Monitoring	\$ 117.68
Groundwater Quality Monitoring	\$ 73.92

\*Annual fees subject to change reflective of actual program costs.

Subbasin Total Annual Fee per Well*	FY 25-26 Fee	Notes on Fee Components
Initial Well Registration (one-time)	\$ 160.16	
Upper Valley / Forebay de minimis wells	\$ 139.54	Annual Registration Renewal + Groundwater Level Monitoring
Upper Valley / Forebay	\$ 204.36	Annual Registration Renewal + Groundwater Level Monitoring + Extraction Reporting
180/400 / Eastside / Langley / Monterey de minimis wells	\$ 213.46	Annual Registration Renewal + Groundwater Level Monitoring + Groundwater Quality Monitoring
180/400 / Eastside / Langley / Monterey	\$ 278.28	Annual Registration Renewal + Groundwater Level Monitoring + Extraction Reporting + Groundwater Quality Monitoring

\*Annual fees subject to change reflective of actual program costs.



***Before the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California***

BOARD ORDER No. 25-28

**RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE )  
MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY )  
APPROVE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-2026 )  
GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM REGULATORY )  
FEES OF \$160.19 PER WELL FOR INITIAL WELL )  
REGISTRATION, \$21.90 PER WELL FOR ANNUAL WELL )  
REGISTRATION RENEWAL, \$64.82 PER WELL FOR )  
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION REPORTING, \$117.63 PER )  
WELL FOR GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING, AND \$73.90 )  
PER WELL FOR GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING. )**

Upon motion of Director Ken Ekelund, seconded by Director Mike LeBarre, and carried by those members present, the Board of Directors hereby:

Recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.19 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.90 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.63 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.90 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.


PASSED AND ADOPTED on this **21st** day of **April 2025**, by the following vote, to-wit:


AYES: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Jason Smith, Jon Conatser

NOES: Mike Scattini, John Baillie

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

Signed by:  
  
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BY: Mike LeBarre, Chair  
Board of Directors

DocuSigned by:  
  
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ATTEST: Ara Azhderian  
General Manager



**Before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County)  
Water Resources Agency (“MCWRA”) to: )

)  
Approve the FY 2025-2026 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring )  
Program fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, )  
\$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 )  
per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well )  
for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for )  
Groundwater Quality Monitoring. )

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Board”) adopted Ordinance No. 5426, which authorizes MCWRA to allocate and recover costs associated with the development, implementation, enforcement, and perpetuation of a regulatory groundwater monitoring program through adoption of a resolution by the Board;

**WHEREAS**, in May 2025, MCWRA completed a Groundwater Monitoring Program Fee Study to determine Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (“FY26”) fees for the Groundwater Monitoring Program;

**WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) consists of well registration, groundwater extraction reporting, groundwater level monitoring, and groundwater quality monitoring of public and private wells within the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, and Upper Valley Subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin;

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Initial Well Registration Fee will be \$160.16 per well to pay for staff time, supplies, and technological support for completing registration of wells;

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Annual Well Registration Renewal Fee will be \$21.86 per well to pay for staff time, software, supplies, and technological support for completing annual renewals of well registration;

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Groundwater Extraction Reporting Fee will be \$64.82 per well for wells extracting more than 2 acre-feet per year for domestic purposes to pay for staff time, software, supplies, and technological support for facilitating data entry, quality assurance, data analysis, and reporting of groundwater extraction data;

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Groundwater Level Monitoring Fee will be \$117.68 per well to pay for staff time, materials, and vehicles for data collection, analysis, and reporting;

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Fee will be \$73.92 per well for wells located in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin, Eastside Aquifer Subbasin, Langley Area Subbasin, and Monterey Subbasin to pay for staff time, materials, vehicles, and laboratory costs for data collection, analysis, and reporting;

**WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Monitoring Program regulatory fees reflect no more than the actual and reasonable cost of the service received by the payor and burdened on MCWRA. Any discount applicable to these surcharges have a de minimis impact on the MCWRA budget and implementation of that discount does not result in increased fees or costs for other patrons;

**WHEREAS**, by definition, these fees are not a “tax” and are exempt from voter approval pursuant to Article XIII C, section 1(e)(3) of the California Constitution (charges imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to a local government for issuing licenses and permits); and

**WHEREAS**, this action to add fees for the GMP is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because it is a governmental funding mechanism which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines section 15273.)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Finds the above recitals are true and correct and substantial evidence supports them.
2. Adopts the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.
3. Finds that the fees collected pursuant to this Resolution shall be used exclusively to pay the costs for the GMP including, but not limited to, the costs of developing, implementing, enforcing, and perpetuating a regulatory groundwater monitoring program.
4. Finds that the GMP fees shall take effect immediately after the MCWRA Board of Supervisors adopts this Resolution.
5. Finds that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,  
seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, and carried this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by  
the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy



# County of Monterey

## Item No.3

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-115

August 05, 2025

**Introduced:** 7/24/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WR General Agenda

Adopt a resolution to nominate Monterey County Water Resource Agency Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a resolution to nominate Monterey County Water Resource Agency Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

#### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) is accepting applications for its Advisory Committee. The SVBGSA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) governed by an 11-member Board of Directors. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide input and recommendations to the Board on groundwater-related issues. The Advisory Committee considers and incorporates community and stakeholder views into consensus recommendations, with a focus on implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Salinas Valley through the integrated implementation of the six Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

The Advisory Committee members represent the diverse interests of the agencies and groundwater users in the SVBGSA's jurisdiction. This includes designated seats from four partner agencies (Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Monterey One Water) which need to be nominated from their respective governing bodies. The SVBGSA Board will appoint six Subbasin Committee nominations, four Partner Agency nominations, and up to three of the Board-Designated applicants all together at the September 11, 2025 regular meeting, per the charter and bylaws (attachment 1). The newly seated Advisory Committee members will meet for the first time at the October 16 regular meeting. The term is for three years.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) recommends nominating Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager, to the SVBGSA's Advisory Committee. Ms. Murray has extensive knowledge and experience in the management of water resources regionally. She also has been an effective participant in numerous committees and other collaborative settings. This combination of skills makes her a good candidate to represent the Agency on this important committee.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

FINANCING:

Staff participation on the SVBGSA's Advisory Committee can be covered with the existing staffing appropriations included in the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget and will not require any additional funding needs.

Prepared by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. SVBGSA Advisory Committee Charter and Bylaws
2. Resolution



# County of Monterey

**Item No.**

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
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**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-115**

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### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

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Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-115

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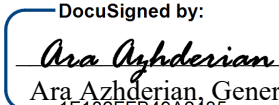
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Prepared by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Approved by:   
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860  
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Attachments:

1. SVBGSA Advisory Committee Charter and Bylaws
2. Resolution

# Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee Charter and Bylaws

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## Charge

The purpose of the Advisory Committee (“Committee”) is to provide input and recommendations to the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency”). At the request of the Board, the Committee reviews and provides recommendations to the Board on groundwater-related issues.

## Brown Act, Open Process and Conflicts of Interest

1. The Committee meetings are subject to the Brown Act and open to the public. The Committee shall adopt a schedule and location for regular meetings, and meeting agendas shall be posted in compliance with the Brown Act.
2. The Board maintains an interested parties list, uses an application process, and makes appointments to the Committee.
3. Members of the Committee are subject to all applicable conflict of interest laws including Government Code section 1090 and the California Political Reform Act. The Committee adheres to the Board’s conflict of interest code.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Agency Board

The Board recognizes the value of the Committee and takes into account the Committee recommendations when making its decisions.

### Advisory Committee

The Committee considers and incorporates community and stakeholder views into consensus recommendations, with the focus on SGMA implementation in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, for the Board consideration its decision-making process.

The Committee members represent the diverse interests of the agencies and groundwater users in the Agency’s jurisdiction. The expectations for Committee members are to:

- Serve as a strong effective advocate
- Work collaboratively with others
- Commit time needed for understanding the issues
- Collectively reflect diversity of views
- Conduct focused and productive deliberations.

### Work Groups

The Committee may establish work groups to periodically address specific issues. Work groups are tasked with considering particular matters and developing recommendations for the Committee to contemplate and refine before communicating the outcome with the Board. Work groups consist of a small number of participants, which may but do not need to be, members of the Committee consisting of or including less than a quorum of the Committee. The work group participants are expected to have expertise related to the specific issue, and to reflect a diversity of interests when possible. The Committee defines the scope and objectives for each work group.



### Role of the Chair

The Chair is selected by a majority vote of the Committee at the first meeting of each calendar year, unless otherwise modified. The newly elected Chair's term begins at the close of that Committee meeting;

The Chair remains as one member of the Committee and has no rights or authority different from any other member except as set forth below:

- Ensures that the work of the Committee is consistent with its Charter and Bylaws;
- Provides input to staff for preparation of the Committee meeting agenda;
- Runs the meeting of the Committee; calls the meeting to order, presides over the meeting, including the conduct of members and those in attendance; and,
- Provides guidance to the Committee fairly and impartially.

The Committee also selects a Vice-Chair to act in the Chair's absence. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, the Committee selects a Chair Pro Tem to conduct the meeting.

### Decision Making

To inform the Board's decision-making, the Committee provides written recommendations on matters that the Board assigns to the Committee. The recommendations identify and synthesize points of agreement and disagreement.

The Committee strives to reach consensus on its recommendations. The definition of consensus spans the range from strong support to neutrality, to abstention, to "I can live with it," to "I will let this go forward." When unable to reach consensus on recommendations, the Committee outlines the areas of agreement and disagreement providing adequate explanation in a summary report to the Board.

The Committee may request that one or more Committee members present its recommendations to the Board, including areas of agreement and disagreement, consistent with the Committee deliberations.

### Membership

#### Membership Structure

The Advisory Committee shall consist of 11 to 13 members, appointed to represent key stakeholder groups and subbasin implementation areas, as follows:

Seat Type	Number of Seats
180/400 Subbasin Committee	1
Eastside Subbasin Committee	1
Langley Subbasin Committee	1
Monterey Subbasin Committee	1
Forebay Subbasin Committee	1
Upper Valley Subbasin Committee	1
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	1
Arroyo Seco GSA	1

Seat Type	Number of Seats
Marina Coast Water District GSA	1
Monterey One Water	1
Board-Designated Members	Up to 3
Total Seats: 11 to 13	

Advisory Committee members may not concurrently serve on the SVBGSA Board of Directors either as a primary or alternate member.

Each appointed member shall serve a term of three (3) years and, to maintain continuity, shall hold office until their successor is appointed. Members may be reappointed for additional terms.

## Nomination and Selection Process

### A. Nomination Guidelines

#### 1. Subbasin Committee Nominations

Each subbasin implementation committee (e.g., 180/400, Eastside, Langley, Monterey, Forebay, Upper Valley) shall nominate one individual to serve as its representative on the Advisory Committee.

- Nominees must demonstrate a record of involvement in groundwater management or water-related issues.
- Nominees need not reside or work within the respective subbasin but must show active engagement or interest in the subbasin's groundwater concerns.
- Nominees may but are not required to be existing members of the subbasin implementation committee.

These nominations must be endorsed by the respective subbasin implementation committee.

#### 2. Partner Agency/Organization Nominations

The following agencies shall nominate one individual each:

- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Arroyo Seco GSA
- Marina Coast Water District GSA
- Monterey One Water.

These nominations must be endorsed by the governing board of the nominating agency and submitted in writing.

#### 3. Board-Designated Appointments (Up to Three Seats)

The SVBGSA Board of Directors may appoint up to three individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee to fill identified gaps in representation (e.g., environmental, rural residential, tribal, industrial, underserved communities), enhance expertise or geographic balance and foster collaboration across sectors.

- An application process will be opened to solicit interest from community members at large to fill these seats
- Preference shall be given to individuals not already affiliated with the nominating groups.

### B. Required Nomination/Application Materials

Each nominating body (including subbasin committees, agencies, or organizations) shall submit the following to the SVBGSA Board for review:

1. Nomination Letter or Resolution

A formal letter or adopted resolution naming the nominee and confirming the nominating body's approval.

2. Nominee/Applicant Information Form (to be developed by SVBGSA staff) that includes:

- Full name and contact information
- Current organizational affiliation and role (if any)
- Subbasin(s) of interest (if applicable)
- Description of experience and interest in groundwater, water management, or SGMA
- Statement of availability and commitment to regularly participate in meetings
- Any relevant community affiliations or stakeholder perspectives they represent (e.g. environmental, rural residential, tribal, industrial, underserved communities).

3. Optional Attachments

- Resume or CV
- Letter(s) of support or endorsement

C. Review and Selection Process

1. Board Review

All submitted nominations and applications will be compiled and reviewed by SVBGSA staff and presented to the Board in a public meeting.

2. Evaluation Criteria and Process

The Board will consider the following criteria in selecting Advisory Committee members:

- Diversity of stakeholder perspectives represented
- Demonstrated experience or interest in groundwater management
- Regional balance across the valley
- Willingness and ability to commit time and participate actively
- Complementarity with other members' backgrounds and skills.

3. Appointment Timing

The Board will aim to make the appointments at least one month before the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting cycle. Newly appointed members will begin service immediately following confirmation.

4. Vacancies

Should a seat become vacant, the original nominating body will be asked to submit a replacement nomination within 60 days. If there is a vacancy in a Board-Designated seat, the Board may leave it vacant, appoint an individual who submitted an application in a prior solicitation or conduct a new solicitation.

## Process Agreements

To create a productive environment and conduct a successful process, the Committee members agree to these process agreements used during the meetings:

- **Everyone agrees to negotiate in good faith.** All Committee members agree to participate in decision making, to act in good faith in all aspects of this effort and to communicate their interests during meetings. Good faith also requires that parties not make commitments they do not intend to follow through with, and that parties act consistently in the meetings and in other forums where the issues under discussion in these meetings are also being discussed.
- **Everyone agrees to address the issues and concerns of the participants.** All Committee members have a stake in the issue at hand. For the process to be successful, all the parties agree to validate the issues and concerns of the other parties and strive to reach an agreement that takes all the issues under consideration. Disagreements will be viewed as problems to be solved, rather than battles to be won.
- **Agreements stand even if representatives change.** New Committee members agree to uphold previous agreements reached.
- **Everyone agrees to inform their leadership and constituents about the outcome of the facilitated discussions.** Meeting scheduling will allow for the Committee members to inform and seek advice from their leadership, constituents, attorneys, and scientific advisors about the discussions and negotiated outcomes. The Committee members can express conditional support to an agreement but will need to solicit input and support in their organization or interest group caucus before reaching final agreement.
- **Everyone agrees to attend all the meetings to the extent possible.** Continuity of the conversations and building trust are critical to the success of the Committee. Every effort will be made to accommodate all Committee members when setting the schedule for meetings and publishing the agendas.
- **Everyone agrees that parties can meet with other organizational or interest group members;** however, such meetings must include less than a quorum of the Committee members, and there cannot be serial meetings with the same organizations or interest group members such that a quorum or more of Committee members meet. The Committee members may find it helpful to caucus or meet with other organizations or interest group members and to consult with constituents outside of the meeting or to talk privately with other meeting participants. The Committee members or the Chair can request a caucus. Participants agree to use caucuses as a tool to move agreements forward and explore topics of concern. The Chair may attend and consult with parties during caucus discussions.

## Participation Agreements

The Committee members work together to create a problem-solving environment and to implement these agreements to that aim.

- **Use Common Conversational Courtesies**
- **All Ideas and Points of View Have Value.** All ideas have value in this setting. We are looking for innovative ideas. The goal is to achieve understanding. Simply listen, you do not have to agree. If you hear something you do not agree with or you think is "silly" or "wrong," please remember

that the purpose of the forum is to share ideas.

- **Be Honest, Fair, and as Candid as Possible.** Help others understand you and work to understand others.
- **Avoid Editorials.** It will be tempting to analyze the motives of others or offer editorial comments. Please talk about *your own* ideas and thoughts. Avoid commenting on why you believe another participant thinks something.
- **Honor Time and Be Concise.** People's time is precious; treat it with respect.
- **Think Innovatively and Welcome New Ideas.** Creative thinking and problem solving are essential to success. "Climb out of the box" and attempt to think about the problem in a new way.
- **Invite Humor and Good Will**

### Communication & Media

The Agency staff serves as primary contacts for all communication, outreach and media. At the request of the Board, or staff, the Committee may advise on outreach and community engagement.

The Committee members reserve freedom to express their own opinions to media representatives, but not the opinions of others. The temptation to discuss someone else's statements or position should be avoided.

If contacted by the press or an external party concerning the discussions, the Committee members are asked to:

- Point out that they are not speaking on behalf of the Committee, unless specifically authorized by the Committee to do so
- Present their views only and conscientiously refrain from expressing, characterizing, or judging the views of others
- Avoid using the press as a vehicle for negotiation.

### Amendments

The Committee can recommend future changes to the charter and by-laws. The Board may amend the Charter and Bylaws when needed.

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### Version History

V1: Date 05/11/23

V2: Date 06/12/25

**Before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Monterey County  
Water Resources Agency Board of  
Supervisors to:

Nominate Deputy General Manager  
Shaunna Murray to the Advisory  
Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) is accepting applications for its Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide input and recommendations to the SVBGSA Board on groundwater-related issues. The Advisory Committee considers and incorporates community and stakeholder views into consensus recommendations, with a focus on implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Salinas Valley through the integrated implementation of the six Groundwater Sustainability Plans;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee includes designated seats from four partner agencies (Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Monterey One Water) which need to be nominated from their respective governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency recommends nominating Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager, to the SVBGSA's Advisory Committee based on her knowledge, expertise and experience in the management of water resources regionally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors hereby:

Nominates Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey,  
State of California.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy





# County of Monterey

## Item No.4

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-116

August 05, 2025

Introduced: 7/25/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

- a. Rescind previously adopted Resolutions Numbers 25-251, 25-254 and 25-255 approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 due to a clerical error in certain rates contained in the Resolutions; and
- b. Adopt revised resolutions approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 to address the clerical errors.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

- a. Rescind previously adopted Resolutions Numbers 25-251, 25-254 and 25-255 approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 due to a clerical error in certain rates contained in the Resolutions; and
- b. Adopt revised resolutions approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 to address the clerical errors.

#### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Water Resource Agency ("MCWRA") ordinances that govern MCWRA flood zones are Ordinance Nos. 2626, 2974, 3878, and 3881 ("Ordinances"). These Ordinances were adopted for the main purposes of protecting life and property, and reducing the impact caused by flooding.

On May 28, 2025, the MCWRA Board of Supervisors held a public hearing for the requested FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% to the assessments of MCWRA's flood control benefit assessment zones below, based on the annual change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) February 2024 -February 2025 for the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose urban area:

- Zones 1 & 1A - Pajaro River Fund 112
- Zone 8 - Soledad Storm Drain Fund 121
- Zone 9 - Reclamation Ditch Fund 122
- Zone 12 - San Lorenzo Creek Fund 124
- Zone 17 - Moro Cojo Slough Fund 127

Although this action was approved by the MCWRA Board of Supervisors on May 28, 2025, there was a clerical error in the resolution calculating the 2.7% CPI increase on some of the rates leading to

a lesser rate being displayed in the associated resolutions. The attached updated Summary Chart details the corrected assessment rates for FY 2025-26 with 2.7% COLA increase from the rates of FY 2024-25. The potential fiscal impact of not collecting the assessments due to this clerical error is approximately \$43,250 across five MCWRA funds.

It is requested that the Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approve and adopt FY 2025-26 assessment rates with the 2.7% COLA increase applied to the FY 2025-26 assessment rates.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

At the April 21, 2025 meeting, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approve and adopt a FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17.

At the May 28, 2025 meeting, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approved and adopted a FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17; and adopted the related resolutions for that action.

FINANCING:

Estimated revenue with the requested 2.7% COLA increase in FY2025-26 to the flood control benefit assessment Zones is as follows:

Zones 1 & 1A - Pajaro River Fund 112 : \$539,935  
Zone 8 - Soledad Storm Drain Fund 121 : \$90,675  
Zone 9 - Reclamation Ditch Fund 122 : \$1,451,590  
Zone 12 - San Lorenzo Creek Fund 124 : \$38,288  
Zone 17 - Moro Cojo Slough Fund 127 : \$101,913

Prepared by: Nan Kyung Kim, Finance Manager III (831) 755-4860

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. Updated Summary Chart
2. Revised Resolution Zones 1 and 1A
3. Revised Resolution Zones 8, 9, 12
4. Revised Resolution Zones 17



# County of Monterey

## Item No.3

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
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**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-116**

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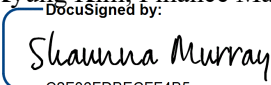
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Prepared by: Nan Kyung Kim, Finance Manager III (831) 755-4860

Approved by:

  
 Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager (831) 755-4860

#### Attachments:

1. Updated Summary Chart
2. Revised Resolution Zones 1 and 1A
3. Revised Resolution Zones 8, 9, 12
4. Revised Resolution Zones 17

## MCWRA FY2025-26 Flood Zones Assessment Rates

### Summary - Comparison between the Rescinded Rates and the Revised Rates

WRA Zones	Fiscal Year		Land Factor							
			A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I
1	0	Adopted	\$385.31	\$385.31	\$96.35	\$96.35	\$ 7.83			
1A	2025-26	Rescinded	\$188.10	\$183.69	\$45.93	\$45.93	\$ 3.83			
	2025-26	Revised	\$188.10	<b>\$188.10</b>	<b>\$47.04</b>	<b>\$47.04</b>	<b>\$ 3.92</b>			
8	2025-26	Rescinded	\$ 75.66	\$ 55.41	\$ 9.24	\$18.50	\$ 9.24	\$0.92	\$ -	\$ -
	2025-26	Revised	\$ 75.66	<b>\$ 56.75</b>	<b>\$ 9.47</b>	<b>\$18.95</b>	<b>\$ 9.47</b>	<b>\$0.94</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
9	2025-26	Rescinded	\$ 80.00	\$ 58.59	\$ 9.78	\$19.54	\$ 9.78	\$0.98	\$ -	\$ -
	2025-26	Revised	\$ 80.00	<b>\$ 60.00</b>	<b>\$10.01</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$ 10.01</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
12	2025-26	Rescinded	\$ 28.43	\$ 20.83	\$ 3.47	\$ 6.94	\$ 3.47	\$0.36	\$ -	\$ -
	2025-26	Revised	\$ 28.43	<b>\$ 21.33</b>	<b>\$ 3.55</b>	<b>\$ 7.11</b>	<b>\$ 3.55</b>	<b>\$0.37</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
17	2025-26	Rescinded	\$ 27.41	\$ 20.08	\$26.77	\$13.40	\$ 6.69	\$0.36	\$ -	\$ -
	2025-26	Revised	<b>\$ 27.42</b>	<b>\$ 20.56</b>	<b>\$27.42</b>	<b>\$13.72</b>	<b>\$ 6.86</b>	<b>\$0.37</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Land Factors:

A = Commercial and Industrial

B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family)

C = Single Family Residence

E = Vacant, Agricultural, or open-space

F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural State

G = Undisturbed, natural state, grazing or vacant, slope greater than 35%

H = Wetlands and marshlands, undisturbed, periodically flooded

I = Land receiving no charge

**Before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**MCWRA ZONES 1 & 1A**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County )  
Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) to: )  
)  
Approve and adopt a Fiscal Year 2025-26 cost-of living adjustment )  
("COLA") increase of 2.7% for Zones 1 and 1A. )

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 1980, the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("Board") adopted Ordinance No. 2626 entitled "An ordinance providing for the establishment and levy of benefit assessments to pay for costs of providing flood control services in certain zones of the District", establishing benefit assessments in Zone 1 of the Agency. Thereafter, at an election held on November 4, 1980, the voters in Zone 1, approved Ordinance No. 2626 and the assessments established therein for their respective zones. Ordinance No. 3878 entitled "An ordinance of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency levying annual benefit assessments in Zone 1 (Pajaro) to fund flood control services in that Zone" and Ordinance No. 3881 entitled "An ordinance of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency establishing flood control Zone 1A (Pajaro) and levying annual benefit assessments to fund flood control services and that Zone" supersedes Ordinance No. 2626 with respect to the rate of annual assessment levied on parcels within the Zone 1. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 2626 remain unchanged;

**WHEREAS**, in said Ordinances, the Board authorized and directed the levy of assessments in Zone 1 and 1A, to pay for flood control projects in the Pajaro Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments will increase by the San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose Urban Consumer Price Index ("CPI")/COLA of 2.7%.

**WHEREAS**, the resolution rescinds Resolution No. 25-251 to update the rates adopted on May 28, 2025 for Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments, correctly reflecting COLA of 2.7% increase from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 assessment rates, addressing a clerical error.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

Section 1. Levy of Assessments in Zones 1 & 1A. Pursuant to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA") Ordinance Nos. 2626, 3878, and 3881 assessments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 are hereby levied on all property in the categories described below located in Zone 1 and 1A, for Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

Benefit assessments for Zones 1 & 1A are hereby fixed and established for the Fiscal Year 2025-26. The assessments are imposed on all land in Zones 1 & 1A of the MCWRA.

<b>ZONE 1 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>		<b>2025-2026</b>	
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>
A	106	\$ 375.18	106	\$ 385.31
B	45	\$ 375.18	45	\$ 385.31
C	191	\$ 93.81	191	\$ 96.35
E	151	\$ 93.81	151	\$ 96.35
F	42	\$ 7.62	42	\$ 7.83
<b>Total:</b>	<b>535</b>		<b>535</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial				
B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family)				
C = Single Family Residence				
E = Vacant, Agricultural				
F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural Site				

<b>ZONE 1A BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>		<b>2025-2026</b>	
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>
A	34	\$ 183.15	37	\$ 188.10
B	5	\$ 183.15	5	\$ 188.10
C	371	\$ 45.80	368	\$ 47.04
E	173	\$ 45.80	173	\$ 47.04
F	399	\$ 3.82	399	\$ 3.92
<b>Total:</b>	<b>982</b>		<b>982</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial				
B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family)				
C = Single Family Residence				
E = Vacant, Agricultural				
F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural Site				

Section 2. Collection of assessments. All County of Monterey officers charged with the duty of collecting taxes shall collect MCWRA assessments and fees with the regular tax payments to the County. The assessments shall be collected in the same form and manner as County taxes are collected and shall be paid to the MCWRA.



Section 3. Lien on property. The benefit assessments fixed herein shall be a lien on all property against which the assessments are imposed. Liens for the assessments shall be of the same force and effect as other liens for taxes, and their collection may be enforced by the same means as provided for the enforcement of liens for state and County taxes.

Section 4. Use of proceeds. The assessments collected pursuant to this resolution shall be used exclusively to pay the costs for the flood control projects in Zones 1 and 1A including, but not limited to, the costs of planning, design, property acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance, and debt service.

Section 5. Certified copies. The Secretary of the MCWRA shall deliver certified copies of this resolution to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County and to the Auditor of Monterey County.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,  
seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, and carried this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by  
the following vote, to wit:

AYES: NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**Before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**MCWRA ZONES 8, 9 & 12**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County )  
Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) to: )

)  
Approve and adopt a Fiscal Year 2025-26 cost of living adjustment )  
("COLA") increase of 2.7% for Zones 8, 9 and 12. )

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 1980, the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("Board") adopted Ordinance No. 2626 entitled "an ordinance providing for the establishment and levy of benefit assessments to pay for the cost of providing flood control services in certain zones of the district", establishing benefit assessments in Zone 8, 9, and 12 of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA"). Thereafter, at an election held on November 4, 1980, the voters in Zones 8, 9 and 12, approved Ordinance No. 2626 and the assessments established therein for their respective zones. The Board determines that the costs of the services to be financed are as set forth in the report to the Board by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency General Manager.

**WHEREAS**, in said Ordinance, the Board authorized and directed the levy of assessments in Zones 8, 9 and 12, to pay for flood control projects of Soledad Storm Drain in Soledad, Reclamation Ditch in Salinas and San Lorenzo Creek in King City, respectively.

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments will increase by the San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose Urban Consumer Price Index ("CPI")/COLA of 2.7%.

**WHEREAS**, the resolution rescinds Resolution No. 25-254 to update the rates adopted on May 28, 2025 for Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments, correctly reflecting COLA of 2.7% increase from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 assessment rates, addressing a clerical error.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

Section 1. Levy of Assessments in Zones 8, 9 and 12, Pursuant to the MCWRA Ordinance No. 2626, assessments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 are hereby levied on all property in the categories described below located in Zones 8, 9 and 12 for the MCWRA.

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ZONE 8 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS				
Fiscal Year	2024-2025		2025-2026	
Factor	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre
A	309	\$ 73.67	400	\$ 75.66
B	68	\$ 55.26	69	\$ 56.75
C	2,513	\$ 9.22	2,623	\$ 9.47
E	208	\$ 18.45	119	\$ 18.95
F	306	\$ 9.22	311	\$ 9.47
G	1	\$ 0.92	1	\$ 0.94
H	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
I	6	\$ -	6	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,411</b>		<b>3,529</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family) C = Single Family Residence E = Vacant, Agricultural, or open-space F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural State G = Undisturbed, natural state, grazing or vacant, slope greater than 35% H = Wetlands and marshlands, undisturbed, periodically flooded I = Land receiving no charge				

ZONE 9 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS				
Fiscal Year	2024-2025		2025-2026	
Factor	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre
A	3,273	\$ 77.90	3,265	\$ 80.00
B	1,168	\$ 58.42	1,170	\$ 60.00
C	22,008	\$ 9.75	22,007	\$ 10.01
E	1,322	\$ 19.48	1,316	\$ 20.00
F	1,426	\$ 9.75	1,421	\$ 10.01
G	7	\$ 0.97	7	\$ 1.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>29,204</b>		<b>29,186</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family) C = Single Family Residence E = Vacant, Agricultural, or open-space F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural Site G = Undisturbed, natural state, grazing or vacant, slope greater than 35% H = Wetlands and marshlands, undisturbed, periodically flooded I = Land receiving no charge				

<b>ZONE 12 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>		<b>2025-2026</b>	
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>	<b>Parcel Count</b>	<b>Charge Per Acre</b>
A	248	\$ 27.68	249	\$ 28.43
B	136	\$ 20.77	136	\$ 21.33
C	1,047	\$ 3.46	1,055	\$ 3.55
E	109	\$ 6.92	102	\$ 7.11
F	94	\$ 3.46	93	\$ 3.55
G	3	\$ 0.36	3	\$ 0.37
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,637</b>		<b>1,638</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial				
B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family)				
C = Single Family Residence				
E = Vacant, Agricultural, or open-space				
F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural Site				
G = Undisturbed, natural state, grazing or vacant, slope greater than 35%				

Section 2. Collection of Assessments. All County of Monterey officers charged with the duty of collecting taxes shall collect MCWRA assessments and fees with the regular tax payments to the County. The assessments shall be collected in the same form and manner as county taxes are collected and shall be paid to the MCWRA.

Section 3. Lien on property. The benefit assessments fixed herein shall be a lien on all property against which the assessments are imposed. Liens for the assessments shall be of the same force and effect as other liens for taxes, and their collection may be enforced by the same means as provided for the enforcement of liens for state and County taxes.

Section 4. Use of proceeds. The assessments collected pursuant to this resolution shall be used exclusively to pay the costs for the flood control projects in Zones 8, 9 and 12 including, but not limited to, the costs of planning, design, property acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance, and debt service.

Section 5. Certified copies. The Secretary of the MCWRA shall deliver certified copies of this resolution to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County and to the Auditor of Monterey County.

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Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,  
seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, and carried this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025,  
by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**Before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**MCWRA ZONE 17**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County )  
Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) to: )  
 )  
Approve and adopt a Fiscal Year 2025-26 cost-of living adjustment )  
("COLA") increase of 2.7% for Zone 17. )

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 1984, the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("Board") adopted Ordinance No. 2974, entitled "An ordinance for the establishment and levy of benefit assessments to pay for the cost of providing flood control in Zone 17 of the District" establishing benefit assessments in Zone 17 of the Agency. Thereafter, at an election held on June 5, 1984, the voters in Zone 17, approved Ordinance No. 2974 and the assessments established therein. The Board determines that the costs of the services to be financed are as set forth in the report to the Board by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA") General Manager;

**WHEREAS**, in said Ordinance, the Board authorized and directed the levy of assessments in Zone 17 to pay for flood control projects in the Moro Cojo area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments will increase San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose Urban Consumer Price Index ("CPI")/COLA of 2.7%.

**WHEREAS**, the resolution rescinds Resolution No. 25-255 to update the rates adopted on May 28, 2025 for Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments, correctly reflecting COLA of 2.7% increase from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 assessment rates, addressing a clerical error.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

Section 1. Levy of Assessments in Zone 17, Pursuant to MCWRA Ordinance No. 2974, assessments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 are hereby levied on all property in the categories described below and located in Zone 17 for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

Benefit assessments for Zone 17 are hereby fixed and established for the fiscal year 2025-26. The assessment shall be imposed on all land in Zone 17 of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

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ZONE 17 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS				
Fiscal Year	2024-2025		2025-2026	
Factor	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre	Parcel Count	Charge Per Acre
A	126	\$ 26.70	124	\$ 27.42
B	66	\$ 20.02	66	\$ 20.56
C	2,191	\$ 26.70	2,207	\$ 27.42
E	1,081	\$ 13.36	1,080	\$ 13.72
F	749	\$ 6.68	739	\$ 6.86
G	20	\$ 0.36	20	\$ 0.37
H	5	\$ -	5	\$ -
I	3	\$ -	3	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,241</b>		<b>4,244</b>	
A = Commercial and Industrial				
B = Institutional (churches, schools, hospitals, apartments, multi-family)				
C = Single Family Residence				
E = Vacant, Agricultural, or open-space				
F = Vacant, Undisturbed, Natural Site				
G = Undisturbed, natural state, grazing or vacant, slope greater than 35%				
H = Wetlands and marshlands, undisturbed, periodically flooded				
I = Land receiving no charge				

Section 2. Collection of assessments. All County of Monterey officers charged with the duty of collecting taxes shall collect MCWRA assessments and fees with the regular tax payments to the County. The assessments shall be collected in the same form and manner as county taxes are collected and shall be paid to the MCWRA.

Section 3. Lien on property. The benefit assessments fixed herein shall be a lien on all property against which the assessments are imposed. Liens for the assessments shall be of the same force and effect as other liens for taxes, and their collection may be enforced by the same means as provided for the enforcement of liens for state and County taxes.

Section 4. Use of proceeds. The assessments collected pursuant to this resolution shall be used exclusively to pay the costs the flood control projects in Zone 17, including, but not limited to, the costs of planning, design, property acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance, and debt service.

Section 5. Certified copies. The Secretary of the MCWRA shall deliver certified copies of this resolution to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County and to the Auditor of Monterey County.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this



resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor\_\_\_\_\_,  
seconded by Supervisor\_\_\_\_\_, and carried this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by  
the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy



# County of Monterey

## Item No.3

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-116**

**August 05, 2025**

**Introduced:** 7/25/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WR General Agenda

- a. Rescind previously adopted Resolutions Numbers 25-251, 25-254 and 25-255 approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 due to a clerical error in certain rates contained in the Resolutions; and
- b. Adopt revised resolutions approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 to address the clerical errors.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

- a. Rescind previously adopted Resolutions Numbers 25-251, 25-254 and 25-255 approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 due to a clerical error in certain rates contained in the Resolutions; and
- b. Adopt revised resolutions approving the FY 2025-26 assessment charges with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17 to address the clerical errors.

#### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Water Resource Agency ("MCWRA") ordinances that govern MCWRA flood zones are Ordinance Nos. 2626, 2974, 3878, and 3881 ("Ordinances"). These Ordinances were adopted for the main purposes of protecting life and property, and reducing the impact caused by flooding.

On May 28, 2025, the MCWRA Board of Supervisors held a public hearing for the requested FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% to the assessments of MCWRA's flood control benefit assessment zones below, based on the annual change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) February 2024 -February 2025 for the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose urban area:

- Zones 1 & 1A - Pajaro River Fund 112
- Zone 8 - Soledad Storm Drain Fund 121
- Zone 9 - Reclamation Ditch Fund 122
- Zone 12 - San Lorenzo Creek Fund 124
- Zone 17 - Moro Cojo Slough Fund 127

Although this action was approved by the MCWRA Board of Supervisors on May 28, 2025, there was a clerical error in the resolution calculating the 2.7% CPI increase on some of the rates leading to

a lesser rate being displayed in the associated resolutions. The attached updated Summary Chart details the corrected assessment rates for FY 2025-26 with 2.7% COLA increase from the rates of FY 2024-25. The potential fiscal impact of not collecting the assessments due to this clerical error is approximately \$43,250 across five MCWRA funds.

It is requested that the Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approve and adopt FY 2025-26 assessment rates with the 2.7% COLA increase applied to the FY 2025-26 assessment rates.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

At the April 21, 2025 meeting, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approve and adopt a FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17.

At the May 28, 2025 meeting, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approved and adopted a FY 2025-26 COLA increase of 2.7% for Flood Zones 1, 1A, 8, 9, 12, and 17; and adopted the related resolutions for that action.

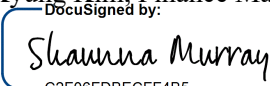
#### FINANCING:

Estimated revenue with the requested 2.7% COLA increase in FY2025-26 to the flood control benefit assessment Zones is as follows:

Zones 1 & 1A - Pajaro River Fund 112 : \$539,935  
 Zone 8 - Soledad Storm Drain Fund 121 : \$90,675  
 Zone 9 - Reclamation Ditch Fund 122 : \$1,451,590  
 Zone 12 - San Lorenzo Creek Fund 124 : \$38,288  
 Zone 17 - Moro Cojo Slough Fund 127 : \$101,913

Prepared by: Nan Kyung Kim, Finance Manager III (831) 755-4860

Approved by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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 Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager (831) 755-4860

#### Attachments:

1. Updated Summary Chart
2. Revised Resolution Zones 1 and 1A
3. Revised Resolution Zones 8, 9, 12
4. Revised Resolution Zones 17



# County of Monterey

**Item No.**

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-115**

**August 05, 2025**

**Introduced:** 7/24/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WR General Agenda

Adopt a resolution to nominate Monterey County Water Resource Agency Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a resolution to nominate Monterey County Water Resource Agency Deputy General Manager Shaunna Murray to the Advisory Committee of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) is accepting applications for its Advisory Committee. The SVBGSA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) governed by an 11-member Board of Directors. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide input and recommendations to the Board on groundwater-related issues. The Advisory Committee considers and incorporates community and stakeholder views into consensus recommendations, with a focus on implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Salinas Valley through the integrated implementation of the six Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

The Advisory Committee members represent the diverse interests of the agencies and groundwater users in the SVBGSA's jurisdiction. This includes designated seats from four partner agencies (Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Monterey One Water) which need to be nominated from their respective governing bodies. The SVBGSA Board will appoint six Subbasin Committee nominations, four Partner Agency nominations, and up to three of the Board-Designated applicants all together at the September 11, 2025 regular meeting, per the charter and bylaws (attachment 1). The newly seated Advisory Committee members will meet for the first time at the October 16 regular meeting. The term is for three years.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) recommends nominating Shaunna Murray, Deputy General Manager, to the SVBGSA's Advisory Committee. Ms. Murray has extensive knowledge and experience in the management of water resources regionally. She also has been an effective participant in numerous committees and other collaborative settings. This combination of skills makes her a good candidate to represent the Agency on this important committee.

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-115

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OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

FINANCING:

Staff participation on the SVBGSA's Advisory Committee can be covered with the existing staffing appropriations included in the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget and will not require any additional funding needs.

Prepared by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Approved by:  Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860  
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Attachments:

1. SVBGSA Advisory Committee Charter and Bylaws
2. Resolution



***Before the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
County of Monterey, State of California***

BOARD ORDER No. 25-28

**RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE )  
MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY )  
APPROVE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-2026 )  
GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM REGULATORY )  
FEES OF \$160.19 PER WELL FOR INITIAL WELL )  
REGISTRATION, \$21.90 PER WELL FOR ANNUAL WELL )  
REGISTRATION RENEWAL, \$64.82 PER WELL FOR )  
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION REPORTING, \$117.63 PER )  
WELL FOR GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING, AND \$73.90 )  
PER WELL FOR GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING. )**

Upon motion of Director Ken Ekelund, seconded by Director Mike LeBarre, and carried by those members present, the Board of Directors hereby:

Recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.19 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.90 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.63 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.90 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.


PASSED AND ADOPTED on this **21st** day of **April 2025**, by the following vote, to-wit:


AYES: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Jason Smith, Jon Conatser

NOES: Mike Scattini, John Baillie

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

Signed by:  
  
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BY: Mike LeBarre, Chair  
Board of Directors

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ATTEST: Ara Azhderian  
General Manager



# County of Monterey

**Item No.**

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-114**

**August 05, 2025**

**Introduced:** 7/22/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WR General Agenda

Adopt a resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees of \$160.16 per well for Initial Well Registration, \$21.86 per well for Annual Well Registration Renewal, \$64.82 per well for Groundwater Extraction Reporting, \$117.68 per well for Groundwater Level Monitoring, and \$73.92 per well for Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Historically, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) conducted groundwater monitoring across portions of the Salinas Valley in a discretionary manner as funding allowed. However, with passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) in 2014 came the establishment of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) and a need for consistent, reliable collection of groundwater and well data to develop, implement, and monitor progress of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”). In the interest of improving operational efficiency and reducing costs, some local GSAs have chosen to leverage the data collection, analysis, management, and reporting expertise of the Agency rather than creating a separate, parallel, monitoring program. This approach was solidified through approval and adoption of Agency Ordinance No. 5426 and the Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual by the Board of Supervisors in October 2024. The Agency’s Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) comprises four data collection and monitoring services that, collectively, produce the data necessary to meet the rigorous reporting requirements mandated by SGMA to maintain local governance and oversight of groundwater resources. Additional detail on the background, purpose, and implementation of the GMP is provided in Attachment 1.

The geographic extent of the reconceived GMP is expanding to cover areas within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin that are within the jurisdiction of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) (Attachment 2). Well registration and groundwater extraction reporting requirements for most well owners within the historically monitored area will remain largely the same. New well registration and reporting requirements will apply to small system well owners in the historically monitored area and all well owners in the new geographic areas (Attachment 3). The



most widespread difference for all well owners will be the proposed new annual GMP Regulatory Fee to ensure program reliability, which will be billed directly by the Agency on an annual basis. Unlike other unrelated Agency assessments, this new fee will not be included on property tax bills.

The Agency Act (California Water Code, Appendix §52) and Ordinance No. 5426 authorize the Agency to "...recover costs associated with the development, implementation, enforcement, and perpetuation of a regulatory groundwater monitoring program on a per-well basis, not based on extraction data, within Monterey County." The Agency worked with Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants to establish a schedule of cost-based fees for the GMP (Attachment 4).

The Groundwater Monitoring Program Fee Study ("Study") describes the regulatory functions covered by the GMP and associated costs for staff time to implement the monitoring programs, including data collection, analysis, and reporting; equipment, vehicles, and supplies; technological support for data collection and management applications; and indirect costs. The indirect cost rate is 21% which consists of Agency overhead (approximately 12%) and County of Monterey overhead (approximately 9%). The indirect cost rate covers salary and benefits of Agency Administrative staff, insurance, office furnishings and supplies, computer hardware and software, internet service, communications devices, and County services such as Facilities, Auditor Controller, Human Resources, Records Retention, and County Counsel.

The proposed GMP Regulatory Fees are Proposition 26 regulatory fees and are imposed for regulatory costs that do not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the monitoring service. Proposition 26 fees can be adopted at any time through the approval of the respective legislative body.

The proposed GMP Regulatory Fees will be charged on per-well basis, regardless of how much water a well extracts from the groundwater basin, because the cost of the program is dependent upon the number of wells in a basin, not how much water is extracted. For FY 2025-2026, the fees will apply to water production wells in the six subbasins within the jurisdiction of the SVBGSA, namely the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside, Forebay, Langley, Monterey, and Upper Valley Subbasins (Attachment 5). Data collected and reported under programs funded by the GMP Regulatory Fees will be provided to the SVBGSA for use in implementing the GSPs for the aforementioned subbasins.

For FY 2025-2026, the recommended GMP Regulatory Fees are: a one-time Initial Well Registration Fee of \$160.16 per well that is not already registered with the Agency; an Annual Well Registration Renewal Fee of \$21.86 per well; Groundwater Extraction Reporting Fee of \$64.82 per well; Groundwater Level Monitoring Fee of \$117.68 per well; and Groundwater Quality Monitoring Fee of \$73.92 per well. Additional information about each fee is available in the Study (Attachment 4) and on the summary table (Attachment 5).

A presentation on the FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee was made to the Agency's Board of Supervisors on April 22, 2025. Following this presentation, staff coordinated with the County Communications Director and SVBGSA to prepare and disseminate additional public outreach materials including an informational flyer describing the proposed GMP Regulatory Fees and social media graphic promoting the Board of Supervisor's June 3, 2025 consideration of the GMP Regulatory Fees, both of which were distributed through traditional media, social media, on multiple

websites, and in newspapers with circulation throughout the County.

The Agency's Finance Committee received presentations on the Study in March and April 2025, and the Agency hosted a stakeholder workshop about the GMP Regulatory Fee on April 3, 2025. The Agency's Board of Directors considered recommendation of this item to the Agency Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2025, at which time the Board of Directors approved staff's recommendation by a 7-2 vote (Attachment 6). The Agency's Board of Supervisors considered this item on June 3, 2025, at which time it was continued to July 8, 2025 following a request for staff to provide more information about funding options to cover GMP fees for de minimis well owners. At its July 8, 2025 meeting, the Agency's Board of Supervisors continued the item to August 5, 2025 at the request of the Chair.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The County Public Information Office assisted with development of public outreach materials. The SVBGSA coordinated with Agency staff to identify the scope of data under the GMP that is required to satisfy their regulatory obligations for monitoring and reporting under SGMA.

FINANCING:

Financial impacts of the proposed GMP Fees were reviewed during the Agency's FY 2025-26 Budget Workshop, held on March 17, 2025. Total FY 2025-26 cost recovery for GMP is estimated at \$800,000.

For FY 2025-26, the SVBGSA has proposed use of state grant funds to offset the GMP Fees for all well owners, as described in Attachment 1. The Agency and SVBGSA will execute a service agreement for the Agency to implement GMP for FY 2025-26 and invoice the SVBGSA for all associated tasks.

Prepared by: Amy Woodrow, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

DocuSigned by:

Approved by:



Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860  
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Attachments:

1. Supplemental Memorandum on the GMP
2. Map of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee Area
3. Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual
4. Draft GMP Fee Study
5. Summary Table of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fees
6. Board Order 25-28
7. Draft Resolution