County of Monterey

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

Meeting Agenda - Final

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

1:30 PM

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 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. 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.

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 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. 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.

1:30 P.M. - Call to Order

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.

Scheduled Matters

1. Consider approving and adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 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
   Map of FY25-26 GMP Regulatory Fee Area
   Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual
   Draft GMP Fee Study
   Summary Table of FY25-26 GMP Regulatory Fees
   Executed MCWRA Board Order 25-28

Read Out from Closed Session

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

Adjournment

Introduced: 5/22/2025
Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready
Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider approving and adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 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:

Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 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 programs that, collectively, produce the data necessary to meet the rigorous reporting requirements mandated by SGMA to maintain local governance and oversight of groundwater resources.

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 1). 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 2). 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 3).

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 4). 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 3) and on the summary table (Attachment 4).

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 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 have been distributed through traditional media, social media, on multiple websites, and in newspapers with circulation throughout the County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
The County Public Information Office assisted with development of public outreach materials. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency 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.

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

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

Attachments:

1. Map of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee Area
2. Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual
3. Draft GMP Fee Study
4. Summary Table of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fees
5. Executed MCWRA Board Order 25-28

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County of Monterey

Board Report

Item No.

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-090

June 03, 2025

Introduced: 5/22/2025
Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready
Matter Type: WR General Agenda

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

Approved by: DocuSigned by:
Ara Azhderian
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860
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Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fee Area FY 2025-2026

Legend

- Groundwater Monitoring Program Area
- Monterey County Boundary

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0 3 6 9 12 Miles

Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Date : 3/25/2025

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: Accuracy = 100% * (Measured Value – Actual Value) / 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 renumeration.

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).
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/.

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±2°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

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 and400-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

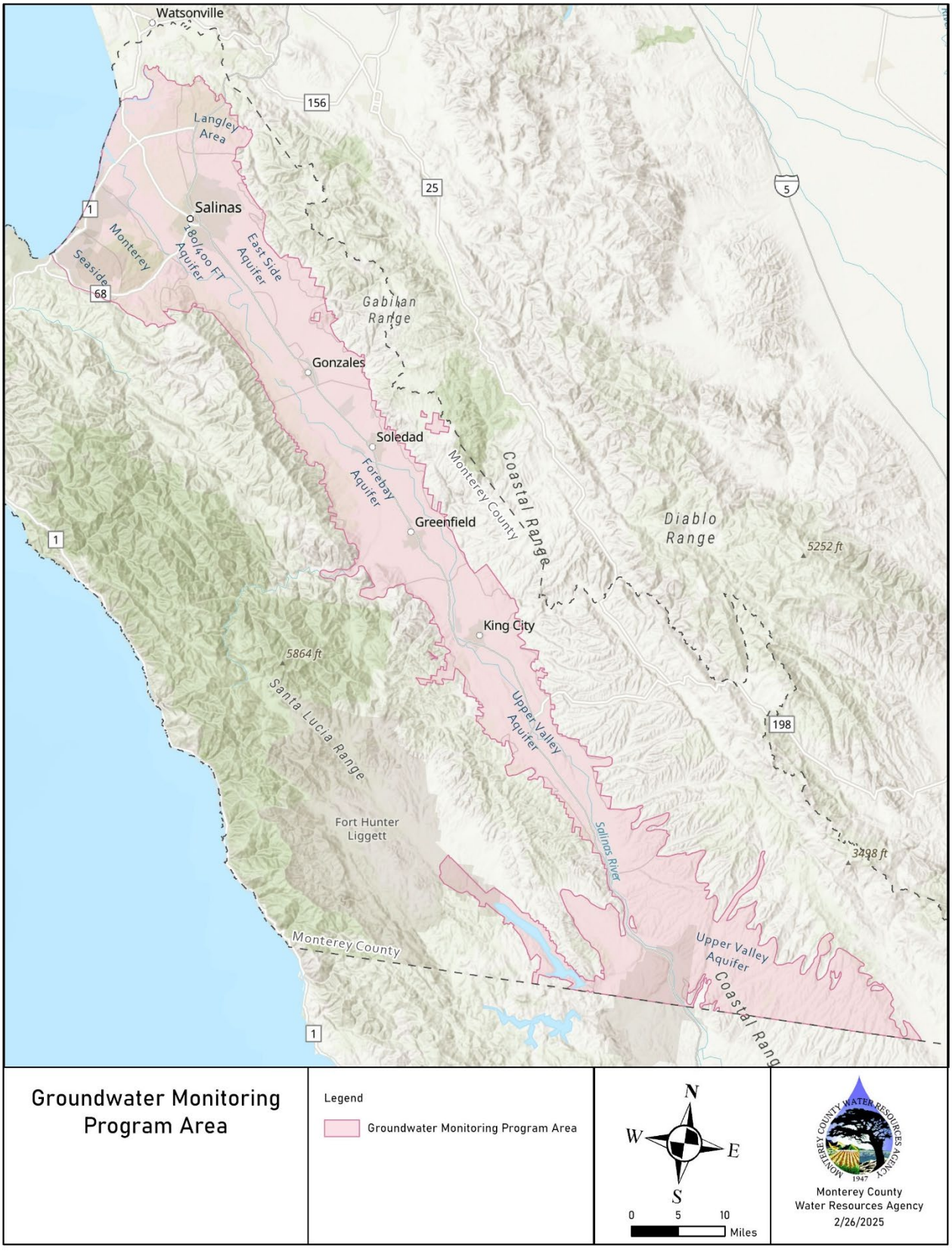


Table 1: Summary of Proposed Annual Fees for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 ("FY26")

Fee Category	Proposed FY26 Annual Fee per participating well
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

Fee Category	Abbreviation	Proposed FY26 Fee	Estimated Number of Annual Services	Total Annual Cost Recovery
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	$170,016
				$802,536

SECTION 2: Legal Requirements & Methodology

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

Staff Member	Fully Burdened Hourly Rate
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

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

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

Material or Supply	Cost Per Item	# Needed	Total Cost	Purchasing Frequency	Useful Life (years)	Annual Cost [1]	Applicable Program
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

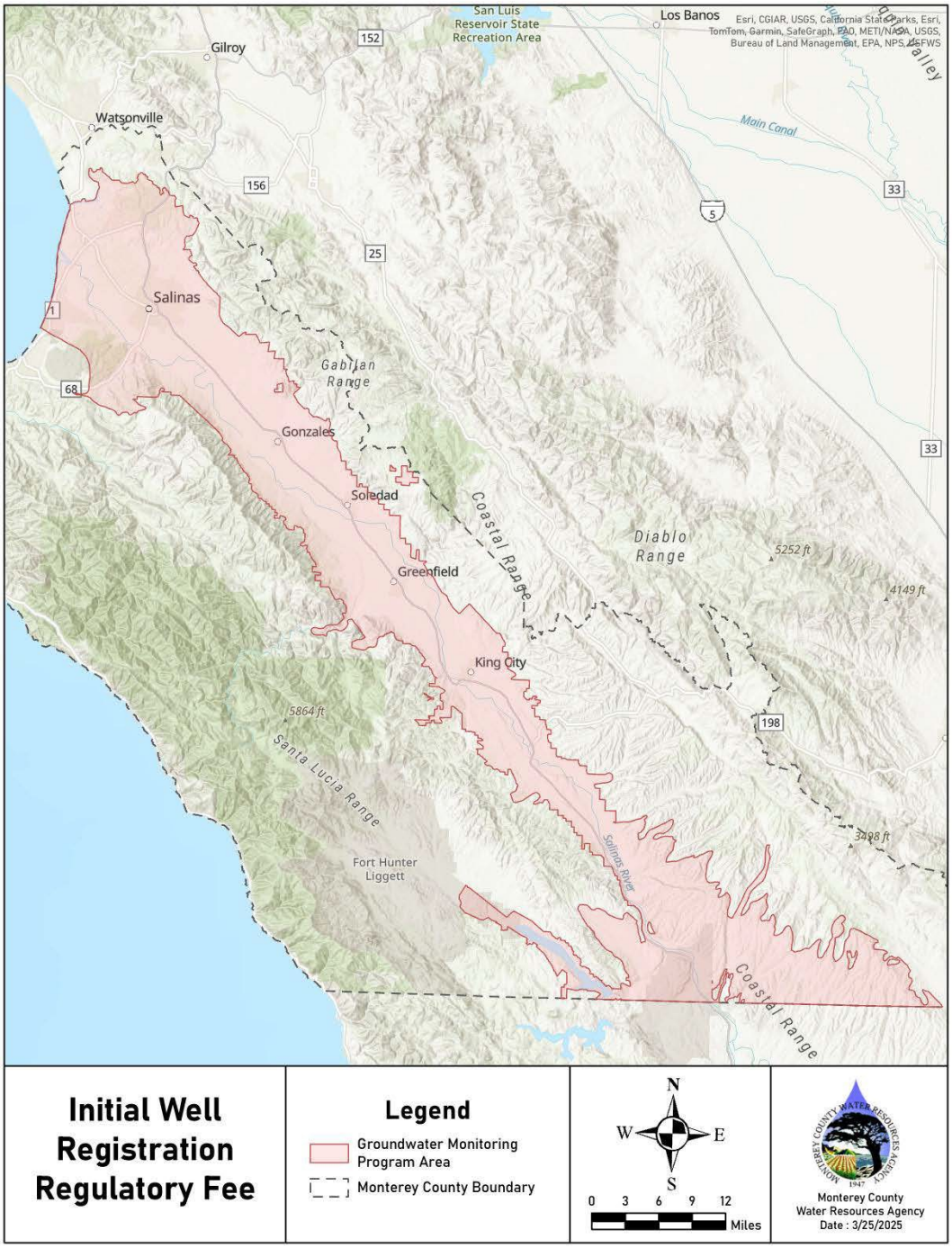
A well must be registered with the Agency if it is in one of the following six subbasins: 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, or Upper Valley Aquifer (see Figure 2). The initial registration of a well occurs once and is required within 30 days of completed 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		
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	0.15	$156.11	$23.42		
Subtotal Staffing			$130.63	A	
Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles					
County IT support			$5,000.00		
Supplies for printing notifications			$1,500.00		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			$6,500.00		
# of annual renewals & new registrations			3,550		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			$1.83	B	
Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)			**$132.46**	C	C = A + B
Indirect Cost Rate		**20.91%**	**$27.70**	D	D = C x 20.91%
Total Fee			**$160.16**		C + D

Figure 2: Initial Well Registration Regulatory Fee



3.2 Annual Renewal & Billing

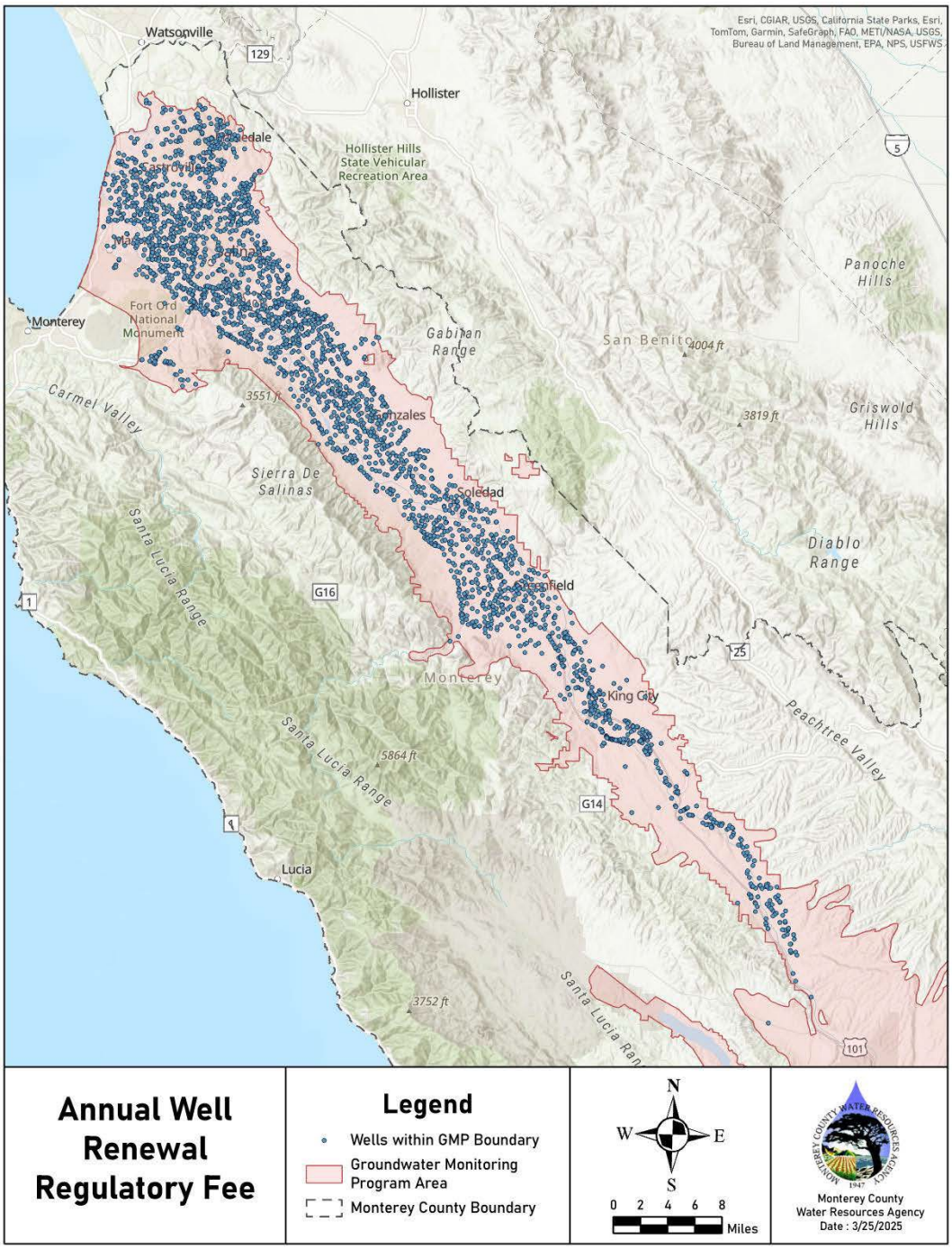
Following initial registration, all registered wells are required to annually renew their registration. Registered well owners will be asked to verify well registration data on file with the Agency and provide updates as applicable. Table 7 summarizes the proposed fee for annual wellhead registration 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		
Senior Water Resources Hydrologist	11	$156.11	$1,717.21		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			$36,888.51		
# of annual renewals			3,500		
Staffing cost per renewal			$10.54	A	
Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles					
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		
Supplies for printing notifications			$1,500.00		
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	
Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)			**$18.08**	D	D = A + B + C
Indirect Cost Rate		**20.91%**	**$3.78**	E	E = D x 20.91%
Total Fee			**$21.86**		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.

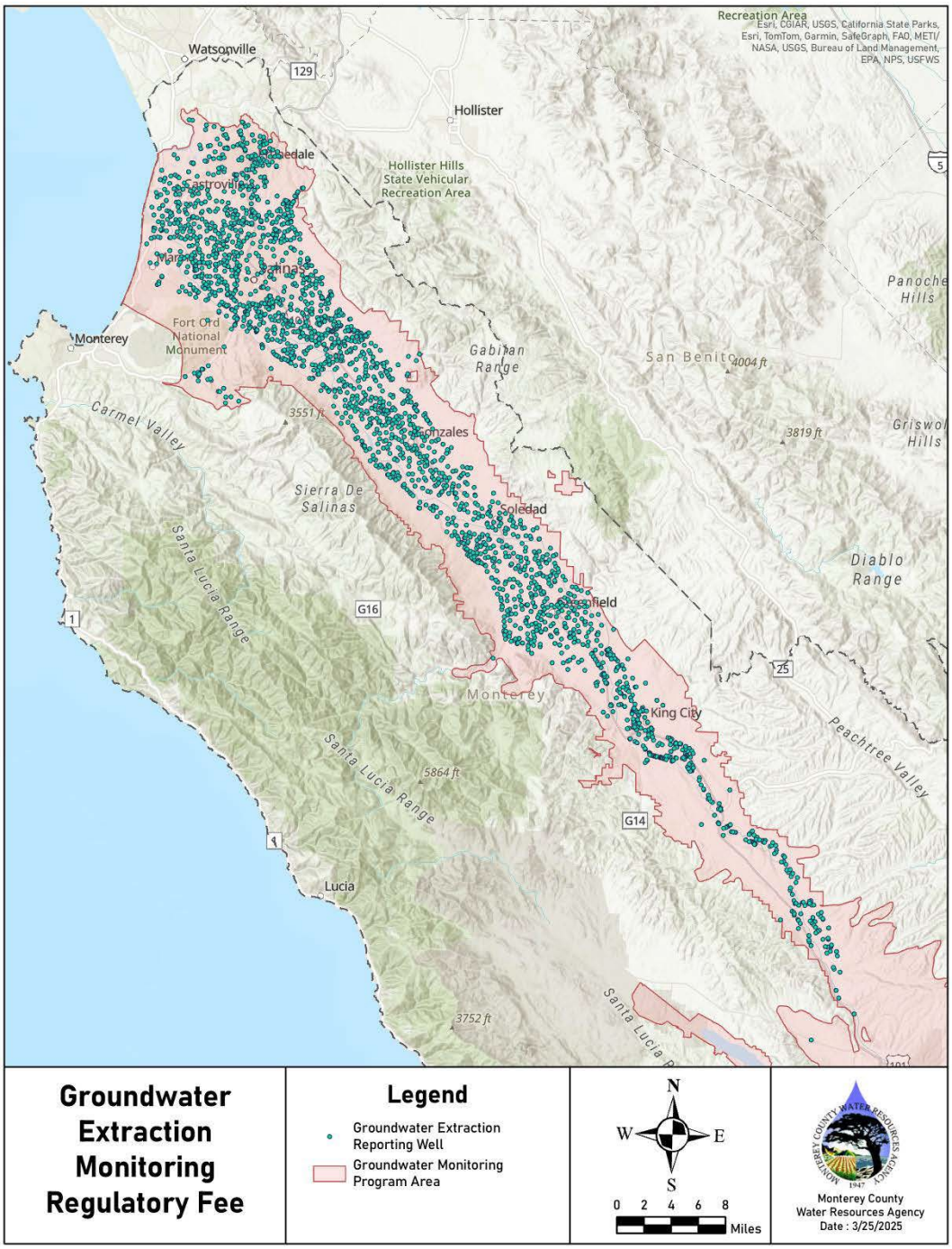
To comply with the GMP, extractors are required to purchase and install an approved measuring device at each well then use it to collect monthly data and report that data at least annually. Groundwater extraction data must be collected on a monthly basis for each Water Year, which is defined by the United 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

Staffing	Hours	Hourly rate	Total Cost	Identifier	Calculation
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		
General Manager	8	$224.87	$1,798.96		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			$96,069.24		
# of annual services			2,100		
Staffing cost per service			$45.75	A	
Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles					
County IT support of GEMS application			$5,000.00		
County IT app. development			$10,000.00		
Supplies for printing mailouts			$500.00		
Postage for mailouts			$1,000.00		
Subtotal Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			$16,500.00		
# of annual services			2,100		
Supplies, Materials and Vehicles			$7.86	B	
Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)			**$53.61**	C	C = A + B
Indirect Cost Rate		**20.91%**	**$11.21**	D	D = C x 20.91%
Total Fee			**$64.82**		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.

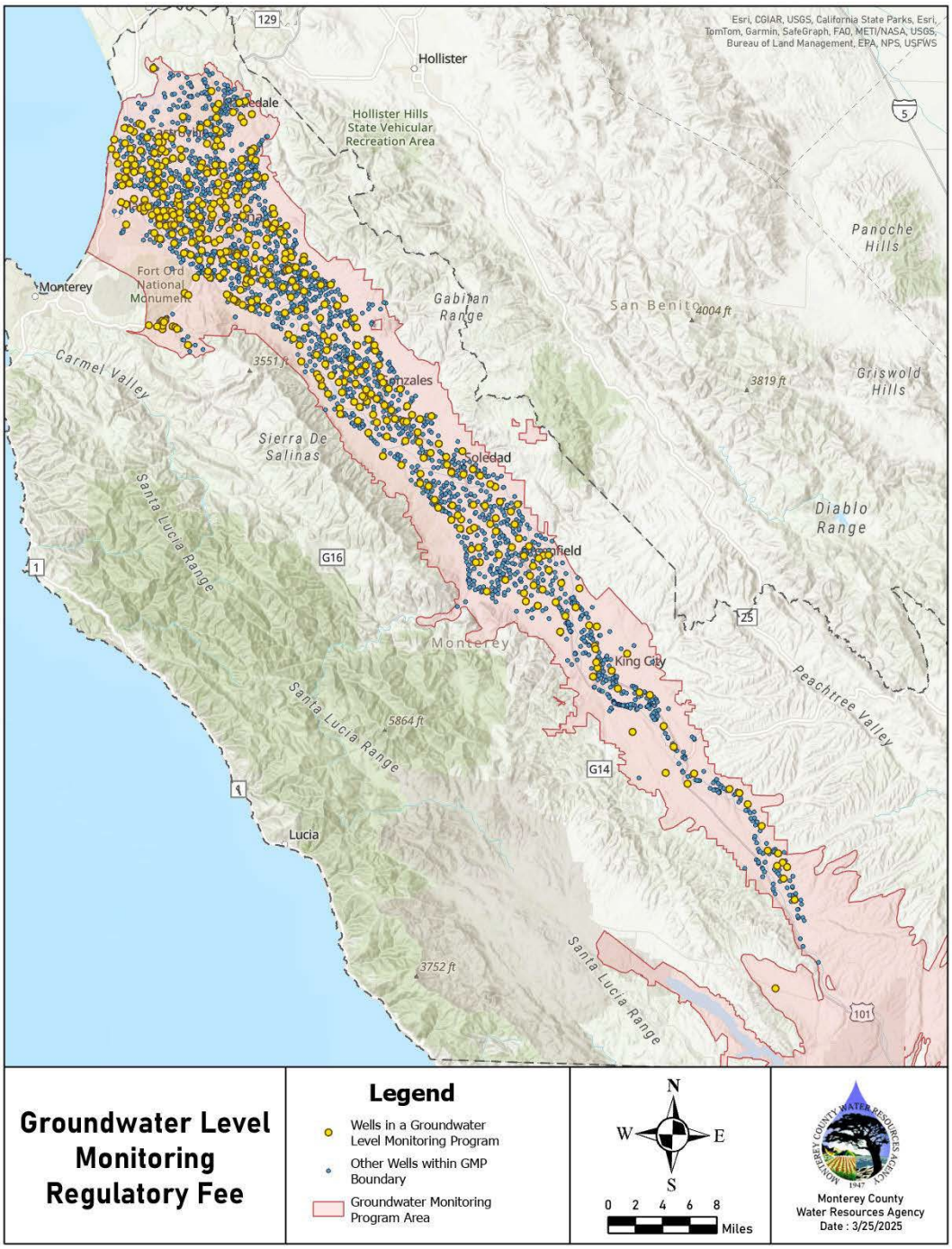
Table 9: Groundwater Level Monitoring Fee Proposed for FY26

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		
General Manager	8	$224.87	$1,798.96		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			$246,044.88		
# of annual services			3,500		
Staffing cost per service			$70.30	A	
Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles					
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		
Well labeling equipment [2]			$80.00		
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	
Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)			**$97.33**	D	D = A + B + C
Indirect Cost Rate		**20.91%**	**$20.35**	E	E = D x 20.91%
Total			**$117.68**		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.

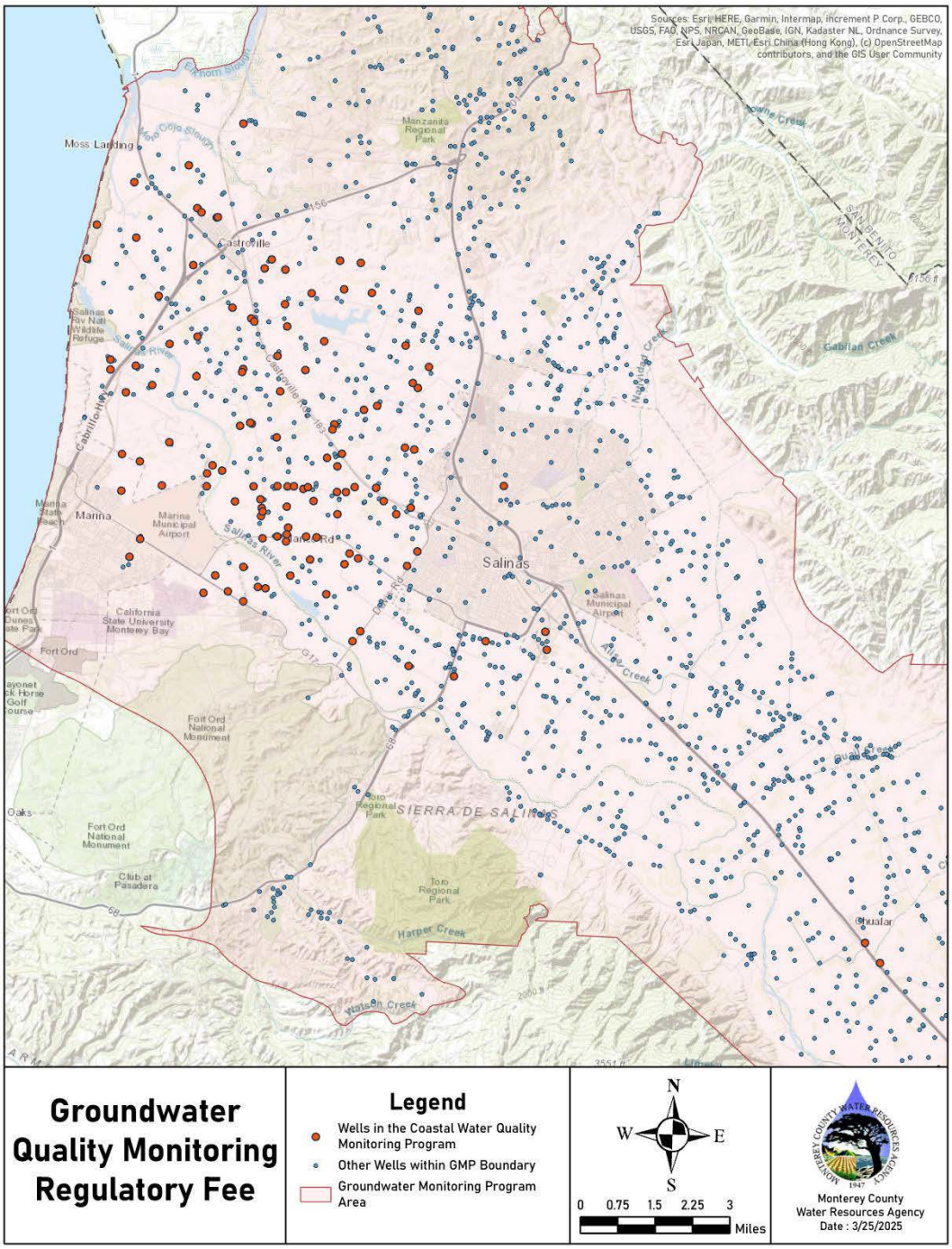
The annual cost of supplies for the groundwater quality monitoring program includes supplies, materials, and vehicles to collect, store, and transport samples as well as $40,000 annually in laboratory costs. The total annual cost of supplies including laboratory costs is estimated at about $66,000. The 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		
General Manager	8	$224.87	$1,798.96		
Subtotal Annual Staffing			$73,485.43		
# of annual services			2,300		
Staffing cost per service			$31.95	A	
Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles					
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		
Generator for pump operation [1]			$150.00		
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	
Total Direct Costs (Staffing, Supplies, Materials, and Vehicles)			**$61.14**	D	D = A + B + C
Indirect Cost Rate		**20.91%**	**$12.78**	E	E = D x 20.91%
Total			**$73.92**		D + E

1 – See Table 5

Figure 6: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Regulatory Fee



SECTION 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

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.

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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:
1F182FFB49A2435...

ATTEST: Ara Azhderian
General Manager

Docusign Envelope ID: CF2101AF-6580-4B3A-BD42-2D8B37B952D8

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

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County of Monterey

Board Report

Item No.

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-090

June 03, 2025

Introduced: 5/22/2025
Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready
Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider approving and adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 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:

Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 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 programs that, collectively, produce the data necessary to meet the rigorous reporting requirements mandated by SGMA to maintain local governance and oversight of groundwater resources.

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 1). 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 2). The most widespread difference for all well owners

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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 3).

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 4). 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 3) and on the summary table (Attachment 4).

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 5).

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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 have been distributed through traditional media, social media, on multiple websites, and in newspapers with circulation throughout the County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
The County Public Information Office assisted with development of public outreach materials. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency 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.

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Attachments:

1. Map of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fee Area
2. Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual
3. Draft GMP Fee Study
4. Summary Table of FY 2025-2026 GMP Regulatory Fees
5. Executed MCWRA Board Order 25-28