

**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:)

-)
- a. Approve and adopt 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, contingent upon)
execution of a sub-grant agreement between MCWRA and)
Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to)
provide grant funding as an offset credit for all well owners)
within the Basin for FY26;)
- b. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to amend the FY26 Adopted)
Budget for MCWRA Fund 111 (111-9300-WRA001-8267),)
to increase its appropriations by \$280,000 and to increase revenue)
by \$800,000, financed by the Groundwater Monitoring Program)
fees; (4/5th vote required); and)
- c. Authorize the Auditor-Controller’s Office to incorporate)
Approved budget modifications to the FY26 Budget.)

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; and

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, contingent upon execution of a sub-grant agreement between MCWRA and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to provide grant funding as an offset credit for all well owners within the Basin for FY26.
3. Authorizes the Auditor-Controller to amend the FY26 Adopted Budget for MCWRA Fund 111 (111-9300-WRA001-8267), to increase its appropriations by \$280,000 and to increase revenue by \$800,000, financed by the Groundwater Monitoring Program fees; (4/5th vote required).
4. Authorizes the Auditor-Controller’s Office to incorporate approved budget modifications to the FY26 Budget.

5. 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.
6. Finds that the GMP fees shall take effect immediately after the MCWRA Board of Supervisors adopts this Resolution.
7. 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