

# GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED FEE

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In compliance with California State Law, notice is hereby given that the Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) will conduct a **public hearing on:**

**July 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City of Willows Council Chamber, 201 N. Lassen St., Willows, CA** to consider the adoption of a **new property related fee in the amount of \$1.93 per acre annually** for the 2019 Fiscal Year and the subsequent four fiscal years, to fund operations of the GGA.

### **Notificación en Español:**

Para leer este aviso en Español, visite el sitio web de GGA <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority> o llame (916) 918-2020 para solicitar que se le envíe un aviso por correo o correo electrónico.

### **Background:**

The GGA is a nine-member, multi-agency Joint Powers Authority that was formed on June 20, 2017. The GGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) responsible for implementation and compliance of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Glenn County portion of the Colusa Subbasin (5-21.52). The Board of the GGA is composed of representatives of the following:

County of Glenn, City of Orland, City of Willows, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Glide Water District, Princeton-Codora-Glenn/Provident Irrigation District (1 seat), Orland-Artois Water District, and Kanawha Water District.

As a groundwater regulating agency, the GGA (in partnership with other adjacent GSAs such as the Colusa Groundwater Authority [CGA]) is tasked with achieving and maintaining sustainable groundwater conditions in the Colusa Subbasin (Basin). Compliance with SGMA is achieved through the preparation and implementation of one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP or Plan). Plan development is underway in the Basin and the Plan(s) must be adopted by January 31, 2022. If the local GSAs do not comply with SGMA including the development of the Plan(s) and the necessary activities required to implement the Plans, the State Water Resources Control Board may take over groundwater management responsibilities.

### **Long-Term Funding:**

In order to ensure initial SGMA compliance and to provide a mechanism to begin this long-range effort, the GGA Member agencies agreed to fund the agency operations for the first two years. GGA operations include administration, legal services, consultant services, insurance, office and outreach materials, accounting, monitoring and reporting to DWR, and special studies, if needed. The GGA has received Proposition 1 grant funding to cover a majority of the work to develop a Plan; however, costs for Plan preparation and initial implementation that are in excess of grant funding will also need to be covered by the GGA Operations Fee.

To fund its activities and the development of an adequate Plan, the GGA developed a budget for annual operations expenses for a five-year period spanning fiscal years 2019/20 to 2023/24. This budget includes projected costs for Plan preparation and initial implementation, administration, legal services, insurance, printing/copying, accounting, facilitation, monitoring and reporting to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and special studies, if needed.

SGMA provides authority for GGA to charge fees to support its operations. The GGA has retained Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to prepare a fee study to review the best options to fund GGA operations over the next five years. An operations cost and fee analysis is included in the study. Each parcel of land within the GGA's

boundary is receiving SGMA management services from the GGA and the fee was developed by allocating the GGA budget in proportion to the cost of providing services to each acre of land in its service area. By law, the GGA may not collect more revenue from property related fees than is necessary to provide the cost of the water related service.

One of the GGA's foundational Guiding Principles is to protect its service area from **extremely expensive and intrusive State groundwater intervention actions**.

If the State Water Resources Control Board intervenes in the Basin, it may impose annual fees ranging from \$100 per de minimis well, to \$300 per well plus up to \$55 per acre-foot pumped per well, with no guarantee of assistance in bearing costs to address any groundwater issues that prompt its intervention. See [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention\\_fs.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf). for more complete information. By collecting the Operations Fees, GGA will provide landowners with local groundwater management with a tailored, more affordable approach for managing the Basin.

## Notice:

In addition to this notice, the GGA has also posted the notice on the GGA website at <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority> and has been published in accordance with Government Code 6066 and Water Code section 10730.

## Proposed Property Related Fee:

This notice is for the GGA's proposal to implement a per-acre charge to fund the GGA operations, supplement Plan preparation, and begin initial GSP implementation. The GGA is considering the adoption of a property related fee in the amount of:

- **\$1.93 per acre** (in 2019 dollars)
- The proposed charges, if approved, will become effective for the 2019/20 Glenn County fiscal year, with the first payment due by December 10, 2019.

For more information, including the fee study summarizing the findings, please visit the GGA website at <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority> or call Provost & Pritchard (GGA's Consultant) at (916) 918-2002. The fee study is also available for review during normal business hours at 720 N Colusa St., Willows, CA 95988.

## Public Hearing and Majority Protest:

The proposed GGA Operations Fee is a property related fee governed by Proposition 218. Under the California State Constitution, owners of land subject to the proposed GGA Operations Fee have the right to protest its adoption. If you have received this notice, parcel(s) under your ownership will be subject to the GGA Operations Fee if adopted. If written protests are submitted accounting for a majority of the total assessed parcels, GGA will not adopt the Operations Fee. Absent a majority protest, GGA is authorized to adopt the proposed Operations Fee at the public adoption hearing.

Landowners desiring to protest the proposed GGA Operations Fee should send their written protest to:

**Glenn Groundwater Authority**  
**c/o Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group**  
**P.O. Box 8929**  
**Chico, California 95927**

Protests may also be submitted to the Board Secretary at the Public Hearing, located at the City of Willows Council Chamber, 201 N. Lassen St., Willows, California. **All protests must be received by the close of the Public Hearing on July 8, 2019 to be counted.**

## Information Availability:

- Call Provost & Pritchard (GGA's Consultant) at **(916) 918-2002**
- View more information online at <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority>
- Para leer este aviso en Español, visite el sitio web de GGA <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/agriculture/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority> o llame (916) 918-2020 para solicitar que se le envíe un aviso por correo o correo electrónico.

- The Fee Study is available for review during normal business hours at 720 N Colusa St., Willows, CA 95988
- For more information about SGMA, see the California Department of Water Resources website: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

**If you do not wish to protest the proposed GGA Operations Fee, you need not take any action.**

**To Protest:**

All protests must include:

- Landowners printed name(s),
- Parcel number(s) or street address for each property affected by the GGA Operations Fee,
- Statement of opposition or protest, and
- Valid signature(s)

Each parcel is entitled to one protest. The protest may be mailed in or hand delivered at the hearing but must be received by the GGA by the close of the hearing to count toward the protest vote.

For your convenience, you may utilize the Protest Form below:



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**PROTEST FORM FOR THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED GGA OPERATIONS FEE**

**Landowner(s) printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Parcel Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Protest:**

**Landowner(s) signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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