

GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NOTICE OF HEARING TO ADOPT PROPOSED FEE

In compliance with California State Law, notice is hereby given that the Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will hold a **public hearing on: August 7, 2023 6:00 PM at the Willows City Council Chambers, 201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988** to consider the adoption of a property related fee starting in Fiscal Year 2023-24 for GGA operations and implementation of the COLUSA SUBBASIN Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) required by the State of California pursuant to the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). A Spanish version of the Notice is available at <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority>

Notificación en Español:

Para leer este aviso en Español, visite el sitio web de GGA <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/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 Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed through a Joint Powers Agreement to comply with the requirements of SGMA for that portion of the Colusa Groundwater Subbasin underlying GLENN COUNTY. The GGA area is described in California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (2020), Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, Colusa Subbasin, Number 5-021.52 which is classified as a High Priority Subbasin comprised of approximately 723,823 total acres, of which approximately 306,000 acres are within the GGA service area. As required by SGMA, the GGA adopted a GSP in 2022 in collaboration with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and must now implement that GSP as required by law to prevent the State of California from intervening to manage the local groundwater basin and corresponding groundwater resources.

Basis of Proposed Fee:

To provide local groundwater management, sustainability, and SGMA compliance, the GGA must annually monitor and report groundwater conditions to the State, prepare required updates to the GSP, conduct required coordination among GSAs in the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, and maintain GSA operations. GSA operations include but are not limited to legal, technical and administration costs (including consultant services, insurance, office and outreach materials, and accounting).

The proposed fee is a property-related fee governed by Proposition 218 and the California Constitution. California Water Code Section 10730 provides authority for the GGA to impose Fees to support GSA administration, GSP implementation, and SGMA compliance. The GGA has reviewed the available options to fund the GSA and associated activities over the next five years as explained and documented in the June 2023 Proposition 218 Fee Report.

The service of local groundwater management provides each landowner with groundwater management, GSA administration, GSP implementation, and SGMA compliance including groundwater monitoring, preparation of annual reports, and regulatory compliance activities to ensure that the GGA is sustainable over the long term, as required by SGMA. Each acre in the GGA is required to be managed by a GSP and land within the Glenn County portion of the Subbasin will receive the local management services of the GGA. Ensuring sustainability will allow the GGA to maintain local control and **avoid State intervention and operation of the Subbasin, which would result in State fees and reporting requirements on a basin-wide scale.** If the State Water Resources Control Board intervenes in the GGA operations, it may impose annual fees ranging from \$100 per domestic well, to \$300 per agricultural well, plus up to \$55 per acre-foot of pumped water per well and require annual reporting of extractions to the State. For more information:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf Implementing the proposed fee allows the GSA to provide groundwater management services and ensures a more tailored and locally managed option for managing the GGA while maintaining SGMA compliance for all landowners.

Proposed Property Fee:

The proposed per-acre fees fund the service of groundwater management including GSA operations and implementation of the GSP and compliance with SGMA. This fee is a per-acre fee that imposes a maximum fee based on each parcel’s classification. There are three proposed maximum fee rates as follows: \$0.52 per non-irrigated acre, \$2.40 per irrigated-surface water acre, and \$5.59 per irrigated-groundwater acre (in 2023 dollars, including inflation, for the subsequent four years). The proposed fee, if approved, will become effective for the 2023-24 fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2023), with the first payment due in December 2023 through the Glenn County property tax bill. **The actual amount of the fee will be set by Resolution of the GGA but cannot exceed the maximum per acre fee specified above, including the inflation factor, absent a subsequent Proposition 218 proceeding.**

Each parcel subject to the fee would only be charged one of these rates specified on the accompanying cover sheet. Landowners may be reclassified based on appropriate fee classification or consistency with GSA policy.

For more information, including the Fee Report summarizing the findings, please visit the GGA website at: <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority>.

Public Hearing and Majority Protest:

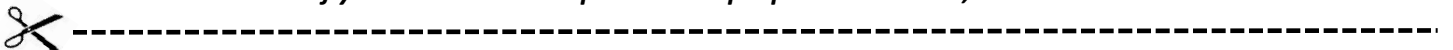
Under the California State Constitution, owners of land subject to the proposed fee have the right to protest its adoption. If you have received this notice, one or more parcels under your ownership will be subject to the proposed fee. If the identified parcel has more than one record owner only one written protest will be counted. In the event of a majority protest, the fee will not be instituted.

Landowners desiring to protest the proposed GGA fee may send their written protest prior to the public hearing to: GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY, P.O. BOX 752, Willows, CA 95988, or in person at the public hearing on August 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM, so long as the protest is received prior to the close of the public hearing. **Protests submitted by e-mail, fax, or other electronic means are not valid and will not be counted as a protest.**

There are multiple ways to obtain additional information about this topic:

- View more information online at <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/water-resources/glenn-groundwater-authority>.
- Call the GGA at **(530) 934-6540**.
- The GGA Fee Report will be available for public review during normal business hours at 225 N. Tehama 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 Fee, no action is needed.



GGA PROPOSITION 218 PROTEST FORM

To protest, complete and detach this portion of the Notice and mail to GGA, P.O. Box 752, Willows, CA 95988, OR submit in-person at the Public Hearing on August 7, 2023 6:00 PM at the Willows City Council Chambers, 201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988. All protests must include:

- Landowner(s) Printed Name(s): _____
- Assessor’s Parcel Number: _____
- Statement of Protest: _____

Under penalty of law, I affirm that I am the owner(s) or authorized representative of the owner of the above parcel.

- Valid Landowner Signature(s): _____

Each parcel is entitled to one protest. If a parcel has more than one owner, all must sign one protest form.