

SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHARGE

In compliance with California State Law, a **public hearing will be held: July 14, 2022 at the Solano County Water Agency, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, CA 95688** to consider a proposal by the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SGSA) to adopt a **new charge in the amount of \$2.79 per acre annually**, plus inflationary adjustments, for the 2023 Calendar Year and the subsequent four calendar years (Charge), for implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) required by the State of California pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Background:

The SGSA is a joint powers agency formed to comply with the requirements of SGMA for that portion of the Solano Groundwater Subbasin underlying the CITY OF DIXON, CITY OF RIO VISTA, SOLANO COUNTY, DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, MAINE PRAIRIE WATER DISTRICT, and RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2068. The SGSA is also comprised of non-signatory members including CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY and SOLANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU who participate through an MOU consistent with the provisions of the joint power agency. As required by SGMA, the SGSA adopted a GSP in 2022, and must now implement that plan as required by law to prevent the State of California from stepping in to manage the groundwater basin.

Long-Term Funding:

In order to immediately ensure SGMA compliance, the SGSA members were largely grant funded during GSP development from 2017 through 2021, including the costs to prepare the GSP and identify SGMA compliance costs. At this time, an updated long-term funding plan is being implemented to cover SGSA actions required for SGMA implementation and compliance, including, but not limited to legal, technical and administration services (including consultant services, insurance, office and outreach materials, and accounting), annual monitoring and reporting to the State, preparation of required updates to the GSP, and required coordination among GSAs in the Subbasin. The SGSA has received Proposition 1 and 68 grant funding to cover a majority of the work to establish the SGSA and develop the 2022 GSP. However, costs for initial GSP implementation and SGMA compliance can't be covered by grants and will need to be covered by the proposed charge. The SGSA will continue to obtain outside funding sources to the extent possible to keep their GSP implementation and SGMA compliance costs as low as possible.

The proposed charge is a property-related fee governed by Proposition 218 and the California constitution. SGMA provides authority for the SGSA to impose charges to support SGMA compliance. The SGSA retained Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) to review the best options to fund GSP implementation over the next five years, and LSCE explained the charge in its May 2022 Proposition 218 Charge Report.

The proposed charge is required to cover the cost of implementation of the GSP to ensure that the Solano Subbasin is sustainable over the long term, as required by SGMA. Ensuring sustainability will allow the SGSA to maintain local control, and **avoid extremely expensive and intrusive State intervention and operation of the Subbasin, which would result in much higher charges**. If the State Water Resources Control Board intervenes in the Solano Subbasin, it may impose annual fees ranging from \$100 per domestic well, to \$300 per agricultural well, plus up to \$55 per acre-foot pumped per well, plus require annual reporting of extractions to the State. See https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf for more complete information. Implementing the proposed charge provides landowners with a more affordable and locally managed option for managing the Solano Subbasin while maintaining SGMA compliance.

Proposed Charges:

The proposed per-acre charge to fund ongoing implementation of the GSP and compliance with SGMA would impose a maximum charge of **\$2.79 per acre** (in 2022 dollars, indexed for inflation, for the subsequent four years). The proposed charge, if approved, will become effective for the 2023 calendar year (beginning January 1, 2023), with the first payment due by April 15, 2023. **The actual amount of the proposed charge will not exceed the maximum per acre charge specified above, plus the indexed inflation factor, absent a subsequent Proposition 218 proceeding.**

For more information, including the Charge Report summarizing the findings, please visit the SGSA website at [Solano GSA Board of Directors - scwa2.com/](http://SolanoGSABoardofDirectors-scwa2.com/).

Public Hearing:

Under the California State Constitution, owners of land subject to the proposed charge 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 charge. In the event of a majority protest, the charge will not be instituted. If the identified parcel has more than one record owner or renter, only one written protest will be counted. Each protest must (1) be in writing, (2) state that you are against the proposed charge, (3) provide the parcel APN, and (4) include the original signature of the record owner or renter submitting the protest. A protest form may be obtained at the below address, but the protest need not be on a protest form if it contains the information set forth above.

Written protests must be submitted by mail to: Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, c/o Chris Lee, SGSA Manager, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688, or in person at the public hearing on July 14, 2022, so long as they are received prior to the close of the public hearing. **Protests submitted by e-mail, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.**

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

- Call the SGSA at **(707) 451-6090**.
- View more information online at [Solano GSA Board of Directors - scwa2.com/](http://SolanoGSABoardofDirectors-scwa2.com/)
- For more information about SGMA, see the California Department of Water Resources website: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>