

Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Meeting Agenda

308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 552-3591
WyandotteGSA@gmail.com

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Oroville City Council Chamber, 1735 Montgomery St, Oroville, CA 95965

No public comments or questions will be taken online.

Requests to Address Board

If you would like to address the Board at this meeting, you are requested to complete the blue speaker request form (located on the wall by the agendas) and hand it to the Board Clerk, who is seated on the right of the Council Chamber. The form assists the Clerk with minute taking and assists the Board in conducting an orderly meeting. Providing personal information on the form is voluntary. For scheduled agenda items, ***please submit the form prior to the conclusion of the staff presentation for that item.*** Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, the Board is prohibited from taking action except for a brief response from the Board or staff to statements or questions relating to a non-agenda item.

Attend in-person or listen in by one of the methods listed below. The Zoom option is for viewing purposes only.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91028842432?pwd=TVh4SIFHbUhyTG9oeXFnejFWUjEwZz09>

By Phone: 1-669-900-6833, Passcode: 17351735

Zoom Application: Meeting ID: 91028842432, Passcode: 17351735

Email: comments accepted until 12pm to publiccomment@cityoforoville.org

Board Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 *Approval of the 03-19-26 Wyandotte Creek GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes

Requested Action: Approve the 03-19-26 Wyandotte Creek GSA meeting minutes.

4. Regular Agenda

4.1 *Consideration of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget

The Board will consider approval of the recommended Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget. The proposed budget outlines anticipated revenues and expenditures based on current information and supports the GSA's administrative functions and groundwater sustainability activities for the upcoming fiscal year.

(Report – Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager)

Requested Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 Approving the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget.

5. Public Hearing Agenda

5.1 Opening of Public Hearing on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee

5.2 *Staff Presentation on the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee Study Report and the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026/27 SGMA Fee

5.3 Board Discussion

5.4 Public Comment

The Board will hold a noticed public hearing receive public comment on the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee Study Report and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025–26 SGMA fee

5.5 Closing of Public Hearing on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee

5.6 *Consideration of Resolutions Related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee and Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget

The Board will consider four related resolutions necessary to implement the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee Report. These include adopting the Fiscal Year 2026–27 Wyandotte Creek GSA Annual Operations Budget, setting the Fiscal Year 2026/27 SGMA fee, and certifying the legal process for fee adoption and collection. **(Report – Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager)**

Requested Action:

Adopt the following resolutions:

- **Resolution No. 2026-02** Adopting the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Fee Study Report
- **Resolution No. 2026-03** Setting the 2026/27 Wyandotte Creek GSA Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Fee and Request of County to Collect the Fee on the 2026/27 Tax Roll
- **Resolution No. 2026-04** Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency Certifying to the County of Butte the Validity of the Legal Process Used to Place Direct Assessments (Special Assessments) on the Secured Tax Roll

6. Reports and Correspondence

6.1 GSA Program Manager Update (Verbal Report)

6.2 *Butte County Public Health Department Quarterly Well Permit Summary. (Information Only)

6.3 *Tribal Engagement in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin (Information Only)

7. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

This is the time for the public to address the Board on items not listed on the agenda. The Wyandotte Creek GSA Board is prohibited by State law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person.

8. Adjourn the Meeting

The meeting will be adjourned. A special meeting of the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board will be scheduled for **June 18, 2026 at 2:00 pm.**

Accommodating Those Individuals with Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Oroville encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you have a special need in order to allow you to attend or participate in our public meetings, please contact the Board Clerk at (530) 538-2535, well in advance of the regular meeting you wish to attend, so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. Documents distributed for public session items, less than 72 hours prior to meeting, are available for public inspection at City Hall, 1735 Montgomery Street, Oroville, California.

Recordings: All meetings are audio recorded.

**Materials included in Packet*

WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2026

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – led by Chair Connelly
2. **Roll Call:** Bruce Wristen, William Bynum, Kyle Daley, Janet Goodson, Chair Connelly
3. **Approval of the 02-26-26 Wyandotte Creek GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Approved the 02-26-26 Wyandotte Creek GSA meeting minutes by the following vote:

Motioned by: Goodson **Seconded by:** Bynum
AYES: Wristen, Bynum, Daley, Goodson, Connelly
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

4. ***Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Project Outcomes**

4.1 **Regional Conjunctive Use Project Recap**

The Board received a presentation providing final updates on the Regional Conjunctive Use Project, including outcomes from the Intra-Basin Water Exchange Feasibility Study, Surface Water Supplies Feasibility Study, and the Palermo Pilot Project. The presentation summarized key findings, implementation considerations, and potential opportunities to support groundwater sustainability through coordinated surface water use and recharge. The study concludes March 31, 2026. This was accepted for information.

4.2 **Data Gap/Monitoring Well Installation Project Recap**

The Board received a presentation providing final updates on the Data Gap Identification and Monitoring Network Improvements project. The presentation summarized the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells and stream gages designed to improve the monitoring network and address key data gaps identified in the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The project supports ongoing groundwater level monitoring and improved understanding of surface water-groundwater interactions. The project concludes March 31, 2026. This presentation was accepted for information.

5. ***Fee Study**

The Board received a presentation highlighting key components contained in the fee study as well as a review of the fee adoption schedule. This agenda item provided the opportunity for the Board to comment on the draft report. The Board voted to set May 21st, 2026 as the public hearing date to adopt the new fee. This was done by the following vote:

Motioned by: Goodson **Seconded by:** Daley
AYES: Wristen, Bynum, Daley, Goodson, Connelly
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

6. Reports and Correspondence

6.1. GSA Program Manager Update – ***None.***

7. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

None received.

8. Adjourn The Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44PM.



Agenda Transmittal

Subject: Consideration of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget

Contact: Dillon McGregor

Phone: (530) 552-3582

Meeting Date: May 21, 2026

Agenda Item: 4.1

BACKGROUND

The Board is considering the recommended FY 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget. The Financial and Administrative Systems Ad Hoc Committee met with Staff on February 5, 2026 to refine the recommended budget, and both Committee members concurred with the result. This is the first year of the five-year projected budget that was developed as part of the 2026 Wyandotte Creek GSA SGMA Fee Study that the Board accepted on March 19, 2026 as the approach and methodology for establishing an updated SGMA Fee (refer to Item 5).

DISCUSSION

The recommended budget totals \$436,425 in revenues and \$436,425 in expenses, fully funded by SGMA Regulatory Fees.

- Part 1, GSA Governance and Operations: \$224,675
- Part 2, SGMA Monitoring and GSP Implementation: \$211,750

FISCAL IMPACT

Adoption authorizes expenditures of up to \$436,425, fully funded by SGMA Regulatory Fees.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 2026-01 Approving the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget
2. Fiscal Year 2026/27 Wyandotte Creek GSA Annual Operations Budget

REQUESTED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 Approving the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget.

WYANDOTTE CREEK GSA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY RESOLUTION NO.

2026-01

APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 ANNUAL OPERATIONS BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County of Butte, City of Oroville, and the Thermalito Water and Sewer District entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in 2019 to form the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Wyandotte Creek GSA) pursuant to Water Code sections 10721 and 10723;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA was formed to provide sustainable groundwater management to the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Water Code sections 10720 and following (SGMA);

WHEREAS, section 15.2 of the JPA provides the Wyandotte Creek GSA authority to develop and adopt annual budgets which estimate the cost of operating the Wyandotte Creek GSA pursuant to SGMA and the JPA;

WHEREAS, section 15.2 in the JPA requires the Board adopt an annual budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year;

WHEREAS, section 9.3 of the JPA requires a supermajority vote to approve the annual budget;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA developed the 2026-27 budget as part of the development of the 2026 Fee Report, wherein the Board reviewed a draft budget, provided direction to staff on the draft budget, and a final budget was developed by staff and included in the 2026 SGMA Fee Report prepared by Hansford Economic Consulting for the GSA; and

WHEREAS, the final proposed annual budget, which is attached to and made a part of this resolution as Attachment A, is based on the Five-year Cost Projection and the economic approach developed in the 2026 Fee Report which includes the Wyandotte Creek GSA projections of revenue, staff expenses, consultant expenses, office expenses, legal costs, and groundwater management related expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY does hereby resolve, declare and order as follows:

1. The Wyandotte Creek GSA Board finds and determines that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board hereby approves and adopts the Wyandotte Creek GSA 2026-27 annual budget attached as Attachment A.
3. The Wyandotte Creek GSA 2026-27 annual budget will be funded through collection of a SGMA fee separately authorized and adopted by the Wyandotte Creek GSA.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY this 21st day of May 2026 as follows:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify as follows:

1. That we are the Board Chair and Secretary of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY; and
2. That the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency, passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 21, 2026, at the Oroville City Council Chamber, 1735 Montgomery St, Oroville, CA 95965

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have signed this certificate this 21st day of May 2026, at Oroville, California.

_____ Bill Connelly, Chair of the Board of Directors

_____ Dillon McGregor, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

WYANDOTTE CREEK GSA 2026-27 ANNUAL BUDGET

WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget	
REVENUES	
SGMA Regulatory Fees	\$436,425
TOTAL REVENUES	\$436,425
EXPENSES	
Part 1 GSA Governance & GSA Operations	
Independent Audit (FY25-26)	\$18,750
Financial Services	\$10,000
Legal Services	\$15,000
Legal Defense Reserve	\$25,000
Program Manager (w/County management)	\$52,000
Office Supplies	\$20,000
Professional Services	\$25,000
Fee Implementation Costs	\$25,000
Future Fee Study Reserve	\$10,000
County Tax Roll Fee Support	\$3,500
Part 1 Reserve	\$20,425
Part 1 Subtotal	\$224,675
Part 2: SGMA Monitoring & SGM	
Annual Reporting	\$40,000
2032 GSP Periodic Evaluation Reserve	\$40,000
Groundwater Monitoring	\$75,000
SW-GW Interaction Modeling	\$7,500
GSA Coordination & Outreach	\$5,000
Data Management System Maintenance	\$5,000
Cost Share County Technical Support	\$5,000
Grant Procurement	\$15,000
Part 2 Reserve	\$19,250
Part 2 Sub-Total	\$211,750
GSA Total Fee Setting Budget	\$436,425
Total Expenses	\$436,425



**Wyandotte Creek
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Agenda Transmittal**

Agenda Item: 5

Subject: Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolutions Adopting the Final SGMA Fee Study Report, Setting the Fiscal Year 2026/27 SGMA Fee, and Certifying the Legal Process for Placement on the Secured Tax Roll

Contact: Dillon McGregor **Phone:** 530.552.3589 **Meeting Date:** May 21, 2026 **Regular Agenda 5**

BACKGROUND

Water Code section 10730 authorizes the Wyandotte Creek GSA to impose regulatory fees to fund implementation of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Notice of this hearing was published in the Chico ER and Oroville Mercury-Register newspapers, emailed to the GSA email subscriber list, and posted on the GSA website, and the data supporting the Fee was made publicly available on the GSA website, the City of Oroville and the Department of Water & Resource Conservation at least 20 days prior to the hearing, as required by Water Code section 10730(d) and Government Code section 6066.

DISCUSSION

The Final SGMA Fee Study Report dated April 28, 2026 (Fee Study), prepared by Hansford Economic Consulting LLC, establishes a two-part regulatory fee for FY 2026/27:

- **Part 1 (Governance and Administration):** \$20.50 per parcel on all parcels except those Exempt or Unusable.
- **Part 2, Group 1 (Agricultural Users):** \$13.26 per cropped or managed wetland acre for parcels served by South Feather Water & Power Agency and parcels with direct diversion from the Feather River; \$15.58 per cropped or managed wetland acre for All Other Agricultural Users.
- **Part 2, Group 2 (Domestic Users):** \$0.94 per developed parcel for parcels served by Cal Water Oroville or Thermalito Water and Sewer District; \$3.76 per developed parcel for All Other Domestic Users.

Parcels served by South Feather Water & Power Agency are not subject to the Part 2, Group 2 fee. A third user group identified in the Fee Study Report, Group 3 (Grazing and Vacant), is only subject to the Part 1 fee.

The proposed Fee generates \$470,000 in FY 2026/27 revenue, which is \$33,575 above the proposed FY 2026/27 Annual Operations Budget of \$436,425 (Item 4.1). This difference is intentional. Setting the Fee slightly above current budgeted costs allows the Agency to build a prudent cash reserve (less than five months of operating costs) and cover anticipated cost increases in future years using only the annual West Region CPI escalator under Resolution 2026-03, rather than commissioning a new fee study. The cash reserve is separate from the Part 1 Reserve and Part 2 Reserve line items in the FY 2026/27 budget, which are budgeted expenditures for designated purposes.

There are three Resolutions presented for Board consideration:

- Resolution 2026-02 affirms, consistent with Water Code section 10730, that the Fee is a regulatory fee and not a tax: the amount does not exceed the reasonable cost of the regulatory activity, and cost allocation bears a fair and reasonable relationship to each payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, that activity.
- Resolution 2026-03 establishes an annual escalator based on the March-to-March change in the West Region All Urban Consumer Price Index, allowing the Board to adopt annual adjustments up to CPI in future years without conducting a new fee study. The Board retains discretion in any year to forgo or reduce the adjustment.
- Resolution 2026-04 certifies the legal process and provides the Agency's indemnification of Butte County as a condition of placement on the secured tax roll. The direct charge packet is due to the Butte County Auditor-Controller by August 10, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adoption is projected to generate \$470,000 in FY 2026/27, approximately 96% collected on the secured tax roll and 4% through direct hand billing.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 2026-02 with Attachment A (Final SGMA Fee Study Report)
2. Resolution No. 2026-03
3. Resolution No. 2026-04
4. SGMA Fee Public Hearing Power Point Presentation

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Following the noticed public hearing, adopt:

- Resolution No. 2026-02 Adopting the Final SGMA Fee Study Report
- Resolution No. 2026-03 Setting the FY 2026/27 SGMA Fee and Requesting Butte County Collect the Fee on the 2026/27 Tax Roll
- Resolution No. 2026-04 Certifying to the County of Butte the Validity of the Legal Process Used to Place Direct Assessments on the Secured Tax Roll



Wyandotte Creek GSA Board of Directors

SGMA Fee Public Hearing

May 21, 2026

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Reasons for New SGMA Fee

WCGSA adopted a fee in 2023 to fund its regulatory activities to keep management of the Subbasin groundwater resources under local control. That fee will be replaced with new fees July 2026 to:

- Spread the cost among **all beneficiaries** (current fee only charged to taxable properties)
 - Fees will continue to be collected with property taxes
 - Non-taxable properties will be invoiced directly by WCGSA
- Reflect land use and groundwater usage by different types of users within the Subbasin
- Provide greater flexibility to respond to SGMA regulation @ annual review

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New Fee Structure Calculation Steps

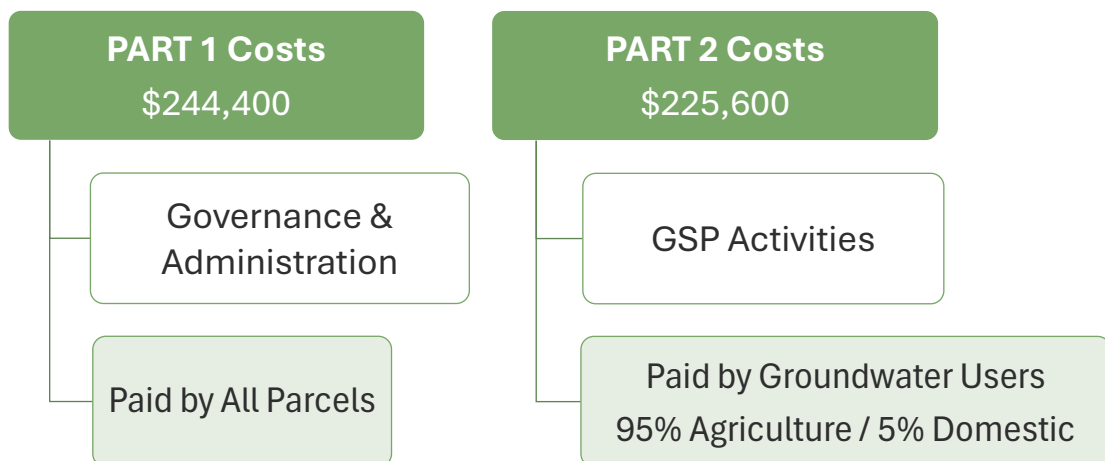
1. Determine the funding amount the fees must cover
2. Determine types of beneficiaries of the activities being funded
3. Allocate costs among the beneficiaries using fee units
 - Part 1 fee units = number of parcels
 - Part 2 fee units = number of cropped acres, managed wetland acres, and developed parcels
4. Calculate the fee per unit for FY27

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Annual Regulatory Costs - FY27 \$470,000



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Services Provided by the Part 1 Fee

- ✓ **GSA Administration** – Staff, legal support, financial reporting, and necessary operational costs.
- ✓ **Board of Directors Meetings & Public Oversight** – Ensuring local governance, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making authority.
- ✓ **Minimum SGMA Compliance Requirements** – Required to keep the GSA in existence and recognized by the State of California.

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How the Part 1 Fee Applies

The proposed **Part 1 fee** applies to **all parcels** of land in WCGSA's jurisdiction unless the parcel is:

- **Exempt** pursuant to SGMA. This includes federal properties, and properties held in trust by the federal government for tribes. De minimis users are not exempt because as a medium priority subbasin, the GSA regulates all water users in the subbasin.
- **Unusable** as determined using Butte County Assessor data. These parcels are not exempt legally from the fee but are not charged because they can never be developed or the parcel has insufficient data available upon which to charge the fee.

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Services Provided by the Part 2 Fees

- ✓ **SGMA Monitoring and reporting** – Required reporting (Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations) and ongoing data collection related to groundwater extraction.
- ✓ **Groundwater Monitoring & Data Management** – Tracking extractions, basin conditions, and sustainability trends.
- ✓ **GSP Implementation** – Activities identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to achieve long-term sustainability.
- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach** – Working with groundwater users to ensure compliance and educate the public on sustainability efforts.

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How Part 2 Fees Apply

Part 2 fees reflect groundwater use patterns

- **Agriculture:** fee per cropped acre
 - **Managed Wetlands:** fee per managed wetland acre
 - **Domestic parcels:** fee per developed parcel
- } Same fee per acre

Agriculture

- **Cropped Acres** is defined as any land identified using Department of Water Resources' most recently published crop mapping layer
- **Managed Wetlands** is defined as land identified using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's BIOS data for the Great Valley Ecoregion [ds2632]. The managed wetland acre must be within a parcel with a wetlands conservation easement.

Domestic

- Defined as parcels with a building/structure identified by the Assessor or Federal Emergency Management Agency structures databases.

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Lower Part 2 Fee for Certain Parcels

- Parcels served by SFWPA, Cal Water Oroville and TWSD, and direct irrigation surface water diverters on the Feather River pay a lower Part 2 fee because they help improve groundwater storage in the subbasin
 - Improved groundwater storage reduces Part 2 costs generation

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Key Differences between Current & New Fees

- New fees charged to all parcels, not just the taxable parcels
- Agricultural parcels will only pay acreage fees on their cropped or managed wetland acres, not their entire parcel
- Grazing land will only pay the Part 1 fee (a flat parcel fee), not an acreage fee for the entire parcel
- Domestic Feather River water users and Irrigation Feather River water users will pay a lower fee because use of this water source helps minimize Part 2 costs; current fee structure does not provide for this

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Proposed New SGMA Fees Schedule

Fee Part	Type of Water Use	Calculated	
		FY27 Fee	Fee Application
Part 1 Fee	Every Parcel is charged the Part 1 fee unless Exempt or Unusable	\$20.50	per Parcel
Part 2 Fees	Part 2 fee(s) are added to the Part 1 fee [1]		
Group 1	SFWPA & Feather River direct diversion Ag. Users	\$13.26	per Cropped or Managed Wetland Acre [2]
	All Other Agricultural Users	\$15.58	per Cropped or Managed Wetland Acre [2]
Group 2	SFWPA Users	\$0.00	per Developed Parcel
	Cal Water Oroville & TWSD Users	\$0.94	per Developed Parcel
	All Other Domestic Users	\$3.76	per Developed Parcel
Group 3	Grazing & Vacant	\$0.00	

[1] A Parcel with agricultural and domestic water use will be charged both Group 1 and Group 2 fees.
 [2] Cropped or managed wetland acreage of the Assessor Parcel within the WCGSA boundaries.

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New SGMA Fee Impacts

Parcel Size (acres)	Use	Water Provider	FY 2027 FEE		Fee Difference
			New Structure	Current Structure	
			a	b	c = a-b
2	Domestic	Private Well	\$24.26	\$3.80	\$20.46
0.5	Domestic	SFWPA	\$20.50	\$8.57	\$11.93
0.15	Domestic	Cal Water Oroville	\$21.44	\$2.57	\$18.87
100	Agriculture	Private Well	\$1,578.50	\$2,692.00	(\$1,113.50)
100	Mg'd Wetland	Private Well	\$1,578.50	\$190.00	\$1,388.50
100	Agriculture	SFWPA	\$1,346.50	\$1,714.00	(\$367.50)
100	Ag. & Domestic (95 acres cropped)	Private Well	\$1,504.36	\$2,692.00	(\$1,187.64)
100	Grazing Land		\$20.50	\$190.00	(\$169.50)

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How will the Fees Change Each Year?

Every year the Board has ability to adjust the fee levels and fee methodology.

- The WCGSA Board can set the fee each year based on a percentage increase (maximum percentage increase established), or application of a price index without fee study/analysis – *0% increase is an option*
- If the fee needs to reflect a shift in costs between Part 1 and Part 2 fee collections, or if fee revenue need is greater than applying the maximum allowable percentage change in the resolution, the Board can adopt an updated fee

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What if a Parcel is Charged an Incorrect Part 2 Fee?

- WCGSA will update its existing Classification Change Request process, located on its website before property tax bills are issued
- Parcel owner submits and WCGSA reviews the request; incorrect data will be updated
- Corrections of Part 2 fees will be debited or credited on the next year's property tax bill
- WCGSA will develop a policy for the method to debit or credit corrected Part 2 fees for hand bills

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Questions & Answers

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Current Fee Structure

Parcel Category	Annual Fee per Acre	Current MAX Fee
Non-Irrigated	\$1.90	\$1.38
Irrigated - Surface Water	\$17.14	\$8.98
Irrigation - Groundwater	\$26.92	\$13.86
Total		


 @ \$470,000
 Fee Revenue

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WYANDOTTE CREEK GSA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

ADOPTING THE FINAL SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT FEE STUDY REPORT

WHEREAS, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Water Code sections 10720 and following (SGMA), in 2014 to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater consistent with rights to use or store groundwater, to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater, and to manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies to the greatest extent feasible;

WHEREAS, SGMA provides groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) with the authority to obtain the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater resources, including the powers and authorities to impose and collect fees on all benefited properties to fund regulatory activities within the GSAs' jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin Number 5-021.57) as a medium-priority basin under SGMA;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) covering the entire Wyandotte Creek Subbasin, which the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved on July 27, 2023;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Wyandotte Creek GSP requires exercising regulatory powers and authorities provided in SGMA for all applicable parcels within the Wyandotte Creek GSA's boundaries, including de minimis extractors (i.e., a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year);

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek GSA seeks to impose a groundwater sustainability fee as authorized by Water Code section 10730 to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including implementation of the Wyandotte Creek GSP;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency Final SGMA Fee Study Report prepared by Hansford Economic Consulting LLC ("Fee Study") sets forth the proposed methodology for charging a two-part regulatory fee to be known as the Wyandotte Creek GSA Groundwater Sustainability Fee ("Fee") for the purpose of managing the sustainability of the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin which is (1) a charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and (2) does not exceed the reasonable cost to the local government of conferring the benefit;

WHEREAS, the Fee Study describes the methodology for apportioning the cost of the Wyandotte Creek GSA's groundwater sustainability program activities across parcels within the Wyandotte Creek GSA's jurisdictional area, including specifying how costs are allocated between parcels, including parcels with de minimis groundwater extraction;

WHEREAS, the Fee Study includes detailed estimates of the revenue requirements of the Wyandotte Creek GSA's groundwater sustainability program, including, without limitation, administrative and overhead costs, GSP implementation costs, data gathering and monitoring costs, planning costs, reporting costs, public engagement costs, and costs of continued SGMA compliance;

WHEREAS, the Fee Study proposes to establish annual fees to fund the anticipated costs of the Wyandotte Creek GSA's groundwater sustainability program, and the Fee per parcel will be collected via the County's property taxes or via direct billing;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board of Directors provided notice and conducted a public hearing on May 21, 2026, as required by Water Code section 10730(b), regarding the proposed Fee;

WHEREAS, the Fee Study establishes that the Fee adopted herein is not a tax, the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the regulatory activity, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the regulatory activity;

WHEREAS, the Fee Study is attached hereto as Attachment A and hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA has determined that its regulatory activity includes de minimis extractors pursuant to this Resolution;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code section 10730(d), prior to imposing the Fee, the Wyandotte Creek GSA has held a noticed public meeting on the date of this resolution, at which the public was provided the opportunity to make written or oral presentations on the Fee Study and proposed fees therein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code section 10730(d), the Wyandotte Creek GSA posted notice of the time and place of the public meeting at which the Fee will be considered, the notice was published in the newspaper in compliance with Government Code section 6066, the notice was posted on the Wyandotte Creek GSA's website and was mailed to interested parties, and the data to support the Fee was available to the public at least 20 days before the Wyandotte Creek GSA's public meeting to impose the Fee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

1. The Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek GSA hereby finds that the facts set forth in the Recitals to this Resolution are correct and establish the factual basis for the Wyandotte Creek GSA's adoption of this Resolution.
2. The Board finds that all prerequisites required before adopting the Fee Study have been met, including the proper public noticing of the hearing and the conduct of the public hearing.
3. The Board hereby approves the SGMA Fee Study and finds that it is the proper basis on which to establish the Fee, and that the Fee adopted herein is not a tax, that the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on,

or benefits received from, the governmental activity.

4. The Board hereby adopts the Fee, including a Fee on de minimis extractors, on all Parcels within the Wyandotte Creek GSA boundaries as set forth in Attachment A hereto.
5. The Program Manager of the Wyandotte Creek GSA is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Auditor-Controller of Butte County. Upon such filing, the Auditor-Controller shall enter on the County assessment roll opposite each lot or parcel of land the amount of fee thereupon as shown in the levy roll. The fees shall continue to be collected at the same time and in the same manner as County taxes are collected and all the laws providing for collection and enforcement shall apply to the collection and enforcement of the assessments. After collection by the County, the net amount of the assessments, after deduction of any compensation due the County for collection, shall be paid to the Wyandotte Creek GSA. Reference is hereby made to the direct charge levy roll on file with the Program Manager of the Wyandotte Creek GSA, as it is too voluminous to be bound with this resolution. This roll file contains a list of parcels and the amount to be collected for each parcel.
6. The Program Manager of the Wyandotte Creek GSA is hereby authorized and directed to cause the direct billing of the Fee for entities that do not receive a tax bill.
7. The Program Manager and Legal Counsel of the Wyandotte Creek GSA are hereby authorized and directed to take such other and further steps as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purpose of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY this 21st day of May 2026.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify as follows:

1. That we are the Board Chair and Secretary of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY; and
2. That the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency, passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 21, 2026, at the Oroville City Council Chamber, 1735 Montgomery St, Oroville, CA 95965.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have signed this certificate on this 21st day of May 2026, at Oroville, California.

_____ Bill Connelly, Chair of the Board of Directors

_____ Dillon McGregor, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A
FEE STUDY



FINAL

**Wyandotte Creek GSA
Fee Study**

April 28, 2026

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ACRONYMS

BIOS – California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Biogeographic Information and Observation System

CCED – California Conservation Easement Database

CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission

DWR – California Department of Water Resources

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

GFOA - Government Financial Officers Association

GIS – Geographic Information System

GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency

GSP – Groundwater Sustainability Plan

JPA – Joint Power Authority

SFWPA – South Feather Water and Power Agency

SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

TWSD – Thermalito Water and Sewer District

WAC – Wyandotte Creek Advisory Committee

WCGSA – Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency

FEE STUDY PREFACE

The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WCGSA) commissioned this study to evaluate alternative fee methodologies to develop a fee that will support the typical annual operation costs of its regulatory program authorized under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The analyses, opinions, and findings contained within this report are based on primary data collected through interviews and research, as well as many sources of secondary data available as of the date of this report. While it is believed that the secondary sources of information are accurate, this is not guaranteed. Updates to the information used in this report could change or invalidate the findings contained herein.

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the data contained in this study reflects the most accurate and timely information possible. No responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies in reporting by WCGSA, its consultants and representatives, or any other data source used in the preparation of this study. No warranty or representation is made that any of the projected values or results contained in this study will be achieved. There typically are differences between forecasted or projected results and actual results due to changes in events and circumstances.

Events that may affect the findings in this study include changes in economic and social conditions such as major recessions, availability of water resources, major environmental problems, or disasters that could negatively affect operations, expenses and revenues of the WCGSA. In addition, other factors not considered in the study may influence actual results.

The fee study consultant team that prepared this report includes:

Catherine Hansford, HEC LLC
Schaelene Rollins, Rollins PR Consulting
Diego Ramirez, KSN, Inc.

We want to thank WCGSA staff, the Board of Directors, and all the stakeholders who helped inform development of the WCGSA SGMA fee for Fiscal Year 2027.

Catherine Hansford



Hansford Economic Consulting LLC

Section 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WCGSA or Agency) was formed under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to provide groundwater management in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin (Subbasin) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code, Sections 10720 and following. The Agency oversees groundwater management for urban areas such as Oroville, Thermalito, and Palermo, as well as surrounding agricultural and recreational lands. WCGSA is governed by its Board of Directors (Board), which includes its member agencies' directors from the City of Oroville (City), County of Butte (County), and Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWSD), and two stakeholder directors representing (1) agricultural users and (2) domestic well users. **Figure 1** on the following page illustrates the jurisdictional boundaries of the WCGSA.

SGMA provides for the local management of groundwater by mandating that all groundwater basins in the State of California (State) achieve sustainability by 2042.¹ Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2016, circulated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), identifies the groundwater basins and subbasins to be managed and designates their priority status. DWR designated the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin as a medium priority basin (due to long-term threats to groundwater sustainability), which requires the subbasin be managed by implementing a state-approved groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Pursuant to this requirement, the WCGSA submitted the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin GSP to DWR, and DWR approved the GSP on July 27th, 2023.

SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.² The six undesirable results are:

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation period,
2. Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage,
3. Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion,
4. Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies,
5. Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses, and
6. Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

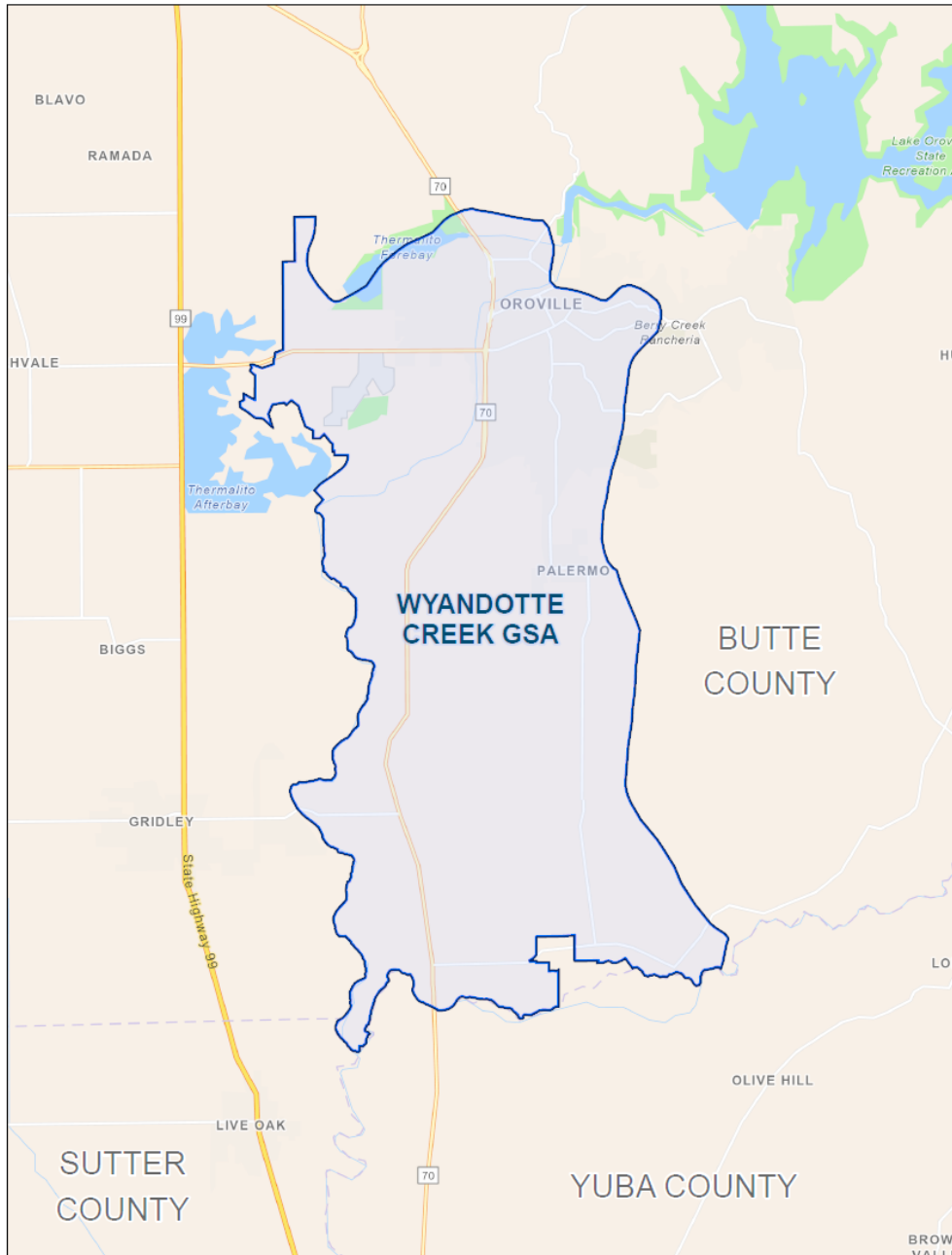
The GSP addresses each of these undesirable results as they pertain to the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin (Subbasin) and provides a plan for sustainability within twenty years. Each year, WCGSA submits its annual report to DWR on or before April 1 to report on groundwater conditions and implementation status of its GSP over the prior water year.³ WCGSA works to ensure groundwater supplies are professionally managed to support urban and rural communities, agricultural land uses, recreational uses, and environmental uses now and in the future.

¹ Critically overdrafted basins must achieve sustainability by 2040.

² Water Code Section 10721.

³ The water year runs from October 1 through September 30.

Figure 1
Map of the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin



Source: California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (update 2016); Subbasin 5-021.69.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE FEE STUDY

In 2025, the WCGSA Board approved a contract for a study to explore fee options that consider the characteristics of different water users within the Subbasin. A new fee structure will replace the current fee, providing greater flexibility to respond to SGMA regulation, as it may be modified by the State Legislature, regulation, and common law, while meeting the diverse needs of water users in the Subbasin.

WCGSA requires sufficient revenue to cover essential operating expenses, support staffing, fund investigative studies, and address data gaps that improve its understanding of the Subbasin. Revenues also support monitoring activities, the preparation of annual reports, and periodic evaluations as required by SGMA. By funding these SGMA-required activities with appropriately calculated fees, WCGSA will ensure that it stays compliant with State law while maintaining local control and decision making over groundwater management. Landowners in the Subbasin benefit from the sustainable groundwater management activities funded by these fees, which are essential for protecting the long-term health of the groundwater basin, a condition that is vital for the prosperity and security of all who rely on it.

Under SGMA, WCGSA has the legal authority to charge fees, conduct investigations, require reporting, and take other actions to sustainably manage groundwater resources of the Subbasin. Under Article 15 of the JPA, the Agency is authorized to impose fees to fund its activities as provided in Chapter 8 of SGMA (commencing with Section 10730 of the Water Code). Water Code Sections 10730 and 10730.1 set forth the authority for the WCGSA to establish and charge regulatory SGMA fees. The SGMA fees described in this report are being adopted pursuant to these authorities to cover WCGSA's reasonable costs of the SGMA regulatory program. The fees are proportional and related to the benefits of the program and are calculated to collect no more revenue than required to pay for the costs of the services WCGSA is providing. WCGSA, as the GSA for a medium priority basin, must and does regulate all water users in the Subbasin's boundaries, including "de minimis extractors".⁴

Goals of the fee study are:

1. Establish and secure SGMA regulatory fees that the WCGSA can adopt with confidence and support from interested parties and stakeholders.
2. Provide a fee structure that generates sufficient revenue to support the financial obligations and budget needs of the Agency to perform the duties required of it under SGMA.
3. Ensure the fees are based on the most current, reliable data available and reflect the reasonable costs of WCGSA's groundwater management services.
4. Adopt a fee structure that is easily understood and administered, charged, and collected.

A key tenet in developing the fees has been to maintain transparency throughout their development, informing the WCGSA fee payors about the fee study, opportunities for involvement, and how to provide input to the process. The SGMA fees developed in this report used two key pillars of information that were constructed through the fee study process:

- (1) Stakeholder and public input on who should be charged, and the most reasonable fee structure, and
- (2) Available reliable data upon which to estimate the benefits received by WCGSA services each year.

This report documents the methodology, public outreach conducted, and WCGSA's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27)⁵ SGMA fees.

⁴ A de minimis extractor pumps less than two acre-feet per year for domestic purposes. Domestic use excludes any commercial activities pursuant to Water Code Section 10721(e).

⁵ The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

Board of Directors Approval and Annual Adjustments

It is anticipated that the proposed SGMA fees will be adopted by the Board by resolution in May 2026. Pursuant to JPA Section 9.3, the adoption of fees requires a supermajority (an affirmative vote of four or more Directors). The 2026 resolution will adopt the fee study and establish the FY27 fees and a methodology for calculating fees in future years. The Agency will adopt a fee resolution each year to determine the SGMA fees for the next fiscal year and place the fees calculated for each Assessor’s parcel on the tax roll. The fees should be adjusted each year as necessary to raise sufficient revenues by one of following methods:

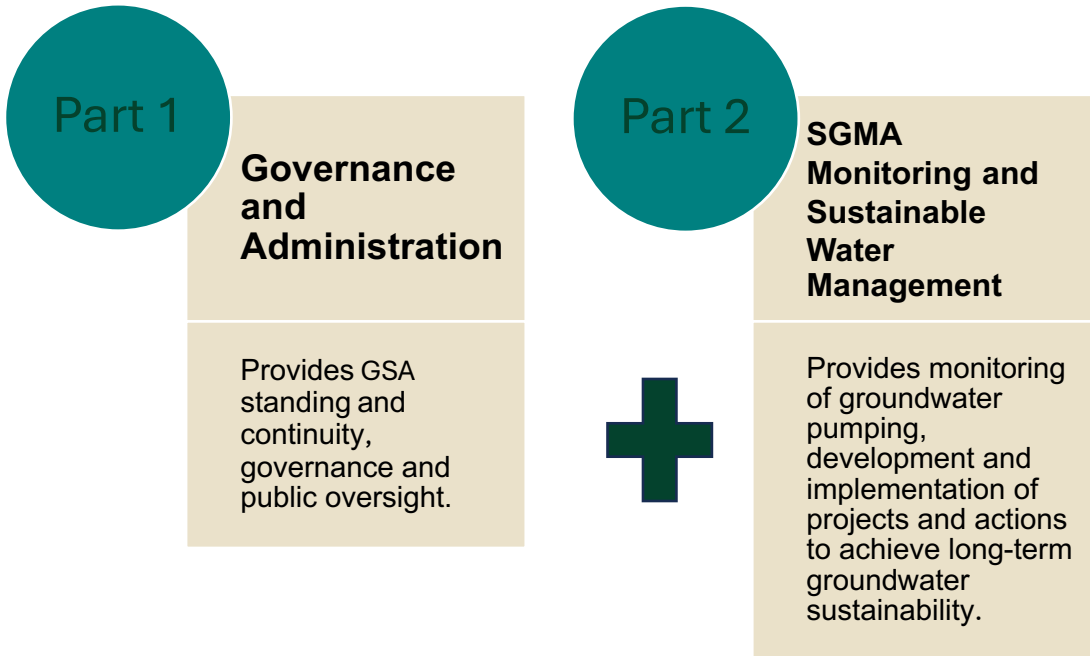
- 1. Application of a change in a price index established in the resolution adopting the fee⁶, or
- 2. Application of a percentage increase up to a maximum established by the Board (such as 5%).

The above two methods can be included as an automatic escalator in the fee adoption resolution. Applying one of these automatic escalators will avoid the need to modify the fee study or prepare a new study and hold a fee setting proceeding in a subsequent year. However, if the amount of a future year’s fee would exceed the amount of the FY27 fee as escalated by one of the above methods, or if WCGSA must adjust the percentage of costs allocated between the Part 1 and Part 2 fees, the Board would conduct a new fee increase proceeding to set the fees at a level sufficient to ensure that WCGSA may meet its revenue and budget targets for the upcoming years. Regardless, the WCGSA Board will annually review the fee structure and set the upcoming year’s fee and update the existing fee study or commission a new study when significant changes are necessary.

1.3 FEE STRUCTURE

Fee Structure

The WCGSA SGMA regulatory fee structure is divided into **two parts** based on the different services the Agency provides:



The two-part fee structure is necessary to ensure WCGSA’s fees are reasonably related to the services

⁶ The March to March change in the West Region All Urban Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is recommended.

provided: Part 1 maintains WCGSA’s operations, covering all land in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin as required by SGMA; Part 2 ensures that groundwater and conjunctive water users⁷ pay for sustainable groundwater management.

Part 1 Fee: Governance and Administration

The Part 1 fee covers the costs of having WCGSA in place and providing the administrative and regulatory services legally required for operating the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin under SGMA. The Part 1 fee applies to all parcels of land because all lands included within the boundaries of the Subbasin must be managed by a GSA due to the basin designation.

Part 1 Fee Service Provided: Maintaining a functioning GSA as required by SGMA to the benefit of all landowners in the Subbasin.

The Part 1 Fee covers the following cost items:

- ✓ **Agency Standing and Continuity** – Activities required to keep the Agency established, operational, and recognized as the GSA for the Subbasin. Includes administrative activities such as staffing, legal support, financial reporting, County fees, and supplies.
- ✓ **Board of Directors Meetings and Public Oversight** – Ensuring local governance and control (avoiding state intervention), stakeholder engagement, and decision-making authority.

Part 2 Fee: SGMA Monitoring and Sustainable Groundwater Management

The Part 2 fee provides funding for activities to sustainably manage groundwater.

Part 2 Fee Service Provided: Groundwater monitoring and sustainable groundwater management, ensuring long-term groundwater availability and avoidance of the six undesirable results outlined in Section 1.1.

The Part 2 Fee covers the cost of the following management activities:

- ✓ **DWR Reporting** – Required reporting (Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations) and ongoing data collection related to groundwater supply and quality.
- ✓ **Groundwater Monitoring and Data Management** – Tracking extractions, Subbasin conditions, and sustainability trends.
- ✓ **GSP Implementation** – Conducting activities identified in the GSP to achieve long-term sustainability.
- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach** – Working with groundwater users to ensure compliance and educating the public on sustainability efforts.

These activities provide direct benefit to groundwater and conjunctive groundwater/surface water users as they improve understanding of how groundwater is used in the Subbasin and inform management efforts that will support the long-term sustainability of groundwater.

⁷ Conjunctive water refers to at least one other water source used in addition to groundwater such as surface water or precipitation.

The Part 2 fee is determined by groundwater or conjunctive water user type. Groundwater and conjunctive water users have been placed into three groups.

Group 1: Agricultural and Managed Wetland users who receive and manage water resources for crop irrigation, wetlands habitat, or both purposes. The same fee amount is charged per cropped acre or managed wetland acre. A cropped acre is identified using DWR’s most recent cropping mapping layer. A managed wetland acre is identified using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) data for the Great Valley Ecoregion [ds2632]. The managed wetland acre must be within a parcel with a wetlands conservation easement identified in the California Conservation Easement Database (CCED).

- Agricultural parcels supplied South Feather Water and Power Agency (SFWPA) irrigation water pay a lower Part 2 fee per cropped or managed wetland acre.
- Agricultural parcels that divert surface water directly from the Feather River pay a lower Part 2 fee per cropped or managed wetland acre.

Group 2: Domestic (including commercial) users, including those served by state small water systems and public water systems, who rely on sufficient quantity of and adequate quality of water for residential or business activities. This fee is charged to all properties with a building or structure, called a “developed parcel”. Developed parcels of land are identified using the most recent Butte County Assessor’s parcel information and the most recent Butte County FEMA map.

- Domestic parcels served drinking water by SFWPA are only subject to the Part 1 fee.
- Domestic parcels served by Cal Water Oroville and TWSD have a lower Part 2 fee.

Why do some water users pay a lower Part 2 fee?

Parcels that use water diverted from the Feather River or its waters impounded in Lake Oroville are subject to a lower Part 2 fee (or no Part 2 fee if this is their only water source) because this water source helps the Subbasin achieve sustainability by increasing groundwater recharge; and in doing so, helps minimize Part 2 costs.

Use of other surface water sources, which include captured rainfall, Wyandotte Creek, Wyman Ravine and other riparian sources, does not help the Subbasin achieve sustainability because these water sources are connected with Subbasin groundwater. This relationship or interconnectivity of surface and groundwater sources within the Subbasin is well documented in the GSP.⁸

Group 3: Properties with minimal or no groundwater use, such as grazing land and vacant parcels. These parcels are only subject to the Part 1 fee and have a \$0 Part 2 fee because they do not benefit from groundwater monitoring and management in the same way extractors do. If they use any groundwater, it is minimal (stock water for example), and the use is not required to be reported by DWR.

⁸ GSP, Page 73, “The term interconnected surface water describes surface water features that are hydraulically connected by a continuous saturated zone to an underlying aquifer such that changes in elevations of either the aquifer or the surface water features propagate throughout the interconnected system. Within the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin, it is likely that surface water features are interconnected with shallow groundwater”.

The Part 1 and Part 2 fees are added together to determine the total fee charged to each Assessor's parcel. The fees will be collected from every parcel on the secured property tax bill, unless the property owner does not receive a property tax bill, in which case the Agency will 'hand bill' the fee directly to the landowner.

1.4 CALCULATED FISCAL YEAR 2027 FEES

The proposed fee applies to all parcels of land in WCGSA's jurisdiction unless the parcel is:

- **Exempt** pursuant to SGMA. This includes federal properties and properties held in trust by the federal government for tribes. It does not include "de minimis extractors" as they are regulated under the WCGSA GSP.
- **Unusable** as determined using Butte County Assessor data. These parcels are not charged because the land can never be developed due to geographical features, such as a lake, or the parcel has insufficient data available upon which to charge the fee. These parcels are identified as having land use code UU, U, or 9999 and have not been assigned a taxability code, per the Butte County Assessor.

Table 1 presents the calculated Part 1 and Part 2 fees for FY27. As noted in the table, a parcel can have more than one type of use. For example, a ranch on a predominantly agricultural parcel would be charged the Part 1 fee plus the Part 2 Group 1 fee for cropped acres, and the Part 2 Group 2 fee for the home (domestic) water use of the parcel. Key fee terms are defined here:

Cropped Acre. Land that is identified as cropped in DWR's most recently published crop mapping layer. The definition includes all DWR crop codes which are shown in **Table 2**.

Developed Parcel. A parcel with a building/structure identified using FEMA and Butte County Assessor databases.

Grazing Land. Non-irrigated land used for grazing livestock.

Parcel. A parcel of real property identified by a Butte County Assessor's Parcel Number.

Managed Wetland Acre. Land that is identified using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's BIOS data for the Great Valley Ecoregion [ds2632]. The managed wetland acre must be within a parcel with a wetlands conservation easement identified in the CCED.

Fee Collection

The total WCGSA SGMA fee imposed on each parcel will be collected by placing it on the tax roll prepared by the Butte County Auditor-Controller each year. Properties not assessed on the tax roll ("non-taxable" parcels) include parcels owned by railroad companies and utilities, the State, and local governments if those parcels are located within their own jurisdiction. WCGSA will directly "hand bill" non-taxable parcels. About 4% of total revenue will be collected via hand bills.

**Table 1
FY27 WCGSA SGMA Calculated Fee**

Fee Part	Type of Water Use	Calculated	
		FY27 Fee	Fee Application
Part 1 Fee	Every Parcel is charged the Part 1 fee unless Exempt or Unusable	\$20.50	per Parcel
Part 2 Fees	Part 2 fee(s) are added to the Part 1 fee [1]		
Group 1	SFWPA & Feather River direct diversion Ag. Users	\$13.26	per Cropped or Managed Wetland Acre [2]
	All Other Agricultural Users	\$15.58	per Cropped or Managed Wetland Acre [2]
Group 2	SFWPA Users	\$0.00	per Developed Parcel
	Cal Water Oroville & TWSD Users	\$0.94	per Developed Parcel
	All Other Domestic Users	\$3.76	per Developed Parcel
Group 3	Grazing & Vacant	\$0.00	

[1] A Parcel with agricultural and domestic water use will be charged both Group 1 and Group 2 fees.

[2] Cropped or managed wetland acreage of the Assessor Parcel within the WCGSA boundaries.

Table 2
DWR Crop Mapping Crop Codes

DWR Code	DWR Description	Land IQ Description
C	CITRUS & SUBTROPICAL	Avocados, citrus, dates, eucalyptus, kiwis, olives
D	DECIDUOUS FRUITS & NUTS	Almonds, apples, apricots, cherries peaches & nectarines, pears, pecans, pistachios, plums, pomegranates, prunes, walnuts
F	FIELD CROPS	Beans, corn, cotton, safflower, beets, sunflowers
G	GRAIN & HAY CROPS	Grain & hay, wheat
I	IDLE	Long-term idle (fallow 4+ years) & Short term idle (cropped in the last 3 years)
P	PASTURE	Alfalfa & alfalfa mixes, pasture, grasses
R	RICE	Rice and wild rice
T	TRUCK NURSERY & BERRY CROPS	Bushberries, carrots, cole crops, flowers, nursery & Xmas trees, greenhouse, lettuce / leafy greens, melons, squash, cucumbers, truck crops, onions & garlic, peppers, potatoes & sweet potatoes, tomatoes
UL	URBAN LANDSCAPE	Golf course
V	VINEYARD	Grapes
X	UNCLASSIFIED	Not cropped, cropped partial year, or unclassified at time of remote-sensing
YP	YOUNG PERENNIAL	Young perennials

Section 2: FEE STUDY PROCESS

2.1 FEE AUTHORITY

WCGSA's fee authority is derived from SGMA, specifically Water Code Section 10730. Section 10730 allows the Agency to impose fees for regulated activities, including but not limited to, permits to operate wells, the costs of a groundwater sustainability program such as development and amendment of a GSP, investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration including a prudent reserve.

The SGMA fee must be no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and the manner in which the costs are allocated to a payor must bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burden on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.

2.2 WCGSA GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP

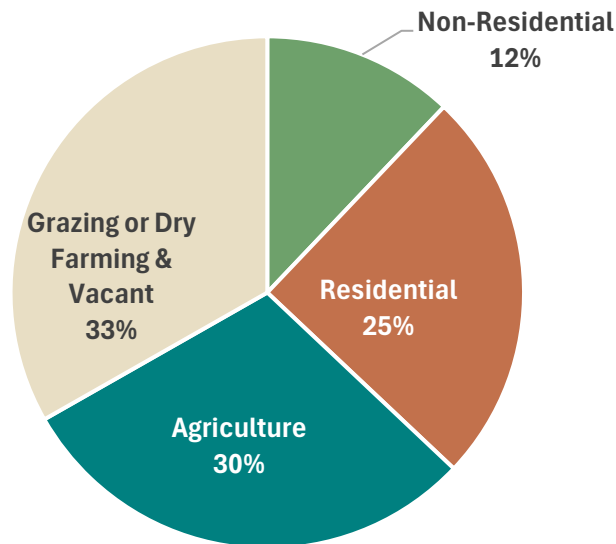
WCGSA is responsible for sustainably managing the groundwater in the Subbasin to the benefit of all beneficial uses and users. Beneficiaries include individuals, businesses, and government agencies, including the State. Beneficiaries may also include wildlife, riparian habitat and other environmental and recreational users of groundwater and surface water sources which are interconnected to groundwater. Landowners in the Subbasin are beneficiaries because these lands benefit from WCGSA's existence and groundwater management activities.⁹ Uses of land protected by WCGSA's stewardship of groundwater resources in the Subbasin are summarized in **Figure 2**.

WCGSA is monitoring and evaluating groundwater resources, as required by SGMA, to continually improve its hydrologic model as environmental conditions change. Groundwater resources need to be protected, monitored, and managed to ensure a stable supply of groundwater in the Subbasin. Properties may be using groundwater supplied by a public water system, by a domestic well, commercial production well, or an irrigation well, or they may be passive users of groundwater.

- Residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other domestic users of water may use groundwater exclusively, a mixture of groundwater and surface water, or surface water exclusively. Only SFWPA domestic customers use surface water exclusively.
- Agriculture predominantly uses groundwater; however, some surface water is utilized near the larger creeks that drain to the Feather River and via direct diversion from the Feather River.
- Grazing and dry farming generally depend on precipitation and springs for water resources; some of these lands use a minimal amount of groundwater for stock water. Grazing Land, dry farmed land, and even vacant developable land benefit from WCGSA's activities to maintain the ecological health of the ecosystems, supporting forage, and potential future irrigation of the land.
- Managed wetlands in the southern portion of the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin consume water for recreational, ecological and wildlife (primarily waterfowl) purposes subject to the terms of the conservation easements by which the properties are bound.

⁹ The alternative is State regulation and collection of fees by the State for its services.

Figure 2
Lands Benefiting from WCGSA Groundwater Stewardship



Source: Butte County Assessor.

An analysis of the Subbasin socioeconomic characteristics was conducted to better understand who is benefiting from sustainable groundwater management and to understand how best to communicate with these users. The analysis of US Census data revealed that about 19% of Butte County’s population lives in the Subbasin. In total, about 39,510 people permanently reside in the Subbasin, with the vast majority in the urban areas of Oroville, Oroville East, and Thermalito, and with a substantial number considered Disadvantaged¹⁰. About 20% of the population in WCGSA are Hispanic, and 12% are Asian.

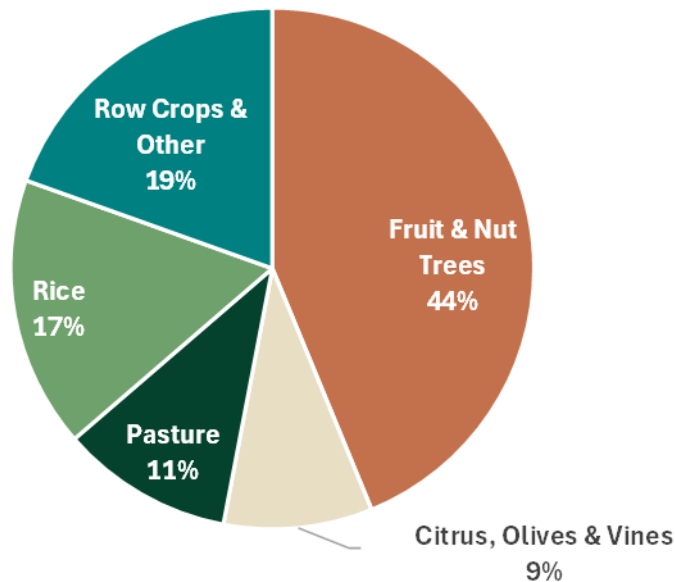
The urban areas of Oroville, Oroville East, Thermalito, Palermo and Honcut contain about 19% of the jobs in Butte County. Major industry sectors in these geographic places include health care and social assistance, public administration, and accommodation and food services (these three industry sectors comprise 61% of all jobs in the Subbasin). All of these industries depend on a sufficient quantity of good quality water. Cal Water, a private water company regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), serves homes and businesses in the City of Oroville. TWSD, a municipal water supplier, serves homes and businesses in and around the unincorporated community of Thermalito. SFWPA provides domestic water service to the suburban communities south and east of Oroville and portions of the unincorporated Palermo community. There are a few other smaller public water systems and small water systems serving neighborhoods, golf courses, industrial complexes, and food facilities. In total, there are 13 regulated water systems in the Subbasin.¹¹

Approximately 15,000 acres of agricultural land produce several different crops in the Subbasin. **Figure 3** shows the share of crop types grown in the WCGSA’s jurisdiction.

¹⁰ Disadvantaged is a term used by the State for a community with median household income less than 80% of the State’s median household income.

¹¹ Includes 11 public water systems and 2 state small water systems.

Figure 3
WCGSA Crops Grown



Source: Butte County Assessor.

2.3 SUBBASIN WATER USE ESTIMATES

Total Subbasin water use estimates are provided in the GSP and annual reports prepared for and submitted to DWR. The GSP estimates that groundwater supplies about 65% of the total water used in the Subbasin. During critically dry water years, groundwater pumping increases, and during wet years, it decreases due to more surface water availability. **Table 3** shows groundwater pumping has ranged from about 33,000 acre-feet to about 47,000 acre-feet per year the past few years.

The fee study grouped groundwater and conjunctive water users into three types based on the purpose of water use on the land.

Group 1: Agricultural Use. Agricultural uses include cropped land and managed wetlands. Cropped land is identified using DWR’s most recently released publicly available crop mapping dataset. The dataset is typically published two years after the water year ends in September. Managed wetland is identified using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s BIOS data for the Great Valley Ecoregion [ds2632]. The managed wetland acre must be within a parcel with a wetlands conservation easement identified in the CCED.

Group 2: Domestic Use. Parcels of land upon which there are domestic (including commercial) uses of groundwater. Parcels with domestic uses of land are identified as parcels with buildings/structures using data published by FEMA and the Butte County Assessor.

Group 3: Grazing or Vacant. All other lands capable of supporting economic activity; these include, but are not limited to, Grazing Land and vacant land that may not currently be supporting economic activity.

Table 3
Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Annual Water Deliveries

Water Year	GW Pumping	Surface Deliveries	Total Supply	GW as % of Total
All figures in acre-feet per year				
2021	46,300	33,200	79,500	58%
2022	45,700	14,900	60,600	75%
2023	34,500	22,400	56,900	61%
2024	33,900	20,400	54,300	62%
Four-Year Avg.	40,100	22,725	62,825	64%

Sources: GSA annual reports for water years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Table 4 shows that agricultural groundwater pumping comprises about 95% of total groundwater pumping in the Subbasin.

Table 4
Annual Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Groundwater Use Estimates

Water Year	Agricultural Prodn.	Municipal [1]	Domestic [2]	Total GW Use	Ag. as % of Total
<i>Acre-Feet per Year</i>					
2021	44,600	600	1,100	46,300	96.3%
2022	43,500	700	1,500	45,700	95.2%
2023	32,900	600	1,000	34,500	95.4%
2024	32,800	300	800	33,900	96.8%
4-Year Avg.	38,450	550	1,100	40,100	95.9%

Sources: GSA annual reports for water years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
 [1] Cal Water Oroville and Thermalito Water and Sewer District.
 [2] All other domestic users (industrial, rural residential, institutional, etc.).

2.4 FEE STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The fee study combined available reliable data, outreach input, and legal considerations to develop the proposed fee structure. Two key pillars of information informed the fee study process:

1. **Stakeholder and public input** on who should be charged, and the most reasonable fee structure; and,
2. **Available reliable data** upon which to estimate the benefits received by WCGSA services each year.

1. Stakeholder and Public Input

Outreach to the general public and stakeholders served as one of the fundamental components of establishing a reasonable, equitable and legally defensible fee structure. Key principles included transparency, inclusion, and recognition of the diversity of groundwater users in the Subbasin, as well as cultural, environmental, and economic considerations.

Stakeholder meetings were held in November and December 2025 with representatives of several interested parties including:

- Cal Water, TWSD, and SFWPA.
- Agricultural Stakeholders (owners of Grazing Land and Cropped Acres).
- Conservation Easement Landowners.

Recognizing that in-person public participation was extremely low during 2023 outreach efforts, the GSA held an evening online webinar on March 24, 2026 as an alternative to engage the public and obtain feedback. The webinar was advertised using several channels including a direct mail postcard, website posting, email to registered listserv users and advertised in the *Oroville Mercury* newspaper. Additionally, the public had opportunities to participate and provide input at WCGSA Board meetings and Wyandotte Creek Advisory Committee (WAC) meetings when the fee study was on the agenda. The fee study was discussed at Agency board meetings held on August 28 and November 20, 2025 and January 29 and March 19, 2026. It was also discussed at the November 6, 2025 WAC meeting.

GSA-Staff Led Meetings

The GSA Program Manager worked collaboratively with the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation staff to expand outreach activities by providing GSP and SGMA project updates to a variety of groups and organizations such as:

- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- Butte County Farm Bureau
- City of Oroville
- Butte County Water Commission
- TWSD Board of Directors

Staff and the fee consultant presented the proposed new SGMA fee to the SFWPA Board of Directors on February 24, 2026.

Wyandotte Creek Advisory Committee Input

The WAC provides input and recommendations to the Board of Directors on the development, implementation, and ongoing management of the Wyandotte Creek GSP. Key responsibilities outlined in Section 11.3 of the JPA include:

- Representing the interests of groundwater users and other stakeholders across the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin.
- Providing recommendations to the Board of Directors on groundwater management strategies and actions.
- Meeting as directed by the Board of Directors to review and discuss key issues related to the GSP.

A meeting was held with the WAC at the beginning of the fee setting process to receive input on the pros and cons of the current fee methodology; obtain input on the proposed changes to the current fee

methodology; identify primary stakeholders to involve early in the process; and learn about considerations of various water uses and users in the subbasin. Feedback was obtained from the members in attendance who collectively represent agriculture, water providers, businesses and environmental interests.

2. Available Reliable Data

Several fee structure options, including wellhead, extraction, acreage, and system connection-based fees were presented and considered; however, the Board decided on a hybrid, two-part fee structure for these reasons:

- The two-part fee structure best fits the differing levels of services provided to beneficiaries of the Agency's activities.
- All parcels (unless Exempt or Unusable) must be charged because these parcels receive the same Part 1 service from WCGSA.
- Part 2 service costs should be allocated between Agricultural and Domestic users of groundwater and conjunctive water sources based on historical estimates of each group's share of pumping as described in the annual reports prepared for DWR to reflect their impact on Subbasin groundwater supply.

The Part 2 fee is calculated accounting for these considerations:

- Cropped acres should be charged a uniform fee regardless of the crop type grown.
- Managed wetlands pumping groundwater to provide waterfowl and other riparian ecological benefits pursuant to a conservation easement should pay the same fee as cropped acres given the analogous nature of the use; and,
- Surface water diverted¹² and used within the Subbasin benefits all groundwater users in the Subbasin; therefore, parcels using this water source as a portion of their water supply should pay a lower fee. Surface water is diverted and used by SFWPA, Cal Water Oroville, and TSWD for domestic consumption, and by SFWPA and growers for irrigation.

Data Sources to Estimate Benefits Received

The process for fee evaluation and development must rely upon the best available data at the time the fee is developed. The fee study used the following data sources, which are the best available reliable data sources as of the time of this fee study report (April 2026):

- Butte County Assessor Parcel Database,
- The Wyandotte Creek Subbasin GSP, and the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports - [GSP and Annual Reports - Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency](#),
- Department of Water Resources Water Management Planning Tool - [The Water Management Boundary Tool](#),
- Butte County FEMA mapping - [USA Structures | FEMA Geospatial Resource Center](#),
- California Conservation Easement Database - [California Conservation Easement Database - Dataset - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data](#),
- Wetlands data - [Vegetation - Great Valley Ecoregion \[ds2632\] GIS Dataset](#),

¹² As described in Section 1.3, Feather River or its waters impounded in Lake Oroville only. Diverters of Wyandotte Creek, Wyman Ravine, Lower Honcut Creek, and other riparian sources within the Subbasin excluded.

- California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CalWATRS) - [California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System \(CalWATRS\) | California State Water Resources Control Board](#),
- State of California SAFER Clearinghouse to empower public water systems - [SAFER Clearinghouse](#), and
- LandIQ/DWR 2024 crop mapping [Statewide Crop Mapping - Dataset - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data](#).

A Geographic Information System (GIS) platform was used to create a web map application from which to conduct data queries and establish the necessary data for the fee database. The determination of fee-paying parcels, and acreage of those parcels using the GIS tool, is shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5
Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Acres and Parcels

Item	Acres	Parcels
Total	56,901	12,604
less Federal	35	9
less Unusable	1,632	39
Fee-Paying Parcels	55,234	12,556
Hand Bill	8,391	678
Tax Roll	46,843	11,878
Total Fee -Paying	55,234	12,556

Table 6 describes the fee units (Parcels, Cropped and Managed Wetland Acres, and Developed Parcels) in greater detail.

**Table 6
Explanation of Fee Parts Units**

Fee Part / Group	Identification of Fee Applicability
Part 1 Fee	Parcels within the WCGSA boundaries; Exempt and Unusable Parcels Excluded Unusable Parcel = Land Use Code UU or U (ditches, levees etc.) OR Land Use Code is 9999 (not yet defined) and doesn't have a Butte County Assessor Taxability Code
Part 2 Fees	Cropped & Managed Wetland Acres
Group 1: Agriculture	Identified using DWR's most recently published Crop Mapping Layer AND/OR managed wetland acreage using CDFW BIOS data layer provided the wetland is within a parcel with a wetland conservation easement; cropped/managed wetland must be at least 1 acre on at least 5% of the parcel
Group 2: Domestic	Developed Parcels
	Building on the Parcel identified using FEMA and Assessor databases (newer buildings may not be in the FEMA database; non-taxable parcels, parcels being updated, and parcels with multiple buildings may not be in Assessor database)
Group 3: Grazing & Vacant	All other Parcels -- subject to the Part 1 Fee Only

Section 3:FEE CALCULATION

3.1 COST BASIS OF FEE

The cost basis of the fee comprises the Agency’s operations costs and a prudent reserve. Operating expenses include agency staffing, legal counsel, general office expenses, audits, fee placement on the tax roll, annual reporting and monitoring to DWR, periodic evaluations of the GSP, and various other regulatory activities. The costs are classified as Part 1 or Part 2, depending on which parcels benefit from the specific service provided by WCGSA.

Part 1 Fee Service Provided: Maintaining a functioning GSA as required by SGMA to the benefit to all landowners in the Subbasin.

The Part 1 Fee covers the following cost items:

- ✓ **Agency Standing and Continuity** – Activities required to keep the Agency established, operational, and recognized as the GSA for the Subbasin. Includes administrative activities such as staffing, legal support, financial reporting, County fees, and supplies.
- ✓ **Board of Directors Meetings and Public Oversight** – Ensuring local governance, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making authority.

Part 2 Fee Service Provided: Groundwater monitoring and sustainable groundwater management, to ensure long-term groundwater availability and avoidance of the six undesirable results and State intervention.

The Part 2 Fee covers the following cost items:

- ✓ **DWR Reporting** – Required reporting (Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations) and ongoing data collection related to groundwater supply and quality.
- ✓ **Groundwater Monitoring and Data Management** – Tracking extractions, Subbasin conditions, and sustainability trends.
- ✓ **GSP Implementation** – Conducting activities identified in the GSP to achieve long-term sustainability.
- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach** – Working with groundwater users to ensure compliance and educate the public on sustainability efforts.

Table 7 shows the five-year costs forecast in current dollars prepared by WCGSA staff in consultation with the financial and administrative ad hoc committee, and with Board input.

**Table 7
Projected Budget Needs in Current Dollars**

Estimated Cost by Part	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Part 1						
Auditor	\$27,500	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$18,750
Financial Services	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Legal Defense Reserve	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Program Manager	\$48,000	\$52,000	\$57,000	\$62,000	\$66,000	\$70,000
Office Expense	\$13,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fee Implementation	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Future Fee Study Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
County Tax Roll Fee Support	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Part 1 Reserve		\$20,425	\$20,925	\$21,425	\$21,825	\$22,225
Subtotal Part 1	\$188,000	\$224,675	\$230,175	\$235,675	\$240,075	\$244,475
Part 2						
Annual Reporting	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
2032 GSP Periodic Evaluation Reserve	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Groundwater Monitoring	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
SW-GW Interaction Modeling	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
GSA Coordination & Outreach	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Data Management System Maint.	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Cost Share County Technical Report	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
Grant Procurement	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Part 2 Reserve		\$19,250	\$19,250	\$19,250	\$19,500	\$19,500
Subtotal Part 2	\$26,500	\$211,750	\$211,750	\$211,750	\$214,500	\$214,500
Total Part 1 + Part 2	\$214,500	\$436,425	\$441,925	\$447,425	\$454,575	\$458,975

Source: WCGSA staff, March 2026.

FY27 Cost Basis

Table 8 shows the cost basis for setting the FY27 fee. The FY 2027 base fee level is set at \$470,000, which is greater than the FY 2026 budget to account for anticipated cost increases and the Agency setting 2026 and previous years' fees at minimum levels.

Table 9 provides a cash flow analysis for the Agency for the next five fiscal years. Operating costs are inflated by 3.25% annually based on a review of the California and West Region consumer price indexes (published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) historical average annual changes since 2005. Fee revenues will be determined each year by the WCGSA Board. For the cash flow projection, the fees are estimated to increase 2.50% each year.

**Table 8
FY27 Fee Level Costs by Part**

Operations Cost Category	Cost Share by Fee Part	Cost Basis by Fee Part
Part 1 Costs	52%	\$246,630
Part 2 Costs	48%	\$223,370
FY27 Fee Level		\$470,000

**Table 9
Projected 5-Year Cash Flow**

Revenues and Expenses	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Revenue	revenue increase estimate 2.5% / yr				
SGMA Fee: Tax Roll	\$451,200	\$462,528	\$474,144	\$486,048	\$498,240
SGMA Fee: Hand Bill	\$18,800	\$19,272	\$19,756	\$20,252	\$20,760
Total Revenue	\$470,000	\$481,800	\$493,900	\$506,300	\$519,000
Operating Expenses inflated 3.25% / yr	\$450,600	\$471,100	\$492,500	\$516,600	\$538,600
Est. Net Revenue	\$19,400	\$10,700	\$1,400	(\$10,300)	(\$19,600)
Beginning Balance	\$150,000	\$169,400	\$180,100	\$181,500	\$171,200
Net Revenues	\$19,400	\$10,700	\$1,400	(\$10,300)	(\$19,600)
Estimated Ending Balance	\$169,400	\$180,100	\$181,500	\$171,200	\$151,600
Reserves					
Target Minimum Reserve	\$112,650	\$117,775	\$123,125	\$129,150	\$134,650
Cash Balance as % of Costs	38%	38%	37%	33%	28%
Financial Health Criteria					
Min. Reserve 3 months Op. Costs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Gross Revenues Ratio 1.2 X Expenses	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Not shown in **Table 9** is revenue from grant-funded projects. If grant funds are obtained for use in one or more fiscal years, the WCGSA Board will set the fee according to the budget impact of the grant revenues. Additionally, the table does not show additional revenue that may be generated by Parcels, Developed Parcels, Cropped Acres, and Managed Wetland Acres that result from finalizing the data set in July 2026 for the FY27 fee charges.¹³ It is anticipated that any additional revenue generated from this source would be more or less revenue neutral as sufficient to cover any bad debt or reductions in charges that arise due to

¹³ The calculation of FY27 fees includes a 5% final adjustment factor for Part 1 fees and a 10% final adjustment factor for Part 2 fees.

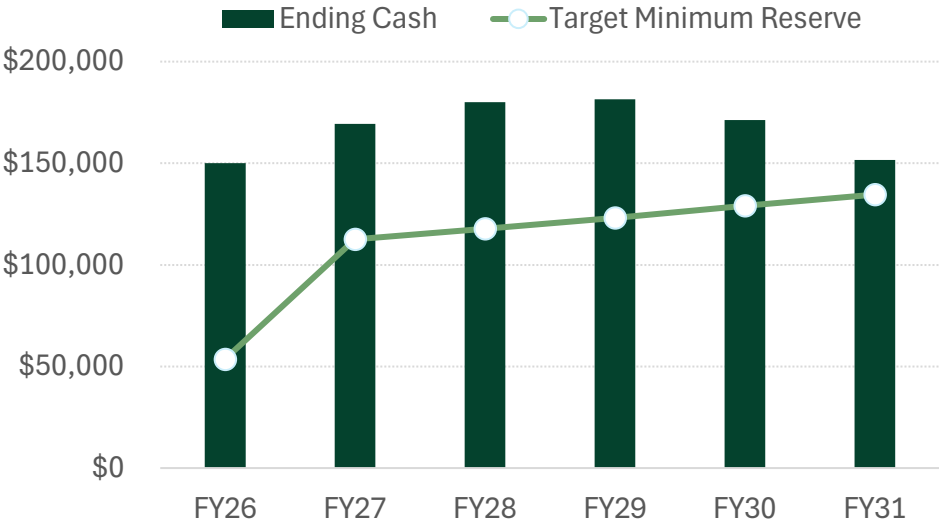
the correction of bills.¹⁴ The projected budget also includes an operating reserve that could be used in the event of lower than anticipated revenues collected.

The goal is to maintain cash reserves of at least three months of operating costs, which is necessary to ensure stable cash flow given the timing between the start of the fiscal year and the first property tax payment. This aligns with the Government Financial Officers Association’s (GFOA) recommendation, which sets two months of operating costs as the minimum reserve level. Another financial goal is for gross revenues (revenue plus cash balance) to exceed operating costs by 20%. These financial goals, aligned with GFOA guidelines, are expected to be met every year.

Note that the estimates of costs and revenues are best estimates; actual costs and revenues will likely vary over time, and there could be periods of time during the fiscal year when the WCGSA is unable to maintain its target minimum cash threshold because it needs to draw from reserves. For this reason, the Agency’s policy is to maintain prudent reserve levels above the GFOA recommended minimum reserve targets to smooth out the anticipated swings in revenues and expenses.

Figure 4 compares the projected ending cash balances with target minimum reserves each year. The projection is for fiscal year-end only and it is possible that at some point during the fiscal year, WCGSA may have to use reserves to pay invoices. This can happen because WCGSA will not receive any fee revenue between July and December of each year.¹⁵

Figure 4
Projected WCGSA Ending Cash Balances by Fiscal Year



¹⁴ Although the GSA will receive all fees placed on the tax roll, guaranteed by participating in Butte County’s Teeter Plan, fees that are hand billed may not be completely recoverable.

¹⁵ Fee revenue from hand bills may be received between October and December; however, this is a very small portion of annually billed fees.

3.2 FEE CALCULATIONS

There are three steps to calculating the fee schedule:

Step 1: Determine the Part 1 and Part 2 Costs

In the spring of each year, WCGSA staff will estimate projected costs, fiscal year-end cash balances, and fee revenues needed to maintain cash flow over the next five years. Based on this analysis, the fee levels for the next fiscal year may be set by the WCGSA Board by one of these two methodologies:

1. Application of a change in a price index established in the resolution adopting the fee; or,
2. Application of a percentage increase up to a maximum established by the Board (such as 5%).

If the amount of a future year’s fee would exceed the amount of the FY27 fee as escalated by one of the above two methodologies, or if WCGSA must adjust the percentage of costs allocated between the Part 1 and Part 2 fees, the Board would conduct a new fee increase proceeding to set the fees at a level sufficient to ensure that WCGSA may meet its revenue and budget targets for the upcoming years.

The first two methods can be included as an automatic escalator in the fee adoption resolution. Applying one of these automatic escalators will avoid the need to modify the fee study or prepare a new study and hold a formal fee setting proceeding in a subsequent year. Each year, the Board will review the upcoming fiscal year budget and staff-recommended fee level and designate which fee methodology will be used in setting fees.

The Part 2 cost basis will be allocated to Part 2, Group 1 (95%) and Part 2, Group 2 (5%). This percentage will be periodically reviewed and may be adjusted based on each group’s annual water use (see Table 4).

Step 2: Determine the Part 1 and Part 2 Fee Units

Part 1 fees will be charged to all Parcels except Exempt and Unusable parcels based on the number of fee-paying parcels in the WCGSA’s boundaries. Part 2 fees will be charged based on the Part 2, Group 1 (Agricultural Users) number of Cropped Acres and Managed Wetland Acres, and Group 2 (Domestic Users) number of Developed Parcels. Part 2, Group 3 Grazing and Vacant is not charged a Part 2 fee, as explained earlier in this report. **Table 10** summarizes the application of the Part 2 fee.

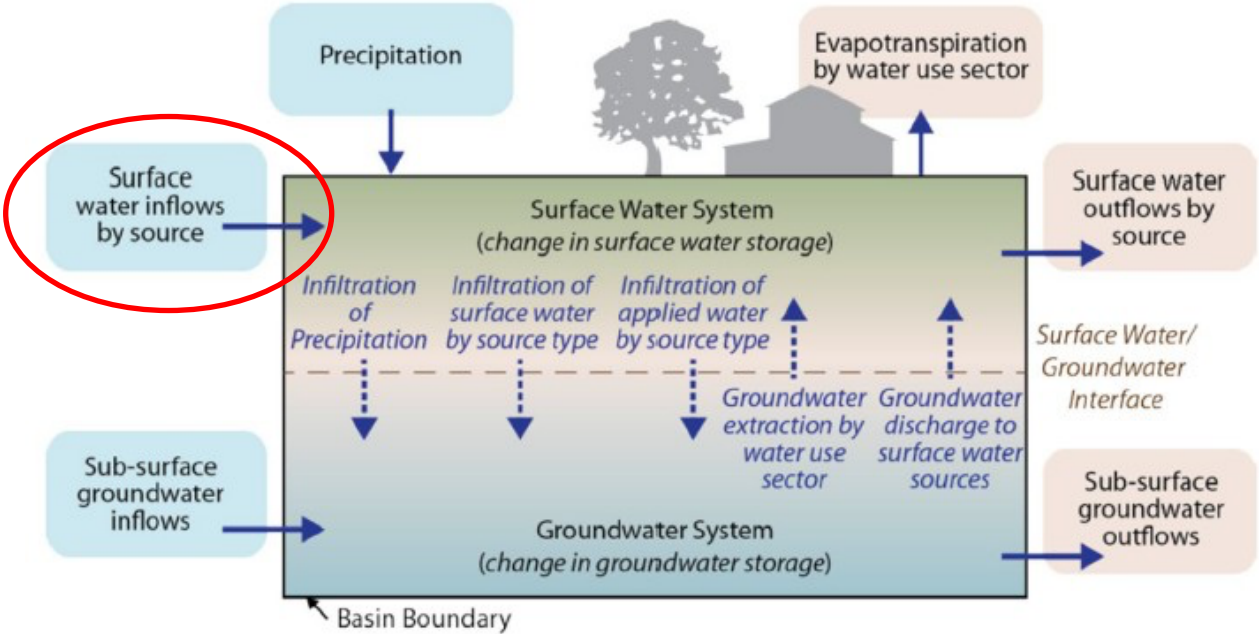
Table 10
Part 2 Fee Application

Parcel Use	Part 2 Ag Fee	Part 2 Dom Fee
Agriculture or M'gd Wetlands	Yes	No
Ag or Mg'd Wetlands & Domestic	Yes	Yes
Domestic Only	No	Yes
Grazing & Vacant	No	No

Parcels that use water diverted from the Feather River or its waters impounded in Lake Oroville are subject to a lower Part 2 fee (or no Part 2 fee if this is their only water source) because this water source helps the Subbasin achieve sustainability by increasing groundwater recharge; and in doing so, helps minimize Part 2 costs. **Figure 5** illustrates how increased surface water to the Subbasin increases groundwater storage.

Use of other surface water sources, which include captured rainfall, Wyandotte Creek, Wyman Ravine, Lower Honcut Creek, and other riparian sources, does not help the Subbasin achieve sustainability because these water sources are connected with Subbasin groundwater. Parcels using these surface water sources will pay the full Part 2 fee because of the interconnection between groundwater and surface water within the Subbasin.

Figure 5
Subbasin Water Budget



Source: Wyandotte Creek GSP, page 89.

Lower Fee for Certain Agricultural Parcels

Parcels served irrigation water by SFWPA, and parcels diverting Feather River water directly on the western boundary of WCGSA to grow crops will pay a lower Part 2 Cropped Acre or Managed Wetlands Acre fee. SFWPA deliveries are through the Palermo Canal. Direct Feather River diversions are at the Hearst Pump Station and Sun Pacific Pumps – Three Pump locations, as described and filed with DWR.

The Part 2 fee for these parcels is 85% of all other agricultural parcels because SFWPA and direct Feather River diversions by agricultural users typically comprise 15% of all agricultural water use, as shown in **Table 11** (water years 2021 and 2024 were used as these were the highest and lowest agricultural water use years reported in WCGSA annual reports). The weighting for the lower fee will be periodically reviewed using data obtained from CalWATRS and WCGSA annual reports.

**Table 13
Domestic Water Sources**

Domestic Water Sources	2023	Share less SFWPA	2024	Share less SFWPA	Avg. Share of Total
	acre-feet	[2]	acre-feet	[2]	
Groundwater	1,600	29%	1,100	20%	25%
Surface Water [1]					
Cal Water & TWSD	3,953	71%	4,324	80%	75%
SFWPA [2]	1,047		4,976		
Total Surface	5,000		9,300		
Total Water Use	6,600		10,400		
Total Use less SFWPA	5,553		5,424		

Source: SAFER Clearinghouse and WCGSA annual reports.

Note: Annual report estimates are for the water year. Cal Water and TWSD prouction figures are for the calendar year.

[1] Feather River water.

[2] SFWPA water excluded from calculation because these parcels exclusively use surface water.

Table 14 summarizes the fee units. All the fee units are calculated using the GIS tool.

**Table 14
WCGSA Fee-Paying Parcels**

Total Parcels	Part 1 Fee-Paying Parcels	Part 2 Fee Units	
		Cropped & Mg'd Wetland Acres	Developed Parcels [2]
12,604	12,556	15,640	7,428
	Paying Full Fee [1] -->	14,457	1,078
	Paying Lower Part 2 Fee -->	1,183	6,350

[1] Includes cropped acres and managed wetlands acres.

Cropped acres 12,894

Managed wetlands acres 1,563

[2] Excludes SFWPA Domestic parcels.

Step 3: Perform the Fee Calculations

Part 1 Fee

The Part 1 fee cost basis is divided by the number of fee-paying Assessor parcels in WCGSA's boundary. A 5% final adjustment factor is included in the Part 1 fee calculation to account for potential refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1. The Part 1 fee is \$20.50 per Assessor parcel for FY27, as shown in **Table 15**.

Table 15
Part 1 Fee Calculation

Fee Item	Total
Cost Allocation for Part 1 Fee	\$244,400
Fee-Paying Parcels	12,556
Parcels with Final Adjustment Factor 5.0%	11,928
FY27 Fee per Parcel per Year [1]	\$20.50

Source: HEC March 2026.
[1] Fees rounded to 2 cents.

Part 2 Fees

Part 2 Group 1: Agricultural Users Fee. The Part 2 Group 1 cost is divided by the total number of weighted lower fee-paying Cropped and Managed Wetland Acres, and unweighted full fee-paying Cropped and Managed Wetland Acres. The calculated fee is multiplied by 85% to determine the fee for lower fee-paying Cropped and Managed Wetland Acres. Parcels that straddle the WCGSA boundary pay for crops grown or wetlands managed on acreage within the boundary only.

The Part 2 Group 1 FY27 fee is calculated in **Table 16** at \$15.58 per Cropped or Managed Wetland Acre; Parcels paying the lower fee will be charged \$13.26 FY27. Note that a 10% final adjustment factor is included in the Part 2 fee calculation to account for refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1.

Table 16
Part 2 Group 1: Agricultural Users Fee Calculation

Item		Fee with Final Calculation	Adjustment Factor
			10%
Agriculture Part 2 Cost Share	a	\$216,600	\$216,600
Cropped & Mg'd Wetland Acres			
Cropped Acres		12,894	11,605
Managed Wetlands		1,563	1,407
Total Acres	b	14,457	13,011
Acres paying Lower Part 2 Fee	c	1,183	1,065
Total Weighted Acreage	85% d = c*85%	1,006	905
Fee Calculation Acreage	e = b+d	15,463	13,916
Annual Fee per Cropped or Mg'd Wetland Acre			
SFWPA & Feather River direct diversion Ag. Users	85% f = g*85%		\$13.26
All Other Agricultural Users	g = a/e		\$15.58

Note: Fees rounded to 2 cents.

Part 2 Group 2: Domestic Users Fee. The Part 2 Group 2 cost is divided by the total number of weighted Cal Water Oroville and TWSD Developed Parcels, and unweighted full fee-paying Developed Parcels. Parcels served by SFWPA are excluded from the fee calculation because they do not pay the Part 2 fee. The calculated fee is multiplied by 25% to determine the fee for Cal Water Oroville and TWSD customer parcels.

The Part 2 Group 2 FY27 fee is calculated in **Table 17** at \$0.94 per Developed Parcel if the parcel is served by Cal Water Oroville or TWSD and \$3.76 per Developed Parcel for all other Domestic water users excluding SFWPA users. A 10% final adjustment factor is included in the Part 2 fee calculation to account for refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1.

Table 17
Part 2 Group 2: Domestic Users Fee Calculation

Item		Fee with Final Calculation Adjustment Factor 10%
Domestic Part 2 Cost Share	a	\$9,000
Developed Parcels		
No Imported Water	b	1,078
Imported Water	c	6,350
Weighted Parcels	25% d = c*25%	1,588
Fee Calculation Developed Parcels	e = b+d	2,666
Annual Fee per Developed Parcel		
SFWPA Users		\$0.00
Cal Water Oroville & TWSD Users	25% f = g*25%	\$0.94
All Other Domestic Users	g = a/e	\$3.76

[1] Fees rounded to 2 cents.

3.3 FEE COLLECTION

The WCGSA SGMA fee will be collected by the Butte County Treasurer-Tax Collector with property taxes for most Parcels. Butte County adopted the Teeter Plan, which guarantees payment of the full amount of the fees that are charged with the County pursuing any unpaid fees. Fee revenues will be disbursed to the Agency in December (about 55%), April (about 40%) and July or August (about 5%).

Properties not assessed on the property tax roll include railroad and utility-owned parcels, State of California-owned parcels, and local government-owned parcels if those parcels are located within their own jurisdiction. WCGSA will directly “hand bill” these properties. Larger landowners that will be hand-billed include the City of Oroville, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric. Only about 4% of total revenue will be collected via hand bills, as demonstrated in **Table 18**. Note, some parcels will pay Part 2 fees for both Agricultural and Domestic uses of water on the property.

**Table 18
Fee Collection by Part**

Fee Part	Fee Collection		
	Tax Bill	Hand Bill	Total
Part 1	\$231,195	\$13,205	\$244,400
Part 2 Agricultural	\$212,211	\$4,389	\$216,600
Part 2 Domestic	\$8,770	\$230	\$9,000
Total	\$452,176	\$17,824	\$470,000
Share	96%	4%	

3.4 FEE EXAMPLES

Table 19 provides an illustration of how FY27 SGMA fees are calculated for different property types.

**Table 19
Example Fee Calculations**

Parcel Size (acres)	Use	Water Provider	PART 1 FEE		PART 2 FEE		Fee Calculation	FY27 Fee
2	Domestic	Private Well	\$20.50	per parcel	\$3.76	per developed parcel	= \$20.50 + \$3.76	^a \$24.26
0.5	Domestic	SFWPA	\$20.50	per parcel	\$0.00	per developed parcel	= \$20.50 + \$0.00	\$20.50
0.15	Domestic	Cal Water Oroville	\$20.50	per parcel	\$0.94	per developed parcel	= \$20.50 + \$0.94	\$21.44
100	Agriculture	Private Well	\$20.50	per parcel	\$15.58	per cropped acre	= \$20.50 + (\$15.58*100)	\$1,578.50
100	Mg'd Wetland	Private Well	\$20.50	per parcel	\$15.58	per mg'd wetland acre	= \$20.50 + (\$15.58*100)	\$1,578.50
100	Agriculture	SFWPA	\$20.50	per parcel	\$13.26	per cropped acre	= \$20.50 + (\$13.26*100)	\$1,346.50
100	Ag. & Domestic (95 acres cropped)	Private Well	\$20.50	per parcel	\$15.58	per cropped acre	= \$20.50 + (\$15.58*95)	\$1,504.36
					\$3.76	per developed parcel	\$3.76	
100	Rangeland		\$20.50	per parcel			= \$20.50	\$20.50

Section 4: FEE IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 FEE ADOPTION

To adopt the proposed Part 1 and Part 2 SGMA regulatory fees under Water Code Section 10730, the WCGSA Board must hold at least one public meeting. Prior to the public meeting to adopt the SGMA fee, notice will be provided as follows:

- A. Publicize once a week for 2 weeks at least 14 days ahead of the meeting, (2) post notice on the agency's website, and (3) send notice of the fee by mail to any interested party who files a written request for notice of agency meetings on new or increased fees.
- B. The notice must include time and place of meeting, general explanation of the item, and a statement that the data upon which the proposed fee is based is available (this must be made available to the public at least 20 days prior to the meeting).

The SGMA fee must be set each year to place the fees on the tax roll, regardless of whether the fee amounts change or not. The fee should be adjusted each year as necessary to raise sufficient revenues as described in Section 3.2, page 22 of this report.

The resolution adopting the fee shall specify which methodology WCGSA will use to escalate the fee each year. Regardless, the Agency may not increase the fee in a manner that exceeds the estimated reasonable cost of WCGSA's regulatory activities (including accrual of a prudent reserve). The WCGSA Board and staff will conduct an annual review of the fee structure as specified in the fee resolution.

After adopting the fee, WCGSA must continue with the following actions to implement the fee for FY27, and each fiscal year thereafter:

- Per Water Code 10730.1, the WCGSA shall notify the CPUC of the fee by way of letter to the Director of the Water Division immediately following adoption of the fee, before the fee is imposed.
- The WCGSA shall provide the Butte County Auditor-Controller all required documentation authorizing placement of the fee on the property tax roll by August 1, 2026, and shall provide the list of Assessor Parcel numbers and fee amounts to be placed on the FY 2027 tax roll no later than the date specified by the Butte County Auditor-Controller.

4.2 CORRECTIONS

WCGSA will update its existing Classification Change Request process, available on its website at <https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com/classifications-change-requests-in-the-wyandotte-creek-subbasin> pursuant to the adopted new fee structure methodology. Landowners can use this process to provide the Agency with corrected information in case any of the fees are based on incorrect data.

WCGSA will work with property owners to correct any incorrect data. The process to correct information will require communication with both landowners and the Assessor. During the correction process, property owners must first pay the fee on the property tax bill. Corrections that reduce or increase the amount of the fee due will be credited or debited on the subsequent year's tax roll. The WCGSA will develop a policy for the method by which a reduced or increased hand bill is corrected (such as check or direct deposit) and timing for such correction.

WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

**SETTING THE 2026-27 WYANDOTTE CREEK GSA
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT FEE AND
REQUESTING BUTTE COUNTY TO COLLECT THE FEE ON THE 2026-27 TAX ROLL**

WHEREAS on May 21, 2026, the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Wyandotte Creek GSA) adopted Resolution No. 2026-01 adopting the Wyandotte Creek GSA 2026-27 annual budget;

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2026-02 the Wyandotte Creek a GSA approved and adopted the Final SGMA Fee Study Report (“Fee Study”);

WHEREAS, the 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget and the Fee Study support setting the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Fee for Fiscal Year 2026-27 as follows:

- A Part 1 Base Fee of \$20.50 per parcel on all parcels in the GSA that are usable and non-exempt
- A Part 2, Group 1 Fee of \$13.26 per irrigated acre for parcels served by South Feather Water & Power Agency and parcels with direct diversion from the Feather River, and \$15.58 per irrigated acre for All Other Agricultural Users
- A Part 2, Group 2 Fee per developed parcel of \$0.94 for parcels served by Cal Water Oroville or Thermalito Water and Sewer District, and \$3.76 for All Other Domestic Users;
- Group 2 parcels served by SFWPA and Group 3 grazing and vacant acres are not charged a Part 2 fee;

WHEREAS the Wyandotte Creek GSA requests that Butte County (County) collect on the County tax rolls the fee adopted pursuant to this Resolution and in order to be placed on the Butte County Tax Roll for fiscal year 2026-2027, the direct charge packet must be submitted to the Butte County Auditor-Controller by August 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of the collection of said charges, the County requires that the Wyandotte Creek GSA warrant the legality of said fees and defend and indemnify the County from any challenge to the legality thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY does hereby resolve, declare and order as follows:

1. The Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek GSA requests the Auditor-Controller of the County collect the SGMA fees on the County tax rolls as follows: a Part 1 Base Fee of \$20.50 per parcel; a Part 2, Group 1 Fee of \$13.26 per irrigated acre for parcels served by South Feather Water & Power Agency and parcels with direct diversion from the Feather River and \$15.58 per irrigated acre for All Other Agricultural Users; and a Part 2, Group 2 Fee per developed parcel of \$0.94 for parcels served by Cal Water Oroville or Thermalito Water and Sewer District and \$3.76 for All Other Domestic Users.
2. The Board warrants and certifies the fees imposed by the Wyandotte Creek GSA, which are requested to be collected by the County on the 2026-27 Secured Property Tax bill, comply with all requirements of state law, including but not limited to the requirements of the California Constitution and the Water Code.
3. The Board agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County, the Board of Supervisors, Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability

the Director of Finance, its officers, agents and employees from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, costs and expenses, damages, causes of action, and judgments, in any manner challenging compliance with state or federal laws with respect to the imposition of fees by the Wyandotte Creek GSA.

4. The Board directs the Program Manager or designee to submit the direct charge packet to the Butte County Auditor-Controller by August 10, 2026, to ensure that the Fees are placed on the Butte County Tax Roll for collection in fiscal year 2026-2027.
5. The Board authorizes its agent to attest to the direct charge levies after verification and approval. The Wyandotte Creek GSA agrees to the cost of direct charges and to the statutory and procedural terms for collection.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY this 21st day of May 2026.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify as follows:

1. That we are the Board Chair and Secretary of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY; and

2. That the foregoing resolution, consisting of 3 pages, including this page, is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency, passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 21st, 2026, at Oroville City Council Chamber, 1735 Montgomery St, Oroville, CA 95965.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have signed this certificate on this 21st day of May 2026, at Oroville, California.

_____ Bill Connelly, Chair of the Board of Directors

_____ Dillon McGregor, Secretary

WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

THE WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY OF BUTTE THE VALIDITY OF THE LEGAL PROCESS USED TO PLACE DIRECT ASSESSMENTS (SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS) ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL

WHEREAS, all notices, technical information, and legal requirements for regulatory fees for the purpose of achieving compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to be included on the regular County property tax bill for property owners of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Wyandotte Creek GSA) were completed on May 21, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA is requesting that the Butte County Auditor place these regulatory fees on the Butte County secured property tax roll for collection;

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA has complied with all laws pertaining to calculating and setting the SGMA regulatory fees, including Proposition 26 and Water Code 10730;

WHEREAS, the fee is being levied without regard to property valuation of the parcels involved; and

WHEREAS, the Wyandotte Creek GSA agrees that it shall be solely liable and responsible, and will defend and hold the County of Butte harmless from, any liability as a result of claims or claims for refunds and related interest due filed by taxpayers against any assessments, fees, charges or taxes placed on the roll for the Wyandotte Creek GSA by the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency that the list submitted with parcel numbers and amount are certified as being correct, the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Program Manager is hereby authorized to sign any documents required to provide and make any corrections to the list of parcels on which the SGMA Fees will be imposed to the Butte County Auditor on behalf of the Wyandotte Creek GSA for placement on the secured tax roll for collection in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and future years, including:

1. 2026 Fee Report
2. Property Tax Data Bill Form
3. Authority to Approve Direct Fee Charges
4. Parcel Tax Roll

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY this 21st day of May 2026.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify as follows:

1. That we are the Board Chair and Secretary of the WYANDOTTE CREEK GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY; and
2. That the foregoing resolution, consisting of 2 pages, including this page, is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 21, 2025, at the Oroville City Council Chamber, 1735 Montgomery St, Oroville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have signed this certificate on this 21st day of May 2026, at Chico, California.

_____ Bill Connelly, Chair of the Board of Directors

_____ Dillon McGregor, Secretary

**Butte County Public Health Department
Environmental Health Division**

Well Permit Summary

Quarter 2 (January 1 – March 31, 2026) of Water Year 2026

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Definitions

Permits Issued – Number of new water well permits issued as new construction. This excludes repairs, destructions, abandonments.

Permits Finaled – Number of water well permits that have been finaled (i.e. final construction completed and well is operational). This excludes repairs, destructions, abandonments.

Small Diameter Wells - A well with an eight-inch or smaller diameter well casing.

Large Diameter Wells - A well with larger than eight-inch diameter well casing.

Repair – Well repair; this includes but is not limited to casing replacement, re-lining or perforation.

Deepening – Well deepening; increasing the depth of an existing well.

Well Destruction – Well is destroyed (sealed off) by an approved method.

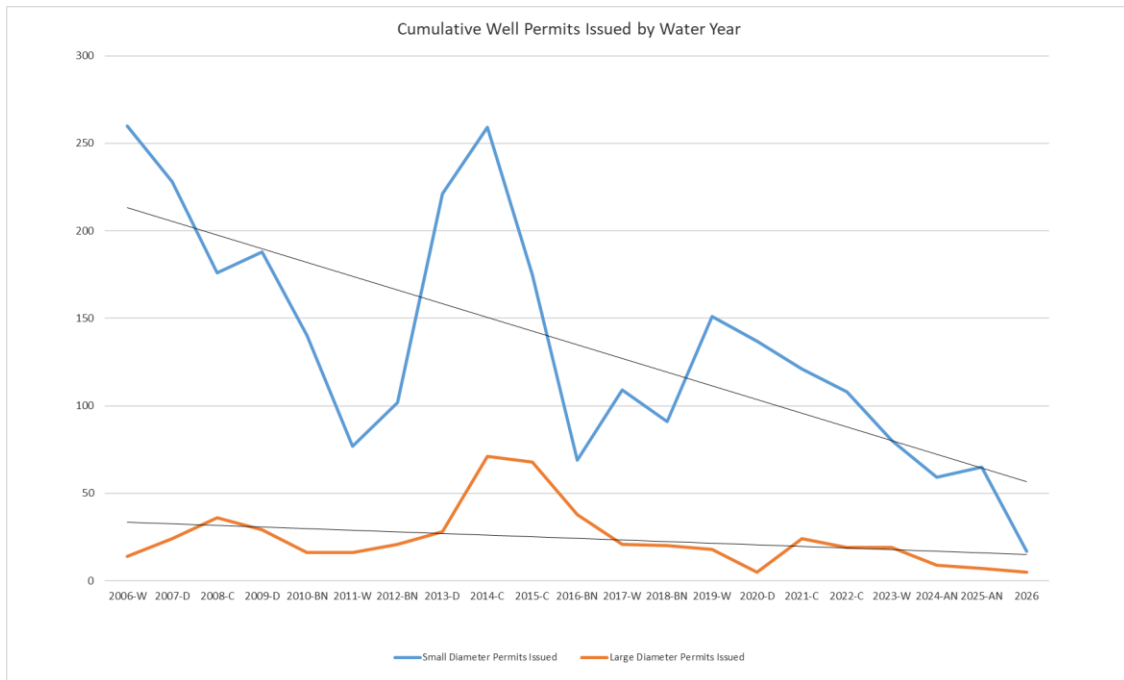
Dry Well – Well that is no longer producing water or has reduced production to a point where it can no longer sustain a residence (< 1 gpm).

Water Year - A water year is a 12-month period that extends from October 1st to September 30th. Water year can be classified into Wet (W), Above Normal (AN), Below Normal (BN), Dry (D) or Critical (C).

Executive Order N-7-22 – Effective March 28, 2022 and impacting permits that have not been issued to date. Implements increased drought response and established requirements for water well permit reviews to include Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and ground water impact considerations prior to permit issuance.

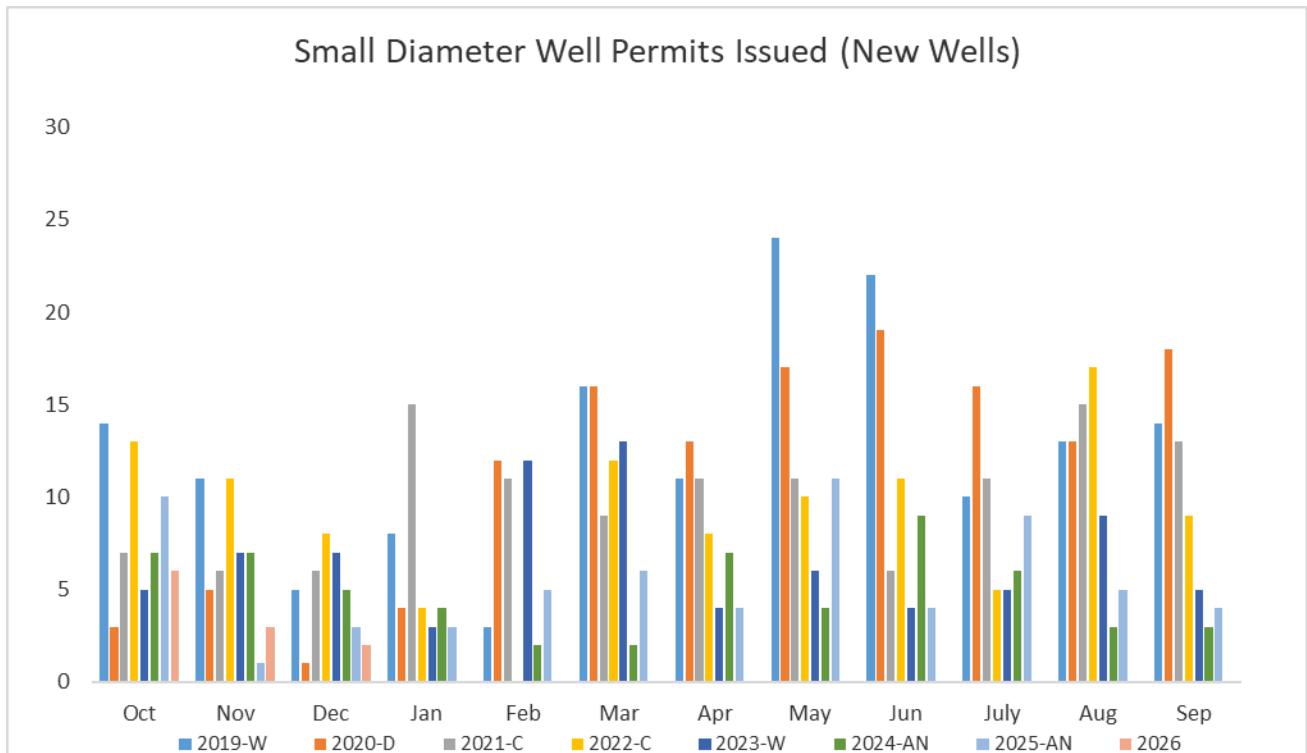
Cumulative Well Permit Data

Cumulative (WY) Well Permits Issued		
Water Year	Small Diameter Permits Issued	Large Diameter Permits Issued
2006-W	260	14
2007-D	228	24
2008-C	176	36
2009-D	188	29
2010-BN	140	16
2011-W	77	16
2012-BN	102	21
2013-D	221	28
2014-C	259	71
2015-C	175	68
2016-BN	69	38
2017-W	109	21
2018-BN	91	20
2019-W	151	18
2020-D	137	5
2021-C	121	24
2022-C	108	19
2023-W	80	19
2024-AN	59	9
2025-AN	65	7
2026	17	5



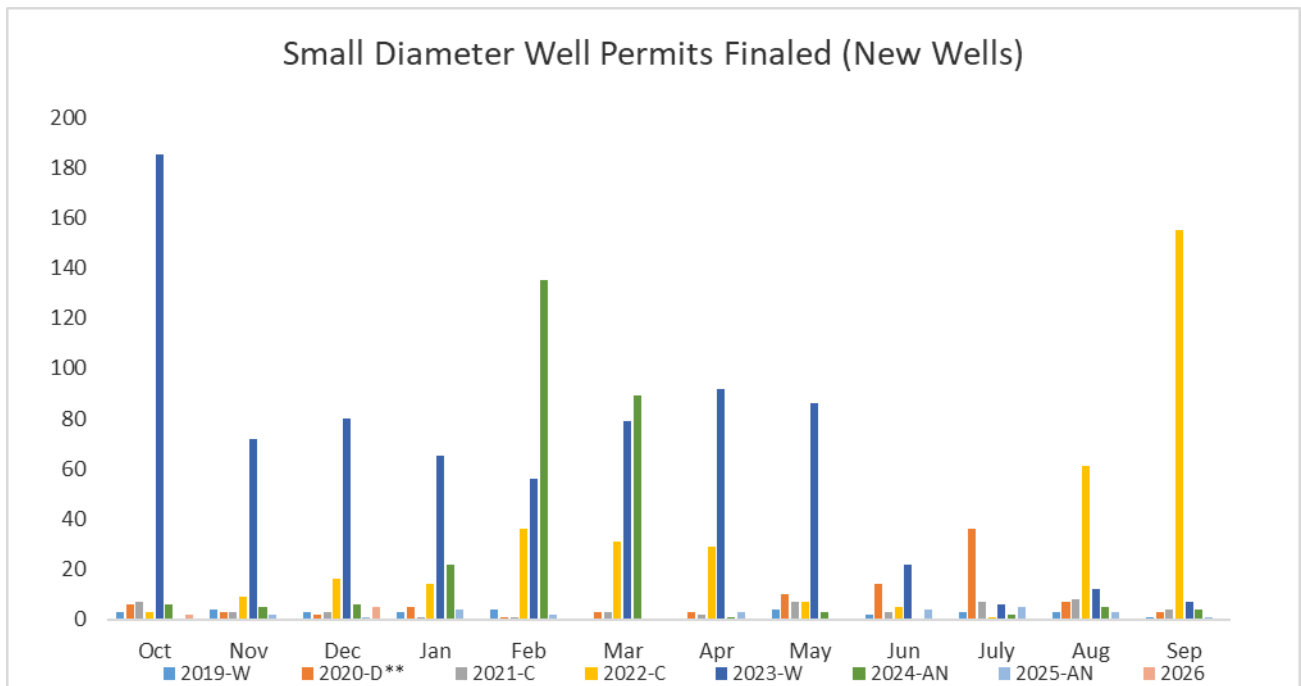
Small Diameter Well Permit Data - Issued

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Total
2015-C	18	7	6	15	11	22	27	15	13	18	17	6	175
2016-BN	4	5	7	6	8	17	9	12	16	14	12	3	113
2017-W	7	7	5	2	8	19	19	17	17	5	2	1	109
2018-BN	6	3	2	3	6	4	10	13	12	10	13	9	91
2019-W	14	11	5	8	3	16	11	24	22	10	13	14	151
2020-D	3	5	1	4	12	16	13	17	19	16	13	18	137
2021-C	7	6	6	15	11	9	11	11	6	11	15	13	121
2022-C	13	11	8	4	0	12	8	10	11	5	17	9	108
2023-W	5	7	7	3	12	13	4	6	4	5	9	5	80
2024-AN	7	7	5	4	2	2	7	4	9	6	3	3	59
2025-AN	10	1	3	3	5	6	4	11	4	9	5	4	65
2026	6	3	2	2	1	3							17



Small Diameter Well Permit Data - Finaled

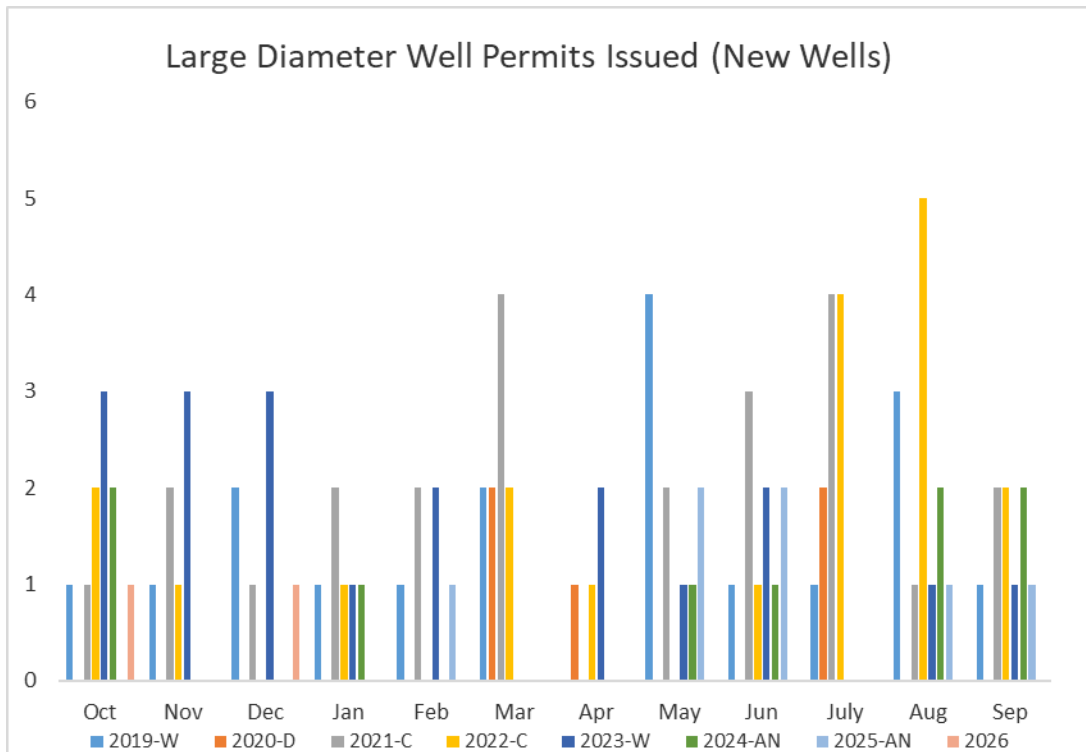
Water Year	Small Diameter Well Permits Finaled (New Wells)												Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	
2016-BN	7	4	3	4	3	1	1	4	5	1	3	0	36
2017-W	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	5	0	24
2018-BN	1	4	3	1	1	4	2	4	6	1	5	3	35
2019-W	3	4	3	3	4	0	0	4	2	3	3	1	30
2020-D**	6	3	2	5	1	3	3	10	14	36	7	3	93
2021-C	7	3	3	1	1	3	2	7	3	7	8	4	49
2022-C	3	9	16	14	36	31	29	7	5	1	61	155	367
2023-W	185	72	80	65	56	79	92	86	22	6	12	7	762
2024-AN	6	5	6	22	135	89	1	3	0	2	5	4	278
2025-AN	0	2	1	4	2	0	3	0	4	5	3	1	25
2026	2	0	5	4	3	1							15



**Water Year 2020 and forward - Implemented improvements to the well permit process and working on backlog status updates. Backlog project completed in 2024.

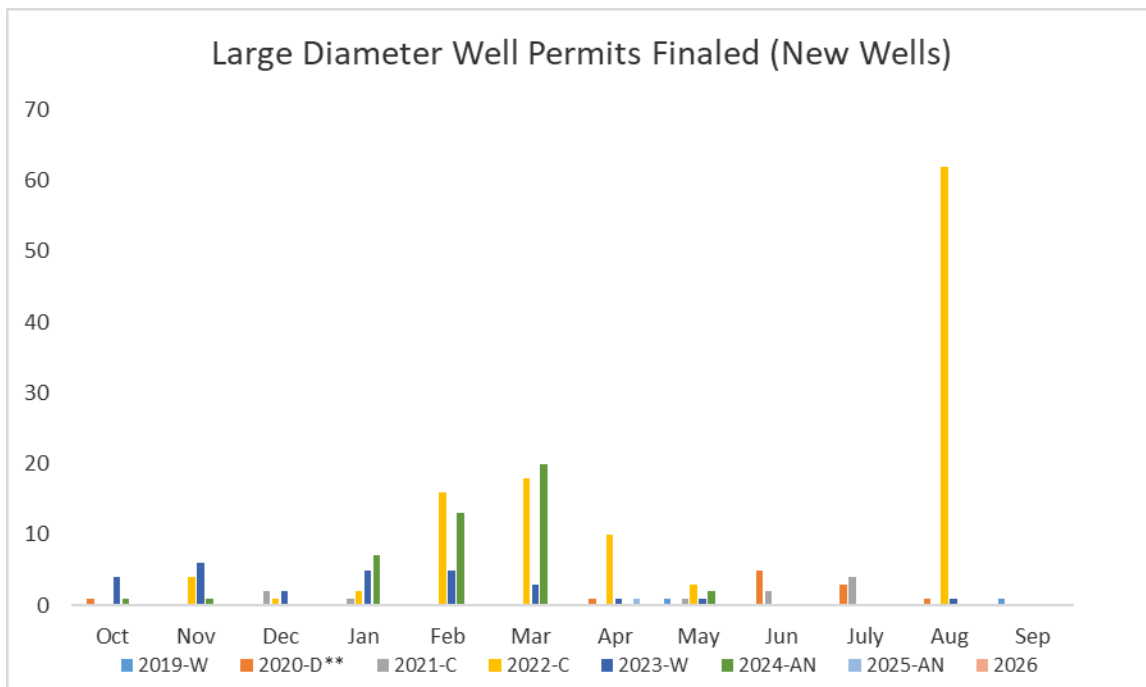
Large Diameter Well Permit Data - Issued

Water Year	Large Diameter Well Permits Issued (New Wells)												Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	
2015-C	5	7	4	1	4	7	6	1	5	14	11	3	68
2016-BN	5	5	5	5	4	2	2	3	1	2	3	3	38
2017-W	1	0	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	0	5	0	21
2018-BN	1	3	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	4	2	3	20
2019-W	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	4	1	1	3	1	18
2020-D	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
2021-C	1	2	1	2	2	4	0	2	3	4	1	2	24
2022-C	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	4	5	2	19
2023-W	3	3	3	1	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	19
2024-AN	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	9
2025-AN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	7
2026	1	0	1	1	1	1							5



Large Diameter Well Permit Data – Finaled

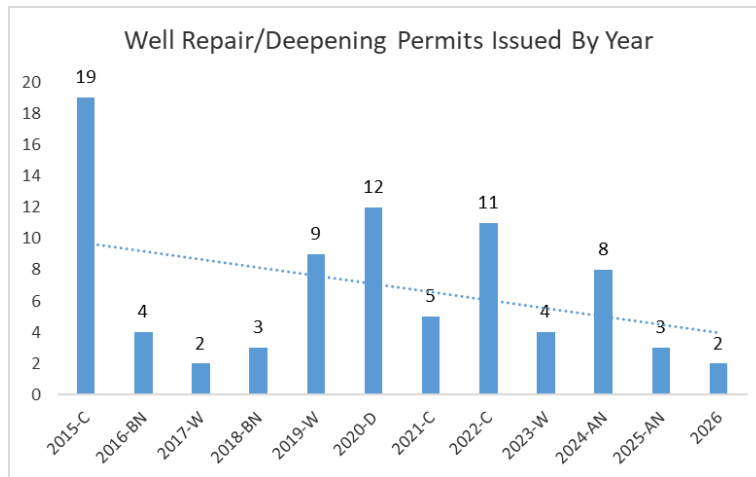
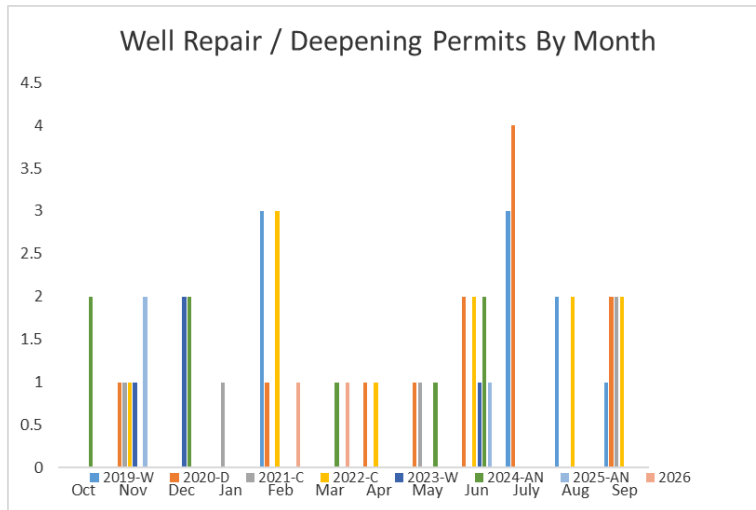
Water Year	Large Diameter Well Permits Finaled (New Wells)												
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Total
2016-BN	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2017-W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
2018-BN	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	7
2019-W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2020-D**	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	3	1	0	11
2021-C	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	10
2022-C	0	4	1	2	16	18	10	3	0	0	62	0	116
2023-W	4	6	2	5	5	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	28
2024-AN	1	1	0	7	13	20	0	2	0	0	0	0	44
2025-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2026	0	0	0	1	0	1							2



**Water Year 2020 and forward - Implemented improvements to the well permit process and working on backlog status updates. Backlog project completed in 2024.

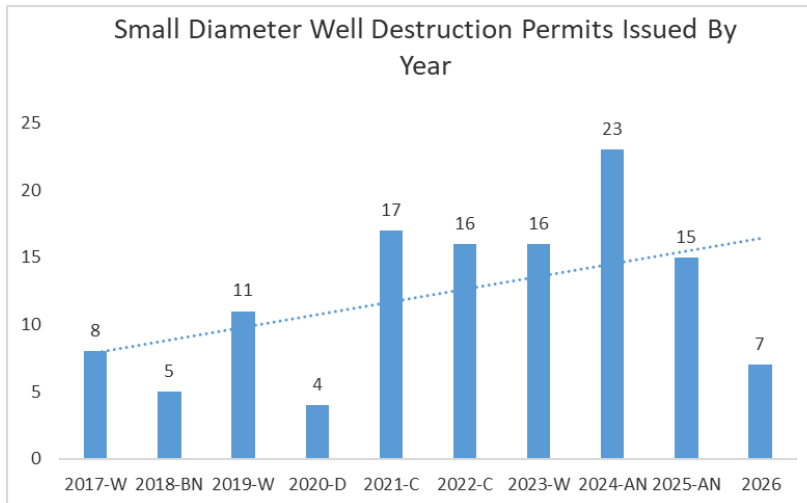
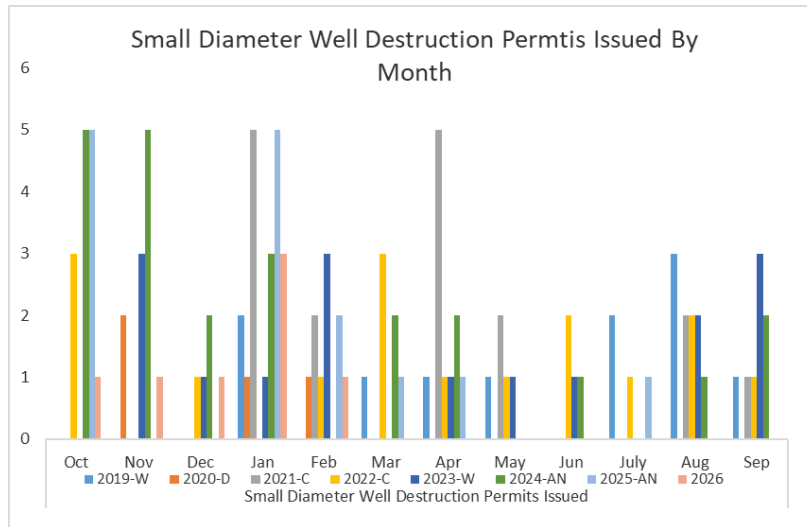
Well Repair and Deepening Data

Water Year	Well Repair/Deepening Permits Issued												Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	
2015-C	1	0	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	19
2016-BN	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	4
2017-W	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
2018-BN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
2019-W	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	9
2020-D	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	0	2	12
2021-C	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
2022-C	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	11
2023-W	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
2024-AN	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	8
2025-AN	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2026	0	0	0	0	1	1							2



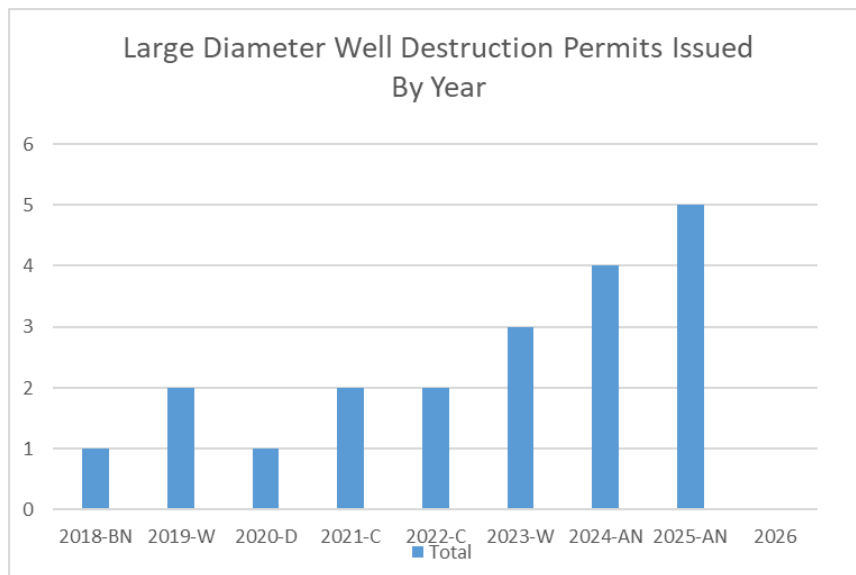
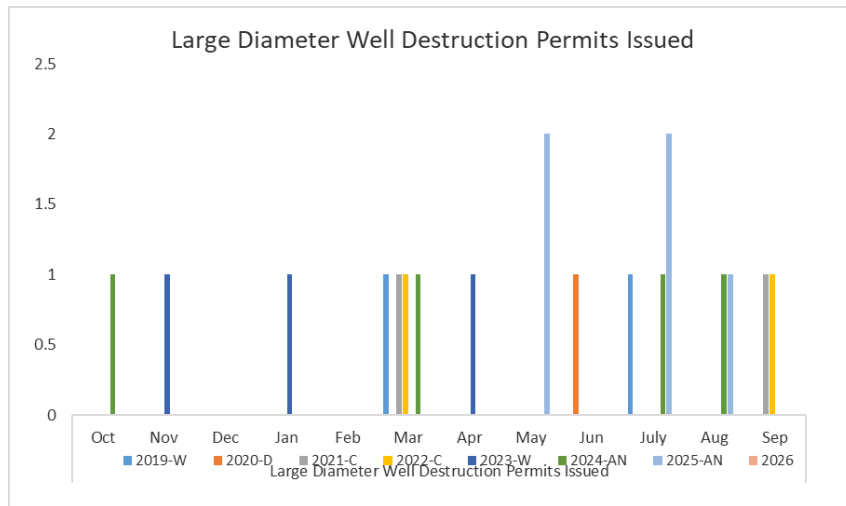
Well Destruction Data – Small Diameter Wells

Water Year	Small Diameter Well Destruction Permits Issued												Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	
2017-W	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	8
2018-BN	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
2019-W	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	11
2020-D	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2021-C	0	0	0	5	2	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	17
2022-C	3	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	16
2023-W	0	3	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	16
2024-AN	5	5	2	3	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	2	23
2025-AN	5	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	15
2026	1	1	1	3	1	0							7



Well Destruction Data – Large Diameter Wells

Water Year	Large Diameter Well Destruction Permits Issued												Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	
2017-W	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
2018-BN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2019-W	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
2020-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
2021-C	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
2022-C	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
2023-W	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
2024-AN	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
2025-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	5
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0



Dry Well Data

Water Year	Dry Small Diameter Wells												Total	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep		
2021-C												11	7	18
2022-C	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	4	2		14
2023-W	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	1		12
2024-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2025-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2026	0	0	0	0	1	0								1

Dry well data started being collected August 2021.

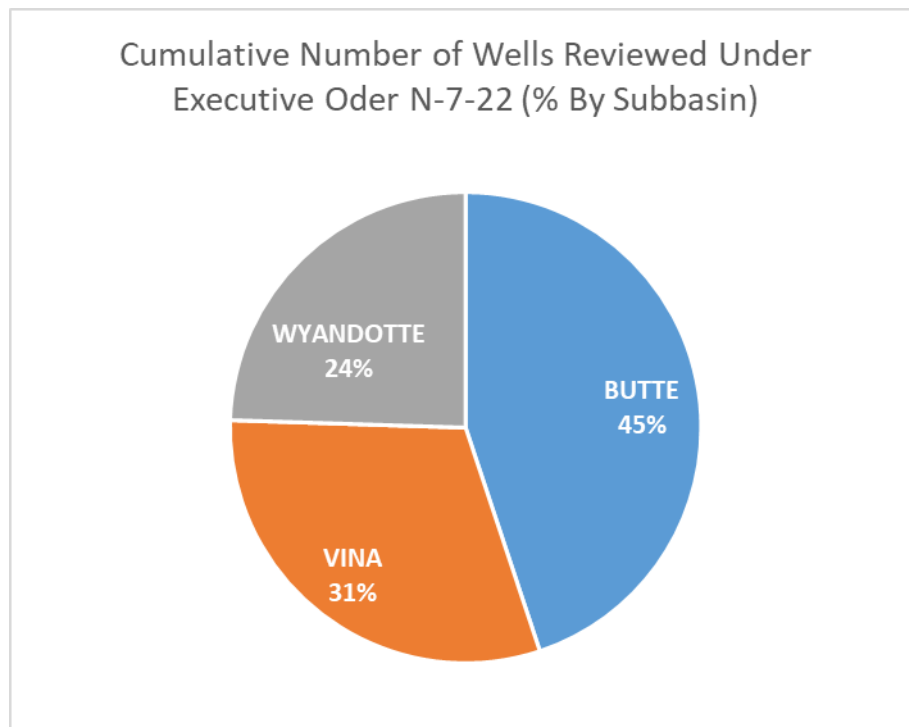
Water Year	Dry Large Diameter Wells												Total	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep		
2021-C											1	0		1
2022-C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2023-W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2024-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2025-AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0								0

Dry well data started being collected August 2021.

Dry Well Reports to the Butte County Division of Environmental Health by Community									
	Water Year						Total	Average Depth of dry wells (feet)	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026			
Chico	15	5	3	0	0	1	24	109	
Durham	4	6	1	0	0	0	11	--	
Cohasset	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	121	
Berry Creek	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	--	
Oroville	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	95	
Bangor	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	--	
Forest Ranch	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	520	
Palermo	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	--	
Total	20	17	8	0	0	0	46		

Executive Order N-7-22 Data

Cumulative Number of Wells Under Executive Oder N-7-22			
By Subbasin	Small Diameter	Large Diameter	Totals
BUTTE	0	22	22
VINA	5	10	15
WYANDOTTE	1	11	12
			49
By GSA	Small Diameter	Large Diameter	Totals
Biggs-West Gridley Water District	0	6	6
Butte County	0	6	6
Butte Water District	0	4	4
Richvale Irrigation District	0	2	2
Reclamation District No. 2106	0	2	2
Rock Creek Reclamation District	0	1	1
Vina	5	10	15
Western Canal	0	1	1
Wyandotte Creek	1	11	12
			49





Memo

To: Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency From: Nicole Hinostroza
Sacramento, CA

Project/File: Tribal Engagement in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Date: March 31, 2026

Reference: Tribal Engagement Memo

Dear Dillon McGregor,

Per your request, Stantec has prepared a Tribal Engagement Memorandum to summarize Tribal engagement activities that were requested under the Department of Water Resources' Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Implementation Service Plan (ISP) 68.1. Additionally, the memorandum outlines recommendations to continue and strengthen engagement with Tribes in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. Attached to the memorandum is a compilation of Tribal contacts provided by the Native American Heritage Commission for your reference, as well as a copy of the outreach email that was distributed to each of the Tribes on the list.

We hope the enclosed memorandum is helpful to your continued efforts to engage with Tribes in Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Nicole Hinostroza

Environmental Planner
nicole.hinostroza@stantec.com

Marisa Perez-Reyes

Public Affairs Specialist
marisa.perez-reyes@stantec.com

Attachment 1: Excel Spreadsheet with NAHC Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts Lists (2025-2026) and Supplemental Contacts (identified through online research)

Attachment 2: Template Outreach Email to Tribes

Reference: Tribal Engagement Memo

1 Background

The purpose of this Tribal Engagement Memo is to document the efforts made by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. on behalf of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to reach out to Tribes within the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin to gauge their level of interest in learning more about Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

SGMA legislation directs GSAs to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in their GSP, which includes federally recognized Tribes. As part of that direction, the Wyandotte Creek GSA reached out to the Concow-Maidu Tribe of the Mooretown Rancheria, Tyme Maidu Tribe of the Berry Creek Rancheria, and the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California during GSA formation and GSP development to gauge interest in participating on the GSA's Advisory Committee. (This outreach effort is documented in the GSA's 2021 [Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan](#).) Given the upcoming GSP Periodic Evaluation and the implementation of several projects and management actions, the GSA requested facilitation support to follow up with Tribes in the region to learn whether their interest in engagement had changed since GSP development.

This facilitation support request was also motivated by a desire to fill the vacant Tribal Representative seat on the Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee. Although some coordination took place with the Tyme Maidu of the Berry Creek Rancheria in 2019 for a Tribal member to serve as a representative on the Advisory Committee, there are no Tribes currently participating in the Committee.

2 Outreach Strategy

NAHC Request – Stantec helped prepare a Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts List Request which the Wyandotte Creek GSA Manager submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on March 18, 2025. NAHC provided the requested contact list on March 28, 2025, noting that the list includes tribes that **may have knowledge** of relevant cultural resources in the Subbasin. This list of contacts is included in the third tab of Attachment 1.

Initial Email Engagement – Upon receipt of the Tribal points of contact from NAHC, Stantec emailed each contact provided by NAHC in June 2025 with an update on implementation of the Subbasin GSP and an offer to connect to learn more, stay up to date, or coordinate on a specific topic. (Template language for form email to Tribes is included in Attachment 2.) A follow-up email was issued to each contact approximately two weeks after the initial email, in July 2025.

Phone Calls – Since no Tribes responded to the initial email outreach, Stantec attempted phone contact using the number(s) provided by NAHC throughout the month of August 2025. If a phone contact was not provided on the Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts List or if repeated calls were unsuccessful, additional online research was conducted to identify updated or supplemental contact information. Phone calls were attempted at least twice in most cases. Supplemental contacts that were identified through online research are included in the first tab of Attachment 1.

Reference: Tribal Engagement Memo

Secondary NAHC Request and Second Round of Email Engagement – Due to many Tribal contacts being unreachable, Stantec prepared and submitted a follow-up Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts List Request in February 2026, in case some of the points of contacts for the Tribes had changed. NAHC provided an updated contact list on February 11, 2026 (included in the second tab of Attachment 1) and a second round of email outreach was conducted in March 2026. The updated list provided by NAHC included a revised point of contact for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. The secondary NAHC list also included the Mechoopda Indian Tribe, which had not previously been identified in the 2025 contact list. Additional supplemental email contacts were identified for the Mooretown Rancheria through internet searches (included in the first tab of Attachment 1).

3 Summary of Tribal Engagement

The table below summarizes the engagement that Stantec attempted with each of the seven Tribes identified by the NAHC Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts Lists in 2025 and 2026.

Tribe	Summary of Outreach
KonKow Valley Band of Maidu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed Matthew Williford (Acting Chair/Cultural Resource Director) on 6/26/2025 and 7/15/2025, followed by attempted phone calls using the contact provided by NAHC on 8/18/2025, 8/19/2025 and 8/27/2025. Phone calls did not go through (the number appears to be out of service). Spoke with Wayne Nine (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) over the phone on 8/19/2025. Mr. Nine requested follow-up informational materials be provided via email. A follow-up call took place on 9/27/2025 where Mr. Nine confirmed receipt of the email and noted the Tribe was aware and intended to respond, though no timeline was given.
Mooretown Rancheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed Benjamin Clark (Chairperson) and Guy Taylor (EPA Director) via the front desk email address provided by NAHC on 6/26/2025, however, the messages were reported as undeliverable. Stantec contacted the front desk and was instructed to resend the email to reception@mooretown.org, where it could be forwarded to the appropriate individuals. The original email was forwarded to this address, and a follow-up email was sent on 7/15/2025. No response was received. Called Benjamin Clark on 8/18/2025 using the front desk number provided by NAHC and left a voicemail. Attempted a second phone call with Benjamin Clark on 8/27/2025 using the same front desk number provided by NAHC. The receptionist was able to direct the call to Benjamin Clark’s voicemail where a message was left requesting a call back. No response was received. Emailed Benjamin Clark and Guy Taylor directly on 3/2/2026 and 3/18/2026, using emails identified through online research. No response has been received yet.
Nevada City Rancheria Tribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed Richard Johnson (Chairman), Saxon Thomas (Tribal Council Member), and Shelley Covert (Tribal Secretary) on 6/26/2025 and 7/15/2025. No response was received. Attempted phone calls on 8/18/2025 and 8/27/2025. Voicemails were left each time requesting a call back. No response was received.

Reference: Tribal Engagement Memo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed Saxon Thomas and Shelley Covert again on 3/2/2026 and 3/18/2026. No response has been received yet.
Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed James Russ (President) using the Tribal Council email provided by NAHC on 6/26/2025 and 7/15/2025. No response was received. Attempted phone calls with James Russ (President), Michelle Downey (EPA Director), and the Tribal front desk on 8/17/2025 were largely unsuccessful due to connectivity issues with Tribal phone lines. One call with the receptionist briefly connected but was choppy and disconnected before more discussion could occur. Follow-up emails on 8/19/2025 to the Tribal Council email were also reported as undeliverable. Re-attempted phone calls with James Russ and Michelle Downey on 8/27/2025. A voicemail was left with Michelle Downey requesting a call back. No response was received. Emailed James Russ again on 3/2/2026 and 3/18/2026. Though emails were reported as delivered successfully this time, no response has been received yet.
TSI-AKIM Maidu of the Taylorsville Rancheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed Donald Ryberg (Chairman), Richard Cunningham (Vice Chairman), Ben Cunningham (Tribal Council Member), James Moon Jr. (Tribal Member), and Ben Cunningham-Summerfield (Cultural Advisor), on 6/26/2025 and 7/15/2025. No responses were received. Spoke with Ben Cunningham-Summerfield over the phone on 8/19/2025. He noted that the Subbasin is outside the Tribe's purview and there is no interest in engaging.
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Josef Fore (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) on 6/26/2025 and 7/15/2025. No response was received. Attempted phone calls with Josef Fore on 8/18/2025 and 8/27/2025. No response was received. Emailed Josef Fore again on 3/2/2026 and 3/18/2026. No response has been received yet.
Mechoopda Indian Tribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechoopda Indian Tribe was not identified in the initial 2025 NAHC request; email outreach was attempted for the first time with Dennis Ramirez (Chairperson) and Kyle McHenry (Cultural Director) on 3/2/2026 and 3/18/2026. No response has been received yet.

4 Findings and Recommendations

Outreach was only conclusive for two of the Tribes that were included on NAHC's contact list:

- The KonKow Valley Band of Maidu are aware of the opportunity to engage and have indicated their intent to respond. As of March 2026, no response has been received yet.
- The TSI-AKIM Maidu of the Taylorsville Rancheria indicated their interest lie outside the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin.

Reference: Tribal Engagement Memo

Stantec was unable to establish contact with any of the five remaining Tribes that NAHC indicated **may have knowledge** of relevant cultural resources in the Subbasin.

Options for continued engagement include:

1. **Ground-truth Tribal contacts.** The Wyandotte Creek GSA may be able to coordinate with colleagues at Butte County that have successfully communicated with any of the Tribes indicated by NAHC and could possibly confirm whether there are any alternate email addresses or phone numbers associated with the five unreached Tribes that the GSA could consider trying. For example, it appears the [Butte County Resource Conservation District collaborates with local Tribes](#) and may therefore have updated points of contact for some of the unreached Tribes.
2. **Consider next steps for the vacant Tribal Representative seat on the Advisory Committee.** The GSA could hold internal discussions about the vacant Tribal Representative seat and develop a plan of approach for outreach directed to recruiting for the seat. Closer review of the Wyandotte Creek Advisory Committee Charter may be able to provide clarity on how the Tribal Representative seat can be filled, and what steps may be taken to support identification of the representative.
3. **Consider other venues for engagement.** In addition to email and phone outreach, the GSA may consider other venues for engaging with Tribes. This could include written correspondence, invitations to attend public meetings or workshops, or offering informational briefings to Tribal communities. The GSA could also look into any regional collaboratives that might exist that convene local Tribes. Engagement opportunities should always be framed as voluntary.
4. **Engage with Tribes at a government-to-government level.** The outreach efforts described in this memo were conducted by Stantec on behalf of the GSA. It is possible that some Tribal contacts would respond better to communications received directly from the GSA. The GSA Manager could consider communicating directed with Tribal leaders such as the Tribal Chair, other Council or Board members, Tribal Administrators, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, or other appropriate Tribal environmental staff.
5. **Continue to attempt outreach periodically.** The Wyandotte Creek GSA should continue to attempt to contact the Tribes in the Subbasin on a periodic basis, either via email or phone, particularly at key SGMA milestones, like Periodic Evaluations, GSP amendments, modeling updates, project implementation, etc. It is possible that a given milestone would pique a Tribe's interest in engaging, and it is generally a good practice to keep Tribes apprised of SGMA-related developments.

By providing a record of Tribal engagement conducted under ISP 68, this memo presents options for Tribal engagement moving forward, consistent with SGMA and in recognition of Tribal sovereignty and variances in how different Tribes prefer to engage and maintain awareness of the GSA's groundwater management activities.

Attachment 1. NAHC Sacred Lands File and Native American Contacts Lists (2025-2026) and Supplemental Contacts

See attached Excel Spreadsheet.

Attachment 2. Template Email to Tribes

Dear [Tribal Contact Name],

I hope this message finds you well!

My name is Nicole Hinostraza, and I'm an Environmental Planner with Stantec Consulting, a firm that supports local agencies in implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) through [the Department of Water Resource's Facilitation Support Services](#). Our team is currently working with the [Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency](#) (GSA) in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin, providing support with SGMA-related planning, stakeholder engagement, public outreach, and ongoing implementation efforts.

On behalf of the GSA, I am reaching out to gauge your level of awareness of the local groundwater sustainability efforts underway in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin as well as the [Tribe Name]'s interest in staying apprised of key milestones or engaging more closely with the GSA.

Consistent with the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014](#) (SGMA), the Wyandotte Creek GSA is implementing its [Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) (GSP), which went through a public comment process in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 and was approved by the California Department of Water Resources on July 27, 2023. The GSP outlines sustainable management criteria against which the subbasin will measure its success in achieving and/or maintaining sustainable groundwater conditions, as well as the specific projects and management actions the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin will implement.

California's Native American Heritage Commission has indicated that the [Tribe Name] may have knowledge of relevant cultural resources in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. The GSA wishes to ensure that Tribes in the region are kept aware of the progress that is being made towards addressing key data gaps, initiating projects, and carrying out other management actions identified in the GSP, and that you have an opportunity to participate in any discussions underway that correspond to your Tribe's interests.

If you are interested in learning more, staying up to date, or coordinating on a topic related to GSP implementation, I welcome the opportunity to connect with you. Feel free to forward this message or loop in any colleagues who you believe should be included in this conversation or may have an interest in these efforts. Please reply to this message if you would like to engage or receive additional information!

Thank you for your time, and I wish you all the best.

With regards,

[Email Signature]