

Wyandotte Creek GSA Board of Directors

Fee Structure Discussion

November 20, 2025

Board Direction August 28, 2025

The Board asked staff and consultants to explore options for a new fee structure for the Wyandotte Creek GSA:

- Explore how the Vina GSA fee structure could be adapted for Wyandotte Creek, or whether modifications to the current WyC fee structure would better meet the Agency's needs.
- Work with the Advisory Committee and Stakeholders to evaluate options.
- Consider how a regulatory fee could provide more flexibility.
- Bring forward a structure that could be adopted in time for the next fiscal year (July 2026 through June 2027).

WAC and Stakeholders Outreach

WAC Attendance Nov. 6

- Cal Water
- Agriculture (2)
- Environmental
- Business Association

Stakeholders Nov. 6 - 14

- Thermalito Water & Sewer, S. Feather Water & Power
- 2 Agricultural landowners (of cattle grazing land, rice, trees, other crops)
- 1 Conservation easement landowner

WAC and Stakeholders Input

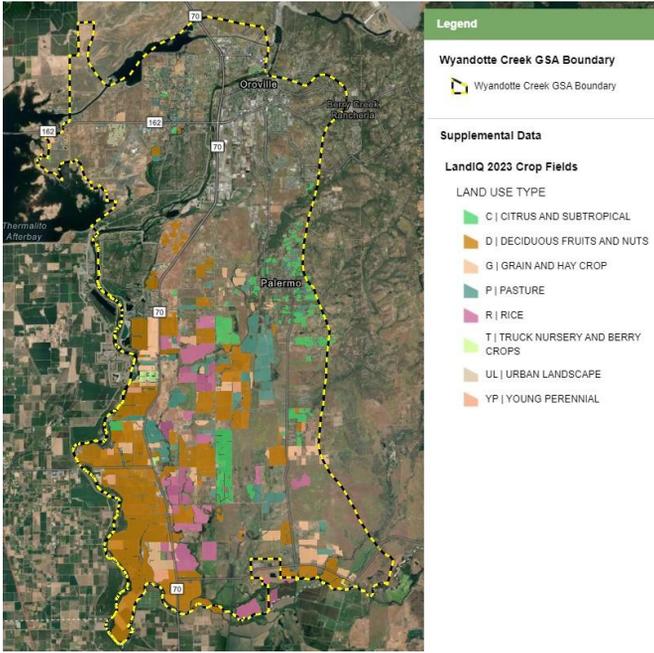
- Supported adoption of a regulatory fee rather than a property-related fee provided there are 'guard rails'
 - Can be addressed in the resolution adopting the fee
- Supported a 2-Part fee structure with Part 1 fee being a Parcel Fee
- Concerned that domestic users paying proportionately too much as they don't use much groundwater
- S. Feather domestic users shouldn't pay Part 2 fee as not using any groundwater
- All agricultural land in the basin using surface water also has wells
- Agricultural properties not growing crops but pumping for wetlands should pay a Part 2 fee

Development of New Wyandotte Creek GSA Regulatory Fee

Step 1: Plan for Future GSA Costs & Cost Allocation

- A. Approve a 5-yr budget outlook for fee-setting purposes only (the Board will not be bound to the budget forecast) – **Board direction Jan/Feb**
- B. Determine Part 1 and Part 2 costs - **Board direction Jan/Feb**
- C. Determine allocation of Part 2 costs – **seeking input on this today**
 - ❖ **Agricultural growing crops (96% of pumping)**
 - Define as all cropped acres identified by DWR or exclude Idle and/or Unclassified (zero acres in latest dataset)?
 - ❖ **Managed wetlands (pumping included with Agriculture)**
 - Define as parcels with wetlands easements.
 - ❖ **Domestic (4% of pumping)**
 - Define as parcels with a building/structure identified by the Assessor or FEMA structures databases.

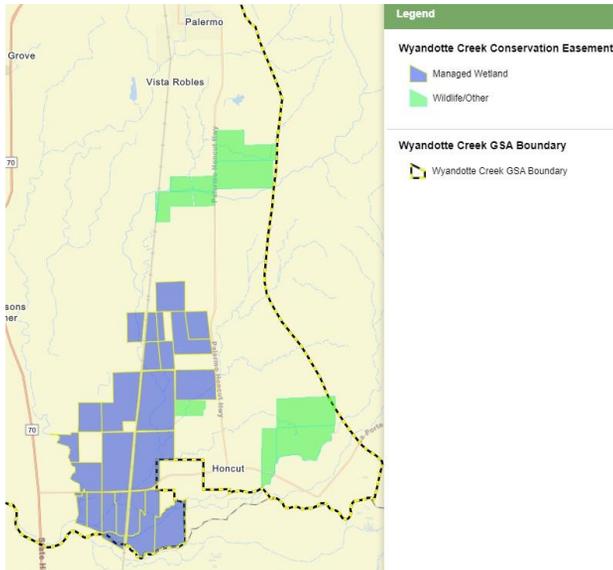
Map of Crop Types in WCGSA



7

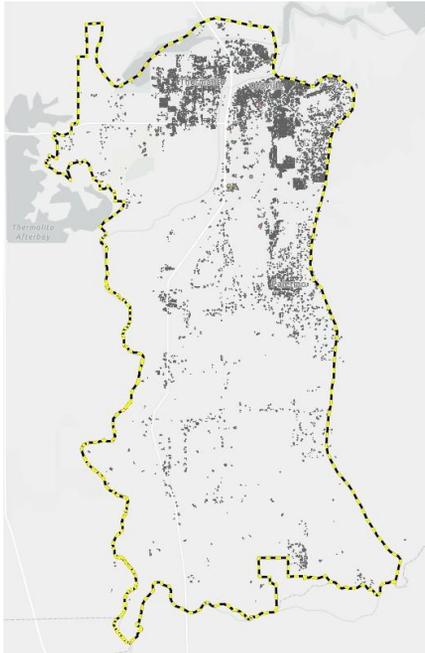
HANSFORD
ECONOMIC CONSULTING

Map of Conservation Easements in WCGSA



8

HANSFORD
ECONOMIC CONSULTING



Map of Buildings

(indicates a Developed Parcel)

9

HANSFORD
ECONOMIC CONSULTING

Step 2a: How We Identify Fee Units

We use mapping software to identify:

- Total number of parcels (for Part 1)
- Total cropped acres
- Total managed wetland acres
- Total developed parcels (domestic)

These totals determine how Part 1 and Part 2 costs are divided among property types.

10

HANSFORD
ECONOMIC CONSULTING

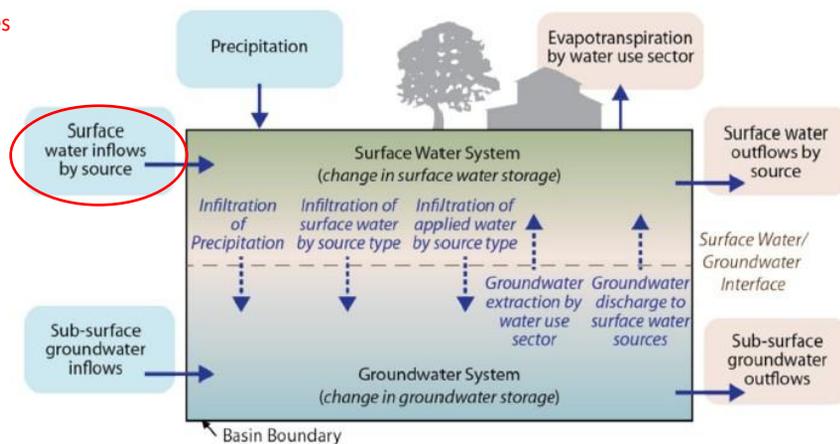
Step 2b: How Part 2 Fees Are Assigned

- 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
- Potential adjustment:
 - Parcels receiving Feather River (imported) water may pay a lower Part 2 fee because they help improve groundwater storage in the basin's water budget
- **Board input needed:**
 - Should we apply a lower Part 2 fee to parcels with imported water?

Basin Water Budget

Source: Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Subbasin GSP page 89

Feather River water originates outside the basin; helps to improve groundwater storage



Concept: Lower Part 2 Fee for Parcels with Imported Water

- Use of imported water reduces the impact to the Wyandotte Creek basin water budget
- The fewer impacts there are to the water budget the fewer Part 2 costs will be generated
- SFWP, Thermalito Water & Sewer, and Cal Water Oroville provide imported water to domestic users
 - SFWP domestic users are supplied 100% imported water – would not pay Part 2
 - Thermalito & Cal Water domestic users are supplied 90% imported water – would pay 10% of the Part 2 fee that domestic well owners and other public water systems users pay
- SFWP irrigation customers & landowners adjacent to the S. Feather river divert imported water for agricultural use
 - Cropped acres supplied imported water would pay a lower Part 2 fee based on imported water share of total water used by agriculture

Illustration of Cost Allocation with Lower Part 2 Fee for Imported Water - Domestic Users

DRAFT

Domestic Part 2 Cost Share	\$7,000	
Developed Parcels		
Groundwater Only	1,500	
GW & Imported Water	7,600	
Weighted Developed Parcels	2,260	
Annual Fee per Developed Parcel		
Groundwater Only Parcel	\$3.10	
GW & Imported Water Parcel	10% \$0.31	

- S. Feather domestic parcels would not pay Part 2 fee
- Thermalito & Cal Water domestic parcels would pay \$0.31 / year
- 10% based on Thermalito & Cal Water groundwater production as share of their total water production
- Other systems & domestic well owners would pay \$3.10 / year

Step 3

Perform the Fee Calculations

- ❖ Divide Part 1 costs by total number of parcels
- ❖ Divide Part 2 costs by units:
 - Cropped acres
 - Managed wetland acres
 - Developed parcels

Illustration of Current Fees at Higher Budget

DRAFT

Parcel Category	Share of Revenue	FY25 Acres	Hypothetical Fee Revenue	Annual Fee per Acre
Non-Irrig	10%	23,703.63	\$33,331	\$1.42
Irrig-SW	28%	7,686.40	\$98,036	\$12.76
Irrig-GW	62%	10,908.32	\$218,633	\$20.06
Total	100%	42,298.35	\$350,000	

- FY26 Budget is \$215,000
- Hypothetical budget is higher for illustration of fees

Illustration of Potential New Fees at Higher Budget

DRAFT

Hypothetical Budget	\$350,000	
Hypothetical Part 1 Cost Share	\$210,000	60%
Hypothetical Part 2 Cost Share	\$140,000	40%
PART 1 Annual Fees		
Part 1 Fee-Paying Parcels	12,200	
Part 1 Fee per Parcel	\$17.21	
PART 2		
Part 2 Ag & Wetlands Cost Share	\$133,000	95%
Cropped & Wetland Acres	13,500	
Part 2 Ag & Wetlands Fee per Acre	\$9.85	
Part 2 Domestic Cost Share	\$7,000	5%
Developed Parcels	9,100	
Part 2 Developed Parcel Fee	\$0.77	

- FY26 Budget is \$215,000
- Hypothetical budget is higher for illustration of fees
- Part 1 / Part 2 costs to be determined by the Board
- Ag / Domestic cost allocation to be determined by the Board

Comparison of Fee Structures

Current Structure	Potential New Structure
Only charges taxable parcels	Charges all parcels
Agricultural parcels pay for entire acreage	Agricultural parcels pay for cropped acreage
Grazing land pays for entire acreage	Grazing land only pays the Part 1 fee
Parcels using surface water pay less than parcels using groundwater (in theory)	Parcels using imported (Feather River) water pay less than parcels using groundwater or gw/creek water

Board Direction Sought Today

- Proceed with a regulatory fee for FY27?
- Proceed with a new fee structure with Part 1 and Part 2 fees with Part 1 being a parcel fee?