

Notice of Regulatory Fee – Water Code Section 10730

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that each groundwater basin in the State be managed sustainably within its statutory timelines. Galt Irrigation District overlies the San Joaquin Valley Cosumnes River Subbasin and is one of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) responsible for SGMA compliance in that groundwater basin. GID carries out this effort as a member of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA). If GID and its partner agencies in the CGA fail to act, or if the State determines that those actions are insufficient, the Subbasin would be subject to intervention and fees levied by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

SGMA authorizes a GSA to impose a fee on the extraction of groundwater or other regulated activity to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program. (Water Code, § 10730.) As a California Irrigation District and GSA, GID is separately authorized to levy fees to fund the costs of its groundwater management programs. Here, GID has partnered with CGA to develop a basin-wide model for cost sharing and fee development to support the ongoing sustainable management of the basin.

Previously, these costs were funded by a \$10/acre charge on irrigated lands within GID. If the new fee structure is adopted, this prior charge will be updated to reflect the broader spread of beneficiaries and services provided in GID's current phase of SGMA implementation.

Information supporting the fee and its calculation may be found at www.GID.specialdistrict.org.

Because the amount to be charged is attributable to the costs assigned to GID part of its participation in CGA (and the attendant groundwater management services that CGA coordinates on GID's behalf), the proposed fee does not outweigh the cost of providing this service to GID irrigators and groundwater users. By participating in this effort, GID will continue to ensure that its interests are represented in the basin, and that the required GSP is implemented in a timely fashion (thus avoiding potential state intervention).

GID will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed SGMA Management Fee on July 9, 2024 at 9:30 am at 12746 Ivie Road, Herald, CA 95638. For further information and data regarding the fee's calculation, to protest, or to provide additional comments, please contact the District by email at galtirrigationdistrict@gmail.com or call 209-734-6077.