

FINANCING LOCAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is not optional and is best accomplished locally. Implementing SGMA at the local level allows stakeholder input and provides for solutions that carry benefits to our region.

The ETSGSA Board is committed to retaining local control over SGMA implementation, where landowner dollars are utilized most efficiently and beneficially. To fund these efforts the Board is conducting two Proposition 218 processes for approval to levy assessments and fees on landowners within its jurisdiction.

January 2024: Funding Continued Operation of the GSA

The Board is conducting the first Proposition 218 process in January 2024 to fund the annual operational budget of the GSA. This funding mechanism is a land-based assessment which will be implemented as a charge per assessed parcel acre.

**Non-irrigated Parcels: Parcels designated as not irrigated for agricultural purposes including undeveloped land, rangeland, and residential lots, which can include domestic or stock water uses.*

***Irrigated Parcels: Parcels designated as irrigated for agriculture purposes including those housing a dairy, poultry farm, or food processing operation.*

Who
Benefits?

All landowners under the jurisdiction of the GSA benefit. Irrigated parcels receive a proportionally greater benefit compared to non-irrigated parcels.

Who
Pays?

All landowners under the jurisdiction of the GSA are assessed.

How
Much?

*Non-Irrigated Parcels: **\$1.54 per acre**
Irrigated Parcels: **\$17.75 per acre

To
Fund
What?

The annual operational budget of the GSA includes costs for administration, public outreach, groundwater level monitoring, annual reporting, and other activities that support GSP implementation.

Spring 2024: Funding Projects and Management Actions

The Board is planning to implement a second funding mechanism in the Spring of 2024 to fund projects and management actions within the GSA. The second funding mechanism is a volume-based fee, meaning charges will be based on the volume of groundwater pumped. As currently proposed, these pumping fees will be implemented in tiers including a base rate for pumping up to the GSA's groundwater use reduction targets, and overdraft tiers that are charged at a higher rate. Groundwater use will be measured as evapotranspiration (ET) during the irrigation season derived from satellite data and compared to annual groundwater use reduction targets to calculate the fees due. More information about this second process will be provided when it becomes available.

