

Notice of 2021/2022 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. Omochumne-Hartnell Water District overlies both the Sacramento Valley South American Subbasin and the San Joaquin Valley Cosumnes River Subbasin and is one of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) responsible for developing the required Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in those subbasins before January 31, 2022. If the GSAs fail to act, or if the GSP is 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.) Here OHWD has determined that the estimated cost of its groundwater sustainability program for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is \$157,500. To fund that program, OHWD proposes to levy a fee of \$10 per groundwater-irrigated acre on every parcel in the GSA area. For purposes of the fee, groundwater irrigated lands shall include those areas determined by the most recent published Statewide Crop Mapping California DWR data to have applied groundwater from the Cosumnes Subbasin for agriculture irrigation purposes. No charge, however, shall be levied upon parcels that irrigate less than one acre or other de minimus users.

Because the amount to be charged is calculated attributable to the costs assigned to OHWD as part of the basins' existing cost shares, the proposed fee does not outweigh the cost of providing this service to OHWD irrigators and groundwater users. By participating in this effort, OHWD will continue to ensure that its interests are represented in the basin, and that the required GSP is completed in a timely fashion (thus avoiding potential state intervention).

OHWD will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed SGMA Management Fee on July 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Information supporting the fee and its calculation may be found at www.ohwd.org. For further information and data regarding the fee's calculation, to protest, or to provide additional comments, please contact the District at info@ohwd.org or 916-682-5958. In light of COVID-related restrictions on public gatherings, the meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference. Interested participants may participate using the following log-in information:

Via video link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86972110520?pwd=NHN2QytzNnh1c3hHdzZBZGNpUnBTdz09>

Dial in: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting number: 869 7211 0520

Passcode: 218160

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