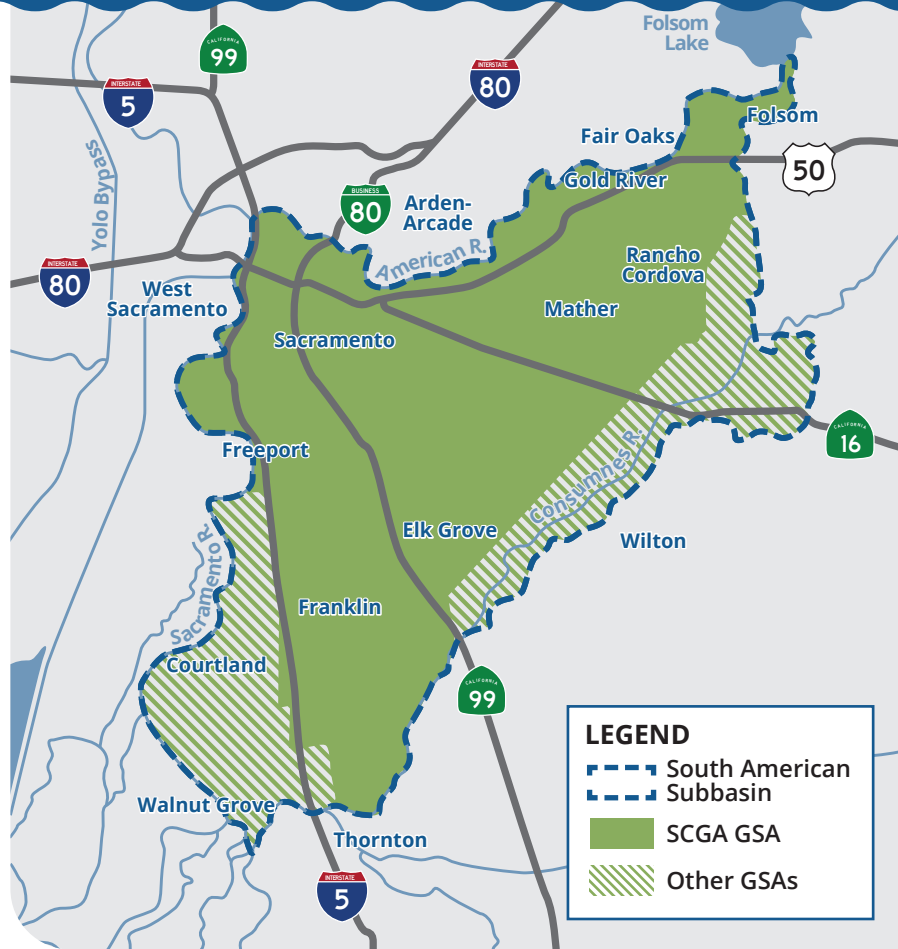


The **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)** is the 2014 law requiring local **Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)** to form in California's high and medium priority groundwater basins and requires GSAs to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

The **Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA)**, your GSA, was created in 2006, elected to become a GSA in 2016, and is jointly responsible with other GSAs for developing a GSP for the South American Subbasin. SCGA will be responsible for the area in the solid green.

The GSP identifies groundwater resource challenges, sets sustainability criteria, and identifies needed projects and actions.



THE \$ OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

SGMA is an unfunded law, so GSP implementation costs are borne by local landowners and groundwater users. Costs are associated with:

- Maintaining a Groundwater Database Management System
- Monitoring and Improving the Monitoring Network
- Annual Reporting
- Response to Department of Water Resources Review
- Evaluation and Assessment of the GSP on five-year intervals
- Filling Data Gaps and Improving the Groundwater Model
- Overseeing and Coordinating Projects
- Public Outreach
- GSA Administration

HOW IS THE FEE COLLECTED?

With a fee to all parcels in the SCGA GSA. A Fee Study was developed that analyzed operating expenses, identified customers, reviewed how expenses are incurred proportionally between customers, and then proposed an approach to charge customers a fee to recover groundwater management costs. The proposed fees will be presented to the SCGA Board for adoption during a public hearing on June 22, 2021.

IF SCGA CAN'T FUND, WHAT HAPPENS?

If SCGA can't fund GSP implementation the State may intervene to directly manage groundwater, assess fees, require metering and potentially impose pumping restrictions.

Benefits of SCGA management:

Better understanding of local water uses and users

Reduces the need for metering of agricultural wells

Support of current and future land and water uses without significant restrictions

Substantially lower cost to well owners

WHAT INFORMATION DID THE FEE STUDY USE?

The Fee Study projected SCGA's expenses based on current budget and estimated GSP implementation costs.

Groundwater usage was based on the best available information:



Agricultural:

aerial photography assessment of irrigated crop acreages, annual U.S. Department of Agriculture crop inventories and water use estimates billed at 75% to account for applied water recharge



Agricultural-residential & other non-agricultural:

2-acre feet/per year, based on the SGMA definition of "de minimis" user



Municipal water suppliers:

water provider metered readings or 1 acre-foot/year per parcel when not provided

WHAT'S THE FEE SETTING APPROACH?

The SCGA board identified a method for allocating a portion of costs to all parcels in the basin and a portion based on amount of groundwater use. The allocation is partially based on California Department of Water Resources criteria that led to the "high priority" ranking, including irrigated acreage and number of wells, population, and the rate of population growth.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In April, the SCGA Board of Directors reviewed and accepted the proposed groundwater fee study, formally kicking off the Proposition 218 process. Each affected parcel owner is notified, invited to attend a public meeting, on June 22, 2021, and may file a protest. Without a majority protest, the SCGA Board of Directors may adopt and implement the new fees which would be included on fall 2021 property tax bills.

HOW'S THE FEE COLLECTED?

A "hybrid" approach was selected which means that parcels within the SCGA GSA boundary that receive water service from an active SCGA urban water purveyor will be funded by the water purveyor (i.e., the water purveyor is directly billed for parcels and metered groundwater use). All other parcels will be billed via the property tax rolls.

FEE STUDY CONCLUSIONS

SCGA fees would be **much less than** State imposed fees.

	SCGA COST	STATE COST
AGRICULTURAL-RESIDENTIAL	\$10.23 annually Parcel charge = \$2.75 De-minimis groundwater fee (2 acre-feet) = \$3.74 x 2 acre-feet = \$7.48	\$300 one-time registration + \$100 annually
AGRICULTURAL	~ \$10.00 annually per irrigated acre Parcel charge = \$2.75 Groundwater fee = \$3.74/acre-foot 75% of estimated applied water	\$300 one-time registration + \$120-194 per acre + Metering and reporting requirement

Go to scgah2o.saccounty.net to see the proposed fee for your parcel(s).

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Please reach us at **916.874.6934** or SCGAGWFee@saccounty.net with any questions.

