



**McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
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Phone: (559) 515-3339  
<http://mcmullinarea.org/>

**Name**  
**Address**  
**City, State ZIP**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPERTY-RELATED FEE<sup>1</sup>**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the **McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MAGSA”)** will conduct a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Kerman Community Center, 15101 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman, CA 93630 to consider the extension of the existing \$19 per-acre charge. The charge is the result of a detailed budget analysis and an independent professional Fee Study Report prepared to determine the appropriateness of the charge amount.

**In addition to the public hearing, MAGSA will host an informational webinar regarding extension of the existing fee on April 27 at noon.** To register for the webinar please visit MAGSA’s website at <http://www.mcmullinarea.org/prop218>.

### **WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?**

You are receiving this notice because you are the owner of record of one or more parcels of property located within the service area of MAGSA.

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed historic groundwater legislation requiring California’s medium- and high-priority groundwater basins be sustainably managed by local agencies called Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”). This legislation, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) grants local agencies (like cities, counties, and water districts) the authority to sustainably manage groundwater resources. Sustainability is achieved through the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”). In January 2020, MAGSA submitted its GSP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Implementation of the GSP began immediately upon submittal of the plan with the objective of achieving the Phase 1 target of a 10% reduction in overdraft (equivalent to 9,110 acre feet) by 2025. After completing amendments requested by the DWR, MAGSA submitted a revised GSP in July 2022.

In 2018, MAGSA adopted a per-acre annual charge of \$19.00/acre. To continue to fund its activities and administrative functions that propel local sustainability efforts forward, MAGSA is proposing to extend the per-acre water service charge on all parcel owners within the MAGSA service area for an additional five years through fiscal year 2027/28. The extension of the fee will be considered at a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** You are receiving this notification in compliance with the

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<sup>1</sup> Una copia de este aviso traducido al español está disponible para ver en el sitio web de GSA en <http://mcmullinarea.org/>.

California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6 (Proposition 218) requirements that all impacted parcel owners are mailed notice of proposed rate changes at least forty-five (45) days prior to a public hearing.

### **BASIS OF PROPOSED RATES**

MAGSA is required by state law to collect revenues sufficient to cover the costs of operating the GSA and funding the activities necessary to develop a GSP, including a prudent reserve. Costs that must be recovered through rate revenue include GSA administration, professional services, and monitoring of the groundwater conditions in MAGSA's portion of the Kings Subbasin. Additionally, revenues would be used to fund costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including the preparation and adoption of the 2025 GSP Update, and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration. The fees proposed herein were developed through a comprehensive Fee Study Report that is available for review at MAGSA's website at: <http://mcmullinarea.org/>. By state law, MAGSA may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover the costs of providing these services.

### **EXTENSION OF PER-ACRE CHARGE**

The annual per-acre charge is a flat fee imposed on each acre of every parcel identified in the Fee Study Report within MAGSA. The fee is authorized by state law and allows MAGSA to adjust revenues to account for cost fluctuations and/or inflation, commensurate with MAGSA's actual annual costs. **The proposed per-acre, annual charge is \$19.00/acre, representing a 0% increase.** MAGSA continues to actively pursue grant funding and other cost saving measures, thereby reducing the need to increase assessments. If adopted, the fee will continue to be billed to landowners annually on their Fresno County tax bill for the next five years beginning on July 1, 2023 through 2028.

### **DATA AVAILABILITY**

The data supporting the fee is publicly available at MAGSA's website: <http://mcmullinarea.org/>.

### **NOTICE**

In addition to this mailed Notice, notice of the public hearing on the proposed charge has also been provided by publication and by posting on MAGSA's internet website, <http://mcmullinarea.org/>, pursuant to Government Code section 6066 and Water Code section 10730.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE AND MAJORITY PROTEST**

The proposed fees are subject to Proposition 218 protest voting procedures. Any property owner of record subject to the proposed charges may submit a written protest against the proposed fees. If a majority of the impacted property owners submit protests, MAGSA cannot adopt the fees. Absent a majority protest, the fees may be implemented once adopted by the MAGSA Board at the public hearing.

To submit a written protest, it must: 1) identify the property owner and state that the property owner opposes the proposed fees; 2) provide the location of the identified parcel(s) (by assessor's parcel number or street address); and 3) include the name and signature of the property owner submitting the protest.

**Written protests must be received prior to the close of MAGSA's public hearing on June 7, 2023 to be counted.** Written protests may be submitted by mail to ATTN: MAGSA Protest, 275 S. Madera Avenue, Suite 301, Kerman, CA 93630; or in writing at the public hearing. Please mail your protest on or before June 4 to ensure on-time delivery. If you wish to submit a protest after June 5, please hand-deliver your protest at the public hearing on June 7. Any protest submitted via e-mail, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

The MAGSA Board will hear and consider all written and oral protests to the proposed charge at the Public Hearing. **Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest.** Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the Board will consider adoption of the proposed charges. If written protests against the proposed rates and charges as outlined above are **not** presented by a majority of property owners of the identified parcels upon which the fees are proposed to be imposed, MAGSA will be authorized to adopt and impose the charges at the public hearing.