

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SANTA YNEZ
RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN WESTERN MANAGEMENT
AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING
THE GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE CHARGES TO BE
COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, as authorized by California Water Code section 10730.2, a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) which has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) may impose fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund cost of groundwater management; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“WMA GSA”) caused a Groundwater Sustainability Fee Study, dated April 22, 2025 (“Rate Study”), to be completed by Raftelis, an independent consultant, to comply with Proposition 218 and determine the fee structure necessary to sustainably manage the WMA GSA and fund the implementation of the WMA GSA’s GSP; and

WHEREAS, notice of the proposed implementation of the groundwater extraction fee and public hearing on the same was provided by mail pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6(a), and Government Code section 53755; and

WHEREAS, notice of the proposed implementation of the groundwater extraction fee was published pursuant to California Water Code section 10730 and Government Code section 6066; and

WHEREAS, notice of the proposed implementation of the groundwater extraction fee and the Rate Study providing the basis of the fee was published and noticed pursuant to California Government Code section 53759.1(c); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held, pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6(a), on June 25, 2025, at which time the Board heard and considered all objections and protests to the proposed groundwater extraction fee; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 53753 provides that an agency that complies with the notice, protest, and hearing requirements of the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act is not required to comply with any other statutory notice, protest, and hearing requirements; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2025, after a public hearing was held, the Board found no majority protest exists and passed WMA GSA Resolution No. 2025-01, finding compliance with the notice, protest, and hearing requirements of the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act and implementing the proposed groundwater extraction fee as follows:

Proposed Five-Year Groundwater Extraction Fee:

	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Fee \$/AF	\$15.68	\$16.31	\$16.96	\$17.64	\$18.35

; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the WMA GSA’s budget requirements, the 2026-2027 fiscal year groundwater extraction fee be at \$16.31 per acre-foot, which is within the limits set forth and authorized in Resolution No. 2025-01; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it would be most efficient to collect the 2026-2027 fiscal year groundwater extraction fee (including unbilled amounts from the prior year(s)) imposed on identified non-de-minimis parcels on the County tax roll.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Directors that:

- 1. 2026-2027 Groundwater Extraction Fee.** The groundwater extraction fee for the 2026-2027 fiscal year be set at \$16.31 per acre-foot in accordance with WMA GSA’s Resolution No. 2025-01;
- 2. Request for Collection.** Pursuant to Water Code section 10730, subdivision (d), the WMA GSA requests that the groundwater extraction fee, including any unbilled amounts from the prior fiscal year(s), be collected by the County of Santa Barbara in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes. This Resolution hereby serves as the order by the WMA GSA to the County Auditor-Controller of Santa Barbara County (“Auditor-Controller”) to place the groundwater extraction fee on the Santa Barbara County tax roll.
- 3. Compliance with Auditor-Controller’s Requirement.** WMA GSA staff is directed to file with the Auditor-Controller, a copy of this Resolution and such other documentation as the Auditor-Controller requires for placing a fee on the tax roll. The WMA GSA will comply or has complied with all of the requirements to place the groundwater extraction fee on the tax roll, including, but not limited to, the requirements set forth in correspondence or other communication received from the Auditor-Controller, executing any agreement(s) and amendments to agreement(s) to place the groundwater extraction fee on the tax roll, executing a Proposition 218 compliance certificate, and submitting the Fixed Charge Data File in the specified format using the data from the Report.
- 4. Authorization.** The WMA GSA Executive Director and staff are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents, to do any and all things, and to take any and all actions that may be necessary or

advisable, in their discretion, in order to effect the purposes and intent of this resolution. All actions heretofore taken by officers, employees, and agents of the WMA GSA, including, but not limited to, the Executive Director and staff, that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby approved, confirmed, and ratified.

All the foregoing, being on motion of Director Worthley, seconded by Director Stassi, is authorized by the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution is the Resolution of said WMA GSA as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 27th day of May, 2026.

WITNESS my hand this 27th day of May, 2026.


Secretary of the Board of Directors