

**MID-KINGS RIVER GSA**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**REGARDING PROPOSED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEES**

Overview

The Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKRGSA or Agency) (MKRGSA or Agency) is a joint powers authority serving as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. As a GSA, the Agency may develop, adopt, and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for sustainable management of groundwater for that portion of each of the Tulare Lake and Tule Subbasins underlying the Agency.

Based on the Agency's needs, the Agency's Board of Directors is proposing to establish a new groundwater extraction fee of up to \$95.00 per acre-foot to pay for the cost of dry well mitigation, recharge basin development, and subsidence mitigation. The proposed fee is considered a property-related, water service charge governed by Proposition 218. The proposed fee was calculated using the GSA's budget as the cost of service to proportionally recover costs on a \$/acre-foot pumped basis. The fee covers the Agency's cost of service for the mitigation and development projects, which are directly correlated to groundwater pumping for use on individual parcels.

These extraction fees are more particularly described in the "Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Proposition 218 Fee Study" dated February 2024, and prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. Copies of this Fee Study are available at the Agency's office as well as their website [www.midkingsrivergsa.org](http://www.midkingsrivergsa.org).

The proposed extraction fee of up to \$95.00 per acre-foot (AF) is needed to recover the estimated \$9,500,000 annual cost of implementing of the GSP. Therefore, agricultural water service customers are being requested to approve the new fees to recover these costs.

<b>Proposed Maximum Charge per Acre-Foot</b>
up to \$95.00

***Public Notice and Majority Protest Process***

In 1996, California voters adopted Proposition 218. Among other things, Proposition 218 requires a specific process for public agencies to impose or increase certain types of fees, including water rates and charges. In particular, the provisions of Proposition 218 set forth in Article XIII D, Section 6 of the California Constitution provide that certain types of "Property Related Fees" are subject to a "majority protest" process. If protests are filed on behalf of a majority of the parcels subject to the rates and charges at issue prior to the close of the April 23, 2024 public hearing, the District cannot adopt the proposed extraction fees. If a majority of the parcels do not protest the proposed rates, the District has the authority to adopt the proposed fees. The proposed fees, if enacted, will take effect no earlier than April 23, 2024.

Any property owner may submit a written protest to the proposed rates; provided, however, that only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Any written protest must: 1) state that the identified property owner is in opposition to the proposed water rate increases; 2) provide the location of the identified parcel (by assessor's parcel number or street address); and 3) include the name and signature of the property owner submitting the protest.

Written protests may be submitted by mail to the MKRGSA office (c/o Kings County Water District, 200 Campus Drive, Hanford, CA 93230) or may be delivered in person to the same address. Written protests may also be submitted at the public hearing, so long as they are received prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Any protest submitted via e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted.

**Notice of a Public Hearing on Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fees**

Pursuant to Article 13D of the California Constitution, the Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed agricultural water rates on ***April 23, 2024 beginning at 1:00 p.m.*** at ***the Koinonia Church, 12536 Hanford Armona Rd, Hanford, CA 93230.***