



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

Protecting Yolo Subbasin Groundwater

Groundwater is part of everyday life in the Yolo Subbasin. It supports residential, commercial, and agricultural uses across the entire Subbasin and provides for wetlands, open space and recreation. The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) was formed in 2017 to make sure this vital resource endures for generations to come. Under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), local agencies like YSGA are responsible for keeping groundwater levels stable and preventing long-term problems such as land subsidence, reduced river flows and degradation of groundwater dependent ecosystems. The Subbasin is uniquely shaped by Cache Creek, Putah Creek, the Sacramento River, and the Yolo Bypass floodplain. Because of the connectivity of groundwater and surface water in the Subbasin, managing groundwater also necessarily entails conjunctively managing all available water supplies to ensure groundwater sustainability.

YSGA's Role in the Subbasin

YSGA provides more than a check the box for SGMA compliance; YSGA works to keep the Subbasin sustainable and locally managed. It helps protect groundwater supplies for wells, wetlands, working lands, and natural ecosystems that define the Subbasin. The Agency works with the community to identify tangible actions that support the needs of groundwater security and actively pursues state and federal grants to provide funding for programs and projects identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Project and Management Actions (PMAs) include:

- Monitoring groundwater levels and quality
- Tracking and mitigating land subsidence impacts
- Updating the Subbasin groundwater model to reflect current hydrology
- Improving data collection through expanded monitoring wells
- Monitoring and mitigating impacts to interconnected streams and wetlands

- Working directly with local areas like Hungry Hollow to address declining groundwater levels

YSGA works to secure state grant funding to reduce the cost to local landowners. To date, YSGA has secured \$8 million in state grant funding to help pay for PMAs in the GSP, which includes supporting member agencies' projects:

- Dunnigan Area Recharge Program
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Winter Recharge Program
- Yolo-Zamora Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project and Water Availability Assessment
- Feasibility Studies Evaluating Alternative Water Supplies for the City of Winters

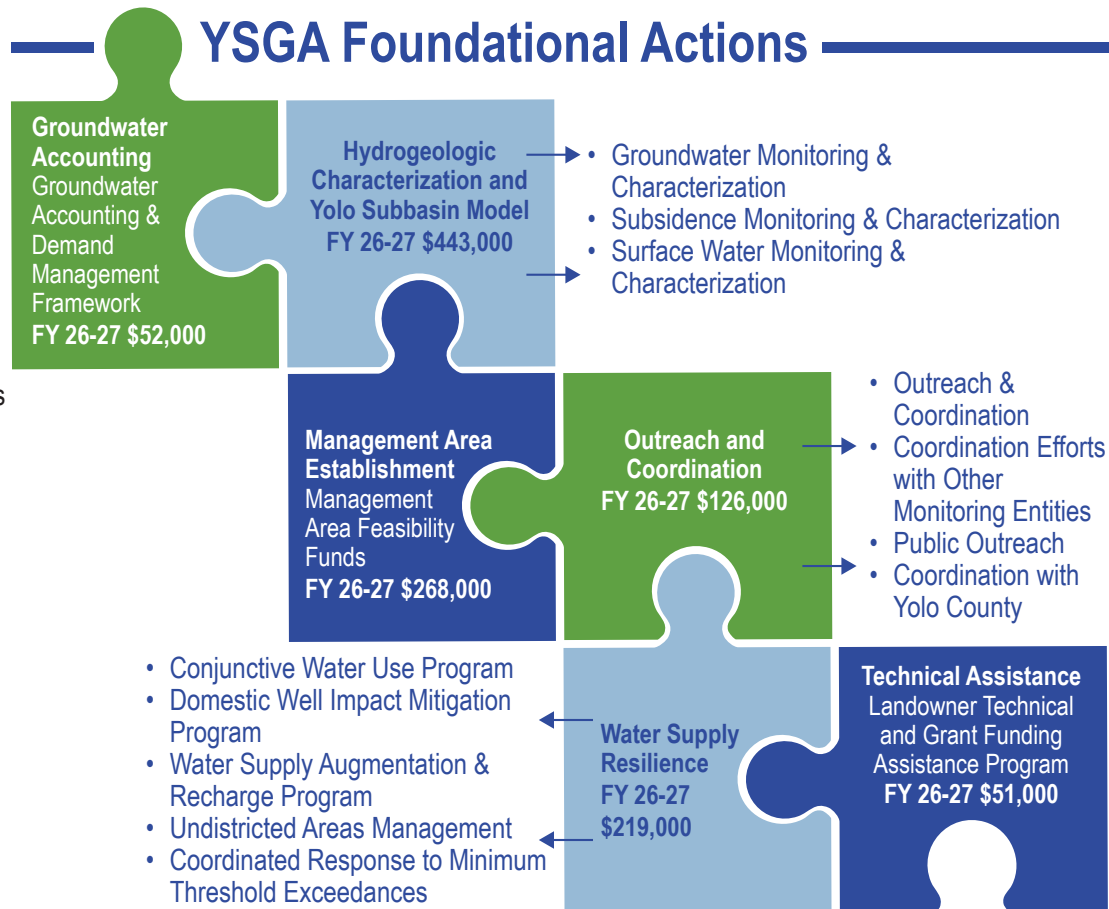
[Read more](#) about the YSGA and member-agency projects.

Why Is a Fee Needed?

SGMA requires ongoing monitoring, reporting, technical studies and local project development. To remain compliant and keep management local, YSGA needs a stable funding source. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2026–27, the proposed annual budget is \$1.6 million. The budget covers two main areas:

- **Tier 1 – Keeping the Agency Operational (28% - \$441,000)** Covers administration, governance, public oversight, and required reporting to the State.
- **Tier 2 – GSP Activities to Reach Sustainability (72% - \$1,159,000*)** Funds monitoring improvements, groundwater modeling updates, subsidence tracking, developments in groundwater accounting, and projects that protect groundwater levels. Tier 2 activities support YSGA's Fundamental Actions as described in the graphic.

**All numbers are estimated and rounded for budgeting purposes.*



What Would the Proposed Fee Look Like?

The structure reflects community input to ensure the fee is based on reliable local data, and shared equitably across those who benefit from sustainable groundwater management. The proposed annual fee has two parts:

Tier 1 – Applies to All Parcels

- \$1.50 billing fee per parcel
- \$0.76 per acre

Tier 2 – Based on Water Use

Domestic (Residential and Commercial) Uses:

- \$1.36 per developed parcel for unregulated users (such as a private household well)
- \$0.40 per state small water system connection (serves 5-14 connections or serves less than 25 people)
- \$0.80 per community water system connection (public water provider)
- \$0.32 per person served by a non-community water system (not a public water system; typically commercial, schools, hospitals, etc.)

Agricultural Uses (per cropped acre or managed wetlands acre*):

- \$2.78 per acre in Districted Areas (parcels within the service territory of a YSGA member irrigation or reclamation district)
- \$7.94 per acre in Undistricted Areas (parcels NOT within the service territory of a YSGA member irrigation or reclamation district)

Vacant and Rangeland Parcels and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area:

- No Tier 2 fee

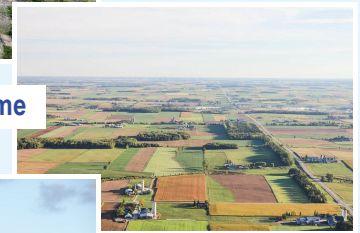
**Parcels that include managed wetlands, as defined by YSGA, are included in the proposed fee structure because groundwater sustainability efforts benefit those lands. State-owned parcels within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area are treated differently because they are managed to replicate historic flood patterns.*

The total annual fee for each parcel is the combined Tier 1 and Tier 2 fee amounts. **Click on the example graphics to see fee impacts.**



Agriculture

Agriculture with Home



Rangeland

Domestic Home



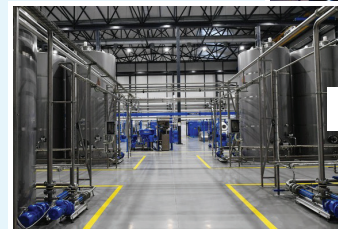
2 Homes, 1 Well



School



Industrial



How Would the Fee Be Collected?

Parcels that pay property taxes will have the fee placed on their property tax bill except those who receive drinking water from a community water system - the fee would be paid for by the public water provider.

- If you use a private well, the fee will appear on your property tax bill.
- Tax-exempt parcels will receive a direct bill from YSGA. Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation will receive a bill from YSGA for lands not held in Federal Trust per SGMA law.

What is the Process to Approve the Fee?

California Water Code authorizes GSAs to charge regulatory fees to meet budgetary needs of regulatory activities. The adoption process involves setting a public hearing date and noticing the date in local newspapers and posting all relevant materials on the YSGA's website. The YSGA Board will review the draft fee study and set the public hearing date at their March 23, 2026 Board Meeting and will decide on fee adoption in May 2026 following the public hearing.

Benefits Received by Supporting YSGA

Groundwater management is required by state law — but how it's managed can remain local. By funding YSGA, the community keeps decision-making in the Subbasin rather than at the State level. It ensures that waterways, wetlands, agriculture, and communities continue to thrive together through groundwater sustainability, ultimately ensuring long-term stability of the region's communities, ecosystems and agricultural economy.

Questions? Contact the YSGA!

- Call staff at (530) 662-3211 or email staff at info@yolosga.org
- Visit www.yologroundwater.org

- [Sign up](#) to receive periodic updates.
- [Attend a Board Meeting](#).