

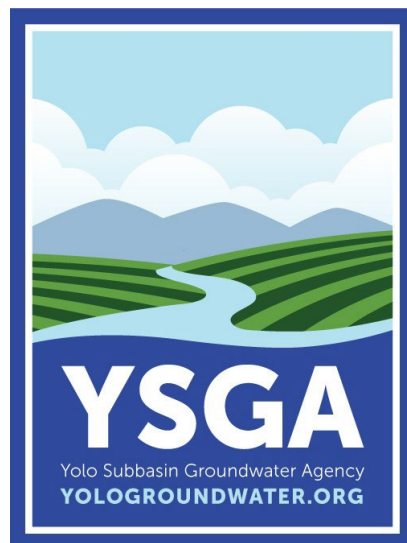
HANSFORD

ECONOMIC CONSULTING

FINAL

YOLO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee



April 24, 2026

HEC No. 250452

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ACRONYMS

APN – Assessor Parcel Number

CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CDMWC – Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company

CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission

CSA – County Services Area

CSD – Community Services District

DWR – California Department of Water Resources

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

GFOA – Government Financial Officers Association

GIS – Geographic Information System

GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency

GSP – Groundwater Sustainability Plan

ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

JPA – Joint Power Authority

NTNC – Nontransient Non-Community Water System

PWS – Public Water System

RD – Reclamation District

SAFER – Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program

SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

SSWS – State Small Water System

SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

TNC – Transient Non-Community Water System

YBWA – Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

YCFB – Yolo County Farm Bureau

YCFC&WCD – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

YSGA – Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

FEE STUDY PREFACE

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) commissioned this study to evaluate alternative fee methodologies to develop a fee that will support the typical annual operation costs of its regulatory program authorized by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The analyses, opinions, and findings contained within this report are based on primary data collected through interviews and research, as well as many sources of secondary data available as of the date of this report. While it is believed that the secondary sources of information are accurate, this is not guaranteed. Updates to the information used in this report could change or invalidate the findings contained herein.

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the data contained in this study reflects the most accurate and timely information possible. No responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies in reporting by YSGA, its consultants and representatives, or any other data source used in the preparation of this study. No warranty or representation is made that any of the projected values or results contained in this study will be achieved. There typically are differences between forecasted or projected results and actual results due to changes in events and circumstances.

Changes in economic and social conditions due to events including, but not limited to, major recessions, availability of water resources due to droughts, major environmental problems, or disasters that could negatively affect operations, expenses and revenues may affect the result of the findings in this study. In addition, other factors not considered in the study may influence actual results.

The fee study consultant team that prepared this report includes:

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We want to thank YSGA staff, the Ad Hoc Finance Committee, the YSGA Board of Directors, and all the stakeholders who helped inform development of the YSGA SGMA fee for Fiscal Year 2027.

Catherine Hansford



Hansford Economic Consulting LLC

Section 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA or Agency) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed to provide groundwater management in the Yolo Subbasin (Subbasin)¹ pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. The Agency oversees groundwater management for the entire Subbasin, which encompasses most of Yolo County and two small pockets of Solano County. Included in the Subbasin are urban areas such as West Sacramento, Woodland, Winters, and Davis, as well as surrounding agricultural and recreational lands. **Figure 1** illustrates the jurisdictional boundaries of the YSGA.

SGMA provides for the local management of groundwater by mandating that all groundwater basins in the State of California (State) achieve sustainability by 2042.² Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2016, circulated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), identifies the groundwater basins and subbasins to be managed, and designates their priority status. DWR designated the Yolo Subbasin as a high-priority basin, which requires the Subbasin be managed by implementing a state-approved groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Pursuant to this requirement, the YSGA Board of Directors (Board) approved the GSP on January 24, 2022, and DWR approved the GSP on October 26, 2023.

SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as “the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.”³ The six undesirable results are:

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation period,
2. Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage,
3. Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion,
4. Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies,
5. Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses, and
6. Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

The GSP addresses each of these undesirable results as they pertain to the Subbasin and provides a plan for sustainability within twenty years. Each year, YSGA submits its annual report to DWR on or before April 1 to report groundwater conditions and implementation status of its GSP over the

¹ Identified as Subbasin 5-021.67 in California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (update 2016).

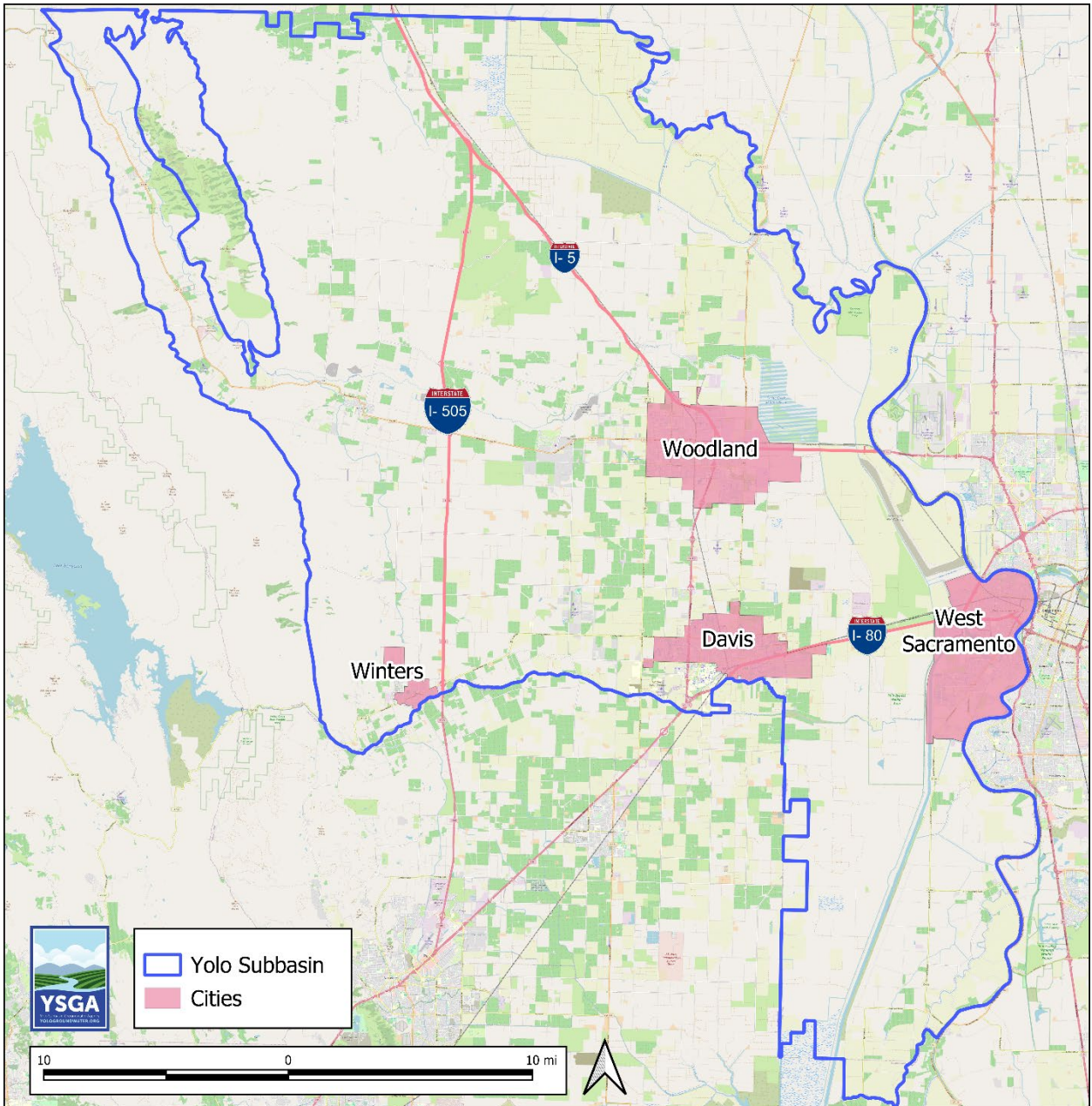
² Critically overdrafted basins must achieve sustainability by 2040.

³ Water Code 10721.

prior water year.⁴

YSGA works to ensure groundwater supplies are managed to support urban and rural communities, agricultural land uses, recreational uses, and environmental uses now and in the future.

Figure 1
Map of the Yolo Subbasin



Source: California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (update 2016); Subbasin 5-021.67.

⁴ The water year runs from October 1 through September 30.

YSGA Governance

YSGA is governed by its Board, which includes representatives of its member agencies and affiliated parties, as well as private pumper representation by Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB), and an environmental representative. In total, there are 26 directors:

Rural Members: Yolo County, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCF&WCD), Dunnigan Water District, RD 108, RD 150, RD 307, RD 537, RD 730, RD 765, RD 787, RD 999, RD 1600, and RD 2035.

Municipal Members: City of Davis, City of West Sacramento, City of Woodland, City of Winters, Esparto CSD, Madison CSD, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Affiliated Parties: University of California (UC) Davis, Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (CDMWC), California American Water Company Dunnigan (Cal Am), Rumsey Water Users Association, Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB), and an environmental representative.

There are six management areas (MAs) in the Subbasin. The YSGA monitors for the six undesirable results in each of the MAs and has plans to establish Public Advisory Committees (PACs) for each. The role of the PACs is to provide a forum for community organization and public involvement, evaluate and respond to local groundwater conditions, make recommendations for action on issues, elect and implement projects, and report to the Board. **Figures 2 and 3** show the Member Agencies and Affiliated Parties in each of the six MAs.

As clearly stated in Article 8 of the JPA Agreement, the Agency will serve a coordinating and administrative role in order to provide for the sustainable groundwater management of the Subbasin in a manner that does not limit any Member's or Affiliated Party's rights or authority over its own water supply matters. Members and Affiliated Parties have the initial responsibility to implement SGMA and the GSP; provided however, that the Agency reserves and retains all requisite authority to (i) develop and implement a plan to achieve sustainability or eliminate an undesirable result, and (ii) allocate the cost of development and implementation of such plan to Members or Affiliated Parties within each MA.

Figure 2
Management Areas Capay Valley, North Yolo, and Central Yolo

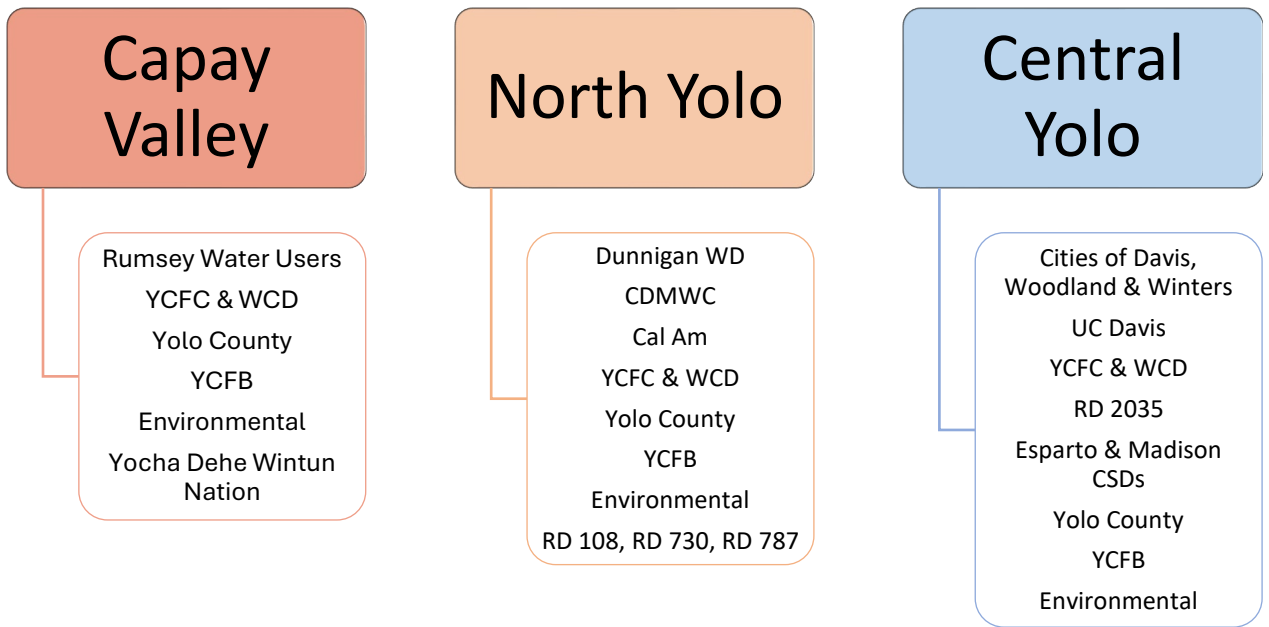


Figure 3
Management Areas Dunnigan Hills, South Yolo, and Clarksburg

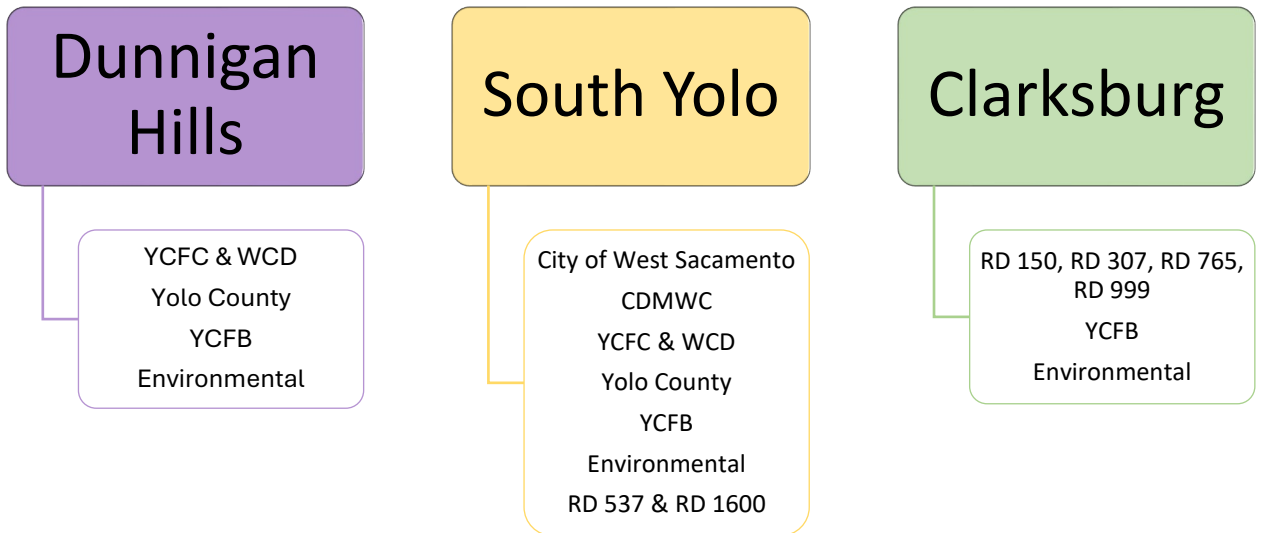
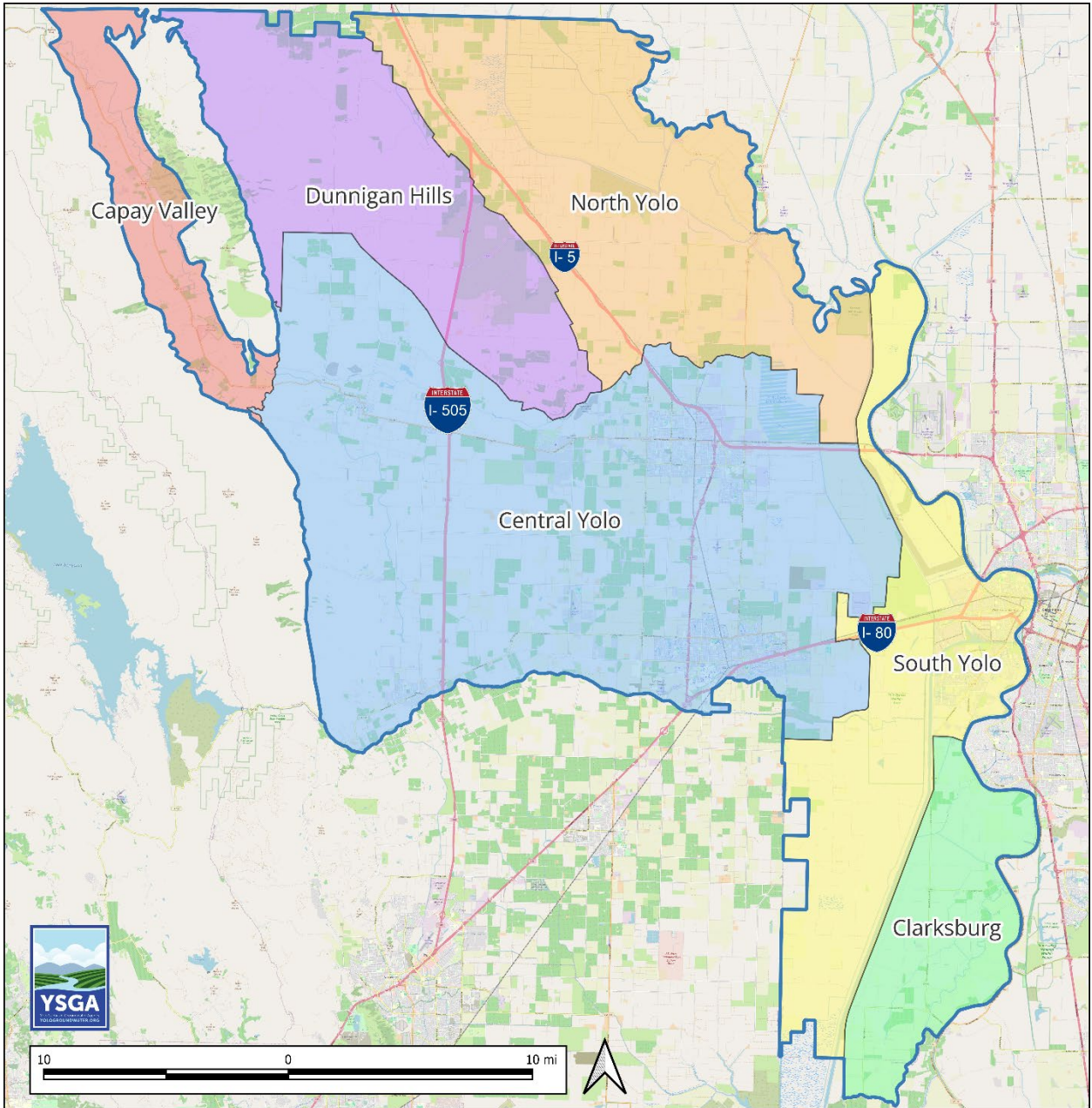


Figure 4
Map of Management Areas Within the Subbasin



1.2 PURPOSE OF THE FEE STUDY

Since its formation, the YSGA has been solely funded by State grants and by Member and Affiliated Party contributions. The JPA Agreement states that the fee structure would be revisited and adjusted as appropriate after two years (in 2019); however, the YSGA did not embark on this endeavor until 2025 due to resource limitations caused by delays, including a severe drought and the impact of COVID-19.

Member Agencies and Affiliated Parties fees have supported Agency operations and management, GSP development, and grant-funded projects adopted in the GSP that work toward achieving sustainable groundwater levels by 2042; however, it is no longer feasible for YSGA to remain reliant solely on these contributions as it advances projects outlined in the GSP. YSGA will continue to actively pursue grants, however, grant monies are not guaranteed. In May 2025, the YSGA Board approved a contract for a study to explore SGMA fee options that consider the characteristics of different water users within the Subbasin. YSGA needs sufficient revenue to cover essential operating expenses, support staffing, fund investigative studies, and address data gaps that improve its understanding of the Subbasin. Revenues must also support monitoring activities, the preparation of annual reports, and periodic evaluations as required by SGMA. By funding these required regulatory activities with a SGMA fee, YSGA will ensure it stays compliant with State law while maintaining local control and decision making over groundwater management in the Yolo Subbasin. Landowners in the Subbasin benefit from the sustainable groundwater management activities funded by these fees, which are essential for protecting the long-term health of the groundwater basin, a condition that is vital for the prosperity and security of all who rely on it.

YSGA has the authority to charge fees, conduct investigations, require reporting, and take other actions to sustainably manage groundwater resources of the Yolo Subbasin. As the GSA for a high priority basin, YSGA must and does regulate all water users in the Subbasin's boundaries.⁵ Under Article 15 of the JPA, the Agency is authorized to impose fees to fund its activities as provided in Chapter 8 of SGMA (commencing with section 10730 of the California Water Code)⁶. Water Code Sections 10730 and 10730.1 set forth the authority for the YSGA to establish and charge regulatory SGMA fees. The proposed regulatory SGMA fee described in this report is to cover "reasonable costs" of the YSGA's regulatory activities. The fee is proportional and related to the benefits of the program and is calculated to collect no more revenue than required to pay for the costs of the services YSGA is providing.

Goals of the fee study are:

1. Establish a SGMA fee that the YSGA can adopt with confidence and support from interested parties and stakeholders.
2. Provide a fee structure that generates sufficient revenue to support the financial obligations and budget needs of the Agency to perform the duties required of it under SGMA.
3. Ensure the fee is based on current, reliable data and reflects only the reasonable costs of YSGA's groundwater management services.
4. Adopt a fee structure that is economically and easily administered, charged, and collected.

A key tenet in developing the fee has been to maintain transparency throughout the project, informing the YSGA fee payors about the fee study, opportunities for involvement, and how to provide input to the process. The SGMA fee developed in this report used two key pillars of information that were constructed through the fee study process: (1) Stakeholder and public input on who should be charged, and the most reasonable fee structure; and (2) Available reliable data upon which to estimate the benefits received by YSGA services each year.

⁵ Includes "de minimis extractors" and unregulated water systems with two to four connections.

⁶ <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=WAT&tocTitle=+Water+Code+-+WAT>.

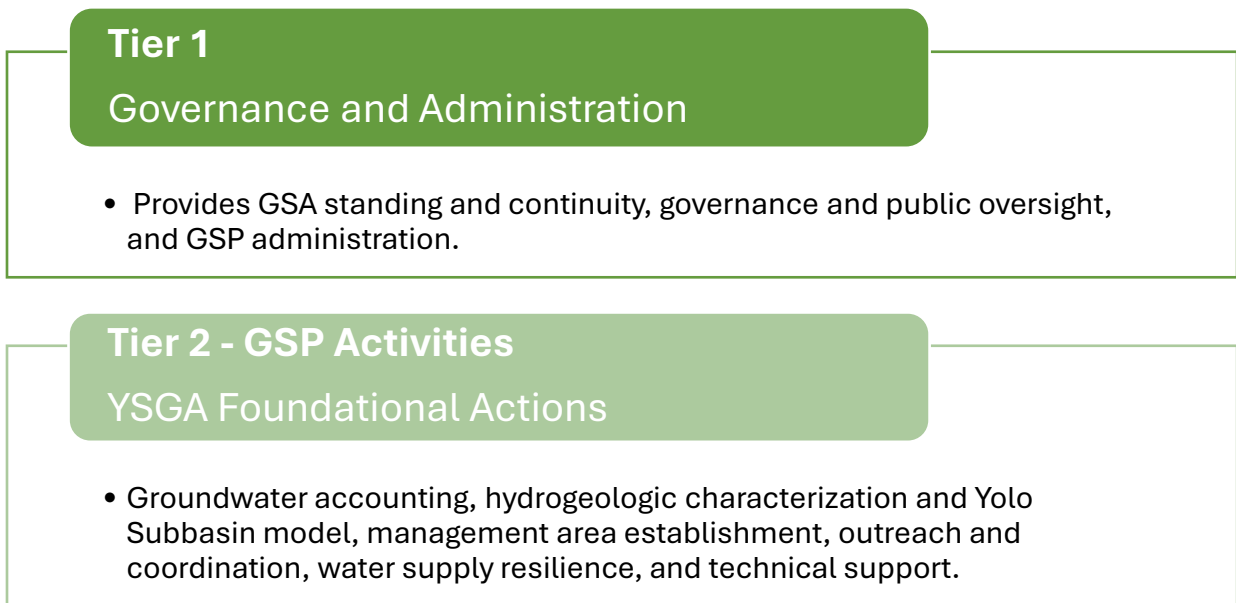
This report documents the methodology, public outreach conducted, and the Fiscal Year⁷ 2027 (FY27) YSGA SGMA calculated and proposed fee.

1.3 FEE STRUCTURE

Fee Structure

The YSGA fee structure consists of two tiers, based on the different services YSGA provides. The two-tier fee structure, summarized in **Figure 5**, is necessary to ensure the fees are reasonably related to the services provided: Tier 1 keeps the YSGA operational, covering all land in the Yolo Subbasin as required by SGMA; Tier 2 ensures all water users (groundwater, surface water, and conjunctive water users)⁸ pay for sustainable groundwater management.

Figure 5
Activities Funded by Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fees



Tier 1 Fee: Governance and Administration (Applies to All Parcels)

The Tier 1 fee funds the cost of having YSGA in place, as legally required for Yolo Subbasin under SGMA. The Tier 1 fee applies to all parcels of land because all the land included within the boundaries of the Subbasin must be managed by a GSA.

⁷ The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

⁸ Conjunctive water refers to at least one other water source used in addition to groundwater such as surface water or precipitation.

Tier 1 Fee Service Provided: Maintaining a functioning GSA as required by SGMA to the benefit of all landowners in the Subbasin.

The Tier 1 Fee covers costs of the following items:

- ✓ **Agency Standing and Continuity** – Activities required to keep the Agency established, operational, and recognized as the GSA for the Subbasin. Includes administrative activities such as staffing, legal support, financial reporting, Yolo and Solano County administrative fees, and supplies.
- ✓ **Board of Directors Meetings and Public Oversight** – Ensuring local governance, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making authority.
- ✓ **GSP Administration** – Required reporting and GSP updates.

Tier 2 Fee: YSGA Foundational Actions (Applies to Types of Water Users)

The Tier 2 fee funds GSP activities necessary to support the long-term sustainability of groundwater. The YSGA has grouped these activities into six YSGA Foundational Actions.

Tier 2 Fee Service Provided: Groundwater and surface water monitoring and sustainable groundwater management, ensuring long-term groundwater availability and avoidance of the six undesirable results outlined in Section 1.1.

The Tier 2 Fee covers costs of the following YSGA Foundational Actions items:

- ✓ **Groundwater Accounting** – Ongoing monitoring and data collection of surface and groundwater use and development of a potential demand management framework.
- ✓ **Hydrogeologic Characterization and Yolo Subbasin Model** – Filling data gaps and analyzing new data to improve the Yolo Subbasin hydrogeologic model.
- ✓ **Management Area Establishment** – Providing seed funding to MA PACs for project development.
- ✓ **Outreach and Coordination** – Working with Agency partners to ensure compliance and educate the public on sustainability efforts.
- ✓ **Water Supply Resilience** – Facilitating efforts to expand access to surface water and increase groundwater recharge.
- ✓ **Technical Assistance** – Providing technical resources and applying for grants to fund projects.

These activities provide direct benefit to all water users as they improve understanding of how all water resources are used in the Subbasin and inform management efforts that will support the long-term sustainability of groundwater.

Water Use Types/User Groups:

The Tier 2 fee is applied to three water user use types/user groups.

Group 1: Agricultural uses of water for crop irrigation, wetlands management, or both purposes. Water may also be used for recreational and environmental purposes on these lands. The same fee amount is charged per cropped acre or managed wetland acre; the fee is lower for Districted Agricultural Water Users, and higher for “Undistricted” Agricultural Water Users. Properties using water for agricultural purposes are identified using a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool developed for the fee study.

What is a Districted Agricultural Water User? An agricultural water user located in the service territory of a YSGA member irrigation or reclamation district, or affiliate mutual water company or mutual ditch association (Districted area). Water resources are managed conjunctively in the Districted areas.

What is an “Undistricted” Agricultural Water User? An agricultural water user not located within a Districted area where water resources are not being managed conjunctively, and groundwater sustainability activities fall entirely on the YSGA.

Group 2: Domestic (including commercial) uses of water for residential or business activities, including unregulated water use and regulated water systems use. This fee is calculated per Domestic Water Equivalent (DWE), but it is charged differently depending on the type of water system.

What is a DWE? It is the typical annual water use of a community water system service connection; 193,376 gallons per year (16,115 gallons per month) in YSGA.⁹ DWEs are used to allocate Tier 2 costs among different water system user types. Equivalence is measured in terms of estimated annual domestic water demand by each domestic water user type.

Unregulated water users are charged by Developed Parcel and are identified using the GIS mapping tool. Regulated State Small Water Systems (SSWS) and Community Water Systems are charged per connection, and Non-Community Water Systems are charged per person.¹⁰ Regulated domestic water systems are identified using Yolo County Environmental Health Division data for SSWS, SAFER Clearinghouse data, and the GIS tool developed for the fee study.

Group 3: Lands with minimal or no water use, and publicly-owned land with water resources managed by a non-taxable entity for a primary purpose that is not agricultural or domestic. Group 3 lands are only subject to the Tier 1 fee and have a \$0 Tier 2 fee.

⁹ Community water system water use per connection calculated using SAFER Clearinghouse data for calendar years 2023 and 2024.

¹⁰ Water system definitions are provided on pages 11-12.

Group 3 includes:

- Grazing lands
- Vacant lands
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

The Tier 1 and Tier 2 fees are added together to determine the total fee charged to each Assessor's parcel. The fees will be collected from every parcel with property taxes, unless the property is served by a Community Water System or the property is classified non-taxable by the Assessor, in which case the Agency will 'hand bill' the fee directly to the landowner or Community Water System.

1.4 CALCULATED FISCAL YEAR 2027 FEES

The proposed fee applies to all parcels of land in the Subbasin unless the parcel is exempt pursuant to SGMA.

What is an Exempt property? Exempt properties include federal properties, and properties held in trust by the federal government for tribes.

All Subbasin parcels, except Exempt properties, will be subject to the Tier 1 fee. All parcels using water from any source will be charged the Tier 2 fee because all water sources are considered "connected" in the Subbasin. This relationship or interconnectivity of surface and groundwater sources within the Subbasin is well documented in the GSP.¹¹ The Sacramento River and its tributaries, Putah Creek, and Cache Creek replenish underground aquifers where water is drawn and stored, which makes the delineation between surface and groundwater sources contributing to groundwater withdrawals difficult to separate. Additionally, in some Subbasin locations, surface water users benefit from groundwater sustainability because the supply of surface water is not depleted if the Subbasin is in balance. Surface and groundwater management must be mutually inclusive in the Subbasin to achieve groundwater sustainability.

Table 1 presents the proposed Tier 1 and Tier 2 fees for FY27. As noted in the table, a parcel can have more than one type of water use. For example, a ranch on a predominantly agricultural parcel would be charged the Tier 1 fees plus the Tier 2 Group 1 fee for agricultural acres, and the Tier 2 Group 2 fee for the home (domestic) water use of the parcel.

¹¹ The GSP <https://www.yologroundwater.org/yolo-subbasin-groundwater-sustainability-plan> at Page 2-124 explains, "Most major water bodies in the Subbasin are connected to groundwater. The following section provides an overview of the state of local knowledge regarding the major connected water bodies, including Sacramento River area, Putah Creek area, Cache Creek area, other canals, sloughs, and streams in the Subbasin."

**Table 1
FY27 YSGA SGMA Proposed Fee**

Fee Component	FY27	
	Fee	Applicability
Tier 1 Fees	All Parcels pay Tier 1 Fees	
Billing Fee	\$1.50	per Parcel
<i>plus</i> Acreage Fee	\$0.76	per Acre of Parcel within YGSA boundaries
Tier 2 Fees - Agriculture	Tier 2 fees are added to Tier 1 Fees as applicable	
Districted Parcel	\$2.78	per Agricultural Acre
Undistricted Parcel	\$7.94	per Agricultural Acre
Tier 2 Fees - Domestic [1]	Tier 2 fees are added to Tier 1 Fees as applicable	
Unregulated User	\$1.36	per Developed Parcel
State Small Water System	\$0.40	per Connection
Community Water System	\$0.80	per Connection
Non-Community Water System	\$0.32	per Person Served
[1] The fee schedule by user category is calculated on the fee for all users:		
	\$0.80	per Domestic Water Equivalent

Key fee and water system terms are defined here:

Agricultural Acre. Either a Cropped Acre or a Managed Wetland Acre.

Community Water System: A PWS that serves at least 15 connections used by year-long residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-long residents within the area served by the PWS.

Connection. Active connection required to be reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for regulated water systems.

Cropped Acre. Land that produces food, feed or fiber, and crops grown for recreational or ornamental purposes.¹² The data source may change in future years; in this fee study and for the anticipated future, YSGA identifies Cropped Acres using LandIQ’s land use mapping service¹³ for crops mapped in the prior growing period, which meets DWR’s accuracy requirements and is subsequently published by DWR upon their review. All DWR crop mapping codes, as shown in Appendix A, **Table A-1**, will be charged the fee.

Developed Parcel. A Parcel with a building/structure identified using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Yolo County, and Solano County Assessor databases.

Districted Parcel: A Parcel containing Agricultural Acres within the service territory of a YSGA

¹² Golf course grass is an example of a recreational crop. Examples of ornamental crops include Christmas trees and flowers.

¹³ [Land Use Mapping | Land IQ](#).

member irrigation or reclamation district, or affiliate mutual water company or mutual ditch association. Includes parcels in Rumsey Water Users Association, UC Davis, City of West Sacramento (RD 900), Dunnigan Water District, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Reclamation District, CDMWC, RD 108, RD 150, RD 307, RD 537, RD 730, RD 765, RD 787, RD 999, RD 1600, and RD 2035.

Grazing Land. Non-irrigated land used for grazing livestock.

Managed Wetland Acre. Land that is identified as managed wetland by YSGA periodic studies; data sources include CDFW, Ducks Unlimited, and other data contributors.

Non-Community Water System: An NTNC or TNC Water System.

Nontransient Non-Community Water System (NTNC): A PWS that is not a Community Water System and does not regularly serve at least 25 same people more than 6 months out of the year.

Parcel. A parcel of real property identified by a Yolo County or Solano County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN).

Person Served: Population served by a water system as reported in California's SAFER Clearinghouse.

Public Water System (PWS): A State regulated water system serving 15+ connections or regularly serving more than 25 people daily more than 60 days a year water for human consumption.

State Small Water System (SSWS): A County regulated water system serving 5 to 14 connections or serving fewer than 25 people daily over 60 days a year.

Transient Non-Community Water System (TNC): A PWS that is not a Community Water System and regularly serves at least 25 same people more than 6 months out of the year.

Undistricted Parcel: A Parcel containing Agricultural Acres outside the service territory of a YSGA member irrigation or reclamation district, or affiliate mutual water company or mutual ditch association.

Unregulated Domestic Water User: A Parcel with buildings served drinking water by a single domestic well or County unregulated wells with 2-4 connections.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: State-owned wildlife habitat area managed to restore a functioning ecosystem that is open to the public in the southern portion of the Yolo Bypass. Any agricultural uses of land in the YBWA are ancillary to the core mission to restore an ecosystem that mimics the natural flooding and drainage that once occurred in the Yolo Bypass region.

Fee Collection

The YSGA SGMA fee will be collected by placement on the tax rolls prepared by the Yolo and Solano County Auditor-Controllers each year. Properties not assessed on the tax rolls (“non-taxable” parcels) include parcels owned by railroad companies and utilities, the State of California, and local governments if those parcels are located within their own jurisdiction. YSGA will directly “hand bill” non-taxable parcels. YSGA will also hand bill Community Water Systems (about 8.0% of total revenue will be collected via hand bills). Water systems and large landowners that will be hand billed include the cities of Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, and Winters; UC Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, CDFW, and Yolo County.

Figure 6 illustrates entities paying YSGA fees for their customers, and federal (Exempt) properties. Not shown is the YBWA for which the CDFW will pay YSGA Tier 1 SGMA fees.

Fee Corrections

A fee corrections process will be developed by YSGA to address Tier 2 fee charges calculated on erroneous information. For example, the agricultural fee is not intended to be charged to dry farmed crops; however, the current data source that is used to identify Cropped Acres does not discern between irrigated and dry farmed cropping. The fee will be charged assuming the Cropped Acres are irrigated or have been irrigated in the past. The onus will be on the property owner to demonstrate dry farming to YSGA by way of the corrections process.

Fee Adoption and Annual Adjustments

It is anticipated that the SGMA fee will be adopted by the Board by resolution in May 2026. Pursuant to the JPA Agreement at section 4.7, the adoption of fees requires a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of directors present. The 2026 resolution will adopt the fee study and establish the FY27 fees.

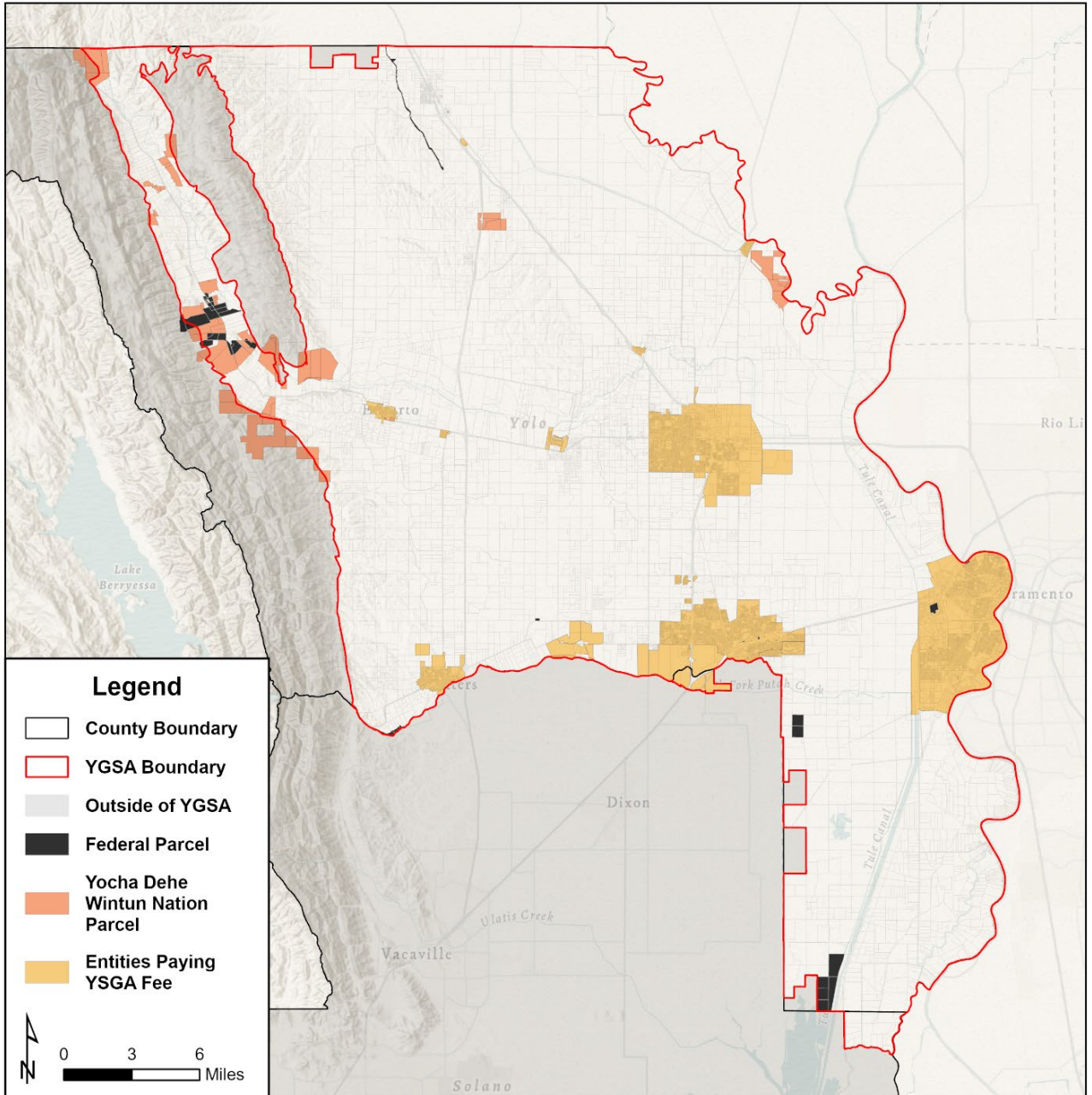
The Agency will adopt a fee resolution each year to determine the applicable annual fees and place the fees calculated for each Assessor’s parcel on the tax roll. In the spring of each year, YSGA staff will estimate projected costs, fiscal year-end cash balance, and fee revenues needed for cash flow over the next five years. Based on this analysis, the fee levels for the next fiscal year may be set by the YSGA Board by one of three methodologies:

1. Application of a change in a price index established in the resolution adopting the fee,¹⁴
2. Application of a percentage increase up to a maximum established by the Board (such as 4%), or
3. A fee level change based on the five-year cash flow needs that cannot be met by methodologies 1. or 2. or the need to adjust the revenue collected in Tier 1 and Tier 2 fees based on anticipated spending in these tiers.

The YSGA shall periodically review the fee structure and revise the fee study when changes are necessary.

¹⁴ The March to March change in the West Region All Urban Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is recommended.

Figure 6
Map of Entities Paying YSGA Fees for their Customers



Section 2: FEE STUDY PROCESS

2.1 FEE AUTHORITY

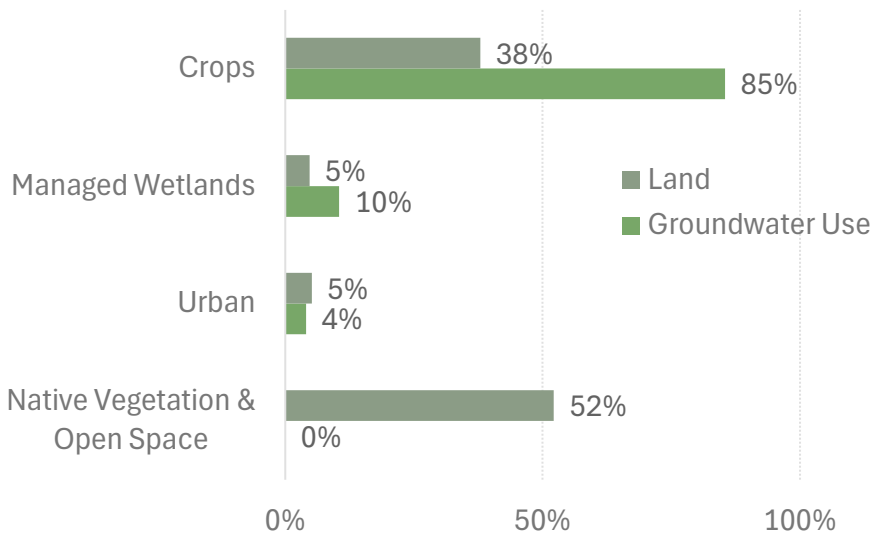
YSGA’s fee authority is derived from the SGMA-specific legislation codified in Water Code 10730. This section of the Water Code allows the Agency to impose fees for regulated activities, including but not limited to, permits to operate wells, the costs of a groundwater sustainability program such as development and amendment of a GSP, investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration including a prudent reserve.

The SGMA fee must be no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and the manner in which the costs are allocated to a payor must bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor’s burden on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.

2.2 YSGA GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP

YSGA is responsible for sustainably managing the groundwater in the Yolo Subbasin to the benefit of all beneficial uses and users. Beneficiaries include individuals, businesses, and government agencies, including the State of California. Beneficiaries may also include wildlife, riparian habitat and other environmental and recreational uses and users of groundwater and surface water (because groundwater and surface water are interconnected in Yolo Subbasin). Landowners in the Subbasin are beneficiaries because these lands benefit from YSGA’s existence and groundwater management activities. Uses of land protected by YSGA’s stewardship of groundwater resources, and their share of annual extraction in the Subbasin are summarized in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7
Lands Benefiting from YSGA Groundwater Stewardship



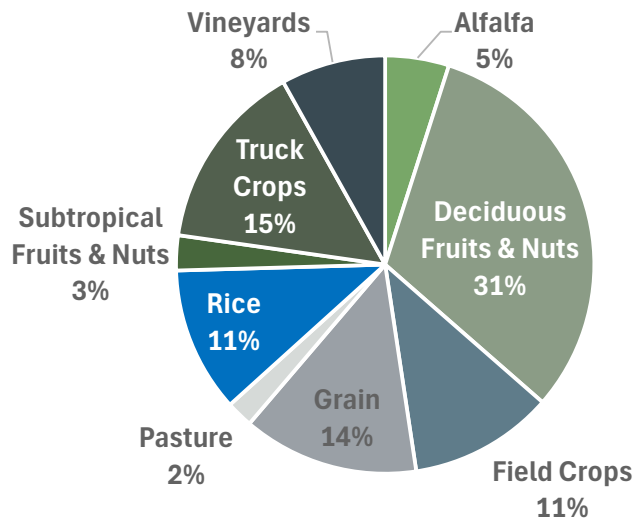
Source: YSGA 2024 Annual Report.

YSGA is monitoring and evaluating groundwater and surface water resources, as required by SGMA, to continually improve its hydrogeologic model as environmental conditions change. Groundwater resources need to be protected, monitored, and managed to ensure a stable supply of groundwater in the Subbasin. Properties may be using groundwater supplied by a PWS; by a domestic, a commercial production, or an irrigation well; or they may be passive users of groundwater.

- Residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other domestic users of water may use groundwater exclusively, a mixture of groundwater and surface water, or surface water exclusively.
- Agriculture uses groundwater, surface water, and both water sources throughout the Subbasin.
 - Crops consume water for food, feed and fiber, and recreational and ornamental production purposes. Managed wetlands consume water for recreational, ecological, and wildlife (primarily waterfowl) purposes.
 - Grazing and dry farming generally depends on precipitation and springs for water resources; some of these lands may use a minimal amount of groundwater for stock water.¹⁵ Grazing Land, dry farmed land, and even vacant developable land benefit from YSGA’s activities to maintain the ecological health of the ecosystems, supporting forage, and potential future irrigation of the land.

Approximately 245,000 acres of agricultural land produce several different crops in the Yolo Subbasin. **Figure 8** shows the share of crop types grown in YSGA’s jurisdiction.

Figure 8
Agricultural Commodities Grown in the Yolo Subbasin

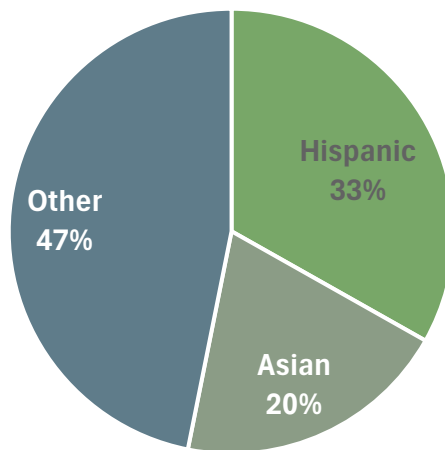


Source: YSGA Water Year 2024 annual report.

¹⁵ If groundwater is used it is minimal and it is not required to be included in the monitoring or reporting of groundwater use by DWR.

An analysis of the Yolo Subbasin’s socioeconomic characteristics was conducted to better understand who is benefiting from sustainable groundwater management and to understand how best to communicate with these users (data is provided in **Appendix A**). The analysis revealed that about 95% of Yolo County’s population lives in the Yolo Subbasin. In total, about 210,000 people permanently reside in the Subbasin, with the majority in the urban areas of West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, UC Davis, and Winters. There are several areas with socially vulnerable populations that are considered Disadvantaged.¹⁶ About one-third (33%) of the population residing in the Subbasin are Hispanic, about 20% are of Asian race, and the remaining 47% are white, black, Native American, and other as displayed in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9
Race of YSGA Population



Source: US Census Bureau 2024 5-year ACS Data Table DP05.

The urban areas of West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, UC Davis, Winters, and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation in Brooks contain 92% of jobs in Yolo County. Major industry sectors in these geographic places include educational services, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services, and transportation and warehousing. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is a major employer in the accommodation and food services sector. All of these industries depend on a sufficient quantity of good quality water, which they are supplied by Community and Non-Community Water Systems. There are many water systems serving neighborhoods, golf courses, industrial complexes, and food facilities. In total, there are 84 PWSs and 5 SSWSs in the Subbasin, as shown in **Table 2**. In addition, there are about 4,900 Parcels obtaining water for domestic uses that are unregulated. These include Parcels extracting groundwater from a private well either for use at one location or multiple locations (maximum of 4 connections).

¹⁶ Disadvantaged is a term used by the State for a community with median household income less than 80% of the State’s median household income.

Table 2
YSGA Water Systems

Water System Type	Number of Systems	Fee Units	Number Units
Unregulated (1-4 connections)		Developed Parcels	4,924
Regulated			
State Small	5	Connections	34
Public Water Systems			
Community	17	Connections	60,263
Transient Non-Community	37	People Served	5,897
Non-Transient Non-Community	30	People Served	4,580

Source: SAFER Clearinghouse and Yolo County Department of Health.

2.3 SUBBASIN WATER USE ESTIMATES

Total Subbasin water use estimates are provided in the GSP and annual reports prepared for and submitted to DWR. The GSP estimates that groundwater supplies about 40% of total water used in the Subbasin. During dry water years, groundwater pumping increases and during wet years, it decreases (see **Table 3**). Groundwater pumping ranges from about 235,000 acre-feet to about 395,000 acre-feet per year.

Table 3
Yolo Subbasin Annual Water Deliveries

Water Year	Groundwater Pumping	Surface Deliveries	Total Water Supply	Groundwater as % of Total
All figures in acre-feet				
2020	238,400	536,100	774,500	31%
2021	394,800	395,600	790,400	50%
2022	358,900	250,700	609,600	59%
2023	271,500	537,500	809,000	34%
2024	305,600	577,500	883,100	35%
Average	313,840	459,480	773,320	41%

Source: YSGA annual reports.

The fee study groups water users into three types based on the purpose of their water use.

Group 1: Agricultural - Water for crop irrigation, wetlands management, or both purposes. Water may also be used for recreational and environmental purposes on these lands.

Group 2: Domestic - Water for residential or business activities, including unregulated water use and regulated water systems use.

Group 3: Lands with minimal or no water use, and publicly-owned land with water resources managed by a non-taxable entity for a primary purpose that is not agricultural or domestic. These include:

- Grazing Lands
- Vacant lands
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

The fee study allocates Tier 2 costs between Group 1 and Group 2 users based on their estimated share of groundwater pumping. **Table 4** shows that, for the last five water years, agricultural groundwater pumping has comprised about 95% of groundwater use in the Subbasin.

Table 4
Annual Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Use Estimates

Water Year	Agricultural Production	Urban	Total Groundwater Use	Agriculture as % of Total
All figures in acre-feet				
2020	226,300	12,100	238,400	95%
2021	378,900	15,900	394,800	96%
2022	347,200	11,700	358,900	97%
2023	259,100	12,400	271,500	95%
2024	293,700	11,900	305,600	96%
Total	301,040	12,800	313,840	96%

Source: YSGA annual reports.

2.4 FEE STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The fee study combined reliable data, outreach input, and legal considerations to develop the proposed fee structure. Two key pillars of information informed the fee study process:

1. **Stakeholder and public input** on who should be charged, and the most reasonable fee structure; and,
2. **Available reliable data** upon which to estimate the benefits received by YSGA services each year.

1. Stakeholder and Public Input

Outreach to the general public and stakeholders served as one of the fundamental components of establishing a reasonable, equitable, and legally-defensible fee structure. Key principles included transparency, inclusion, and recognition of the diversity of water users in the Yolo Subbasin, as well as cultural, environmental, and economic considerations.

Stakeholder meetings were held November 2025 through January 2026 with representatives of several interested parties including:

- Urban water users
- Agricultural water users
- Other (environmental, Grazing Land, recreational, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, UC Davis)

Public meetings were held in March 2026 to engage the public and obtain feedback. These included workshops in Clarksburg (March 11), Winters (March 12), Woodland (March 16), Dunnigan (March 17), and Esparto (March 18). A webinar was also held March 19, 2026. A summary of key outcomes was completed and posted to YSGA's website. Pertinent materials were provided in English and Spanish. Additionally, the public had opportunities to participate and provide input at YSGA Board and Executive Committee meetings when the fee study was on the agenda.

Public outreach materials are provided in **Appendix B**.

GSA-Staff Led Meetings

GSA staff expanded outreach activities by providing GSP and SGMA project updates to a variety of groups and organizations such as the YCFB and the Yolo County Cattlemen and Wool Growers Association.

Ad Hoc Finance Committee Input

Several meetings were held with the Ad Hoc Finance Committee to vet fee structure options, the fee pathway, and the Tier 1 and Tier 2 costs; identify primary stakeholders to involve early in the process, and learn about considerations of various water uses and users in the Subbasin. Feedback was obtained from the members in attendance who collectively represented agriculture, water providers, businesses, and environmental interests.

2. Available Reliable Data

Several fee structure options, including wellhead, extraction, acreage, and system connection-based fees were presented and considered; however, the Board decided on a hybrid, two-tier fee structure for these reasons:

- The two-tier fee structure fits the services provided to beneficiaries of the Agency’s activities.
- All parcels (unless Exempt) must be charged because these parcels receive the same Tier 1 service from YSGA.
- Tier 2 service costs should be split between Agricultural and Domestic users of groundwater based on historical estimates of pumping as described in the annual reports prepared for DWR to reflect their impact on Subbasin groundwater supply.

The Tier 2 fee is calculated accounting for these considerations:

- Cropped Acres should be charged a uniform fee regardless of the crop type grown because of the complexity and defensibility of calculating water use for every cropped field every year and because the regulatory fee funds activities of equal benefit to the land uses.
- Managed Wetlands should pay the same fee as Cropped Acres because Managed Wetlands are classified as agriculture under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP),¹⁷ typically using similar amounts of water per acre as crops such as rice and alfalfa.
- Agricultural uses of land in Districted areas should pay a lower fee than agricultural uses of land in Undistricted areas because Districted areas manage water resources conjunctively to protect groundwater from the six undesirable results whereas Undistricted areas rely solely on YSGA activities to meet SGMA requirements.

Data Sources to Estimate Benefits Received

The process for fee evaluation and development must rely upon the best available data at the time the fee is developed. The fee study used the following data sources, which are the best available reliable data sources as of the time of this fee study report (April 2026):

- Yolo and Solano County Assessor Parcel Databases
- The Yolo Subbasin GSP, and YSGA Annual Reports - <https://www.yologroundwater.org/yolo-subbasin-groundwater-sustainability-plan>
- Department of Water Resources Water Management Planning Tool – [The Water Management Boundary Tool](#)
- Yolo County FEMA mapping – [USA Structures | FEMA Geospatial Resource Center](#)
- Wetlands data – Internally compiled by YSGA
- State of California SAFER Clearinghouse to empower public water systems – [SAFER Clearinghouse](#)
- LandIQ/DWR 2024 crop mapping [Statewide Crop Mapping - Dataset - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data](#)
- A GIS platform was used to create a web map application to conduct data queries and establish the necessary data for the fee database.

¹⁷ The ILRP purpose is to ensure grants comply with State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Board water quality regulations. Land is required to be enrolled in the ILRP regardless of water supply source, unless it is covered under a different program, if it is irrigated to produce crops or pasture for commercial purposes, including private and publicly managed wetlands - [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program | Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board](#).

Ranking to Guide Fee Structure Development

The Ad Hoc Finance Committee and Board were asked to weigh key criteria for the fee study based on legal information, available reliable data information, and stakeholder input. **Figure 10** shows that as a result of this ranking exercise, the fee study placed greatest emphasis on equity, enforceability, and revenue stability when developing potential fee structures.

Figure 10
Fee Criteria Priorities Ranking

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Equity	How well does the fee capture users of the groundwater and spread the costs equitably?	27%
Enforceability & Reliance on Data	How easy is it for YSGA to enforce the fee? How often is the data updated and how reliable is it?	23%
Understandability	How easy is the fee to explain to the public?	13%
Revenue Stability / Predictability	How predictable is the fee revenue given the fee structure?	21%
Administrative Ease	How challenging is it to determine the fee each year and prepare the tax roll and hand bills?	16%
	Total	100%

Section 3: FEE CALCULATION

3.1 COST BASIS OF FEE

The cost basis of the fee comprises the Agency’s operations costs and a prudent reserve. All of the costs included in the fee cost basis are to complete regulatory activities. Operating costs include agency staffing, legal counsel, general office expenses, audits, fee placement on the tax roll (Yolo and Solano County administrative fees), annual reporting and monitoring to DWR, periodic evaluations of the GSP, and GSP activities that implement Project and Management Actions (PMAs) included in the GSP. The YSGA has grouped PMAs into six Foundational Actions. The regulatory costs are described as Tier 1 or Tier 2 costs based on the different services that YSGA provides.

Tier 1 Fee Service Provided: Maintaining a functioning GSA as required by SGMA to the benefit of all landowners in the Subbasin.

The Tier 1 Fee covers the following cost items:

- ✓ **Agency Standing and Continuity** – Activities required to keep the Agency established, operational, and recognized as the GSA for the Subbasin. Includes administrative activities such as staffing, legal support, financial reporting, County fees, and supplies.
- ✓ **Board of Directors Meetings and Public Oversight** – Ensuring local governance, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making authority.
- ✓ **GSP Administration** – Required reporting and GSP updates.

Tier 2 Fee Service Provided: Groundwater and surface water monitoring and sustainable groundwater management, ensuring long-term groundwater availability and avoidance of the six undesirable results.

The Tier 2 Fee covers the following YSGA Foundational Actions cost items:

- ✓ **Groundwater Accounting** – Ongoing monitoring and data collection of surface and groundwater use and development of a potential demand management framework.
- ✓ **Hydrogeologic Characterization and Yolo Subbasin Model** – Filling data gaps and analyzing new data to improve the Yolo Subbasin hydrogeologic model.
- ✓ **Management Area Establishment** – Providing seed funding to MA PACs for project development.
- ✓ **Outreach and Coordination** – Working with Agency partners to ensure compliance and educate the public on sustainability efforts.
- ✓ **Water Supply Resilience** – Facilitating efforts to expand access to surface water and increase groundwater recharge.
- ✓ **Technical Assistance** – Providing technical resources and applying for grants to fund projects.

Documentation on the review of GSP projects and management actions prioritization, development of foundational actions, and 5-year budget development by YSGA Staff is provided in **Appendix C**.

Table 5 shows the five-year costs forecast in inflated dollars prepared by YSGA staff in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Ad Hoc Finance Committee and with Board input. The forecast is based on YSGA-developed average annual spending needs over the next five years, estimated in 2026 dollars. The fee study inflates the cost estimates 3.25% each year.

Table 5
Projected Budget Needs in Inflated Dollars

Expenses	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
	<i>Annual Inflationary Increase ----></i>					
		3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
TIER 1 COSTS - Governance	TIER 1 -- GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION COSTS					
YSGA Staff Admin	\$50,000	\$61,950	\$63,960	\$66,040	\$68,190	\$70,400
Office Expenses	\$9,000	\$20,650	\$21,320	\$22,010	\$22,730	\$23,470
Membership Dues	\$25,000	\$25,810	\$26,650	\$27,520	\$28,410	\$29,340
Insurance	\$2,500	\$3,100	\$3,200	\$3,300	\$3,410	\$3,520
Legal	\$35,000	\$43,880	\$45,310	\$46,780	\$48,300	\$49,870
Audit	\$8,500	\$12,390	\$12,790	\$13,210	\$13,640	\$14,080
Fee Administration	\$0	\$25,810	\$26,650	\$27,520	\$28,410	\$29,340
County Fees	\$0	\$25,810	\$26,650	\$27,520	\$28,410	\$29,340
Total Management Activities (rounded)	\$130,000	\$219,400	\$226,530	\$233,900	\$241,500	\$249,360
TIER 1 COSTS - GSP Administration						
Annual Reports	\$55,000	\$68,450	\$70,680	\$72,980	\$75,350	\$77,800
Periodic Evaluation	\$221,250	\$58,130	\$60,020	\$61,970	\$63,980	\$66,060
GSP Amendment	\$0	\$83,940	\$86,670	\$89,490	\$92,400	\$95,400
Total GSP Administration (rounded)	\$276,250	\$210,520	\$217,370	\$224,440	\$231,730	\$239,260
Total Administration Costs	\$406,250	\$429,920	\$443,900	\$458,340	\$473,230	\$488,620
TIER 2 COSTS - Foundational Actions	TIER 2 -- GSP ACTIVITIES COSTS					
Groundwater Accounting	\$90,000	\$50,590	\$52,240	\$53,930	\$55,690	\$57,500
Hydrogeologic Characterization & Yolo Subb:	\$15,000	\$432,770	\$446,830	\$461,350	\$476,350	\$491,830
Management Area Establishment	\$170,520	\$261,920	\$270,440	\$279,230	\$288,300	\$297,670
Outreach & Coordination	\$0	\$122,870	\$126,860	\$130,980	\$135,240	\$139,640
Water Supply Resilience	\$0	\$213,210	\$220,140	\$227,300	\$234,680	\$242,310
Technical Support	\$200,000	\$49,560	\$51,170	\$52,830	\$54,550	\$56,320
Total GSP Activities (rounded)	\$475,520	\$1,130,920	\$1,167,680	\$1,205,620	\$1,244,810	\$1,285,270
Total Expenses (rounded)	\$881,770	\$1,560,840	\$1,611,580	\$1,663,960	\$1,718,040	\$1,773,890
Revenues [1]						
Well Permit Review Fees	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,650	\$7,800	\$7,960	\$8,120
Use of Money & Property	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,240	\$12,480	\$12,730	\$12,980
Total Revenues	\$17,000	\$19,500	\$19,890	\$20,280	\$20,690	\$21,100
Fee Revenue Requirement (rounded)		\$1,541,400	\$1,591,700	\$1,643,700	\$1,697,400	\$1,752,800

Source: YSGA FY26 budget and YSGA staff, March 2026.

[1] Modest increase of 2% after FY27 assumed.

FY27 Cost Basis

Table 6 shows the cost basis for setting the FY27 fee. The fee level is set at \$1,600,000, which is greater than the first-year budget to allow for anticipated annual cost increases and the inability of a price index to keep pace with increasing costs.

Table 6
FY27 Fee Level

Cost Component	FY27 Est. Expenses	Share of Expenses	FY27 Fee Level	Fee Tier
Administrative Costs				
General	\$219,400	14%	\$224,900	
GSP	\$210,600	13%	\$215,900	
Total Administrative Costs	\$430,000	28%	\$440,800	1
GSP Activities Costs	\$1,131,000	72%	\$1,159,300	2
Total	\$1,561,000	100%	\$1,600,000	

Note: Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

Table 7 provides a cash flow analysis for the Agency for the next five fiscal years. Operating costs are inflated by 3.25% annually based on a review of the California and West Region consumer price indexes (published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) historical average annual changes since 2005. Fee revenue will be determined each year by the YSGA Board. For the cash flow projection, the fees are estimated to increase 2.50% each year. Not shown in the table is any potential grant funding. If grant funds are obtained for use in one or more fiscal years, the YSGA Board will set the fee according to the budget impact of the grant revenues. Additionally, the table does not show additional revenue that may be generated by parcels, agricultural acres, and DWEs that result from finalizing the data set in July 2026 for the FY27 fee charges.¹⁸ The cash flow analysis includes 5% allowance for bad debt or reductions in charges that arise due to correction of bills.¹⁹

The cash balance starting FY27 is estimated to be about \$796,000. The goal is to accumulate cash reserves between three and six months of operating costs, which is necessary to ensure stable cash flow due to the timing between the beginning of the fiscal year and the first property tax payment. This aligns with the Government Financial Officers Association's (GFOA) recommendation, which sets two months of operating costs as the minimum reserve level before consideration of cash flow needs. Another financial goal is positive net revenue every year. These financial goals, aligned with GFOA guidelines, are expected to be met every year.

¹⁸ The calculation of FY27 fees includes a 10% final adjustment factor for Tier 1 fees, a 10% final adjustment factor for Tier 2 Group 1 fees, and a 5% final adjustment factor for Tier 2 Group 2 unregulated water system Developed Parcels.

¹⁹ Although YSGA will receive all fees placed on the tax rolls, guaranteed by Yolo and Solano counties' participation in the Teeter Plan, fees that are hand billed may not be completely recoverable.

Note that the estimates of costs and revenues are best estimates; actual costs and revenues will likely vary over time, and there could be periods of time during the fiscal year that the YSGA is unable to maintain its target minimum cash threshold because it needs to draw from reserves.

Table 7
Projected 5-Year Cash Flow

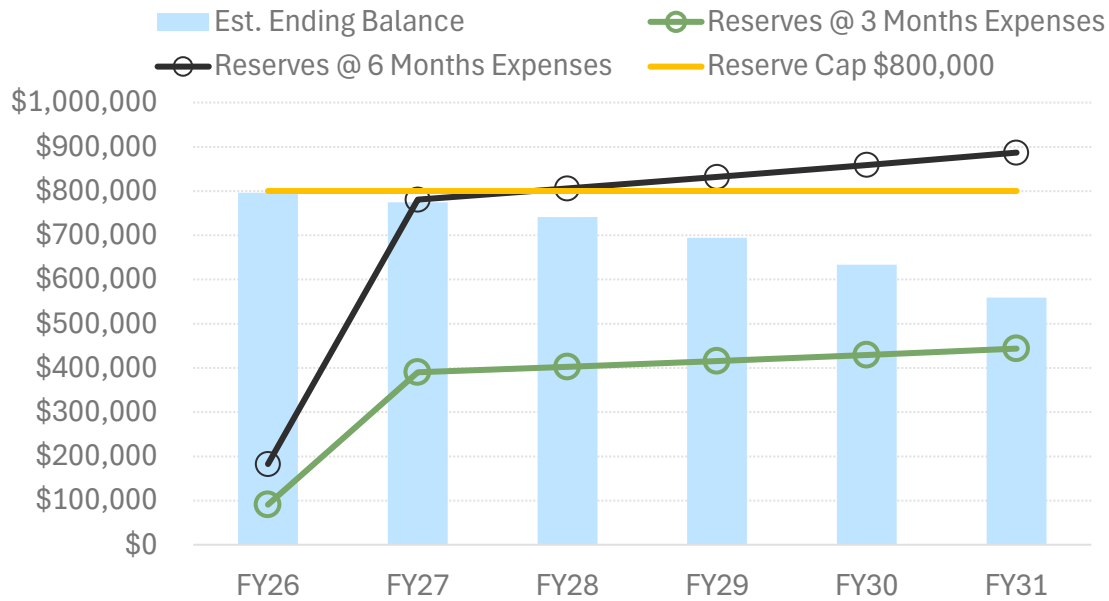
Revenues & Expenses	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Revenues	Budget					
YSGA Fee	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$1,640,000	\$1,681,000	\$1,723,025	\$1,766,101
Contributions	\$423,012	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Well Permit Review Fees	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,650	\$7,800	\$7,960	\$8,120
Use of Money & Property	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,240	\$12,480	\$12,730	\$12,980
Total Revenues	\$440,012	\$1,619,500	\$1,659,890	\$1,701,280	\$1,743,715	\$1,787,201
Expenses						
Tier 1 - Governance + Administration		\$429,920	\$443,900	\$458,340	\$473,230	\$488,620
Tier 2 - GSP Activities		\$1,130,920	\$1,167,680	\$1,205,620	\$1,244,810	\$1,285,270
Total Expenses	\$365,520	\$1,560,840	\$1,611,580	\$1,663,960	\$1,718,040	\$1,773,890
Net Revenue	\$74,492	\$58,660	\$48,310	\$37,320	\$25,675	\$13,311
Beginning Balance	\$721,594	\$796,086	\$774,746	\$741,056	\$694,326	\$633,850
Net Revenue	\$74,492	\$58,660	\$48,310	\$37,320	\$25,675	\$13,311
Bad Debt Allowance 5%		(\$80,000)	(\$82,000)	(\$84,050)	(\$86,151)	(\$88,305)
Ending Balance	\$796,086	\$774,746	\$741,056	\$694,326	\$633,850	\$558,855
<u>Target Reserves</u>						
@ 25% of Expenses (3 Months)	\$91,380	\$390,210	\$402,895	\$415,990	\$429,510	\$443,473
@ 50% of Expenses (6 Months)	\$182,760	\$780,420	\$805,790	\$831,980	\$859,020	\$886,945

The YSGA intends to adopt a policy to cap reserves. If the cap is met, then the fee will be adjusted the following year so that reserves remain at a prudent level. The reserve cap would comprise of unrestricted and undesignated funds. Restricted is a term that refers to an imposition made by a third party, and Designated is a term that refers to an imposition made by the YSGA Board. Restricted and Designated funds should not be included in the reserve cap because these funds will be set aside for specific identified spending whereas the reserve cap is for unspecified but qualified regulatory activity spending. The reserve cap would increase each year in the same manner as the fee (if for example the fee increases 3% from one year to the next then the reserve cap would also increase 3%). It is anticipated that the FY27 reserve cap will be set at \$800,000.

Figure 11 compares the projected ending cash balances with target reserves each year. The projection is for fiscal year-end only and it is possible that at some point during the fiscal year,

YSGA may have to use reserves to pay invoices. This can happen because YSGA will not receive any fee revenue between July and January.²⁰

Figure 11
Projected YSGA Ending Cash Balances by Fiscal Year



3.2 FEE CALCULATIONS

There are three steps to calculating the fee schedule:

Step 1: Determine the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Costs

In the spring of each year, YSGA staff will estimate projected costs, fiscal year-end cash balance, and fee revenues needed for cash flow over the next five years. Based on this analysis, the fee levels for the next fiscal year may be set by the YSGA Board by one of three methodologies:

1. Application of a change in a price index established in the resolution adopting the fee,
2. Application of a percentage increase up to a maximum established by the Board (such as 4%), or
3. A fee level change based on the five-year cash flow needs that cannot be met by methodologies 1. or 2. or the need to adjust the revenue collected in Tier 1 and Tier 2 fees based on anticipated spending in these tiers.

The Tier 2 cost basis will be allocated to Tier 2, Group 1 (95%) and Tier 2, Group 2 (5%). This percentage will be periodically reviewed and may be changed based on the rolling average annual water use by each group (see Table 4).

²⁰ Fee revenue from hand bills may be received between October and December; however, this is a small portion (about 8.0%) of annually billed fees.

Step 2: Determine the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fee Units

The determination of fee-paying parcels, and acreage of those parcels within the YSGA boundaries, is shown in **Table 8**. **Table 9** describes the fee units (Parcels, Agricultural Acres, and DWEs).

Table 8
Yolo Subbasin Acres and Parcels

County	Acres	Parcels
Yolo County		
Total	521,815	65,055
less Federal	3,122	56
Fee Paying	518,693	64,999
Solano County		
Total	3,311	37
less Federal	0	0
Fee-Paying	3,311	37
Total Fee-Paying	522,004	65,036

Tier 1 fees will be charged to all Parcels except Exempt parcels based on the number of fee-paying parcels in the YSGA's boundaries. Tier 2 fees will be charged based on the Tier 2, Group 1 (Agricultural Users) number of Districted and Undistricted Agricultural Acres, Tier 2, Group 2 (Domestic Users) will be charged based on number of Developed Parcels, SSWS and Community Water System connections, and Non-Community Water System people served. Tier 2, Group 3 is not charged a Tier 2 fee, as explained earlier in this report. **Table 10** summarizes the application of the Tier 2 fee.

Table 9
Explanation of Fee Units

Fee Unit / Group	Identification of Fee Applicability
Tier 1	<p>Parcels Yolo and Solano County Parcels with at least some portion of the Parcel in YSGA boundaries.</p> <p>Acres Parcel acreage within the Subbasin calculated using the GIS tool.</p>
Tier 2	<p>Group 1:</p> <p>Agriculture Identified using Land IQ's most recent release of crop mapping and YSGA's most recent update of managed wetland acres. Agricultural acres must be at least 1 acre of the Parcel.</p> <p>Districted Agricultural Acres Identified using YSGA members irrigation or reclamation district, or affiliate mutual water company or mutual ditch association service territory boundaries.</p> <p>Undistricted Agricultural Acres Agricultural Acres not in Districted areas.</p> <p>Group 2:</p> <p>Domestic</p> <p>Developed Parcels (unregulated water users) Building on the Parcel identified using FEMA and Assessor databases.</p> <p>SSWS and Non-Community Water Systems SSWS Parcels provided by Yolo County Dept of Health; Non-Community Water Systems parcels identified by SWRCB maps and manual adjustments.</p> <p>Community Water Systems Parcels identified using current service boundaries and SWRCB maps.</p> <p>Group 3:</p> <p>All Other Subject to Tier 1 fee only Lands with minimal or no water use (such as vacant lands and grazing lands), and publicly-owned land with water resources managed by a non-taxable entity for a primary purpose that is not agricultural or domestic (such as YBWA).</p>

Table 10
Tier 2 Fee Application

Parcel Use	Agricultural Fee	Domestic Fee	Fee Level
Agriculture	Yes	No	Lower for Districted Parcels
Agriculture & Domestic	Yes	Yes	Lower for Districted Parcels
Domestic Only	No	Yes	

Lower Fee for Districted Agricultural Parcels

The Tier 2 fee for Districted Agricultural Parcels is 35% of the Undistricted Agricultural Parcels fee because, as shown in **Table 11**, Districted areas manage water supplies that comprise about 35%

groundwater and 65% surface water. These numbers are used as a proxy to determine groundwater only versus conjunctive management of water resources in Districted areas. Although Districted Areas may be largely using surface water, they are not restricted from using groundwater and have potential to cause undesirable results as defined by SGMA.

The weighting for Districted Agricultural Parcels Tier 2 fee will be periodically reviewed using data compiled by YSGA staff for the annual reports.

Table 11
Agricultural Water Resources Management

Item	Surface Water	Groundwater [1]	Total Water	
Average Annual Acre-Feet				
Districted	394,497	225,780	620,277	
Undistricted	36,203	75,260	111,463	
Total	430,700	301,040	731,740	
Districted	65%	35%	100%	

	10 Yr Avg. Pumping AF/Yr	100%	10-Yr Avg. Surface Water AF/Yr	100%
Total	292,600	100%	547,600	100%
Undistricted	75,700	25%	46,029	8%
Districted	216,900	75%	501,571	92%

Source: YSGA data, and HEC 2026 fee study.
 [1] Allocation of groundwater use determined by YSGA staff January 2026 using best available data shown below.

Domestic Water Equivalents

Subbasin number of DWEs is determined based on the number of Developed Parcels with unregulated water users, the number of SSWS and Community Water Systems connections, and the number of people served by Non-Community Water Systems. A 5% final adjustment factor is included in the number of Developed Parcels for unregulated domestic water users to account for potential refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1. In total it is estimated that there are 72,533 DWEs. **Table 12** shows the calculation of total Subbasin DWEs.

Table 13 summarizes the fee units by tier. The GIS tool is used to determine the total number of Cropped Acres and Managed Wetland Acres that comprise Agricultural Acres. Parcels that straddle the YSGA boundary pay for crops grown or wetlands managed on acreage within the GSA boundary only. The GIS tool is also used to determine the total number of Developed Parcels served by unregulated water systems. The SAFER Clearinghouse data is used to obtain number of connections and people served. Yolo County Environmental Health Division provides the number of SSWS connections and APNs of the parcels served by each SSWS.

Table 12
Calculation of DWEs

Water System Type	Gallons per Year	DWE Factor	Units	Number Units	Total DWEs
per Dev. Parcel / Connection					
Unregulated Domestic [1]	325,851	1.68	Dev. Parcel	4,924	8,272
State Small [2]	95,326	0.50	Connection	34	17
Community	193,376	1.00	Connection	60,263	60,263
Non-Community Water Systems	per Person Served [3]		people		
Transient Non-Community		0.38		5,897	2,241
Non-Transient Non-Community		0.38		4,580	1,740
Subtotal Non-Community					3,981
Total					72,533

Source: SAFER, and HEC March 2026.

[1] Legal allowance for a de minimis user is 2 acre feet per year (approx. 651,700 gallons); however, typical annual water use is less (1 acre-foot per year in this table).

[2] No data available. Uses 100 gallons per person per day multiplied by Yolo County persons per household.

[3] Community water system use per connection divided by Yolo County persons per household.

Persons per Household Reported by CA Dep't Finance for Yolo County:

2020	2.65	2023	2.59
2021	2.68	2024	2.59
2022	2.60	2025	2.56
Yolo Co. Persons per Household			2.61

Table 13
YSGA Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fee Units

Tier 1		Tier 2	
Parcels	65,036	Unregulated DWEs	8,272
		Regulated DWEs	64,261
Acres	522,004	Districted Agricultural Acres	257,542
		Undistricted Agricultural Acres	64,027

Step 3: Perform the Fee Calculations

Tier 1 Fee

All Parcels, unless they are Exempt, are charged a billing fee of \$1.50 to pay for annual fee-setting administration costs. The remaining Tier 1 cost is divided by the number of fee-paying acres in YSGA’s boundary. A 10% final adjustment factor of both the number of Parcels and number of acres is included in the Tier 1 fee calculation to account for potential refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1. The Tier 1 fee is \$1.50 per Parcel and \$0.76 per acre of land in the YSGA boundaries, as shown in **Table 14**.

Table 14
Tier 1 Fee Calculation

Item		Calculation
Tier 1 Fee Level	a	\$440,800
Number of Acres	b	469,800
Number of Parcels	d	58,500
Billing Fee per Parcel [1]	e	\$1.50
Billing Fees	f = e*d	\$87,750
Remaining Tier 1 Revenue	g = a-f	\$353,050
Fee per Acre	h = g/b	\$0.76
[1] The billing fee is a Parcel charge for annual fee-setting costs:		
County Cost	\$1.00	\$58,500
Consultant Cost	\$0.43	\$25,150
YSGA Cost	\$0.07	\$4,100
Total Billing Fee	\$1.50	\$87,750

Tier 2 Fees

The Tier 2 fee level is allocated to Group 1 Agricultural Users and Group 2 Domestic Users by groundwater use as shown in **Table 15**.

Table 15
Allocation of FY27 Tier 2 Fee Revenue to User Types

Tier 2 Fee Level		\$1,159,300
Agriculture	95%	\$1,101,335
Domestic	5%	\$57,965

Tier 2 Group 1: Agricultural User Fees. The Tier 2 Group 1 fee revenue is divided by the total number of weighted Districted and unweighted Undistricted Agricultural Acres. The calculated fee is multiplied by 35% to determine the lower fee for Districted Agricultural Acres. Parcels that straddle the YSGA boundary pay for crops grown or wetlands managed on the acreage within the YSGA boundary only.

The Tier 2 Group 1 FY27 fees are calculated in **Table 16** at \$2.78 per Districted Agricultural Acre and \$7.94 per Undistricted Agricultural Acre. Note that a 10% final adjustment factor of Agricultural Acres is included in the Tier 2 fee calculation to account for refinement to the database prior to bill preparation by August 1.

Table 16
Tier 2 Group 1: Agricultural Users Fee Calculation

Item	Acres	Weighting	Wtd. Acres
Agricultural Acres			
Districted	231,800	35%	81,130
Undistricted	57,600	100%	57,600
Total Agricultural Acres	289,400		138,730
Agriculture Tier 2 Fee Level			\$1,101,335
Cost per Weighted Agricultural Acre			\$7.94
Fee per Acre		Growing / Mg'd Acres Only	
Districted		35%	\$2.78
Undistricted		100%	\$7.94

Source: YSGA annual reports and HEC 2026 fee study.

Tier 2 Group 2: Domestic Users Fee. The Group 2 allocated cost is divided by the number of DWEs. The Tier 2 Group 2 fee per DWE is \$0.80 as shown in **Table 17**; however, the fee will be charged per Developed Parcel for unregulated users, per connection for SSWS and Community Water Systems, and per person served for Non-Community Water Systems.

Table 17
Tier 2 Group 2: Domestic Users Fee Calculation

Water System		Fee Calculation
Domestic Water Equivalents		Collection
Unregulated	<i>Tax Roll</i>	8,272
State Small Water	<i>Tax Roll</i>	17
Community	<i>Hand Bill</i>	60,263
Transient Non-Community	<i>Tax Roll</i>	2,241
Non-Transient Non-Community	<i>Tax Roll</i>	1,740
Total DWEs		72,533
Tier 2 Domestic Cost		\$57,965
Annual Fee per DWE		\$0.80
	DWEs per User	Fee Charge per
Unregulated User	1.68	<i>Developed Parcel</i>
State Small Water System	0.50	<i>Connection</i>
Community Water System	1.00	<i>Connection</i>
Non-Community Water System	0.38	<i>Person Served</i>

3.3 FEE COLLECTION

The YSGA SGMA fee will be collected by placing it on the tax rolls prepared by the Yolo and Solano County Auditor-Controllers and collected by the Yolo and Solano County Treasurer-Tax Collectors each year.²¹ Both counties adopted the Teeter Plan that guarantees payment of the full amount of the fees that are charged with the County pursuing any unpaid fees. Fee revenues will be disbursed to YSGA in January (about 55%), May (about 40%), and July or August (about 5%).

Properties not assessed on the tax rolls (“non-taxable” parcels) include parcels owned by railroad companies and utilities, the State of California, and local governments if those parcels are located within their own jurisdiction. YSGA will directly “hand bill” non-taxable parcels. YSGA will also hand bill Community Water Systems. About 8.0% of total revenue will be collected via hand bills, as demonstrated in **Table 18**.

²¹ All fees would be placed on the property tax roll, except for properties that do not receive a property tax bill and all properties served by a Community Water System.

Table 18
Fee Collection by Tier and Collection Method

Tier	Tax Bill	Hand Bill	Total
Tier 1	\$402,293	\$38,507	\$440,800
Tier 2 Group 1 Agricultural	\$1,063,911	\$37,329	\$1,101,240
Tier 2 Group 2 Domestic			
Community Water Systems		\$48,061	\$48,061
All Other Domestic	\$9,477	\$423	\$9,899
Total Tier 2 Group 2	\$9,477	\$48,483	\$57,960
Total	\$1,475,681	\$124,319	\$1,600,000
Share	92.0%	8.0%	

Section 4: FEE IMPACTS AND COMPARISON

4.1 FEE IMPACTS TO DOMESTIC USERS

Unregulated domestic water users will pay the Tier 1 fees of \$1.50 per Parcel plus \$0.76 multiplied by the acreage of their Parcel plus the Tier 2 fee of \$1.36 in FY27. For example, a rural home on 5 acres would pay \$1.50 plus (5*\$0.76) plus \$1.36, for a total of \$6.66.

Regulated SSWS users will pay the Tier 1 fees of \$1.50 per Parcel plus \$0.76 multiplied by the acreage of their Parcel plus the Tier 2 fee of \$0.40 multiplied by the number of connections on the Parcel. For example, a Parcel with a home served by a SSWS on 0.44 acres would pay \$1.50 plus (0.44*\$0.76) plus \$0.40, for a total of \$2.23.

Table 19 provides examples of fee calculations for Non-Community Water System parcels.

Table 19
Non-Community Water System Fee Examples

	NON-RESIDENTIAL WITH A WATER SYSTEM			
	TNC	TNC	NTNC	TNC
	Seed Producer	Yacht Club	High School	Canning Facility
People Served	76	250	250	1,000
Acres	149	23	10	22
Parcels	1	1	1	1
	=\$1.50+	=\$1.50+	=\$1.50+	=\$1.50+
	(149*\$0.76)	(23*\$0.76)	(10*\$0.76)	(22*\$0.76)
TIER 1 FEE	\$114.74	\$18.98	\$9.10	\$18.22
	=76*0.32	=250*0.32	=250*0.32	=1,000*0.32
TIER 2 FEE	\$24.32	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$320.00
TOTAL FEE	\$139.06	\$98.98	\$89.10	\$338.22

Table 20 provides examples of fee calculations for City Community Water Systems.

Table 20
Community Water System Fee Examples

		COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS					
		ESPARTO	KNIGHTS	WILD WINGS	CAL AM		
		CSD	LANDING	GOLF CSA	DUNNIGAN	WINTERS	WOODLAND
Connections		979	329	353	184	2,600	17,487
Parcels		893	342	330	9	2,760	17,837
Acres		373	91	150	44	1,307	8,914
TIER 1	a	\$1,622.61	\$581.80	\$609.00	\$46.74	\$5,133.67	\$33,530.40
		<small>=(893*\$1.50)+ (373*\$0.76)</small>	<small>=(342*\$1.50)+ (91*\$0.76)</small>	<small>=(330*\$1.50)+ (150*\$0.76)</small>	<small>=(9*\$1.50)+ (44*\$0.76)</small>	<small>=(2,760*\$1.50)+ (1,307*\$0.76)</small>	<small>=(17,837*\$1.50)+ (8,914*\$0.76)</small>
TIER 2	b	\$783.20	\$263.20	\$282.40	\$147.20	\$2,080.00	\$13,989.60
		<small>=979*\$0.80</small>	<small>=329*\$0.80</small>	<small>=353*\$0.80</small>	<small>=184*\$0.80</small>	<small>=2,600*\$0.80</small>	<small>=17,487*\$0.80</small>
TOTAL FEE	c=a+b	\$2,405.81	\$845.00	\$1,044.25	\$193.94	\$7,213.67	\$47,520.00

4.2 FEE IMPACTS TO YSGA MEMBER BUDGETS

Only Member Agencies and Affiliated Parties with Community Water Systems will continue to pay YSGA fees on behalf of properties they serve or own. Impacts to Member Agencies' budgets are shown in **Figure 12**, and impacts to Affiliated Parties' budgets are shown in **Figure 13**.

Figure 12
Impacts to Member Agencies Budgets

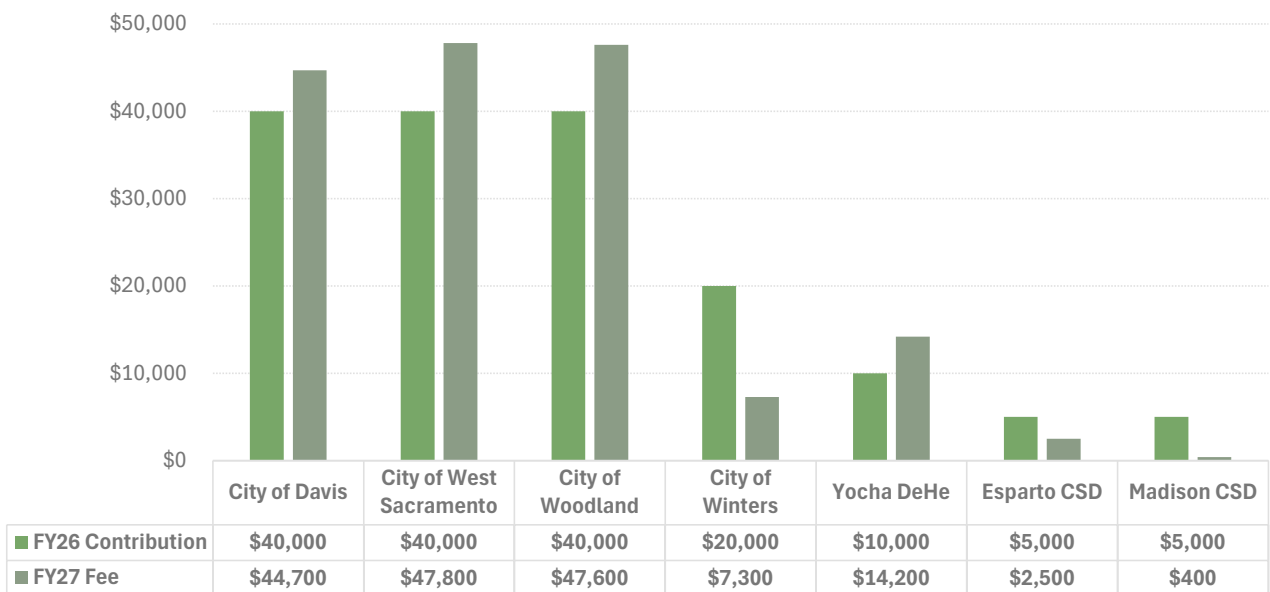
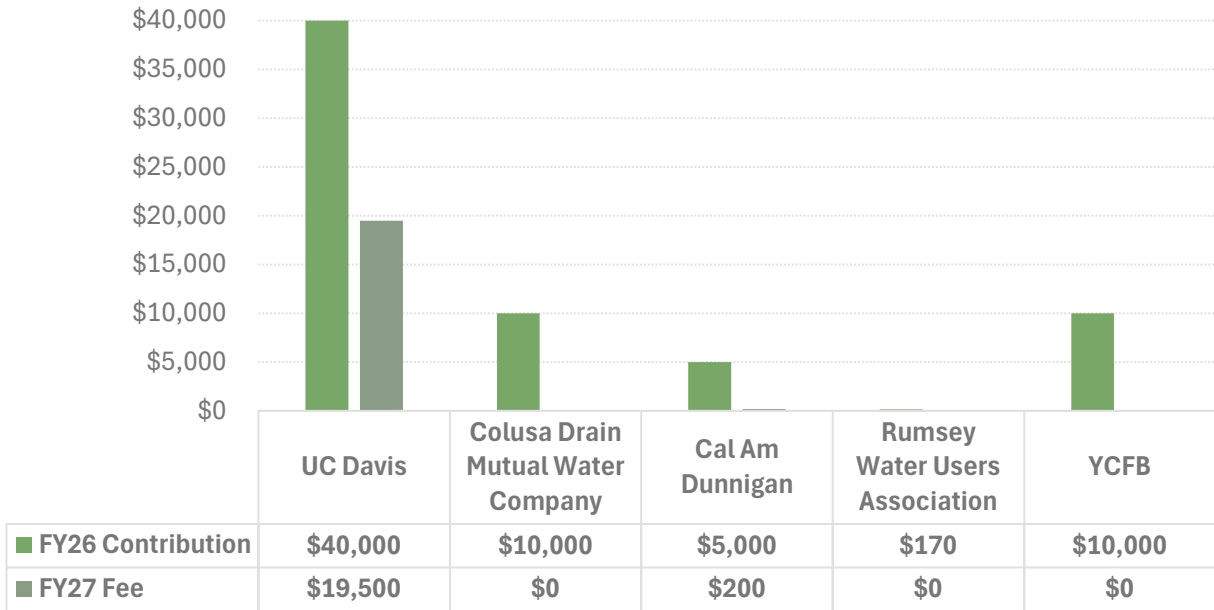


Figure 13
Impacts to Affiliated Parties Budgets



4.3 AGRICULTURAL FEES COMPARISON

Table 21 shows example fee calculations for four agricultural parcels depending on whether they are Districted or Undistricted. The table also shows the YSGA SGMA fee on a total Parcel per-acre basis. The fee examples demonstrate that Grazing Land pays a much lower fee per-acre because it only pays the Tier 1 fees; lands with groundwater managed solely by the YSGA pay higher fees; and agricultural parcels with a greater portion of the parcel cropped pay higher fees.

A comparison of the YSGA SGMA fees and SGMA fees in other regional GSAs applied to agricultural land is shown in **Figure 14**. The fee comparison is on a per-acre basis for three of the agricultural fee examples:

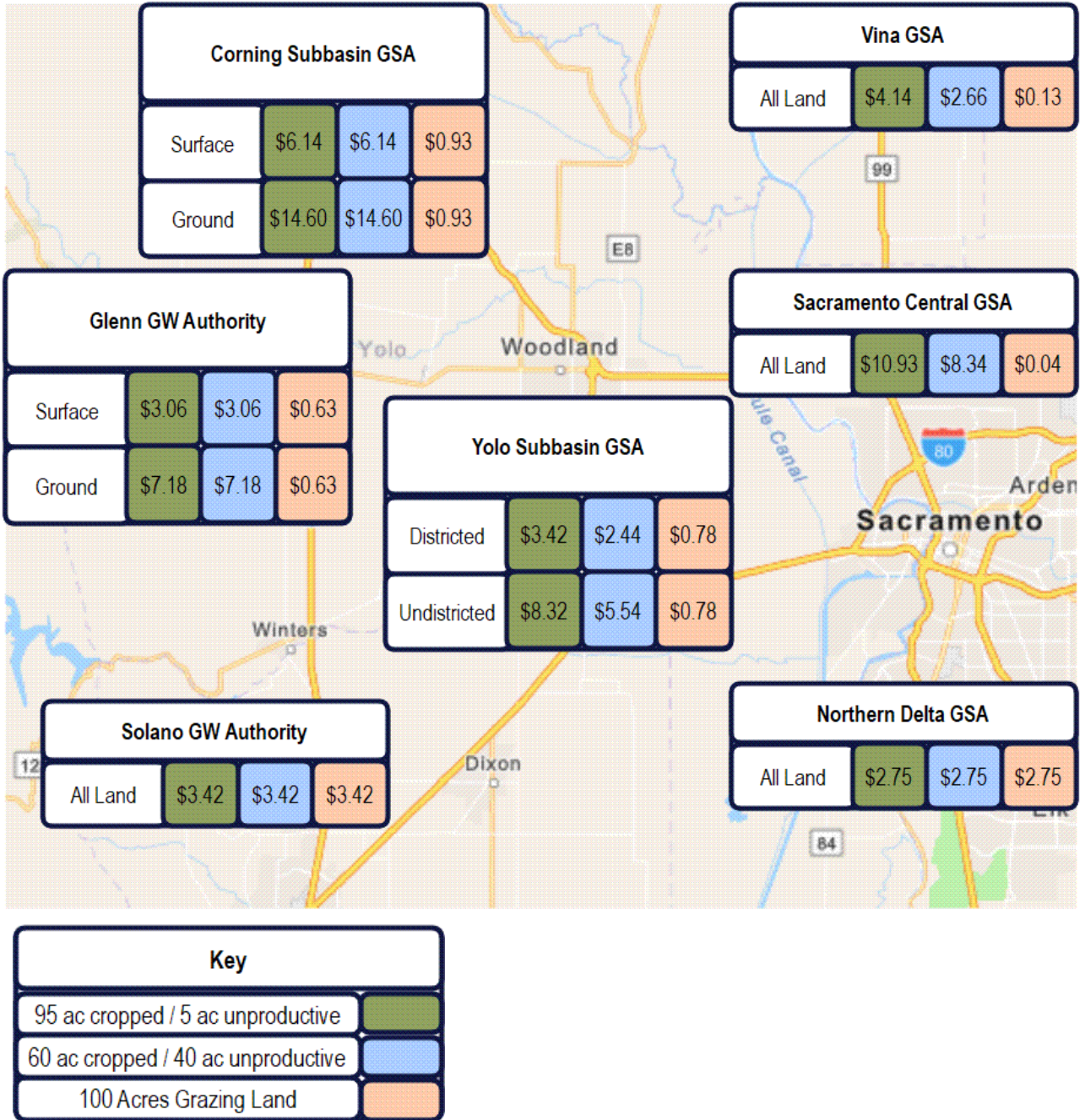
1. A 100-acre parcel with 95 acres cropped and 5 acres unproductive.
2. A 100-acre parcel with 60 acres cropped and 40 acres unproductive.
3. A 100-acre Grazing Land parcel.

There are several items to note on this figure. First, the comparison fees related to neighboring GSAs are for FY26. YSGA draft fees are for FY27. Second, the Solano Subbasin is a medium-priority basin, and all others are high-priority basins. Third, Northern Delta and Sacramento Central GSAs are in their final year of adopted rates, which means their fees are likely to increase in the next year or two. Fourth, YSGA, Vina GSA, and Sacramento Central GSA tier 2 fees are applied only to cropped acres. For all other GSAs, the fee is applied to the entire parcel. Also of note, the Sacramento Central GSA fee is the only one that differs based on crop type; for this comparison, it is assumed that the crop uses 2.5 ac-ft / ac / yr.

Table 21
Agricultural Parcels Example Fees

		1	2	3	4
Total Parcel Acreage		100	100	100	100
Agricultural Acreage		95	60		20
				Grazing Land	Home
		= $\$1.50+$ ($100 \times \$0.76$)	= $\$1.50+$ ($100 \times \$0.76$)	= $\$1.50+$ ($100 \times \$0.76$)	= $\$1.50+$ ($100 \times \$0.76$)
TIER 1	a	\$77.50	\$77.50	\$77.50	\$77.50
TIER 2 - Agriculture					
Districted		= $95 \times \$2.78$	= $60 \times \$2.78$		= $20 \times \$2.78$
Tier 2 Districted Fee	b	\$264.01	\$166.74	\$0.00	\$55.58
Undistricted		= $95 \times \$7.94$	= $60 \times \$7.94$		= $20 \times \$7.94$
Tier 2 Undistricted Fee	c	\$754.30	\$476.40	\$0.00	\$158.80
TIER 2 - Domestic	d				\$1.36
Total Fee - Districted	=a+b+d	\$341.51	\$244.24	\$77.50	\$134.44
Total Fee - Undistricted	=a+c+d	\$831.80	\$553.90	\$77.50	\$237.66
Fee per Parcel Acre - Districted		\$3.42	\$2.44	\$0.78	\$1.34
Fee per Parcel Acre - Undistricted		\$8.32	\$5.54	\$0.78	\$2.38

Figure 14
Agricultural Fees Comparison per Acre



Section 5: FEE IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 FEE ADOPTION

To adopt the YSGA regulatory SGMA fee under Water Code section 10730,²² the YSGA Board must hold at least one public meeting. Prior to the public meeting to adopt the SGMA fee, notice will be provided as follows:

- (1) Publicize once a week for 2 weeks at least 14 days ahead of the meeting, (2) post notice on the agency's website, and (3) send notice of the fee by mail to any interested party who files a written request for notice of agency meetings on new or increased fees.
- (2) The notice must include time and place of meeting, general explanation of the item, and a statement that the data upon which the proposed fee is based is available (this must be made available to the public at least 20 days prior to the meeting).

The SGMA fee must be set each year to place the fees on the tax roll, regardless of whether the fee amounts change or not. The fee should be adjusted each year as necessary to raise sufficient revenues as described in Section 3.2, page 27, of this report.

The YSGA may not increase the fee in a manner that exceeds the estimated reasonable cost of its regulatory activities (including accrual of a prudent reserve). YSGA will conduct an annual review of the fee level and will perform periodic reviews of the fee structure as specified in the fee resolution.

After adopting the fee, YSGA must continue with the following actions to implement the fee for FY27, and each fiscal year thereafter:

- (1) Per Water Code 10730.1, the YSGA shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) of the fee by way of letter to the Director of the Water Division immediately following adoption of the fee, before the fee is imposed.
- (2) The YSGA shall provide the Yolo and Solano County Auditor-Controllers all required documentation authorizing placement of the fee on the property tax roll by the date specified by each county and shall provide the list of APNs and fee amounts to be placed on the FY27 roll no later than August 1 or the date specified by the Yolo and Solano County Auditor-Controllers.

5.2 CORRECTIONS AND APPEALS

YSGA will develop a policy and process for landowners to provide the Agency with corrected information in the case that any of the fees are based on incorrect data. During the correction process, property owners must first pay the fee on the property tax bill. Corrections that increase the amount of the fee due will be invoiced by YSGA. The YSGA will develop a method by which a reduced fee is refunded (such as check, direct deposit, or credit against next year's fee) and timing for such correction.

²² Publication of the notice shall be provided pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code.

Details of the policy and process, including an online form to submit an appeal to correct information will be kept current on YSGA's website. A draft corrections and appeals process is outlined below.

Step 1. Should a Group 1 User, Group 2 User, or Group 3 User ("User") wish to contest their fee amount, the User shall first be required to pay the fee as charged. Following payment of the fee, and no later than April 30th of the fiscal year the User contests their fee, the User may file a 'Request for Correction' form approved by the YSGA Executive Officer setting forth the basis upon which the request is made. The request will be considered timely filed if, within the time allowed, 1) the form is submitted using YSGA's online form, 2) postmarked, United States first class mail, 3) delivered to the Executive Officer or Clerk of the Board of Directors by electronic mail, or 4) personally delivered to the Executive Officer.

- **Tier 1 Fee:** The Tier 1 Fee cannot be appealed; however, should an error have been made (for example, no Tier 1 Fee or multiple Tier 1 Fees charged to a Parcel), the error will be corrected and if the correction results in overpayment by the User, a refund shall be made.
- **Tier 2 Fee:** A User may provide evidence that they were incorrectly classified as a Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 (or combination of) User; or, charged for the incorrect number of Agricultural Acres or Domestic Water Equivalent, thereby requesting a correction of their Tier 2 Fee.

Step 2. Within thirty (30) days after the request is received by YSGA, the Executive Officer shall review the request and is authorized to schedule a meeting with the User. The Executive Officer is authorized to grant a fee correction, in whole or in part, or deny the request. A determination shall be made within either forty-five (45) days of the date of receipt of the request, or fifteen (15) days following the meeting, and shall be in writing and delivered to the User by email or postal service.

Step 3. If the User who filed the request is dissatisfied with the determination of the Executive Officer, they may appeal to the Board of Directors within fifteen (15) days of delivery of the Executive Officer's determination, setting out the information supporting the appeal in writing. The appeal must be in writing and delivered to the Executive Officer by email or postal service. The appeal will be placed on the agenda for the next available YSGA Board meeting for review and consideration. The YSGA Board shall receive evidence and hear from the User and YSGA staff regarding the merits of the appeal. The determination of the YSGA Board shall be memorialized in writing and shall be final.

Step 4. If, as a result of the corrections and appeals process, the YSGA Board or Executive Officer determines that any part of the fee was levied in error, the User shall be entitled to a credit or refund of the erroneously paid amount, which shall be processed.

APPENDIX A

FEE STUDY SUPPORT TABLES

Table A-1: DWR Crop Codes

DWR Code	DWR Description	Land IQ Description
C	CITRUS & SUBTROPICAL	Avocados, citrus, dates, eucalyptus, kiwis, olives
D	DECIDUOUS FRUITS & NUTS	Almonds, apples, apricots, cherries peaches & nectarines, pears, pecans, pistachios, plums, pomegranates, prunes, walnuts
F	FIELD CROPS	Beans, corn, cotton, safflower, beets, sunflowers
G	GRAIN & HAY CROPS	Grain & hay, wheat
I	IDLE	Long-term idle (fallow 4+ years) & Short term idle (cropped in the last 3 years)
P	PASTURE	Alfalfa & alfalfa mixes, pasture, grasses
R	RICE	Rice and wild rice
T	TRUCK NURSERY & BERRY CROPS	Bushberries, carrots, cole crops, flowers, nursery & Christmas trees, greenhouse, lettuce / leafy greens, melons, squash, cucumbers, truck crops, onions & garlic, peppers, potatoes & sweet potatoes, tomatoes
UL	URBAN LANDSCAPE	Golf course
V	VINEYARD	Grapes
X	UNCLASSIFIED	Not cropped, cropped partial year, or unclassified at time of remote-sensing
YP	YOUNG PERENNIAL	Young perennials

Table A-2: YSGA Population, Housing Units, and Median Household Income

Census Place	Disadv. Community [1]	Median Household Income	% Units Owner Occupied	Population	% of County Popln.	Persons per Household
West Sacramento	no	\$93,188	60%	54,927	25%	2.84
Davis	no	\$90,045	44%	66,978	30%	2.64
Woodland	no	\$90,180	59%	61,854	28%	2.93
Winters	no	\$122,951	70%	7,583	3%	3.08
Rumsey		n.a.	100%	80	0%	2.96
Guinda	no	\$180,515	87%	248	0%	1.95
Tancred	no	\$135,833	70%	68	0%	3.40
Knights Landing	yes	\$49,458	100%	1,099	0%	2.65
Esparto	no	\$102,986	79%	3,713	2%	3.54
Madison		n.a.	94%	805	0%	3.43
Monument Hills	no	\$218,333	94%	1,551	1%	2.69
UC Davis	yes	\$18,631	2%	8,696	4%	5.86
El Macero	no	\$227,500	95%	796	0%	2.21
Yolo		n.a.	0%	800	0%	3.98
Clarksburg		n.a.	27%	288	0%	3.39
Dunnigan	yes	\$29,193	59%	537	0%	1.62
Subtotal YSGA			54%	210,023	95%	2.87
Remainder County		n.a.	59%	10,541	5%	3.02
Total Yolo County			54%	220,564	100%	2.88
California		\$99,122	56%	39,287,377		2.90

Source: 2024 5-year ACS Data Table S1901, B25003, and DP05, Census Bureau.

econ

[1] If median household income is less than 80% of the Statewide median household income the State considers the community Disadvantaged.

Table A-3: Race of Population in YSGA

Census Place	Total Population	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	
			Asian	Other
West Sacramento	54,927	18,259	10,716	25,952
Davis	66,978	10,128	20,038	36,812
Woodland	61,854	31,019	6,542	24,293
Winters	7,583	3,552	343	3,688
Rumsey	80	80	0	0
Guinda	248	30	0	218
Tancred	68	39	0	29
Knights Landing	1,099	781	0	318
Esparto	3,713	1,826	195	1,692
Madison	805	693	0	112
Monument Hills	1,551	683	58	810
UC Davis	8,696	1,561	3,985	3,150
El Macero	796	22	52	722
Yolo	800	758	0	42
Clarksburg	288	39	10	239
Dunnigan	537	214	0	323
Subtotal YSGA	210,023	69,684	41,939	98,400
Share of YSGA		33%	20%	47%
Remainder County	10,541	3,885	933	5,723
Total Yolo County	220,564	73,569	42,872	104,123
Share of County	100%	33%	19%	47%

Source: 2024 5-year ACS Data Table DP05, Census Bureau.

race

Table A-4: Jobs by Census Place

Census Place	Number of Jobs	% of County
West Sacramento	37,106	35%
Woodland	23,805	22%
Davis	17,031	16%
UC Davis	16,489	15%
Brooks	2,209	2%
Winters	1,674	2%
Subtotal Major Employment Areas	98,314	92%
Esparto	450	0%
Clarksburg	305	0%
Monument Hills	284	0%
Dunnigan	155	0%
El Macero	153	0%
Yolo	107	0%
Knights Landing	78	0%
Guinda	70	0%
Madison	30	0%
Subtotal YSGA	99,946	94%
Remainder County	6,478	6%
Total Yolo County	106,424	100%

Source: onthemap.ces.census.gov 2023 ACS data.

jobs

Table A-5: Jobs by Industry Sector in Major Employment Areas

NAICS Industry Sector	Total	
	Jobs	% of Jobs
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,558	2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	53	0%
Utilities	192	0%
Construction	4,370	4%
Manufacturing	5,988	6%
Wholesale Trade	5,360	5%
Retail Trade	7,347	7%
Transportation and Warehousing	8,041	8%
Information	903	1%
Finance and Insurance	871	1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,428	1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,765	5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,483	2%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	4,088	4%
Educational Services	22,895	23%
Health Care and Social Assistance	9,913	10%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,053	1%
Accommodation and Food Services	8,534	9%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	2,325	2%
Public Administration	7,147	7%
Total	98,314	100%

Source: onthemap.ces.census.gov, using 2023 ACS data.

ind

Table A-6: Historical Water Use by Water Source

Water Year	Water Source		Total Water Use	Share of Water Use	
	Surface	Ground		All Sources	GW Only
All figures in Acre-Feet					
2024 - Above Normal					
Agricultural	547,600	260,800	808,400	92%	85%
Ag - Wetlands		32,900	32,900	4%	11%
Urban	29,900	11,900	41,800	5%	4%
Total 2024	577,500	305,600	883,100	100%	
2023 - Wet					
Agricultural	509,900	226,200	736,100	91%	83%
Ag - Wetlands		32,900	32,900	4%	12%
Urban	27,600	12,400	40,000	5%	5%
Total 2023	537,500	271,500	809,000	100%	
2022 - Critical					
Agricultural	221,700	314,300	536,000	88%	88%
Ag - Wetlands		32,900	32,900	5%	9%
Urban	29,000	11,700	40,700	7%	3%
Total 2022	250,700	358,900	609,600	100%	
2021 - Critical					
Agricultural	369,000	346,000	715,000	90%	88%
Ag - Wetlands		32,900	32,900	4%	8%
Urban	26,600	15,900	42,500	5%	4%
Total 2021	395,600	394,800	790,400	100%	
2020 - Dry					
Agricultural	505,300	193,400	698,700	90%	81%
Ag - Wetlands		32,900	32,900	4%	14%
Urban	30,800	12,100	42,900	6%	5%
Total 2020	536,100	238,400	774,500	100%	
ALL 5 YEARS					
	All figures in Acre-Feet			Share of Total	Share of GW
Agricultural	2,153,500	1,340,700	3,494,200	90%	85%
Ag - Wetlands	0	164,500	164,500	4%	10%
Urban	143,900	64,000	207,900	5%	4%
Total	2,297,400	1,569,200	3,866,600	100%	100%

Source: YSGA annual reports.

Note: Percentages don't exactly add due to rounding.

Table A-7: Agricultural Water Sources

Annual Report Year	Water Source		Total Water
	Surface	Ground	
figures in acre-feet			
2020	505,300	226,300	731,600
2021	369,000	378,900	747,900
2022	221,700	347,200	568,900
2023	509,900	259,100	769,000
2024	547,600	293,700	841,300
Total	2,153,500	1,505,200	3,658,700
Avg. Annual	430,700	301,040	731,740

Source: YSGA annual reports.

Table A-8: Projected Operating Costs in Current Dollars

Expenses	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
TIER 1 COSTS - Governance	TIER 1 -- GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION COSTS					
YSGA Staff Admin	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Office Expenses	\$9,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Membership Dues	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Insurance	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Legal	\$35,000	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500
Audit	\$8,500	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Fee Administration		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
County Fees		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total Management Activities Costs	\$130,000	\$212,500	\$212,500	\$212,500	\$212,500	\$212,500
TIER 1 COSTS - GSP Administration						
Annual Reports	\$55,000	\$66,300	\$66,300	\$66,300	\$66,300	\$66,300
Periodic Evaluation	\$221,250	\$56,300	\$56,300	\$56,300	\$56,300	\$56,300
GSP Amendment	\$0	\$81,300	\$81,300	\$81,300	\$81,300	\$81,300
Total GSP Administration Costs	\$276,250	\$203,900	\$203,900	\$203,900	\$203,900	\$203,900
Subtotal Tier 1 Costs	\$406,250	\$416,400	\$416,400	\$416,400	\$416,400	\$416,400
TIER 2 COSTS - Foundational Actions	TIER 2 -- GSP ACTIVITIES COSTS					
Groundwater Accounting	\$90,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$49,000
Hydrogeologic Characterization & Yolo Subbasin Model	\$15,000	\$419,143	\$419,143	\$419,143	\$419,143	\$419,143
Management Area Establishment	\$170,520	\$253,680	\$253,680	\$253,680	\$253,680	\$253,680
Outreach & Coordination		\$119,000	\$119,000	\$119,000	\$119,000	\$119,000
Water Supply Resilience		\$206,500	\$206,500	\$206,500	\$206,500	\$206,500
Technical Support	\$200,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
Subtotal Tier 2 Costs	\$475,520	\$1,095,323	\$1,095,323	\$1,095,323	\$1,095,323	\$1,095,323
Total Expenses	\$881,770	\$1,511,723	\$1,511,723	\$1,511,723	\$1,511,723	\$1,511,723
Revenues						
Contributions	\$423,012	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Well Permit Review Fees	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Use of Money & Property	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Revenues	\$440,012	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$19,500
Fee Revenue Requirement		\$1,492,223	\$1,492,223	\$1,492,223	\$1,492,223	\$1,492,223

Source: YSGA FY26 budget and YSGA staff, March 2026.

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS

- B.1 YOLO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER AGENCY FEE STUDY
OUTREACH PLAN
- B.2 FACT SHEET
- B.3 FARM BUREAU ARTICLES
- B.4 WEBSITE COPY
- B.5 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH
- B.6 FEE STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP MATERIALS
- B.7 YSGA NEWSLETTER
- B.8 SPANISH-LANGUAGE MATERIALS

B.1 YOLO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER AGENCY FEE STUDY
OUTREACH PLAN



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Fee Study Community Outreach Spring 2026 Updates and New Recommendations

FEE-SETTING PROGRESS AND OUTREACH TO DATE

Fee Setting Goals Progress

- Examine all fee setting options allowable under SGMA that are legally defensible. **(COMPLETE)**
- Provide a fee structure that supports the financial obligations and budget requirements of the YSGA to be able to conduct its operational role and responsibilities as defined under SGMA to ensure sustainable groundwater. **(COMPLETE)**
- Implement a fee that is not unnecessarily complicated or time-intensive for the YSGA staff to administer. **(COMPLETE)**
- Demonstrate due diligence to incorporate input and knowledge received during the outreach process into the fee-setting process. **(COMPLETE)**
- Establish a fee structure that the YSGA Board of Directors will adopt with confidence after the exhaustive examination of fee options and methodology are completed. **(IN PROGRESS)**
- Secure a fee structure adopted with maximum buy-in from interested parties and stakeholders, fee payors, and the community and that accounts for the diverse groundwater users and land uses within the YSGA's boundaries. **(IN PROGRESS)**

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Outlined objectives have guided efforts to date and will continue to guide actions through fee adoption.

- Maintain robust engagement with YSGA staff, committees, and board of directors throughout the fee setting process.
- Diligently pursue efforts to engage stakeholders/interested parties in the conversation to obtain their concerns and gather ideas that could be incorporated into a fee structure.
- Maintain transparency throughout the project by providing regular updates and easy access to information (website, email updates, etc.)
- Provide a clear explanation about YSGA's operating budget and how the budget supports actions identified in the GSP and SGMA compliance.
- Explain potential fee structure options in a clear, easy to understand manner and potential financial impacts of each option.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders and impacted public to review and comment on fee structure options.
- Leverage existing outreach opportunities, meetings, forums, publications, social platforms etc. to provide efficiencies and reduce stakeholder burnout.
- Remain flexible during the outreach and engagement process as the fee study progresses.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS/KEY MESSAGES

An FAQ which introduced the fee study and supports fee study goals and objectives was completed and posted to the website. The FAQ will be updated with the approved fee methodology and other pertinent information to support community understanding of the fee.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Fee Study team has completed meetings with stakeholders as identified and prioritized with the Ad Hoc Finance Committee. Intel collected during the meetings was incorporated into the fee methodologies vetted by the Financial Committee and Board of Directors. Discussions took place with:

- Member Agencies/Affiliated Parties paying YSGA dues that are not listed below
- Agriculture (individual farmers and Yolo County Farm Bureau)
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Large Public Water Systems staff
- Reclamation and Irrigation Districts
- Non-irrigated/rangeland
- Small Water Systems (residential)
- Community Services Districts staff
- Environmental wetlands (CA Dept. Fish & Wildlife & Yolo County Resource Conservation Dist.)
- Small family farms* (CAFF & Fully Belly Farm)
- Mixed use agriculture/wetlands area

*Received written feedback from Good Humus Farms

Based on feedback received from the Ad Hoc Finance Committee meeting in January, additional outreach will be conducted with a representative from the Cattlemen's Association to discuss the fee impact on rangeland areas and with the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Farmers' Council. Contact will also be made with some of the larger water providers such as Wild Wings County Service Area and Golf Community to explain the fee methodology.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND VEHICLES

(Ongoing) Website – Place a Fee Study tab on YSGA's website that introduces the fee study (*complete*) and populate the page with FAQ (*complete*). See additional website content outlined below.

(In -progress) Communications Materials – Materials will be created to fulfill a specific need, including reaching targeted populations or to provide notice about the fee study and opportunities to learn more.

Spring 2026 Recommendations

Create a detailed newsletter that will be posted to the website. The newsletter will be advertised through a postcard delivered to those in the subbasin not represented by a large public drinking water system, approximately 7,600 contacts. The postcard will contain a QR code tied to the online newsletter and contain dates for workshops (explained in Public Workshops) to be held in March. The QR code linking to the newsletter will be shared via YSGA e-blast and with other entities to post to social media or existing publications.

Place ads in the *Daily Democrat* and *The Davis Enterprise* (and possibly other publications). The ads will be placed in early March to advertise the public workshops. Continue to provide monthly updates in the Yolo County Farm Bureau newsletter, and a request made to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors to include workshop dates in their electronic communications to their constituents.

Create user-friendly graphics to illustrate fee calculations for the various agriculture scenarios, and commercial users and domestic well owners. Graphics will be used in PowerPoint presentations, meeting presentation

boards and on the website. The visuals will aid in breaking down the numerical calculations into easy-to-understand graphics for the general public.

(Revised) Public Workshop(s) – The major water providers, cities of Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, and Winters, and UC Davis, have been paying fixed annual contributions to YSGA. The water providers have agreed to continue to pay directly to the YSGA on behalf of their customers the amounts calculated for each provider’s customer base using the adopted fee methodology starting FY 2027. Workshops will be held in Winters, Woodland, Esparto, and Dunnigan for the general public with the explanation that those served by public water providers will not receive the fee via property tax bills as the fee is being contributed through the water provider, and those with wells will have the fee placed on their property tax bills. Further, reclamation and irrigation districts and stakeholders expressed the need for targeted outreach specifically in the Delta/Clarksburg and Capay Valley areas to explain the fee since there are no community water systems in these two management areas and therefore the YSGA fee will be collected on the property tax bills. The meeting in Esparto will capture the Capay Valley and an additional workshop will be held in Clarksburg in response to stakeholder feedback.

PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED OUTREACH

Broad Community Outreach and Research

The Yolo Subbasin is large; YSGA serves a broad range of interests and has diverse groundwater users and land uses. Originally, it was recommended to develop an online survey to determine the range of knowledge about YSGA and its role in groundwater management and obtain feedback on questions that will help shape the fee structure; *however, given the progress made and the decision for large water providers to continue paying directly to the YSGA, this is no longer recommended.*

B.2 FACT SHEET



YOLO SUBBASIN FEE STUDY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) – Updated March 2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency?

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA/Agency) was created in 2017 by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to serve as the official groundwater management agency for the Yolo Subbasin as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. The Agency consists of 26 member agencies, all with representatives on the Board of Directors. As a local entity, the YSGA directly serves the community by safeguarding groundwater resources for future generations.

How is the YSGA currently funded?

The YSGA has been solely funded by state grants and contributions from the 26 member agencies. Funds have supported agency operations and management, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and management of grant-funded projects identified in the GSP.

Why is it important for YSGA to establish a fee for a state mandate?

SGMA requires all groundwater sustainability agencies to be self-funded for administrative and reporting duties, management activities, and activities that contribute to an overall understanding of groundwater management.

What benefits do payers and the broader community receive from the YSGA fee?

The YSGA fee supports long-term, sustainable groundwater management that benefits both individual payers and the community. Because the subbasin is designated by the state as a high-priority basin, proactive management today is critical to securing future groundwater supplies. The fee also ensures that all beneficiaries contribute fairly to the cost of sustainable groundwater management, which is essential to the long-term prosperity and security of everyone who relies on groundwater supplies in the subbasin.

Why not require the 26 member agencies to continue supporting YSGA?

Member agencies' contributions were not intended to be permanent. The contributions were to fund the initial work and monetary needs of the YSGA until a permanent funding mechanism could be identified.

FEE STUDY INFORMATION

What is the Fee Study?

The Agency commissioned a fee study in June 2025 to develop a funding mechanism that will allow YSGA to remain financially self-sufficient and to distribute costs among all beneficiaries of the Agency's management activities. The fee consultant is examining YSGA's operations and budgets; available and reliable data to confidently calculate a fee; demographic and geographic data; and the different types of groundwater use in the Yolo Subbasin.

What is the purpose of collecting a fee?

The new funding mechanism will pay for YSGA governance and administration costs, GSP implementation by conducting investigative and feasibility studies that advance the understanding of the groundwater subbasin,

annual reporting, periodic updates to the GSP, and agency operations. Fee revenues will be used to plan and implement management actions that protect local water supplies, maintain groundwater levels, and preserve the productivity of groundwater wells in the subbasin. The fee also covers the cost to monitor groundwater levels, which is needed to understand the effects of groundwater pumping and mitigate potential issues before creating an undesirable result, as defined by the Yolo Subbasin GSP.

PROPOSED FEE

How was the proposed fee determined?

The fee study analyzed the diverse range of groundwater users and beneficiaries of sustainable groundwater supplies in the Yolo Subbasin in the context of total water use, land uses, and community characteristics. Input received from stakeholders, representatives of beneficiaries of groundwater sustainability, YSGA Financial Committee and YSGA Board of Directors contributed to the development of the proposed fee methodology.

Who will be charged the fee?

All water users will be subject to the fee, including residential, agricultural, industrial, and commercial users. Only Federally owned lands, including Tribal lands held in trust by the Federal government, are exempt under SGMA.

What is the proposed fee methodology?

The proposed **annual** fee has two parts:

Tier 1 will apply to all parcels within the Subbasin.

Tier 2 will apply to all water users in three categories:

- Domestic (Residential and Commercial) Users
- Agricultural Users (per cropped acre or managed wetlands acre)
- Vacant and Rangeland Parcels and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

What is the annual operating budget of the YSGA?

YSGA's current fiscal year 2026 budget is approximately \$2.6M, which includes approximately \$2.23M of grant-funded activities. The budget for fiscal year 2027, which the fee is based on, is \$1.6 million, not including grants.

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.

What is the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 annual fee?

Tier 1 – Applies to All Parcels

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

Tier 2 – Applies to Water Users

Domestic (Residential and Commercial) Users:

- \$1.36 per developed parcel for unregulated users (such as a private household well)
- \$0.40 per state small water system connection
- \$0.80 per community water system connection
- \$0.32 per person served by a non-community water system

Scan to read newsletter and see example fee calculations.



Agricultural Users (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

How will be the annual 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 provider - the fee will be paid for by the water provider.*

- If you use a private well, the fee will appear on your property tax bill.
- Tax-exempt parcels and water systems 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.*

GENERAL FAQS

Will the YSGA fee be used for projects?

The regulatory fee will be used to implement and manage Subbasin-wide projects and management actions outlined in the GSP. Project implementation costs include investigative and feasibility studies that advance the understanding of the groundwater subbasin. The fee will not be used for constructing infrastructure projects.

What if parcels or geographic areas within the subbasin only use surface water, not groundwater?

All water sources in the subbasin are “connected” as groundwater use affects surface water use, and vice versa. The Sacramento River and its tributaries, Putah Creek, and Cache Creek replenish underground aquifers where water is drawn and stored which makes the delineation between surface and groundwater sources contributing to groundwater withdrawals difficult to separate. Additionally, in some Subbasin locations, surface water users benefit from groundwater sustainability because the supply of surface water is not depleted if the Subbasin is in balance. Surface and groundwater management must be mutually inclusive in the Subbasin to achieve groundwater sustainability.

Are there State grants available to cover costs since this is a state-mandated requirement?

YSGA has received grants to assist with various efforts beneficial to the Agency including developing the GSP and the initiation of groundwater recharge projects throughout the subbasin. YSGA will continue to actively seek grants for projects; however, the Agency is required to self-fund activities including administration, monitoring and reporting, and project development and implementation.

LEARN MORE

Where can more information be found?

Information about the YSGA and fee development process is located at <https://www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study>.

B.3 FARM BUREAU ARTICLES

The Water Spot

YCFB & WCD Water Conditions Update (as of August 21, 2025)

Do you have feedback for the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) on the success of the 2025 irrigation season? Please let us know: info@ycfcwcd.org.

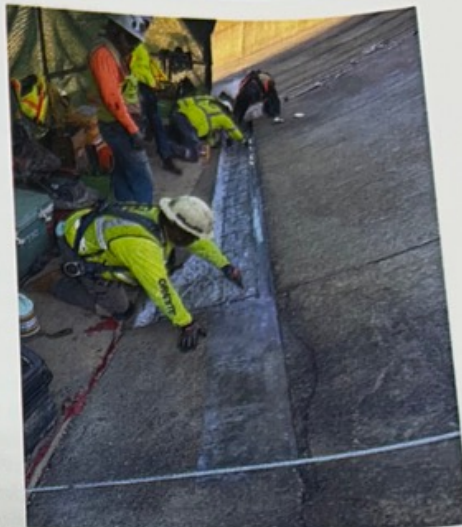
Indian Valley Reservoir (IVR) has 199,000 acre-feet of water storage available. Repairs to the IVR spillway have begun and are expected to be completed by the end of September.

Clear Lake elevation is 4.37 feet and there is approximately 74,000 acre-feet of irrigation season entitlement available until October. Upstream reservoir releases total approximately 600 cfs and Capay Dam diversions total approximately 450 cfs.

The District continues to plan for 2026 winter water recharge projects. Please let us know if you are interested in on-farm recharge. Additionally, the District is investigating irrigation conveyance options for properties without surface water access (monthly water quality data is available).

The District is still actively protecting surface water rights on Cache Creek watershed. On July 24th, the State Water Board (SWB) released a revised draft of the Bay-Delta Plan (BDP): [tinyurl.com/SWBbdp2025](https://www.tinyurl.com/SWBbdp2025), which now includes a list of water rights that are included in the Voluntary Agreement Program (also known as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program) and will not be subject to Unimpaired Flows. Unfortunately, none of the District's water rights were incorporated into the July 2025 update, and it's unclear when the next opportunity will be or so. The SWB is hosting a public hearing on September 25th and 26th to discuss the updated draft BDP.

Join the next District Board meeting, scheduled for Sept. 2nd at 3 PM at the District offices: 34274 State Highway 16.



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Fee Study and General Updates

Since formation, the YSGA has been solely funded by state grants and member agency contributions. Funds have supported agency operations and management, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development (approved by the Department of Water Resources in October 2023), and grant-funded projects adopted in the GSP that work toward achieving sustainable groundwater levels by 2042.

At this juncture, it is not feasible for YSGA to remain reliant solely on member agency contributions as it implements the GSP. YSGA will continue to actively pursue grants, however, grant monies are not guaranteed. As such, the Agency commissioned a fee study in June 2025 to develop a funding mechanism that will allow YSGA to become financially self-sufficient. The new funding mechanism will fund GSP implementation by conducting investigative and feasibility studies that advance the understanding of the groundwater basin, annual monitoring and reporting, periodic updates to the GSP, and agency operations. The funding mechanism will not be used to implement projects that involve construction. The study is anticipated to be completed by June 2026.

The fee study will consider the diverse range of groundwater users within the YSGA's boundaries and other factors in determining funding structure options, such as land use, community characteristics, culture, and demographics. Outreach and communication with various stakeholders, including agricultural and municipal groundwater users, domestic well owners, water providers, environmental interests, and the public, will be fundamental to gathering perspectives about fee methodologies and structures, and garnering opinions about establishing a generally acceptable fee.

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is currently preparing to update the 2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which is due to the California Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2027. The 2025 Annual Report is available on our website: yologroundwater.org.

The YSGA encourages landowners to participate in groundwater recharge projects to avoid groundwater pumping restrictions. To learn more about potential groundwater recharge opportunities, please contact us at info@yolosga.org. Join us at the next YSGA Board meeting, scheduled for September 15th at 3 PM at the Woodland Police Department: 1000 Lincoln Avenue.

Other Groundwater-Related Events:

- September 9th: YSGA Hungry Hollow Working Group Meeting
- October 20th: YSGA Coffee Shop Hours – 10 AM Winters (Steady Eddy's) and Woodland (Morgan's Mill)



Farm Bureau Article – March 2026

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Hosts Community Workshops

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is planning a series of workshops to provide communities within the Yolo Subbasin an opportunity to learn about the Fee Study currently being conducted. To date, the YSGA has been working with the fee consultant to examine YSGA's operations and budget and many sources of available and reliable data to confidently calculate a fee. Additionally, the fee study has researched and categorized the different types of groundwater and conjunctive water users in the Yolo Subbasin. Initial outreach with stakeholders, representatives of groundwater users, and YSGA staff and Board members have shaped the formation of fee methodologies that 1) address the diverse range of groundwater users and use in the Subbasin and 2) equitably distributes costs among all who benefit from Yolo Subbasin's long-term groundwater sustainability.

The community is encouraged to attend a regional workshop to learn about the proposed fee methodologies, specifics about the fee structure and financial impacts to different parcels within the Subbasin boundaries. Visit www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study for more information.

Clarksburg

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36446 Riverview Dr., Clarksburg

Winters

Thursday, March 12, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites
702 Matsumoto Lane, Winters

Woodland

Monday, March 16, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Woodland Community and Senior Center
2001 East St., Woodland

Dunnigan

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Dunnigan Fire Protection District
29145 Main St., Dunnigan

Esparto

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Capay Valley Health and Community Center

The Water Spot



YCFB&WCD Water Conditions & General Update (as of February 16, 2026)

We are excited to offer another unallocated season. The 2026 irrigation season will be unallocated. Clear Lake elevation is ~7.58 feet Rumsey (full irrigation entitlement of 150,000 acre-feet) and Indian Valley Reservoir has approximately 257,300 acre-feet of water stored.

The District is continuing work on replacing the old 60-inch siphon on the Winters Canal, which runs under Chickahominy Slough (also known as Walnut Canal). Irrigation season diversions will be ramping up the week of April 6, and we anticipate deliveries to the lower portion of Winters Canal, and all of Willow Canal and University Ditch by April 21.

Thank you to those farmers who participated in the District's on-farm winter recharge in January! We were successful in signing up and delivering water to 4,000 + acres, and we were able to recharge about 3,800 acre-feet of excess Cache Creek water. Unfortunately, mother nature did not provide additional opportunities for on-farm recharge in February or March. Please join us at an upcoming District Board meeting: May 12 at 3 p.m. at the District offices: 34274 State Highway 16.



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Draft Fee Study

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) completed the Water Year 2025 Annual Report, visit our website:

www.yologroundwater.org/files/1238ecc49/Annual+Report+2026+Final.pdf.

The YSGA hosted six workshops to provide communities within the Yolo Subbasin an opportunity to learn about the Fee Study currently being conducted. The YSGA Board of Directors received an update on the draft Fee Study and will be holding a public hearing on May 18 at 3 p.m. to consider adopting the fee structure for placement on the 2026/2027 tax roll. Visit www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study for more information.

PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURE (Tier 1 + Tier 2)

Tier 1 – Applies to All Parcels

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

Tier 2 – Based on Water Use

DOMESTIC USES (Residential and Commercial)

- \$1.36 per developed parcel for unregulated users (such as a private domestic well)
- \$0.40 per state small water system connection (5-14 connections or serves <25 people)
- \$0.80 per community water system connection (public water provider)
- \$0.32 per person served by a non-community water system (typically commercial, schools, 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 UNIRRIGATED RANGELAND PARCELS – NO TIER 2 FEE



Jeff Dyer

175 W. Main St., Suite D
P.O. Box 564
Woodland, CA 95776
(530) 666-4638 Office
(530) 666-4642 Fax
(530) 908-4689 Cell
www.farmranchrealty.us
jeff@farmranchrealty.us

DAN MEZGER

MARK MEZGER

MEZGER GRAIN COMPANY

P.O. Box 222, Yolo, CA 95697

(530) 662-9626 • 1 (800) 834-9626

STORAGE

SEED

TRUCKING

B.4 WEBSITE COPY



Website Fee Study Tab Intro – August 2025

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency ([YSGA](#)) was formed in response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) of 2014 which requires local, sustainable management of groundwater in identified subbasins throughout California. The YSGA consists of 26 [member agencies](#), each with a seat on the Board of Directors, and represents residential, urban, agricultural and environmental interests.

Since formation, the YSGA has been solely funded by state grants and member agency contributions. Funds have supported agency operations and management, Groundwater Sustainability Plan ([GSP](#)) development (approved by the Department of Water Resources in October 2023), and grant-funded projects adopted in the GSP that work toward achieving sustainable groundwater levels by 2042.

At this juncture, it is not feasible for YSGA to remain reliant solely on member agency contributions as it implements the GSP. YSGA will continue to actively pursue grants, however, grant monies are not guaranteed. As such, the Agency commissioned a fee study in June 2025 to develop a funding mechanism that will allow YSGA to become financially self-sufficient. The new funding mechanism will fund GSP implementation by conducting investigative and feasibility studies that advance the understanding of the groundwater basin, annual monitoring and reporting, periodic updates to the GSP, and agency operations. The funding mechanism will not be used to implement projects that involve construction. The study is anticipated to be completed by June 2026.

The fee study will consider the diverse range of groundwater users within the YSGA's boundaries and other factors in determining funding structure options, such as land use, community characteristics, culture, and demographics. Outreach and communication with various stakeholders, including agricultural and municipal groundwater users, domestic well owners, water providers, environmental interests, and the public, will be fundamental to gathering perspectives about fee methodologies and structures, and garnering opinions about establishing a generally acceptable fee.

[Sign up](#) to receive announcements and updates.

B.5 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH



Fee Study Introduction Email – Stakeholder Engagement

Hello,

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is currently conducting a fee study to establish a long-term, dependable funding mechanism for administration of the YSGA and Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation.

Catherine Hansford (Hansford Economic Consulting) and I (Schaelene Rollins of Rollins PR Consulting) are the fee consultant team assisting YSGA with the fee development. Our goal is to understand the relationship between groundwater resources and its users within the Yolo Subbasin. We are scheduling meetings with stakeholders to gain perspectives and considerations to keep in mind as the fee study is being conducted. CAFF was recommended to us for its relationship with the local farming community.

We will be in the area on Tuesday, November 18. Would it be possible to meet for 30-45 minutes between 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. or after 2:30 p.m.? If the timing does not work, is there a convenient time to schedule a call the second or third week in November? Please extend the invitation to others within CAFF who you think would be good to include in the conversation.

Thank you in advance,
Schaelene and Catherine
considerations



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Stakeholder Outreach

- Member Agencies/Affiliated Parties paying YSGA dues that are not listed below
- Agriculture (individual farmers and Yolo County Farm Bureau)
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Large Public Water Systems staff
- Reclamation and Irrigation Districts
- Non-irrigated/rangeland
- Small Water Systems (residential)
- Community Services Districts staff
- Environmental wetlands (CA Dept. Fish & Wildlife & Yolo County Resource Conservation Dist.)
- Small family farms* (CAFF & Fully Belly Farm)
- Mixed use agriculture/wetlands area
- Cattlemen's Association
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Farmers' Council

*Received written feedback from Good Humus Farms

B.6 FEE STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP MATERIALS



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency
34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA 95695

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Hosts Community Workshops!

Clarksburg: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse, 36446 Riverview Dr., Clarksburg

Winters: Thursday, March 12, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites, 702 Matsumoto Lane, Winters

Woodland: Monday, March 16, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Woodland Community and Senior Center, 2001 East St., Woodland

Dunnigan: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Dunnigan Fire Protection District, 29145 Main St., Dunnigan

Esparto: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.
Capay Valley Health and Community Center, 17340 Yolo Ave., Esparto

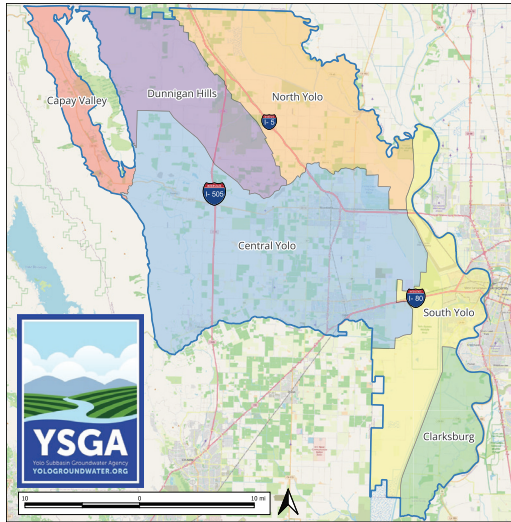
Virtual Workshop via Zoom: Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10 a.m.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7847507621>

Escanear para leer en español a:



About the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) was created in 2017 by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to serve as the official groundwater sustainability agency for the Yolo Subbasin as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. As a local entity, the YSGA directly serves the community by safeguarding groundwater resources for future generations.



Funding the YSGA

SGMA requires all groundwater sustainability agencies to be self-funded. To date, the YSGA has been solely funded by state grants and

contributions from its 26 member agencies. Funds have supported agency operations and management, compliance with SGMA's annual reporting requirements, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development, and management of grant-funded projects identified in the GSP. YSGA needs to establish a fee to be able to self-fund these and similar activities starting fiscal year 2027.

Exploring Fee Structures

YSGA commissioned a fee study in May 2025 to develop a funding mechanism that will allow YSGA to remain financially self-sufficient and that equitably distributes costs among all who benefit from Yolo Subbasin's long-term groundwater sustainability. The fee study examines YSGA's operations and budget and many sources of available and reliable data to confidently calculate a fee. Additionally, the fee study researches and categorizes the different types of groundwater and conjunctive water users in the Yolo Subbasin. Initial outreach with stakeholders, representatives of groundwater users, and YSGA staff and Board members have shaped the formation of fee methodologies that address the diverse range of groundwater users and use in the Subbasin.

Read the Fee Study newsletter at (Lea el boletín informativo del estudio de tarifas en) www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study

Learn about the Proposed Fee Structure

YSGA is hosting workshops to educate property owners within the Subbasin about the fee study, proposed fee methodologies, and financial impacts of the potential new fee.

Why Attend?

- **Sustain Your Groundwater Supply** - Proactive management today is critical to securing future groundwater supplies, which is essential to the long-term prosperity and security of everyone who relies on groundwater and all water sources in the subbasin.
- **Voice Your Input** - The opinions of all individuals contribute to valuable solutions to ensure adequate groundwater supplies. Funding the YSGA supports those solutions.
- **Get Answers** - "Why should I pay?" The workshops will explain how the fee ensures that all beneficiaries contribute fairly to the cost of sustainable groundwater management.



Agricultural User with Home

100 acre parcel



2 acre home

**8 acres yard
and road**

**90 acres
cropped**

Tier 1		
Billing Fee		\$1.50
Acreage Fee		= 100 acres*\$0.76
Total Tier 1		\$77.50
Tier 2		
	Districted	Undistricted
Ag. Fee	= 90 acres*\$2.78	= 90 acres*\$7.94
Dom. Fee	\$1.36	\$1.36
Total Tier 2	\$251.56	\$715.96
Fee Total	\$329.08	\$793.46

OR

Agricultural User

100 acre parcel



**95 acres
cropped**

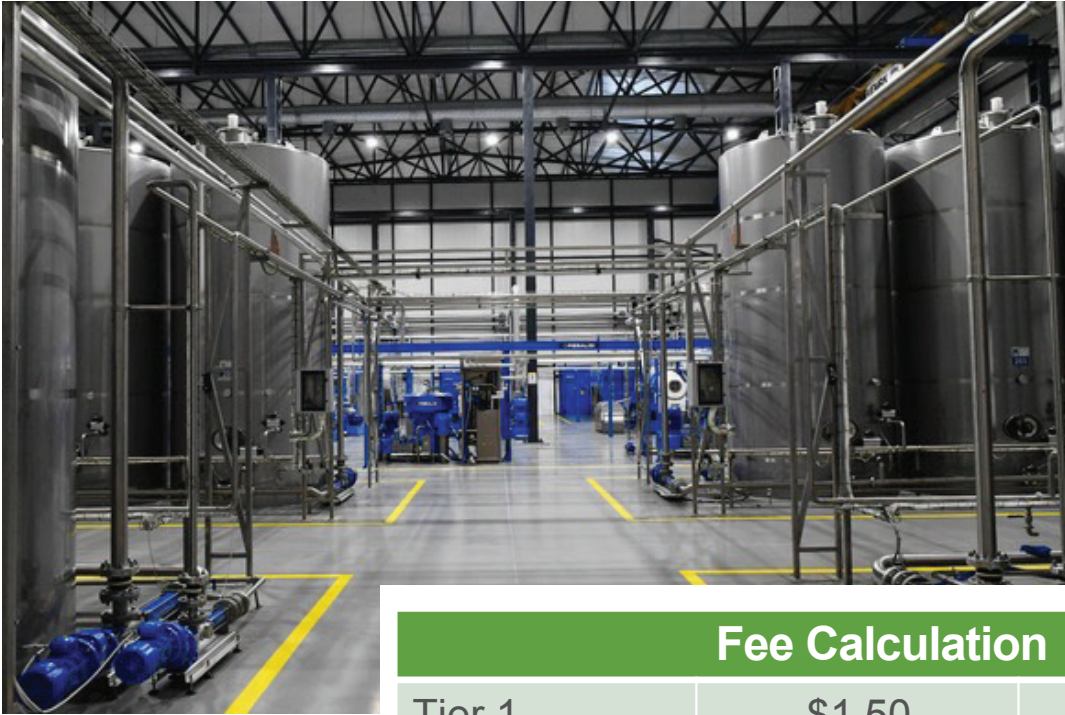
**5 acres
unproductive**

Tier 1		
Billing Fee		\$1.50
Acreage Fee		= 100 acres*\$0.76
Total Tier 1		\$77.50
Tier 2		
	Districted	Undistricted
Ag. Fee	= 95 acres*\$2.78	= 95 acres*\$7.94
Total Tier 2	\$264.10	\$754.30
Fee Total	\$341.60	\$831.80

OR

Canning Facility

Regulated Non-Community Water System



20 acre parcel

1,000 people served

Fee Calculation

Tier 1	\$1.50	Billing Fee
	= 20 acres*\$0.76	Acreage Fee
Total Tier 1	\$16.70	
Persons served	1,000	
	= 1,000*\$0.32	Domestic Fee
Total Tier 2	\$320	
Fee Total	\$336.70	

School

Regulated Non-Community Water System



10 acre parcel

250 people served

Fee Calculation		
Tier 1	\$1.50	Billing Fee
	= 10 acres*\$0.76	Acreage Fee
Total Tier 1	\$9.10	
Persons served	250	
	= 250*\$0.32	Domestic Fee
Total Tier 2	\$80.00	
Fee Total	\$89.10	

Rural Residential with Private Well

Unregulated Domestic Water Use

2 homes with one private well on 5 acres



Fee Calculation		
Tier 1	\$1.50	Billing Fee
	= 5 acres*\$0.76	Acreage Fee
Total Tier 1	\$5.30	
Tier 2	\$1.36	Domestic Fee
Fee Total	\$6.66	

Collected via property tax bill

Rangeland

650 acres total parcel



**650 acres
rangeland
*no crops***

Tier 1	
Billing Fee	\$1.50
Acreage Fee	= 650 acres*\$0.76
Total Tier 1	\$495.50
Tier 2	
No Fees	

Residential Home Served by Public Water System

1 home on 0.5 acre



Fee Calculation		
Tier 1	\$1.50	Billing Fee
	= 0.5 acres*\$0.76	Acreage Fee
Total Tier 1	\$1.88	
Tier 2	\$0.80	Domestic Fee
Fee Total	\$2.68	

Paid by water provider

**Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency
March Workshop – Advertisement Placements**

Davis Enterprise – Wednesday, March 4 – Page A5

Daily Democrat – Wednesday, March 4 – Page A4

Community Patch Online – March 5 - March 17

- Dunnigan Patch
- Woodland Patch
- Yolo Patch
- Winters Patch
- Davis Patch

Valley Voice – March 2026



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Hosts Community Workshops

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- Learn about how the YSGA fee is determined and how the fee will be charged within the Subbasin boundaries

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Virtual Workshop via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7847507621>
Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10 a.m.



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ESCALATION: Familiar circus comes town hall meeting

From Page A1

than ending the meeting, which they ultimately did.

Prior to that, the focus of the morning was on de-escalation tools that police officers themselves learn in department trainings.

The need for such information is evident in the calls Mayor Donna Neville said she receives from constituents and Davis business owners who ask what to do when they see someone in crisis, near their business or on their front lawn.

"It's not someone they know at all, and so they're not even necessarily inclined to even engage," Neville said. "That scenario ... turns out to be very, very common among a lot of people I hear from."

"You're a downtown business owner, someone is right near your business, they're yelling loudly, not to anyone in particular. You're concerned about their well-being, do you engage in these techniques?"

Davis Police Sgt. Matt Muscardini, who leads the police department's community-oriented policing team and led Tuesday's training along with dispatcher Tanya Baumeister, said, "from the Davis Police Department's standpoint, we don't expect you to go out and contact those people, to

do any de-escalation ... it's really upon the business, if they want to talk to the person. That's the choice. I don't know if I would recommend that. I would contact the Davis Police Department."

The department, he noted, has an in-house clinician who will respond to that kind of call.

"They go out, they evaluate that person for their needs, like potential services or potentially they can be taken to the hospital for additional care," he said. "It really depends on the situation. But really calling us is the best thing to do in that situation."

For those who do feel comfortable engaging in de-escalation, safety is paramount, Muscardini said, and de-escalation by a community member is not appropriate in all situations.

But when making an effort to do so, he said, tools include remaining calm; using an even tone of voice; keeping noise and stimulation levels low; moving slowly and gently, announcing actions before initiating them; engaging in reflective listening, which involves repeating back parts of what the individual is saying; being patient and predictable; and expressing concern and offering support.

"Based on my experience, the more concern and support you offer, it typically does work. Not

always, but it can," said Muscardini.

Baumeister also noted the FBI's list of active listening skills that can be used in these situations, including asking open-ended questions and using "I" messages like, "I hear you."

"And when de-escalation fails ... your safety is truly what we care about most. We want to make sure everybody is safe," she said.

"If you are fearful for your safety, please call us," she added. "We want to get you help."

Case in point

As the training neared its conclusion, a question was asked about how community members should handle what's been going on in Davis for a while now: "This new thing which is happening where people will film kids leaving school, asking what their parents' names are, put it online and then internet trolls find where people live and continue the harassment from there?"

Bourne has been seen filming children, parents and staff at schools in Davis and then posting those videos online.

Muscardini replied that he didn't "know all the ins and outs over whether that's legal, illegal, that type of thing, so I encourage

you ... to make a report, to call the Davis Police Department and have an officer take a report. Does that answer your question?"

"Kind of," the questioner replied. "The situation is stopping that from happening, especially (when kids are involved). Somebody is just showing up and filming how as they're leaving school ... How do you prevent that?"

"I don't know how you prevent that, to be honest with you," Muscardini said.

When asked how to de-escalate it, he said, "I don't know."

At that point, audience members pointed out that Bourne was filming them and several said they didn't consent to it.

"I feel very uncomfortable that this woman over here is filming us right now. I feel threatened, I feel like it's inappropriate. Can we do something about it?" asked one.

Replied Mustardini: "We can end this meeting if you like... I can't stop her from recording. There's no law that says I can stop her."

Bourne then spoke up, saying she has been speaking out about a medical scandal "and that's why I go in front of schools and I've only done it a couple times here ..."

Her subsequent comments were then largely drowned out by audience members, at which

point Muscardini ended the event.

In the last year Bourne has been seen filming students, parents and staff at numerous Davis schools, including Harper, Holmes and Da Vinci junior high schools, Da Vinci High School and Patwin Elementary School. Those videos have ended up online.

She also filmed students at Winters Middle School last month when those students embarked on an anti-ICE walk-out. The situation escalated quickly there, according to the Winters Police Department, with officers having to intervene to separate Bourne and the students.

In a message posted to Facebook, Winters Police Chief John Miller said the students were following the directions of staff and were well-behaved until Bourne showed up with a "Trump-Vance" sign. Some students then reacted by pulling her sign away and throwing things that struck her as well as police officers, Miller said. One student reported that she was struck by Bourne but Miller was not able to confirm that.

The situation de-escalated after Bourne left.

Tuesday's de-escalation training, meanwhile, was filmed and will be released to the public.

Petition to form school-closure committee nears 1,000 names

By MONICA STARK
Enterprise staff writer

As of Monday evening, a petition calling for the Davis Joint Unified School District to form an advisory committee on potential campus closures had reached 966 of the 1,000 signatures needed.

The committee would "ensure that decisions regarding school closure are transparent, equitable and grounded in reliable data and careful analysis."

It charged that the district "considered — but ultimately did not pursue — a community-based advisory process to identify

community priorities and to develop and evaluate options to address declining enrollment.

"Given the limitations of and the lack of data to support the options presented so far, and consistent with the recommendation of education experts, this Community Advisory Committee should be included in the development of new options in the next phase of this work."

The petition's signatories urge trustees to:

- Establish a Community Advisory Committee to identify community priorities and values and to generate and evaluate

district-wide solutions to declining school enrollment. The Committee must comprise diverse and equitable representation from at least parents of students, teachers, and school staff.

- Ensure the committee has the time, data, and resources needed to analyze impacts on students, as well as equity, traffic, environmental, staffing, and community-wide impacts; and

- Commit to transparency and shared responsibility by expanding how data and analysis are generated, discussed, and interpreted, including real-time, two-way engagement with the School Board to

ensure community feedback is meaningfully heard and considered.

Patwin parent Colleen Zern, a UCD lecturer, called for the district to pause its process and form an advisory committee.

She said that if five people are making a decision that can impact the future structure of Davis, those five should get help from people with knowledge in this field. "Admin staff: They're not experts in this, and it's helpful that Davis has a wealth of knowledge of people here."

CRASH: Police investigate circumstances of collision

From Page A1

remain under investigation," according to Davis police.

Later on Monday afternoon the bike path in the immediate area was temporarily closed for investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or who has additional information can

contact the Davis Police Department at 530-747-5400 or policeweb@cityofdavis.org.

Police said Monday this remains an active investigation.

"We extend our condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased," the police department said in a social media post.



OLLI: Staff enthused with new digs

From Page A1

the community they build, but the inspired learning that takes place, and the sharing as well."

The Unitrans Z-line has a stop at Second Street and Cousteau Place. People also walk there, ride their bicycles, drive or attend online. People outside the Davis area, in Sacramento, or even beyond, can watch many of these classes live online.

Gates has been the director of OLLI since January 2025 and has worked in higher education for 30 years in various positions at several universities, most recently at UC Berkeley.

"This is a culmination of everything I've done in my academic career," she says. "I create courses. I help

with courses. We acquired this property. We're thinking about creative activities all the time, so it's fun for me."

She says that as an academic entrepreneur, she's always been on the program side, thinking about what kind of curriculum or experiential learning she can create that will have meaning, and says that "lifelong learning is something that everybody is excited about."

She said, "You're not forcing anyone to take a class. You have people coming here. You're pulling people in because they want to be here."

Membership of UCD's OLLI is about 500 and growing throughout the entire Sacramento region. There are 124 OLLIs in the

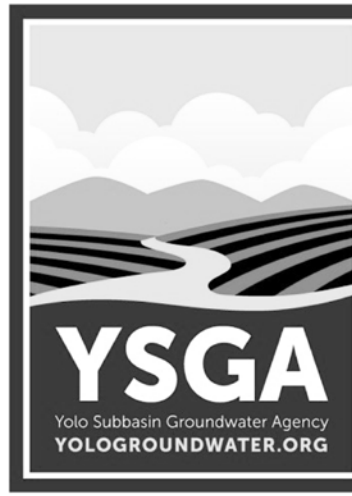
country.

Part of UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education, OLLI is run by its members with help from a volunteer-run curriculum committee and those who plan trips outside the classroom. These "OLLI On The Road" trips include visiting UCD's "living laboratories and classrooms," including the UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute's Bodega Marine Laboratory, the Cahill Riparian Reserve in Winters.

They will also visit Aggie Square, go on hikes, visit the California Academy of Sciences, attend the opera, and have lunch at Hayes Street Grill.

To become an OLLI member, visit the website or call the office at 530-752-1659.

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OSTERIA FASULO
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UC DAVIS

2026 UC Davis Alumni Awards

Celebrating leadership, service and global impact

UC DAVIS NEWS SERVICE

UC Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association has announced the recipients of its 2026 Alumni Awards, honoring exceptional alumni and friends whose leadership, innovation and service have strengthened communities locally and around the world.

This year's honorees are advancing global health, driving business innovation, championing equity and transforming the future of science and food systems. Across industries and continents, they pair professional excellence with a deep commitment to UC Davis — expanding opportunity and shaping a better future for all.

With a network of more than 323,000 alumni, the Cal Aggie Alumni Association is proud to recognize:

Aggie Service Award: Jacqueline Herbert Beckley '72

Emil M. Mrak International Impact Award: Woutrina Smith, D.V.M. '01, M.P.V.M. '01, Ph.D. '04, and Brian Bird, Ph.D. '08, D.V.M. '09

Outstanding Alumni Award: Kirk DeClark '01

Young Alumni Award: Aron King, M.S. '21

Lifetime Achievement Award: Deborah J. Neff '76

Distinguished Friend of the University Award: Elena B. Weaver

AGGIE SERVICE AWARD

Jacqueline Herbert Beckley is a dedicated volunteer leader, mentor and ambassador whose decades of service have strengthened UC Davis across disciplines and generations.

Beckley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in food science and an MBA from Dominican University. She

is the founder of The Understanding & Insight Group, a boutique consultancy known for advancing business and innovation, as well as U&I Digital, which develops tools for understanding conversations through proprietary applications that utilize AI and machine learning.

An 18-year veteran of the UC Davis Food Science and Technology Leadership Board, Beckley has helped shape the department's future through philanthropy and hands-on leadership. She values building relationships with faculty and staff to ensure the campus remains a place that alumni are proud to return to and invest in. As a member of the UC Davis Women & Philanthropy Advisory Council, Beckley helped launch an initiative to honor an outstanding faculty or staff member each year through a \$25,000 Impact Award.

At the heart of Beckley's service is a deep commitment to students. She has championed scholarships, expanded funding for professional experiences, and partnered with her husband to create lasting endowments that open doors for future Aggies. Beckley's leadership advanced the Robert Mondavi Institute and energized collaborative efforts like the UC Davis Hub for Sensory and Consumer Science.

A tireless connector, Beckley enjoys mentoring students and bringing alumni together through industry events and immersive experiences. As a trustee of the UC Davis Foundation Board and member of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean's Advisory Council, she is helping shape the future of UC Davis.

EMIL M. MRAK INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AWARD

Woutrina Smith and Brian Bird are internationally recognized leaders in infectious disease research whose careers reflect the global vision and collaborative spirit that define UC Davis' enduring impact on health, science and humanity.

As alumni and now faculty leaders at the UC Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine, Smith and Bird have dedicated their professional lives to strengthening health systems worldwide. Their work advances science while building lasting international partnerships grounded in trust, training and shared leadership.

A three-time UC Davis graduate, Smith serves as associate dean for Global Programs and executive director of the UC Davis One Health Institute. Her research and educational collaborations span Africa, Asia and the Americas, where she leads multidisciplinary teams addressing infectious disease transmission, food and water security, and the connections between climate change and public health.

Smith recently directed a \$60 million USAID initiative partnering with more than 100 universities across 17 low- and middle-income countries to train more than 60,000 professionals on the One Health approach, strengthening global health security through locally led solutions.

Bird earned his Ph.D. and D.V.M. at UC Davis after training at Johns Hopkins University in public health and service as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Kazakhstan. He went on to serve as a veterinary medical officer with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, deploying to multiple hemorrhagic fever outbreak responses across Africa. In

2014-16, Bird helped lead the CDC's field laboratory for Ebola disease detection in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone during what became the largest Ebola epidemic in history.

Today, he is director of the UC Davis One Health Institute Laboratory, where his team is working to advance a vaccine candidate into human clinical trials for Rift Valley fever, a devastating disease of animals and people across Africa. Using other One Health approaches like strengthening disease detection in wildlife and increasing public awareness, his group works to reduce the impact of emerging diseases globally.

As married partners and longtime research collaborators, Smith and Bird exemplify the power of science without borders. Through research, education and enduring international partnerships, they have advanced solutions that help safeguard communities around the world.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Kirk DeClark is a business leader and entrepreneur whose career and service reflect the curiosity, adaptability and drive he fostered at UC Davis. With dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in economics and communication, DeClark has built a dynamic career at the intersection of finance, strategy and relationship-building.

Over more than two decades in real estate finance and investment, he has led complex acquisitions, guided asset strategy and cultivated investor partnerships across commercial portfolios. After founding his own mortgage consulting firm at age 23, DeClark went on to earn his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

He now serves as director of investments at LRG Investors, where he helps

guide investment strategy and growth. Separately, he and a fellow UC Davis alum are working to launch a startup, a telehealth platform focused on women's and men's midlife wellness, which they expect to launch later this year.

DeClark's professional path has been defined by exploration, a value he traces back to his undergraduate years, when he discovered the power of pairing analytical thinking with strong communication. Today, he channels that same mindset into mentoring and alumni engagement.

As vice chair of the College of Letters and Science Dean's Advisory Council, DeClark plays a central role in shaping alumni engagement and philanthropic strategy. He has championed initiatives that offer financial support for students, such as Beyond the Classroom and the San Francisco Young Alumni Senior Awards, and he established an endowment dedicated to helping recent graduates navigate the transition from college to career.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Aron King is a nationally recognized leader whose work is advancing health equity across Sacramento and beyond. As the director of the Magnet Program at Kaiser Permanente in Antioch and a doctoral student at the UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, King is focused on bridging clinical excellence with community-engaged research.

Widely recognized for his ability to bring people together, King is a gifted facilitator and mentor who trains health care providers to identify and mitigate bias, opening dialogue in spaces where equity conversations are often difficult, but essential. He is the architect of the Barbershop Health Talks model and co-creator

of the grant-funded Cut to the Chase program, which provides free, licensed group therapy in historically underserved neighborhoods. In just two years, the program has reached more than 800 Black men, reducing stigma around mental health care.

As founding executive board member and current historian of the Capitol City Black Nurses Association, King also helped launch the annual Breaking Down Barriers to Nursing Conference in 2020, expanding opportunities for underrepresented students and strengthening pathways into the profession.

In 2025, King was among the Sacramento Business Journal's 40 Under 40 honorees. Other recent recognitions include the UC Davis Civic Engagement Graduate Student Award; the American Association for Men in Nursing's Inclusion and Diversity Excellence Award; and the National Black Nurses Association's 40 Under 40 and Spirit of the Founders awards.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Deborah J. Neff is a visionary executive, philanthropist and lifelong champion of UC Davis. Her career and service reflect a deep commitment to improving lives through advancing science, expanding opportunities and giving back to her community.

A veteran of the global life sciences sector, Neff has led multiple life science and medical technology companies that have advanced research and improved clinical outcomes. She built the industry's leading cellular analysis business as worldwide president of BD Biosciences, driving global growth and advancing innovation to better understand immune system responses to disease.

As CEO of Pathwork Diag-

See AWARDS on Page A5



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Hosts Community Workshops

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) was created in 2017 to serve as the official groundwater sustainability agency for the Yolo Subbasin as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The YSGA directly serves the community by safeguarding groundwater resources for future generations.

YSGA is conducting a fee study to develop a funding mechanism that will allow YSGA to remain financially self-sufficient and that equitably distributes costs among all who benefit from Yolo Subbasin's long-term groundwater sustainability. The fee study examines YSGA's operations and budget and many sources of available and reliable data to confidently calculate a fee. Additionally, the fee study researches and categorizes the different types of groundwater and conjunctive water users in the Yolo Subbasin.

YSGA is hosting educational workshops to inform the community about proposed fee methodologies and financial impacts of the potential new fee. The community is encouraged to attend to:

- Learn about YSGA activities that support a sustainable groundwater management
- Hear about the practical benefits provided by the YSGA
- Understand the YSGA operating costs
- Learn about how the YSGA fee is determined and how the fee will be charged within the Subbasin boundaries

Clarksburg

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
from 6-8 p.m.
1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36446 Riverview Dr., Clarksburg

Winters

Thursday, March 12, 2026
from 6-8 p.m.
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites
702 Matsumoto Lane, Winters

Woodland

Monday, March 16, 2026
from 6-8 p.m.
Woodland Community and Senior Center
2001 East St., Woodland

Dunnigan

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
from 6-8 p.m.
Dunnigan Fire Protection District
29145 Main St., Dunnigan

Esparto

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
from 6-8 p.m.
Capay Valley Health and Community Center
17340 Yolo Ave., Esparto

Virtual Workshop via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7847507621>
Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10 a.m.



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This post was contributed by a community member. The views expressed here are the author's own.

Dunnigan | Local Event

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Community Workshops

Marie Rollins, Neighbor

MAR 11



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Hosts Community Workshops

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Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10 a.m.



Escanear para leer en español a:

Event Details

Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM [Add to calendar](#)

Clarksburg Schoolhouse, 36446 Riverview Dr, Clarksburg, CA, 95612

[More info here](#)

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is planning a series of workshops to inform communities about the Fee Study currently being conducted. The community is encouraged to attend a regional workshop to learn about the proposed fee methodologies, specifics about the fee structure and financial impacts to different parcels within the Subbasin boundaries. Visit www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study for more information.

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B.7 YSGA NEWSLETTER



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

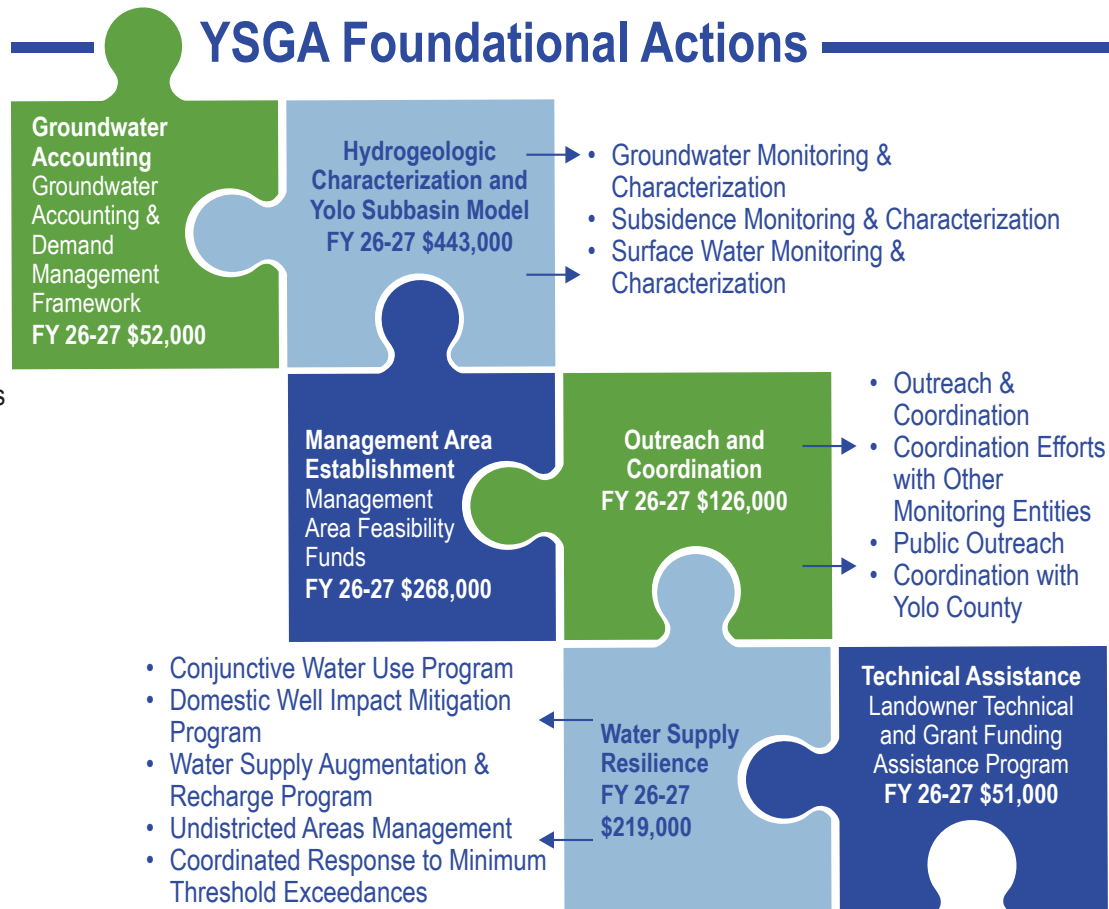
[Read more](#) about the YSGA and member-agency projects.

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

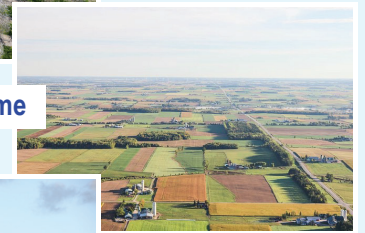
**Parcels that include managed wetlands, as defined by YSGA, are included in the proposed fee structure because groundwater sustainability efforts benefit those lands. State-owned parcels within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area are treated differently because they are managed to replicate historic flood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



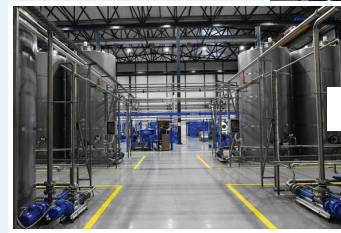
2 Homes, 1 Well



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

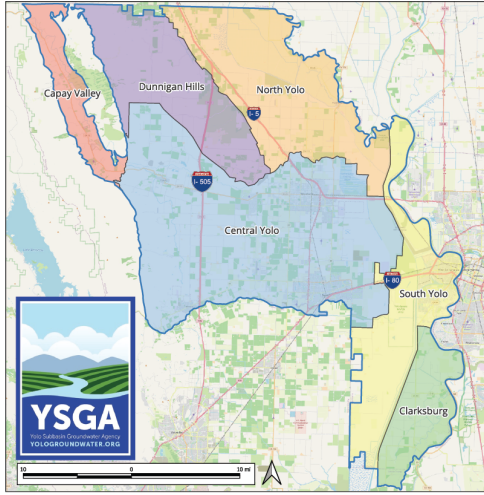
- [Sign up](#) to receive periodic updates.
- [Attend a Board Meeting](#).

B.8 SPANISH-LANGUAGE MATERIALS

¡La Agencia de Aguas Subterráneas de la Subcuenca de Yolo organiza talleres comunitarios!

Acerca de la Agencia de Aguas Subterráneas de la Subcuenca de Yolo

La Agencia de Aguas Subterráneas de la Subcuenca de Yolo (YSGA) se creó en 2017 mediante un Acuerdo de Poderes Conjuntos (JPA, por sus siglas en inglés) para servir como la agencia oficial de sostenibilidad de las aguas subterráneas de la Subcuenca de Yolo, según lo exige la Ley de Gestión Sostenible de las Aguas Subterráneas (SGMA) de 2014. Como entidad local, la YSGA sirve directamente a la comunidad al proteger los recursos de aguas subterráneas para las generaciones futuras.



Financiamiento de la YSGA

La SGMA exige que todas las agencias de sostenibilidad de aguas subterráneas sean

autosuficientes financieramente. Hasta la fecha, la YSGA ha sido financiada exclusivamente mediante subvenciones estatales y aportaciones de sus 26 agencias miembro. Estos fondos han respaldado las operaciones y la administración de la agencia, el cumplimiento de los requisitos anuales de informes establecidos por la SGMA, la elaboración del Plan de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSP), y la gestión de proyectos financiados con subvenciones e identificados en el GSP.

La YSGA necesita establecer una tarifa para poder autofinanciar estas y actividades similares a partir del año fiscal 2027.

Evaluación de Estructuras Tarifarias

En mayo de 2025, la YSGA encargó un estudio de tarifas para desarrollar un mecanismo de financiamiento que le permita mantenerse financieramente autosuficiente y distribuir equitativamente los costos entre todos quienes se benefician de la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de las aguas subterráneas en la Subcuenca de Yolo.

El estudio de tarifas examina las operaciones y el presupuesto de la YSGA, así como diversas fuentes de datos disponibles y confiables para calcular la tarifa con precisión. Además, investiga y clasifica los distintos tipos de usuarios de aguas subterráneas y de uso conjunto (aguas superficiales y subterráneas) en la Subcuenca de Yolo.

El alcance inicial con partes interesadas, representantes de usuarios de aguas subterráneas, y personal y miembros de la Junta Directiva de la YSGA ha contribuido a la formulación de metodologías tarifarias que responden a la diversidad de usuarios y usos de agua en la Subcuenca.

Conozca la Estructura Tarifaria Propuesta

La YSGA está organizando talleres para informar a los propietarios dentro de la Subcuenca sobre el estudio de tarifas, las metodologías tarifarias propuestas y los posibles impactos financieros de la nueva tarifa.

¿Por Qué Asistir?

- Sostenga su suministro de agua subterránea – La gestión proactiva hoy es fundamental para asegurar los suministros futuros de aguas subterráneas, lo cual es esencial para la prosperidad y seguridad a largo plazo de todas las personas que dependen del agua subterránea y de otras fuentes de agua en la Subcuenca.
- Expresé su opinión – Las opiniones de todas las personas contribuyen a desarrollar soluciones valiosas para garantizar suministros adecuados de aguas subterráneas. El financiamiento de la YSGA respalda esas soluciones.
- Obtenga respuestas – “¿Por qué debo pagar?” Los talleres explicarán cómo la tarifa garantiza que todos los beneficiarios contribuyan de manera justa al costo de la gestión sostenible de las aguas subterráneas.

Clarksburg: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6-8 p.m.
1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36446 Riverview Dr., Clarksburg

Winters: Thursday, March 12, 2026, 6-8 p.m.
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La Agencia de Aguas Subterráneas de la Subcuenca de Yolo Organiza Talleres Comunitarios

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La YSGA está realizando un estudio de tarifas para desarrollar un mecanismo de financiamiento que le permita mantenerse financieramente autosuficiente y distribuir equitativamente los costos entre todos los que se benefician de la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de las aguas subterráneas de la subcuenca de Yolo. El estudio de tarifas examina las operaciones y el presupuesto de la YSGA, así como diversas fuentes de datos disponibles y confiables para calcular la tarifa con precisión. Además, investiga y categoriza los diferentes tipos de usuarios de aguas subterráneas y usuarios concurrentes de agua en la subcuenca de Yolo.

La YSGA está organizando talleres educativos para informar a la comunidad sobre las metodologías tarifarias propuestas y el impacto financiero de la posible nueva tarifa. Se anima a la comunidad a asistir a:

- Conocer las actividades de la YSGA que apoyan la gestión sostenible de las aguas subterráneas
- Conocer los beneficios prácticos que ofrece la YSGA
- Comprender los costos operativos de la YSGA
- Conocer cómo se determina la tarifa de la YSGA y cómo se cobrará dentro de los límites de la subcuenca

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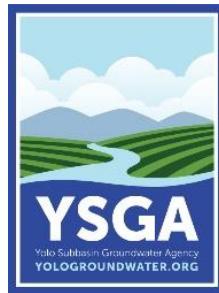
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APPENDIX C

YSGA STAFF DEVELOPED 5-YEAR BUDGET

**Foundational Actions and Budget Planning
for the Yolo Subbasin
Fiscal Year 2027-2031 Fee Study**



34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695

Draft updated on April 24, 2026

Prepared by: YSGA Staff

Technical support provided by: West Yost

Executive Summary

YSGA staff have prepared this document to support the development of the proposed 5-year budget and YSGA Fee Study Report. This document outlines the anticipated technical and outreach efforts necessary for the next five years (2027-2031) for YSGA to stay on track with implementing the [Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan \(GSP\)](#) and achieving the sustainability goal (see ES 3.1 of the Yolo Subbasin GSP). In proactively managing the Subbasin and ensuring sustainability, YSGA staff anticipate numerous benefits to the community.

This document includes a summary table of near-term Projects and Management Actions (see Table 1) that the agency can focus on to effectively engage and communicate with the community and to advance GSP implementation. YSGA staff identified six Foundational Actions that will create a strong foundation for advancing agency initiatives. These Foundational Actions will prepare the agency to serve as a proactive expert on groundwater management, answering critical questions, improving trust, and establishing credibility with the community.

The annual budget for agency administration and Foundational Action implementation is approximately \$1.341M (see Table 2).

Projects and Management Actions

YSGA staff reviewed the 76 Projects and 12 Management Actions (collectively known as PMAs) in the GSP to identify status and set priority for 5-year implementation. Table 1 shows status and priority of certain PMAs for consideration and inclusion in developing the YSGA Fee Study Budget for 2027-2031 starting with Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 to June 2027).

Management Actions in the Yolo Subbasin GSP are the overarching framework for Project concepts, planning, design, and implementation. Because of this, Table 1 groups Projects together by the overarching Management Action. Of the 12 Management Actions identified in the GSP, one Management Action was re-categorized as a Project, and three additional Management Actions were added making a total of 14 Management Actions. Of the 76 Projects identified in the GSP, 10 have been completed. Of the remaining 66 Projects, 10 were identified to be prioritized over the next five years. In addition, 18 new Projects were identified and added to the list of Projects, bringing the total number of Projects to 84. The 14 Management Actions and 84 Projects will be documented in the 2027 Periodic Evaluation and is documented in the [WY 2025 Annual Report](#), which also includes an update on the progress of SGMA Implementation Grant-Funded projects.

In summary, YSGA staff identified 14 Management Actions with 28 Projects, 8 Coordination efforts, and 3 Public Outreach efforts linked to those Management Actions. By implementing these prioritized PMAs, YSGA staff and member agencies will be equipped with the data and tools to better inform future policy decisions and future PMA development while also making progress implementing projects to advance the sustainability goal in a timely manner. Implementation of these prioritized PMAs will also further advance coordination efforts that will make a positive impact on groundwater levels throughout the Subbasin.

Table 1: Prioritized Projects and Management Actions for YSGA's 2026 Fee Study Budget

New PMA #	Original PMA #	PMA Name
MA 1	MA 1	Groundwater Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 1.3	P 24, 25	Domestic Well Groundwater Level Monitoring Instrumentation Installation
P 1.5	P 72	Data Gap Areas Water Level Monitoring Instrumentation Installation
P 1.7	MA 11	Update Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model of the Subbasin
P 1.8	P 3	Annual O&M of Water Resources Information Database
P 1.12	P 2	YSGA Subbasin Model Enhancements (MODFLOW portion)
P 1.13		Nested Monitoring Wells in Data Gap Areas
P 1.14		Expanded Groundwater Quality Data Collection and Analysis
P 1.15		Groundwater Monitoring and Data Collection
MA 2	MA 3	Subsidence Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 2.3	P 1	Land Subsidence Damage Reporting and Vulnerable Areas Program
MA 3	MA 8	Surface Water Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 3.4		Shallow Monitoring Wells along Cache Creek
P 3.5		Stream Gaging along Cache Creek
MA 4	MA 5	Conjunctive Water Use Program – Feasibility Analyses and Planning
MA 5	MA 7	Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program
P 5.1		Abandoned Well Inventory Update
P 5.2	P 8	Abandoned Well Incentive Project
P 5.3	MA 7	Domestic Well Impact Evaluation and Mitigation Program
MA 6	MA 2	Coordination Efforts with Other Monitoring Entities
C 6.1		Participate in South Colusa-North Yolo (SCNY) Coordination Meetings
C 6.2		Participate in Yolo-North American, South American, Solano, and Sutter Subbasin Coordination Meetings
C 6.3		Participate in RWQCB/ILRP/CV-SALTS Coordination Meetings
C 6.4		Annual Report Monitoring Data Collection and Data Sharing
C 6.5		Coordinate on Integrated Watershed Issues with Westside IRWM
MA 7	MA 4	Water Supply Augmentation and Recharge Program
P 7.1		North Yolo Management Area Water Supply and Recharge Infrastructure Improvement Program
P 7.1.1	P 13	Yolo-Zamora Recharge Project Implementation Support
P 7.1.2	P 20	Trickle Flow Recharge at Buckeye Creek Project Implementation Support
P 7.2		Dunnigan Hills Management Area Water Supply and Recharge Infrastructure Improvement Program
P 7.2.1	P 14	Dunnigan Hills Stormwater Capture and Recharge Program Development Support
P 7.3		Hungry Hollow Project Implementation Support
MA 8	MA 6	YSGA Public Outreach
O 8.1		Management Area Public Advisory Committees
O 8.2		Coffee Shop Meetings with the Public
O 8.3		Educational Opportunities for Elected Officials and Staff
MA 9	MA 9	Undistricted Areas ("White Areas") Management
P 9.1		Undistricted Areas Water Management Planning
MA 10	MA 10	Coordination Efforts with Yolo County
C 10.1		Participate in Land Use Planning Discussions with Yolo County
C 10.2		Coordinated Drought Response with Yolo County
C 10.3		Well Permitting Review and Coordination with Yolo County
MA 11	MA 12	Coordinated Response to Minimum Threshold Exceedances
MA 12		Landowner Technical and Grant Funding Assistance Program (FY 2026 - FY 2031)
P 12.1		Grant Funding Application Assistance Program
P 12.2		Landowner Technical Assistance Program (with UC Cooperative Extension)
MA 13		Management Area PMA Development (FY 2026 - FY 2031)
P 13.1		Clarksburg Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.2		South Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.3		Capay Valley Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.4		Central Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.5		North Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.6		Dunnigan Hills Management Area Feasibility Funds
MA 14		Groundwater Accounting and Demand Management
P 14.1		Groundwater Accounting Platform Fees
P 14.1		Groundwater Accounting & Demand Management Framework Development
Reporting		
		Annual Reporting
		Periodic Evaluation (would start 2029)
		GSP Amendment (would start 2029)

Foundational Actions

Like most other GSA's, YSGA staff and supporting consultants prepared a detailed, defensible, and reasonable GSP with limited time and resources meeting the State reporting deadline of January 31, 2022. As of 2026, staff have identified several areas of improvement while developing the 2027 GSP Periodic Evaluation. These improvements will provide groundwater users with better data and tools to make smarter, faster, and more cost-effective water management decisions. With an increasingly uncertain regulatory environment and more dynamic weather patterns, it's critical that the YSGA invest a significant portion of time and resources over the next five years to improve datasets and understanding of groundwater and surface water dynamics, and to develop new tools for effective education and outreach, and overall groundwater management.

YSGA staff identified Foundational Actions that are considered high priority for the agency to make progress towards proactive management and long-term sustainability. These Foundational Actions are core activities or tasks that need to be completed over the next five years to advance critical initiatives for the agency. They include collecting valuable data and information, completing analyses and investigations, supporting implementation of projects, coordinating and communicating results, building relationships and garnering trust with the community, and developing recommended frameworks and policies for Board consideration. The Foundational Actions for 2027-2031 are as follows:

1. **Groundwater Accounting** – Ongoing monitoring and data collection of surface and groundwater use and development of a potential demand management framework.
2. **Hydrogeologic Characterization and Yolo Subbasin Model** – Filling data gaps and analyzing new data to improve the Yolo Subbasin hydrogeologic model.
3. **Management Area Establishment** – Providing seed funding to MA PACs for creating a structure for community engagement and for initiating project development and prioritization.
4. **Outreach and Coordination** – Working with agency partners and stakeholders to ensure compliance and educating the public on sustainability efforts.
5. **Water Supply Resilience** – Facilitating efforts to expand access to surface water and increase groundwater recharge.
6. **Technical Assistance** – Providing technical resources and applying for grants to fund projects.

The estimated budget required for advancing the Foundational Actions and continuing state-required reporting is shown in Table 2 and estimated as \$1.341M starting in Fiscal Year 2027. Table 3 crosswalks the budget categories shown in Table 2 to the Prioritized

PMA's in Table 1. Cost estimates for each of the Foundational Actions were developed by YSGA staff with support from West Yost.

Table 2: FY 2027-2031 Estimated Annual Budget for Prioritized Projects and Management Actions

Tier 1 Costs – GSP Administration	Estimated Annual Cost^[1]
Annual Reports *	\$ 68,450
Periodic Evaluation *	\$ 58,130
GSP Amendment *	\$ 83,940
TOTAL	\$ 210,520

Tier 2 Costs – Foundational Actions	Estimated Annual Cost^[1]
Groundwater Accounting	\$ 50,590
Hydrogeologic Characterization & Yolo Subbasin Model	\$ 432,770
Management Area Establishment	\$ 261,920
Outreach & Coordination	\$ 122,870
Water Supply Resilience	\$ 213,210
Technical Support	\$ 49,560
TOTAL	\$ 1,130,920

*Grant funded 2024-2026

[1] Annual cost shown in Table 5 of the Fee Study Report for FY 2027. Inflation adjusted by 3.25% each year after.

Table 3: Projects Grouped by YSGA Budget Line Item

New PMA #	Original PMA #	PMA Name
\$ 432,770		---> Hydrogeologic Characterization and Yolo Subbasin Model
MA 1	MA 1	Groundwater Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 1.3	P 24, 25	Domestic Well Groundwater Level Monitoring Instrumentation Installation
P 1.5	P 72	Data Gap Areas Water Level Monitoring Instrumentation Installation
P 1.7	MA 11	Update Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model of the Subbasin
P 1.8	P 3	Annual O&M of Water Resources Information Database
P 1.12	P 2	YSGA Subbasin Model Enhancements (MODFLOW portion)
P 1.13		Nested Monitoring Wells in Data Gap Areas
P 1.14		Expanded Groundwater Quality Data Collection and Analysis
P 1.15		Groundwater Monitoring and Data Collection
MA 2	MA 3	Subsidence Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 2.3	P 1	Land Subsidence Damage Reporting and Vulnerable Areas Program
MA 3	MA 8	Surface Water Monitoring & Characterization Program
P 3.4		Shallow Monitoring Wells along Cache Creek
P 3.5		Stream Gaging along Cache Creek
\$ 213,210		---> Water Supply Resilience
MA 4	MA 5	Conjunctive Water Use Program – Feasibility Analyses and Planning
MA 5	MA 7	Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program
P 5.1		Abandoned Well Inventory Update
P 5.2	P 8	Abandoned Well Incentive Project
P 5.3	MA 7	Domestic Well Impact Evaluation and Mitigation Program
MA 7	MA 4	Water Supply Augmentation and Recharge Program
P 7.1		North Yolo Management Area Water Supply and Recharge Infrastructure Improvement Program
P 7.1.1	P 13	Yolo-Zamora Recharge Project Implementation Support
P 7.1.2	P 20	Trickle Flow Recharge at Buckeye Creek Project Implementation Support
P 7.2		Dunnigan Hills Management Area Water Supply and Recharge Infrastructure Improvement Program
P 7.2.1	P 14	Dunnigan Hills Stormwater Capture and Recharge Program Development Support
P 7.3		Hungry Hollow Project Implementation Support
MA 9	MA 9	Undistricted Areas ("White Areas") Management
P 9.1		Undistricted Areas Water Management Planning
MA 11	MA 12	Coordinated Response to Minimum Threshold Exceedances
\$ 122,870		---> Outreach & Coordination
MA 6	MA 2	Coordination Efforts with Other Monitoring Entities
C 6.1		Participate in South Colusa-North Yolo (SCNY) Coordination Meetings
C 6.2		Participate in Yolo-North American, South American, Solano, and Sutter Subbasin Coordination Meetings
C 6.3		Participate in RWQCB/ILRP/CV-SALTS Coordination Meetings
C 6.4		Annual Report Monitoring Data Collection and Data Sharing
C 6.5		Coordinate on Integrated Watershed Issues with Westside IRWM
MA 8	MA 6	YSGA Public Outreach
O 8.1		Management Area Public Advisory Committees
O 8.2		Coffee Shop Meetings with the Public
O 8.3		Educational Opportunities for Elected Officials and Staff
MA 10	MA 10	Coordination Efforts with Yolo County
C 10.1		Participate in Land Use Planning Discussions with Yolo County
C 10.2		Coordinated Drought Response with Yolo County
C 10.3		Well Permitting Review and Coordination with Yolo County
\$ 49,560		---> Technical Support
MA 12		Landowner Technical and Grant Funding Assistance Program (FY 2026 - FY 2031)
P 12.1		Grant Funding Application Assistance Program
P 12.2		Landowner Technical Assistance Program (with UC Cooperative Extension)
\$ 261,920		---> Management Area Establishment
MA 13		Management Area PMA Development (FY 2026 - FY 2031)
P 13.1		Clarksburg Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.2		South Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.3		Capay Valley Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.4		Central Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.5		North Yolo Management Area Feasibility Funds
P 13.6		Dunnigan Hills Management Area Feasibility Funds
\$ 50,590		---> Groundwater Accounting
MA 14		Groundwater Accounting and Demand Management
P 14.1		Groundwater Accounting Platform Fees

New PMA #	Original PMA #	PMA Name
P 14.1		Groundwater Accounting & Demand Management Framework Development
\$	68,450	---> GSP Administration
		Annual Reporting
\$	58,130	---> GSP Administration
		Periodic Evaluation (would start 2029)
\$	83,940	---> GSP Administration
		GSP Amendment (would start 2029)
\$	1,341,440	TOTAL