



**McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
286 W. Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, California 93711  
Phone: (559) 449-2700  
<http://mcmullinarea.org/>

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

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

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MAGSA”) will conduct a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Kerman Community Center, 15101 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman, CA 93630 to consider the adoption of a flat per-acre charge. The proposed range of charges is the result of a detailed budget analysis and an independent professional Fee Study Report prepared to determine the appropriateness of the charge amounts. The proposed charge impacts parcel owners within MAGSA.

The net impact of the proposed charge on parcel owners will vary based upon the size (total acreage) of the parcel(s).

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

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

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed historic groundwater legislation requiring California’s medium- and high-priority groundwater basins be sustainably managed by local agencies called Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”). This legislation, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) grants local agencies (like cities, counties, and water districts) the authority to sustainably manage groundwater resources. Sustainability is achieved through the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”). MAGSA is required to prepare and adopt a GSP by January 31, 2020. Developing a GSP will be a significant and costly undertaking that will take several years to complete.

To fund its activities and the development of an adequate GSP, MAGSA is proposing a five-year property-related per-acre water service charge on all parcel owners within the MAGSA service area. The proposed fee will be considered at a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** If approved, the charges will commence July 2018. You are receiving this notification in compliance with the California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6 (Proposition 218) requirements that all impacted parcel owners are mailed notice of proposed rate changes at least forty-five (45) days prior to a public hearing.

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

## **BASIS OF PROPOSED RATES**

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

## **PROPOSED PER-ACRE CHARGE**

The proposed annual per-acre charge is a flat fee imposed on each acre of every parcel identified in the Fee Study Report within MAGSA. The proposed fee is authorized by state law and allows MAGSA to adjust revenues to account for cost fluctuations and/or inflation, commensurate with MAGSA’s actual annual costs. **The proposed per-acre, annual charge is \$19.00/acre.** If adopted, the fee will be billed to landowners each year for the next five years.

## **DATA AVAILABILITY**

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

## **NOTICE**

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

## **PUBLIC NOTICE AND MAJORITY PROTEST**

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

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

**Written protests must be received prior to the close of MAGSA’s public hearing on June 6, 2018 to be counted.** Written protests may be submitted by mail to ATTN: MAGSA Protest, 286 W. Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, California, 93711; or in writing at the public hearing. Please mail your protest on or before June 4 to ensure on-time delivery. If you wish to submit a protest after June 4, please hand-deliver your protest at the public hearing on June 6. Any protest submitted via e-mail, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

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