



TEHAMA COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tehama County SGMA | Groundwater Demand Management Survey

Your Voice Matters: Help Shape Our Water Future

The [Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District](#) (District) must develop programs to manage groundwater sustainably by 2042 under State law. Negative impacts have already occurred, like wells going dry, falling water tables, and land subsidence concerns. We need your input on potential demand management solutions. Your responses are anonymous and confidential.

We need your input on potential solutions, specific to **demand management actions**.
[Follow this link to view Tehama's Demand Management Factsheet]

The options in this survey are **not** final actions or decisions; rather, they are ideas based on examples from other basins and conversations to date. Your input is crucial to guiding informed discussions and decisions going forward.

Your responses are anonymous and confidential.

Questions? Contact GSA Program Manager Justin Jenson at (530) 690-0770 ext. 201 or tehamagsa@tcpw.ca.gov; or learn more at TehamaCountyWater.org

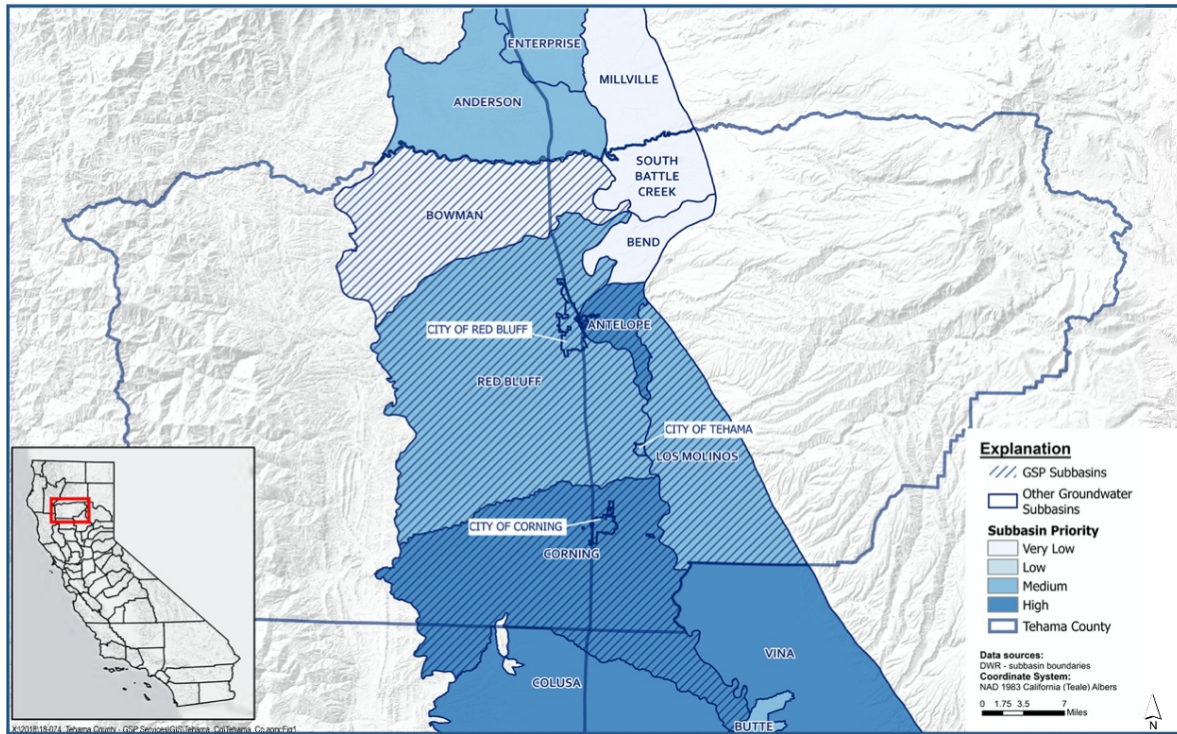
* 1. Do you own one or more wells in Tehama County?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comments?

* 2. Well Location



In which subbasin is your well located?

(select all that apply if you own multiple wells in different subbasins)

[Refer to the map above or [click here to look up a subbasin by address](#)]

- ☐ Bowman
- ☐ Red Bluff
- ☐ Antelope
- ☐ Los Molinos
- ☐ Corning

Other (please specify)

*** 3. How do you primarily use your groundwater? (check all that apply)**

- ☐ Residential/domestic use
- ☐ Agricultural irrigation (under 50 acres)
- ☐ Agricultural irrigation (50-500 acres)
- ☐ Agricultural irrigation (over 500 acres)
- ☐ Agriculture non-irrigated (livestock, etc.)
- ☐ Commercial/industrial use
- ☐ Don't directly use groundwater

Other uses or comments?

4. Which statement best describes your situation?

- ☐ Local control and protection of groundwater are important to me. I am willing to pay my share.
- ☐ I do not want any more fees or taxes, but I prefer to pay for the services of a local agency to manage our groundwater over the State.
- ☐ I understand that groundwater management requires fees, but my budget is limited.
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.



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Program Design

Context

The District is considering implementing the demand management program in two phases:

Phase 1: 2026 - 2030	Voluntary incentive programs and data collection
Phase 2: 2031 and after	Potential mandatory measures if needed

These incentive-based and mandatory measures would be evaluated for potential revisions regularly (every 5 years).

* **5. Voluntary incentives.** The District will leverage grants and partnerships as much as possible, but this can't cover all costs. **The District would still need to collect fees to support programs, such as voluntary incentives.**

Which 2-3 incentives would most likely motivate you to reduce water use?

- ☐ **Increased fees for programs that provide direct payments for reducing water use** (e.g., cash payments for using less than your typical amount)
- ☐ **Reduced fees for conservation actions** (e.g., lower fees if you install efficient irrigation or reduce irrigated acres)
- ☐ **Increased fees to offer free technical assistance and water audits** (e.g., experts help identify ways to save water on your property)
- ☐ **Increased fees to apply for grants that support water-efficient upgrades** (e.g., funding to install drip irrigation or soil moisture sensors)
- ☐ **Increased fees to pay landowners to temporarily fallowing land** (e.g., compensation for not irrigating certain fields during dry periods)
- ☐ **Increased fees to support cost-sharing program for transitioning to drought-resistant crops** (e.g., financial help to switch from high-water to low-water crops)

Other (please specify)



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Management Zones

Context

The District may create zones based on groundwater conditions. Areas with declining water levels would have higher fees/restrictions if triggered. (Individuals can submit appeals for lower fees with proof of lower use.)

* 6. Your reaction to using management zones?

- ☐ Strongly support - focus resources where problems exist
- ☐ Support if implemented fairly
- ☐ Neutral/need more information
- ☐ Oppose - too complicated or unfair
- ☐ Strongly oppose - everyone should have same rules

* 7. If your zone faces restrictions but you've already conserved water, what should happen?

- ☐ Everyone in the zone treated the same (simpler)
- ☐ Conservation/water efficiency efforts should be recognized with lower fees

Other (please specify)



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Funding

Potential fee structure

The District has no dedicated budget for long-term groundwater management after 2025 and cannot rely solely on grants.

A fee on all groundwater users is necessary to fund costs including administration, monitoring, well assistance, and demand management. Every added complexity increases costs for everyone.

Approach Preferences

The District must implement a fee to fund all groundwater management by 2026.

Which approach do you prefer? (These are hypothetical and not the final options.)

Option A: Simple Fee Structure

- Everyone with a well pays same base fee plus a standard rate per groundwater-irrigated acre
- Lower total costs due to simple administration
- Less customized to individual situations

Option B: Tailored Fee Structure

- Fees adjusted for surface water use, crop type, and conservation efforts
- Higher total costs due to complex administration
- More fair to individual situations

*** 8. Do you prefer Option A (Simple Fee Structure) or Option B (Tailored Fee Structure)?**

- ☐ Strongly prefer Option A (simple; lower costs shared across everyone)
- ☐ Somewhat prefer Option A
- ☐ No preference
- ☐ Somewhat prefer Option B
- ☐ Strongly prefer Option B (tailored management; costs more connected to water usage)



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Your Priorities

*** 9. What matters MOST to you in designing these programs?**
(Select top 3)

- ☐ Keeping costs/fees low
- ☐ Protecting small farms and rural residents
- ☐ Ensuring fairness across all users
- ☐ Flexibility to adapt to conditions
- ☐ Simplicity and ease of compliance
- ☐ Local control over decisions
- ☐ Protecting property values

Other (please specify)

*** 10. What concerns you MOST about potential water restrictions?**

(Select top 3)

- ☐ Too costly for my operation/household
- ☐ Fairness of how restrictions are applied
- ☐ Loss of local control
- ☐ Impact on property values
- ☐ Domestic well reliability

Other (please specify)

11. Anything else?

What specific challenges does your operation/household face that decision-makers should understand?