

FEES FAQ

1. Why are there new groundwater fees? A: "The State requires GSAs to create and update annually detailed plans on how we are working towards groundwater sustainability. For over a decade, the State has paid for this work, but that funding has run out. Tehama County must now self-fund the agency and we are asking groundwater users in the subbasins to help protect our shared natural resource. The District has existed within the County for decades but does not have fees or a budget for this new unfunded mandate from the State. "The State requires that the District fund this work, and fees are part of that requirement. There are two fees being put in place, one (Admin) to self-fund SGMA compliance and another (PMA) to help fix groundwater related issues such as overdraft within Tehama County. SGMA is State mandated and if local agencies are not compliant, they are subject to State intervention see here for more information https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html. There are currently two basins in California being intervened upon.
2. Who is getting charged the fees? A: Groundwater users within the managed groundwater basins in Tehama County, for more information visit www.tehamawater.org.
3. Will I be charged if I do not use groundwater? A: No, Parcels that have no groundwater use, either from onsite or offsite wells, will not be charged a fee.
4. Why am I being charged if I use very little water for just my home, shouldn't I be excluded? A: Homes, farms, ranches and businesses all use groundwater. If you use a little groundwater, you will get a little fee and if you use a lot of groundwater, you will get a bigger fee.
5. Are the fees already in place? A: The District Board of Directors has adopted the fee study, the recommended fee amounts and passed the legislation required to put the fees in place. There will be a public hearing on July 20th to set the final fees on individual parcels.
6. How do I know my fees will not be used for general District Activities? Annually, the District will present its total fees received, total expenditures, total reserves and following year budgets at a public meeting.
7. How does well registration affect my fee? A: Well registration is how we get the information about how you use groundwater. If you do not register your parcel you will be charged the maximum fee.
8. What if I use both surface and groundwater? A: If you use both surface and groundwater, you will need to provide use information from either your surface water provider or your metered well in order to get a reduction in your fee. Metered surface water will be done as a credit off your assumed use.
9. Can my bill be based on metered use instead of the assumed volumes? A: Yes, after the first year a system will be in place where groundwater users can report calibrated meter data that will be used to calculate their bill.
10. How much will I have to pay? A: There are five categories of groundwater users each category is assigned a different assumed volume used. The cost per acre-foot remains the same across all user categories. There is an additional PMA fee for irrigated agricultural users in the overdrafted subbasins (Corning, Red Bluff and Los Molinos) to cover projects that address overdraft. For each parcel being charged there is a fee of \$1.99 to cover the cost of putting the charge on the Tax Bill.

For residential on city water. It is .75 x the number of homes x \$2.70 no matter what basin it is in. So for a lot with two houses it is: 75(acre-feet) x 2(homes) x \$2.70(per acre-foot)=**\$4.05 + \$1.99 = \$6.04 per year**

For residential outside cities it is number of homes x 1.25 x \$2.70

So for a lot with two houses it is: 1.25(acre-feet) x 2(homes) x \$2.70(per acre-foot) = **\$6.75 + \$1.99 = \$8.74 per year**

For commercial it is: Number of acres x 3.64 x \$2.70

So for a 2 acre lot with a commercial building it is: 2(acres) x 3.64(acre-feet) x \$2.70(per acre foot) = **\$19.66 + \$1.99 = \$21.65 per year**

Crop	Assumed use (acre-feet/acre/year)
Grain (wheat,barley,oats,hay etc.)	1.6
Rice	4.7
Safflower	2.1
Other field crops (sudan, flax, sorghum, sunflower, etc.)	3.3
Alfalfa	3.7
Pasture	4.4
Cucurbits (melon and squash)	1.8
Truck Crops (Beans, carrots, lettuce, peppers, greens etc.)	2.4
Almonds and Pistachios	3.6
Other Deciduous (apples, prunes, walnuts, Stone fruit)	3.3
Subtropical (citrus, dates, avocados, olives)	2.6
Vineyard	2.4

For agricultural in the Bowman and Antelope subbasins

Use the number from the chart above for your applied water use and multiply it by the number of planted acres on the parcel then by the fee (\$2.70/acrefoot).

So for a parcel with 100 acres of prunes it is:

100(acres) x 3.3(acrefoot/acre) x \$2.70 (per acrefoot) = **\$891 + \$1.99 = \$892.99 per year**

For agricultural in the Corning, Red Bluff and Los Molinos subbasins

Use the number from the chart above for your applied water use and multiply it by the number of planted acres on the parcel then by the fee (\$4.70/acrefoot). This includes \$2.70 for ADMIN fee and \$2.00 for PMA fee.

So for a parcel with 100 acres of prunes it is:

100(acres) x 3.3 (acrefoot/acre) x \$4.70(per acrefoot) = **\$1,551 + \$1.99 = \$1,552.99 per year**