

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 N. Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

Special Meeting of the Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

May 3, 2024 | 9:00 AM

225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988

Remote Public Participation Option:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson will call the meeting to order and lead the [flag salute](#).

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call will be conducted.

3. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are encouraged to address the GGA Board of Directors on items relevant to the GGA. Public comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes. No action may be taken on public comments.

4. *APPROVE LETTER TO U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUESTING A MEETING RELATING TO LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN LETTER

As part of the on-going GGA Recharge Services Project, Geosyntec and Water and Land Solutions (consultant team) are preparing a report including various options for long-term groundwater recharge opportunities. One option that will be further vetted in the report is the concept of Section 215 water, or something similar, on Stony Creek. The consultant team has had initial discussions with staff from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), who have suggested sending a meeting request in writing to the USBR. In this way, the USBR can properly respond and prepare for the meeting.

Recommendation: Provide input and approve the attached letter addressed to the USBR requesting a meeting.

Attachments

- Draft letter to USBR

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May 3, 2024

Rich Robertson
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
Water & Lands Division
1140 Westwood Street
Willows, CA 95988

RE: Meeting Request to explore surface water opportunities to augment groundwater recharge

Dear Mr. Robertson,

The Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) is interested in engaging with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to explore potential opportunities to augment groundwater recharge in the Colusa Subbasin. The GGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency responsible for managing groundwater in the Glenn County portion of the Colusa Subbasin. GGA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of the cities of Willows and Orland, the County of Glenn, Monroeville Water District, and several CVP water districts including Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Glide Water District, Kanawha Water District, Orland-Artois Water District, Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District, and Provident Irrigation District.

The GGA has partnered with local water districts to implement more than 20 groundwater recharge projects and in the last two years to achieve over 3,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge. These projects made use of winter flows on the Sacramento River, known as Section 215 or 3F water. These winter flows—which are available at reduced pricing and do not reduce the amount of water available to local water districts—have been critical to implementing GGA’s recharge programs. GGA has also partnered with Orland Unit Water Users’ Association on two groundwater recharge projects during their irrigation season.

Black Butte Reservoir on Stony Creek is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the flood control season, with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation managing the reservoir outside of the flood control season. Water has been released from Black Butte to maintain flood control levels in the reservoir nearly every year since the reservoir was completed in 1963. There are minimal diversions from Stony Creek downstream of Black Butte before it joins the Sacramento River, particularly in the winter months when flood releases are made.

GGA sees an opportunity to develop an option similar to 3F or Section 215 water on Stony Creek when water is being released from Black Butte to maintain flood control levels. We request that Reclamation work with GGA to explore this opportunity. Our staff and board of directors are eager to engage with Reclamation on this matter and we request you contact Lisa Hunter at lhunter@countyofglenn.net to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Gary Hansen
Chairman, Glenn Groundwater Authority

5. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- a. Review timeline for project completion.
- b. Discuss and provide direction on components of the fee project which may include five-year revenue needs projection, user classifications and definitions, coordination with cities, proposed fees, public outreach, and related topics.

The Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee met with the consultant team Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) (together referred to as the Fee Project Team) and Legal Counsel on April 24, 2024. The meeting focused on various components of the fee project, some of which are summarized below.

Five-Year Revenue Needs Projection

The updated Five-Year Revenue Needs Projections are attached. This includes adding a line item dedicated to the demand management program for \$35,000 per year. The GSP Projects Implementation and Monitoring line was reduced by \$25,000. The overall budget was increased \$10,000 per year.

User Classifications and Definitions

User Classification definitions will be incorporated into the Draft Fee Policy and Draft Fee Report and reflect the direction given by the GGA. The definitions will support the classification of each parcel into the appropriate user class.

A key concept of the surface water user definition is to distinguish between surface water users and groundwater users within established surface water areas (districts). Staff and LSCE reached out to the surface water providers to determine how best to accurately reflect each parcel's classification. As previously discussed, some surface water provider managers requested a brief summary page or **fact sheet** of the fee project and discussion on data needs as it relates to surface water and/or groundwater usage within a district boundary. This is a key component of developing the user classification definitions. Staff requests input on key points to include in a fact sheet to provide to the surface water providers.

At the April 8, 2024 meeting, the GGA discussed the user classification definitions and various options to consider if data from the surface water providers was not available or could not be compiled within the necessary timeframe to complete the Fee Report. The ad hoc committee discussed this topic at length. These discussions have culminated in three potential options for the Surface Water User Classification definition.

Surface Water User Classification Options

Option 1: Includes parcels within the GGA service area that use surface water as a primary source of water when it is available but may include conjunctive use. All parcels that are within the service district boundary of surface water district will be classified in the Surface Water User fee category.

Option 2: Includes parcels within the GGA service area that use surface water as a primary source of water when it is available but may include conjunctive use. All parcels that are within the service district boundary of surface water district will be classified in the Surface Water User fee category. In order to qualify for this default classification, surface water districts shall provide information to GGA annually, by June 1 of each year, that confirms at least 80 percent of the acreage within the district uses surface water when it is available.

Option 3: Includes parcels within the GGA service area that use surface water as a primary source of water but may include conjunctive use. Parcels that are within the service district boundary of surface water district will have to opportunity to be classified in the Surface Water User fee category if they provide information to GGA confirming the parcel uses surface water when it is available. This information shall be provided annually, by June

1 of each year, in order to be categorized in the Surface Water User fee category. If no such affirmative proof of surface water use is provided, the parcel shall be classified in the Groundwater user fee category.

It is requested the GGA discuss the three options for the surface water user class definition and provide direction to LSCE on the preferred option.

Preliminary Fees

Based on what is currently known about the parcel data and current user class definitions, the following table provides preliminary fee information. It is important to note, this is subject to change as the user class definitions, acreage estimates, and parcel data is finalized.

GGA 2024 SGMA Fees	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
Preliminary Fees	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
Total Dryland Fee (\$/ac)	\$0.61	\$0.63	\$0.61	\$0.62	\$0.63
Total Irrigated-SW Fee (\$/ac)	\$2.96	\$3.10	\$2.94	\$3.02	\$3.10
Total Irrigated-GW Fee (\$/ac)	\$6.93	\$7.29	\$6.89	\$7.08	\$7.27
Total Urban Fee (\$/ac)	\$3.74	\$3.93	\$3.71	\$3.82	\$3.92
Revenues Collected (no variances)	\$1,066,258.19	\$1,121,468.26	\$1,059,417.42	\$1,089,401.03	\$1,119,384.63
GGA 2024 SGMA Fees	Net Assessable	User Class	User Class		
Net Assessable Acreage	Acreage	Category	Acreage		
Colusa Subbasin-GGA	305,904.97	Dryland	40,911		
Fed/State/Tribal Owned Lands	13,950.97	SW	158,711		
Non-billable	3,924.10	GW	84,990		
		Urban	3,776		
Net Assessable Acreage	288,029.90		288,388		

Outreach

Public outreach is an important component of the fee project. At the March 12, 2024 meeting, the GGA concurred with the concept of sending an **outreach postcard** to parcel owners prior to the fee notices being mailed. Postcards have been prepared and will be shared for review. The postcards are expected to be mailed early next week.

Fee Notices will be mailed to parcel owners by May 20, 2024. The fee notice mailing will include the fee notice (English and Spanish versions), cover sheet which will also serve as an opportunity for parcel owners to request parcel corrections, and an outreach meeting flyer. The draft fee notice (English version) and the cover sheet are expected to be reviewed at the May 13, 2024 meeting.

Public outreach meetings have been scheduled for the following:

- Wednesday, June 19, 6:00 pm, Jacinto Grange
- Thursday, June 20, 6:00 pm, Willows City Council Chambers
- Monday, June 24, 6:00 pm, Glenn Success Square Conference Center (Orland)

There is no cost to use the Willows City Council Chambers or the Glenn Success Square Conference Center. Staff requests holding discussion on the amount of a donation for use of the Jacinto Grange.

Project Schedule

A draft project schedule including key topics and milestones is included below. This is subject to change.

Date	Meeting/Activity	Key Topics	Notes
5/3/24	Board (Special Meeting)	Input on user classification definitions Review preliminary fees Input on draft Fee Policy Input on draft Fee Report	
5/13/2024	Board	Approve Fee Report Authorize mailing of notices by May 17 Authorize landowner survey (ability to make corrections) Announce public hearing date/time	45 days after 5/15 is 6/29; 45 days after 5/17 is 7/1; 45 days after 5/20 is 7/4 45 days before 7/8 is 5/24
6/11/2024	Board		
6/19-24/24	Public Outreach Meetings	Public Outreach Meetings: June 19, 6:00 pm, Jacinto Grange June 20, 6:00 pm, Willows City Council Chambers June 24, 6:00 pm, Glenn Success Square Conference Center	
6/19 & 6/26	Newspaper announcements	Notice of public hearing to adopt fees 2x at least 5 days apart; 14 days from 1st publication	pub 6/22 & 6/29 (no earlier than 7/6); pub 6/19 & 6/26 (no earlier than 7/3)
7/8/2024	Board	Public Hearing Approve 24/25 Budget Approve Max Fees Approve 24/25 Fees	submit to DOF by 8/10/24
8/12/2024	Board	Outcomes	

Staff, committee members, and the consultant team may provide additional updates. The Board is encouraged to continue open discussion on the Fee Project.

Attachments

- Five-Year Revenue Needs Projection (updated April 24 2024)

COLUSA SUBBASIN GGA GSA - Long Term Funding Strategy
Five-Year DRAFT 2025-2029 GSA Operational Budget - GSP Implementation With SGMA Compliance Costs

5-Year GSP Implementation Inflation Adjustment	0%	CPI Index	CPI Index	CPI Index	CPI Index
Proposed	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Cost Category-GSA Administration	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Administration - Contracted Services	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Legal Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
CPA Audit Services - Financial	\$10,500	\$11,000	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
JPA Insurance	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
County A-87 Cost Allocation (Bookkeeper services)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Professional Services	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Board Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Domestic Well Mitigation Program-GSP Implementation	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Demand Management Program-GSP Implementation	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Special Department Expenses	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Legal Notices	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
County Tax Roll Fee	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Contingency (10%)	\$57,350	\$59,400	\$54,450	\$54,450	\$54,450
GSA Administration Sub-Total	\$630,850	\$653,400	\$598,950	\$598,950	\$598,950
5-Year GSP Implementation Inflation Adjustment	0%	CPI Index	CPI Index	CPI Index	CPI Index
Cost Category-SGMA Compliance	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Annual Reporting	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Five Year GSP Update w/Modeling Calibrations (due 2027)	\$80,833	\$80,833	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$48,500
Surface-GW Interaction Modeling	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
GSA Coordination & Outreach (w/in and between GSAs)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Data Management System Upgrades and Maintenance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Long Term Financial Planning/Fees	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$17,500
Grant Procurement	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
GSP Project Implementation and Monitoring	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Contingency (8%)	\$32,267	\$32,267	\$29,680	\$29,680	\$29,680
Sub-Total	\$435,600	\$435,600	\$400,680	\$400,680	\$400,680
TOTAL GGA Administration (w/3% inflation adjustment)	\$630,850	\$673,002	\$634,887	\$652,856	\$670,824
TOTAL GGA SGMA Compliance (w/3% inflation adjustment)	\$435,600	\$448,668	\$424,721	\$436,741	\$448,762
TOTAL GGA Operational Budget	\$1,066,450	\$1,121,670	\$1,059,608	\$1,089,597	\$1,119,586

6. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated or significant exposure to litigation regarding tax refund claims and challenges to previously adopted property related fees.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Aqualliance, California Water Impact Network, and California Sportfishing Alliance vs. Colusa Groundwater Authority, Glenn Groundwater Authority
Colusa County Superior Court - Case Number CV24584

8. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

9. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Members of the GGA Board are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on items brought up under this item.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting will be adjourned.

*Indicates Action Item