

**Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
P.O Box 468 Coalinga, CA 93210**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPERTY-RELATED FEE**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("PVGSA") will conduct a public hearing on **May 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant to consider the adoption of an acre-foot pumped charge for water pumped from the underground within the PVGSA and a one-time well registration fee. The proposed charge is the result of a financial and water budget analysis summarized in a Fee Study Memo prepared to determine the appropriateness of the proposed charges. The proposed charge impacts parcel owners within PVGSA.

The net impact of the proposed charge on parcel owners will vary based upon the amount of water pumped from the underground by each landowner or the number of wells registered for use.

**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 at the time of receiving this notice located within the service area of PVGSA.

**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"). PVGSA is required to prepare and adopt a GSP by April 2, 2022. The development and implementation of the GSP and the operations of the PVGSA are a costly undertaking.

To fund its activities and the development of an adequate GSP, PVGSA is proposing a fee on each acre-foot (or fraction thereof) pumped from wells within the PVGSA and a one-time well registration fee. The proposed fee will be considered at a public hearing on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. If approved, the charges will commence June of 2022. 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.

**BASIS OF PROPOSED RATES**

PVGSA is required by state law to collect revenues sufficient to cover the costs of operating the GSA and funding the activities necessary to implement a GSP, including a prudent reserve. These revenues allow PVGSA to implement a GSP satisfying the requirements of SGMA and ensuring sustainability of the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. Costs that must be recovered through rate revenue and registration fees include GSA administration, professional services, capital projects and monitoring of the groundwater conditions in PVGSA's portion of the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. Additionally, revenues would be used to fund costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including the preparation and adoption of a GSP (those not covered by grant funds received from

time to time), and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration. The fees proposed herein were developed through a Fee Study Memo that is available for review at PVGSA's website at: [sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com](http://sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com). By state law, PVGSA may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover the costs of providing these services.

### **PROPOSED PER-ACRE FOOT & WELL REGISTRATION CHARGES**

The proposed acre-foot charge is a fee imposed on each acre-foot (or fraction thereof) pumped from the underground within the PVGSA. The proposed fee is authorized by state law and allows PVGSA to adjust revenues to account for cost fluctuations and/or inflation, commensurate with PVGSA's actual annual costs. **The proposed charge is up to \$10.00/acre-foot.** The initial rate will be set at \$7.50/acre-foot. However, the PVGSA will analyze and set the acre-foot charge annually by Resolution of the Board of Directors. If adopted, the fee will be billed to landowners bi-annually.

The proposed well registration fee is imposed on each existing well within the PVGSA. Any new well within the PVGSA will be subject to the same fee at the time of completion. The proposed fee is authorized by state law and allows PVGSA to adjust revenues to account for cost fluctuations and/or inflation, commensurate with PVGSA's actual annual costs. **The proposed charge is a one-time well registration fee of \$1,500/well.** If adopted, the fee will be billed to landowners one time in June 2022 or at the time of well registration thereafter.

### **DATA AVAILABILITY**

The data supporting the fee is publicly available at PVGSA's website: [sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com](http://sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com).

### **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 PVGSA's internet website, [sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com](http://sgma.pleasantvalleywaterdistrict.com), 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. According to California Government Code section 53755(b), one protest per parcel may be filed and counted in calculating a majority subject to the requirements of Article XIII D, Section 6. If a majority of the impacted property owners submit protests, PVGSA cannot adopt the fees. Absent a majority protest, the fees may be implemented once adopted by the PVGSA 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 PVGSA's public hearing on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to be counted.** Written protests may be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 468 Coalinga, CA 93210; or in writing at the public hearing. Please mail your protest on or before May 10, 2022, to ensure on-time delivery. If you wish to submit a protest after May 10, 2022, please hand-deliver your protest at the public hearing on May 17, 2022. Any protest submitted via e-mail, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

The PVGSA 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, PVGSA will be authorized to adopt and impose the charges at the public hearing.