Webinar Protocols

All users will be muted

You can post questions in the “Q&A” as follows:

- Tap “Ask a Question”
- Enter question into the Q & A box
- Tap the “send” button

Some questions will be answered verbally and others will be answered in writing

All questions and answers will be posted online within 1 week and will be shared with the GSA Board and Advisory Committee

Comó seleccionar la función de interpretación en español

Los participantes deben de seccionar el botón “Interpretation” (interpretación) que tiene un símbolo redondo de planeta en la parte baja de la página.

Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Community Meeting Rate and Fee Study Update

Meeting Agenda and Purpose
- *Sam Magill, Facilitator*

Welcome and Background
- *Supervisor David Rabbitt, Petaluma Valley GSA Chair*

Groundwater Basin Conditions, Projects and Budget
- *Marcus Trotta, Sonoma Water Principal Hydrogeologist*

Fee and Rate Study Update & Next Steps
- *Jerry Bradshaw, SCI Consulting Group*

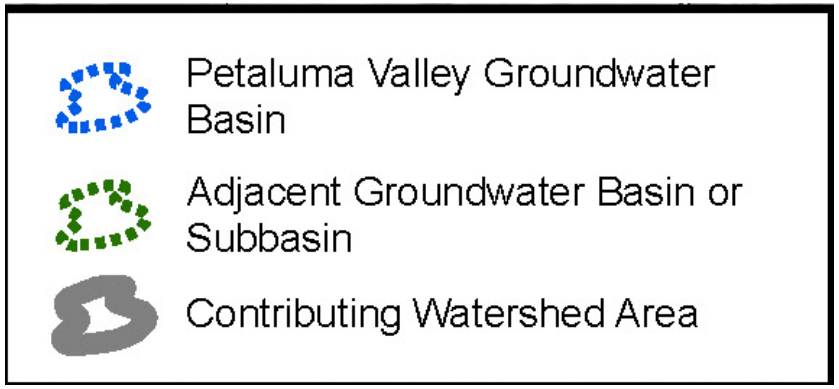
Closing Remarks
- *Supervisor Rabbitt*

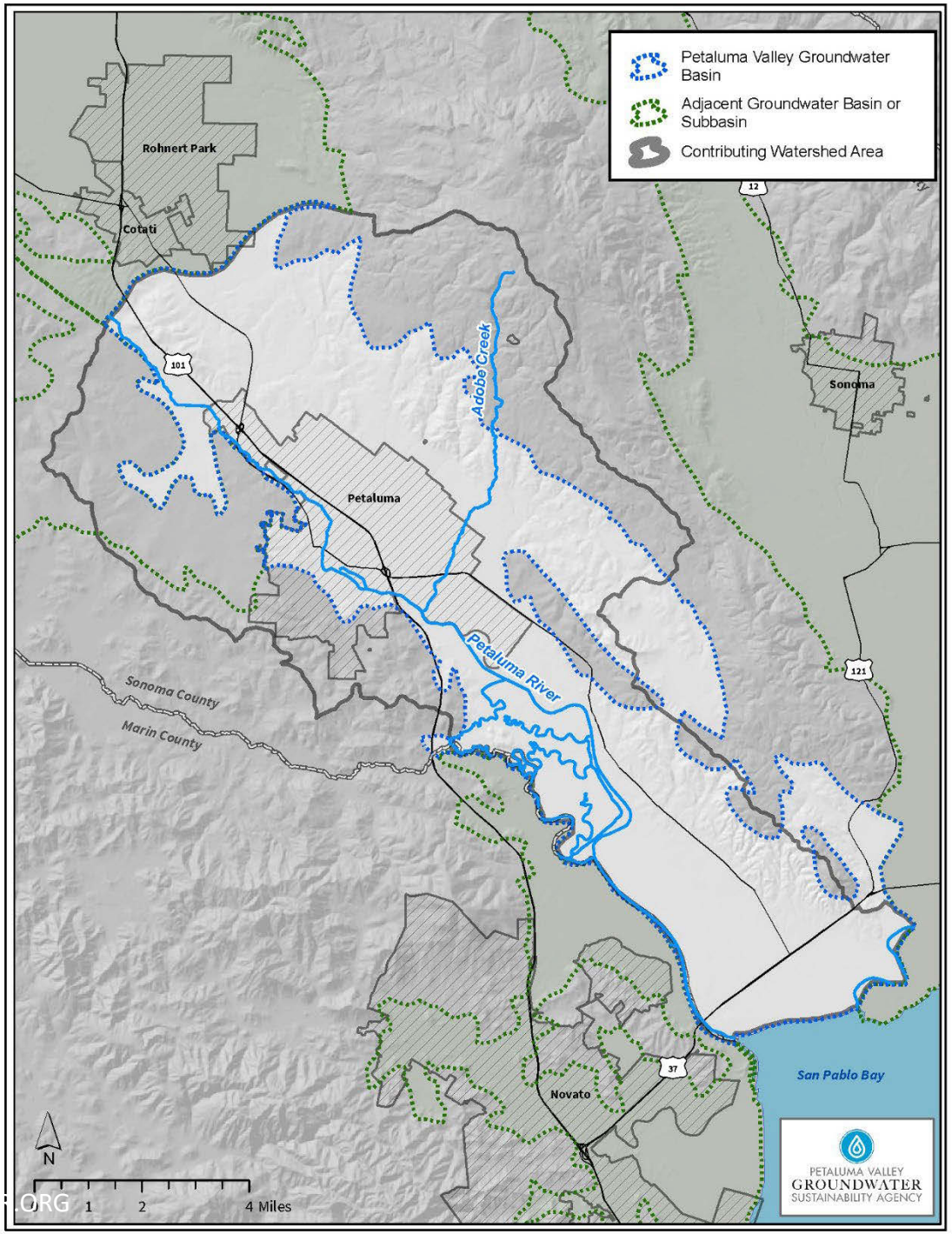
Comó seleccionar la función de interpretación en español

1. Los participantes deben de seleccionar el botón “Interpretation” (interpretación) que tiene un símbolo redondo de planeta en la parte baja de la página.
2. Se debe de seleccionar el idioma “Spanish” (español) para poder escuchar la información en español.
3. Por último, se deben de seleccionar también las palabras que dicen “Mute Original Audio Feature” (apagar el audio original) para no escuchar el otro idioma al mismo tiempo, lo cual puede ser muy molesto y confundir a quien está escuchando.

Purpose of SGMA is to ensure that unhealthy groundwater basins recover and that healthy basins remain healthy

The Petaluma Valley groundwater basin encompasses the valley floor, from Penngrove to San Pablo Bay





Public agencies and state grants have provided funding to support local management since 2017

Funding Source	Total Contributed 2017-2022
Sonoma Water	$ 601,416
County of Sonoma	$ 394,141
City of Petaluma	$ 344,491
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	$ 65,000
North Bay Water District	$ 65,000
TOTAL	**$1,470,048**

PLUS: State Propositions 1 and 68 grants and technical assistance contributed about **$2.2 million**

Tonight, we will discuss options for funding the agency into the future

Fee consultant will explain the options in detail, and so please hold your questions!

Fee assessed on all groundwater users in the basin, based on actual or estimated groundwater pumping:

- $230-$400 per acre foot, annually
- Equivalent to $115-$200 per parcel annually for rural homeowners

Benefit assessment fee on all parcels in basin: $55-$96 per acre foot, annually

Wellhead fee: $490-$850 per parcel

Parcel tax: $28-$55 per parcel

A Groundwater Sustainability Plan was adopted in December 2021, following more than 50 public meetings and input from the GSA Board and a diverse, stakeholder-based Advisory Committee

PETALUMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Petaluma Valley subbasin conditions

- Groundwater quality in basin is generally acceptable

- No evidence of land subsiding due to groundwater pumping

Petaluma Valley basin conditions

Where we have data, groundwater levels are stable in most areas, with some limited areas near northeastern and northern boundaries showing declines

Groundwater in storage is relatively stable

Petaluma Valley subbasin conditions

- Data is limited on the effect of groundwater pumping on stream flows
- Limited data available on seawater intrusion due to groundwater pumping

Projects and actions needed to achieve sustainability

Water use efficiency and alternative water source projects for rural residents, commercial and industrial users and agriculture

Recycled water expansion projects:

- Existing and new contracts
- New alignments

Additional projects and actions that will be studied

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR – also known as groundwater banking)

Policy options include discretionary review of well permits, Farm Plan Coordination, well metering for non-residential pumpers

Stormwater capture, to help capture and slowdown runoff, allowing the basin to be recharged

Why is Petaluma Valley Required to Comply with SGMA?

The State prioritized each groundwater basin as very low, low, medium, high priority or in critical overdraft. All basins that are medium and high priority or in critical overdraft must comply with SGMA.

- Petaluma Valley determined to be Medium Priority (> 14 total points) by the State

Basin Prioritization Metrics for Petaluma Valley

(DWR, 2019 - https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bp-dashboard/final/)

Basin Metric	Points (Total: 17.5)	Percent Contributing to Total Score
Basin Population	2	11%
Basin Population Growth	3	17%
Number of Public Supply Wells	3	17%
Total Number of Wells	4	23%
Irrigated Acreage	2	11%
Overall reliance on groundwater	1.5	9%
Basin Impacts (declining groundwater levels and water quality)	2	11%

Actions needed through 2027	Required by state (SGMA) and to comply with GSP
Well, stream, subsidence, water quality monitoring and data evaluation	X
Closing data gaps	X
Maintaining, updating, improving groundwater model	X
Refining and implementing projects and management actions	X
Coordinating with local, state and federal resource management and water quality agencies	X
Annual reports and five-year update to GSP	X
Development and implementation of a funding strategy	X
GSA administration	X
Communication and engagement	X

Average annual budget costs: FY 2022-23 though FY 2026-27

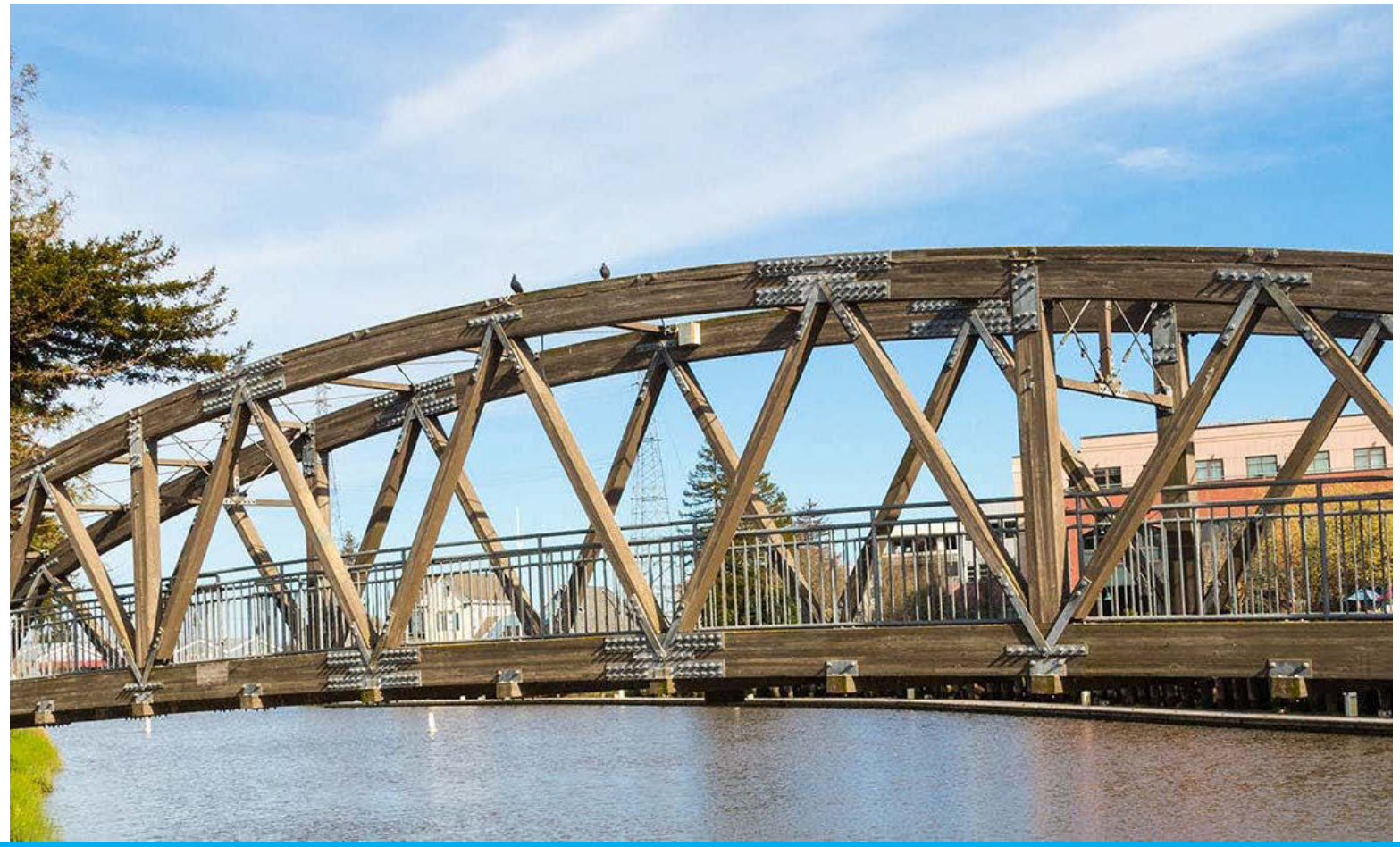
Item	Total Cost
Operations (administration, legal, insurance, audits, grant-seeking)	233,000
Closing data gaps	346,000
Monitoring	113,000
Projects & Actions	50,000
Outreach, communication, engagement, agency coordination	84,000
Groundwater Model Updates	50,000
5-year GSP Update	60,000
Contingency & Reserves	117,800
TOTAL	**$1,053,800**

Benefits to groundwater users of complying with SGMA

By complying with SGMA and implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, we:

- Help protect groundwater wells from going dry due to overpumping
- Protect the aquifer from the long-term impacts of climate change and changes in land use patterns
- Help prevent seawater (due to pumping) from intruding into the basin
- Reduce the chances of land subsidence due to groundwater pumping
- Help prevent streams from going dry due to groundwater pumping, and maintaining groundwater for animals and plants
- Retain local control of the groundwater basin

Questions about the groundwater basin, projects, or budget?



Well Owner Metrics

- Rate Classes
  - Municipal and other public service providers
  - Agriculture and other irrigation
  - Rural residential
  - Commercial
  - Urban wells
- Based on Groundwater use
  - ***Actual pumping*** by municipal and other public systems
  - ***Estimate pumping*** for agricultural, rural residential & others

FEE & RATE STUDY

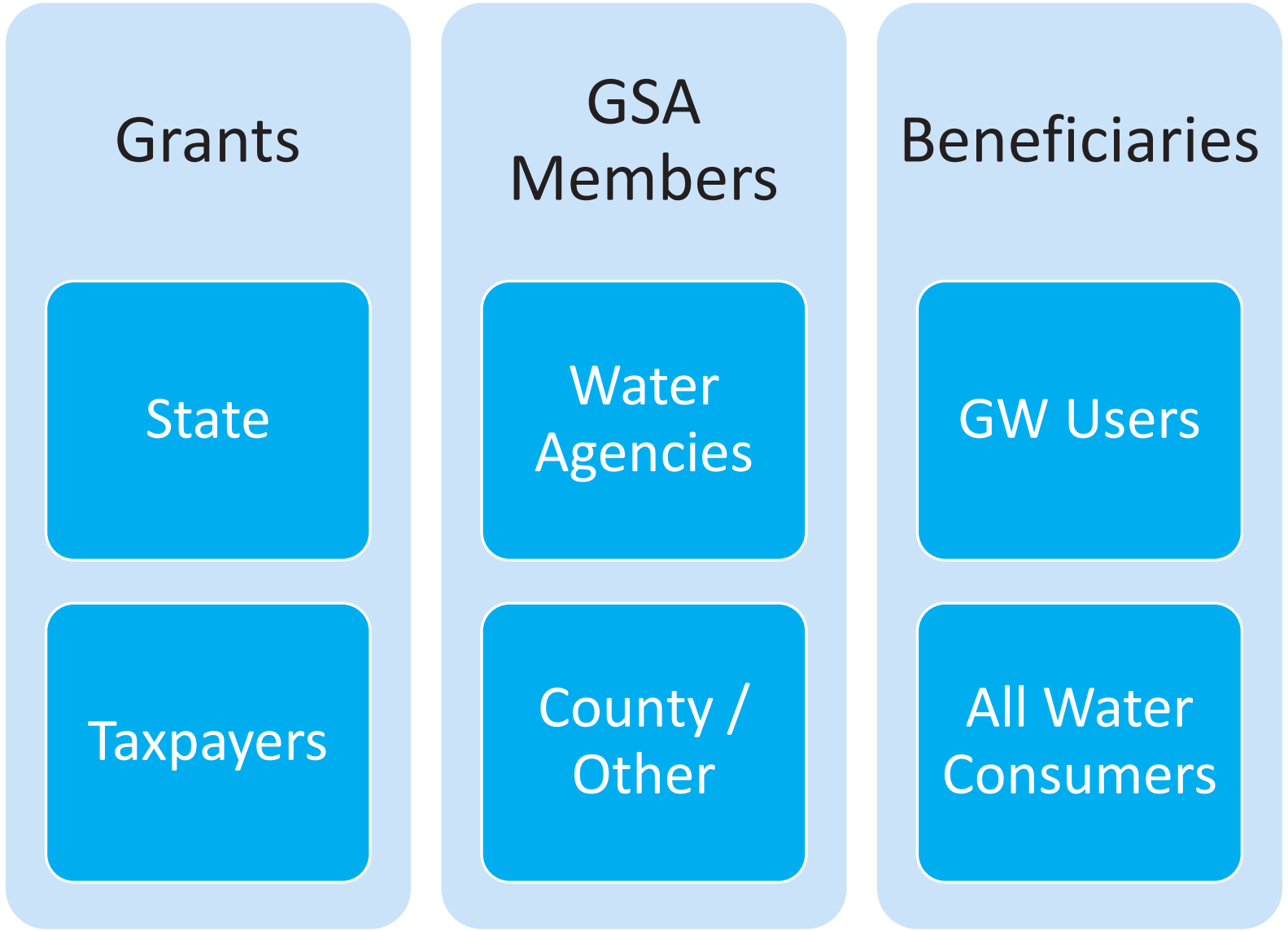
Funding Sources

Groundwater Pumping Data

Costs

Preliminary Options & Rates

Funding Sources



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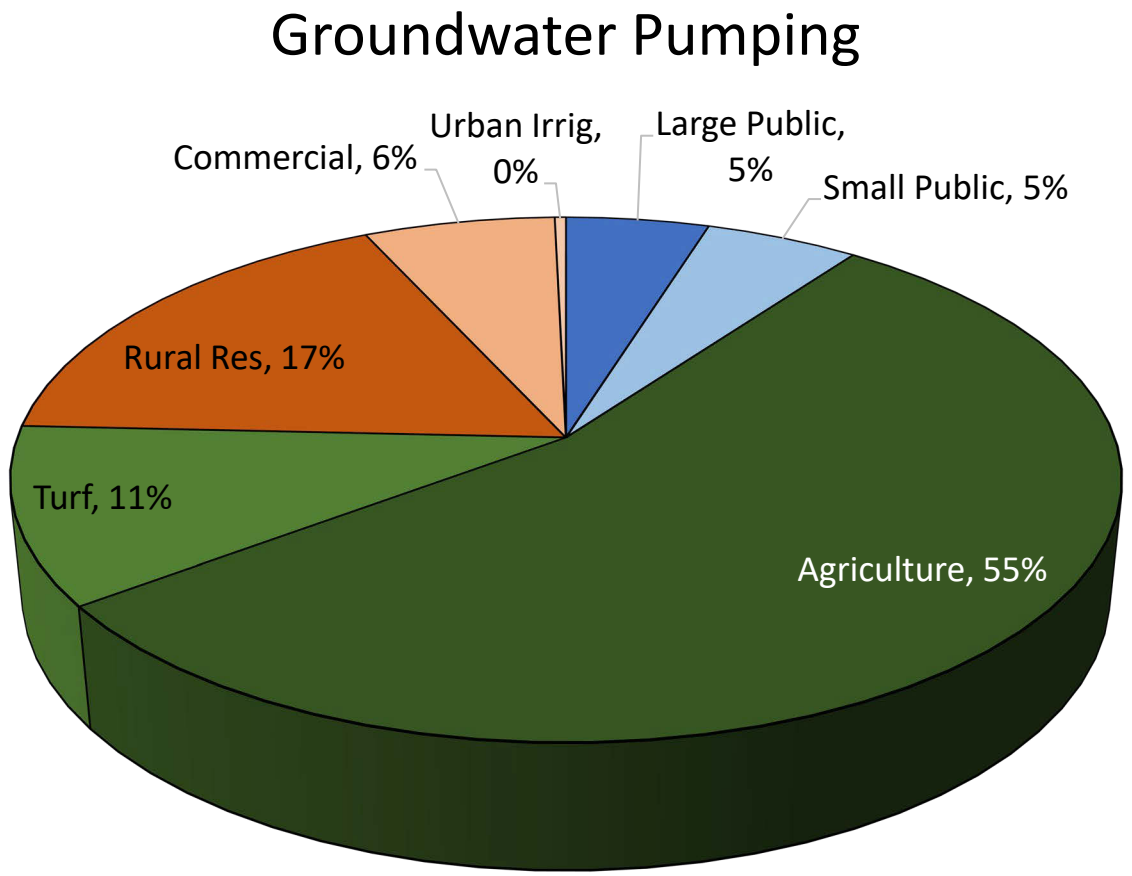
Groundwater Users

- Public Systems (blue) 10%
- Ag / Turf (green) 66%
- Rural Residential (brown) 17%
- Commercial (beige) 6%
- Urban Irrigation (tan) 0%



Pumping Estimate Method

- Based on Typical Demand
  - ***Agriculture & Other Irrigation*** – Crop type and acreage
  - ***Rural Residential*** – Based on studies and local data
  - ***Commercial and Urban Wells*** – Varies by land use
- Examples
  - **50 Acres of Vineyard** | 0.6 feet per year | 50 x 0.6 = **30 acre-feet** per year
  - **100 acres of pasture** | 0.04 feet per year | 100 x 0.04 = **4 acre-feet** per year
  - **100 acres of grain** | dry farming | **zero acre-feet** per year
  - **Rural Residential** | **0.5 acre-feet** per year (446 gallons per day)
  - *Credit for use of Surface or Recycled water*

Pumping Estimates (*Preliminary*)

Agricultural Crop Demands

- Citrus & Subtropical
- Deciduous Fruit & Nut
- Grain
- Pasture
- Truck & Berry
- Vine
- Cannabis
- Idle Acres

Other Demands

- Turf Irrigation
- Residential
- Commercial
- Urban Irrigation

Acre-Fee per Year Estimates by Category				
Large Public Systems	140	to	170	metered
Small Public Systems	150	to	180	metered
Agricultural Irrigation	1,600	to	1,900	estimated
Turf Irrigation (golf and schools)	310	to	380	estimated
Rural Residential	500	to	610	estimated
Commercial	190	to	230	estimated
Urban Irrigation	10	to	15	estimated
Offsets for Alternate Sources *	(700)	to	(500)	metered
TOTAL	2,200	to	2,985	

Estimates are within the GSP Range

* Alternate Sources include deliveries of recycle or surface water

Budget Options for Fees

- Two Options
  - Full Costs
  - Reduced by Grant Awards
- Note on Grant Funding:
  - *Grant funding is estimated*
  - *Actual funding & availability are currently unknown*

Item	Total Cost	GSA	Grants
Operational	$ 233,000	*$ 233,000*	-
Data Gaps	346,000	*21,000*	*$ 325,000*
Monitoring & Reporting	113,000	*113,000*	
Projects & Actions	50,000	*21,000*	*29,000*
Outreach & Engagement	84,000	*84,000*	
GW Model Updates	50,000	-	*50,000*
5-yr GSP Update	60,000	*60,000*	-
Contingency & Reserves	117,800	*77,200*	*40,600*
	$ 1,053,800	*$ 609,200*	*$ 444,600*

Fee Calculation

Total Revenue divided by **Total Acre-Feet**

With Grant Funding

$609,200 ÷ 2,640 ≈ $230 per acre-foot

Total Budget

$1,053,800 ÷ 2,640 ≈ $400 per acre-foot

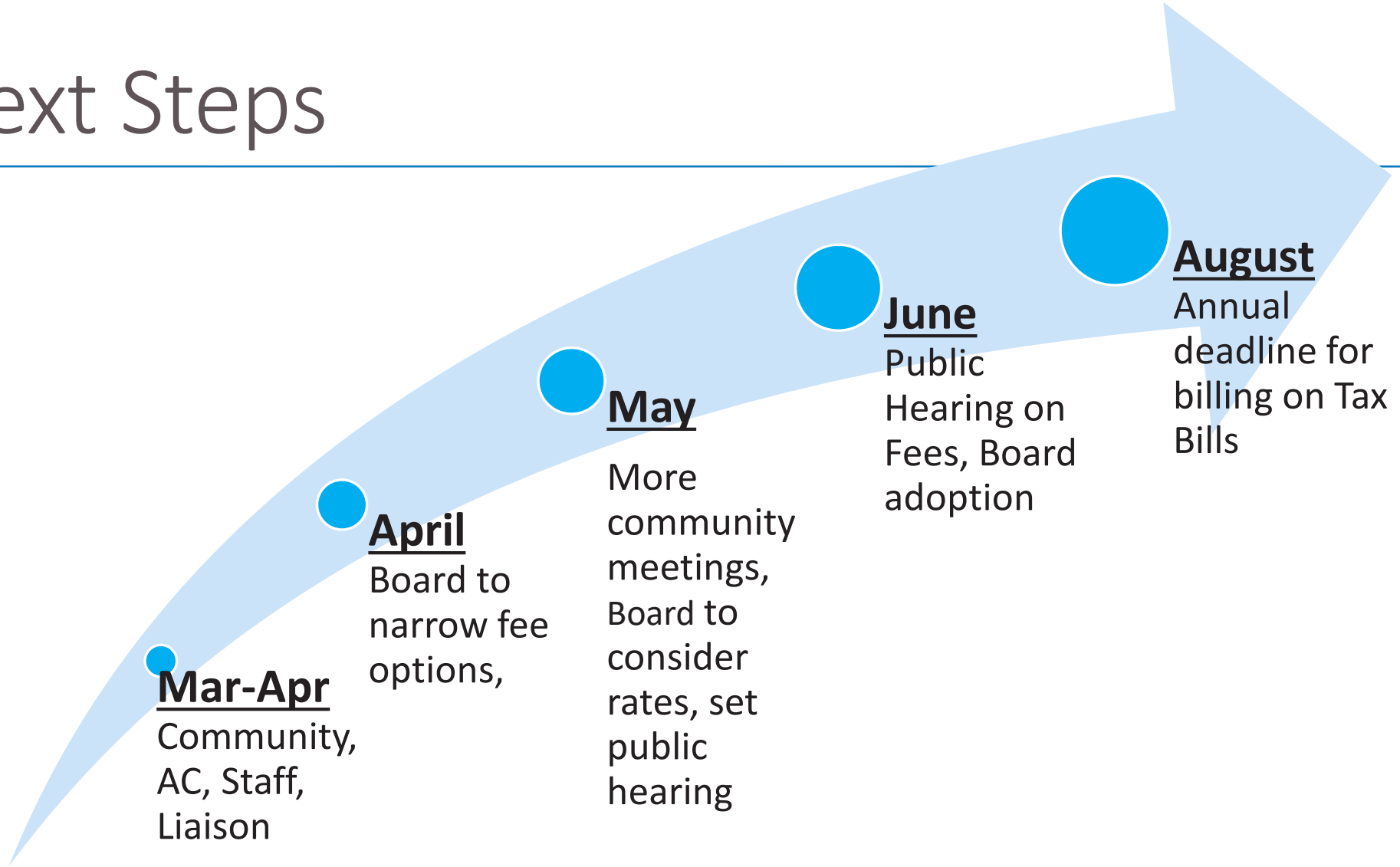
Option A – Fees (*1,250 Well Parcels*)

Type	Who Pays	Pros	Cons	Annual Range
Regulatory Fees	*All groundwater pumpers (cities, farmers, businesses, rural residences, urban sites with wells)*	• *Proportionate to quantity pumped* • *Example in SRP (2019 Fee)* • *Credit for recycled & surface water*	• *Higher than before* • *Most private pumping not metered*	$230 - $400 per acre-foot
	Examples	*50 Acre Vineyard* • *$6,900 to $12,000*	*100-acre Pasture* • *$920 to $1,600*	*Rural Residence* • *$115 to $200*
Well Head Fees	*All groundwater pumpers*	• *Simple*	• *Disproportionate to quantity pumped*	$490 - $850 per parcel
State Intervention Fees		• *$300 per well*	*PLUS*	*$40 per acre-foot*

Option B – Tax/Assessment (*all 19,500 Parcels*)

Type	Who Pays	Pros	Cons	Range
Parcel Tax	*All taxable parcels*	• *Lowest rate* • *Could be tiered by land use*	• *Requires voter approval (66.7%)* • *Cannot be implemented until Year 2* • *High cost to implement (± $200,000)*	$28 - $55 per parcel
Benefit Assessment	*All benefitting*	• *Low rate* • *Proportionate; likely keyed to water usage*	• *Requires landowner vote (50%, weighted)* • *High cost to implement (± $150,000)* • *Cannot be implemented until Year 2* • *Still under legal review*	$55 - $96 per acre-foot

Next Steps


Mar-Apr
Community, AC, Staff, Liaison
April
Board to narrow fee options,
May
More community meetings, Board to consider rates, set public hearing
June
Public Hearing on Fees, Board adoption
August
Annual deadline for billing on Tax Bills

Upcoming Public Meetings

Type	Date	Time	Venue
Board	April 28, 2022	4:00 to 6:00	In person
Community Meeting #2	May 12, 2022	5:30 to 7:30	In person (TBD)
Advisory Committee	May 11, 2022	4:30 to 6:30	In person
Board	May 26, 2022	4:00 to 6:00	In person
Board	June 23, 2022	4:00 to 6:00	In person

Summary

2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- Form Local Agencies
- Define Sustainability (develop GSP)
- Achieve Sustainability (implement GSP)

Implementing Sustainability

- Implement Projects and Actions
- Close Data Gaps
- Monitor & Report
- Communicate
- Update Model
- 5-year Plan Update

Community Benefits

- Retain local control of groundwater basin
- Protect groundwater levels, so wells won't go dry
- Prevent future harm to animals and plants that are dependent on groundwater
- Protect water quality and combat seawater intrusion and land subsidence due to groundwater pumping

Rates

- Regulatory Fee (*$230 to $400 per AF per year*)
- Wellhead Fee (*$490 to $850 per parcel per year*)
- Parcel Tax (*$28 to $55 per parcel per year*)
- Assessment (*$55 to$96 per AF per year*)

Questions and comments about the fee study?

Upcoming community meeting:

- Tuesday, May 12, 5:30 p.m., location to be determined