



308 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville CA 95965

## About the Vina GSA

The Vina GSA is a locally controlled entity formed by a Joint Powers Agreement between Butte County, City of Chico, and Durham Irrigation District to implement groundwater sustainability measures as defined under the SGMA and as identified in the State-approved Vina Groundwater Sustainability Plan, along with the Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA. The GSA works to ensure adequate groundwater supplies to support rural areas and communities, the agricultural economic base of the region, and environmental uses now and in the future.

## The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency Holds Workshops! Attend to learn about how the annual GSA fee is determined and how fees are charged to parcels.

**Wednesday, April 2nd at 9 a.m.**  
Butte County Library, Chico Branch  
1108 Sherman Ave, Chico, CA 95926

**Wednesday, April 2nd at 6 p.m.**  
Masonic Lodge, Yorkrite Room  
1110 W. East Ave, Chico, CA 95926



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para verlo en español.

### Vina GSA Provides Fee Study Update

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Vina GSA/GSA) is entering into the final stages of adopting an updated fee structure. The GSA is holding two community workshops on Wednesday, April 2 at 9 a.m. and at 6 p.m. to share information about the GSA's updated fee to fund the administration and operating costs. The fee study process has included exploring several potential fee structures, obtaining thoughts and opinions from community stakeholders and interested parties, and working with the GSA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Vina GSA Board to define a reasonable approach to the methodology to determine fees.

After receiving a thoroughly vetted draft fee report, the Vina GSA Board, has made definitive decisions about how the fee should be determined for parcels within the GSA's boundaries. Next steps include the following: calculating the fee by parcel within the GSA using updated GSA budget projections and the FY25/26 Butte County tax roll, conducting public outreach, and noticing and holding a public hearing for the Board to adopt a resolution to set fees for parcels within the Vina GSA boundaries for Fiscal Year 2026.

### Attend a Fee Workshop!

The Vina GSA recognizes that although charging a fee to fund an agency is not popular, it is necessary to maintain local control over groundwater management. The public is encouraged to attend the workshops to:

- Learn about GSA activities that support sustainable groundwater management
- Hear about the practical benefits provided by the GSA
- Understand the GSA operating costs and annual budget development
- Learn more specifics about how the GSA fee is determined and its costs to parcels within the GSA boundaries

### Public Workshop Details

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AND

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### Purpose of the Fee

The fee enables the Vina GSA to comply with State law (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/SGMA) while maintaining local control over groundwater management, ensuring that decisions are made locally and

directly benefit the community. Fee payors benefit from the sustainable groundwater management activities funded by the fee, which helps maintain a reliable water supply for agricultural, residential, and environmental uses now and in the future. Since 90% of the water used in the Vina Subbasin comes from groundwater, the GSA's activities are essential to protect the long-term sustainability of the groundwater basin, which is vital for the prosperity and security of all who rely on it.

### Calculating the Fee

All parcels within the Vina subbasin will pay a fee regardless of groundwater use. Those who actively use groundwater will pay an additional fee. The result is a two-part fee structure. The Part 1 Fee (Base Fee) provides benefit to the public by maintaining a functioning GSA and performing all activities required by SGMA. The Part 2 Fee (User Group Fee) covers costs related to the GSA of providing services such as groundwater monitoring and modeling that ensure long-term groundwater availability.

The cost basis for determining Part 1 and Part 2 fees is based on the GSA's operating costs and the different services that the Vina GSA provides. Costs in Part 1 pay for governance

expenses and basic operations including agency staffing, legal counsel, office expenses, audits, fee placement on the tax roll, and other costs that keep the GSA in existence and recognized by the State of California. Part 2 costs are for services such as monitoring groundwater extractions, program development, and stakeholder engagement to educate the public about sustainability efforts.

Part 1 Base Fee would be charged to every parcel within the GSA as a per parcel fee. The Part 2 User Group fee would be charged according to type of water use on the land: Group 1 – agricultural users would be charged per cropped acre, and Group 2 – domestic, or municipal users (including residential and commercial), would be charged per developed parcel. Group 3 – vacant parcels and parcels used for grazing would not be charged a Part 2 fee.

Until the GSA Board has finalized the FY 2026 budget, fees are estimates only. The actual fee will be adopted by the Board in June 2025. *For example, the total parcel fee for a residence is estimated to be \$11.96 for Fiscal Year 2026, or a little less than \$1 per month.*