

DOMESTIC GROUNDWATER USER FEEDBACK (1) CONCERNS REGARDING FEE IMPLEMENTATION

Need For a Fee & the Funding Approach

- Questions about why private well owners would be charged now when MGA members have previously been paying.
- Comments that domestic well owners did not cause seawater intrusion or other groundwater problems, so why should they have to pay for sustainably managing the Basin.
- Comments that domestic well owners already pay for well installation, maintenance, filtration, and pumping costs and have no impact on basin sustainability, so they should not be subject to a fee.
- Questions asking what the benefits are to domestic groundwater users if they pay a fee.
- Suggestions that domestic users recharge groundwater through septic systems and infiltration of outdoor watering and they should receive credit for those contributions if there was to be a fee.
- Concerns over future rate increases and a lack of accountability.

DOMESTIC GROUNDWATER USER FEEDBACK (2)

GROUNDWATER RIGHTS, LEGAL CONCERNS & COMMUNITY INPUT

Groundwater Rights & Legal Challenges

- Concern that fees infringe on private property and water rights.
- Calls for legal action against MGA with respect to its authority to impose a fee.
- Suggestion that the region oppose or simply not comply with the SGMA mandate.
- Uncertainty about penalties for refusing to pay fees and potential state intervention.

Data Accuracy

- Stakeholders requested clarity on how groundwater usage was estimated, particularly for unmetered wells.
- Concerns over the accuracy of parcel records and how they impact fee assessments.

DOMESTIC GROUNDWATER USER FEEDBACK (3)

FAIRNESS IN WATER USE, GROWTH PLANNING & TRANSPARENCY

Growth & Water Demand

- Concern over new housing developments increasing groundwater use.
- Concern over state-mandated increased housing requirements increasing groundwater use.
- Suggestions that developers should contribute more to groundwater costs.

Community Input

- Concern that private owner well representatives on MGA were not representative of the domestic groundwater user community and the lack of awareness of the process for their appointment to the MGA Board.
- Concern that the domestic groundwater users have no vote in a decision to impose a fee.
- Requests for more public engagement/meetings before finalizing any fees.
- Requests for the Board to continue evaluating funding options and gathering community input.