

## RESOLUTION NO. 19

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY CONTINUING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY FEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

**WHEREAS**, the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is organized and existing under and pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) [Water Code §§10720-10737.8]; and

**WHEREAS**, SGMA authorizes a GSA to impose fees to fund various regulatory activities, including the development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) [Water Code §10730]; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2020, the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) adopted “*Resolution No. 4 – Resolution of the Montecito Groundwater Sustainability Agency Adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Fee*” establishing a Groundwater Sustainability Fee (Fee) to fund annual expenses associated with regulatory activities of the GSA in implementing SGMA [Water Code §10730]; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 4 was adopted at a duly noticed public meeting and hearing in accordance with all requirements of Section 6 of Article XIID of the California Constitution and Government Code §53755; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 4 made findings supported by a financial plan and GSA Fee Study (Study) prepared by Raftelis, an independent financial consultant, which findings are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the GSA has continued to work with Raftelis to prepare an updated financial plan and fee model; and

**WHEREAS**, the analysis conducted by Raftelis for the updated financial plan and fee model reveals that continuation of the current Fee of \$120 per acre for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is projected to meet the GSA’s financial needs for its regulatory activities under SGMA, including the implementation of a GSP.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Montecito Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

1. Substantial evidence in the record before the Board supports the above Recitals.
2. The GSA will continue the Groundwater Sustainability Fee of \$120 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The fee will be calculated in the same manner as established in Resolution No. 4, based on the total acreage of a parcel overlying the Montecito Groundwater Basin, and individual charges are determined by multiplying the acreage

overlying the Basin by \$120 per acre. All government property and property belonging to public agencies will continue to be excluded from the Fee.

3. As in prior years, the Fee will be collected annually in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes pursuant to Water Code §10730. The General Manager is authorized and directed to take such steps as are necessary to have the Fee collected in this manner.
4. The General Manager and GSA Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coates, Hayman, Plough, Wicks

NOES:

ABSENT: Goebel

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:



Tobe Plough, Board President

ATTEST:



Nicholas Turner, Secretary