

RESOLUTION NO. 24

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY CONTINUING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY FEE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027**

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 annually to prepare an updated financial plan and fee model; and

WHEREAS, in early 2026, Raftelis prepared an updated financial plan and fee model which revealed that continuation of the current Fee of \$120 per acre for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, is projected to meet the GSA's financial needs for its regulatory activities under SGMA, including the implementation of a GSP.

WHEREAS, notice of a public meeting concerning consideration and adoption of a resolution continuing the fee was published in the Montecito Journal on April 23, 2026, and April 30, 2026 [Government Code §6066] and data upon which the proposed fee is based was made available prior to the meeting [Water Code §10730]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Montecito Groundwater Basin 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, 2027. 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 12th day of May 2026 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coates, Goebel, Hayman, Plough, Wicks

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:



Tobe Plough, Board President

ATTEST:



Nicholas Turner, Secretary

**MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
9:30 A.M.***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 9:30 A.M.*, the Board will hold a public meeting to consider adoption of the following Resolution:

1. Resolution No. 24: Resolution of the Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Continuing a Groundwater Sustainability Fee for Fiscal Year 2027.

The Agency is proposing to continue the existing parcel fee as it was established by Resolution No. 4 in June 2020, with no increase in the fee or change in the methodology by which the fee is calculated. The Agency will continue to collect the fee on the property tax rolls, as in previous years.

The purpose of the fee is to fund the costs of the Agency's groundwater sustainability program, including the implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Information concerning the fee is available for public review at www.montecitogsa.com.

At the public meeting oral and written presentations may be made and/or heard concerning the fee.

*The public meeting will be conducted in person at the Agency office located at 583 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. Remote participation information will be available on the meeting agenda posted at the Agency office, on the website www.montecitogsa.com, and by calling 805-805.324.4207.

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Run, MJ Public/legal notices section, April 23 & 30, 2026