



South Fork Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Prop 218 Election
PO BOX 339
Lemoore, CA 93245

**See last page for
Assessment Ballot**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this Notice is to provide you with information about the assessment ballot proceeding being conducted by the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SFKGSA or Agency) and its effect on real property that you own within the Agency's boundaries. Please note that this Notice and assessment ballot do not apply to properties within the Lemoore city limits. This notice is sent to you in accordance with Section 53753 of the California Government Code, and Article XIID, Section 4, of the California Constitution. This election is being held in accordance with Proposition 218, which is a Constitutional Initiative approved by the voters of California in November 1996 which requires new or increased assessments to be approved by affected landowners. Assessment votes are weighted according to each voter's parcel acreage and proposed assessment rate. If the number of weighted votes submitted in favor of the proposed assessment is greater than the number of weighted votes submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment, then the assessment vote will pass and the Agency can implement the new assessment.

Please be advised that a public hearing is set for **5:30 p.m. on July 13, 2023**, at the **Lemoore Council Chambers 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245** to consider updating and extending SFKGSA's assessment. **If you wish to comment on this matter you are invited to do so at the Public Hearing.**

Una copia de este aviso traducido al español está disponible para ver en el sitio web de GSA en <http://southforkkings.org/>.

The SFKGSA was formed as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with the primary purpose of achieving compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for landowners within the SFKGSA. SGMA is a State law adopted in 2014 and requires improved management and balance of groundwater supplies. SGMA is an unfunded mandate from the State, meaning the costs to comply with the law will be borne by local landowners. The Agency proposes to update and implement its assessment rate structure that is sufficient to fund Agency operations and required activities pursuant to SGMA. The Agency's current assessment will sunset this year. Without a new assessment, the SFKGSA will not have a funding source to continue compliance activities.

Based on the Agency’s needs, the SFKGSA Board of Directors is requesting landowner approval to levy a property related per-acre assessment to generate sufficient revenue to fund annual Agency operation costs and project expenses. Administrative annual expenses include an assumed annual inflation factor of three percent (3%). A list of proposed projects to be funded by the Agency is listed below.

Project	Project Costs
Well Registration Program	\$386,500
Domestic Well Mitigation Program	\$960,000
Updated Tulare Lake Subbasin Model	\$85,000
Groundwater Recharge Project	\$2,375,000
2025 GSP Update	\$137,500
Subsidence Study	\$220,000
Groundwater Quality Monitoring	\$318,500
Project Totals (5-Year Total)	\$4,164,000

The proposed Agency’s activities are considered special benefits to the assessable parcels within the Agency service area (defined as those parcels that are included on County of Kings tax rolls) established for a specific purpose, namely sustainable management of shared groundwater resources.

There are 65,230 assessable acres in the Agency’s boundaries including 5,638 acres in the City of Lemoore. The City of Lemoore will participate in the GSA cost sharing by agreement and has incorporated the payments into their existing rate structure. Properties within the City of Lemoore are not provided assessment ballots and are not part of the assessment vote. The 65,230 assessable acres are subject to the proposed assessment, and the SFKGSA Board proposes a **maximum special assessment of \$20 per acre** per year in perpetuity. The annual maximum total amount of the proposed special assessment to be approved by this election will be \$1,304,600. The City of Lemoore will contribute annually an amount up to \$112,760. For the first year, fiscal year 2024, the assessment will be prorated to the date of adoption. It will be up to the Board of Directors to set the annual assessment rate and the Board may choose to set the annual rate lower than the maximum rate proposed.

Your maximum assessment can be calculated as follows:

$$\$20.00/\text{acre} \times \text{your total acreage in SFKGSA} = \$ \text{your proposed maximum assessment}$$

Local Control Versus State Control

If SFKGSA is unable to fund the activities required to comply with the State’s groundwater regulations, then the local control effort will fail and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will step in to manage the area’s groundwater using a process called State Regulatory Intervention. Should that happen, the State will regulate how much groundwater a landowner can pump and will collect fees to recover its costs to intervene. The cost of State intervention will be significantly higher than the current rate proposed by the SFKGSA Board.

If approved, the assessment will be included in the Kings County tax rolls beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The Agency Board will consider how much to assess each year and depending on the funds projected to be needed for the year, assessments may be approved up to the maximum proposed rate of \$20 per acre each year. The Board adopts an annual budget, reviews and authorizes payment of expenses at regular public meetings. By state law, SFKGSA may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover the costs of providing services.

An Engineer's Report was prepared by a registered professional engineer to determine the proposed assessment rate. The calculations in the Engineer's Report were based upon a review of the annual budget, anticipated expenses, and the benefits that are conveyed to landowners within the Agency. The benefits to all landowners within the GSA were identified as the benefits that are conferred upon those parcels in the GSA that use, or have the potential to use, groundwater. Therefore, the Engineer's Report concluded that under proposed assessment your property will receive a financial benefit from the GSA's operations commensurate with the proposed assessment. The Engineer's Report is available for review on the South Fork Kings GSA website, SouthForkKings.org. Objections to the assessment roll or rate established for the respective parcels of land in accordance with said preliminary roll will be heard at said Public Hearing on July 13, 2023.

Enclosed with this notice, you will find an assessment ballot

Please follow the directions listed on the assessment ballot to express your view on the proposed maximum assessment. You may **mail your ballot in the enclosed postage paid envelope to SFK GSA Prop 218, P.O. Box 339 Lemoore, CA 93245**. Sealed ballots may also be hand-delivered to the South Fork Kings GSA office (321 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245) during normal business hours. Hand-delivered ballots will also be accepted at the Public Hearing. Regardless of whether you choose to mail or hand-deliver your ballot, it *MUST* be received no later than the conclusion of the Public Hearing, which starts at 5:30 p.m. on July 13, 2023 or it will not be counted in the final tabulation of ballots.

The number of votes you can cast with respect to your property will correspond to the potential financial obligation imposed on your property. You may change your vote at any time prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing on this matter. However, because the ballots must remain sealed until the tabulation begins regardless of your method of delivery, you will be provided a replacement ballot to provide your new vote upon request.

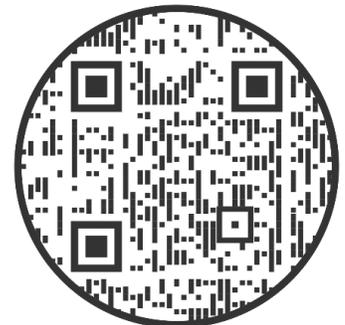
After the hearing, the ballots will be tabulated and weighted according to the proposed increase to you for your parcel(s) and the results will be posted as soon as practical. If the number of votes submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment rate exceed the number of votes submitted in favor (weighted according to the parcel acreage and proposed assessment rate), the Board of Directors will not impose the proposed assessment.

More information about the proposed assessment is available at the SFKGSA website: <http://SouthForkKings.org/>. You may also email Prop218@SouthForkKings.org or call (559) 423-5875.

The Agency will hold three informational sessions regarding the proposed assessment:

- 1) June 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm: Town Hall public outreach meeting
- 2) June 15, 2023 at 5:30 pm: Informational presentation at SFKGSA's regularly scheduled Board meeting
- 3) June 22, 2023 at 5:30pm: Town Hall public outreach meeting

These informational sessions will be held at the Lemoore Council Chambers 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245. The Town Hall meetings will also be broadcast via Zoom. To register for the June 7 Zoom meeting, scan the QR code. To join the June 15 Board Meeting via Zoom please review the agenda posted on the SFKGSA website.



2023 SOUTH FORK KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ASSESSMENT BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE BALLOT

1. Remove your ballot from the outer envelope and review the enclosed materials.
2. Mark the appropriate box next to your choice on the ballot by completely filling it in like this ■. Please use black or blue pen.
3. Sign and date the ballot on the signature line next to your choice. Only the property owner or owner's representative may sign the ballot.
4. Place the marked ballot into the enclosed reply envelope. Please include the entire ballot page. Seal the reply envelope and mail it. (Postage is provided)
5. All ballots **must** be received by **Thursday, July 13, 2023**, or they will not be counted.
6. If you lose your reply envelope, you may return the ballot using any stamped envelope to:
SFK GSA Prop 218
P.O. Box 339
Lemoore, CA 93245
7. If you lose or destroy your ballot, you may request a replacement by calling (510) 545-3182. A new ballot will be mailed to you. If you make a request after Monday, July 10 you may not receive your ballot in time to return it.
8. Sealed ballots may also be hand-delivered to the South Fork Kings GSA office (321 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245) during normal business hours. Hand-delivered ballots will also be accepted at the Public Hearing on July 13 at 5:30 pm at the Lemoore Council Chambers 429 C Street, Lemoore, CA 93245. Regardless of whether you choose to mail or hand-deliver your ballot, it **MUST** be received no later than the conclusion of the Public Hearing or it will not be counted in the final tabulation of ballots.

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT BALLOT

Shall the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency levy a maximum annual assessment of up to \$20 per acre?

YES. I support the \$20 per acre maximum annual assessment proposed by the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Property Owner/Representative:

APN	# of Acres	X \$20/acre	Assessment:
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Total Maximum Assessment:

NO. I oppose the \$20 per acre maximum annual assessment proposed by the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Property Owner/Representative:

APN	# of Acres
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