DRAFT

FY 2025-2026 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE REPORT

CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 – ACRONYMS

AF	Acre-feet
CBGSA	Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

De Minimis User – *Commercial*
Uses 1.5 acre-feet or less in a year per well. De minimis users do not have to pay a fee.

De Minimis User – *Domestic (Non-Commercial)*
Uses 2 acre-feet or less in a year per well. De minimis users do not have to pay a fee.

SECTION 3 – CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BACKGROUND

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) was formed in 2017 under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The purpose of the GSP is to achieve groundwater sustainability for the Cuyama Basin by 2040. The CBGSA is governed by an 11-member board with representatives from the four counties that intersect the Basin (Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura), the Cuyama Community Services District, and the Cuyama Basin Water District.

SECTION 4 – ESTABLISHING A FEE

Water Code section 10730 authorizes Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to establish a groundwater extraction fee to fund, among other things, the costs of a groundwater management program, including administration of a GSP. The CBGSA has set the fee over the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 period and is based on (i) the CBGSA's draft budget and cash flow for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and (ii) 2024 water use.

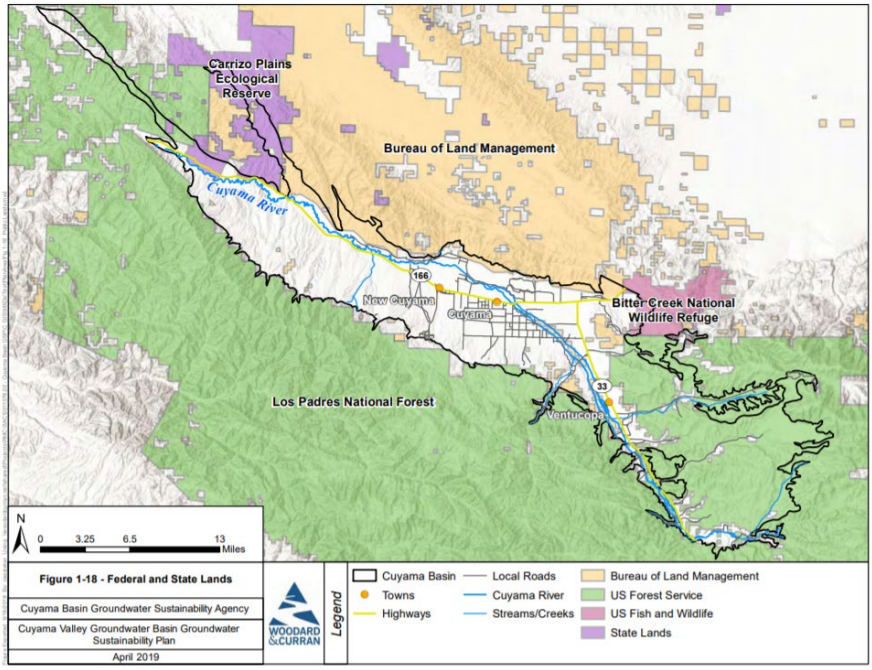
Section 4.1 – Definition of an "Extractor"

An extractor is defined as a pumper of groundwater within the Cuyama Basin groundwater basin boundary as defined by California Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 118 (see Figure 1 below). The below groups are not considered extractors:

Exclusions:

- De miminis user – Wells that use 1.5 acre-feet or less per year for commercial purposes, or wells that use less than 2 acre-feet per year for residential purposes. De minimis users do not have to pay a fee.
- State and federal lands – Non-commercial water use on State and federal lands. Well use on State and federal lands do not have to pay a fee.

FIGURE 1 – GROUNDWATER BASIN IN CUYAMA



Section 4.2 – Fee Basis

The proposed groundwater extraction fee is based on the CBGSA's fiscal year budget and cash flow. The budget and cash flow for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 will be presented for consideration of adoption at the May 7, 2025 regular meeting of the CBGSA Board of Directors. The draft budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 totals $1.84 million and is attached hereto as Exhibit "A." While the current budget total is subject to change, CBGSA does not anticipate the total budget amount to exceed $1.84 million.

Water use was based on (1) user-reported metered data from calendar year 2024, and (2) small pumpers (water users using less than 25 acre-feet annually) who are not required to install meters, and thus, they report water use based on evapotranspiration crop factors developed by a Cal Poly Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC) as shown in Forms I and M included as Exhibit B which include a conversion factor to estimate the gross water use consistent with the metered data reporting methodology. The 2024 water use estimate totals 36,104 acre-feet and is used as the basis for the fee.

Fee Recommendation

Based on (1) the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget and cash flow, and (2) user-reported 2024 water use data, the CBGSA recommends the basin-wide groundwater extraction fee set at $10 per acre-foot.

Section 5 – ADMINISTRATION OF FEE

Section 5.1 – Invoices

Invoices and instructions for payment will be sent to water users in May 2025 and will be based on the 2024 water use previously reported by Cuyama extractors. If payments are not received by the due date of June 30, 2025, a past due notice will be mailed in July 2025 and late penalties will apply (see section 6 below).

Section 5.2 – Schedule/Reporting period

The below schedule outlines the groundwater extraction fee process:

May 7, 2025	Fiscal Year Budget Adopted and Public Hearing to Establish Fee
May 16, 2025	Invoices and Forms are Mailed Out
May-June 2025	Payment Collection Period
June 30, 2025	Payment Due Date
July 1, 2025	Late penalties assessed (10% and then 1% per month)

SECTION 6 – PENALTIES

Well owners will be charged a 10 percent penalty after the June 30, 2025 due date with an escalation rate of 1 percent for each month late after the initial due date.

Exhibit A

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

DRAFT CBGSA FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

	A		
	CATEGORY		**2025-26 Budget**
A	**HALLMARK GROUP**		
1	CBGSA Board of Directors Meetings	$	136,700
2	Consultant Management and GSP Implementation	$	50,000
3	Financial Information Coordination	$	46,800
4	Cuyama Basin GSA Outreach	$	20,500
5	Annual Groundwater Extraction Fee	$	12,000
6	Response to DWR Comments on 2024 Amended GSP	$	14,100
7	Groundwater Allocation Implementation	$	2,800
8	Adjudication Coordination/Support	$	24,095
9	Enforcement for Un-reported Water User	$	2,000
10	Prioritization Projects/Initiatives from 3-5-25 Board Meeting		
11	CMA: Water Market	$	5,300
12	CMA: Carryover Policy	$	5,200
13	CMA: Tiered Allocations	$	4,800
14	Expand Allocations Outside Management Area (Consider During Annual AR)	$	5,600
15	Expand Allocations in Ventucopa	$	5,600
16	Perform Additional Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation	$	-
17	Develop Policy to Prevent Further Water Use in the Basin	$	6,000
18	Implement Basin-Wide Management Plan (Including Allocations)	$	-
19	ISW Update Study and Establish SMCs/Network	$	3,700
20	Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network	$	1,700
21	Other Direct Charges (Mileage, conference lines, copies)	$	-
		Subtotal	**$ 346,895**
B	**LEGAL**		
1	General Legal Counsel	$	150,000
2	Adjudication Legal Counsel	$	100,000
		Subtotal	**$ 250,000**
C	**ADMIN**		
1	Audit (FY 25-26)	$	10,000
2	Insurance (D&O, General Liability)	$	21,400
3	California Association of Mutual Water Co. Membership	$	200
4	2025 Updated Parcel Data	$	4,000
5	CIMIS Station (Initial Setup)	$	46,500
6	CIMIS Station (Annual Operation & Maintenance)	$	14,000
7	Noticing (mailouts)	$	5,000
8	Contingency	$	20,000
		Subtotal	**$ 121,100**
D	**WOODARD & CURRAN & TECHNICAL**		
1	Grant Proposals	$	45,100
2	**Stakeholder/Board Engagement**		
3	SAC meetings	$	24,600
4	Board meetings	$	44,300
5	Board Ad-hoc calls	$	-
6	Tech Forum calls (new item)	$	10,000
7	Public Workshops	$	18,300
8	**Outreach**		
9	General, Newsletter Development, etc.	$	13,700
10	Website Updates - Maintenance / Hosting	$	7,400
11	Support for DWR Technical Services (TSS)	$	10,000
12	**GSP Implementation Support**		

	CATEGORY		2025-26 Budget
13	GSP Implementation Program Management	$	59,200
14	GW Levels and GWQ Monitoring Network Coordination and Data Mgmt - W&C	$	21,900
15	DMS Ongoing Maintenance and Enhancements	$	5,600
16	Support for Adaptive Management of Groundwater Levels	$	25,000
17	Prepare Annual Report for Cuyama Basin	$	48,800
18	Meter Implementation - Ongoing Support	$	-
19	Response to DWR Comments on 2024 Amended GSP	$	48,500
20	Grant Admin (SGM Round 1)	$	30,000
21	**Perform Monitoring and Monitoring Network Enhancements**		
22	Install Transducers	$	-
23	**Improve Understanding of Basin Water Use**		
24	Perform Annual Land Use Survey (Land IQ and Local Reporting)	$	14,000
25	Enhance Existing CIMIS Station & Implement New Stations	$	5,000
26	**Project & Management Action Implementation**		
27	Pumping Allocation Implementation	$	-
28	Analysis of Management Action Implementation Options	$	-
29	**Prioritization Projects/Initiatives from 3-5-25 Board Meeting**		
30	CMA: Water Market	$	1,400
31	CMA: Carryover Policy	$	1,600
32	CMA: Tiered Allocations	$	1,600
33	Perform Additional Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation	$	167,700
34	Expand Allocations Outside Management Area (Consider During Annual AR)	$	52,300
35	Expand Allocations in Ventucopa	$	52,300
36	Develop Policy to Prevent Further Water Use in the Basin	$	10,200
37	Implement Basin-Wide Management Plan (Including Allocations)	$	-
38	ISW Update Study and Establish SMCs/Network	$	161,000
39	Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network	$	73,300
40	**Adjudication Support (if Required)**	$	38,450
		$	**991,250**
E	**OTHER TECHNICAL**		
1	Quarterly GW Levels and Piezometer Monitoring (Contractor TBD)	$	50,000
2	Annual WQ Monitoring (Contractor TBD)	$	25,000
3	Annual Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	$	53,200
	Subtotal	**$**	**128,200**
	Grant Funded	$	61,500
	CBGSA Funded (Non Grant-Elegible Costs)	$	1,775,900
	TOTAL	**$**	**1,837,400**

Exhibit B

CROP FACTORS

Form I

IRRIGATOR

WATER USE ESTIMATE WORKSHEET – 2024

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Name _____

Billing Address _____

Phone / Email _____

Instructions:

1. For 2024, input crop name(s)[1] in column A, the parcels those acres are farmed on in column B, the irrigated acres in column C, and the corresponding crop factors from the attached Exhibit C-1 in column D.
2. Multiply acres (column C) by the crop factor (column D) and input result in column E.
3. Total the acre-feet from column E in row 2.
4. Convert net water use (from row 2) to gross water use by multiplying total acre-feet from row 2, column E by the gross factor in row 3, column E and insert in row 4, column E.

	A	B	C		D		E
	Crop Name	Assessor Parcel Number(s) (APN)[2]	Acres		Crop Factor		Water Use (acre-feet)
1				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
				X		=	
2	Total Acre-feet (sum column E)						
3	Gross Conversion Factor						1.52
4	Total Gross Water Use						

[1]If you have metered water use that is less than the crop factors, you can report metered water use.

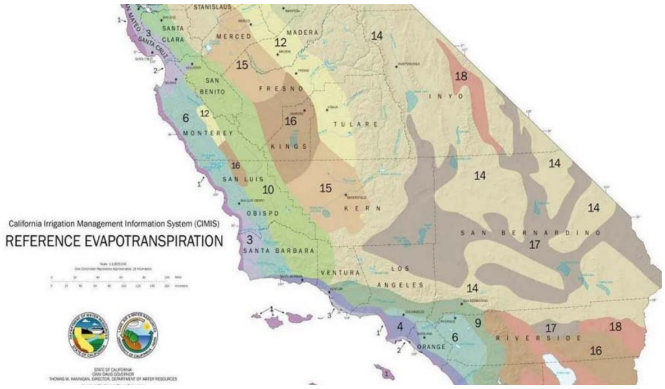
[2]Cropping location information may be provided separately from this form. Please contact Taylor Blakslee at 661-477-3385, or tblakslee@hgcpm.com for any questions.

Exhibit I-1 – Crop Factors

Source Information

Crop Factors are evapotranspiration (ET) values from California Polytechnic State University's Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) California Crop and Soil Evapotranspiration Report (Crop Report), ITRC Report No. R 03-001 accessible at www.itrc.org/reports/pdf/californiacrop.pdf.

The below values were calculated using ET reference averages for zone 10 from the Crop Report (see below figure).



Avg Annual Reference ET by Zone (inches/yr)

Zone	Total
1	33.0"
2	39.0"
3	46.3"
4	45.5"
5	43.9"
6	49.7"
7	43.4"
8	49.4"
9	55.1"
10	**49.1"**
11	53.0"
12	53.3"
13	54.3"
14	57.0"
15	57.0"
16	62.5"
17	66.5"
18	71.3"

Crop Factors

Crop	ET	Crop	ET
Alfalfa Hay	4.02	Melon, Radish, Squash, & Cucumbers	1.62
Alfalfa Seed, Sudan	3.60	Olives, Mature	3.27
Almonds	3.32	Olives, Deficit	2.58
Apples[1] (Drip)	2.50	Onions and Garlic	1.99
Apples, Pear, Cherry, Plum, and Prune	3.33	Permanent Pasture	3.93
Barley Wheat, Oats	1.97	Pistachios	2.99
Blackeyed Peas	1.97	Potatoes	3.00
Carrots	2.20	Rootstock	2.23
Corn	2.43	Sorghum Grain	2.43
Cotton	2.70	Sugar Beets	2.70
Citrus	3.45	Tomatoes	2.20
Grapes with 40% cover crop	1.56	Walnuts	3.53
Grapes with 60% cover crop	2.02	Cannabis[2]	TBD
Grapes with 100% cover crop	2.24	Hemp[3]	TBD
Lettuce	2.20		

[1]Value determined by local expertise in the Cuyama Valley.
[2]Value based on ____.
[3]Value based on ____.

Form M

MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL

WATER USE ESTIMATE WORKSHEET – 2024

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Name _____

Billing Address _____

Phone / Email _____

Instructions:

1. Calculate water use by inputting units used for municipal & industrial water use in column B (see Exhibit M-1 below to calculate units) for the appropriate corresponding water use categories found in column A.
    a. Multiply units used (column C) by the water consumption factor in column D and input result in column E.
    b. Total the gallons from column E and convert to acre-feet on row 13.

	A	B	C		D		E
	Type of Use	Water Use Location (APN, lat/long, or address)	Units Used		Water Consumption Factor (Gal)		Water Use (Gal)
1	Chicken Ranches			X	3,532	=	
2	Livestock Drinking Water No. of cows, bulls and horses No. of stockers No. of sheep and goats			X	5,520 2,760 1,100	=	
3	Hotels No. of rooms			X	46,000	=	
4	Office Buildings; including Churches No. of offices			X	38,600	=	
5	Restaurants Seating capacity			X	11,400	=	
6	Service Stations No. of stations			X	350,000	=	
7	Stores Sq ft of building			X	50	=	
8	Trailer Court Avg no. of people			X	36,800	=	
9	Elementary Schools No. of students x No. of school days			X	80	=	
10	Junior & Senior High Schools, Colleges and Churches No. of students x No. of school days			X	160	=	
11	Watered Land; non-ag No. of acres			X	5	=	
12	Total Gallons (sum column D and/or E)						
13	Convert to Acre-feet (Row 12/325,850)						

Exhibit M-1 – Unit(s) Calculations

Unit Calculation

	Type of Use	Units Used
1	Chicken Ranches	Avg number of units of 100 chickens on hand for the reporting period.
2	Livestock Drinking Water	Average number of livestock on hand for the reporting period (drinking water only). Amounts derived from NDSU Extension Service report from July 2015 entitled "Livestock Water Requirements."
3	Hotels	Total number of rooms.
4	Office Buildings; including Churches	Total number of offices in building, or offices served.
5	Restaurants	Total number of seats including seats at the counter, chairs, stools, benches and patio seating.
6	Service Stations	Number of stations served.
7	Stores	Square feet of any store, supermarket or shop. Calculation includes employee, customer and maintenance water use.
8	Trailer Court	Average number of people in the trailer court.
9	Elementary Schools	Total number of students, faculty, custodians, and maintenance staff multiplied by the number of school days. If there was non-ag watered land input amount in row 11.
10	Junior & Senior High Schools and Churches	Total number of students, faculty, custodians, and maintenance staff multiplied by the number of school days. If there was non-ag watered land input amount in row 11. For churches, figure total hours and divide by 8 to determine number of "school days."
11	Watered Land; non-ag	All lands, ornamental plants, shrubs, etc., watered but not qualifying for agricultural rate.