



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Notice of Board of Directors Meeting

To be held at **4:00 p.m.** on **April 22, 2026**

at the Centennial Park Norris Room (600 Nickerson Dr, Paso Robles, California 93446)

PRAGA will make available, as a convenience to the public, virtual access to the meeting via Zoom, which access may be suspended at any time due to technological or other reasons. To ensure the ability to observe or participate in the meeting, members of the public should attend in person.

Virtual Access

Zoom Link:	https://zoom.us/j/98961669951
Webinar ID:	989 6166 9951
Call-in:	+1(646)931-3860,,98961669951#

Member Agency

Shandon-San Juan Water District
Estrella El-Pomar Creston Water District
City of Paso Robles
County of San Luis Obispo

Directors

Matt Turrentine, Chair
Hilary Graves, Vice Chair
John Hamon
Bruce Gibson

Alternates

Marshall Miller
Zach Merkel
Kris Beal
Heather Moreno

AGENDA

April 22, 2026

NOTE: The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (Paso Authority) reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to participate in the meeting of the Paso Authority are encouraged to request such accommodation in advance of the meeting from Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385.

1. Call to Order (Turrentine)
2. Pledge of Allegiance (Turrentine)
3. Roll Call (Blakslee)
4. Meeting Protocols (Blakslee)
5. Update on Fallowed Land Registry Program (Reely/Carra) (30 min) - Verbal
6. Consent Agenda (Turrentine)
 - a. Approval of March 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of March 2026 Financial Report
7. Action Items
 - a. Update and Direction on Key Policy Components for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee Report, and Set a Public Meeting Date for Potential Fee Adoption (Blakslee/Collins/Aston) (45 min)
8. Report Items
 - a. Update on Upcoming Grant Opportunities (Blakslee) (3 min) - Verbal
9. Public Comment – Items not on Agenda (Turrentine) (3 min/speaker)
10. Director Comments / Future Agenda Items (Directors)
11. Upcoming Meeting(s) (Blakslee)
12. Adjourn



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 6a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: April 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Meeting Minutes

Recommendation

Approve the meeting minutes.

Discussion

The draft meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 25, 2026, is provided as **Attachment 1** for the Board's consideration of approval.

* * *

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting

March 25, 2026

Draft Meeting Minutes

Present:

Matt Turrentine, *Chair*
Hilary Graves, *Vice Chair*
John Hamon
Bruce Gibson

Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA
City of Paso Robles GSA
County of San Luis Obispo

Staff:

Claire Collins, Legal Counsel
Taylor Blakslee, Interim Executive Director

1. **Call to Order**

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Chair Matt Turrentine called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Turrentine.

3. **Roll Call**

Mr. Blakslee called roll (shown above).

4. **Meeting Protocols**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the meeting protocols.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Blakslee reported that the February 18, 2026, minutes and January and February 2026 financial reports were included in the consent agenda.

There were no public comments on this item.

MOTION

Director Hamon motioned to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gibson and it passed unanimously.

6. **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Blakslee provided a report on the March 12, 2026, Public Workshop and shared general feedback received.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

7. Action Items

a. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Mr. Blakslee presented the draft compliance budget and summarized stakeholder feedback from the March 12 workshop. He explained that the budget reflects minimum compliance requirements and noted the removal of domestic well mitigation program costs due to continued grant funding.

Director Gibson commented that the domestic well impact mitigation program is continuing under a county-held grant that funds it at a level slightly higher than the ~\$50,000 previously budgeted.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

MOTION

Director Gibson motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Director Graves seconded the motion. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

- AYES: Gibson, Graves, Hamon, Turrentine
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- RECUSE: None

b. Direction on Prop 26 Components in Development of a Fee for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of previous board direction to implement a Prop 26 fee for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. He added that staff recommends a volumetric, ET-based approach using January through December 2025 Land IQ data for agriculture.

Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting, explained the Prop 26 fee process, including fee study development, public notice requirements, and Board adoption. He described potential fee structures, stakeholder feedback, and recommended a volumetric approach for proportionality.

Director Graves requested clarification on the \$10,000 estimate attributed to de minimis user benefits and asked how the calculation was derived. Mr. Aston responded that the estimate is based on a small percentage of total basin use and is preliminary pending a full fee study.

Legal Counsel Collins stated the estimate reflects approximately 1% of total basin use and emphasized the need to maintain proportionality under Prop 26.

Mr. Aston stated there is no comparable dataset to Land IQ for domestic users and that estimates are typically based on average use patterns. Legal Counsel Collins noted that further refinement of de minimis estimates would increase costs with limited benefit due to the small scale of use.

Director Hamon expressed concern about fairness if de minimis users receive benefits without directly paying fees. Director Gibson supported the staff recommendation not to directly charge de minimis users and emphasized administrative efficiency and minimal cost impact.

Mr. Aston clarified that staff recommends a 30-day public review period for water use data. He explained that data would be made available for parcel-level review and that a process would be developed for submitting documentation to support any requested corrections.

Director Gibson asked whether individual agricultural users would be able to review their projected water use. Mr. Blakslee confirmed that parcel-level data would be publicly available and that stakeholders would be notified and given an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Director Graves stated she only supports the approach as a one-year solution and emphasized the need to refine methodology moving forward. She questioned how de minimis users represent a small portion of pumping given their large share of parcels and requested clarification on the number of landowners subject to fees.

Mr. Aston responded that agricultural use represents the majority of basin pumping and drives the overall proportional allocation, and that the fee study would further refine these estimates.

Director Hamon asked what would be required to improve accuracy of de minimis use estimates. Mr. Aston stated that improved accuracy would require additional data collection efforts, which may not be cost-effective given the relatively small share of total use.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Dean Porter, Greg Grewal, Murray Powell, Steve Carter.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

Director Gibson stated that using prior-year data is a common practice and emphasized the importance of a fair and accessible variance process to address inaccuracies or changed conditions.

Chair Turrentine noted Land IQ provides a reasonable estimate for proportional allocation and that a variance process will address inaccuracies.

Legal Counsel Collins stated that the proposed approach is consistent with standard methodologies used in other basins and meets legal requirements for proportionality under Proposition 26.

Director Graves raised concerns about equity and suggested further evaluation of alternative fee structures, including hybrid approaches, in the future.

The Board provided general direction to proceed with staff recommendations, including:

- Charging agricultural, public water system, and commercial groundwater users.
- Accounting for de minimis users without directly charging them.
- Advancing a volumetric fee structure for further development.
- Supporting use of the county tax roll for fee collection.

c. Approval of Paso Robles Subbasin Water Year 2025 Annual Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the annual report timeline.

Nate Page, Confluence Engineering, presented key findings and highlights of the Water Year 2025 Annual Report.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

Director Gibson stated the report should address minimum threshold exceedances and evaluate impacts of agricultural changes on basin sustainability.

MOTION

Director Hamon motioned to approve the Paso Robles Subbasin Water Year 2025 Annual Report and submit to DWR by April 1st. The motion was seconded by Director Gibson and it passed unanimously.

9. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

10. Director Comments / Future Agenda

Chair Turrentine requested an overview of the fallowed land program in April.

11. Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Blakslee reported that scheduled meeting is on April 22, 2026,

Adjourn at 6:18 a.m.

Drafted by: Grace Bianchi, Hallmark Group

DRAFT



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 6b

FROM: Jacqueline Harris, Hallmark Group

DATE: April 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of March 2026 Financial Report

Recommendation

Approve financial report for March 2026.

Discussion

The financial report for March 2026 is provided as **Attachment 1**.

* * *



The summary of invoices below is presented for Board consent. Payment of invoices is expected to occur by April 30, 2026.

Vendor/Consultant	Invoice Billing Period	Invoice Total
Confluence Engineering Solutions	March 2026	\$8,743.50
Hallmark Group	March 2026	\$19,926.47
Hanson Bridgett	March 2026	\$7,661.00
Land IQ	June 2025 – July 2026	\$21,568.75
SCI Consulting Group	March 2026	\$5,963.00
Solterra Strategies, Inc. ¹	February 2026 – March 2026	\$1,487.50
Total		\$65,350.22

¹ Invoice total is net of a \$3,000 retainer previously paid and applied as a credit to the invoice.

The Authority's bank balance at J.P. Morgan Chase was \$445,741 as of March 31, 2026.



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

March 2026

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through March 31, 2026

Statement of Net Position

Current Assets	
Cash - J.P. Morgan Chase <i>(non-interest bearing checking)</i>	\$ 445,741
Accounts Receivable	-
Total Assets	\$ 445,741
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 144,313
Accrued Expenses	\$ 4,230
Total Liabilities	\$ 148,543
Net Position	
Unrestricted	\$ 297,198
Total Net Position	\$ 297,198

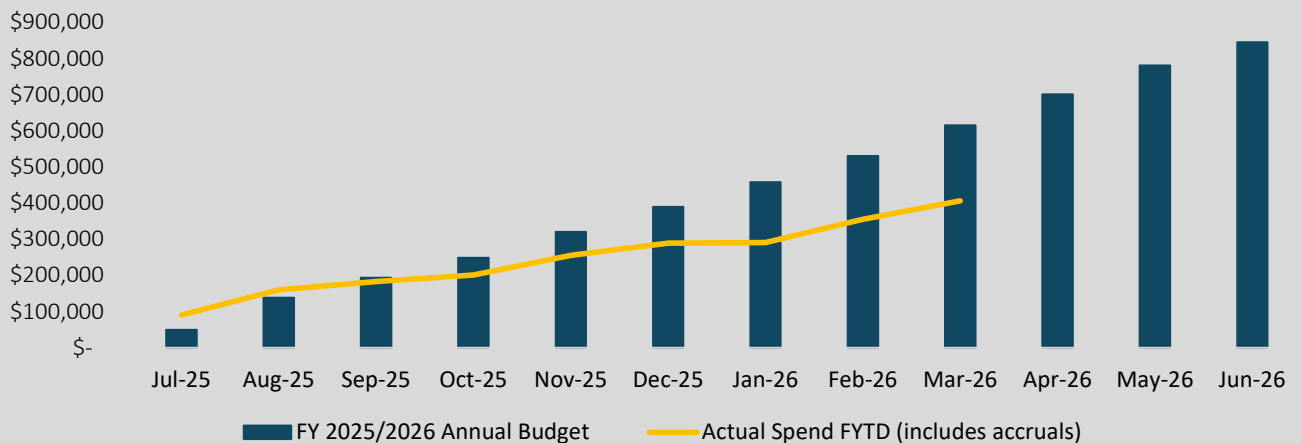
Statement of Change in Net Position With Budget Variance

	Actual ¹	Budget ²	Variance
Revenue			
Member Agency Funding	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Operating Expenses			
Annual Report - SGMA <i>(Confluence Engineering)</i>	\$ 55,663	\$ 85,000	\$ (29,337)
Contracted Administrator/ED	156,069	190,086	(34,017)
Legal Counsel <i>(Hanson Bridgett)</i>	113,726	161,603	(47,877)
Public Education and Outreach	7,250	34,300	(27,050)
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ)</i>	25,799	29,150	(3,351)
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Funding Mechanism)</i>	5,963	12,500	(6,537)
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Prop 218)</i>	34,151	34,151	-
Insurance	100	-	100
JPA Start-Up Costs	79	-	79
Office and Travel Expenses	7,524	-	7,524
Contingency	-	61,380	(61,380)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 406,324	\$ 608,170	\$ (201,846)
Change in Net Position	\$ 193,676	\$ (8,170)	\$ 201,846

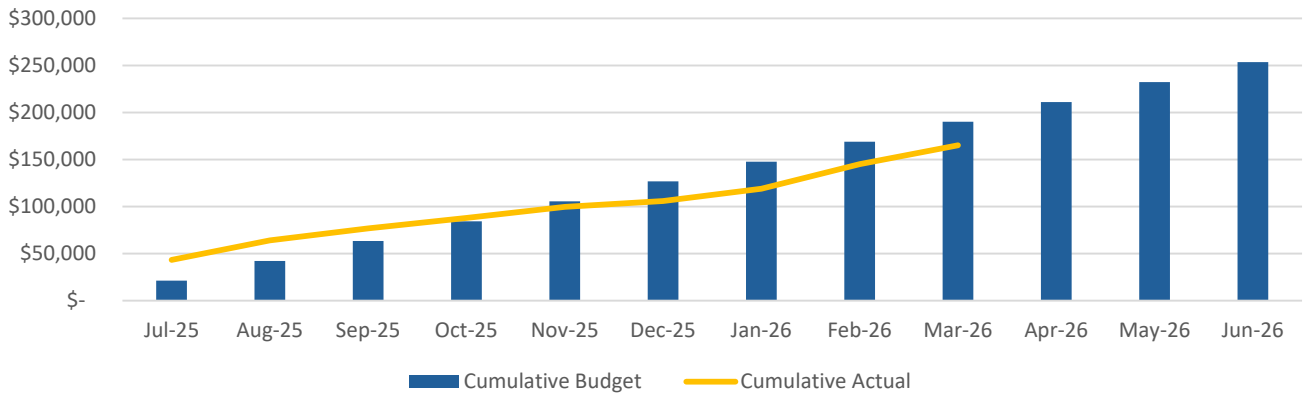
¹ Actual column includes accruals (if any).

² The annual budget is allocated throughout the current fiscal year in the months the actual spending is expected to occur.

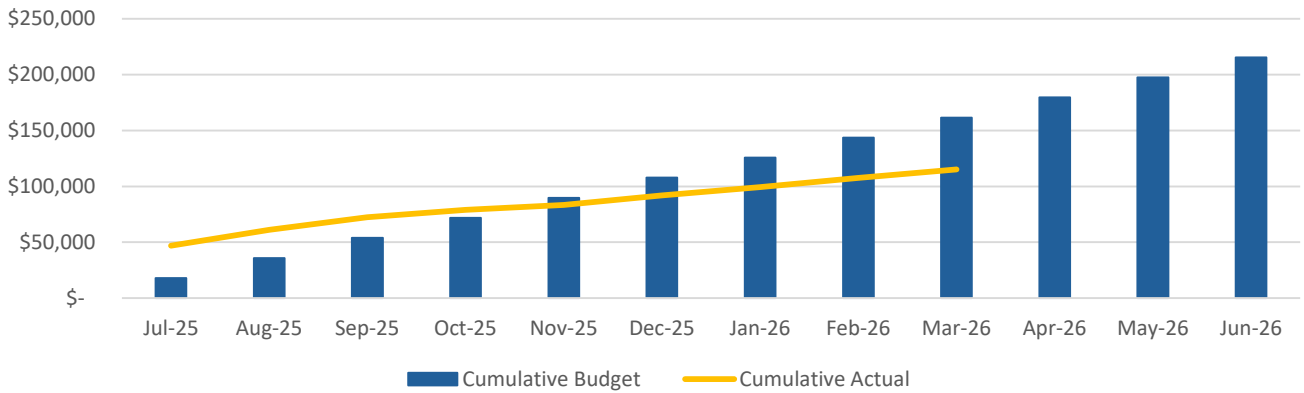
Cumulative FY 2025/2026 Budget With FYTD Actuals



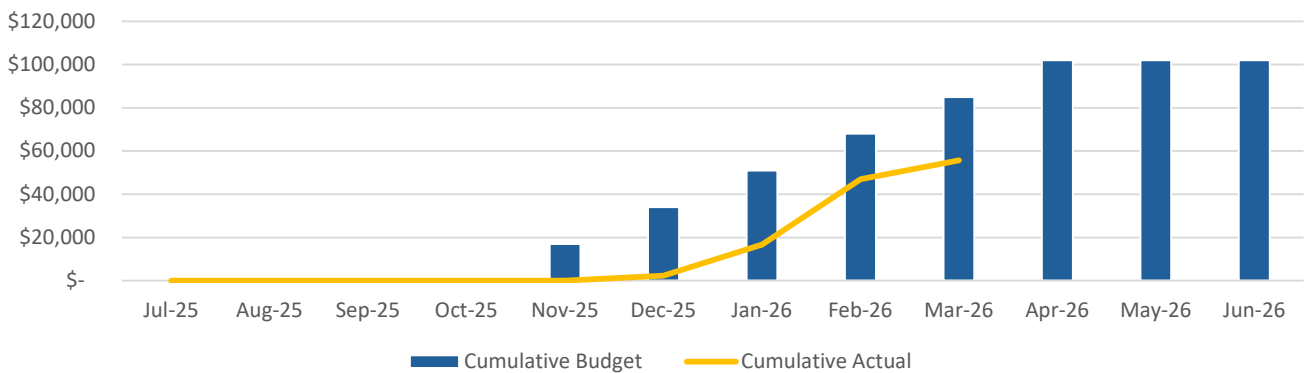
Hallmark Group FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Hanson Bridgett FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Confluence Engineering FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Receipts and Disbursements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through March 31, 2026

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Number	Name	Amount
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2599	Jerry Reaugh	\$ (132.20)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2600	Hallmark Group	(28,047.59)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2601	Hallmark Group	(16,185.55)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2602	Streamline Software, Inc.	(500.00)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2603	Streamline Software, Inc.	(6,000.00)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2604	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	(2,410.41)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2605	Paso Robles Joint USD	(204.86)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2606	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(51,259.38)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2607	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,250.00)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3000	Hallmark Group	(43,320.07)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3001	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(47,701.13)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3002	Jerry Reaugh	(206.48)
09/17/2025	Deposit	78738	City of Paso Robles	48,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	1427	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	45,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	3087990	County of San Luis Obispo GSA	99,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	1425	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	437.75
09/24/2025	Voided Check	3003	Printer error	-
09/24/2025	Voided Check	3004	Printer error	-
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3005	Hallmark Group	(20,892.42)
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3006	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,260.00)
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3007	SCI Consulting Group	(34,150.79)
10/09/2025	Deposit	1432	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	45,000.00
10/09/2025	Deposit	1568	Shandon-San Juan Water District	63,000.00
10/10/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3008	Jerry Reaugh (postage reimbursement)	(9.70)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3009	Hallmark Group	(23,585.45)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3010	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(17,864.00)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3011	Full Sail Bookkeeping	(187.74)
02/13/2026	Deposit	81078	City of Paso Robles	48,000.00
02/13/2026	Deposit	1585	Shandon-San Juan Water District	63,000.00
02/13/2026	Deposit	1447	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	90,000.00
02/13/2026	Deposit	3096874	County of San Luis Obispo GSA	99,000.00
02/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	3012	Confluence Engineering Solutions	(2,271.25)
02/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	3013	Hallmark Group	(31,286.72)
02/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	3014	Solterra Strategies, Inc.	(3,000.00)
02/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	3015	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(20,284.00)
				\$ 222,428.01

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Accounts Payable
As of March 31, 2026

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
Confluence Engineering Solutions	\$ 8,744	\$ 30,253	\$ 14,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,392
Hallmark Group	19,926	26,122	-	-	-	46,048
Hanson Bridgett LLP	7,661	8,192	-	-	-	15,853
Land IQ	-	-	21,569	-	-	21,569
SCI Consulting Group	5,963	-	-	-	-	5,963
Solterra Strategies	1,488	-	-	-	-	1,488
Total	\$ 43,782	\$ 64,567	\$ 35,964	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144,313

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Annual Budget *(Approved by the Board of Directors December 1, 2025)*
Fiscal Year 2025/2026

	FY 25/26
	Total
Operating Expenses	
Annual Report - SGMA <i>(Confluence Engineering)</i>	\$ 102,000
ET Ag Water Usage Program <i>(Land IQ)</i>	100,000
Contracted Administrator/ED	253,446
Legal Counsel <i>(Hanson Bridgett)</i>	215,471
Public Education and Outreach	46,000
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ)</i>	35,000
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Funding Mechanism)</i>	50,000
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Prop 218 Development)</i>	34,151
Insurance	6,000
Audit RFP	15,084
Website Development <i>(Streamline Software)</i>	6,000
Contingency (Reserve)	81,800
Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$ 944,952
SLO County Direct Grant Fund <i>(ET Ag Water Usage Program)</i>	\$ (100,000)
Net FY 25/26 Operating Budget	\$ 844,952



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 7a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: April 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Update and Direction on Key Policy Components for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee Report, and Set a Public Meeting Date for Potential Fee Adoption

Recommendation

Board feedback on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 groundwater sustainability fee report components and set a public meeting date of May 27, 2026 for consideration of approval for a groundwater sustainability fee for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Discussion

On February 18, 2026, the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Board directed staff to implement a groundwater sustainability fee under Water Code Section 10730 and Prop 26 to fund Fiscal Year 2026-2027 activities. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget was adopted on March 25, 2026, and is provided as **Attachment 1**.

During the March 25, 2026 meeting, the Board reviewed the proposed Prop 26 framework and provided the following direction:

- Charge agricultural, public water system, and commercial groundwater users.
- Account for de minimis users in the analysis without directly charging them at this time.
- Develop a volumetric fee structure based on groundwater use.
- Use the County property tax roll for fee collection.

Staff is drafting the groundwater sustainability fee report that incorporates this previous Board direction. Additional key policy points that will be incorporated in the fee report will be provided *on Tuesday, April 21, 2026* for Board feedback.

Staff recommends the Board set May 27, 2026 as a public meeting date to consider adoption of the groundwater sustainability fee, and if set for this date, the draft fee report will be made available to the public via email notice, posted on PRAGA's website and noticed in a periodical, in compliance with regulations, 20-days ahead of the public meeting.

Additionally, the parcel-specific consumed groundwater use calculations, which will be the basis for charging landowners, will be made available to the public for a 30-day review period, including an appeals process, starting prior to the release of the draft fee report (i.e. late April/early May 2026).

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Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Approved on March 25, 2026

Budget Components	FY 26-27
Program Administration	
SGMA-Required	
Annual Report	\$100,000
GSP Fifth Year Evaluation	\$10,000
GSP Amendment	
Groundwater Model Use/Update	
Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance, DWR Upload	\$140,860
Establish Sustainable Management Criteria & Investigate Minimum Threshold Exceedances	\$20,000
Data Management System	\$0
Evapotranspiration Agriculture Water Usage Program (LandIQ)	\$100,000
SGMA-Required Subtotal	\$370,860
Administrative	
Executive Director & Support Staff	\$216,000
Legal Counsel	\$144,000
Insurance	\$22,000
Grant Development	\$60,000
Technical Consultant(s)	
Funding Mechanism Development/Implementation for FY 26-27 (Fee Consultant)	\$50,000
Evapotranspiration Data Management (Land IQ)	\$15,000
Administration of Fee (Prop 26 or 218)	\$30,000
Public Education and Outreach Program	\$35,000
Website Management	\$6,000
GW Fee Billing & Collection	\$40,000
Administrative Subtotal	\$618,000
Program Administration Subtotal	\$988,860
Management Actions	
Regulatory Programs	
Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program	\$0
Address Additional GSP Data Gaps	\$0
Well Verification & Registration Program	\$7,000
Demand Management Programs	
Demand Reduction and Water Supply Programs	\$0
Fallowed Land Registry Program (Formerly labeled MILR)	\$0
Projects and Management Actions Subtotal	\$7,000
Subtotal	\$995,860
Contingency (i.e. Prudent Reserve)	\$99,586
Total	\$1,095,446