

RESOLUTION 2025-03

of the Board of Directors of the

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**IMPOSING GROUNDWATER CHARGE TO FUND SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26**

WHEREAS, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District is formed under Division 21 of the Water Code and elected to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) pursuant to Water Code sections 10723 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the NSJWCD GSA adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in December 2021 pursuant to SGMA and desires to implement the GSP to achieve groundwater sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the NSJWCD GSA certified the Proposition 218 proceeding for a proposed groundwater charge to fund SGMA implementation in Resolution 2022-09.

WHEREAS, the Engineer's Report for the Proposition 218 processing, culminating in Resolution 2022-09 provided that the groundwater charge could be set at no more than \$15 per acre-foot for the fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24, no more than \$20 per acre-foot for the fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and no more than \$25 per acre-foot for the fiscal year 2026-27 and beyond.

WHEREAS, NSJWCD published notice of a public hearing to receive input on setting the amount of the groundwater charge for the 2025-26 fiscal year twice prior to the date of the regular June board meeting, and held a public hearing to receive input regarding the setting of the groundwater charge at 2pm on June 30, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of NSJWCD:

1. In order to proceed and complete the projects, management actions, monitoring, reporting and other groundwater related activities required by the GSP and by SGMA, NSJWCD must generate revenue to fund these activities. The current revenue sources of the district, including the \$20 per acre-foot groundwater recharge, are not sufficient to fund all of the projects and other activities identified in the GSP and the district has not received sufficient outside funding sources, such as grants, to completely cover the budget shortfall for these projects. At the same time, the Board has heard the comments from landowners that the agricultural industry within the district is struggling with depressed commodity prices.
2. There is a need to raise additional funds to fund SGMA compliance efforts in the district to keep the GSP related projects and other SGMA compliance efforts on schedule.

3. The NSJWCD GSA imposes a groundwater charge of \$20 per acre-foot for the 2025-26 fiscal year, in accordance with Resolution 2022-09 and the Engineer's Report. The charge shall be collected through the San Joaquin County secured property tax bill or directly billed for any parcels not subject to property tax.
4. The District Engineer is directed to prepare the NSJWCD 2025-26 Groundwater Charge Roll using the methodology described in the Engineer's Report to estimate groundwater use for each parcel subject to the charge based on County Assessor land use codes, as supplemented by more accurate information provided by landowners on landowner appeal forms, and submit the roll to the County Assessor.
5. NSJWCD hereby certifies that the charges listed on the NSJWCD 2025-26 Groundwater Charge Roll to be placed on the 2025-26 Secured Property Tax bill meet the requirements of Proposition 218 that added Articles XIII C and XIII D to the California State Constitution. The charges are levied without regard to property valuation.
6. The District Engineer is authorized adjust the charges the roll upon receipt of information from landowners or the Engineer's independent investigation justifying a different charge based on number of irrigated acres and/or the amount of groundwater pumped.
7. The NSJWCD Board President is authorized to enter into an agreement with the San Joaquin County Auditor-Controller pursuant to Government Code section 29304 to pay the County 1% of the charge amount levied, or \$3 per parcel, whichever is less, for the collection of the groundwater charges.

PASSED and ADOPTED this June 30, 2025 upon motion by Director Simpson, seconded by Director Colombini, and passed by the following vote:

AYES: NOES: 4/0/0
 ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

Starr
Absent

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, a water conservation district organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held at Grape Festival Barrel Room, Lodi, California on the 30th of June 25, at which meeting a quorum of said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in whole or any part thereof, and remains in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District this June 30, 2025

Carla
Shastaburns Secretary