

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER

NOTICE OF BASIN ASSESSMENT

Release Date: 03/05/2024

On July 10, 2023, the Santa Barbara Superior Court issued a statement of decision adopting a judgment in Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara Sup. Ct. Case No. VENC100509700 (Judgment). The Judgment appoints Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) as the Watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) to implement and administer the Judgment and its physical solution. (Judgment, §§ 3.3, 5.1.)

On December 15, 2023, the Watermaster approved a Basin Assessment of \$64 per acre-foot for Water Year 2023-24 (WY2023). On February 28, 2024, the Watermaster approved invoicing the WY2023 Basin Assessment in two equal installments, effective March 1, 2024 and June 1, 2024. The first installment will be invoiced the week of March 4 and is **due by April 5, 2024** (Due Date). Payments not received within a month of the Due Date are considered delinquent and shall bear interest at the current real property tax delinquency rate for Ventura County. (Judgment, Exh. A, § 2.8.2.)

Basin Assessments are annually paid by all Water Right Holders in the Basin to provide administrative management of the Basin, investigations, inspections, compliance and enforcement, personnel costs, general operation and maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, utilities, and Basin optimization and groundwater enhancement projects. (Judgment, § 7.) Unlike FCGMA fees, Basin Assessments are based on a Water Right Holder's Annual Allocation rather than the amount of groundwater extracted during a reporting period. (Judgment, § 7.2.) Because Allocations are calculated annually, the amount of Basin Assessments may vary from year to year. Water Right Holders' WY2023 Allocation Calculations are organized by WMID in the "Water Year 2023-24 Annual Allocations Calculations," which can be accessed on the Watermaster's website at: [LPV Annual Allocations - Fox Canyon GMA \(fcgma.org\)](https://www.fcgma.org/LPV-Annual-Allocations-Fox-Canyon-GMA).

Note that Basin Assessments are separate and in addition to FCGMA fees. Currently, FCGMA is reviewing existing budgets and workplans and will adjust FCGMA fees to account for duplication.

Please contact the Watermaster at LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions.