

SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY 2026-27

May 13, 2026

EXPENSES	2024-25 ACTUAL	2025-26 YTD	2025-26 BUDGET	2026-27 BUDGET
01 - Administrative/Office Exp				
A. Professional Admin Services	\$54,500.00	\$54,375.00	\$67,500.00	\$67,500.00
B. Website	\$791.22	\$318.14	\$5,500.00	\$4,500.00
C. Facilities Use and Support Services	\$2,200.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
D. Supplies/Checks/Postage	\$91.36	\$291.36	\$500.00	\$500.00
02 - Accountant	\$7,975.00	\$8,225.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,500.00
03 - Comm Eng/Grant Writing/Non-GSP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
04 - Monitoring				
A. Quarterly Monitoring & Reporting	\$55,200.06	\$53,363.54	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
B. Annual Maintenance + Field Issues	\$15,672.65	\$19,955.44	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
C. Install Transducers	\$9,936.98	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
D. Review Well Reg to Expand Network	\$0.00	\$9,995.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
05 - Legal Counsel	\$25,944.00	\$11,205.50	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00
06 - Insurance	\$1,765.00	\$1,755.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
07 - Audit Fees	\$1,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00
08 - GSP Development Consultant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
09 - GSP Related Costs				
GSP Annual Report	\$57,453.00	\$64,982.30	\$65,000.00	\$55,000.00
GSP 5-Year Period Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$120,000.00
10 - GSP Implementation / PMAs				
A. Address Data Gaps				
i. AEM Survey Data Review	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
ii. Barka Slough - Shallow Piezometers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
iii. GDE & Barka Slough Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
iv. Streamflow Monitoring, Maintenance, & C	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
v. Update Water Use Factors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
vi. USGS Model Review	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
vii. Well Surveys (RPE)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$65,000.00
B. Well Registration + Metering	\$437.11	\$6,370.01	\$40,000.00	\$16,000.00
C. On-Call Hydrogeological Consulting	\$35,305.00	\$30,886.25	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$268,271.38	\$265,822.54	\$505,700.00	\$522,200.00
TOTAL	2024-25 ACTUAL	2025-26 YTD	2024-25 BUDGET	2026-27 BUDGET
Income Total	\$268,271.38	\$265,822.54	\$550,000.00	\$550,000.00
Expenses	\$268,271.38	\$265,822.54	\$505,700.00	\$522,700.00
Contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,300.00	\$27,300.00
Expenses Total	\$268,271.38	\$265,822.54	\$550,000.00	\$550,000.00

DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY 2026-27

May 13, 2026

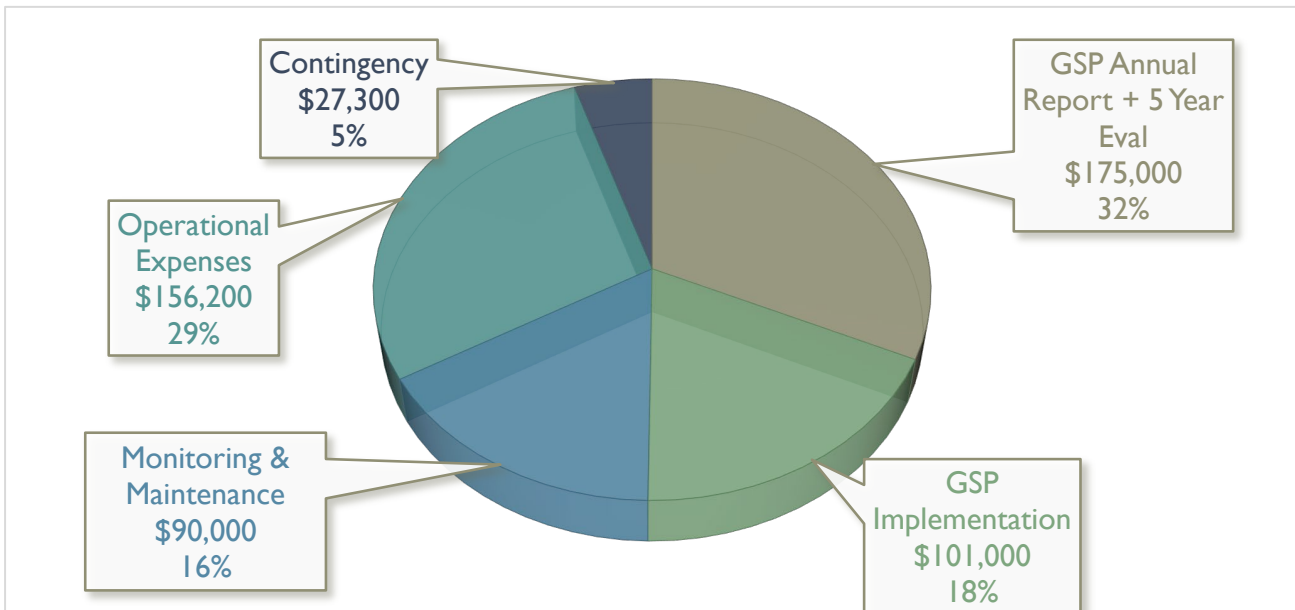
10 - GSP Implementation	
Address GSP Data Gaps	\$65,000
Metering + Reporting	\$16,000
Hydrogeological Services	\$20,000
Total	\$101,000

Operational Expenses	
01- Administrative/Office Expenses	\$74,900
02 - Accounting	\$9,500
03 - Grant Writing	\$25,000
05 - Legal	\$40,000
06 - Insurance	\$1,800
07 - Audit	\$5,000
Total	\$156,200

04 - Monitoring & Maintenance	
Quarterly GW Level Monitoring & R	\$65,000
Annual Maintenance	\$25,000
Install Transducers	\$0
Review Well Registration	\$0
Total	\$90,000

09 - GSP Reporting	
GSP Annual Report WY 2026	\$55,000
GSP 5 Year Periodic Evaluation	\$120,000
Total	\$175,000
Contingency	\$27,300

PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

FY 2026-27 **DRAFT** Budget Priorities

May 13, 2026

The draft priorities listed below are aligned with the Tier 1 Management Actions outlined in the GSP. A draft budget will be reviewed at the May 19, 2026 Board meeting. The final budget will be presented and adopted at the June 16, 2026 Board meeting. It is anticipated that SABGSA's budget will not exceed \$550,000 including a 10% contingency.

Budget Summary by Category

01 – Administrative / Office Expense - \$74,900

- A. Professional Administrative Services - \$67,500: Hourly Not-to-Exceed Contract.
- B. Website - \$4,500: Domain Name, Webhosting, etc. Web programmer to assist with making website more user-friendly.
- C. Facilities Use Fee - \$2,400: \$200 per month for up to 2 meetings per month at LACSD.
- D. Office Supplies/Printing/Postage/Checks - \$500

02 – Accountant - \$9,500

Invoices average \$775 per month. Accountant is also SABGSA Treasurer, tracks Board and Committee training (Ethics and anti-Harassment) and Form 700 compliance, and coordinates with auditor.

03 – Grant Writing - \$25,000

Grant writer to assist SABGSA in pursuing grant funding for GSP implementation. Prop 4 – part of California's 2024 Climate Bond initiative approved by voters - is expected to provide funding through DWR programs such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, Watershed Resilience Program, flood management, and water infrastructure grants. Eligible activities may include groundwater recharge, drought resilience, water supply reliability, monitoring, planning, and projects that help achieve SGMA sustainability goals. DWR is currently developing grant guidelines and funding solicitations are anticipated in FY 2026-27.

04 – Monitoring - \$90,000

- A. Quarterly GWL Monitoring and Reporting: \$65,000
SABGSA's monitoring network consists of 40 wells. SABGSA may add 4-5 wells based on well registration analysis. Current budget assumes that GSI can measure the additional wells within allotted time for each Monitoring Event and no changes in scope to the quarterly Tech Memo. NOTE: SABGSA's budget cycle is a fiscal year. However, this contract is for calendar year 2027.
- B. Annual Maintenance: \$25,000
 - \$20,000 for Barka Slough vegetation trimming along access trails to wells in SABGSA monitoring network in February and September (2 x \$10,000)
 - \$5,000 for contingency to address field issues, replace existing equipment, increased cost to A above if wells added, etc.
- C. Install Transducers: \$0
- D. Review Well Registration Data: \$0 – This was completed in FY 25-26.

05 – Legal Counsel - \$40,000

- A. General, as needed
- B. Implementation of Well Metering & Reporting Program

06 – Insurance - \$1,800

Policy for FY 26-27 is estimated to be \$1,800.

07 – Auditor - \$5,000

Financial audit and Special District Financial Transaction Report required annually. Contract for FY 2026-27 is estimated to be \$5,000 (hourly not to exceed).

08 – GSP Development Consultant - \$0

N/A. GSP approved in January 2024.

09 – GSP Related Costs - \$175,000

- A. GSP Annual Report - \$55,000: Required annually under SGMA. SABGSA combines the GSP Annual Report and Annual GWL Monitoring Report. This assumes SABGSA is not using the SACIM (USGS Model) for analyses/calculations for the WY 2026 Annual Report. The GSP Annual Report is a yearly reporting requirement that summarizes groundwater conditions and GSP implementation activities for a single water year. It includes groundwater elevation data, groundwater extraction estimates, surface water supply information, total water use, changes in groundwater storage, and progress on projects and management actions. The Annual Report is primarily a data-driven status update.

This cost estimate assumes efficiencies with 5-Year Periodic Evaluation (9B.). SABGSA’s due date is April 1, 2027. SABGSA will begin work in October 2026 with a goal of approving the Annual Report at the March 2027 Board meeting.

- B. GSP 5 Year Periodic Evaluation - \$120,000: Required every five years following GSP adoption under SGMA. The 5-Year GSP Periodic Evaluation is a broader and more comprehensive assessment of the overall effectiveness of the GSP over a five-year period. In addition to summarizing monitoring data and the status of projects and management actions, the evaluation assesses whether the GSP is making adequate progress toward achieving sustainability goals and avoiding undesirable results.

The Periodic Evaluation includes assessment of: basin setting updates based on new information or changes in water use; groundwater conditions relative to sustainable management criteria; responses to recommended corrective actions identified in the GSP determination letter; outreach and coordination with agencies and stakeholders; new information and data acquired since GSP submittal; previously unidentified challenges; consideration of adjacent basin conditions; and whether modifications or amendments to the GSP, projects, management actions, monitoring network, or sustainability criteria are warranted.

SABGSA’s due date is January 1, 2027. SABGSA to begin work in July 2026 with a goal of approving the Periodic Evaluation at the November 2026 Board meeting.

10 – GSP Implementation - \$101,000

A. Address Data Gaps - \$65,000:

- i. Review Data from Statewide Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys Performed by DWR - \$0: The AEM project provides SABGSA with basin-specific and cross-basin geophysical data, tools, and analyses for understanding aquifer structures. It can also help with the

refinement of the HCM and help identify areas for recharging groundwater. GSI's scope of work would include review of data, comparison to GSP HCM and SACIM HCM, and development of a tech memo. Estimate \$25,000 for FY 27-28 Budget. (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).

- ii. Install Stream Gages and Piezometers at Barka Slough: No stream gages needed at this time. SABGSA is utilizing gages that USGS/VSFb have provided. Estimate \$20,000 in FY 27-28 for planning, equipment, and installation of 3 shallow piezometers in the Slough. This assumes GSI can install manually, and a contractor is not needed. Need to investigate if permitting or bio surveys are needed. Could potentially use satellite/model in lieu of piezometers based on review of recent USGS/County/VSFb Barka Slough climate impact report (A.vi. below). (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- iii. GDE & Barka Slough Survey. (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- iv. Streamflow Monitoring, Maintenance, Calibration. (Tied to 10.A.ii. above – Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- v. Update Water Use Factors - \$0: Evaluate Crop Type Water Use Factors and Update Water Budget - This was validated by using the satellite-based method for the last couple of years and compared to crop water duty-based calculations. (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- vi. USGS Model Review - \$0: San Antonio Creek Integrated Model (SACIM) Review/Update of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). In April 2025, the USGS, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), completed an assessment of potential future climate scenario effects within the Basin and Barka Slough. The assessment extended the SACIM through water year 2021 and included simulation of two 30-year future climate scenarios for water years 2022 through 2051.

The SACIM is publicly available. Results from the future climate scenario simulations were used to evaluate potential climatic effects on streamflow, groundwater flow, recharge, groundwater conditions within Barka Slough, and potential impacts to riparian habitat and species.

For future Basin reporting and analysis, SABGSA may consider use of the SACIM for evaluation of proposed Basin projects and management actions, including recharge projects, allocation programs, water market scenarios, varying climate conditions, revisions to the Basin HCM, and calculation of changes in groundwater storage for GSP annual reporting purposes.

A future GSI scope of work may include review of the 2022 and 2025 modeling reports, review of the SACIM, and preparation of a technical memorandum evaluating potential future model scenarios and applications (e.g., reduced pumping scenarios). SABGSA estimates approximately \$50,000 for this work in the FY 2027-28 Budget after one full year of groundwater extraction reporting data is available following flow meter installation pursuant to Ordinance 25-001. (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget)

- vii. Reference Point Elevation Survey (SGMA-driven) - \$65,000: 25 wells in the network have ground surface elevations that do not meet accuracy standards (within 0.5 feet under SGMA) based on DWR best management practices. Measurements of elevations, aquifer-system compaction, and water levels would be used as a monitoring point for

interconnected surface water and to improve SABGSA's understanding of the processes responsible for land-surface elevation changes. Elevation or elevation-change measurements are fundamental to monitoring land subsidence. NOTE: To potentially reduce the number of surveys, SABGSA would request that GSI work with DWR to identify any outstanding State Well Numbers for wells that have RPEs on NWIS (USGS database).

B. Metering & Groundwater Extraction Reporting Program: \$16,000

- Wallace Group - \$16,000: Notifications/Mailings to Landowners, on-call support, input flow meter installation data and extraction reporting.
 - Existing Contract signed in April 2025: \$25,000 with \$9,000 spent to date
 - Budget for FY 26-27: \$16,000 left on current contract

C. On-Call Hydrogeological Consulting (GSI Water Solutions): \$20,000

- Ongoing coordination/consultation with SABGSA
- Collaborate with Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. to share existing Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program well information.
- Planning for Barka Slough vegetation trimming
- Assistance with SABGSA budgeting and project planning
- Hosting, managing, and expanding DMS
- Trend Monitoring
- Other services and meeting attendance, as needed, at the request of SABGSA
- Other considerations for discussion include:
 - Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)/AgMAR Feasibility Study

Tier 1 Management Actions (from GSP) for Reference:

A. Address Data Gaps - Expand Monitoring Well Network in the Basin to Increase Spatial Coverage and Well Density

- Continue public outreach to Basin stakeholders to discuss participation in the Monitoring Network. (Budget Item 4A).
- Perform ongoing maintenance of the well access trails within Barka Slough (Budget Item 4B).
- Purchase and installation of transducers in, at a minimum, all RMS wells. (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- Review SABGSA Well Registration Program data to identify existing candidate wells to incorporate into the Monitoring Network. **Completed in FY 25-26.**
- Reference Point Elevation Survey (SGMA-driven) - 25 wells in the network have ground surface elevations that do not meet accuracy standards (within 0.5 feet under SGMA) based on DWR best management practices (Budget Item 10.A.vii.).
- Collaborate with Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. to share existing Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program well information (Budget Item 10.C.).
- Install Shallow Piezometers at Barka Slough (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- Review Water Usage Factors and Crop Acreages and Update Water Budget (**Complete**).

- Review USGS Groundwater Model/Update HCM (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- LACSD Wellfield Pumping Coordination/Offsite Well Impact Mitigation (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).
- Survey and Investigate Potential Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) in the Basin and further characterize Barka Slough (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).

B. Well Registration Program and Well Metering/Reporting (Budget Item 10.B.)

C. Water Use Efficiency Programs (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).

D. Groundwater Pumping Fee Program (Not included in FY 26-27 Budget).