

## Press Note

### Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023

Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) established under the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 is mandated to provide for the management and regulation of water resources in the State for ensuring its judicious, equitable and sustainable utilization and management thereof. The Authority has notified the **“Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023”** in the Official Gazette of the State of Punjab.

The Directions do not cover groundwater use for agriculture, drinking and domestic purposes. Directions also exempt government water supply schemes, military and central paramilitary establishments, urban local bodies, panchayati raj institutions, cantonment boards, improvement trusts, area development authorities and places of worship. Exemption has also been provided to all users who extract groundwater less than 300 cubic metres per month.

All non-exempted users shall have to submit an application to the Authority for seeking permission to extract groundwater. The groundwater charges commence from February, 1 2023. The groundwater charges have been fixed to reflect the extent of groundwater stress in each block of Punjab. They are highest in the most groundwater stressed blocks. The blocks of Punjab have been categorised in three zones based on the extent of annual groundwater extraction in comparison to annual groundwater recharge for fixing the groundwater charges. Accordingly, the blocks have been categorised as Green (up to 100%), Yellow (101-199%), and Orange (200 % and above). A map showing the three zones is attached and is available at PWRDA website: <https://pwrda.org>.

The groundwater extraction charges are as under:

Status of Assessment Area	Volume of Groundwater extracted (cubic metres per month)				
	Up to 300	> 300 up to 1,500	> 1,500 up to 15,000	> 15,000 up to 75,000	Above 75,000
	Charges in Rupees per cubic metre				
GREEN	0	4	6	10	14
YELLOW	0	6	9	14	18
ORANGE	0	8	12	18	22

These charges have been approved by the Government of Punjab.

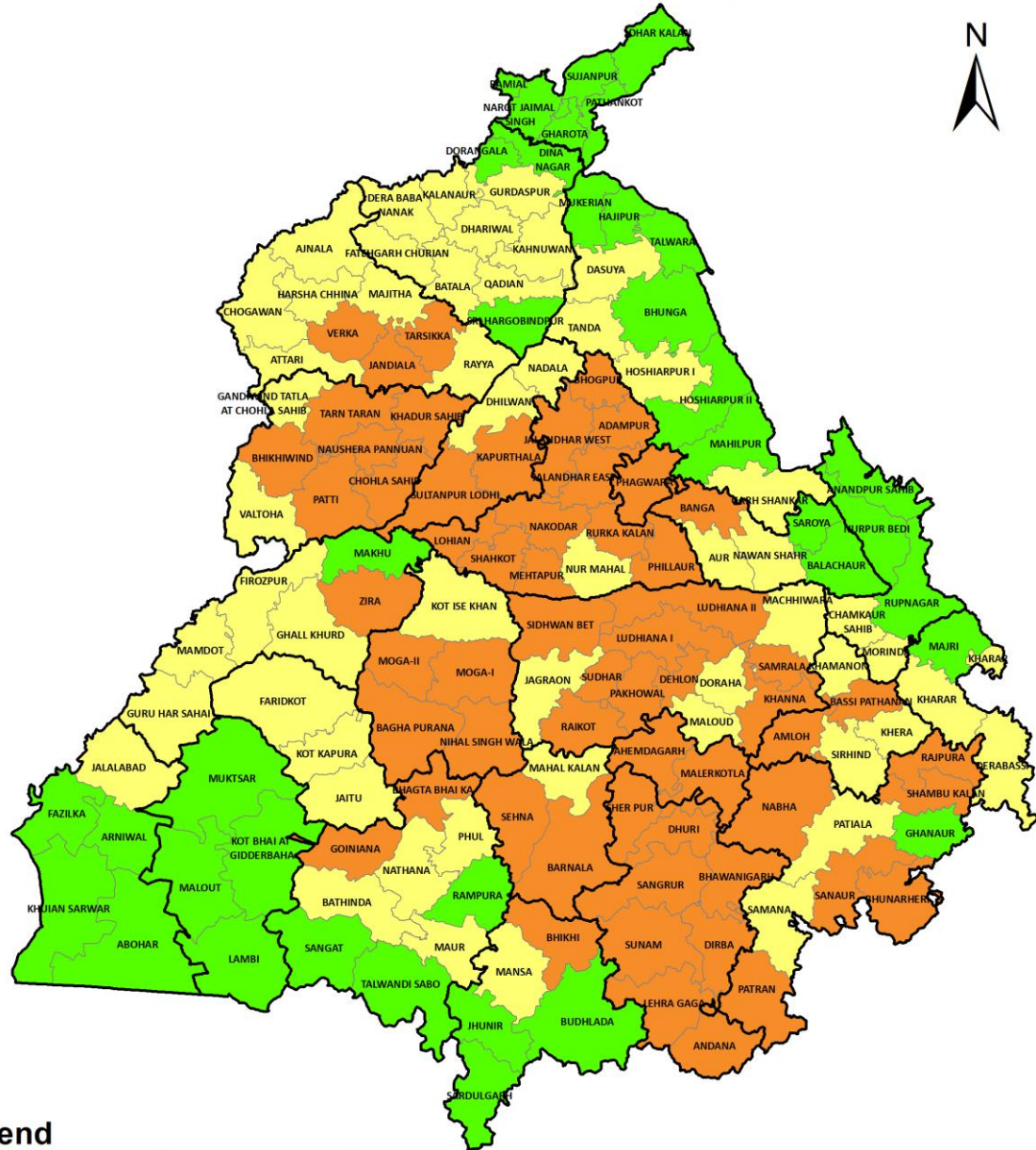
Existing groundwater users need to apply within three, six, or nine months if their monthly volume of groundwater withdrawal is more than 15,000 cubic metres, 1501-15000 cubic metres and 301-1500 cubic metres, respectively. Users shall install water meters on each extraction structure and pay their monthly bills as per the meter readings.

A user not applying for permission within the stipulated time shall be required to pay Non-Compliance Charges. Other violations of the Directions shall also make the user liable to pay Non-Compliance Charges.

The Directions encourage users to conserve water through conservation schemes to be submitted for approval of the Authority. The Authority will also fund public water conservation activities and projects to be implemented by various government departments.

These Directions shall be applicable with effect from February, 1 2023. All details regarding Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions are available at PWRDA website: <https://pwrda.org>.

# Status of Groundwater Assessment Areas in Punjab (Year 2022)



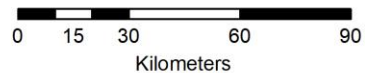
## Legend

Category Stage of Groundwater Extraction(%)

Green	≤100
Yellow	101 -199
Orange	≥ 200

## General Legend

	Block Boundary
	District Boundary



PWRDA Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023