

**County of Madera - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies'
Advisory Committee - May 17, 2019 2:00 P.M.
Board Chambers, Madera County Government Center
200 West 4th Street, Madera, California
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting brought to order - 2:05 pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All saluted the flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Clay Daulton

Bryant Elkins

Devin Aviles

Javier Marquez

Ralph Pistoresi

Kevin Herman

Jim Maxwell

Bill Diedrich

Jared Samarin

Ben Pitman

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ralph Pistoresi read a poem, "This Garden We Knew."

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 252 – Dexter Marr

Dexter Marr from the County's Environmental Health Department described requirements of SB 252. This law requires that by January of 2020, the city or county that receives an application for a well permit in a critically overdrafted basin to make the information about the new well included in the application for a well permit available to both the public and to groundwater sustainability agencies and easily accessible. This applies to Ag, Industrial, and Dairy; there is an exemption for de minimus users. These applications are posted on line for public viewing, not public comment or approval. Madera County will have a draft of the supplemental Well Application available in mid-summer and is working on the process.

6. WEB SITE UPDATE – Stephanie Anagnoson and Kim Witten

The staff has made some changes to the website based on requests by this committee and members of the public. The website is maderacountywater.com and archived presentations are available on a Presentations page as well as in the Event Calendar.

7. UPDATE ON SUBBASINS & CALENDAR – Stephanie Anagnoson

Stephanie Anagnoson reported the grants received by the County's Department of Water and Natural Resources for SGMA and Flood Projects. The flood-related grants are administered by Dario Dominguez, the Flood Engineer, total over nine million dollars. The SGMA-related grants that have been awarded are close to six million dollars.

The Madera Subbasin has released Chapter 1 & 2 of the Joint GSP. Comments are being accepted at the specific email: maderagspcomments@maderacounty.com.

- Chowchilla Subbasin Meeting - May 29 from 10:00 – 2:00 at Portuguese Hall
- Delta Mendota – Week of May 20 several meetings around the Subbasin
- Madera Subbasin Meeting – May 29 from 2:00 – 5:00 in Madera BOS Chambers

Existing recommendations were reviewed and discussed with the group including on February 12, 2019 the Advisory Committee recommended that as part of the GSP, “NG” should be allocated equally across irrigated and unirrigated land within the County GSAs. March 7, 2019 – the AC recommended a 10% reduction in total use the first 5 years – at about 2% per year – and remaining reduction on a consistent annual basis. Followed by a credit system still to be discussed. The State wants a unified vision for a plan in the Subbasin, though there is not a requirement to have one plan.

8. ALLOCATION OF EXISTING STORED GROUNDWATER DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION – Stephanie Anagnoson and Greg Young

Native Groundwater is precipitation and percolation in river and streams – water that is here naturally. Native groundwater (NG) can be proportionally shared within each subbasin. There needs to be a transitioning from current use to native groundwater. For the first five years, it will be at 2% decrease, the amount then needs to increase to get to zero by 2040. To aid with converting to lower groundwater use, the County GSAs expects to allow continued pumping of a smaller and smaller annual quantity until “NG” is met. This is ESG – Existing Stored Groundwater – similar to NG, the total available ESG for each year can be allocated by acre – presented three options.

Three options were presented:

- 1 – Year 1 ‘ESG’ allocated equally to current crops, then reduced equally each year until zero
- 2 - Year 1 ‘ESG’ allocated by crop ETAW need, then reduced equally each year until zero
- 3 – Year 1 ‘ESG’ allocated in all lands of each GSAs, then reduced equally each year until zero

Comments and suggestions from the Committee were extensive but included adjusting the ramp down, treating irrigated and non-irrigated land differently.

9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Stephanie Anagnoson

Stephanie gave a report on the status of RFQs, RFPS and grants at the County.

- Groundwater monitoring wells project for awarded to L & S
- Water Marketing Strategy project has not yet been awarded pending Bureau of Reclamation contract, but is in process.
- Rate Study for County GSAs is in process.
- Ellis Basin is functioning with a MOU with MID for recharge. This is an example of a successful small basin with an agreement between agencies.
- Outreach is continual for example pop-ps for information have been done at the Library and the swap meet and there are plans to translate meeting notes into Spanish
- Assisting the Farm Bureau with SGMA survey to get information out to everyone

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Several committee members gave comments, including advice to be aware of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and concern over the slope of the ramp down.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 5:05

Next Meeting Date: TBD as a special meeting.