

Glossary for Water Market Webinar on April 30, 2020

This is intended to be a short, non-technical glossary for the Madera County Water Market Webinar on April 30, 2020. Longer definitions are in Appendix 2I of the Madera and Chowchilla Groundwater Sustainability Plans available at maderacountywater.com.

Acre – a unit of measurement for land; 1 acre = 43,560 square feet

Acre-foot – a unit of measurement for water; an acre in area one foot deep; 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

Allocation – an amount of water annually assigned to each acre of land in the subbasin; in the webinar, this allocation is discussed only for agricultural users of water

Groundwater - water beneath the surface of the earth

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) – an agency tasked with developing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP)

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) – a local plan for achieving a level of sustainable groundwater use by 2040; in Madera County, GSPs were due to the state by January 30, 2020

Native groundwater - Water naturally infiltrating into the groundwater from rain and runoff

Subbasin – part of a groundwater basin; Madera County has three groundwater subbasins within it

Trading – buying or selling of an allocation of water; In Madera County, this is proposed only for agricultural water users (farmers)

Water market – a market for buying and selling allocations of water; in Madera County, this market is being explored for agricultural water users (farmers)

Well Moratorium – a ban on installation of new wells; in Madera County, there is no well moratorium