

AGENDA  
For County of Madera County  
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies  
Advisory Committee  
June 4, 2020  
2:00 PM

1. Call to Order – 2:05 pm  
The meeting began as Jeannie H reviewed the guidelines/format of a Zoom Webinar and how online platforms work. Devin A then reviewed the agenda and called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance  
At this time, all were asked to turn off their cameras as they stood to say the Pledge.

3. Roll Call – Committee Members Present (alternates noted with “a”)

Angela Islas (a)	Jim Maxwell	Ben Pitman (a)
Madeline Harris (a)	Devin Aviles	Jared Samarin
Jerry Kazynski	Greg Hooker (a)	Clay Haynes
Clay Daulton	Bryant Elkins	

Additional alternates present

Jay Quick	Albert Guravage	Mike DeLaGuerra
Karun Samran	Sam Lopes	

Staff present included Stephanie Anagnoson, Jeannie Habben, and Kirsten Heffner. Mike Linden, Deputy County Counsel, and Greg Young, engineering consultant for the County.

4. Public Comment  
• No Public Comment

5. Ambassador Report - Committee  
There were no reports made by the Committee.

6. Domestic Wells and Small Systems Update - Stephanie Anagnoson  
Stephanie A explained that many domestic wells are in rural areas and often times, rural living is not well understood. In these rural residential areas each home has its own well/pump and wells and pumps have a limited lifespan. These wells are the responsibility of the homeowner for repairs and replacements. She explained that the Madera Joint GSP and Chowchilla GSP address mitigation measures in the Appendix for some issues that may be caused by groundwater levels dropping and, there are multiple agencies working on the issue. Some of the agencies that were mentioned were County WNR-PW, State Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Local OES, and Self-Help Enterprises.

In 2019, the County GSA Advisory Committee invited Self-Help and started an Ad Hoc Committee to talk about well mitigation. This group identified critical elements including clear communication, less paperwork, speedy process to assist the understanding of the multiple barriers for participation, they will address data gaps in terms of the extent of the problem and make distinctions between short-term versus longer-term solutions.

It was explained that some of the short-term solutions are deepening wells, providing water dispensing stations, bottled water, water tanks, and point of use or point of entry

devices. Some of the long-term solutions that were discussed were the formation of small water systems with others and/or connecting to pre-existing systems. Some of the issues or challenges were then discussed with these and the other solutions.

As one example of assistance with water issues, the Madera County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services has partnered with the Community Action Partnership of Madera County and others to assist with those with water needs.

7. Director's Report – Stephanie Anagnoson

a. Annual Reports

The annual reports for both the Madera and the Chowchilla Subbasins were submitted on time in April.

b. Data Management System

After advertising and interviewing, Houston Engineering, Inc. was contracted with in February to begin working on the Data Management System for both Subbasin GSAs.

c. Water Market Workshop and Grant Update - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant (awarded in 2018) - A Water Market Workshop/Webinar was held on April 30 with over 100 people in attendance. The webinar touched on water trading allocation under market strategy and SGMA, as well as water market structure and options to understand partner concerns.

d. Strategic Agricultural Land Conservation Grant Update - Strategic Agricultural Land Conservation Grant (awarded in 2019) - An RFP has gone out for proposals for this project, a contract has been offered and gone to the Board of Supervisors.

e. Recharge Studies

This RFP is out to find a consultant for a contract would ideally begin on July 1, 2020 to provide the planning, analyzing, designing and implementing of dedicated recharge basins as well as on-farm recharge.

f. Rate Studies

This RFP is also out to find a consultant for a contract would ideally begin on July 1, 2020 to provide rate study services for immediate needs to slightly amend the GSA fee based on improved mapping data of parcels within the County GSAs.

g. Satellite/Meter Technology for Groundwater Monitoring

This RFP is out to find a qualified firm/professional for a contract would ideally begin on July 1, 2020 to quantify water use for the Madera County GSAs (the GSAs managed by Madera County) at least on a monthly basis.

8. Allocations (in County GSAs) – Stephanie Anagnoson and Greg Young

This item was added to the agenda by the chair though it was explored in May 2019 at two Advisory Committee meetings. Prior meetings have discussed that SGMA gives the GSAs authority to exempt de minimis domestic users and that 95-98% of water use in Madera County is by agriculture so the focus of allocations is for agriculture only.

At this meeting there was discussions of the big picture approach going over what an allocation is, how it might be implemented, what the basic options are, and what may be some of the pitfalls to avoid.

9. Adjournment – approximately 4:00

Next Meeting Dates: at 2:00pm on August 6, October 1, and December 3