

CV-SALTS

Public Outreach Meeting

October 16, 2020

3:30 pm

Via teleconference

NOTES

In attendance:

Sarah Woolf – Water Wise
Kristi Robinson – Water Wise
Christina Beckstead – Madera County Farm Bureau
Allison Macias – Fagundes Dairy
Stephanie Sherrell – Touchstone Pistachio
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla Water District
JP Cativiela – Dairy Cares
Angela Islas – Self Help Enterprises
Eddie O'Campo - Self Help Enterprises
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Jeff Troost
Layne Baroldi- Synagro
Vicki Kretsinger Grabert - LSCE
Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Richard Meyerhoff- GEI
Barbara Dalgish – LSCE
Ben Pittman – Poultry
Alex R
Breanne Ramos – Merced County Farm Bureau
Darcy Vlot
Chris Montoya – DWR
Mark Hutson
Matthew Elvena
Trent
Rebecca Quist
Zsolow
Donald Ikemiya – P&P
Greg Hooker
Simi Kaur
Amanda Monaco – Leadership Counsel
Joey Giordano
Laura Brown
Madeline Harris – LCJA
Manuel Leon
Pricilla Baker
Laura Satterlee
Charlotte Mitchell - CA Farmland Trust

Power Point on Nitrogen in the Chowchilla Subbasin:

Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau gave a welcome to all participants and introduced Vicki Kretsinger Grabert with LSCE to explain CVSALTS/Nitrogen Control Program. Vicki walked through the slides about Nitrogen Control and providing a clean drinking water supply to areas with elevated Nitrate levels. Richard Meyerhoff with GEI discussed the possible near-term solutions available to provide a clean drinking water supply.

Questions

- 1) Mark Hutson asked why a farm is classified as a “discharger”? Why are not all urban users also included as “dischargers”? – Vicki (LSCE) answered and explained why different parties are included at this time.
- 2) A request for the presentation to be made available to everyone. – The presentation is available on the Madera County Website.
- 3) What are the estimated costs of the program? – Richard – GEI answered the process of determining some of the costs for the program.
- 4) Mark Hutson asked the examples from the Salinas Valley can be utilized? – Richard (GEI) answered that as they get more details on what Salinas learned and did, they may be incorporated into the Chowchilla plan.
- 5) Madeline Harris asked how will the areas with high nitrate be identified and then have the nitrate reduced? Vicki – LSCE talked about the steps laid out in the law to meet the requirements.
- 6) Pricilla Baker asked how many wells are impacted in the Chowchilla subbasin? Vicki – LSCE responded that they are currently identifying the estimated number wells.
- 7) Mark Hutson asked how SGMA might help with reducing the nitrate levels as GW supplies improve. Vicki – LSCE stated that both SGMA and the Nitrate Management Program will be working hand in hand into the future.
- 8) Mark Hutson asked if there have been any specific instances of recharge causing contaminated groundwater. Vicki – LSCE was not aware of any FloodMAR programs finding contamination or increase of contamination problems. She mentioned a USDA grant project that evaluated on-farm recharge and potential effects. The Regional Water Board is aware that short-term effects may occur in response to mobilizing legacy nitrate; however, long-term benefits occur with groundwater replenishment.
- 9) A request was made to add more detail to the map to determine if some of the problem is caused by septic or wastewater treatment. Vicki – LSCE commented that more detail will come as more data is collected.

The meeting ended at 4:20 pm