

**BEFORE THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

In the Matter of	)	Resolution No.: <u>2020 - _____</u>
	)	
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER	)	<b>RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A</b>
MANAGEMENT ACT -	)	<b>GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION</b>
RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF	)	<b>APPROACH TO BE ADOPTED BY THE</b>
DIRECTORS	)	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>
	)	
_____	)	

**WHEREAS**, the County of Madera (“County”) is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) for areas within the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota subbasins (collectively the “subbasins”) that are not otherwise covered by another GSA, and in this capacity the County Board of Supervisors sits as the ex officio Board of Directors (“Board”) for the three County GSAs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Committee to the County GSAs (“Advisory Committee”) is a committee that was created by the Board for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating matters related to SGMA compliance, including the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for each subbasin, and making recommendations to the Board as desired or directed; and

**WHEREAS**, the County GSAs have adopted GSPs that describe a sustainable yield of approximately 0.5 acre-feet per acre for the subbasins;

**WHEREAS**, consumptive use of groundwater within the County GSA boundaries exceeds the available sustainable yield, and the GSPs identified demand reduction as a critical management action to achieve SGMA objectives;

**WHEREAS**, the County GSAs have analyzed groundwater use over historical periods to the present, and have noticed a significant increase in water demand caused by recent plantings of permanent crops and the replacement of lower-water using plants with higher-

water using plants, thus further exacerbating the challenges the GSPs seek to address with respect to achieving sustainability within the subbasins; and

**WHEREAS**, after discussions for more than a year, the key components of an allocation approach are ready for implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Committee has been a significant participant and contributor to these discussions, and recognizes the importance of moving forward with demand reduction initiatives, of which an allocation approach is critical element;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Advisory Committee recommends to the Board that the County GSAs' approach to allocating groundwater (the "allocation approach") in the subbasins be adopted in accordance with the following:

1. The key principles of the allocation approach for the County GSAs are described below:

- a. Certainty
- b. Domestic Water Protection
- c. Fairness
- d. Flexibility
- e. Overlying Groundwater Rights Protection
- f. Simplicity

2. The allocation approach will include access to groundwater categorized classified using two designations:

- a. A "sustainable yield" of native groundwater, that is, water that naturally exists in the subbasins from seepage and percolation; and
- b. "Transitional water" that is continued overdraft of the subbasins, but will incrementally decrease during the GSP implementation period.

3. The allocation approach will be a process whereby sustainable yield access is offered to overlying groundwater rights users every five years, and whereby participation will include (a) the opportunity to pump a designated quantity of sustainable yield within each year, (b) the opportunity to pump a designated quantity of transitional water within each year, and (c) the requirement to pay for pumped quantities of sustainable yield and transition water based upon a volumetric rate structure that is to be established.

4. The allocation approach will allow the County GSAs' per-acre (parcel-based) allocations of sustainable yield and transition water to be shared within designated "farm units" that would meet criteria defined by the County GSAs, so as to allow flexibility and reflect real-world farming conditions in which resources are shared among commonly owned lands.

5. The allocation approach will include monitoring of evapotranspiration ("ET") and the ET of applied water ("ETAW") for designated "farm units" and the comparison of ETAW to assigned allocations, where such services will be provided through a contract between the County and Irriwatch, with quality assurance and quality control performed by both Irriwatch, GSP consultant Davids Engineering, and County staff.

//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//

\* \* \* \* \*

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, by the following vote:

DAC Member-1 voted: \_\_\_\_\_

DAC Member-2 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residential Member-1 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residential Member-2 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Ag Member-1 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Ag Member-2 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Permanent Ag Member-1 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Permanent Ag Member-2 voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Delta-Mendota Member voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock Member voted: \_\_\_\_\_  
At-Large Member voted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Devin Aviles  
Chairman, Advisory Committee

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Anagnoson  
Director – Dept. of Wat. & Nat. Resources

Approved as to Legal Form:  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_