

Madera County GSA Update

February 1, 2022



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Outline

- Status of GSPs
- Rates and Penalties
- Allocations
- Meters as alternatives to ETAW



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Status of GSPs

Letters from the state Department of Water Resources (DWR)

- Chowchilla Subbasin
 - Preliminary letter in November 2021
 - Response from GSP group in January 2022
 - Final letter in January 2022 for “incomplete”
 - Scope in place to revise/augment/edit GSP
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin
 - Preliminary letter in December 2021
 - Final letter in January 2022 for “incomplete”
- Madera Subbasin
 - October 2022 notification



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Rates

Current work with rates includes:

- Consider eliminating the payment to never irrigated (and moving funds to irrigated)
- Increasing the payment to irrigated acres (to come out of production) as part of land repurposing
- Analyzing how to use a hybrid and/or volumetric rate
- Timing is ASAP



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Penalties

Water Code section 10732 reads as follows:

(a) (1) A person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract under a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted pursuant to Section 10725.2, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per acre-foot extracted in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract. Liability under this subdivision is in addition to any liability imposed under paragraph (2) and any fee imposed for the extraction.



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Penalties

Water Code section 10732 reads as follows:

(2) A person who violates any rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted pursuant to Section 10725.2 shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to comply within 30 days after the local agency has notified the person of the violation.



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Allocations

- Allocation Workshop for growers on 1/13/2022
- Updates in the portal include:
 - Auto enrollment for those not enrolled
 - Monthly allocation report accessed in Irrigate
 - Ability to tie a well to specific parcel fields
- 2021 Allocation v. ETAW Reports mailed to all parties in Farm Units week of 1/24/2022



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Meters

- 2021 Verification project attempted to reconcile meter data to ETAW
 - Many growers did not want to share data
 - Those that shared data had older meters and/or non-standard installations
 - Difficult to map what's metered to fields in Irrigate
- 2022 Verification Project will
 1. be boots on the ground
 2. establish selection criteria
 3. mobile data collection platform
 4. implementation of project
 5. analyze results
 6. document results
 7. present results



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Meters

- Meter data can be used to appeal ETAW from satellite data analysis (Irriwatch), but growers can also use ETAW
- Framework is in Resolution 2021-113 and process is being worked on
- Appeals need to be based on
 - Totalizing flow meters installed and maintained per manufacturer's specifications and certified by an engineer in the field within the last two years of the date of the appeal
 - Flow data must be recorded monthly, including a photo (working on portal to upload all of that)
 - Map of the area irrigated by flow meter
 - Any other sources of data should be accurately measured and accounted for monthly
 - Third party will review data and make a determination about validity
 - Third party determination is final



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