



Madera County GSA Voluntary Land Repurposing Program

Stakeholder Workshop
September 20, 2022

Agenda

1. Introductions and GSP review
2. What is the voluntary land repurposing program (SALC)?
3. Land repurposing program development
4. Next Steps



Introduction and GSP Review

Groundwater Conditions Without Projects

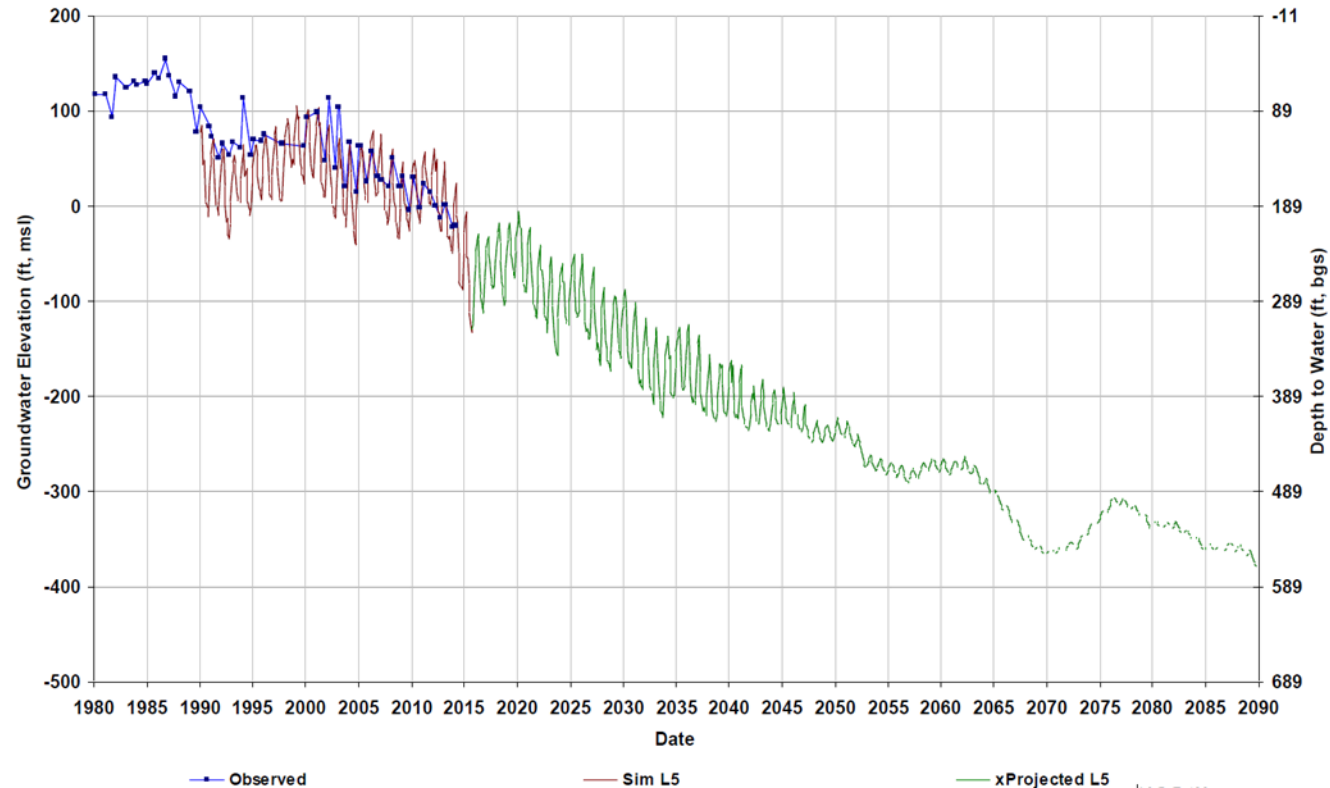
MCSim - Projected

Appendix E.3.

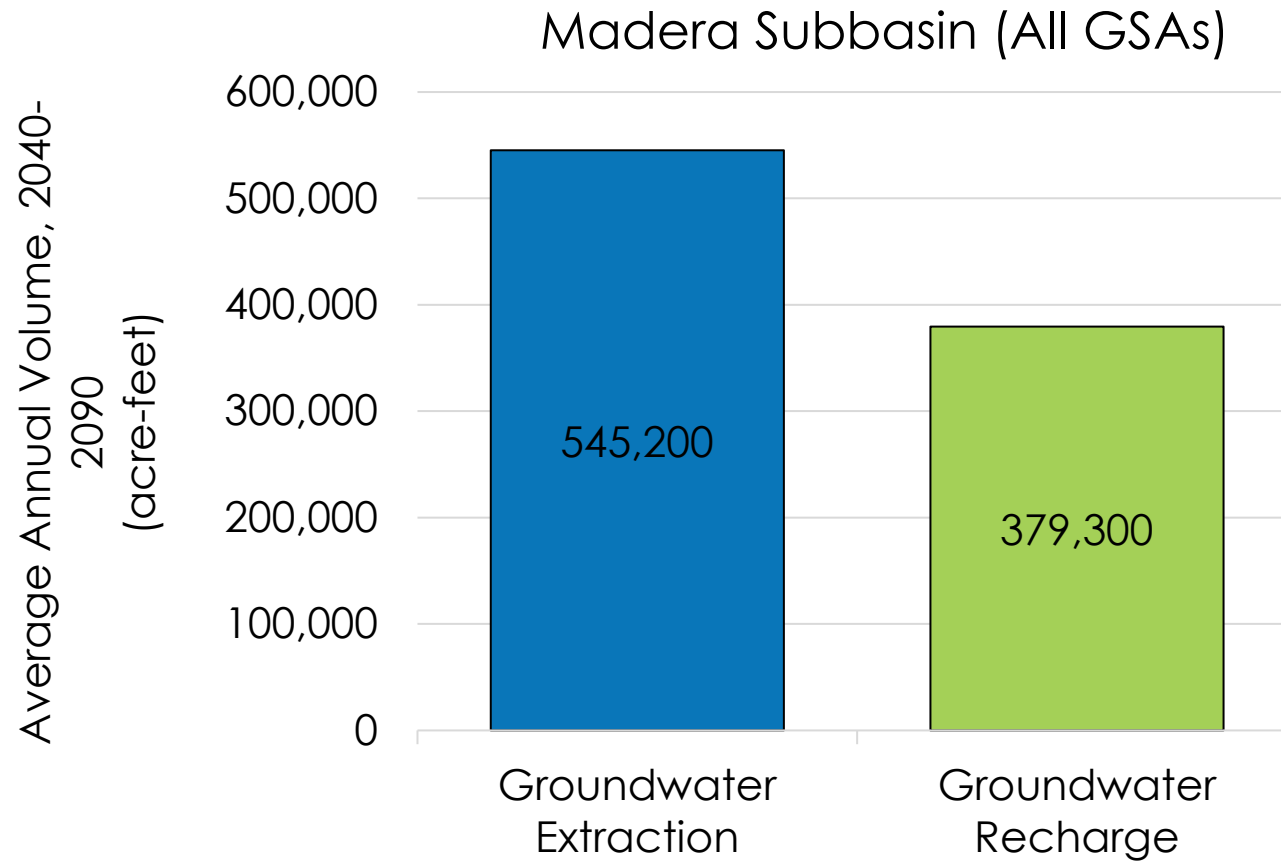
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 Depth Zone: Unknown; Outside CC
 Subbasin: Madera
 GSE (ft, msl): 189

SAMPLE WELL

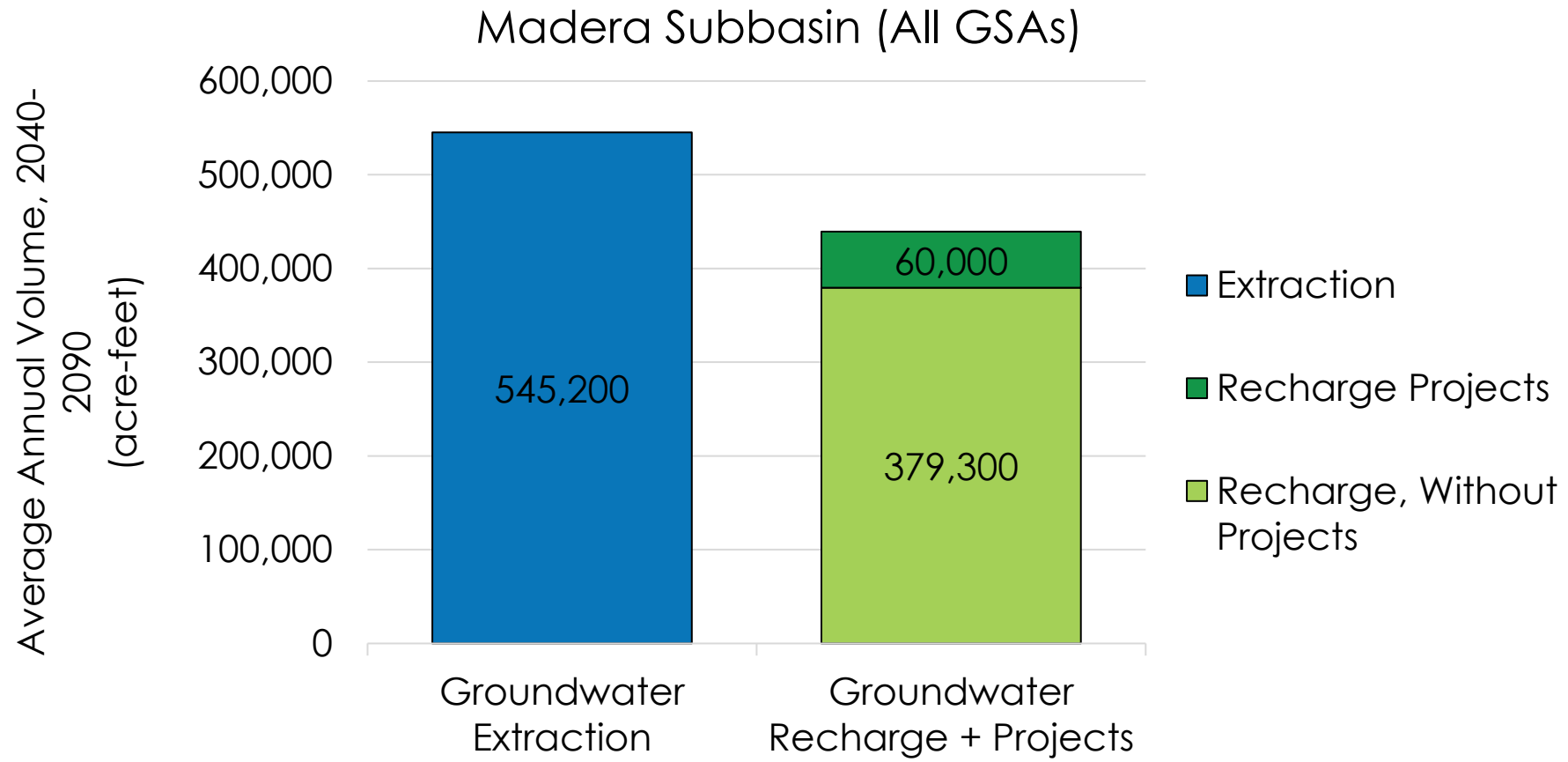
Total Depth (ft):
 Perf Top (ft):
 Perf Bottom (ft):
 Top Model Layer: 5
 Bottom Model Layer: 5



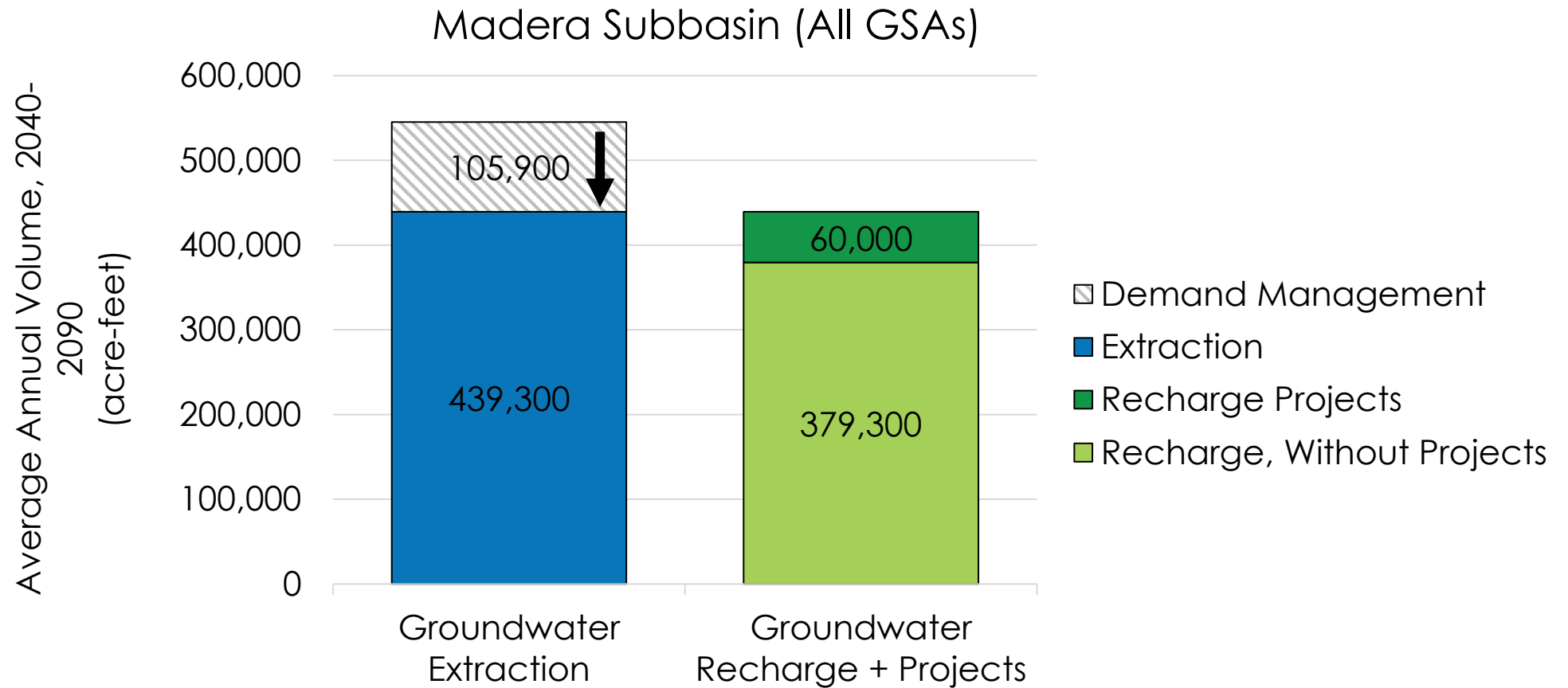
Simplified Groundwater Budget Without Projects



Develop Projects to Increase Recharge



Develop Programs to Reduce Demand



Groundwater Conditions With Projects

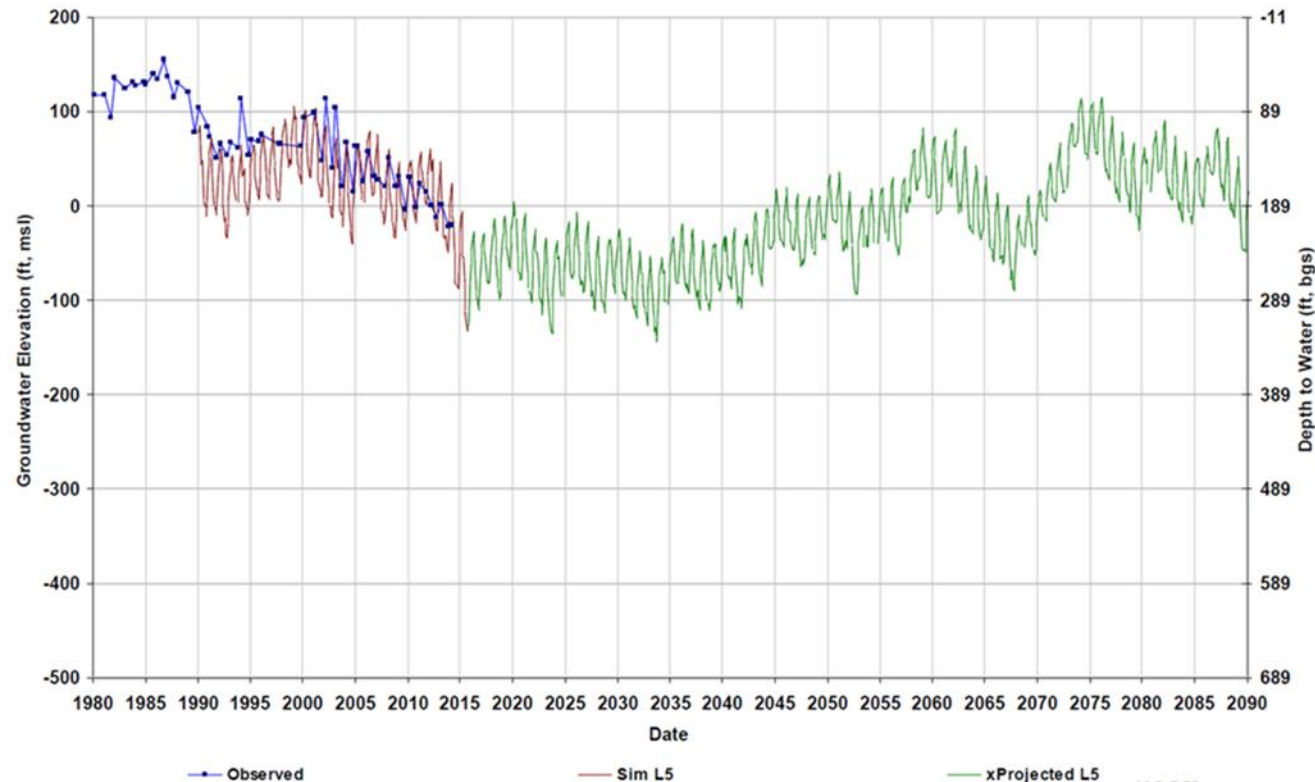
MCSim - Projected with Projects

Appendix E.1.


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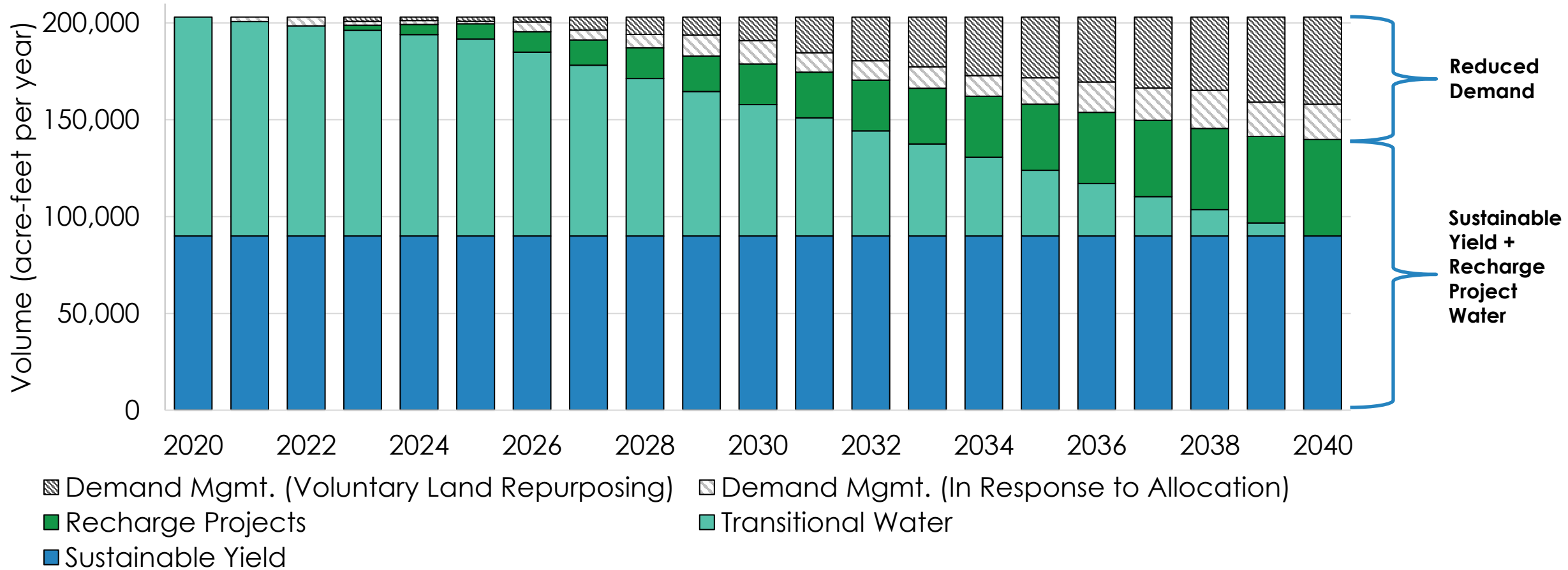


Madera County GSA Projects Summary

- Increased recharge in the Madera County GSAs
 - Recharge (basins, flood-MAR, in-lieu)
 - Other supplies and transfers
- Reducing demand
 - Allocation
 - Allocation + potential water market
 - Land repurposing 
 - Multi-benefit land repurposing
 - Other financial incentives

GSP Implementation Example

Madera Subbasin, Madera County GSA





What is Land Repurposing (SALC)?

Voluntary Land Repurposing

- Initial development was funded under a Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation (SALC) grant
 - The land repurposing program has been referred to as the “SALC” program in other GSA planning documents
- The current phase builds off foundational development work and stakeholder input
 - This phase will define specific program rules, operations, and contractual arrangements

How Does the Program Work?

- It is voluntary
- Lands may enter into a contract with the program
 - Contracted lands receive an incentive payment in exchange for the Sustainable Yield and Transitional Water allocation
 - The program is funded by the GSP fee



Program acquires water (+ other benefits) from contracted lands

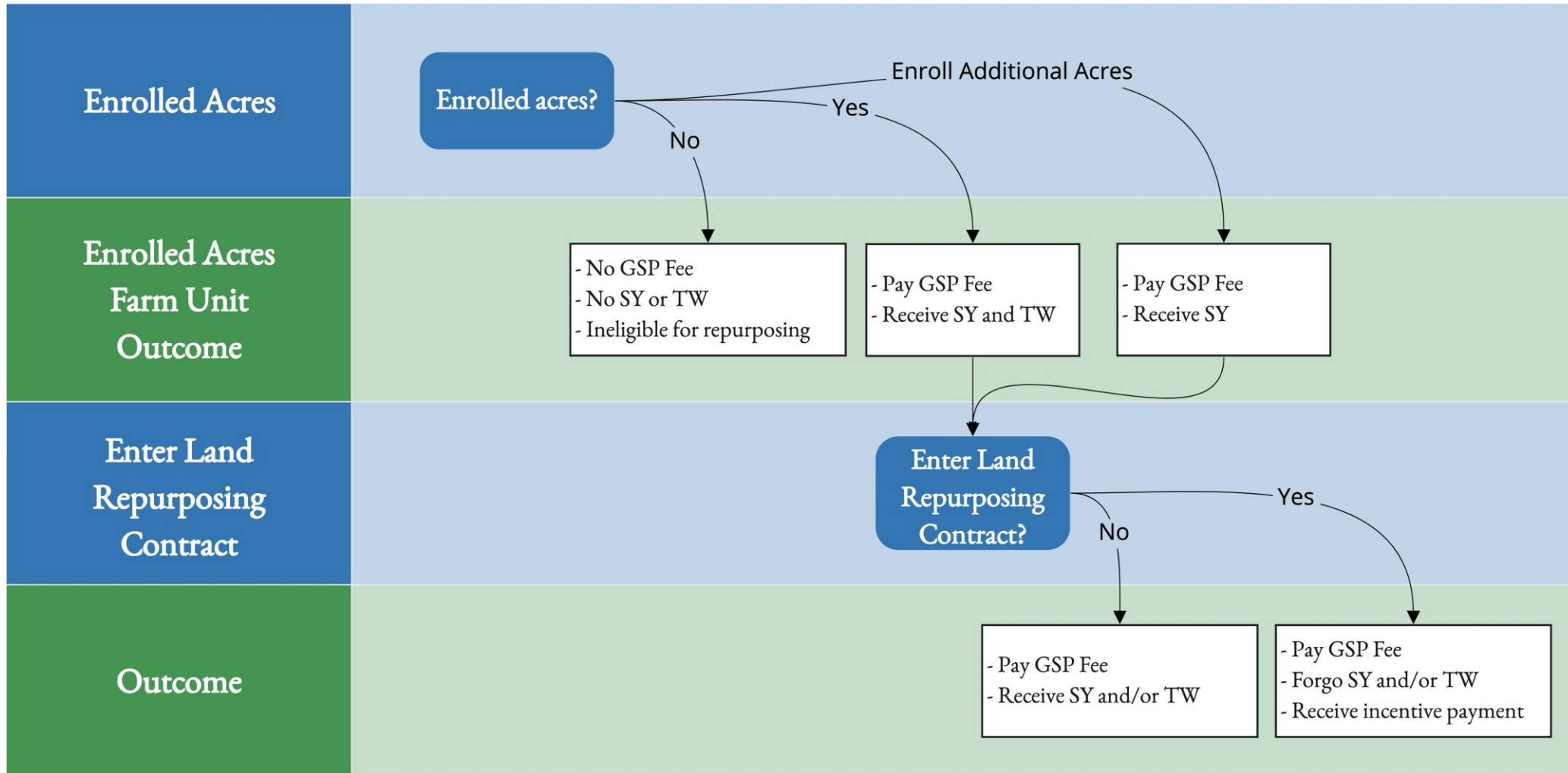
GSP fees pay for the program incentive payments



Why Land Repurposing?

- GSP implementation includes phased demand management
 - The Sustainable Yield and Transitional Water allocation is managed across the Farm Unit
 - Transitional Water decreases over time
- Land repurposing is a voluntary program that provides an additional option, and flexibility, for managing an allocation within a Farm Unit

Overview of Land Repurposing Options





Land Repurposing Program

Land Repurposing Program

Eligibility

- What lands can contract with the program?
- How does this affect other programs?

Monitoring

- Verify compliance
- Tracking water use and allocations to Farm Units
- Other monitoring

Contracting Process

- Length of contract?
- Consistency with multi-benefit options
- Timeline for issuing incentive payments

Incentive Structure

- How are bids offered/received for the program?
- Process for bid submission, review, and selection

Land Management

- How are repurposed lands managed?
- Weed management, other cultural practices?

Other Contract Provisions

- Landowner/tenant considerations
- Termination provisions
- Title restrictions

Incentive Payment Options

Option 1

- Fixed bid set by GSA
- How does it work?
 - Amount set by GSA
- Considerations
 - Take it or leave it offer
 - Would need to be tailored to contract terms

Option 2

- Reverse auction
- How does it work?
 - Bids are ranked and accepted by cost
- Considerations
 - May reduce costs relative to Option 1
 - Specific to contract terms

Option 3

- Other modifications to Option 1 or 2

Survey link >> bit.ly/3BdEbo7

Contract Duration Options

- The length of the contract affects:
 - Flexibility for the landowner/grower
 - The cost of acquiring water
 - Administrative costs for the GSA
- Potential contract lengths
 - 1 – 2 years
 - 3 – 5 years
 - 5 – 10 years
 - Permanent

Survey link >> bit.ly/3BdEbo7

Land Management Options

- Lands that are no longer irrigated will need to be managed during the duration of the contract
- During the contract, the land would be managed at the expense of the landowner
- Managing repurposed lands
 - Weed control
 - Dust control and air quality
 - Specific management practices – tillage, vegetation management
 - Other, existing easements
 - Other multi-benefit opportunities

Survey link >> bit.ly/3BdEbo7



Next Steps

How is the Program Implemented?

- Receive feedback from this workshop
 - Begin to develop program implementation
 - Program adoption would be subject to development of contracts and ordinances with appropriate Board of Supervisors approval
- Targeting implementation for the 2023 year
- Upcoming opportunities for input
 - Brief progress update to Board of Supervisors at the October 2022 meeting
 - Scheduling for next public workshop TBD
 - Subsequent presentation to the Board of Supervisors