

MADERA

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HEART OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY



# Outline

1. Program background
2. Outreach and stakeholder input
3. Draft program rules and feedback
4. Next steps



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Background

- Initial development of land repurposing funded through 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 program is now transitioning into implementation based on development and stakeholder input.
- Land repurposing funded through the Proposition 218 fee in the Madera and Delta-Mendota Subbasins.
  - Currently under a temporary injunction



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Background

- **What is land repurposing?**
  - **Voluntary:** Land repurposing is a voluntary program in which the GSA and landowner enter into an agreement.
  - **Temporary:** Based on stakeholder feedback, the agreements would be temporary (not permanent) and may last between 1-5 years.
  - **Competitive:** Based on stakeholder feedback, the GSA would use a competitive application process known as a reverse auction.
  - **Benefits Nonparticipants:** Groundwater saved through this program would be reallocated to the remaining eligible enrolled lands.



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Outreach and Stakeholder Input

- **Public Meetings and Workshops:** Recordings and materials available on County website
  - August 6, 2020
  - January 14, 2021
  - March 23, 2021
  - June 16, 2021
  - September 20, 2022 – Survey to gather feedback on program design
  - October 26, 2022 – Interactive bidding exercise and survey on program design
- **Newsletter Announcements:** Emailed updates regarding program and public meetings/workshops
- **Website:** Updated with current information; draft rules posted
- **Interest Form:** For interested parties to receive notifications of applications opening



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Draft Program Rules

## Rules describe:

- Eligibility
- Application Process
- Selection Process
- Land Management Requirements
- Monitoring and Verification
- Payment Terms
- Termination
- Allocation of Program Water
- Modification Process
- Schedule

The full version is in the board packet and posted on the County website.



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Grower Feedback

## Feedback themes:

- Partial ParcelField eligibility and minimum acreage
- Rendering trees/vines unable to use water
- Standard v. modified reverse auction
- Enrolled acres pay the fee
- Dust and weed management and enforcement

The redline version is on [maderacountywater.com](http://maderacountywater.com).



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# Voluntary Land Repurposing Program: Next Steps

- Board review and consideration of program
- Pending approval:
  - December 2022
    - Applications open
    - Announcement and solicitation (email and mailed brochure)
  - January 2023
    - Allocation period begins January 1, 2023
    - Selection and execution of agreements
  - March 2023
    - First installment of incentive payment
  - November 2023
    - Pending verification, second installment of incentive payment



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