



MANAGING RESOURCES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
ROOT CREEK WATER DISTRICT  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**AGENDA**

will be held on

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

**11:00 a.m.**

**(or immediately following the Root Creek Board of Directors meeting)**

at the Lodge at Riverstone

370 Lodge Road

Madera, CA 93638

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public may address the Board on any matter related to the District that is not included on the Agenda. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.

**3. POTENTIAL CONFLICT(S) OF INTEREST**

*(Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse himself or herself from discussing and voting on the matter).*

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

*(Members of the Board or Staff may provide comment on any timely matter related to the District that is not included on the agenda).*

#### 5. STAFF REPORT

a. **General Manager** – The Board may take action on any of the following items:

- i. Madera Subbasin Status Update
- ii. Other items as needed

#### 6. ADJOURN

- Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order.
- Action may be taken on any item listed on the Agenda.
- Writings relating to open session Agenda items that are distributed to members of the Board of Directors will be available for inspection at the District office, excluding writings that are not public records or are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Acts.
- **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 may request the District to provide a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in any public meeting of the District. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the District. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, or by written correspondence to the District at (559) 970-8778 or P.O. Box 27950, Fresno, California 93729, at least 48 hours before a District



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

April 6, 2023

Thomas Greci  
General Manager  
Madera Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
12152 Road 28 ¼  
Madera, CA 93637  
[tgreci@madera-id.org](mailto:tgreci@madera-id.org)

Dear Mr. Greci,

I am requesting clarification on behalf of the Department of Water Resources (Department), Sustainable Groundwater Management Office (SGMO) regarding the recently submitted Revised Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) as one of four GSPs for the Madera Subbasin (Basin 5-022.06, hereafter "basin"), which was uploaded to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Portal on March 21, 2023. As with the original Madera Subbasin Joint GSP, the revised GSP states that it was prepared by four groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs): Madera Water District GSA, City of Madera GSA, Madera County GSA, and Madera Irrigation District GSA. However, information uploaded to the SGMA Portal indicates only three GSAs have adopted this plan—the Madera Irrigation District GSA (MID GSA) has apparently not adopted the plan.

SGMO's records indicate that MID GSA adopted the original Joint GSP, submitted to the Department January 31, 2020. On September 22, 2022, the Department determined that the GSPs for the basin were incomplete, including the original Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. SGMO understands the submission of the Revised Joint GSP was intended to be an effort to address the deficiencies identified in the Department's incomplete staff report. The apparent lack of adoption of the Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP by MID GSA is not consistent with how the initial GSP was treated and raises significant questions. The resubmitted GSP without MID GSA's adoption adds ambiguity to the January 22, 2020, Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement and the March 2023 amendment to the Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement. The Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement refers to GSPs for each party and specifically references in several places GSPs adopted by each party. The March 21, 2023, First Amendment to The Madera Subbasin Coordination Agreement does not appear to clarify or explain the circumstance of MID GSA not adopting the revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. Furthermore, on March 28, 2023, the MID website contained a news update stating the MID Board was unable to take action on (e.g., adopt) the Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. The release explained the board's refusal to adopt as grounded in concerns about GSP implementation and GSA cooperation in the basin. It reported that the "MID Board of Directors strongly felt the Revised GSP did not address these concerns," and that it "failed to address ... very impactful changes and factors."

Thomas Greci  
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The Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP states it covers almost 90% of the basin, and MID GSA's jurisdiction covers almost 50% of the basin. SGMA grants certain powers to GSAs to implement SGMA, but only if a GSA adopts and submits a plan to the Department. The failure of MID GSA to adopt the Revised Joint GSP raises significant questions regarding basin management under SGMA, especially in the area covered by MID GSA. Accordingly, SGMO requests written responses to the following questions:

- 1) Has MID GSA adopted the Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP, or intend to adopt this GSP by May 5, 2023? If yes, provide the date of the action and a copy of the resolution, or the date in which MID GSA anticipates adoption to be considered by your board.
- 2) If MID GSA does not intend to adopt the Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP, are you committed to implementing the Revised Madera Subbasin Joint GSP in its entirety as submitted to the Department? If not, what GSP does the MID GSA intend to implement?
- 3) Please explain who and how lands within the jurisdiction of the MID GSA will be managed under SGMA and specifically identify and discuss the relevance of key documents describing, establishing, and confirming this structure (i.e., plans, cooperation agreements, MOUs, etc.)?

Please provide your written responses by April 21, 2023 (14 days) to me at [Paul.Gosselin@water.ca.gov](mailto:Paul.Gosselin@water.ca.gov). SGMO will review the information you provide and determine if further clarification or actions are necessary prior to continuing our review of the revised submittal for the basin and issuance of a determination.

Sincerely,

*Paul Gosselin*

Paul Gosselin  
Deputy Director  
Sustainable Groundwater Management

cc: John Davids, Madera Subbasin Point of Contact, [john@davidsengineering.com](mailto:john@davidsengineering.com)  
Natalie Stork, State Water Resources Control Board, [Natalie.Stork@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Natalie.Stork@Waterboards.ca.gov)