



MADERA COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION TEAM

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Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency Litigation Update

(Madera, CA) – In 2022, a group of growers sued Madera County primarily relating to fees for projects towards groundwater sustainability adopted by the Madera County GSAs. These projects were widely discussed over a multi-year period with the shared goal to support farming now and in the future.

On October 30, 2024, the County filed a motion to dismiss the “Prop 218” lawsuit regarding fees because of errors in the complaint and other legal arguments. At the very beginning of the lawsuit and before the County filed its motion to dismiss, the County pointed out these errors to the plaintiff, but they were not addressed.

More importantly: If the motion is successful, there will be public meetings to discuss how to move ahead. The County GSAs will continue to look for ways to manage the Subbasins so as to not cause harm and ongoing disputes. Regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit, the County GSAs have actively been looking at ways of reducing the fees based on success with grants and new data on potential participation rates. As with the handling of previous actions, the Board of Directors for the Madera County GSAs will continue to seek stakeholder input and discuss a path forward in public meetings with proper notice.

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