



ITEM 4

Informational Item: Measurement Method and/or Groundwater Platform Presentations (unranked):

- a) Hydrosat (Measurement data)
- b) Land IQ (Measurement data)
- c) California Water Data Consortium with Open ET and Groundwater Accounting Platform (Measurement data + platform)
- d) 4 Creeks with Basinsafe (platform)
- e) Davids Engineering and H2oTech with RemoteTracker (platform)
- f) MLJ with Watermark (platform)
- g) United Water Tracking Systems with the Water Dashboard Accounting Platform (platform)



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Timeline for RFP

- Measurement Methods went to the GSA Committee for discussion on April 1, 2025, and May 6, 2025 (with RFP)
- Added groundwater accounting platform to the RFP
- Board of Directors of Madera County GSA reviewed RFP on May 13, 2025
- Eblast RFP on May 15, 2025 with phone calls to likely respondents
- Water Wrights Article May 19, 2025
- 7 proposals received on June 15, 2025
 - Posted on Measurement page of website
 - Included in packet
- 7 short presentations on July 1, 2025 of 5-7 minutes
- Updates provided in August and September at GSA Committee meeting



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How We Are Handling Questions

- The purpose of an RFP is to select a service without having a bias
- All respondents need to be asked the same questions
- Submit questions to the question box (or via email to WNR@maderacounty.com by 7/3 noon) and all respondents will receive the questions
- Responses will be posted on our website, maderacountywater.com/measurement



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Looking Ahead

- Questions will be distributed to respondents
- Responses will be posted by July 15, 2025
- Questionnaires will be mailed out July 2, 2025 for return by July 31, 2025
 - What is your preferred satellite measurement method?
 - Do you support Madera County GSA funding more than one satellite measurement option?
 - Which groundwater accounting platform do you prefer?
- All materials are available on maderacountywater.com/measurement
 - Proposals
 - Responses to questions
 - Video of presentations



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Respondents

1. Hydrosat: Measurement Data
2. Land IQ: Measurement Data
3. California Water Data Consortium with Open ET and Groundwater Accounting Platform: Measurement Data/ Platform
4. 4 Creeks with Basinsafe: Platform
5. Davids Engineering and H2oTech with RemoteTracker: Platform
6. MLJ with Watermark: Platform
7. United Water Tracking System with Water Dashboard Accounting Platform: Platform



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ITEM 5

Action Item: Consideration and Recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a resolution amending Resolution 2022-086 and repealing and replacing resolution 2022-198 establishing revised fees for Domestic Well Mitigation Program for the Madera Subbasin.



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A black and white photograph of an olive grove, showing rows of olive trees with dense foliage and shadows cast on the ground.

Recommend: Domestic Well Mitigation Fee for Madera Subbasin

**Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency,
Groundwater Sustainability Project**

GSA Committee Meeting

July 1, 2025

What We Presented on 6/3/25

- A limited rate for domestic well mitigation only
- \$67/acre in a farm unit for three years; then \$43/acre thereafter
- Assumptions
 - \$35K per well
 - Addressing those on "interim solutions" over a three-year period (but not "resolved wells" as in Chowchilla)
 - 10% program administration
 - County GSA cost share at 73% of Subbasin Costs

$$Rate = \frac{Costs}{Enrolled\ Acreage}$$

2022 Rate Study

- Years of outreach on addressing continued groundwater decline identified four solutions:
 - Land Repurposing
 - Recharge
 - Water Purchases
 - **Domestic Well Mitigation**

	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Rate Study (\$/Enrolled Acre)	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$246
2025 Recommended (\$/Enrolled Acre)	\$67	\$67	\$67	\$43	\$43

What We Heard on 6/3/25 (and afterward)

- Why must a program be funded?
- What program details are available?
- Why is only ag paying for this? Why isn't the residential sector paying?
- Where did 73% cost sharing figure come from?
- Can penalties offset part of the program?
- Is there a way to exempt those under base sustainable yield?
- What if wells end up costing more than \$35k/well?
- Is there a way to create a ceiling on the revenue collected?

Why a Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- Agreed to by GSAs in the Madera Subbasin in 2019 original GSP to allow for continued drawdown in water levels
 - › Transition Water within the annual allocation through 2040
- Currently, state SAFER funding has supported domestic well mitigation to CBOs (and is going away)
- The Domestic Well Mitigation program does not add water to the subbasin
- Absent other projects or changes in allocation structure, the allocation is 13 inches in 2040 (in the Madera Subbasin)
- Each Madera Subbasin GSA has revenue streams for their share of the program
 - › Without a fee, the County GSAs would not have adequate funds

Program Details

- SB 552 grant is funding facilitation and development of rules
- There will be public meetings to review full rules
- GSAs have met multiple times
- Some agreement on funding based on proportional share
- Basic Steps
 - › Application with minimal deposit
 - › Review to see if qualified (all domestic wells)
 - › Inspection to ascertain why well went dry – only damage caused by dropping water levels will be mitigated
 - › Program will fund a well only (not pump, not interim solution)
 - › Program can be used once (recorded on deed)

Domestic Well Mitigation Program

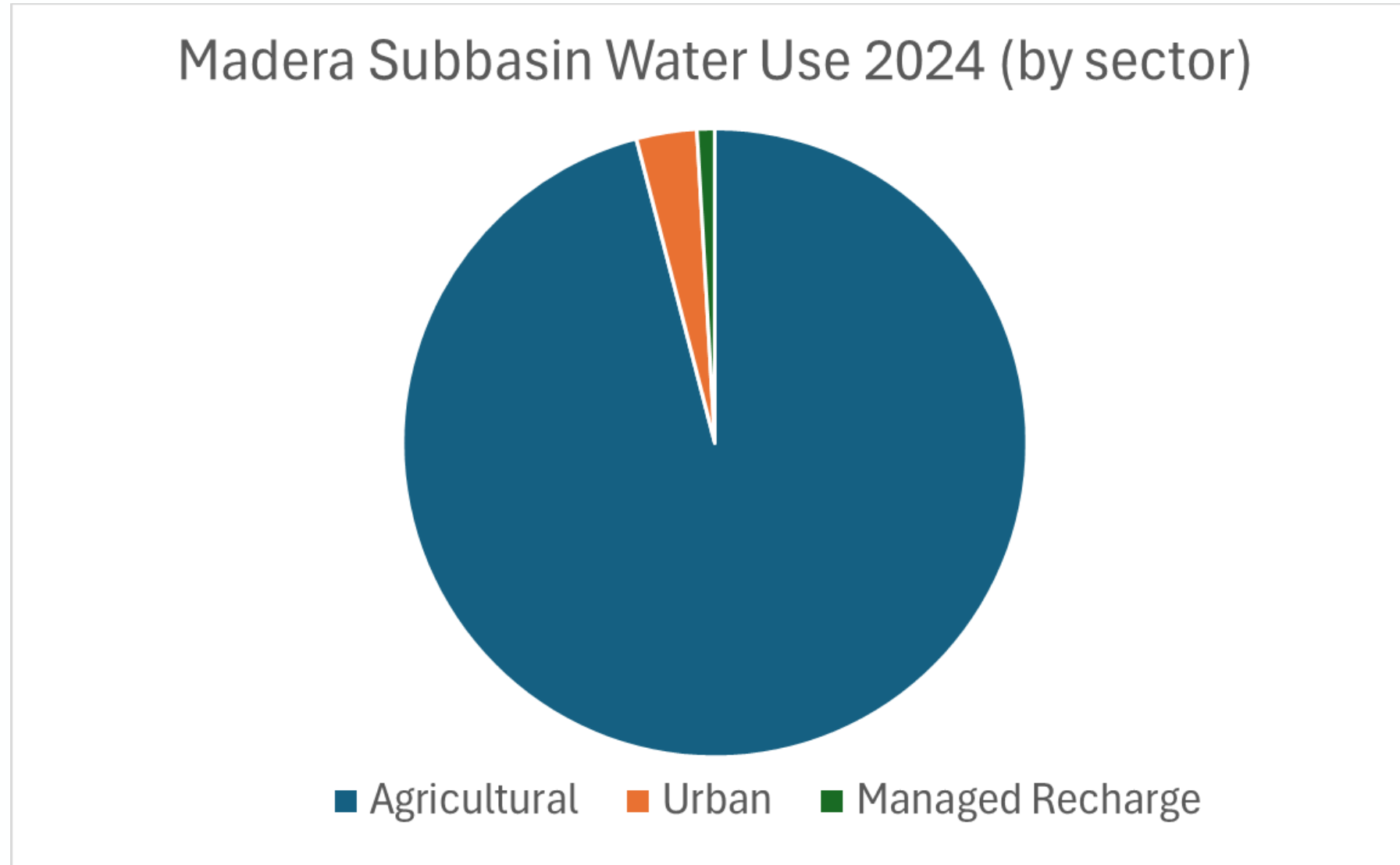
What We Know

- Robust groundwater studies over more than a decade
- Described in 2020 Joint GSP in Madera Subbasin
- Agreement from Madera Subbasin GSAs to have a program
- Public draft of rules underway
- Cost estimates based on recent review of replacement costs
- Management costs based on recent grant administration (approximately 10%)
- Grant for SB 552 for \$125,000 paying for rules development

What's In Process

- Backlog resolution timeline
- Final rules
- Program administrator
- County GSA funding

Agriculture versus Residential Water Use



County GSAs Cost Responsibility

- 73% represents the "contribution to overdraft" for past and future from County GSA
- Calculation uses hydrology, water budgets as well as projects – 1989 through 2040

Can Penalties Offset Costs?

Penalties Billed

Subbasin	2023 Penalties (\$)	2024 Penalties (\$)
Delta-Mendota Subbasin	\$0	\$0
Chowchilla Subbasin	\$15,000	\$274,420
Madera Subbasin	\$55,620	\$541,360

Penalties Collected

Subbasin	2023 Penalties (\$)	2024 Penalties (\$)
Delta-Mendota Subbasin	\$0	\$0
Chowchilla Subbasin	\$15,000	\$83,772
Madera Subbasin	\$55,620	\$427,551

Rates: With and Without Penalties Collected Applied

Funding Scenario	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030	5-Yr Average
Domestic Well Rate (without Penalties applied)	\$65	\$67	\$69	\$42	\$43	\$57
*Domestic Well Rate (with Penalties applied)	\$59	\$67	\$69	\$42	\$43	\$56

$$Rate = \frac{(Costs - Penalties)}{Enrolled Acreage}$$

Opt-Out Provision

- Base Sustainable Yield (BSY) is 6 inches ETAW
- Using Open ET for a 10-year period, there are a very small number of farm units at or under BSY
- If parties were exempted from paying for domestic well mitigation, they could be considered an "opt-out"
- What would need to be considered is:
 - Water use monitored to make sure it remains at or under 6 inches
 - Will not receive transition water or re-allocated sustainable yield
 - Penalties apply to extractions over base sustainable yield
 - Recorded on property

Annual Financial Check In

- Rates adopted in the 2022 Rate Study remain the maximum
- County GSAs board has discretion to implement a rate lower than adopted
- Rates will be subject to an annual update:
 - › Compare financial results, revenues, and expenditures to date against available funding and future expenditures
 - › Rates lower than planned will be implemented when financially advisable

Staff Recommendation

- Recommend to Board the Domestic well mitigation rate with penalties applied for 2025/2026 and include an opt-out provision
- Next Steps
 - › Board of Directors Meeting on July 8

Backup



Rates (Averaged)

Funding Scenario	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030	5-Yr Average
Domestic Well Rate (without Penalties applied)	\$67	\$67	\$67	\$43	\$43	\$57
Domestic Well Rate (with Penalties applied)	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$43	\$43	\$56

$$Rate = \frac{(Costs - Penalties)}{Enrolled Acreage}$$



ITEM 6

Action Item: Consideration and Recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a resolution repealing Resolution No. 2025-004 and reinstating Resolution No. 2022-072 which outlines procedures for the review of new or altered groundwater wells and verification of consistency with adopted groundwater sustainability plans.



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Governor of California Executive Orders (EO) for Drought

- March 28, 2022 – EO N-7-22 – Governor requires a GSA to provide written verification that a new or altered well within the management area or basin that the GSA is responsible for is inconsistent with the GSP
- May 17, 2022 – Madera County GSA Board of Directors signed Resolution 2022-072 with process for the review of all new applications for ag wells.
- September 5, 2024 – EO N-3-24 – Governor terminated EO N-7-22
- January 7, 2025 – Madera County GSA Board of Directors repealed and rescinded Resolution 2022-072 in Resolution # 2025-004



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Correction of Resolution

- Madera County GSA received clarification that the Governor's termination of EO N-7-22 applied only to 19 counties and did not include Madera County
- A Madera County GSA resolution is required to re-instate the process from Resolution 2022-072



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Staff Recommendation

Consideration and Recommendation to the Board of Directors to repeal and rescind Resolution No. 2025-004 and reinstate Resolution No. 2022-072 re-instating procedures for the review of new or altered groundwater wells and verification of consistency with adopted groundwater sustainability plans.



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