

**BEFORE
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
FOR THE MADERA SUBBASIN**

In the Matter of)	Resolution No.: 2025 - <u>067</u>
)	
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY)	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION
AGENCY)	2022-086 AND REPEALING AND
)	REPLACING RESOLUTION 2022-198
)	ESTABLISHING REVISED FEES FOR
)	DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION
)	PROGRAM FOR THE MADERA
)	SUBBASIN
_____)	

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Water Code sections 10720-10737.8 ("SGMA") was signed into law on September 16, 2014;

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each groundwater basin be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"), or multiple GSPs;

WHEREAS, the County of Madera ("County") is the exclusive GSA for the portions of the Madera Subbasin that are in unincorporated areas of Madera County, and not otherwise covered by another public agency (hereinafter referred to in the singular as the "County GSA"), and the Board of Supervisors is the ex officio Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board of Directors") for the County GSA;

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, the County GSA, along with the Madera Irrigation District GSA, the City of Madera GSA, and the Madera Water District GSA,

adopted a GSP (the “Joint GSP”) for the portions of the Madera Subbasin within the control of these GSAs that described a “sustainable yield” (“SY”) of native groundwater (water that naturally exists in the Madera Subbasin from seepage and percolation) of approximately 0.5 acre-feet per acre for the Madera Subbasin;

WHEREAS, in the Joint GSP the GSAs agreed to implement a Domestic Well Mitigation Program;

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2020, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2020-166 adopting an approach to allocating groundwater (the “Allocation Approach”) in the Subbasin, allowing parcels meeting certain criteria (hereafter “eligible parcels”) to have access to groundwater classified using two designations:

- a. The SY of native groundwater; and
- b. “Transitional water” (“TW”) that is continued overdraft of the Subbasin but will incrementally decrease during the GSP implementation period;

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the Allocation Approach, on June 8, 2021, the County GSA Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2021-069, providing for a per-acre allocation of SY and TW for enrolled eligible parcels within each County GSA based on best available data, to be limited to the use within the eligible parcel, or within a County GSA approved farm unit, that represents a combination of eligible parcels;

WHEREAS, the amount of groundwater available to properties under the Allocation Approach is calculated based on the overall acreage in the eligible enrolled parcel or approved farm unit;

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2021, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2021-113, establishing groundwater allocation refinements;

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730.2, subdivision (a), provides that a GSA that has adopted a GSP “may impose fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund costs of groundwater management, including, but not limited to, the costs of the following:

- (1) Administration, operation, and maintenance, including a prudent reserve.
- (2) Acquisition of lands or other property, facilities, and services.
- (3) Supply, production, treatment, or distribution of water.
- (4) Other activities necessary or convenient to implement the plan(;)”

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730.2, subdivision (d), provides that “[f]ees imposed pursuant to this section may include fixed fees and fees charged on a volumetric basis,”

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730.2, subdivision (c), provides that “[f]ees imposed pursuant to this section shall be adopted in accordance with subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution,”;

WHEREAS, Article XIII D of the California Constitution imposes certain procedural and substantive requirements for property related fees and charges (as defined);

WHEREAS, the County GSA will not have adequate funds for its share of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program without implementing a fee;

WHEREAS, under subdivision (a)(1) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, “[t]he agency shall provide written notice by mail of the proposed fee or charge to the record owner of each identified parcel upon which the fee or charge is proposed for imposition, the amount of the fee or charge proposed to be imposed upon each, the basis upon which the amount of the proposed fee or charge was calculated, the

reason for the fee or charge, together with the date, time, and location of a public hearing on the proposed fee or charge;”

WHEREAS, under subdivision (a)(2) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, “[t]he agency shall conduct a public hearing upon the proposed fee or charge not less than 45 days after mailing the notice of the proposed fee or charge to the record owners of each identified parcel upon which the fee or charge is proposed for imposition,” and “[a]t the public hearing, the agency shall consider all protests against the proposed fee or charge, and “[i]f written protests against the proposed fee or charge are presented by a majority of owners of the identified parcels, the agency shall not impose the fee or charge;”

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2022, the Board of Directors, at a duly noticed public meeting, authorized staff to commence a proceeding under Proposition 218, as required by SGMA, for the proposed rate as set forth in the rate study report (“Report”) prepared by Raftelis, an independent consulting firm, to determine the amount of revenue required to cover the costs of implementing GSP projects, including groundwater recharge, participation in the proposed Sites Reservoir, land repurposing, and domestic well mitigation;

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2022, notices for the proposed fee were sent by mail to all identified affected property owners within the County GSA for the Madera Subbasin, providing the proposed rate, the basis for the rate, the affected property owner’s right to protest the rate, and the time, place, and location of the public hearing on June 21, 2022;

WHEREAS, in the above-referenced Proposition 218 notice, affected property owners were informed that to protest the rate, they would either need to send a letter to

the Chief Clerk of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, 4th floor, 200 West Fourth Street, Madera, CA, 93637, which would include the property owner's name, property owner's signature, and assessor's parcel number (APN), or appear in person on June 21, 2022, at Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 200 W. 4th Street, Madera, CA, 93637, at 10:30 a.m. to deliver the protest in person;

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2022, the Board of Directors conducted a duly noticed public hearing for the proposed fee to (1) determine whether there was a majority protest for the fee, and if not, (2) to consider whether to adopt the fee;

WHEREAS, at the hearing, the Chief Clerk to the Madera County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the Board of Directors, received and tabulated all protests of the proposed fee made both prior to and during the hearing, and the protests did not amount to a majority of the affected parcels where notice of the proposed fee was provided;

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2022, having not received a protest from the majority of affected parcels, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2022-086, establishing a fixed fee (the "Project Fee") of \$246 per acre of land enrolled in the Allocation Approach ("Enrolled Acre"), to provide funds sufficient for the County GSA to cover the costs of implementing GSP projects;

WHEREAS, in December 2022, the Madera County Superior Court enjoined collection of the Project Fee;

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WHEREAS, following the Court's ruling, on December 20, 2022, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2022-198 removing the Madera Subbasin GSP Project Fee from the 2022-2023 tax year secured property tax bills, until such time as the Court's injunction was lifted;

WHEREAS, the Court dissolved the injunction on March 4, 2025, allowing the County GSA to resume collection of the Project Fee, but leaving the County GSA in a multi-year funding shortfall for the GSP projects;

WHEREAS, the County GSA is mindful of the hardship that would result from immediately collecting back-fees in excess of \$60 million to fill the funding shortfall created by the Court's injunction;

WHEREAS, the County GSA has proposed to repeal and replace Resolution No. 2022-198 and amend Resolution No. 2022-086 to revise the Project Fee ("Revised Fee") downward to collect funds sufficient for the County GSA to cover the costs of implementing a portion of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program only, while maintaining the ability to further amend the fee in the future, through an increase to what was previously approved or a further decrease, if conditions require;

WHEREAS, an updated study report ("Supplemental Report") to determine the amount of revenue required for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program for the Revised Fee was conducted by Raftelis, an independent consulting firm;

WHEREAS, agriculture water use represents the majority of water use in the Madera Subbasin;

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WHEREAS, the proposed Revised Fee will fund the Domestic Well Mitigation Program, as stated in the Supplemental Report, Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, at the following five year rate schedule per Enrolled Acre per year:

Year	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Rate	\$59 per enrolled acre	\$67 per enrolled acre	\$69 per enrolled acre	\$42 per enrolled acre	\$43 per enrolled acre

The Revised Fee was calculated per Enrolled Acre and rounded to the nearest whole dollar;

WHEREAS, the proposed Revised Fee schedule in the Supplemental Report represents the annual cost of service and does not include the collection of more revenue than the cost of providing services for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program. The Revised Fee will be reviewed annually and brought before the Board of Directors to ensure it continues to represent the annual cost of service and does not include the collection of more revenue or less revenue than the cost of providing service; and

WHEREAS, during the annual review of the Revised Fee, monies from groundwater allocation exceedance penalties will be applied towards the rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors for the County GSA, as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.
2. The Supplemental Report is hereby received and approved.

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3. The previously approved Fee of \$246 per Enrolled Acre is hereby amended to the Revised Fee schedule on the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, with the ability to further amend the Revised Fee in the future, through an increase or decrease, if conditions require.

4. The Director of the County Department of Water and Natural Resources ("Department Director") is authorized and directed to annually request the County Treasurer-Tax Collector, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to collect the Revised Fee in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes and provide the County Auditor-Controller, with the required information no later than August 1 of each year.

5. If the Revised Fee is not able to be collected in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes for any reason, the Department Director is hereby authorized and directed to cause the direct billing of the Revised Fee.

6. The Department Director is hereby authorized and directed to take further actions as may be necessary to implement the intent and purposes of this Resolution.

7. This Resolution hereby amends Resolution No. 2022-086, and repeals and replaces Resolution No. 2022-198.

8. This Resolution is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(8) and CEQA Guidelines section 15273(a) because it concerns the establishment of operational rates and charges. Further, this Resolution is exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with a certainty that this action will not have a significant effect on the environment. This Resolution is also exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines

section 15378(b)(5) because it involves administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. The Board of Directors therefore directs that a Notice of Exemption be filed with the County Clerk in accordance with the CEQA Guideline.

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The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 15TH day of JULY,
2025, by the following vote.



Director Warmhoff voted:

absent

Director Rogers voted:

Yes

Director Poythress voted:

Yes

Director Gonzalez voted:

Yes

Director Macaulay voted:

Yes

[Signature]
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

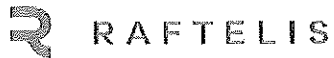
[Signature]
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved as to Legal form:
COUNTY COUNSEL

Rebecca Wilson
Digitally signed by: Rebecca Wilson
DN: CN = Rebecca Wilson email =
rwilson@lozanosmith.com C = US O =
LOZANO SMITH
Date: 2025.07.11 10:38:30 -0700

By _____

EXHIBIT A



July 3, 2025

Stephanie Anagnoson
Director of Water and Natural Resources
Madera County
200 West Fourth Street, Suite 3100
Madera, CA 93637

Subject: County GSAs Domestic Well Mitigation Memo

Dear Ms. Anagnoson,

Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis) is pleased to provide this technical memorandum (memo) for the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (County GSAs), Madera Subbasin. The memo updates prior analyses conducted as part of the County GSAs Rate Study (Rate Study¹) to reflect the current inventory of domestic wells and estimates of anticipated dry domestic wells, estimated well replacement costs, and the timing of dry well replacement. The methodology is consistent with the Rate Study which was developed in alignment with cost-of-service principles, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) statute and California's Proposition 218. This memo includes:

- » Updated cost estimates for replacing dewatered domestic wells within the Madera Subbasin, based on dry well projections from Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)
- » Updated projections for the number of dry wells over a five-year planning period² and the number of domestic wells planned to be replaced annually
- » A summary of program costs, including capital and program management expenses.
- » The status of domestic well replacements including the resolution timeline of the backlog of currently dewatered wells on interim solutions
- » The application of penalty payments collected to date which are available to partially offset program costs
- » Calculation of the fee per enrolled acre within a farm unit for the domestic wells replacement project alone (no other project or programmatic components included)

We appreciate the effort made by County GSAs staff, outside specialists, the Madera County GSA Committee, and partner entities to support this work product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kostiuk'.

Kevin Kostiuk
Senior Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellyse Ritchie'.

Ellyse Ritchie
Senior Consultant

¹ County GSAs Rate Study – Final Report, dated May 6, 2022

² Five-year planning period begins with the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2026 through FYE 2030

List of Tables

Table 1: County GSAs Dry Well Cost Share Estimate 2

Table 2: Dry Well Estimation – Madera Subbasin 3

Table 3: Estimated Dry Wells Per Year 4

Table 4: Domestic Well Replacement Cost Estimates (\$ per Well Replacement) 5

Table 5: Domestic Wells Capital Costs 5

Table 6: Domestic Wells Program Management Costs 5

Table 7: Domestic Wells Costs 6

Table 8: Domestic Well Fee Assessed Per Enrolled Acre 6

Domestic Well Mitigation Program

This technical memorandum (memo or sometimes TM) documents updated information and cost estimates related to the Domestic Well Mitigation Program to replace domestic wells going dry within the Madera Subbasin based on updated estimates available through 2025. This memo relies on data from Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE). Updated well replacement cost estimates, provided by local drilling contractors and environmental health, were considered for this update to compare against original estimates to represent recent costs of drilling new wells in the Madera Subbasin.

While the total estimate of well replacements relies on the original modeling by LSCE as part of the Rate Study, Raftelis has updated the estimated number of dry wells to account for dry wells that have been addressed and the remaining backlog of unresolved dry wells as of 2025³. Therefore, the counts between this memo and the previous study report may vary. Numbers shown in the tables of this memo are rounded up to the nearest integer. Therefore, calculations based on the displayed numbers, such as summing or multiplying, may not equal the exact results shown.

Program Background

The Domestic Well Mitigation Program involves replacing wells that have gone dry due to declining groundwater levels. This memo focuses solely on the Madera Subbasin. A program outlined by the GSAs of the Madera Subbasin as part of the original Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development in 2019 to allow for continued drawdown in water levels (i.e. transition water within farm unit water allocations). Each GSA within the Madera Subbasin is responsible for generating their own proportional amount of revenue to contribute to a Subbasin-wide program.

In 2021, LSCE conducted analyses to estimate the number of domestic wells that may go dry within the Madera Subbasin over the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation period. The analysis utilized the results from a domestic well inventory conducted for the Subbasin and compared simulated water levels from a hydrologic model to estimate the number of domestic wells that may go dry during the GSP implementation period.

Cost Responsibility

Seven groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) manage the Madera subbasin. The County GSAs will likely be responsible for the Domestic Well Mitigation program in proportion to their share of the average groundwater overdraft. Other GSAs will likely be responsible for the remaining overdraft and, therefore, the domestic well cost share. Table 1 shows the estimated cost share to the County GSA based on the historical, present, and future overdraft within the Madera subbasin. The County GSA is responsible for 73% of the Madera subbasin’s total overdraft and, therefore will likely be responsible for 73% of the costs of replacing dry domestic wells.

Table 1: County GSAs Dry Well Cost Share Estimate

A		B	C	D
Line	Dry Well Allocation	County GSA’s %	Other GSAs %	Total
1	Madera Subbasin	73%	27%	100%

³ Several hundred wells were programmed to be replaced within the first two years of implementation; however, without funding through the GSP fee of \$246 per enrolled acre no wells have been funded by the County GSAs as of July 2025.

Dry Well Estimation

The domestic well inventory involved assembling the best available information on domestic wells in the Subbasin derived from datasets including State Department of Water Resources (DWR) well construction records, County well permits, and assessor parcel data. Simulated water level conditions considered different hydrology (e.g., precipitation) scenarios over the implementation period, including average year and dry year starts to the GSP implementation period, to estimate the number of dry wells for two future scenarios. Based on recent historical hydrology in the area, simulated water levels in the dry year start scenario were utilized in the analysis.

Using historical data and future projections, LSCE modeled the groundwater conditions and associated overdraft for the Madera subbasin from 1989 to 2040. LSCE provided an estimate of the number of dry wells for the five years starting in 2026 and ending in 2030.

There are currently 247 properties in the subbasin with nonfunctioning wells that are being served by hauled water provided by Self-Help Enterprises (SHE). These residents do not have access to an operating well and rely on delivered water. Through mid-2024, 118 dewatered wells in the Madera Subbasin have been replaced and resolved through State SAFER funds. While this has provided a partial solution, it is not sustainable in the long term, as state funding for SAFER is expected to end. These 118 resolved wells are not included in the backlog count in Table 2 and are not included in the fee calculation in this memo.

Table 2: Dry Well Estimation -- Madera Subbasin

Line	Description	Dry Well Estimation
1	Backlog (SHE Interim Services)	247
2	Estimated Dry Wells (2026-2030)	601
3	Total Dry Well Replacements 2025-2029 (Backlog + Five-Year Estimate)	848
4	Madera GSAs Likely Responsibility	73%
5	Total Dry Well Replacement Madera GSAs	621
6	Annual Five-Year Average Replacement Rate⁴	124

Despite an urgency to replace dewatered domestic wells, there is a limitation on the availability of resources, particularly the number of wells that regional drillers could reasonably replace annually. As a result, the plan laid out in this memo and built into the fee, spreads the backlog of replacements over three years from fiscal year ending (FYE) 2026⁵ through FYE 2028.

Table 2 shows the total estimated dry wells within the Madera subbasin as of 2025. Table 3 shows the updated estimated dry wells within the Madera subbasin (Line 3) and the proportionate number of dry wells the County GSA is responsible for replacing through 2030 (Line 6). Again, the number of dry wells within the County GSA's jurisdiction is based on its proportionate share of the average volume of groundwater shortage within the Madera subbasin (Table 1, column B) multiplied by the number of total dry wells in the Madera subbasin (Table 2, line 3).

⁴ Total dry well replacement Madera GSAs / 5

⁵ The County GSA's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. FYE 2026 is therefore July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Table 3: Estimated Dry Wells Per Year

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Line	Dry Well Estimation	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
All Dry Wells – Madera Subbasin						
1	Estimated Dry Wells (2026-2030)	120	120	120	120	120
2	Backlog (SHE Interim Services)	82	82	82	0	0
3	Total – All Dry Wells	203	203	203	120	120
County GSA Dry Well Responsibility						
4	Estimated Dry Wells (2026-2030)	88	88	88	88	88
5	Backlog (SHE Interim Services)	60	60	60	0	0
6	Total – County GSA Dry Wells	148	148	148	88	88

Capital Costs

LSCE originally estimated the cost of replacing a domestic well at \$30,960 in 2021. This figure was carried forward in an interim 2024 update. In 2025, the estimate was increased to \$35,000. Recent bids have ranged from \$23,800 to \$47,000. In 2024, two specific estimates from drillers placed the cost at \$34,350 and \$49,500 for constructing a 550-foot domestic well, including construction, permitting, and fuel. Despite the increases in estimated costs, Raftelis and County GSA staff chose to use a \$35,000 per-well estimate. This decision reflects recent well replacements in the neighboring Chowchilla Subbasin, which ranged from \$25,000 to \$30,000, and accounts for the fact that not all replacement wells will need to be drilled to a depth of 550 feet, however, depths to water in the Madera Subbasin are generally greater. A summary of these estimates is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Domestic Well Replacement Cost Estimates (\$ per Well Replacement)

	A	B	C
Line	Estimate	Cost (\$)	Depth (ft)
1	Rate Study Estimate	\$30,960	600 foot maximum
2	2024 Estimate 1	\$34,350	550 foot maximum
3	2024 Estimate 2	\$49,500	550 foot maximum
4	2024 Chowchilla Domestic Wells	\$25,000 – \$30,000	Variable
5	2025 Estimates	\$23,800 – \$47,000	Variable
6	Technical Memo Estimate	\$35,000	N/A

Table 5 shows the estimated capital costs of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program. The cost of replacing a well (Table 5, Line 1) is escalated each year based on the Capital cost escalation factor (Table 5, Line 2). The capital costs (Table 5, Line 5) are calculated by multiplying the number of the County GSA's dry wells (Table 5, Line 4) by the cost to replace a well in that year (Table 5, Line 3).

Table 5: Domestic Wells Capital Costs

Line	A Domestic Wells Capital Costs	B FYE 2026	C FYE 2027	D FYE 2028	E FYE 2029	F FYE 2030
1	Well Replacement Cost (Base Year)	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
2	Capital Cost Escalation Factor		3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
3	Well Replacement Cost	\$35,000	\$36,050	\$37,132	\$38,245	\$39,393
4	Annual Well Replacements	148	148	148	88	88
5	Annual Capital Costs	\$5,194,395	\$5,350,227	\$5,510,734	\$3,368,640	\$3,469,699

Program Management Costs

Table 6 shows the operating costs associated with the Domestic Well Mitigation Program which consists of program management and program administration. These costs are estimated at 10% of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program capital costs (Table 5) based on estimates from County GSA's staff. As programmatic details are refined within the County GSA and between other Subbasin program partners, more informed estimates for project management will be possible.

Table 6: Domestic Wells Program Management Costs

Line	A Domestic Wells Program Mgt. Costs	B FYE 2026	C FYE 2027	D FYE 2028	E FYE 2029	F FYE 2030
1	Annual Capital Costs	\$5,194,395	\$5,350,227	\$5,510,734	\$3,368,640	\$3,469,699
2	Program Management Cost - %	10%	10%	10%	10 %	10%
3	Total - Program Management Costs	\$519,440	\$535,023	\$551,073	\$336,864	\$346,970

Penalty Payments Application

In 2023, the Madera Subbasin collected \$55,620 in penalties, and in 2024, \$427,551 was collected, for a total of \$483,171. Based on discussion and direction from the County GSA Committee these funds will be applied to the FY 2026 fee to partially offset the per-acre fee for acres enrolled in a farm unit. Because penalty revenues are highly variable and the County GSA's goal is to minimize the collection of penalty revenues, they are not considered a reliable source of income. For this reason, penalties will be evaluated annually and are only applied to the first year of fees. as part of the financial review rather than included as a consistent funding source. The County GSA will conduct an annual financial review which will include an evaluation of penalties collected each year, which may be used to reduce the fee per enrolled acre in the following year.

Program Summary

Table 7 summarizes the costs of the Domestic Well Mitigation program for the Madera subbasin within the five-year planning period. Operating costs represent estimated program management and administration costs (Table 6). Capital costs represent estimated costs to replace dry wells based on the sequencing from Table 5.

Table 7: Domestic Wells Costs

Line	A Domestic Wells Total Costs	B FYE 2026	C FYE 2027	D FYE 2028	E FYE 2029	F FYE 2030
1	Operating Costs	\$519,440	\$535,023	\$551,073	\$336,864	\$346,970
2	Capital Costs	\$5,194,395	\$5,350,227	\$5,510,734	\$3,368,640	\$3,469,699
3	Balance of Penalty Payments	(\$483,171)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4	Total - Program Costs	\$5,230,664	\$5,885,250	\$6,061,807	\$3,705,504	\$3,816,669

Table 8 translates the costs of the Domestic Well Mitigation program into a fee per enrolled acre, by year, throughout the planning period. The planned fee per enrolled acre increases each year through 2028 due to the projected rise in capital and operating costs, while the total enrolled acreage remains unchanged. The planned fee per acre decreases significantly in 2029 after the backlog of dewatered wells are resolved and the program is limited to future dewatered wells. Note that unlike in the 2022 Rate Study, the fee is not averaged across the years, but calculated for each individual year. This is in part due to the desire to show the effect of applying existing penalty revenues immediately; and partly since there are two significantly different needs in the five-year horizon: pre and post-backlog. Proposed fees are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Table 8: Domestic Well Fee Assessed Per Enrolled Acre

Line	A Domestic Wells Total Costs	B FYE 2026	C FYE 2027	D FYE 2028	E FYE 2029	F FYE 2030
1	Total Program Costs	\$5,230,664	\$5,885,250	\$6,061,807	\$3,705,504	\$3,816,669
2	Madera Subbasin Enrolled Acreage	88,082	88,082	88,082	88,082	88,082
3	\$/Enrolled Acre	\$59.38	\$66.82	\$68.82	\$42.07	\$43.33
4	\$/Enrolled Acre (Rounded)	\$59	\$67	\$69	\$42	\$43

Annual Financial Review

As part of the adoption and implementation process for a Domestic Well Mitigation Fee Program, the County GSA will conduct an annual financial review to compare actual financial results—revenues, expenditures, and penalties collected—to available funding and projected future costs. As part of this review, the GSA will assess whether it is financially advisable to implement rates lower than originally planned.

The fees presented in Table 8 represent the best estimate at the current time. Rates adopted in the 2022 Rate Study remain the maximum implementable. Should programmatic costs be higher than planned, the County GSAs would be able to increase from the planned fees in Table 8. Conversely, if programmatic costs are lower than planned the County GSAs has the discretion to implement fees lower than those shown in Table 8.

APPENDIX A:
Domestic Well Mitigation
Fee Calculation (Consolidated)

Line	A	B FYE 2026	C FYE 2027	D FYE 2028	E FYE 2029	F FYE 2030
1	Madera Subbasin Dry Wells	203	203	203	120	120
2	Madera County Portion of Dry Wells	148	148	148	88	88
3						
4	Well Replacement Cost	\$35,000	\$36,050	\$37,132	\$38,245	\$39,393
5						
6	Program Management Costs	\$519,440	\$535,023	\$551,073	\$336,864	\$346,970
7	Balance of Penalty Payments	(\$483,171)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8	Annual Capital Costs	\$5,194,395	\$5,350,227	\$5,510,734	\$3,368,640	\$3,469,699
9	Total - Program Costs	\$5,230,664	\$5,885,250	\$6,061,807	\$3,705,504	\$3,816,669
10						
11	Madera Subbasin Enrolled Acreage	88,082	88,082	88,082	88,082	88,082
12	Total - \$/Enrolled Acre	\$59.38	\$66.82	\$68.82	\$42.07	\$43.33