



ITEM 4

Informational Item: Results on Measurement Methods
(and Accounting Platform) Questionnaire and Staff
Recommendation with Grower Feedback



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Background

- May - Issued RFP for measurement
 - Seven proposals were received
 - Two for the measurement service with online platforms and five with accounting platforms
- July - Public presentations at the GSA committee
 - Questions collected from growers after public presentations
 - Grower review period until end of July:
 - Proposals
 - Presentations
 - Responses to questions
- August – Short update to GSA Committee
- September – GSA Committee presentation with a staff recommendation based on grower feedback
 - 30% response rate representing 35,000 acres
- October – Contract negotiation
- November – GSA Committee and Board of Directors
- Target date to begin on January 1, 2026

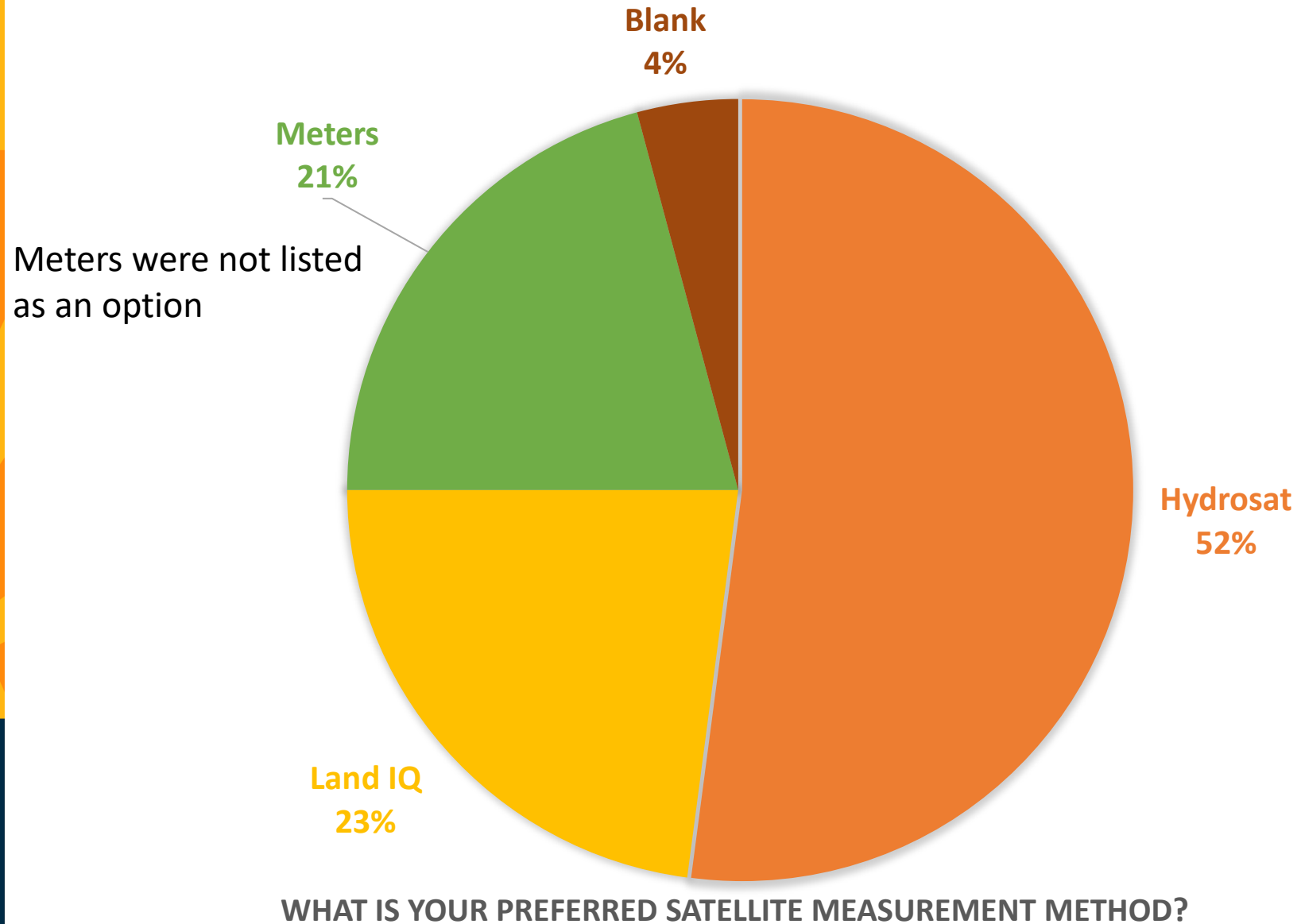


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Grower Questionnaire, Question #1



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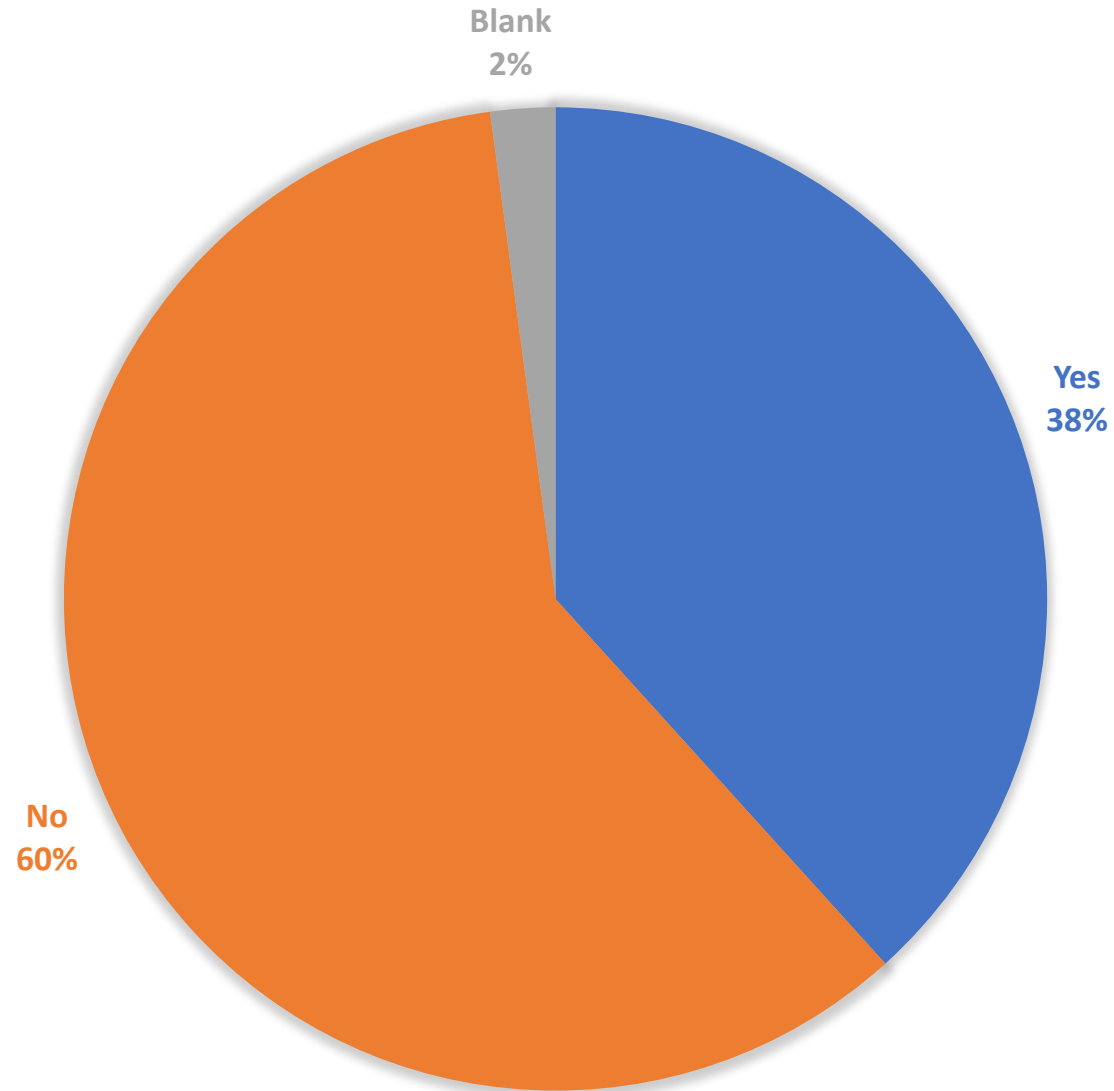




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Grower Questionnaire, Question #2

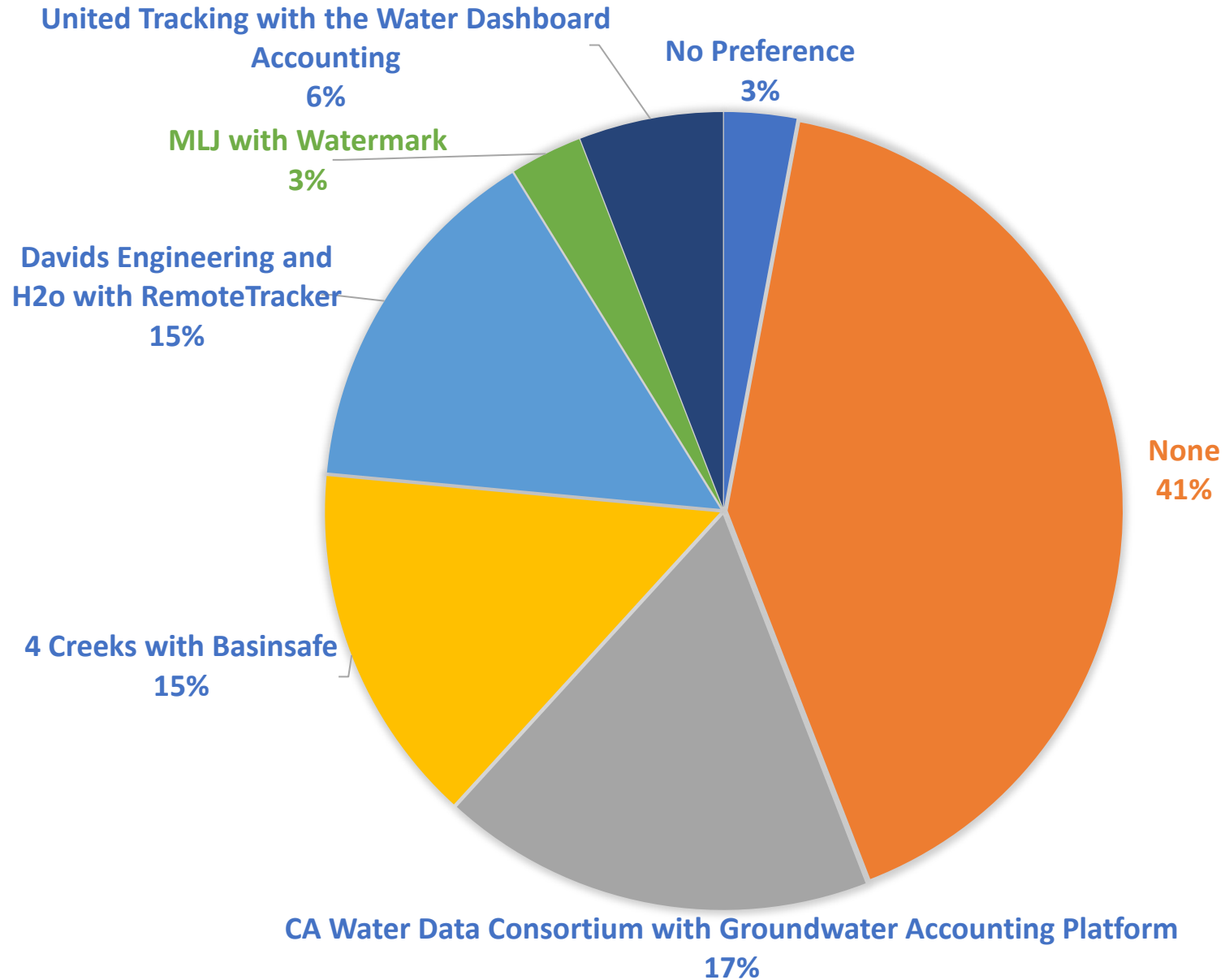


DO YOU SUPPORT MCGSA FUNDING MORE THAN ONE SATELLITE
MEASUREMENT METHOD?



Grower Questionnaire, Question #3

WHICH ACCOUNTING PLATFORM DO YOU PREFER?



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Next Steps

- Direct staff to begin contract negotiations with Hydrosat for the satellite measurement method for 2026 for 3 years in the amount of \$164,340 per year
- Direct staff to ask top three measurement platforms to do longer demonstration presentations and issue questionnaire again; this would be a separate platform contract



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ITEM 5

Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt a Resolution establishing the Farm Unit Annual Changes Policy.

This proposed Resolution and Policy is consistent with the authority granted under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and is exempt from CEQA under Guidelines sections 15307, 15308, and 15061(b)(3).



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Background

- Farm unit concept came from Advisory Committee in 2020
 - irrigated land that is owned or managed by the same entity within the same zone; intended to reflect real-world operations
 - used for managing groundwater extraction allocations
- Penalties = Use over the groundwater allocation that can be attributed to a specific APN (for the tax roll, if unpaid)
- Carryover = Unused groundwater allocation, recharge credits, and purchased surface water credits that roll over to the next year for the farm unit
- Recently, several growers have come forward with specific requests for carryover to be split in ways that haven't been contemplated



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Penalties

Current Practice:

- Penalties are shared by farm unit
- Penalties can be attributable to APNs by volume
- If unpaid, penalties are assessed through the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office by APN

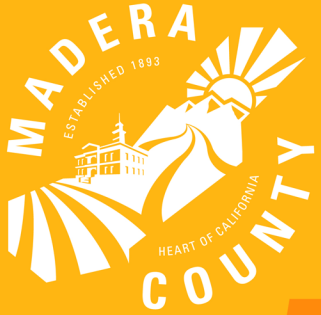
Penalty Recommendations:

- Allow flexibility through lease, sales, or other written agreement and if provided follow fully executed lease or sales terms (i.e., We will follow your lease, sales, or other agreement)
- Continue to distribute penalties to resulting farm units using a volumetric apportionment approach, unless a negotiated lease, sales or other written agreement provides for a different penalty split
- When a farm unit is sold, the owner for the majority of the calendar year pays the penalty unless a lease, sales or other agreement applies



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Carryover

Current Practice:

- Carryover is shared by farm unit
- If a farm unit is split, then carryover is divided proportionally by volume of water used by each parcel

Carryover Recommendations:

- Allow flexibility through lease, sales, or other written agreements and if provided follow fully executed lease or sales terms (i.e., We will follow your lease, sales, or agreement agreement)
- Distribute carryover to resulting farm units using a volumetric apportionment approach, unless a negotiated lease, sales or other written agreement provides for a different carryover split



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How the Volumetric Apportionment Approach Works

Based on each APN's contribution to the farm unit's overall groundwater use.

- **For carryover credits:** Parcels that used less water (contributing more to the carryover credit) receive a larger share of the carryover credit
- **For penalties:** Parcels that used more water (contributing more to the penalty) bear a larger share of those penalties



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Staff Recommendation

Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt a resolution for Farm Unit Annual Changes Policy



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ITEM 6

Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt a Resolution establishing the 2026 – 2040 GSP-Based Allocations for the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Madera, Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota Subbasins.

This proposed Resolution and Policy is consistent with the authority granted under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and is exempt from CEQA under Guidelines sections 15307, 15308, and 15061(b)(3).



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GSP text

Madera County plans to gradually phase-in demand management between now and 2040. Starting in 2020 and continuing through 2025, average annual groundwater pumping will be reduced by 2% (of the total demand reduction amount) per year, for a total cumulative reduction of 10% by 2025. Groundwater pumping will be reduced by 6% per year starting in 2026 and continuing through 2040.

-2025 Joint GSP Amendment, p. 4-43

Starting in 2021 and continuing through 2025, average annual groundwater pumping is reduced by 2% (of the total demand reduction amount) per year, for a total cumulative reduction of 10% by 2025. Groundwater pumping is planned to be reduced by 6% per year starting in 2026 and continuing through 2040.

-2025 Revised Chowchilla GSP, p. 4-31



SJREC-1	Groundwater Allocations - Madera County GSA	Madera County GSA - Delta-Mendota	Allocations for sustainable yield and transitional water have been established for irrigated acres within the Madera County GSA- Delta Mendota Subbasin. The allocations decrease over time per set schedule until the sustainable yield is met. From 2021 to 2025, allocations were designed to reduce transitional water by 2% annually. Transitional water will be reduced by 6% annually from 2025 to 2040 pending the GSP Periodic Evaluation.	X		X	X	Implementation underway	Allocation reports, acreages, and measurement options are sent yearly	N/A	Ongoing; From 2025, allocations designed to reduce transitional water annually
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-Delta Mendota Subbasin GSP, Projects and Management Actions, p. 28



Existing Allocations

Madera County GSA: Madera Subbasin		Inches of ETAW	
Year	Sustainable Yield *	Transitional Water	Total
2021	12.7	15.6	28.3
2022	12.7	15.3	28
2023	12.7	15	27.7
2024	12.7	14.7	27.4
2025	12.7	14.4	27.1

* Often rounded to 13

Madera County GSA: Chowchilla Subbasin		Inches of ETAW	
Year	Sustainable Yield	Transitional Water	Total
2021	7.1	19.6	26.7
2022	7.1	19.2	26.3
2023	7.1	18.8	25.9
2024	7.1	18.4	25.5
2025	7.1	18	25.1

Madera County GSA: Delta-Mendota Subbasin		Inches of ETAW	
Year	Sustainable Yield	Transitional Water	Total
2021	8.6	11.2	19.8
2022	8.6	11	19.6
2023	8.6	10.7	19.3
2024	8.6	10.5	19.1
2025	8.6	10.3	18.9

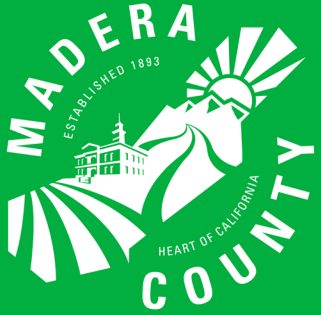


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Proposed Allocations

- Insert allocation tables



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Proposed Allocations



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Staff Recommendation

- Recommend to board of directors adoption of allocations from structure in adopted groundwater sustainability plans



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