



# Background

County GSAs are developing and implementing projects in the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota

## Management Actions

- Allocations with penalties

## Projects include:

- Groundwater recharge
- Domestic well mitigation
- Surface water supply development
- Land repurposing program



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Background

- Land repurposing programs:
  - Reduce groundwater demand (use)
  - Have voluntary participation with competitive enrollment
  - Provide subbasin benefits that may be tailored to grant funding requirements

Land Repurposing Programs	Implementation and Funding	Benefits Targeted
Voluntary Land Repurposing Program ( <b>VLRP</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dept. of Conservation (DOC) SALC Grant (\$400 K)</li><li>• GSP Fee*</li><li>• Rules adopted December 2022</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water supply (reduce total groundwater pumping)</li></ul>
Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program ( <b>MLRP</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DOC Grant (\$10 M)</li><li>• Program rules under development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water supply</li><li>• Other water supply co-benefits specified in DOC grant</li></ul>
Targeted Land Repurposing Program ( <b>TLRP</b> ) “LandFlex”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DWR LandFlex Grant (\$9.3 M)</li><li>• Program rules follow DWR Grant Implementation requirements and are presented today</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water supply</li><li>• Dry domestic wells</li><li>• Drought impacts</li><li>• Underrepresented communities</li></ul>

\* GSP Fee on hold under temporary injunction



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Overview

- **TLRP (LandFlex) Overview:** DWR program to support implementation of SGMA by repurposing currently irrigated lands in priority areas. Intended program benefits include:
  - Provide immediate benefits for vulnerable domestic wells
  - Support growers' transition to sustainable groundwater management
  - Provide funding for growers to implement best practices on repurposed lands
- The GSA submitted a competitive proposal to DWR in February 2023 and was awarded \$9.3 million to implement



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Rules

- **Program requirements:** DWR Guidelines define the program and require coordination with Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs)
  - Western United Dairies, Almond Alliance, Self-Help Enterprises, California Alliance for Family Farmers
- **What lands are eligible?** All lands in the Madera Subbasin portion of the Madera County GSA that receive both Sustainable Yield (SY) and Transitional Water (TW) allocations



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Rules

- **Payment components:** Three non-separable payments for lands that enter the program:
  1. Domestic Well Drought Relief Water (Drought Relief)
    - Groundwater pumping eliminated during the 2023 Water Year
    - \$350 per acre-foot of 2023 SY plus TW
  2. Sustainable Yield Acceleration (SY Acceleration)
    - TW eliminated from a Farm Unit allocation in ***all future years***
    - \$1,000 per acre-foot of 2023 TW
  3. Transition to Sustainability (Transition)
    - Facilitate transition of lands that enter the program
      - \$250 per acre for row crops,
      - \$2,000 per acre for dairy feed, and
      - \$2,800 per acre for orchard/vineyard removal



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Rules

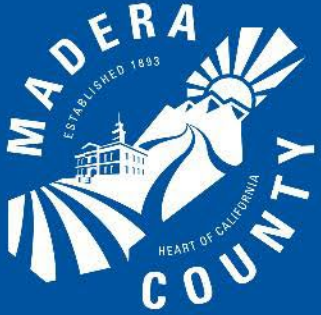
- **Timeline:** The program must be implemented in the current Water Year and is consequently on an accelerated timeline

Water Year 2023	Activity
April 2023	Applications open
May 2023	Scoring, Selection and TLRP Agreement execution
April-September 2023	Land repurposing underway; GSA assistance and monitoring as needed
July 2023	First installment of payment
September 2023	Pending verification, second installment of payment
December 2024	Reporting to DWR



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# Targeted Land Repurposing Program (LandFlex): Next Steps

- Continue outreach to growers, implementation
- Portal is open; deadline May 2, 2023
- Implement the program scoring, selection, and payments according to the defined TLRP rules
- Complete program monitoring and reporting, and include in annual GSP updates



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# LandFlex Tasks in Contract Amendment

Outreach for potential projects with staff

Review and follow up with applicants

Scoring of projects

Contracts with successful applicants

Project reporting

Technical coordination on other land repurposing efforts



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# Contract Amount and Term Date

- Contract amendment amount: \$178,000
- All reimbursed by LandFlex (state)
- Term date: December 31, 2024.



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