



## Item 4b

Look Back, Look Ahead: A Review of Last Year's Accomplishments and Upcoming Events



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# 2025 Look Back

## Key Policy Developments

- GSA Committee and bylaws
- Meter Measurement Rule Refinements
- Farm Unit Changes Policy
- Satellite Measurement Method
- Allocations 2025-2040
- Domestic Well Mitigation Policy
  - Madera Subbasin, Madera County GSA
  - Delta-Mendota Subbasin



# Regulatory Compliance

## **Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan:**

- Submitted Plan Amendment to DWR on January 31, 2025, for review
- Submitted 2024 Madera Subbasin Annual Report to DWR in April 2025

## **Chowchilla Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan:**

- Submitted 2024 Chowchilla Subbasin Annual Report to DWR in April 2025
- Removed from jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board on June 03, 2025

## **Delta Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Plan:**

- Adopted Memorandum of Understanding with Valley Water Collaborative on August 12, 2025, for water quality mitigation
- Adopted Revised Domestic Well Mitigation Policy on October 14, 2025



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# 2025 Opportunities for Feedback

- GSA Committee Meetings and Board Meetings

GSA Committee Meetings	GSA Board Meetings
March 4	March 11
April 1	April 8
May 6	May 13
June 3	June 10
July 1	July 8
August 5	August 12
September 2	September 9
October 7	October 14
November 12	November 18
--	December 9



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# 2025 Other Opportunities for Feedback

- Chowchilla Subbasin Revised GSP Public Comment Periods from 1/15/25 to 2/17/25 and 3/26/2025 to 6/4/2025
- Chowchilla Advisory Committee Meetings: 1/08/25, 3/26/25, 8/27/25, 9/03/25, and 12/11/25
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Meetings: 1/13/25, 2/6/25, 3/10/25, 3/31/25, 4/14/25, 5/19/25, 6/4/25, 6/9/25, 7/1/25, 7/14/25, 8/11/25, 9/8/25, 10/13/25, 11/10/25, and 12/3/25
- Office Hour Appointments
- Phone calls and Emails
- Focus Groups
- Questionnaires on Satellite Measurement Method and Accounting Platforms



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# 2025 Additional Outreach

- 02/24/2025: Fresno State/Uzbekistan Delegation SGMA – SGMA Implementation in Madera County GSA
- 02/28/2025: Colusa Groundwater – Demand Management
- 04/03/2025: Uzbekistan Space Agency – SGMA Implementation in Madera County GSA
- 05/07/2025: American Pistachio Growers State of Affairs – SGMA Implementation in Madera County GSA
- 11/05/2025: Flood MAR Conference – Recharge Lessons from Madera County GSA
- 11/21/2025: Fresno State Faculty – SGMA Implementation in Madera County GSA
- 12/17/2025: Sacramento Valley Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Workgroup – Recharge Lessons from Madera County GSA



# 2025 Publications

- Published 2025 Summary of Rules booklet
- Published monthly grower e-newsletter for 300+
- Published monthly e-newsletter for 800+ stakeholders



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# 2026 Look Ahead

## Implement

- Recertification/retrain for all vendors for meter installation / calibration
- Outreach growers on Hydrosat
- Begin Domestic Well Mitigation (with quarterly updates)
- Anticipate Delta Mendota coming out of State Water Resources Control Board jurisdiction
- Publish 2026 Summary of Rules Booklet

## Develop Ideas – for Feedback

- Evaluate Department of Water Resources Subsidence Guidance
- Evaluate and potentially develop Fallow Fields Program
- Evaluate and potentially develop Madera County GSA Groundwater Export Rule
- Evaluate and develop a Groundwater Demand Management Program and Subsidence Mitigation Measures for the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP



## Item 4c

Action Item: Consideration of approval of Request for Transfer of Appropriations NO.25-068, in the amount of \$26,120, transfer from the Appropriation for Contingency Account to the Refunds and Reimbursements Account, for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.



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# Background of Transfer

A 2024 groundwater overuse penalty was issued to a master account in the Madera Subbasin

The penalty was overturned following an approved appeal

A refund memorandum was issued to the master account

Transfer of Appropriations 25-068 implements the appropriate accounting process to reimburse the master account



# Process of Transfer

- **Refunds and Reimbursement** account in the GSA Adm. Fee Budget is used for Refunds and Reimbursements
- Transfer of Appropriation No. 25-068 moves \$26,120 from:  
Appropriation for Contingency → Refunds & Reimbursements
- Payment to the master account can then occur



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# Staff Recommendation

Approve Transfer of Appropriation No. 25-068 in the amount of \$26,120, transferring funds from the Appropriation for Contingency account to the Refunds and Reimbursements account to for a 2024 groundwater overuse penalty that was determined to no longer apply following an approved appeal, related to one master account within the Madera County GSA – Madera Subbasin.



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## ITEM: 4d

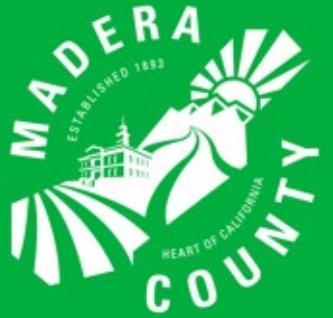
Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Find that the Prop 68 Chowchilla Subbasin Round 1 Funding Construction Project, including construction, is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22.
- 2) Approve the agreement for the Prop 68 Chowchilla Subbasin Round 1 Funding Construction Project.



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## Grant Funded Chowchilla Projects Along Eastside Bypass



- Madera County Boundary
- Chowchilla Subbasin Boundary
- Chowchilla East Bypass Project Sites

Waterways

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



## Initial bid: November 19, 2025

- Madera County Public Works Department standard bidding process used
- Initial pre-bid meeting hosted 13 businesses
- Bids opened on December 15, 2025
- Received one responsive bid
- Bid was rejected due to the proposal exceeded available grant funds for the base project



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## Rebid: January 2, 2026

- Due to lack of grant funding, scope of project was reduced for the rebid
- Madera County Public Works Department standard bidding process used
- 17 businesses attended the pre-bid meeting
- Bids were opened on January 28, 2026
- Received 4 responsive and responsible bids
- As soon as the protest period is over the project will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder



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# Recommendation

Move this contract forward to the GSA Board of Directors for consideration at next possible board date (2/10/2026)



## Item 4e

Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a one-year agreement with Madera Subbasin Annual Report – 7 party Cost Sharing



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# Background

The California Code of Regulations Title 23 (23 CCR) §356.2 requires that GSP Annual Reports be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources by April 1 of each year following the adoption of a GSP

DWR requests that the Madera Subbasin submit one 7-party annual report (in addition to the individual GSP reports)

Costs have been shared among the seven parties as done in the past



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# Breakdown of Cost

Task 1 Estimated Fee (All GSAs) = \$55,500

Task 2 Estimated Fee (Joint GSP GSAs) = \$46,600

GSA	Task 1 Share	Task 2 Share	Total Financial Responsibility
MID	\$ 7,928.57	\$ 11,650.00	\$ 19,578.57
City of Madera	\$ 7,928.57	\$ 11,650.00	\$ 19,578.57
MWD	\$ 7,928.57	\$ 11,650.00	\$ 19,578.57
County of Madera	\$ 7,928.57	\$ 11,650.00	\$ 19,578.57
GFWD	\$ 7,928.57	\$ -	\$ 7,928.57
RCWD	\$ 7,928.57	\$ -	\$ 7,928.57
NSWD	\$ 7,928.57	\$ -	\$ 7,928.57
Total =	\$ 55,500	\$ 46,600	\$ 102,100

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# Staff Recommendation

Recommend to the Board of Directors to enter into 2025 MOU Cost Sharing for Madera Subbasin GSP Annual Report, in the amount of \$102,100 with approximately \$80,000 reimbursed by other agencies.

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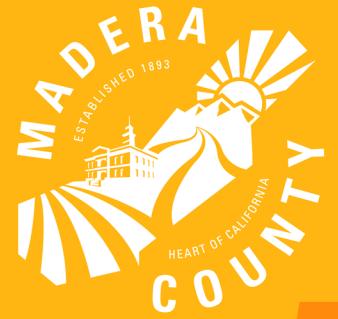
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## Item 4.f

Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a one-year agreement with Davids Engineering for the Madera Subbasin Annual Report



# Project Objective

Professional services from Davids Engineering (DE)-Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Team in coordination with the technical consultants for the Gravelly Ford Water District, New Stone Water District, and Root Creek Water District GSAs

Annual Report Documents for WY 2025:

- **Task 1** - Subbasin-wide Annual Report Document with Content Relevant to the Subbasin as a whole
- **Task 2** - Joint GSP Annual Report Supplemental Document



# Cost of Proposal

*Table 2. Summary of Project Budget Summary.*

Task Number	Task Name	DE Labor Cost	LSCE Labor Cost	Estimated Total Cost
1	Develop the Subbasin-wide Annual Report Document with Content Relevant to the Entire Subbasin.	\$11,100	\$44,400	\$55,500
2	Develop the Joint GSP Annual Report Supplemental Document.	\$30,600	\$16,000	\$46,600
<b>Total (Tasks 1-2)</b>		<b>\$41,700</b>	<b>\$60,400</b>	<b>\$102,100</b>

Madera County GSA will be responsible for \$19,578.57



# Staff Recommendation

Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a one-year agreement with Davids Engineering for the Madera Subbasin Annual Reports

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## Item: 4g

**Action Item:** Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve an agreement with Davids Engineering for allocation support for a three-year agreement



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# Proposed Contract Overview

**Contract: 2026-2028 Allocation Support**

**Vendor: Davids Engineering Inc. (DE)**

**Timeline: 2026-2028**

Project Task No	Project Task Description	2026	2027	2028	Total
1	Support Implementation of the Flowmeter Water Accounting Method	\$125,000	\$129,000	\$133,000	\$375,000
2	Support Implementation of the IrriWatch by Hydrosat Water Accounting Method	\$75,000	\$77,000	\$79,000	\$225,000
3	Perform On-Call Tasks	\$100,000	\$103,000	\$106,000	\$100,000
	Totals	\$300,000	\$309,000	\$318,000	\$927,000



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# Staff Recommendation

Consideration and recommendation to enter into a three-year contract with Davids Engineering Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$927,000 for 2026-2028 to continue providing the County GSA with allocation support



## Item: 4h

Informational Item: Review of Groundwater Accounting Platform Status



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# Background

## **May - Issued RFP for measurement/platform**

- Seven proposals were received

## **July - Public presentations at the GSA committee**

- Questions collected from growers after public presentations
- Grower review period until end of July
- Considerable objection to purchasing a platform – 41% said no

## **October – Webinar for growers based on top three platforms (as voted by growers)**

## **November – Follow up questionnaire to growers on groundwater accounting platforms (only)**

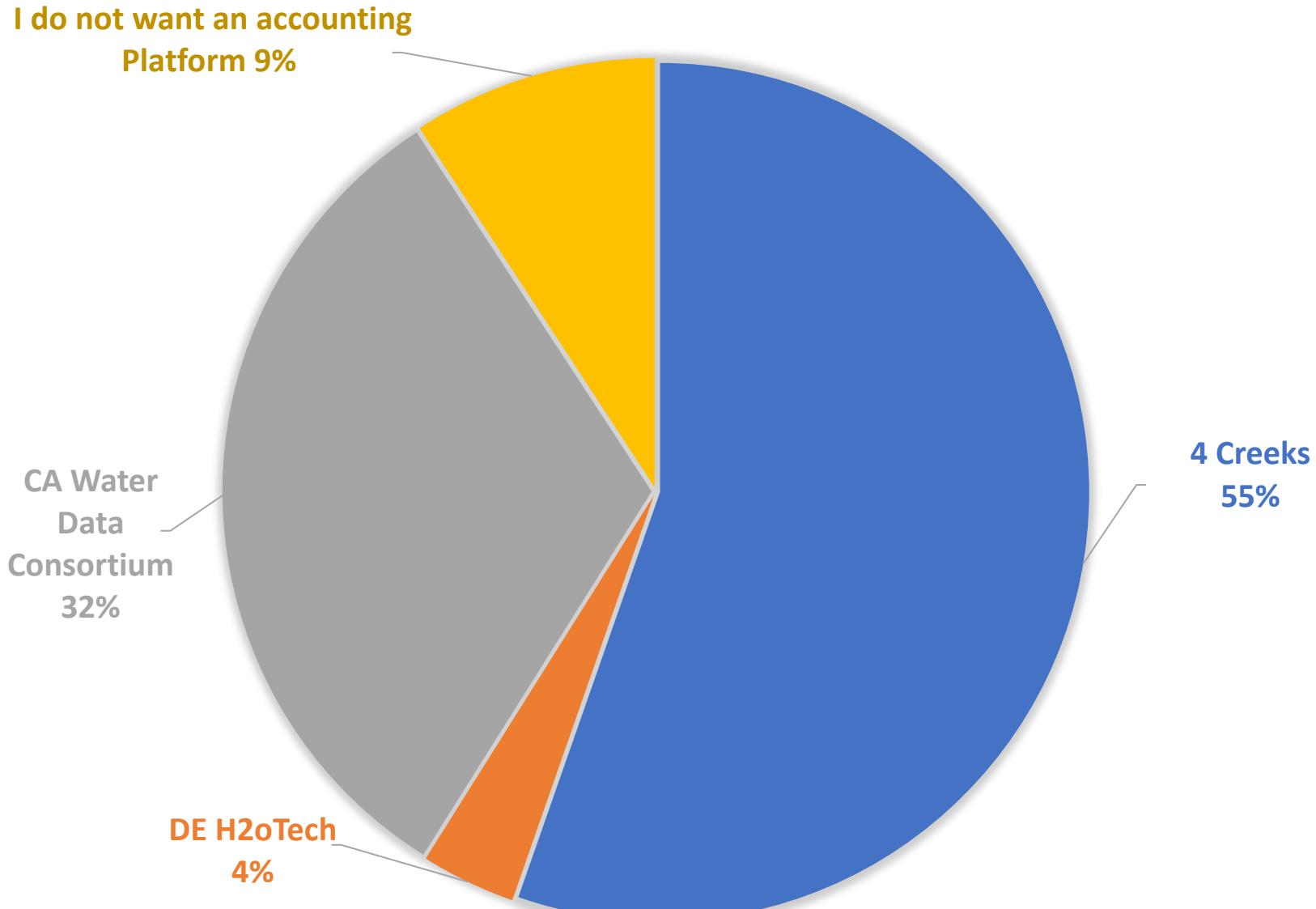


# Key Functionality for Groundwater Accounting Platforms

- Track water usage from any remote sensed and metered data source
- Show available water supply, including allocations, recharge, and other credits
- Visualize water usage at the field, parcel, and account scales with grower-facing dashboards

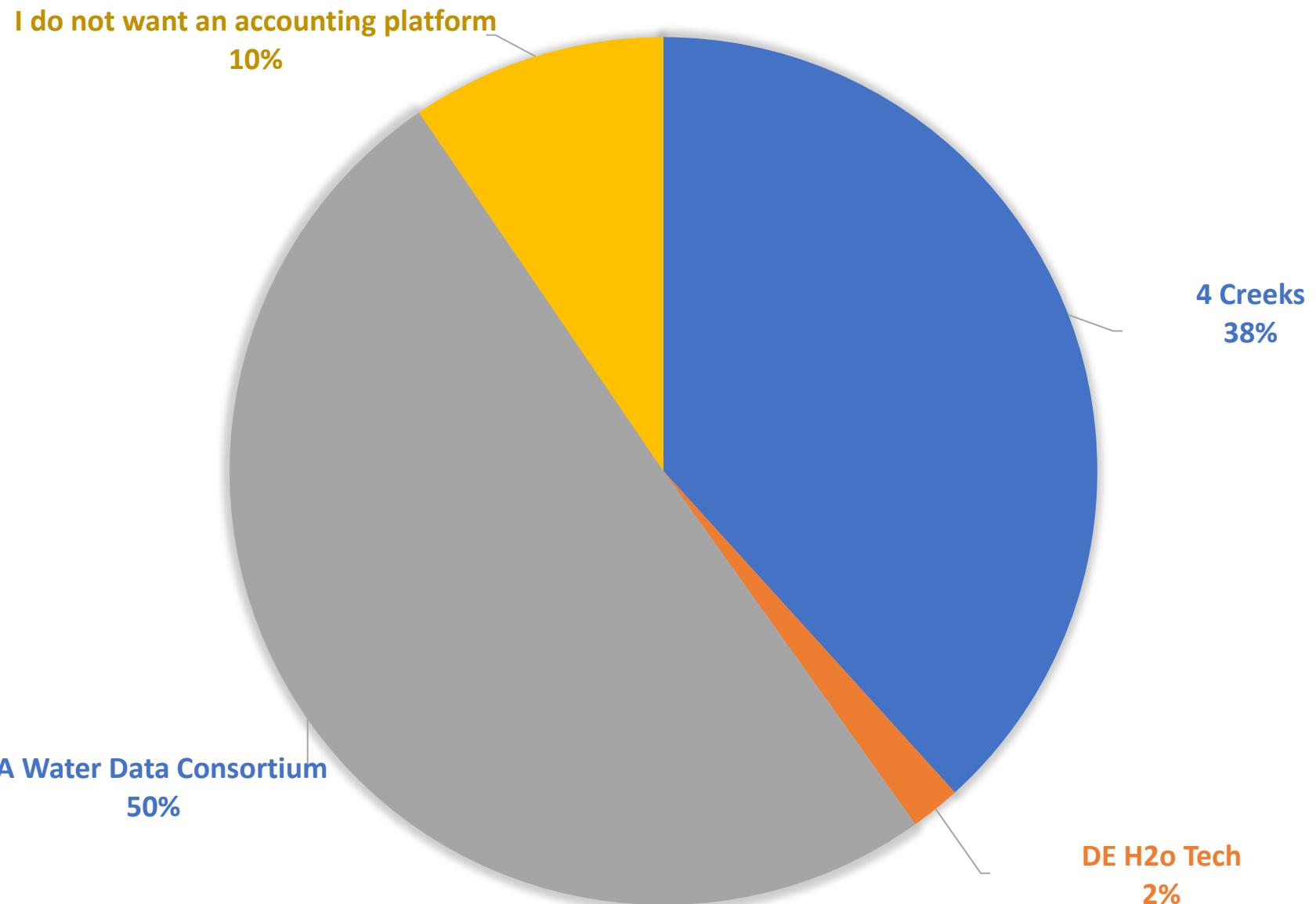


## GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM QUESTIONNAIRE BY NUMBER OF APN



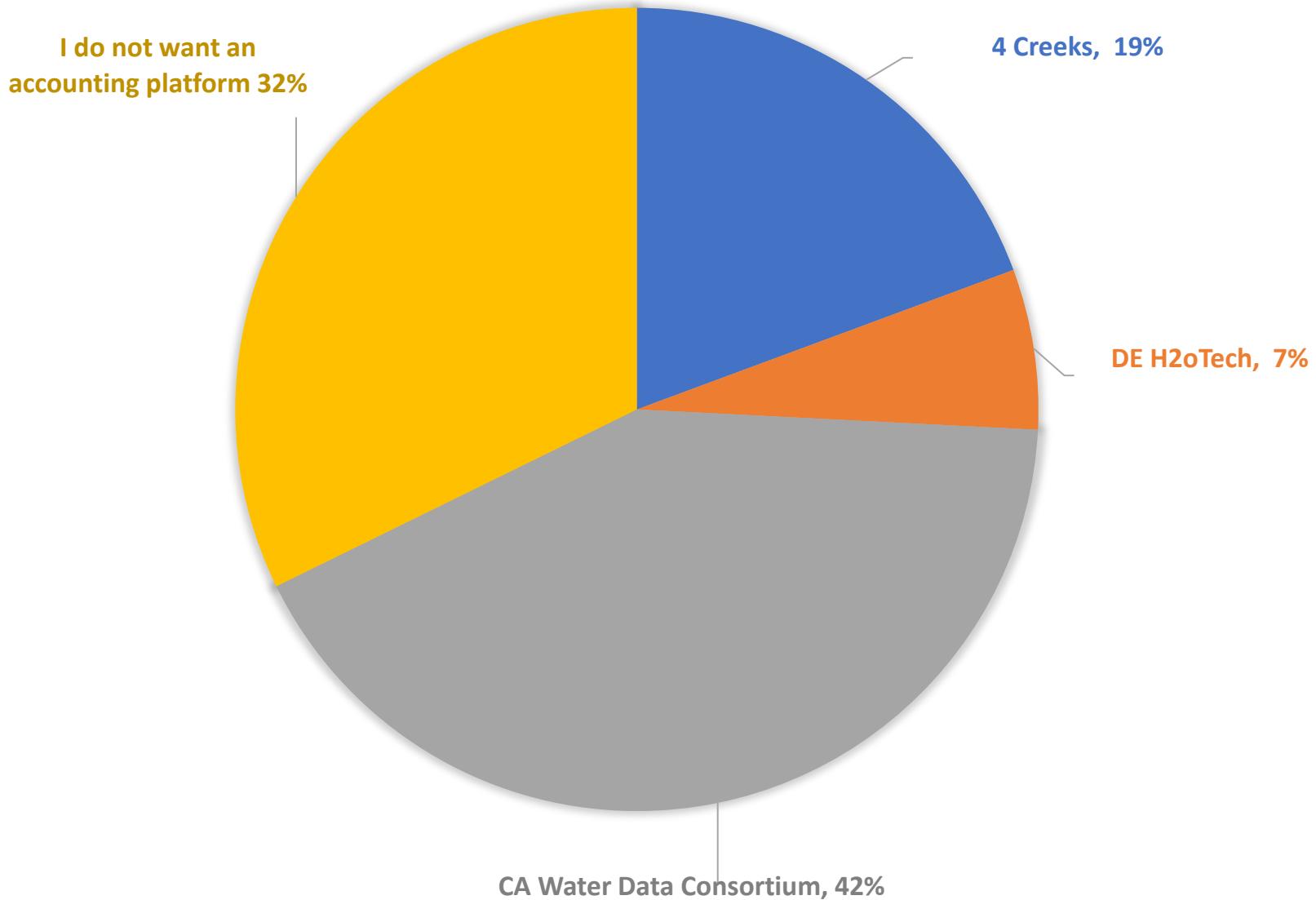


## GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM QUESTIONNAIRE BY ACREAGE





## GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM QUESTIONNAIRE BY FARM UNIT





## Next Steps

- Significant opposition to the groundwater accounting platform despite educational efforts and presentations by potential vendors
- Conflicting responses in terms of top choice
- Reference checks suggested that base cost escalated quickly when customized; “it’s not plug and play”
- Staff recommendation: Wait until fall and revisit.



## ITEM - 4i

Action Item: Discussion and consideration of approval of Receipt of Unanticipated Revenue No. 25-072, in the amount of \$2,398,000, derived from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Plan Project fee to Water and Natural Resource's Professional and Specialized Services for Fiscal Year 2025-26.



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# Receipt of Unanticipated Revenue

- GSP Project Fee was previously approved and is currently being collected for domestic well mitigation only
- Action appropriates \$2.4 million in collected, unbudgeted GSP fee revenue
- Projects address groundwater overdraft and advance SGMA implementation
- No General Fund impact



# Staff Recommendation

Consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve Receipt of Unanticipated Revenue No. 25-072.



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## ITEM – 4j

Action Item: Consideration and recommendation to approve a resolution to adopt rules for Domestic Well Mitigation in the Madera Subbasin, Madera County GSA



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# Madera Dry Well Program Update

- Program Administrator selected
- Driller RFQ developed and released
- Website developed and launched
  - Dynamic map
  - Application (English/Spanish versions)
  - Program rules
  - Madera Subbasin GSAs contact info
  - Helpful resources
- Public outreach
  - Flyer (English/Spanish versions)
  - Postcard
- Madera Dry Well Program branding complete



# Madera Dry Well Program Update

- Landowner Agreement developed and in legal review
- Madera Dry Well Program telephone line
  - English and Spanish assistance available
- Have 1<sup>st</sup> applicant



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# Revised Process & Amended Resolution

## Process

**Apply:** Complete and sign the application and submit a \$100 deposit that will be credited towards payment if qualified. **The deposit is non-refundable for applicants that do not qualify.**

**Assessment:** The Madera County GSA or its agents will conduct a well assessment.

**Approval:** If the well qualifies, the landowner will solicit and provide the GSA with three (3) bids from well drillers. Two (2) bids must be from the Madera County GSA qualified well driller list. The County GSA will approve one of the bids and authorize work to begin.

**Payment:** The GSA will advance the landowner up to \$35,000 in eligible costs on a schedule deemed appropriate by the GSA. At completion the landowner must provide sufficient documentation to support the amount advanced by the GSA.

**Record:** After completion, the mitigation record will be filed on the property deed with agreement terms.

## Resolution

**Signing Authority:** Grants authority to Director to approve qualified projects according to criteria.



# Staff Recommendation

Consideration and recommendation to approve a resolution to adopt rules for Domestic Well Mitigation in the Madera Subbasin, Madera County GSA



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