



Item 4.b

Informational Item: Semi-Annual Budget Update for the Madera County GSA



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County GSA Financial Update

(July through December - 2025)

Outline

- Overview
- Key Concepts
- Revenue Summary
- Professional Support Services
- Regulatory Requirements
- Financial Observations



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County GSA Overview

220,000 acres across 3 subbasins

- 120,000 irrigated acres
- 100,000 rangeland (never irrigated) (fee exempt)

Responsibilities

- Develop & update GSPs
- Annual reports & monitoring wells
- Grant Management

Programs

- Demand Reduction – three options to track water use
- Land Repurposing – supported by grants
- Recharge Projects – multiple grant-funded efforts
- Domestic Well Mitigation – development and services
- Outreach & Education – SGMA rules & grower guidance



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County GSA Fee Key Concepts

County GSA Fee – limited to administration, planning, and regulatory compliance (not projects)

2019 Rate Study Categories:

- Regulatory Compliance
- Professional Services
- Staffing
- Administrative Expenses



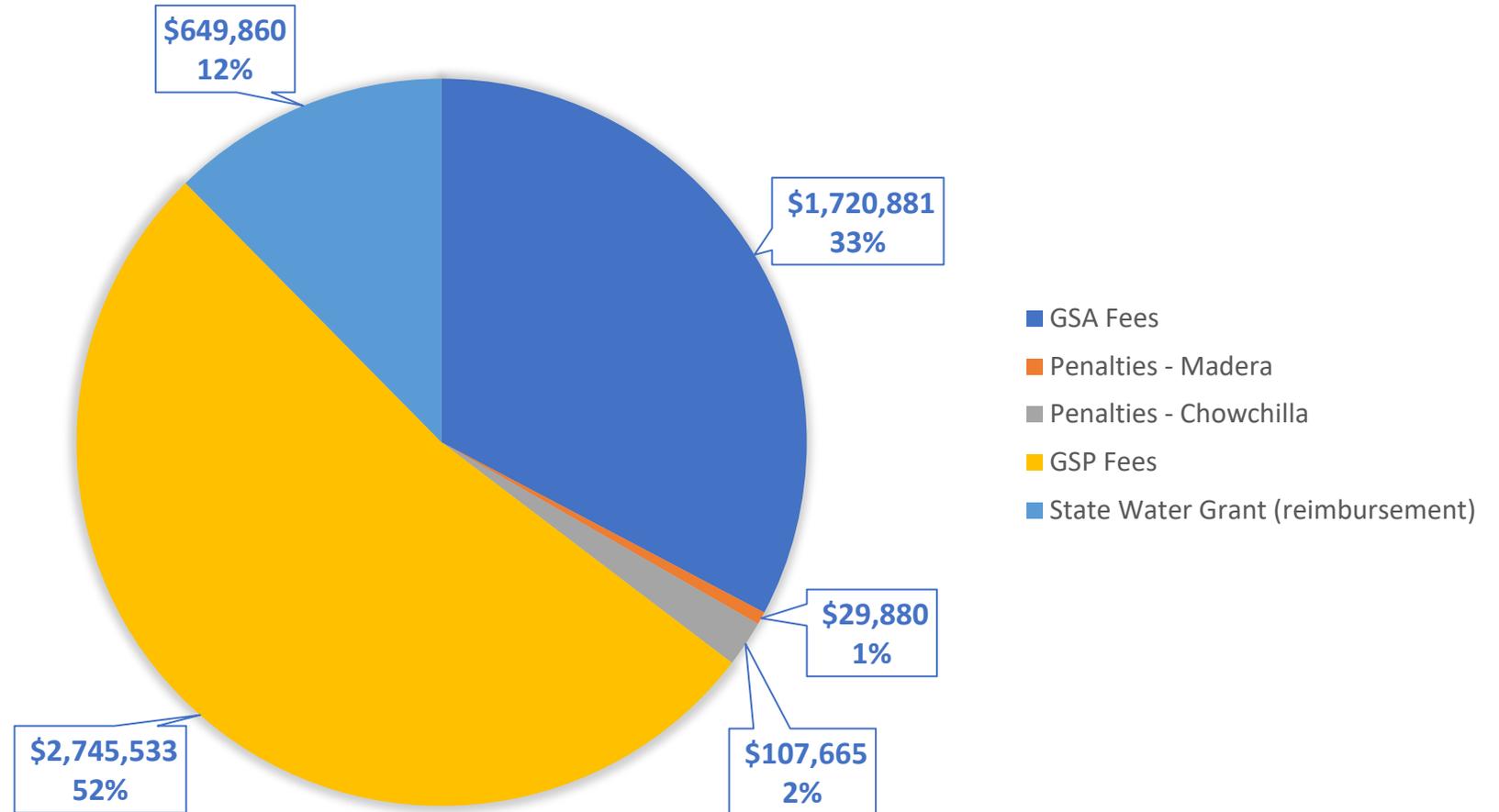
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GSA Revenue Summary

(July to December 2025)



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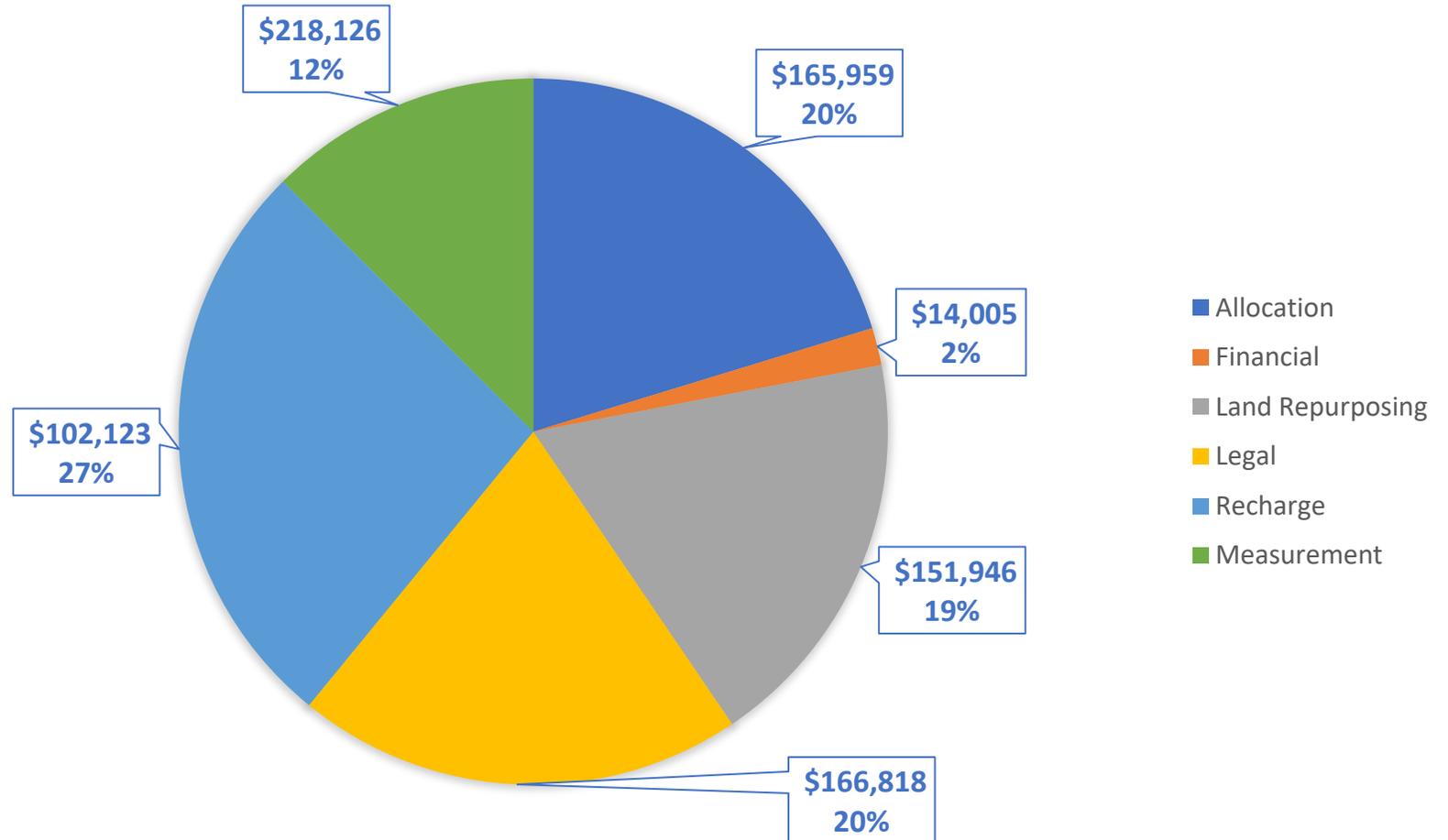




GSA Expenses

Professional Support Services

(July to December 2025)

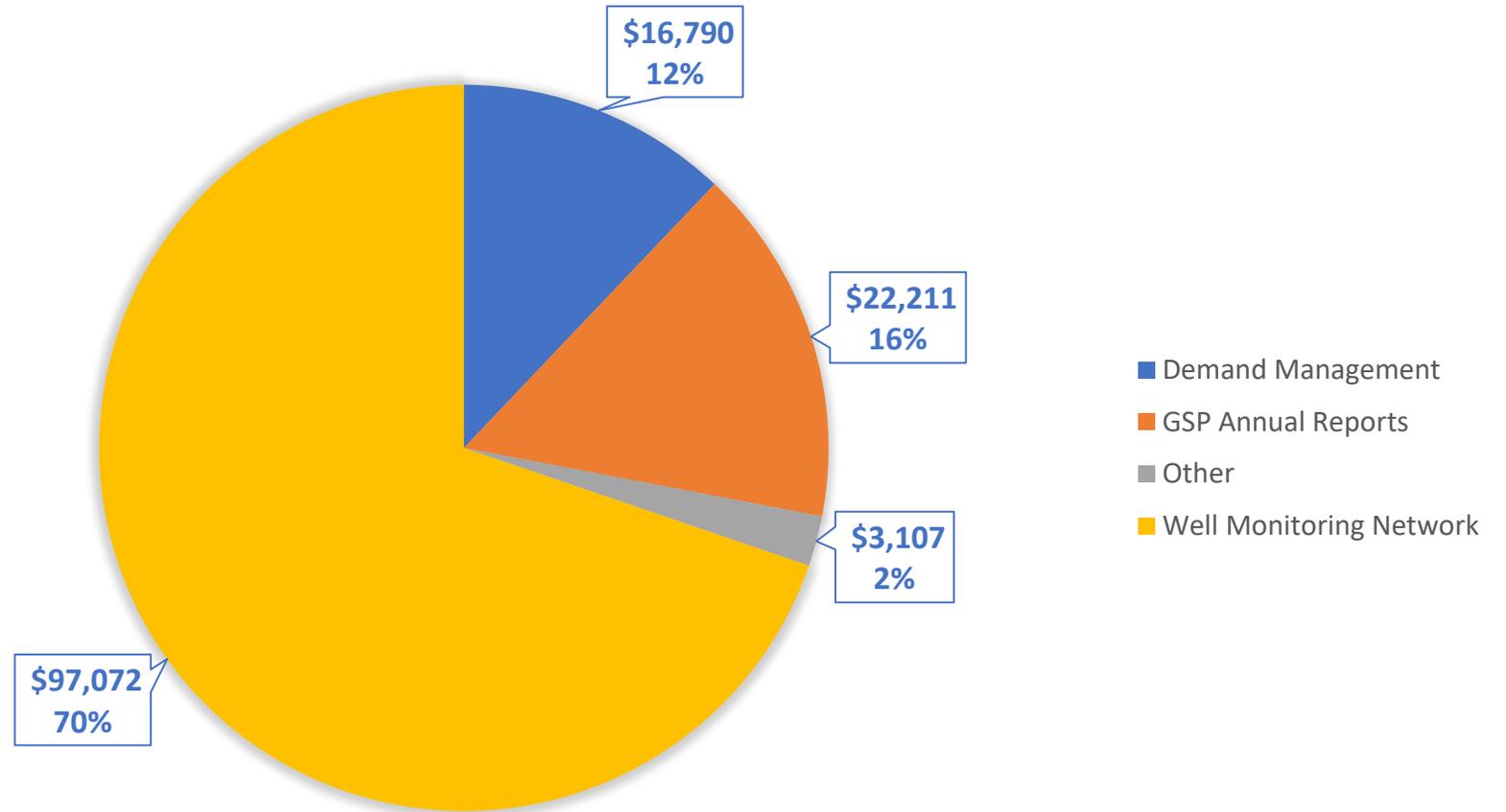


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GSA Expenses Regulatory Requirements (July to December 2025)



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Financial Observations

- Grants are not a sustainable long-term funding source and current state grant funding is limited
- Technical expertise is costly
- Litigation should be anticipated
- Domestic Well Mitigation will be included in the next update
- Financial updates are cumulative



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Item 4.c

Informational Item: Discussion of potential refinements to Domestic Well Mitigation Program



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Domestic Well Mitigation Program



Funding Source

Funded through the GSP fee adopted following the Raftelis financial analysis

Raftelis evaluated anticipated GSP implementation costs, including domestic well mitigation

Established a fee structure to equitably recover costs from groundwater users

Origin of the \$35,000 Limit

Technical cost estimates at the time showed replacement wells ranged from \$25,000–\$35,000

\$35,000 reflected the upper end of that estimated range

Cap was set to balance homeowner protection with long-term fiscal sustainability



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Domestic Well Mitigation Program



Program Design Approach

Committee direction: model existing programs

Chowchilla program covers well construction only

Does not cover wiring, plumbing, pump installation, or related components

Feedback from Outreach & Focus Groups

Significant concern about homeowner out-of-pocket expenses

Many homeowners may not have the financial ability to cover costs beyond the cap

Current Impact

Under existing structure, homeowners may still incur costs for:

- Pump and motor

- Electrical work

- Plumbing and pressure system

- Destruction of old well



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Domestic Well Mitigation Program



GSA Staff Recommendation

Maintain \$35,000 per-well cap

Allow reimbursement of all well-related expenses up to \$35,000

Drilling

Pump installation

Electrical work

Plumbing

Destruction of old well

Provides flexibility while maintaining a clear funding limit



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Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Connection to Existing Water System – Real Cost Example

Two homeowners requested connection to existing public system

Public Works estimate:

\$84,000 to extend 400 feet of water main and connect two properties

\$7,000 per property connection fee

Does *not* include plumbing from main line to each residence

Key Consideration

Connection-based mitigation can significantly exceed \$35,000

Additional funding may be required when connection is the most appropriate solution



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Item 4.d

Informational Item: Summary of informational Interviews with growers who expressed disinterest in a groundwater accounting platform

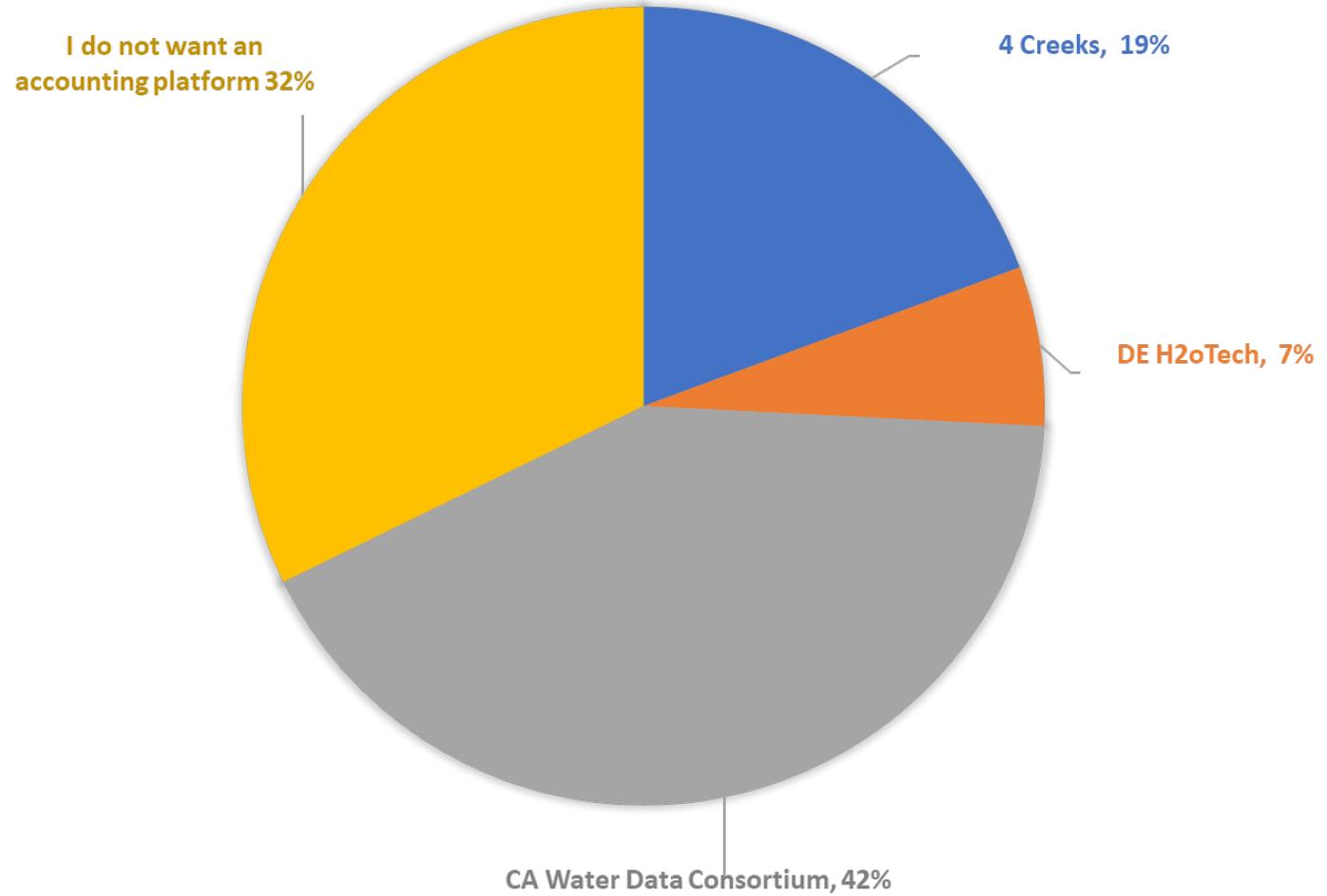


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Background

GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM QUESTIONNAIRE BY FARM UNIT



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General Comments

- Did not understand how the platform worked (despite multiple presentations from vendors and a recorded webinar on our website)
- Did not understand the need for the platform (despite public comments requesting platform)
 - “I do not need the hassle.”
 - “Printed reports are sufficient.”
 - “Not interested at this time.”
- Cost was not mentioned frequently (only by one grower)



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Frequency of Checking Data

- Growers gave a range of responses for checking their data (either online or in paper reports):
 - Daily
 - Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Not at all



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Do you use Irriwatch? Do you like how it is set up?

- Growers were distributed among three categories with users of meters, who liked meters, Land IQ, and Irriwatch.
 - Meters
 - LandIQ
 - Irriwatch

No strong preferences were expressed for satellite measurement methods



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Staff Recommendation

- Revisit in a year at the end of 2026
- Issue an RFP at the end of 2026 for groundwater accounting platform options



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Item 4e: Review Fallow Fields Data

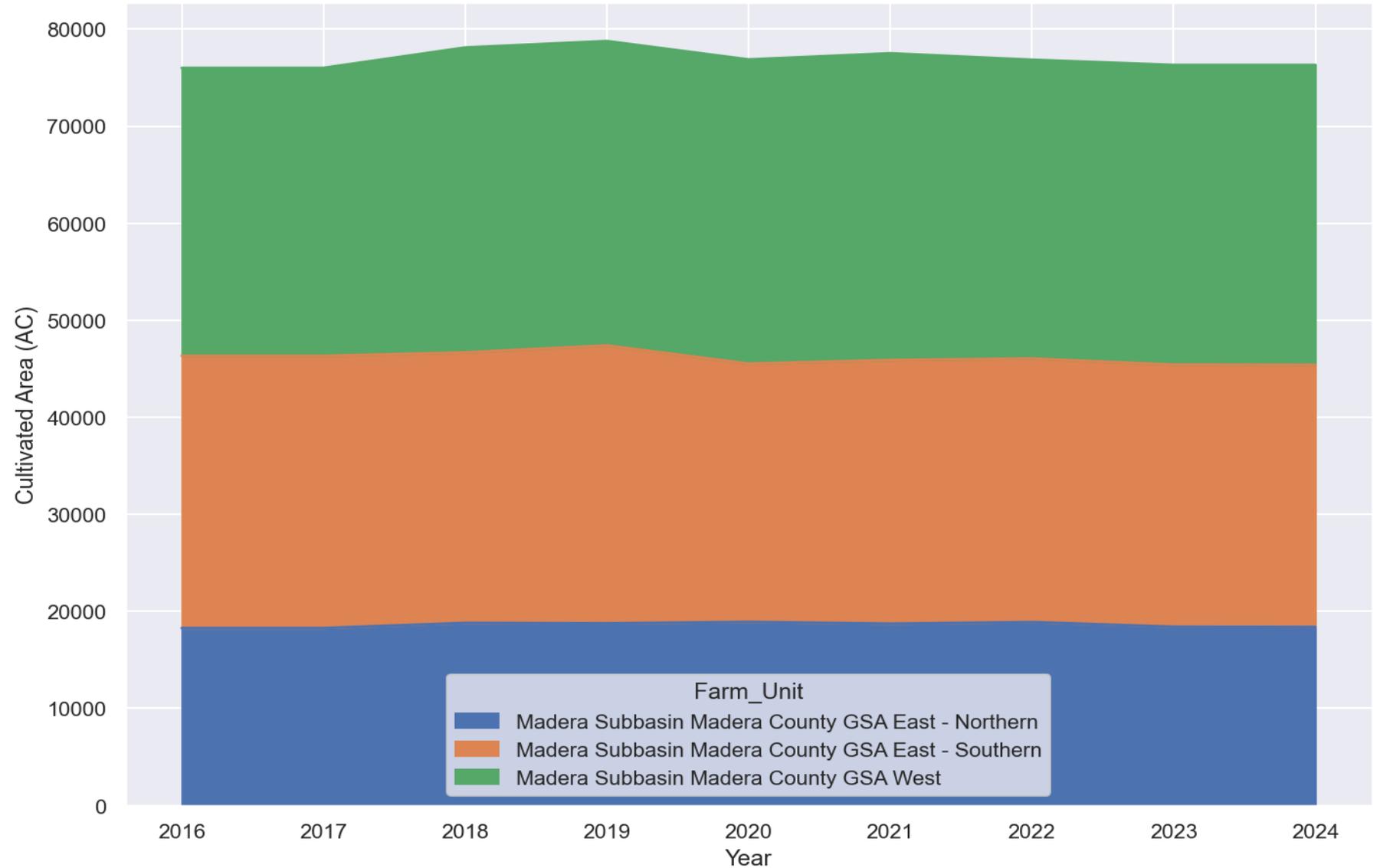


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Figure 1. Cultivated area trend analysis for the Madera Subbasin farm unit zones.

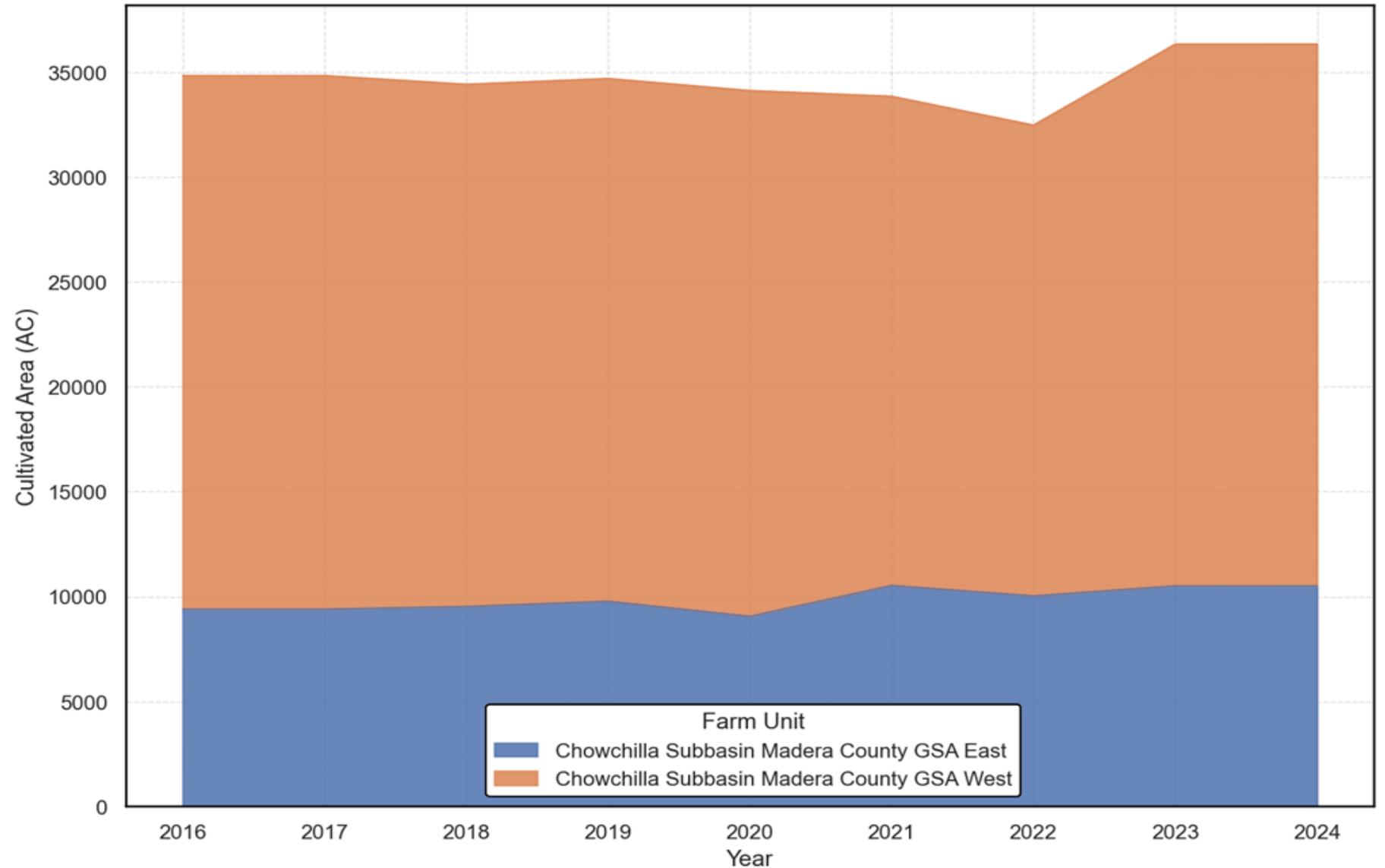


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Figure 2. Cultivated area trend analysis for the Chowchilla Subbasin farm unit zones.



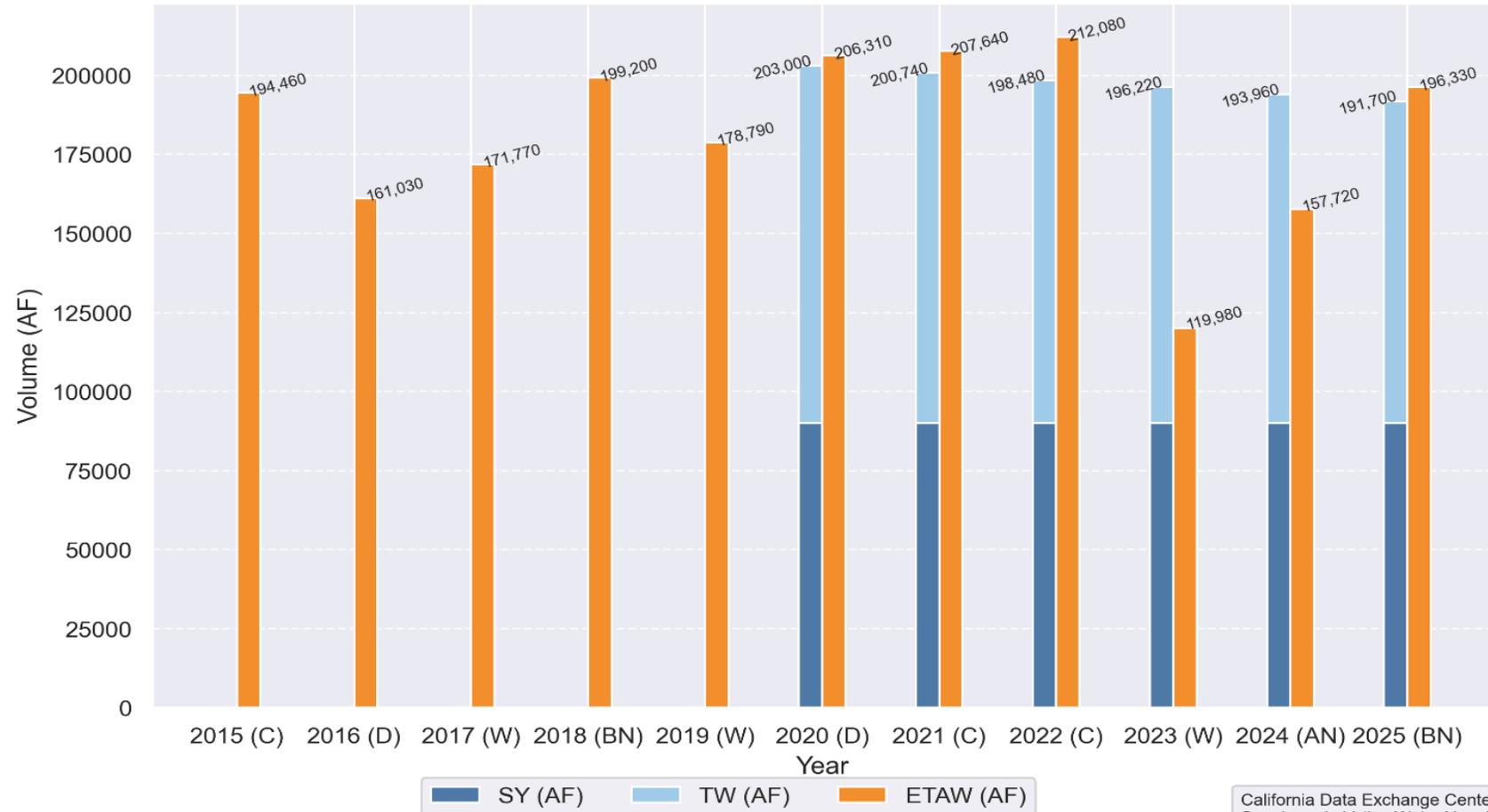
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Figure 3. ETAW over time for the Madera County GSAs' farm units within the Madera Subbasin

Madera County GSAs Madera Subbasin Volume (AF) per year (2015-2025)



This analysis is based on a total geometric acreage of 88,250 AC for the Madera Subbasin for all years.

Note: Consumptive use of applied surface water data has been excluded from this ETAW analysis if the data has been provided.

Note: The 2025 Water Year Index is preliminary and has not been finalized by the California Department of Water Resources.

California Data Exchange Center
 San Joaquin Valley Water Year Index
 • Wet (W)
 • Above Normal (AN)
 • Below Normal (BN)
 • Dry (D)
 • Critical (C)

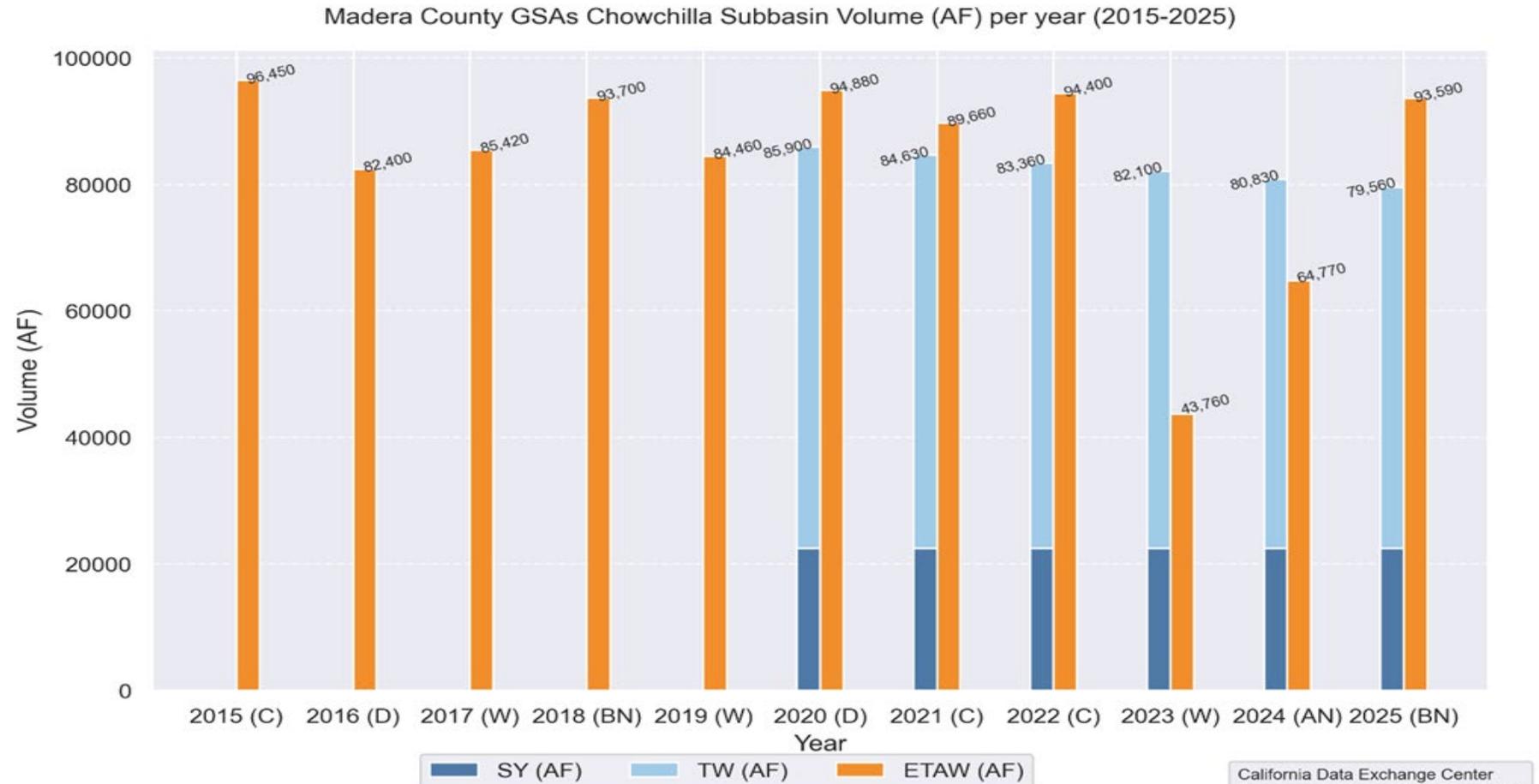


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Figure 4. ETAW over time for the Madera County GSAs' farm units within the Chowchilla Subbasin



This analysis is based on a total geometric acreage of 38,100 AC for the Chowchilla Subbasin for all years.

Note: Consumptive use of applied surface water has been excluded from this ETAW analysis if the data has been provided.

Note: The 2025 Water Year Index is preliminary and has not been finalized by the California Department of Water Resources.

California Data Exchange Center
San Joaquin Valley Water Year Index

- Wet (W)
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Item 4.f

Informational Item: Review of draft Chowchilla Subbasin Groundwater Demand Management Programs and Subsidence Mitigation Measures Report to receive feedback



Chowchilla Subbasin *Groundwater Demand Management (GDM) and Subsidence Mitigation* *Madera County GSA Committee Meeting*

March 3, 2026

Agenda

- Background
- Groundwater Demand Management (GDM)
 - Voluntary measures
 - Existing mandatory measures
 - Additional mandatory measures
- Timeline
- Take-aways
- Next Steps
- Questions

Background

- Initial Chowchilla Subbasin (Subbasin) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted to the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2020.
- Revised on three occasions:
 - First revision: July 2022 (Addressing DWR incomplete determination)
 - Second revision: May 2023 (Addressing DWR inadequate determination)
 - Third revision: January 2025 (Addressing SWRCB comments upon return to DWR)
- Significant coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB):
 - SWRCB Board Members
 - 4/24/2023
 - 5/23/2023
 - SWRCB Staff
 - 6/29/2023
 - 7/11/2023
 - 4/26/2024
 - 6/10/2024

Background (Cont.....)

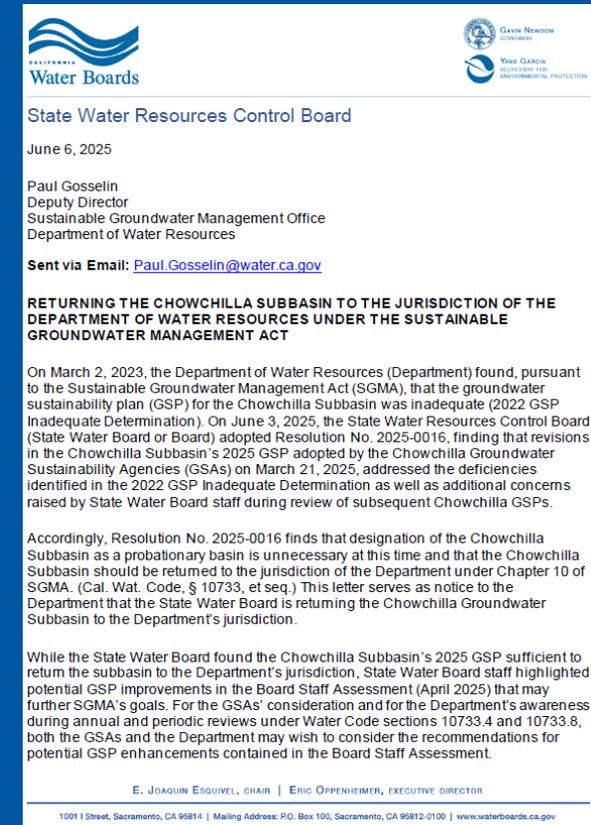
- What we heard from the SWRCB:
 - The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Subbasin must provide a “backstop” (with specific triggers) to halt overdraft and subsidence.
 - The GSAs must consider financial mitigation for subsidence impacts, as necessary.
- GSAs’ Response:
 - Develop a GDM and Subsidence Mitigation Measures Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
 - Develop GDM and Subsidence Mitigation Measures – ready for implementation no later than January 1, 2026.
 - Voluntary and Mandatory Measures.
 - Triggers for action.
 - Implemented as necessary.

Background (Cont.....)

- Commitments in MOU (2025 Revised GSP Appendix 3N):
 - Develop Demand Management Programs (Program) and prepare to implement GDM and subsidence mitigation measures (implementable no later than January 1, 2026).
 - Prepare Voluntary and Mandatory Measures
 - Voluntary measures (immediate: existing GSP projects/programs, etc.)
 - Mandatory measures (if triggers occur: enforceable restrictions)
 - Develop triggers for action (e.g., conditions within limits of interim milestones)
 - Only to be implemented if necessary.

Background (Cont.....)

- Commitments in MOU (2025 Revised GSP Appendix 3N)
 - Components to develop include:
 - Specific measures (voluntary, mandatory; existing GSA programs vs. new programs)
 - Specific triggers
 - Proportionate responsibility
 - Funding/financing
 - Budget cycle and review
 - Program implementation and management
 - Public outreach, engagement
 - Coordination with existing programs in Chowchilla Subbasin and surrounding region
- Allowed for Subbasin to be sent back to DWR on June 3, 2025.



Groundwater Demand Management

- Voluntary Measures:

Table 2-2. Existing Voluntary Measures for GDM and Subsidence Mitigation.

GSA	Existing Voluntary Measure Name	Implementation Status
CWD GSA	Groundwater Recharge Basins	Implemented/ In Progress
CWD GSA	Flood-MAR	Implemented
CWD GSA	Enhanced Management of Flood Releases for Recharge	Implemented
CWD GSA	Land Fallowing Program	In Progress
Madera County GSA	Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program	In Progress
Madera County GSA	Water Purchase Program, Water Imports Purchase, and Millerton Flood Release Imports	In Progress
Madera County GSA	Chowchilla Bypass Flood Flow Recharge Projects	Implemented/ In Progress
Merced County GSA	SVMWC Recharge Basins to Capture Floodwater	In Progress
TTWD GSA	Utilize Existing Recharge Basin	Implemented
TTWD GSA	Additional Recharge Basins to Capture Floodwater	Implemented
TTWD GSA	Poso Canal Pipeline and Columbia Canal Company Pipeline Projects	Implemented

Groundwater Demand Management

- Existing Mandatory Measures:

Table 2-1. Existing Mandatory Measures for GDM and Subsidence Mitigation.

GSA	Existing Mandatory Measure Name	Status
CWD GSA	Groundwater Extraction Fee Program	Planned (2026)
Madera County GSA	Demand Management Program (with associated allocation, penalties, recharge policies, and land fallowing as a byproduct of other policies)	Implemented
Merced County GSA	Demand Management Program (consistent with Madera County GSA)	Planned (2026)
Triangle T Water District GSA	Subsidence Control Measures Agreement (with associated lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits) and forthcoming operating agreement	Implemented (2017), with an Operating Agreement Planned (2026)

Groundwater Demand Management

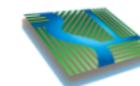
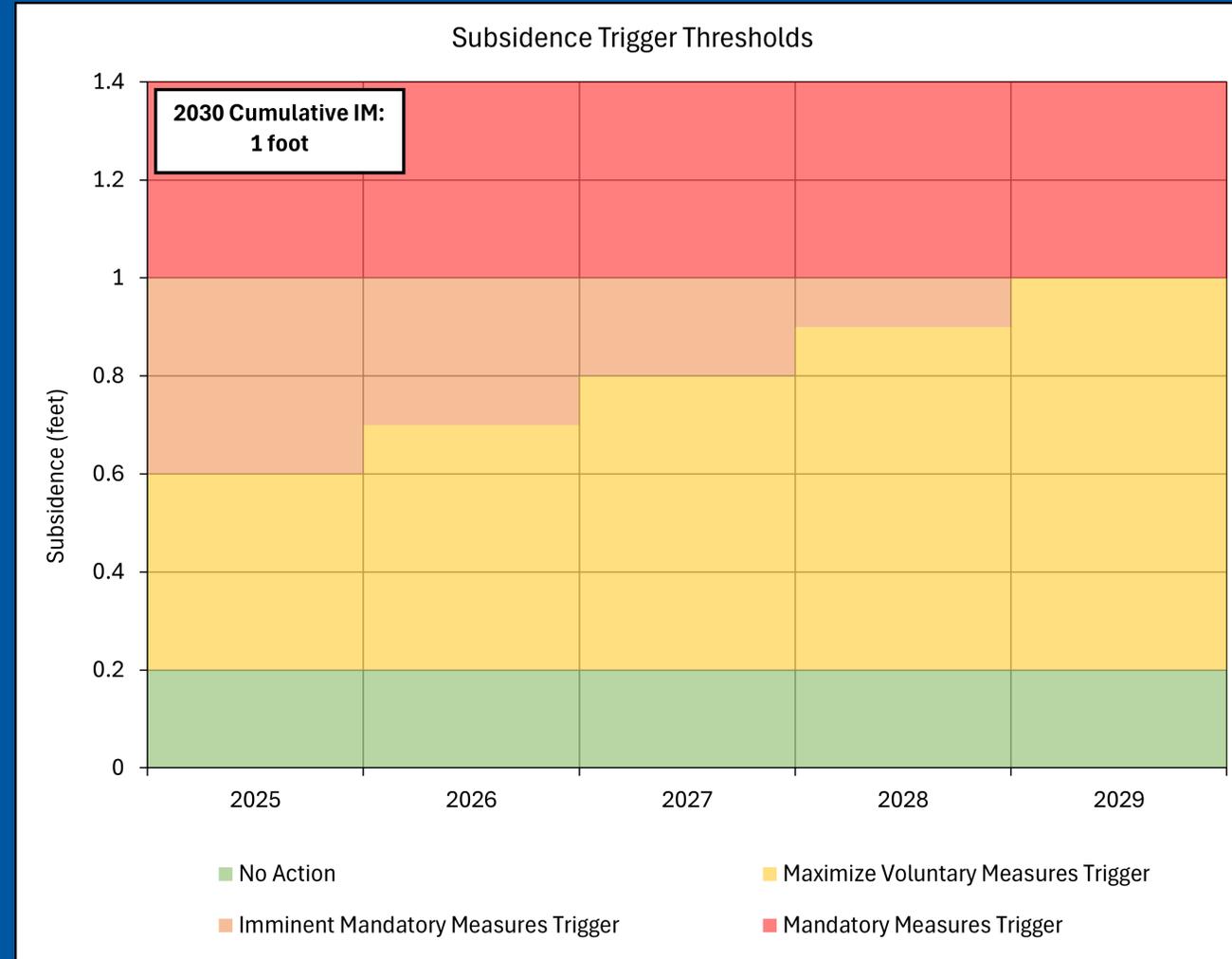
- Potential (Additional) Mandatory Measures:

Table 2-3. Potential Mandatory Measures for GDM and Subsidence Mitigation.

GSA	Existing Mandatory Measure Name	Potential Mandatory Measure (Potential Refinements Within Focused Areas if Triggers Conditions Occur)
CWD GSA	Groundwater Extraction Fee Program	Potentially adjust fee tiers, increase fee rates, modify extraction thresholds, and/or link fee tiers and rates to the severity or spatial extent of trigger occurrences. Potentially implement together with a Surface Water Incentive Program
Madera County GSA	Demand Management Program (with associated allocation, penalties, and recharge policies)	Potentially adjust transitional water to reduce groundwater extraction within focused areas, and/or set lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits within focused areas where subsidence risks are elevated. Potentially require measurement of wells used for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
Merced County GSA	Demand Management Program (consistent with Madera County GSA)	Program implementation and refinements consistent with Madera County GSA
Triangle T Water District GSA	Subsidence Control Measures Agreement (with associated lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits) and forthcoming operating agreement	Potentially adjust lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits within focused areas where subsidence risks are elevated, refine the geographic extent of lower aquifer pumping restrictions, and/or strengthen monitoring requirements to ensure continued compliance

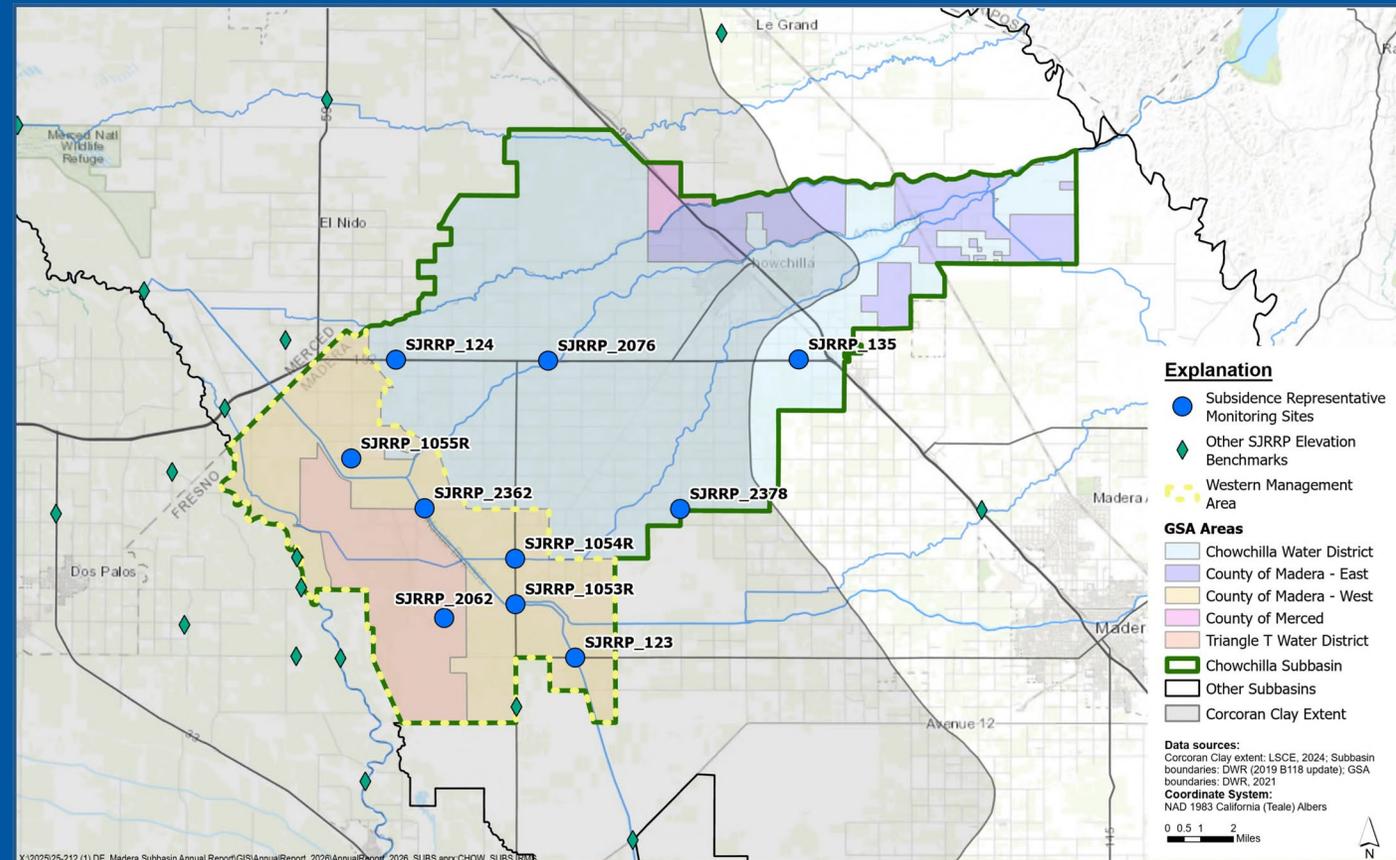
Subsidence Mitigation Triggers

- Red Light/Mandatory Measures Trigger
 - *Trigger*: the 5-year cumulative IM is exceeded
 - *Action*: immediate action required
- Orange Light/Imminent Mandatory Measures Trigger
 - *Trigger*: a percentage of the 5-year cumulative IM is exceeded
 - *Action*: prepare for action within 1 year
- Yellow Light/Maximize Use of Voluntary Measures Trigger
 - *Trigger*: the 1-year annual rate IM has been exceeded
 - *Action*: maximize use of voluntary measures
- Green Light/No Action
 - Below the 1-year annual rate IM

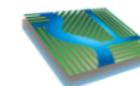
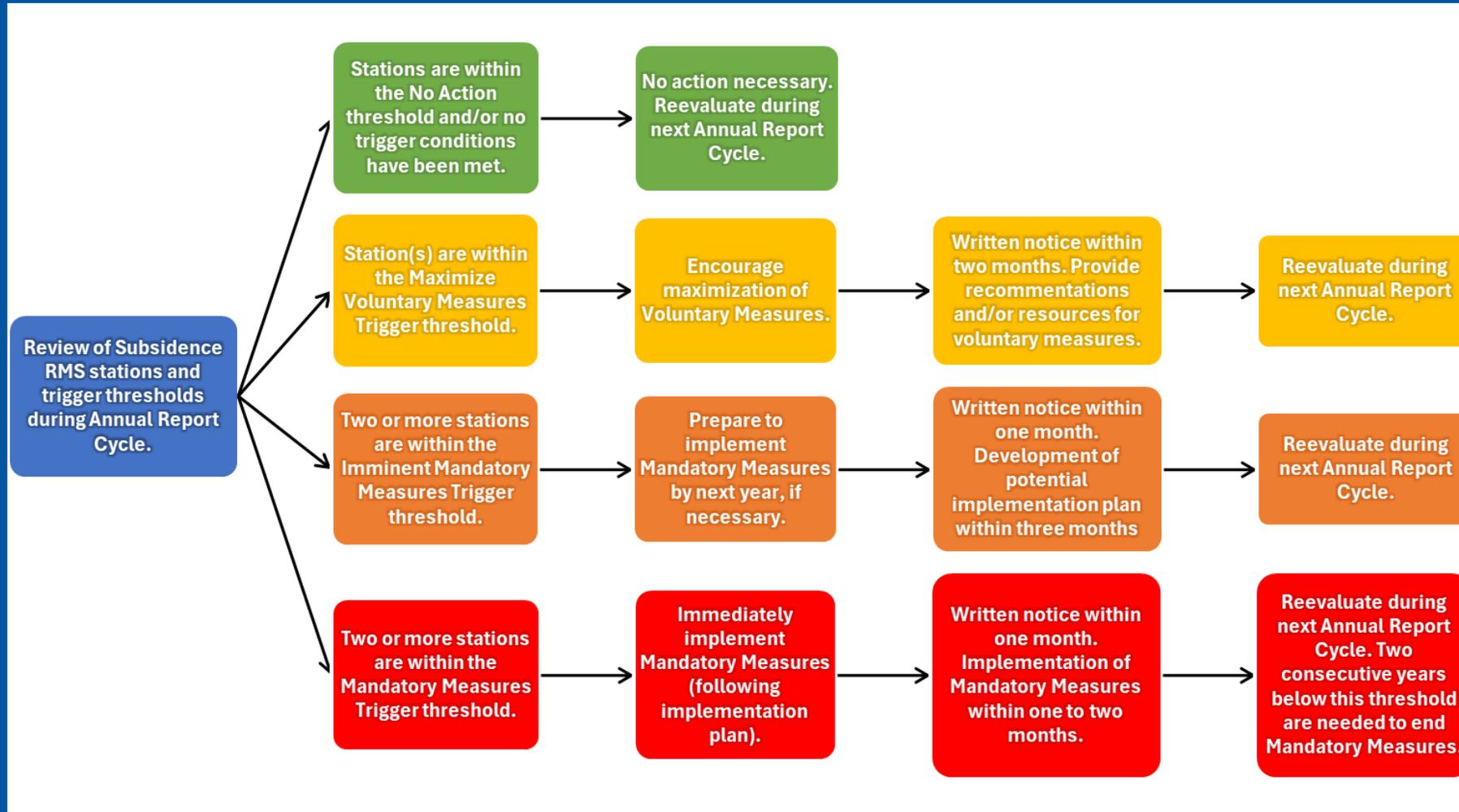


Necessary Requirements to Trigger Action

- Condition to Trigger Action:
“Subsidence trigger thresholds at two RMS have been exceeded in the same year.”
 - Orange and Red Light triggers are the actionable trigger thresholds

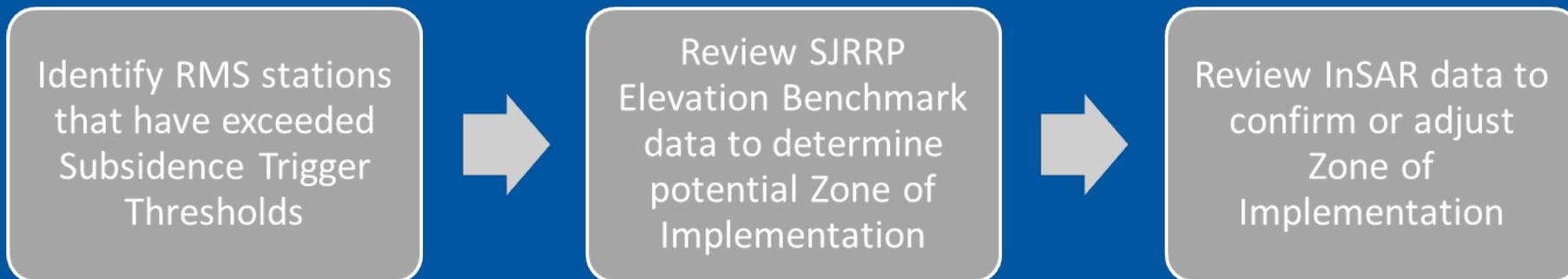


Monitoring and Reporting



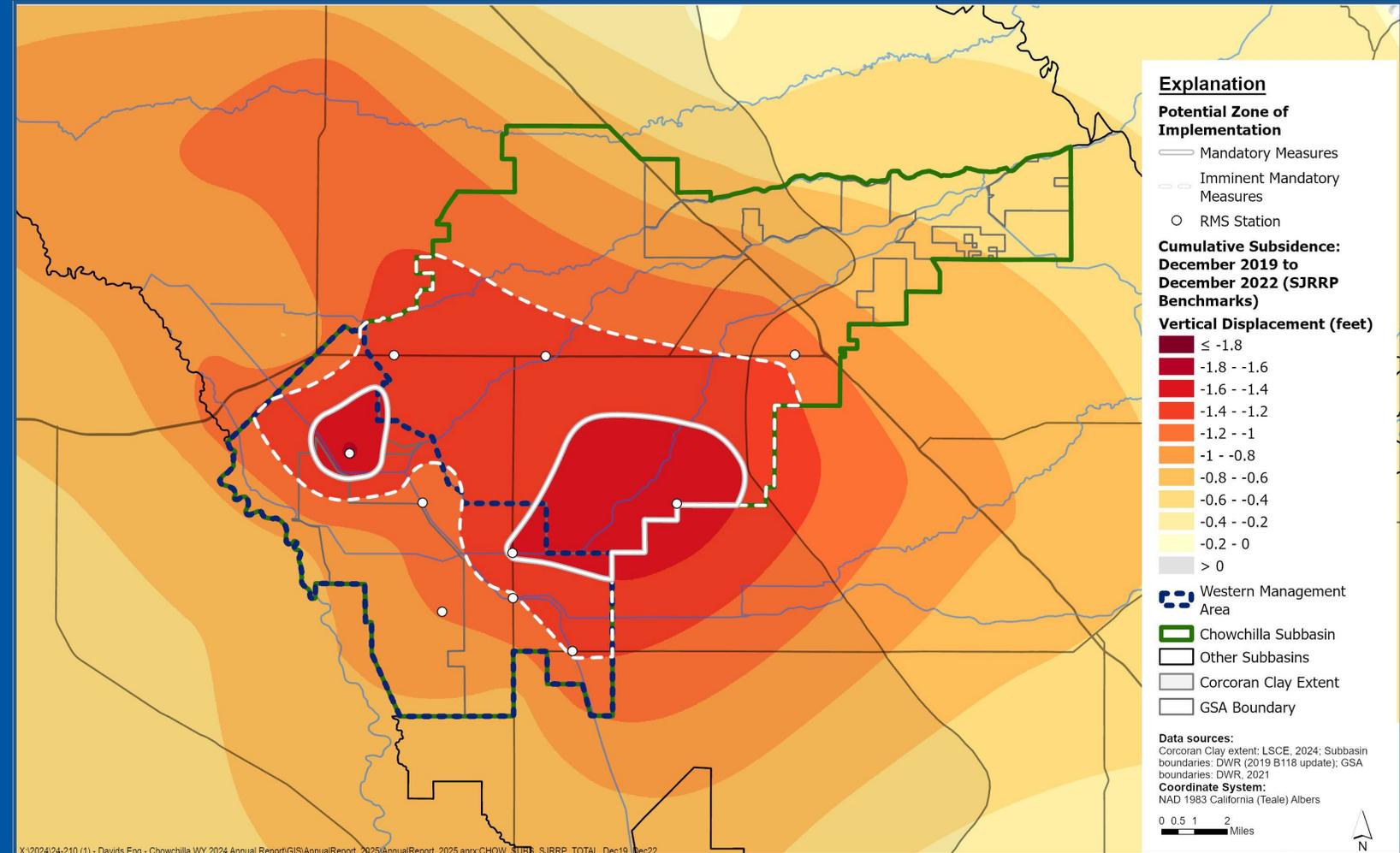
Spatial Extent of Triggered Action

- Mandatory Measures boundary line to be drawn around mandatory measures trigger threshold
 - ex. For 2025-2030 period, around 1-foot of subsidence contour line
- Imminent Mandatory Measures boundary line to be drawn around secondary threshold
 - This area will be notified that an exceedance has occurred nearby and mandatory measures may be necessary within 1-year
- Include any parcels with 50% or more of area within the boundary line



Spatial Extent of Triggered Action - Example

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A TRIGGER THRESHOLD EXCEEDANCE, FOR EXAMPLE PURPOSES ONLY



Takeaways

- GDM and subsidence mitigation measures required by the SWRCB, primary mechanism to avoid probationary status.
- Implementation ONLY if conditions warrant.
 - Not a one size fits all.
 - Geographically focused.
 - Different approaches in each GSA.
- Have “runway” for continued program refinement and additional public collaboration.

Next Steps

- GSA governing body review and consideration.
- Inclusion of GDM Report in Water Year 2025 Annual Report (Apr 1).
- Continue to monitor conditions within the Subbasin.
- Additional mandatory measure refinement, as necessary (adaptive management).
- Stakeholder outreach.
- Implementation ONLY if conditions warrant.



Questions?



Item 4.g

Consideration of entering into an Agreement among the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies listed in Exhibit “A” and authorize the Chair to sign.

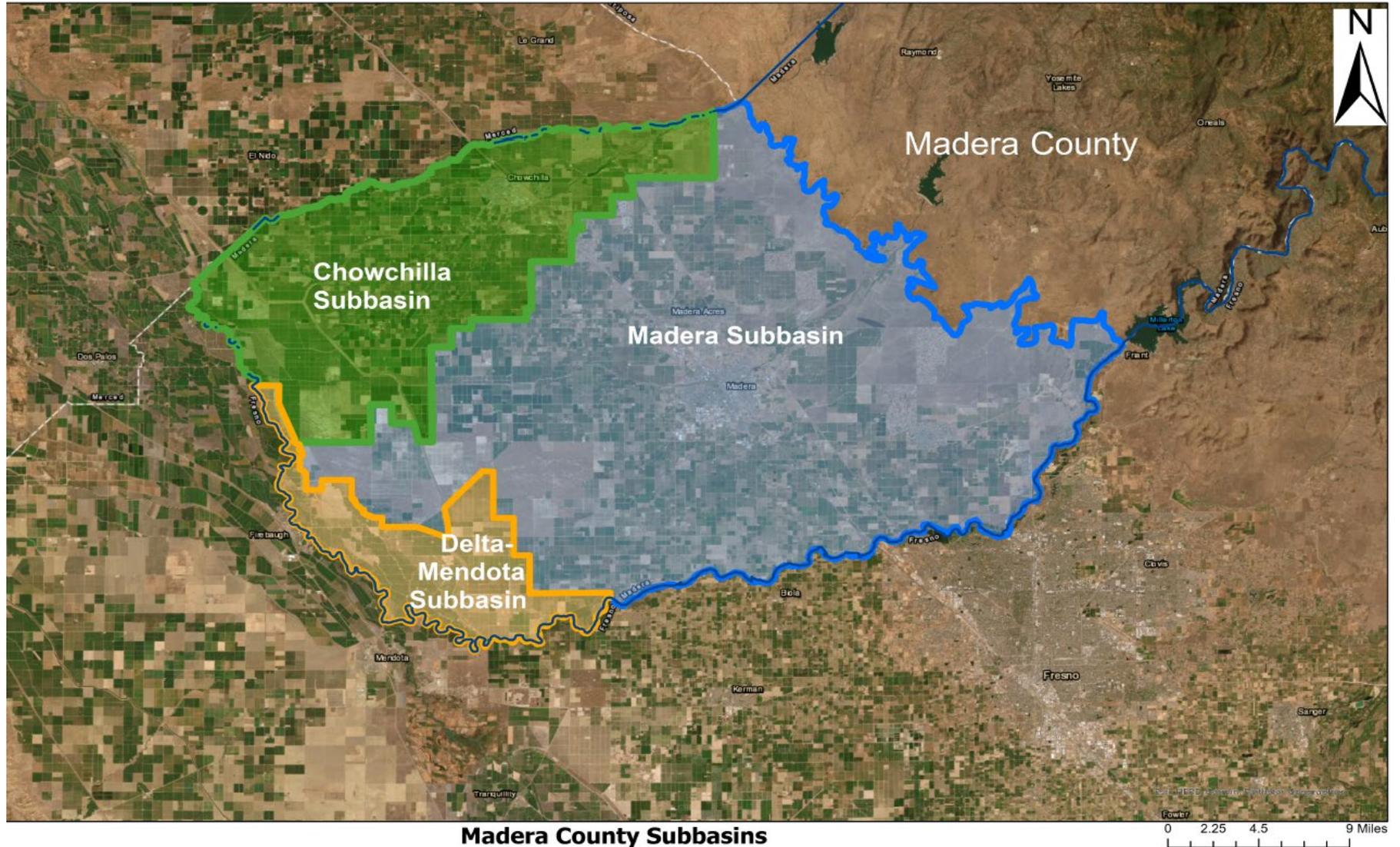


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Delta-Mendota Background



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Delta-Mendota Subbasin

Background

- Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) adopted a single, subbasin wide, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in 2024
- This required a MOA to create a Coordination Committee to develop and implement the single GSP among the 23 GSAs in the Subbasin
- 2024 MOA included San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), which provided fiscal, contracting, and administrative services
- County of Madera GSA- Delta-Mendota signed the MOA on February 6, 2024

Moving Ahead

- SLDMWA no longer provides services as of March 1, 2026
- A Joint Powers Authority formed in January 2026, and assumes responsibilities for SLDMWA and the Coordination Committee



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MOA Updates

- Removes SLDMWA from Article III; replaced with the Joint Powers Authority
- Joint Powers Authority Board replaces the former Coordination Committee (Article IV)
- Clarification in Section 7.1—confirming that the parties will coordinate to develop and maintain a subbasin-wide monitoring network
- Two Water Districts (Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District) have joined the Central Delta-Mendota GSA, reducing the total MOA signatories from 23 to 21



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Next Steps

- Recommend moving the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Revised MOA forward to the March 17, 2026, Board of Directors meeting for consideration and approval



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