



Committee Members
Robert Macaulay
Jordan Wamhoff

ITEM 4.a

MINUTES

Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
(in the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins)
Committee Meeting: April 7, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Madera County Government Center
200 W. 4th Street, Madera CA 93637
Board of Supervisors Chambers

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81143957936>

Attendance:

County GSA Directors: Robert Macaulay, Jordan Wamhoff

County GSA Staff: Stephanie Anagnoson, Emily Garcia, Tukta Phetasa, Jerod Weeks, Mayumi Ploszaj, John Davids (Consultant – Davids Engineering)

County staff attending on behalf of the GSA: Regina Garza, Melisa DaSilva, Sarah Anderson

7 members of the public in person; 32 members of the public on-line (Zoom and You Tube)

1. Call to Order: 1:32 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Director Macaulay
2. Flag Salute
This was led by Melisa DaSilva
3. Public Comment – One in person public comment was made.
4. New Business
 - a. Action Item: Approval of the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2026





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Result: Motion passed
Moved: Director Wamhoff
Second: Director Macauley
Ayes: Director Macaulay; Director Wamhoff
Vote passes: 2-0

- b. Action Item: Consideration and Recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve Transfer of Appropriations (TOA) 25-098 to Allocate Appropriations to the Refunds and Reimbursements

This was presented by Emily Garcia. There were zero public comments.

Result: Motion passed
Moved: Director Wamhoff
Second: Director Macauley
Ayes: Director Macaulay; Director Wamhoff
Vote passes: 2-0

- c. Informational Item: Review Madera and Chowchilla Annual Report Highlights

This was presented by John Davids. There were zero public comments.

- d. Action Item: Consideration and Recommendation to Amend the Domestic Well Mitigation Program

This was presented by Jerod Weeks. There were five public comments.

Result: Motion passed
Moved: Director Wamhoff
Second: Director Macauley
Ayes: Director Macaulay; Director Wamhoff
Vote passes: 2-0

- e. Informational Item: Review Penalty Data from 2025

This was presented by Stephanie Anagnoson. There were five public comments.





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- f. Action Item: Consideration and Recommendation of adoption of the Chowchilla Subbasin Groundwater Demand Management Programs and Subsidence Mitigation Measures Report

This was presented by John Davids. There were zero public comments.

Result: Motion passed
Moved: Director Wamhoff
Second: Director Macauley
Ayes: Director Macaulay; Director Wamhoff
Vote passes: 2-0

5. Directors' Report

This was presented by Stephanie Anagnoson. There were zero public comments.

6. Adjourn – 2:58 p.m.





Committee Members
Jordan Wamhoff
Robert Poythress (alt)

ITEM 4.b

Date: May 5, 2026

To: Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee
Jordan Wamhoff, Robert Poythress (alt)

From: Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources

Subject: Informational Item: Weather Outlook

DISCUSSION:

With early and late season storms, it's easy to think that this year may be extra wet. However, recent mapping from the U.S. Drought Monitor shows drought conditions returning for two-thirds of Madera County (the foothill and mountain portion, where we store snow pack). The State Department of Water Resources shows snowpack water equivalent at less than 20-30% of normal with reservoir levels higher than normal indicating early snowmelt.

Looking ahead, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 90-day outlook shows normal precipitation patterns in May-June-July and hotter than normal conditions in the same time period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Dry weather can lead to increased groundwater withdrawals by all agencies, including Madera County GSAs, and can lead to increased penalties.

SA





Committee Members
Jordan Wamhoff
Robert Poythress (alt)

ITEM 4c

Date: May 5, 2026

To: Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee
Jordan Wamhoff, Robert Poythress (alt)

From: Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources

Subject: Informational Item: Progress Report on GSA Items

DISCUSSION:

In the February GSA Committee, staff identified potential GSA policy implementation goals, which could be implemented without board action based on board policies, as well as GSA policy development, which would need board direction or action to be completed.

In terms of GSA policy implementation (of existing rules and regulations), the following actions are shown to be completed (with a check mark) while one is still in process.

- Recertification/retrain for all vendors for meter installation/calibration
- ✓ Education and outreach to growers for Irrigate
- ✓ Begin Domestic Well Mitigation (with quarterly updates)
- ✓ Delta Mendota Subbasin coming out of State Water Resources Control Board jurisdiction
- ✓ Publish 2026 Summary of Rules Booklet
- ✓ Annual Reports for all subbasins complete

In terms of GSA policy development, only one board action was taken (shown with a check mark) regarding a required groundwater demand policy in the Chowchilla subbasin:

- 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





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FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

SA





Committee Members
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Robert Poythress (alt)

ITEM 4d

Date: May 5, 2026

To: Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee
Jordan Wamhoff, Robert Poythress (alt)

From: Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources

Subject: Informational Item: 2026 Summary of Rules Booklet Publication Outreach

DISCUSSION:

The 2026 Summary of Rules for the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (MCGSA) provides an overview of rules in the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins in the MCGSA under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). It summarizes existing policies into a user-friendly guide, covering key topics such as groundwater allocations, farm units, fees, and finances.

Additionally, the booklet outlines programs and tools available to support landowners and growers, including groundwater measurement options (satellite and private meters), recharge credit opportunities and the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP). Overall, the document serves as an informational resource to help growers understand requirements, plan for future water use, and stay engaged with MCGSA programs and compliance efforts. If individual growers would like to meet to review the booklet, we are happy to meet in person or on Zoom (whichever is convenient).

The 2026 booklet includes both newly added pages and updates to existing content:

New pages:

- List of Abbreviations
- Status on Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- 2026–2040 Allocations
- Understanding a Groundwater Allocation Report
- Farm Unit Zone Map (reflecting SGMA Portal coverage as of April 2026)
- La Viña Pilot Project Update
- Madera Dry Well Program





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Updated pages:

- Allocations
- Glossary
- Penalties
- Farm Unit Changes
- Measurement
- Private Meter Measurement Method
- Land repurposing
- Recharge
- Fees
- Finances
- Resolutions

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact on the general fund or MCGSA budget; this is an informational item.

ATTACHMENTS:

E.G & T.P





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ITEM 4.e

Date: May 5, 2026

To: Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee
Robert Macaulay, Jordan Wamhoff

From: Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources

Subject: Informational Item: Financial Update: GSA Quarterly Update, including Domestic Well Mitigation Program, and review of proposed FY 26-27

DISCUSSION:

This item provides a cumulative financial update for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2025–26, covering the financial status of the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and the Domestic Well Mitigation Program (DWMP). Information relating to the Domestic Well Mitigation Program was also reviewed as multiple informational and action items in February, March, and April GSA Committee meetings. The update includes a summary of year-to-date revenues and expenditures, along with an overview of current funding conditions and program activity. In addition, this item presents the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–27 budgets for both the GSA and the DWMP, providing a forward-looking perspective on anticipated revenues, expenditures, and program priorities. Together, this information is intended to support transparency, inform ongoing program implementation, and assist in planning for the upcoming fiscal year. The last budget update was in March at the GSA Committee meeting.

GSA

Through the first three quarters of FY 2025–26, the GSA has generated approximately \$3.03 million in total revenues, including \$1.72 million in GSA fee collections, and \$890 thousand in grant reimbursements, with smaller contributions from reimbursements and interfund activity. Penalty revenues totaling approximately \$158k were received via direct payments and property tax collections and will be transferred to the Chowchilla (\$121k) and Madera County GSA (\$37k) Domestic Well Mitigation Programs and are not considered available for other GSA operations. Expenditures to date are generally aligned with ongoing administrative, technical, and program implementation activities supported by these revenues. The GSA's cash balance has grown from approximately \$3.33 million in Quarter 1 to \$5.17 million by Quarter 3, reflecting the timing of GSA fee collections and





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reimbursements. The \$5.17 million does not represent entirely available reserves, as a portion of this balance is already committed for year-end reconciliation to reimburse the General Fund, which initially supports GSA operations throughout the year. This reimbursement occurs as part of the year-end “true-up.”

Through the first three quarters of FY 2025–26, total GSA expenditures are approximately \$2.85 million, with costs primarily concentrated in Professional Services (\$1.13 million), Staff (\$1.09 million), and Regulatory Compliance (\$586k), while Administrative Expenses remain minimal. Professional Services spending is largely driven by recharge projects (\$614k) which are reimbursed through State grant funds, along with legal support and land repurposing payments, reflecting ongoing project development and implementation efforts. Regulatory Compliance costs are associated with core requirements such as allocations, monitoring, and reporting.

The proposed FY 2026–27 GSA budget emphasizes continued implementation of key projects and management actions, with a particular focus on multi-benefit land repurposing payments and Prop 68 recharge projects. The proposed GSA Admin fee totals \$3.1 million and supports efforts aimed at supporting groundwater sustainability while providing additional environmental and community benefits. The current GSA Admin fee has remained consistent with previous years despite authorized increases due to GSA staff’s efforts to reduce costs by performing certain functions in-house. Although expenses such as consultant fees have increased, costs associated with measurements, specifically Land IQ, have been reduced or eliminated. In addition, the budget maintains funding for regulatory compliance, monitoring, reporting, and other technical services necessary to meet ongoing requirements and advance basin management objectives, while keeping administrative costs at a modest level.

Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Through the first three quarters of FY 2025–26, the Domestic Well Mitigation Program has received approximately \$2.7 million in total revenues, with the majority collected in Quarter 2, along with smaller amounts from interest earnings and minor special revenue. Expenditures to date total approximately \$25k and are primarily associated with professional and specialized services supporting initial program setup and implementation. The relatively low level of expenditures, combined with higher revenues, reflects that the program is still in the early stages of implementation and has not yet experienced a period of high demand for well mitigation services. As shown in Exhibit A, demand for well mitigation is lower during the January through April period and begins to increase in the late summer months.





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The proposed FY 2026–27 budget for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program is designed to support full program implementation and respond to potential increases in demand for well mitigation services. The budget proposes collecting \$4.4 million in GSP fees which prioritizes funding for direct mitigation activities, including well replacement and related costs, while also supporting necessary professional services for program administration, eligibility review, and coordination. The proposed GSP fee amount is a placeholder and is a maximum estimate of the total revenue to be collected in account 662904 - GSP Fees. It is calculated by multiplying the existing per acre fee by the total number of irrigated acres. The fee will be revised annually to reflect actual costs. Overall, the budget reflects a proactive approach to ensure resources are available to assist impacted residents and maintain the program's ability to respond effectively during periods of increased need.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is informational only and has no impact on the General Fund.

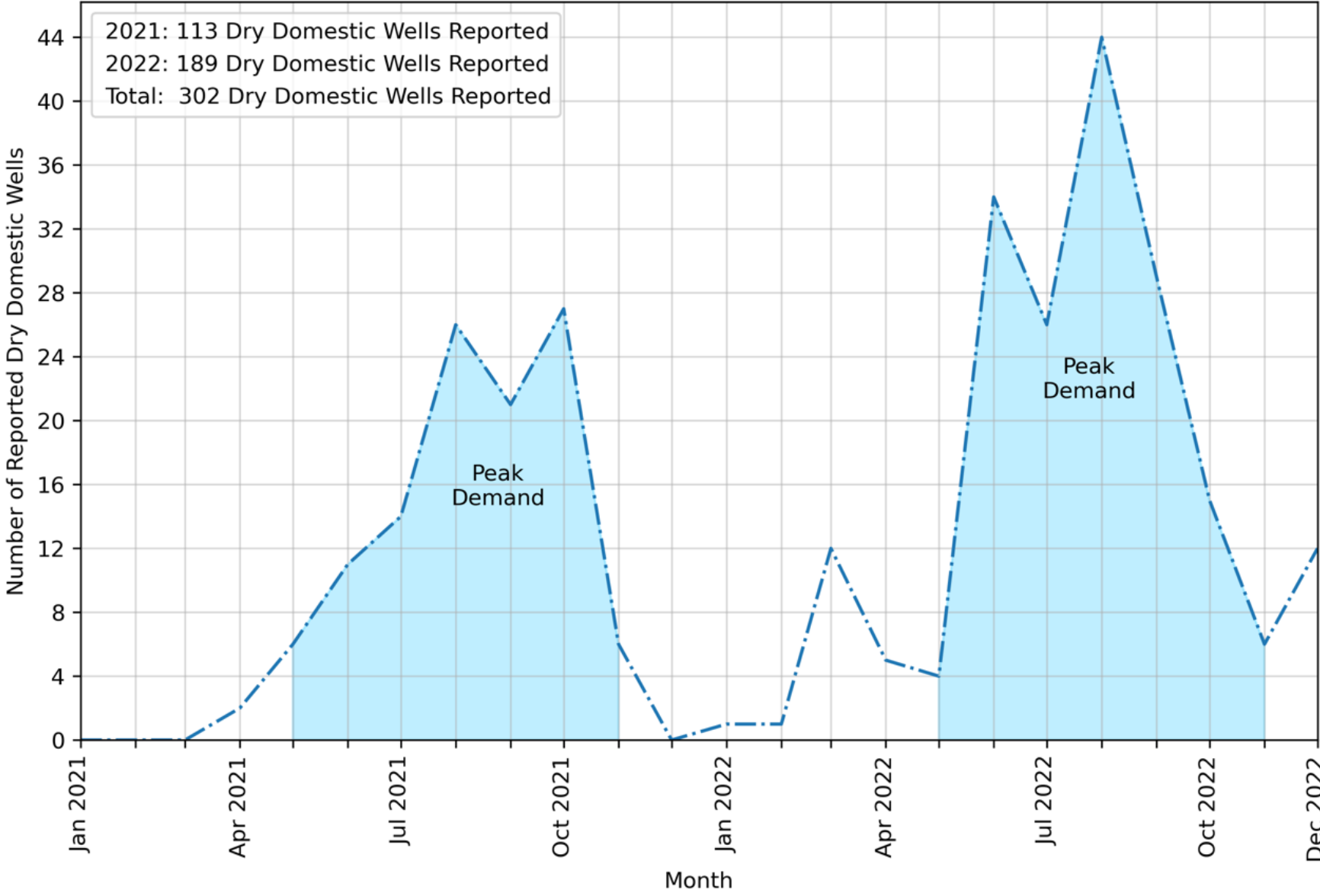
ATTACHMENTS:

1. Exhibit A – Dry Wells Over Time
2. Exhibit B - Madera Domestic Well Mitigation Update
3. Exhibit C - Chowchilla Domestic Well Mitigation Update

JW



Number of Dry Domestic Wells Reported to Department of Water Resources for the Madera Subbasin 2021 (C) - 2022 (C)



Domestic Well Mitigation Madera Subbasin – Madera County GSA

April 23, 2026

Summary of Activity

Applicant Inquiries

Number of Inquiries (via dedicated phoneline/website):

Passed Initial Screening: 6

Failed Initial Screening: 14

In Review (Pending): 4

Well Assessments Completed: 5

Public Outreach

Postcards mailed out 2 times (March, April) in 2026.

Financials

Cash Balance 3/31/26: \$2,783,670

Expenses as of 3/31/26: Expenses \$25,453

Domestic Well Mitigation Chowchilla Subbasin

April 23, 2026

Summary of Activity

January of 2020 (funded March of 2023) to March 31, 2026

Applicant Inquiries

Number of Inquiries (via dedicated phonenumber/website): 36

Passed Initial Screening: 20

Failed Initial Screening: 10

In Review (Pending): 6

Well Assessments Completed: 20

Public Outreach

Postcards mailed out 3 times in 2024 and 1 time in 2025.

Financials

Cash Balance 3/31/26: \$1,288,851.12

*Expenses as of 3-31-26: Expenses \$923,204.27