



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
200 WEST 4TH STREET / MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
(559) 675-7700 / FAX (559) 673-3302 / TDD (559) 675-8970
Agendas available: www.MaderaCounty.com

Members of the Board

Tom Wheeler
Brett Frazier
David Rogers
Robert L. Poythress
Leticia Gonzalez

Board of Directors/Groundwater Sustainability Agency

December 20, 2022
Chairman Tom Wheeler

DEPARTMENT Water & Natural Resources Department	DEPARTMENT CONTACT Emily Garcia (559) 662-8015	AGENDA ITEM d GSA REPORTS
SUBJECT: Voluntary Land Repurposing Program Rules	REQUIRED VOTE: 3/5 Vote Required	DOC. ID NUMBER 22-0981-01
STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA(S): Infrastructure		
CLERK NOTES: {{motions.text}}		
For Clerk of the Board's Office Use Only		
RESULT: {{voting.status}} [{{voting.for_count}} TO {{voting.against_count}}] MOVER: {{motions.mover format="[[firstname]] [[lastname]], [[title]]"}} SECONDER: {{motions.seconder format="[[firstname]] [[lastname]], [[title]]"}} AYES: {{voting.for_names format="[[lastname]]"}}		
Is this item Budgeted? Yes Will this item require additional personnel? No Previous Relevant Board Actions: N/A PowerPoint Presentation? Yes Supporting Documents: Resolution, Other/Misc.		DOCUMENT NO(S).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Voluntary Land Repurposing Program Rules.

1. Discussion and consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin adopting the Voluntary Land Repurposing Program and the Program Rules.
2. Discussion and consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Madera Subbasin adopting the Voluntary Land Repurposing Program and the Program Rules.

DISCUSSION / FISCAL IMPACT / STRATEGIC FOCUS:

DISCUSSION:



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The Voluntary Land Repurposing Program (VLRP) is a voluntary program available to landowners in the Madera County GSA (GSA), in the Madera and Delta-Mendota Subbasins. In the VLRP, the GSA and a landowner enter into an agreement where the GSA pays landowners to forgo use of their groundwater allocation on defined areas over 10 acres.

The GSPs covering the Madera County GSAs' lands specify planned demand management, which includes land repurposing. This program affords landowners with additional flexibility to adjust to the groundwater allocation and helps achieve GSP demand management goals. The groundwater saved by the VLRP is accounted for in a "VLRP Water" pool that is then reallocated to remaining Eligible Parcels (as defined in the Madera County GSA Allocation Approach). Therefore, other lands benefit from the program by receiving additional water.

Landowners who wish to participate in the program must be in the Madera or Delta Mendota Subbasin portions of the GSA and have defined acres in Parcel-Fields that pay the GSP Fee (are eligible for a groundwater allocation) to be eligible.

If and when funding is available, Madera County GSA will have an open enrollment period in which it accepts applications from landowners. Applicants must submit information including the lands, acreage, and length of agreement (between 1 and 10 years). Importantly, applicants must specify the compensation terms (bid), expressed as the price per acre, which the GSA would pay the applicant, if selected.

After the enrollment period closes, Madera County GSA or its consultant groups applications by duration (number of years) and then ranks bids lowest to highest cost per acre per year. The GSA will select the lowest cost bids up to the available funding in each year and subject to its discretion of reasonable, prevailing economic values of land and lease rates.

If an applicant is selected, the landowner applicant will enter into a contractual agreement with the GSA. The salient features of that agreement include the landowner giving up the groundwater allocation on those lands, forgoing irrigation, completing basic management and maintenance on the lands, in exchange for compensation as defined by the applicant's bid.

Payments will be sent by the GSA to landowners in March and November of each year. The annual payment amount will be equal to the per acre bid submitted by the landowner multiplied by the total number of acres.

The Resolutions are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), 15307, and 15308.

FISCAL IMPACT:



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Currently, due to a temporary injunction, there is no funding for this program, but, if lifted, funding for this program will be generated from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) fee that was passed through a prop 218.

CONNECTION TO THE COUNTY OF MADERA STRATEGIC PLAN - MISSION 2023:

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- Focus Area 6: Infrastructure

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - VLRP Program Rules
2. VLRP Quick Reference Guide
3. Resolution for Land Repurposing Rules (Delta- Mendota)
4. Resolution for Land Repurposing Rules (Madera)