



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
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Leticia Gonzalez

Board of Directors/Groundwater Sustainability Agency

December 20, 2022
Chairman Tom Wheeler

DEPARTMENT Water & Natural Resources Department	DEPARTMENT CONTACT Kim Witten 559-598-0301	AGENDA ITEM b DISCUSSION ITEMS
SUBJECT: Measurement Methods for Allocations	REQUIRED VOTE: 3/5 Vote Required	DOC. ID NUMBER 22-1010
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: PowerPoint, Resolution		DOCUMENT NO(S).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Discussion and consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins adopting measurement methods for groundwater allocations.

DISCUSSION / FISCAL IMPACT / STRATEGIC FOCUS:

DISCUSSION:

On June 8, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted groundwater allocations, RES 2021-069, for the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Madera County GSA for irrigated lands. A measurement approach was needed to track the allocations and Irriwatch was put into place for measurement purposes.

Irriwatch is the current program used by the Madera County GSA, which gives irrigated lands access to real time data, reports, and measurement tools. Irriwatch is a satellite-based company that measures evapotranspiration (ET) and calculates



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evapotranspiration of applied water (ETAW). It also provides monthly reports comparing ETAW to allocations.

Land IQ is also a satellite-based company that measures evapotranspiration (ET). Land IQ also uses weather stations installed within the area. The ET data is measured and shared with the County GSA monthly. Roughly 45 to 60 days after each month end, a monthly report will be sent to the enrolled acres.

Private flow meters are meters installed on enrolled acres to measure groundwater use. In order to use this method, the meters shall be:

1. Map depicting the exact location of groundwater well(s) and parcel(s) and field(s) served by the well(s)
2. Photographs and a meter installation report for the well(s) serving the parcel
3. A compliant meter calibration report or results of a field flow test conducted by a County GSA approved vender for each well
4. An estimate of efficiency for the irrigation system on the field(s)
5. An attestation that the designated well(s) only serve the identified parcel(s) or field(s) and
6. An attestation of the validity that all submitted information represents current conditions for the well(s)

After year end, an annual report will be sent to the irrigated lands with a yearly wrap up and a look forward to the coming year for allocation statistics. If the department determines that the meter data is not being submitted on a monthly basis or if meters stop recording accurately, the farm unit will be measured with Land IQ.

Action needed: Board approval of using multiple measurement methods for groundwater allocations.

1. Adopt resolution for measurement methods
2. Send out letters for opt into a measurement method by end of December
3. Continue to develop meter data reporting system

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are increased staff costs with tracking farm units with multiple methods, but this is the desire of growers to have options for measurements.



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

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- Focus Area 6: Infrastructure

This agreement will allow the Agency to provide multiple measurement methods for groundwater allocations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Methods of Measurement PowerPoint
2. Resolution for Measurement Methods