



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
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Tom Wheeler
Brett Frazier
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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 c DISCUSSION ITEMS								
SUBJECT: Domestic Well Mitigation Program for Chowchilla Subbasin	REQUIRED VOTE: 3/5 Vote Required	DOC. ID NUMBER 22-1081								
STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA(S): Infrastructure										
For Clerk of the Board's Office Use Only										
CLERK NOTES: {{motions.text}}										
<table><tr><td>RESULT:</td><td>{{voting.status}} [{{voting.for_count}}] TO [{{voting.against_count}}]</td></tr><tr><td>MOVER:</td><td>{{motions.mover format="[firstname]] [[lastname]], [[title]]"}}</td></tr><tr><td>SECONDER:</td><td>{{motions.seconder format="[firstname]] [[lastname]], [[title]]"}}</td></tr><tr><td>AYES:</td><td>{{voting.for_names format="[lastname]]"}}</td></tr></table>			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]]"}}
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Is this item Budgeted? No Will this item require additional personnel? No Previous Relevant Board Actions: N/A PowerPoint Presentation? Yes Supporting Documents: PowerPoint, Other/Misc.		DOCUMENT NO(S).								

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Discussion and consideration to adopt processes and rules for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

DISCUSSION / FISCAL IMPACT / STRATEGIC FOCUS:

DISCUSSION:

The Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Program) is a cooperative effort funded and implemented by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Chowchilla Subbasin (Subbasin) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by the County on July 26, 2022. The GSAs in the Subbasin include Chowchilla Water District, Madera County, Triangle T Water District, and Merced County. Collectively, and consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the GSAs agree to mitigate for current or anticipated domestic well impacts resulting from declining groundwater levels that occur from groundwater management activities outlined in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) through creation and implementation of this Program.



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Key elements of the program include:

- Participation in the Program shall not be limited or otherwise dictated by the Landowner's income.
- An Implementation Review Committee may be established to review the Program, inclusive of Program eligibility. The composition of such Implementation Review Committee shall be established by the GSAs.
- Prior to submission of an application, the Applicant shall complete an initial well assessment using one of the Preferred Contractors and a private well online class.
- The initial well assessment must clearly identify and document the current or anticipated operational issue(s) associated with the well for which mitigation is being sought.
- Costs associated with determining Program eligibility shall be covered by the Applicant through a one-time fee of \$100. If the Applicant is awarded mitigation under the Program, the one-time
- The Program will be operated on a first-come, first-serve basis as of the date a completed and submitted Program Application is received by the Program Manager. No priority other than first-come, first-serve will be allowed.
- Eligible mitigation shall be limited to the mobilization, drilling, well construction, development, and de-mobilization necessary to facilitate the drilling of one new domestic well or consolidation with an existing domestic water system as defined herein with the sole intent of mitigating for declining groundwater levels beginning no earlier than January 31, 2020.
- Landowners shall be solely responsible for all other costs arising from construction of a new well or consolidation with an existing domestic water system, including without limitation, landscaping, hardscaping, trenching and installation of private water service facilities, increased electrical costs, modifying residential plumbing, removing and disposing of any pressure tanks or other facilities related to the domestic well, abandoning the domestic well, obtaining any required permits or inspections, appurtenant facilities such as pumps, motors, wire, pipe adapters, valves, clamps, couplings, spacers, gauges, wrap, pressure tanks, switches, and adapters, and any other related fees or expenses.
- Landowners connecting to an existing domestic water system shall be required to satisfy all requirements and/or rules of service as may be required by the owner of the existing domestic water system.
- The maximum mitigation award provided under the Program shall be \$30,000.
- The Landowner agrees to allow the Parties the right to monitor groundwater levels in the new well as part of participation in the Program.
- Eligible Mitigation provided under the Program shall only occur once per domestic well and shall run with the real property set-forth.
- The Parties shall make all reasonable attempts to ensure that the Mitigation provided under this Program meets the intent of the GSP and is based on the best available information.



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Outreach and opportunities for feedback on key elements of the program has been conducted as part of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP Advisory Committee on May 27, June 23, and July 6 of 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Due to the failure of the Proposition 218 rate study in the Chowchilla Subbasin, costs for this program will need to be covered directly by growers in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

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. Chowchilla Domestic Well Mitigation Program Agreement for Landowners
2. Chowchilla Domestic Well Mitigation Program Application for Landowners