



ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST SPECIAL ASSISTANCE BY CONTACTING THE RECORDING SECRETARY

MINUTES
for County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agencies’
Special Advisory Committee Meeting
August 6, 2020; 2:00 P.M.

Supporting documents relating to the items on this agenda are available through the County of Madera website at www.maderacountywater.com. These documents are also available at the office of the Madera County Water and Natural Resources Department, 200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637. Please contact the Department of Water and Natural Resources for updates.

1. Call to Order – 2:05 pm
Devin A reviewed the agenda and called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
At this time, all were asked to turn off their cameras as they stood to say the Pledge.
3. Committee Members Present (alternates noted with “a”):

Victoria Ortiz
Nately Escobedo Garcia (a)
Clay Daulton
Jerrold Kazynski
Karun Samran (a)
Devin Aviles
Larkin Harman

Bryant Elkins
Darcy Vlot
Jared Samarin
Mike
DeLaGuerra (a)

Additional alternates present:
Angela Islas
Jay Quick
Al Solis
Greg Hooker

Sam Lopes
Albert Guravage
James Unti

Staff present included Stephanie Anagnoson, Jeannie Habben, Kim Witten, and Kirsten Heffner from the County. Others present include Mike Linden, Deputy County Counsel, and Greg Young, engineering consultant for the County, Bryan Thoreson, Malka Kopell, Julia VanHorn, and Duncan MacEwan for SALC project team, Tami McVay from Self Help Enterprises, and Reyna Castellanos from Lingüística. An additional 39 participants were on the line.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. AMBASSADOR REPORT – Advisory Committee Members

Clay D commented that wherever he goes he feels it is important to talk about water and the future of groundwater with everyone he sees.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Stephanie Anagnoson

a. Rate Studies

Stephanie A. reported that on November 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (acting as the Board of Directors) for the County GSAs passed a fee for irrigated acres within the County GSAs. This fee can pay for administration, engineering, technical work, planning, and regulatory requirements. It cannot pay for projects (but can pay for the planning work to get to projects). This current study brought an updated parcel list to the board and updates the fee slightly by \$.85 (eight-five cents) an acre. So, the fee has gone from an original \$22.45/irrigated acre to \$23.30/irrigated acre. Rural, residential users of water are exempt.

b. Data Management System (DMS)

The DMS is moving forward. There are discussions of having each GSA and/or Agency meet to discuss what types of data would be stored in the DMS and why. The consultant is working on a survey for information to be used in a GSP meeting to discuss the input provided and try to come to a consensus on the data types of data to be stored in the DMS for the GSP. After a consensus is reached, we will work thru a detailed data dictionary for each type of data.

c. Water Market Grant Update – December 1, 2020 at 3 p.m.

The next Water Market Strategy meeting will be held on December 1, 2020. At this meeting there will be discussions on possible rules for the Water Market simulation and how the simulation will work for the next part of this study. It looks like this meeting will also be held on-line.

d. Satellite Technology for Groundwater Monitoring

The WNR Department received four proposals for the Measurement Services RFP that was released. Interviews for these firms have been scheduled for the week of August 17. If any of the Advisory Committee members would like to participate in the interviews, please contact Stephanie.

e. Recharge Studies

As a result of an RFP process, this contract was awarded to Davids Engineering and went to the BOS on July 21. This is a five-year contract for engineering consulting services to develop and implement a phased recharge plan, including potentially pursuing temporary and permanent water rights. Work would potentially include applying for water rights, cost-benefit analyses focused on determining the optimum mix of permanent and temporary (flood-MAR) basins, identification of ideal lands for recharge, design of infrastructure to deliver water to temporary and permanent basins, and coordination and outreach.

f. Prop 68 Domestic Well Inventory for the Chowchilla Subbasin

This grant awarded was received from the Department of Water Resources for \$500k and will be going before the BOS on August 11 for award of the contract to consultant.

g. Prop 68 Domestic Well Inventory for the Madera Subbasin

This grant was received from the Department of Water Resources for \$400k and will be going to the GSAs in the Madera Subbasin to discuss how to allocate the lowered budget.

4. DOMESTIC WELLS – Tami McVay, Self-Help Enterprises (SHE)

Tami McVay, the Assistant Director from SHE, presented programs provided by SHE for Private Domestic Well owners (PDW). She explained that SHE's Emergency Services Division was established due to the overwhelming need for emergency response during the drought. They have

funded over 350 PDW's and 10 connections, including 85 PDW's in Madera Co. as well as 1,400 Emergency tanks and hauled water (not including Madera Co.) They have tested 450 PDW's for contamination and installed 200 filtration devices. Tami M. explained the existing regional programs for Emergency/Interim Access to water, Well Assessment & Water Quality, and Well Repair, Replacement & Connections.

5. PRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION (SALC) GRANT – Bryan Thoreson and team

The Davids Engineering Team described that for the SALC grant, they would assess and develop an agricultural land conservation program to develop criteria for identifying and prioritizing land for its potential to be temporarily rested, permanently retired, or retired and restored and an incentive structure. Their next steps are to begin stakeholder outreach, refine land use categories, and draft the incentive structure.

6. DISCUSSION OF INITIAL CONCEPTS OF AN ALLOCATION APPROACH FOR THE MADERA COUNTY GSAS – Greg Young and Stephanie Anagnoson

The GSP requires the County GSA to reduce consumptive use of groundwater. This will be monitored with satellite-based ET, which is currently used by growers, water agencies, and the state to measure consumptive water use. Consumptive use in County GSAs is trending higher as shown through recent satellite-based ET analysis. Consumptive water use is evaporation and transpiration by the plants not pumped water and ETAW is Evapotranspiration minus the consumption of rainfall. An allocation is being considered for agricultural water users in the County GSAs because an allocation is a water budget that may be made available to each agricultural water user to assist with reaching sustainability by 2040. This will be accomplished by the allocation (water budget) decreasing over time with multiple parts, quantities of water available to distribute, rules of participation, and fees for use.

7. ADJOURNMENT 5:02pm

Next Meeting Dates: September 3 (Special), October 1 and December 3 at 2 p.m.