



Multibenefit Land  
Repurposing Program | **MLRP Madera**

# Pre-Applicant Workshop

November 8, 2024

# PROGRAM TEAM

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## Support Entities:

- **Zanjero**
- **ERA Economics**
- **Davids Engineering**
- **Linguistica**

## Contact:

**[mlrp@maderacounty.com](mailto:mlrp@maderacounty.com)**

**Program Administrator**

**CA Department of Conservation**

**Regional Block Grantee**

**Madera County**

**MLRP Madera Partners**

**Madera County Farm Bureau**

**Madera Ag Water Association (MAWA)**

**Madera/Chowchilla RCD**

**California Farmland Trust**

# Agenda

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## 1. Presentation—60 minutes

Program overview and how to apply.

## 2. Q&A—30 minutes

Use the Q&A tool to submit comments and questions.

Feel free to submit questions during the presentation.

## 3. Next Steps

### Helpful Documents and Reference Materials

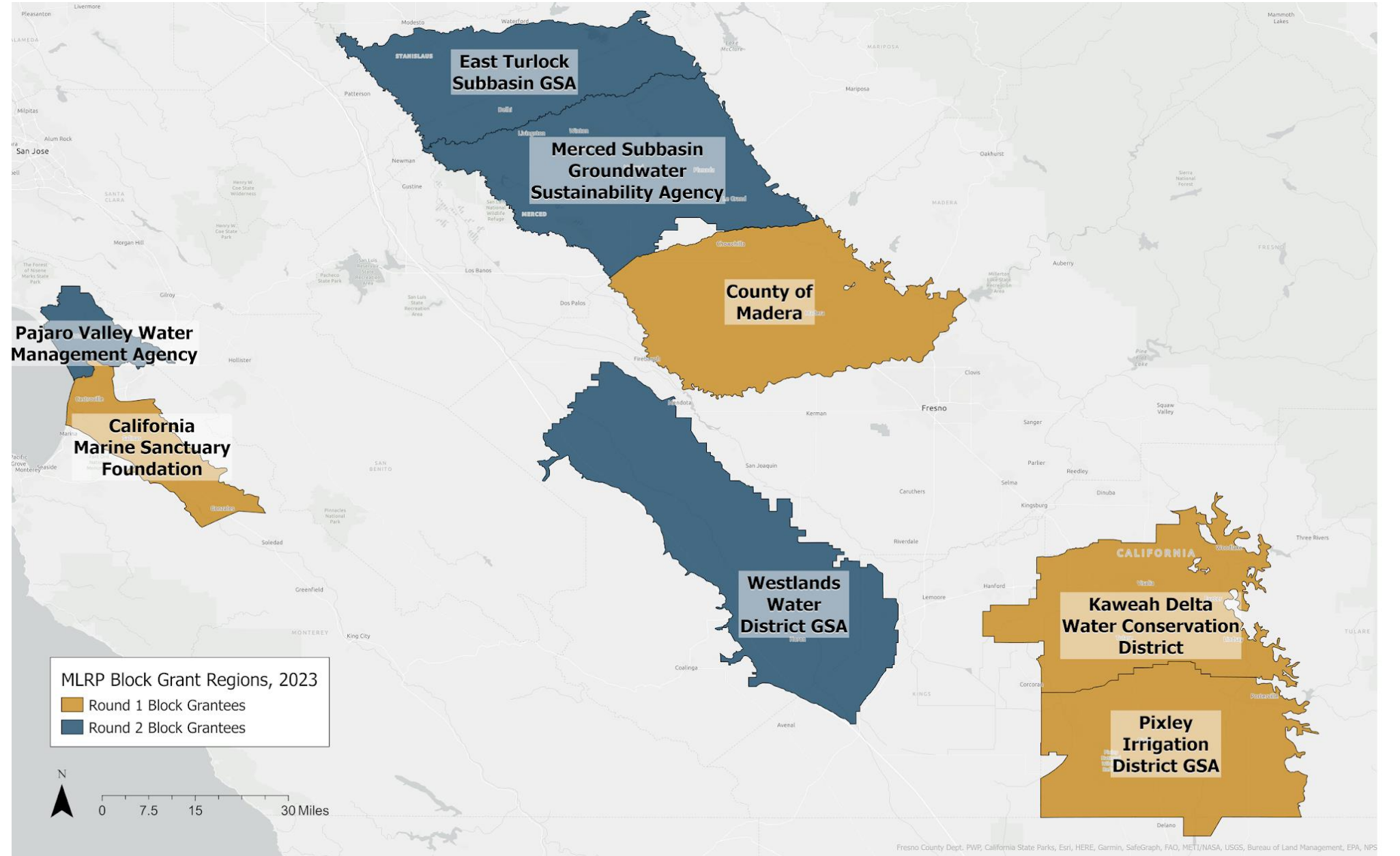
- Pre-Application Form
- Program Overview and Requirements Summary Document
- Madera County Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan
- Funding Sources Memo (list of other potential funding sources)
- Maps

[Link to materials](#)

# What is MLRP?

## Background

- CA Department of Conservation program – 8 Regional Block Grants
- Projects must support groundwater sustainability and provide co-benefits.





# Project Types

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## Agriculture



- Dryland Farming
- Less Water Intensive Crop
- Rotational Strip Cropping
- Rangeland

## Habitat



- Pollinator Habitat
- Floodplain Habitat
- Wildlife Habitat

## Other Benefit



- Solar
- Recharge
- Community Recreation
- Tribal/Cultural Space

# Who is eligible?

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## **MLRP applicants must:**

- Be the Owner (or the Owner's designee) of the lands being offered for the Program.
- Be in a GSA within Madera County
- Be compliant with Program rules and the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for your area
- Be prepared to enter into a contract agreement for a duration of at least 10 years
- Select at least one eligible project type to convert irrigated ag lands to a less water intensive use
- Ensure projects will provide one or more co-benefits (community and environmental benefits) in addition to any water savings.

# How do I apply?

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## Step 1:

Submit a **Pre-Application Form**—*must be received by **November 22, 2024***

- Confirmation of eligibility and invitation to proceed with a full application—*notifications will be sent December 4*

## Step 2:

Submit a project proposal (**Full Application**)—*due **February 28, 2025***

- Develop a detailed project proposal with support from the Technical Assistance (TA) Team—*TA office hours and 1:1 sessions offered between December 2024 – February 2025*



# What happens next?

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## Scoring, Selection and Approval Process Steps

### Step 1: All Projects Scored

Madera Program Team project scoring and selection—*notifications in March 2025*

Yes

### Step 2: Selected Projects Approved by DOC

Portfolio of top scoring projects are sent to DOC for review and approval—*notifications in April 2025*

Yes

### Step 3: Madera County Contracting and Approval

Madera County contract execution and Board approval—*expected in May 2025*



# Application Checklist

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	<b>Item</b>	<b>Applicant Responsibility</b>
1	Project summary	X
2	Project designs	X
3	Project maps	X
4	Implementation timeline	X
5	Budget	X
6	Baseline documentation (at a minimum, before photos)	X
7	Draft monitoring plan	X
8	Draft management plan (if applicable)	X
9	CEQA/NEPA documentation	X
10	Permits	X

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# What supports and resources are available?

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- ✓ Technical Assistance
- ✓ Technical Assistance Team
- ✓ Types of Technical Assistance
- ✓ Process for Assistance

# Technical Assistance

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**There are two types of technical assistance for the Madera MLRP:**

## 1. Informational Resources

- Presentations and interactive discussions that may include opportunities for additional questions and discussion in a group setting

## 2. Technical Assistance

- Targeted one-on-one meetings scheduled as office hours or scheduled meetings

# Who is the Technical Assistance (TA) Team?

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## The TA Team includes:

- Madera County Staff
- Madera/Chowchilla RCD
- Davids Engineering
- ERA Economics
- Zanjero



# What TA is available?

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- Each session will last a maximum of one hour per applicant, per project.
- The TA Team will answer questions and discuss information brought to the session by the applicant.
- The TA Team will not prepare any part of an application.
- The TA Team will treat all applicants equally and provide accurate information. However, the TA Team cannot warrant that information it provides to an applicant will guarantee the completeness or success of the application.

# What TA is available?

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- The TA Team will treat any proposal-specific information provided by an applicant during a session as confidential.
- The TA Team may follow up with the applicant if it needs to clarify or adjust its response to a question.
- If questions or issues are identified during one or more sessions that are of general interest to all applicants, the TA Team may publish them in an FAQ. No project information will be shared.

# What TA is NOT available?

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- The TA Team will not assist with project permitting, design, or specific steps for implementation.
- The TA Team may decline to help with aspects of a project if it is determined to require external legal or professional opinions
- The TA Team may decline to help with aspects of a project if it is determined to unfairly impact other program applications and program fairness.
- The TA Team resources are limited to what is available under the MLRP grant funding

# What is handled by the Madera Program Team?

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- ✓ Outreach and Engagement Requirements
- ✓ DOC Review and Approval Process



# Outreach and Engagement Requirements

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## **The Madera Program Team Facilitates Community Outreach Activities to:**

- ✓ Ensure disadvantaged communities near proposed project are aware and informed about the proposed project and benefits created by the project—*if applicable*.
- ✓ Work with applicants to address any community/stakeholder input about proposed projects—*if needed*.
- ✓ Submit documentation to DOC to demonstrate how community outreach requirements were fulfilled.

# DOC Review and Approval Process

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## **The Madera Program Team Activities:**

- ✓ Project proposal packets for selected projects are sent to DOC for review
- ✓ Responses to DOC requests for clarification or additional information.
- ✓ Notice of approval to applicants and contracting next steps with Madera County.

# What are the participation requirements?

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- ✓ Madera County requirements
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting requirements

# Participation Requirements

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## **Execute a contract with Madera County that includes:**

- ✓ Project plan and budget approved by DOC.
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting plan for the 10-year duration.

## **Final Board Approval:**

- ✓ Contract with the project plan, budget, and monitoring plan must be approved by the Madera County Board of Supervisors prior to implementation.

*Note: Only project proposals that have successfully passed the project scoring and selection process and the DOC review and approval process will be eligible for contracting and final approval by Madera County.*



# Q&A

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# Next Steps

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## Key Dates

- November 22, 2024 – Last Date to Submit a Pre-Application
- February 28, 2025– Final Project Proposals Due

## Contact Info & Resources

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- Email [mlrp@maderacounty.com](mailto:mlrp@maderacounty.com) with questions or to request language assistance.
- Up-to-date information and materials are posted on the Madera MLRP web page: <https://www.maderacountywater.com/multibenefit-land-repurposing-program/>.