

Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU
Amy Siliznoff – Madera/Chowchilla RCD
Angela Islas – Civic Well
Bobby Macaulay – Madera County
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD
Carl Janzen – Madera ID
Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes
Dina Nolan – Madera ID
Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD
Eddie Mendez – Madera County
Emily Garcia – Madera County
Erin Capuchino – Y/S RC&DC
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jack Rice – MAWA
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Jasmine Rivera – SHE
Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County
John Quiring – QK, Inc.
Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Kristi Robinson – CMZ/Triangle T WD
Melanie Aldridge – Madera WD
Pete Leffler – Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Sam Cunningham – Madera County
Yvette Temple – North Fork Rancheria

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the February agenda was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval – Resolution No. 2023-02

- A motion to approve meeting resolution no. 2023-02 was made by Gretchen H; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - Jose Rodriguez, a grad student at Fresno State, is working on his master's degree in water resource management and is looking for internship opportunities. He currently has a full-time job but is looking for an internship that will work with his schedule. Summer internships will work or anything that is available. Reach out to me if you would like Jose's contact information.
 - Public comments are being accepted on the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program through 5 pm on March 3rd.

- The Bureau of Reclamation is accepting applications for water conservation, water management, and restoration projects that will result in significant benefits to ecosystem or watershed health. Applications are due by 3 pm on March 28th.
- CAL FIRE is currently accepting applications for their Forest Health Program. Applications are due by tomorrow, February 28th.
- Applications for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Round 2 are currently being accepted through March 29th.
- The next GSA Forum will be held virtually on April 29th. The previous forum was held virtually on November 9th of last year and the recording is available online.
- The Draft 2024 California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) is currently accepting public comments through April 3rd. There will be a public hearing held by the State Water Board on March 21st, both in-person and virtually.
- The Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program has announced an anticipated opening date for applications as “early 2023”.
- The Cal OES State Mitigation Planning unit is accepting public comments for the draft 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan through March 24th.
- DWR’s Airborne Electromagnetic data has been published and is available online.
- The State Water Resources Control Board is accepting public comments on the proposed amendments to the Water Quality Enforcement Policy through April 28th.
- Madera ID has announced a special opportunity only to its landowners for on-farm practices that aid in conserving water such as irrigation water management, irrigation pipelines, structures for water control, pumps, micro irrigation systems, cover crops, and additional practices. Applications will be due on April 3rd.
- DWR is holding a webinar on March 16th related to SB552. The title of the webinar is DWR’s County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance.
- Bobby M mentioned that he met with Jacob between January’s meeting and this month’s meeting to talk about the group and what we can do moving forward. Bobby also mentioned that he is open to meeting with others to chat about the group and how we may better serve the region. Feel free to reach out to Bobby or his Chief of Staff, Melisa DaSilva (Melisa.DaSilva@maderacounty.com), to schedule a meeting.

5. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- February 2023 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that we received member dues from 6 organizations since the last meeting. 4 organizations have not paid their member dues yet. A total of \$17,100 was received from member dues. \$2,250 was spent on Jacob's position and \$149.90 for an annual Zoom account. This leaves us with \$37,085.50 at the end of the month.
 - A motion to approve the February financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review & Approval – IRWMP Project List Proposals

- Jacob R reported that Gravelly Ford WD submitted 2 updated project proposals and 1 new project proposal. The first updated project proposal is for Gravelly Ford WD's Automation and SCADA project which is currently on the IRWMP Project List as project #4. Updates include pricing, statewide priorities, program preferences, and water resource management strategies. The second updated project proposal is for Gravelly Ford WD's San Joaquin River Flood Water Recharge project which is currently on the IRWMP Project List as project #3. Updates include statewide priorities, program preferences, and water resource management strategies. The new project proposal from Gravelly Ford WD is for a Conveyance Pipeline from San Joaquin River Pumps. This project would have to be done for the San Joaquin River Flood Recharge project (#3) to work properly.
 - A motion to approve the Gravelly Ford WD project proposals was made by Melanie A; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

7. Review & Approval – Bylaw Updates

- The group decided to hold off on this agenda item and revisit it during the meeting in March. The group would like to receive more feedback about having to follow the Brown Act before making any changes to the Bylaws.

8. Review & Approval – Member Packet Updates

- Jacob R reported that for the member packet updates, he changed the revision date to February 2023, updated the chairperson and vice-chair along with their contact information, updated the website address, and added in the following organizations as members on the last page under "Signatory Members": City of Madera, Indian Lakes Estates Property Owners Association, Madera Ag Water Association, and Self-Help Enterprise.
 - A motion to approve the member packet updates was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Self-Help Enterprises – Projects 12 and 13
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
 - Kristi R reported that they are continuing to test domestic wells for nitrates and other constituents. They continue to do outreach via

door-to-door, USPS flyers, etc. During the holidays and the month of January, they had very little interest. The grant for this ends on June 30th.

- If you know of anyone that would like to have their domestic well tested for free, please reach out to Kristi by emailing chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com, by calling (559) 373-7399, or by going to www.chowchillamanagementzone.com

10. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
 - Clyde W asked if there was an update on the water meter project for Indian Lakes. Eddie M reported that there is no new update for the water meter projects for both Indian Lakes and Parkwood. They're still waiting on materials to arrive for the connections and other miscellaneous stuff. They're still about 2 – 3 months out on receiving everything. Bobby M asked that once everything arrives, can the installation begin, and Eddie mentioned that is correct.
 - City of Madera
 - Keith H reported they will be awarding one of their packages that has the bulk of their IRWM funding on Wednesday night. 46 large meters (3" or larger) are included on this award. The remaining meters under this funding will be going out to bid before the end of the calendar year.
 - Parksdale
 - Eddie M reported that this project is essentially done.
 - City of Chowchilla
 - Jason R reported that they are at 60% design right now. They are hoping to get this project awarded out in the summer.

11. Discussion – Prop 68 Funding

- Pete L with Luhdorff & Scalmanini provided a final presentation on the Domestic Well Inventory project taking place in both the Chowchilla Subbasin and the Madera Subbasin. Please see the attached presentation slides at the end of these minutes. This project has been completed, and the final reporting and invoicing to DWR are currently being worked on.
 - Melanie A asked what the lost circulation means for the wells drilled in Madera, and Pete mentioned the wells are drilled using the mud-rotary method. Mud is mixed at the surface which then goes into the bore hole and brings the cuttings up. The mud mix also helps stabilize the bore hole so it doesn't cave. The mud has to continuously circulate to the bottom and back up to continue drilling. For 2 wells in Madera, the driller couldn't maintain that circulation of the drilling mud and couldn't drill any deeper once the circulation was lost.
 - Carl J asked if this means the driller fully completed the job or if the driller walked away with only completing half of the job, and Pete mentioned they did what they could to try to get to the deeper depths at those 2 locations, but it's just one of those things with drilling that if the subsurface conditions are beyond the drillers

control then they feel like the driller did everything they could to try and resolve the situation. They work with this driller all the time. Pete feels that the goals of the project were accomplished and getting down to depths where domestic wells are screened in those areas.

- Don R added that both wells look like they are on the Eastern part of the Valley in Madera. Don asked if the problem was hitting bed rock for the 2 wells that lost circulation, and Pete doesn't think they did based off looking at the cuttings. It is a possibility since bed rock is evident at more shallow locations the more East you get in the Valley.
- Bobby M asked when this grant expires, and Pete mention the project is wrapping up. The project should be closed out in the next couple months.

12. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H had to leave the meeting early, so Jacob R provided an update that Gretchen emailed to him:
 - For pay request 1, the payment from DWR was received by Root Creek WD and Root Creek WD is issuing payment to Madera WD this week. For Progress Report 2 & Pay Request 2, they were submitted to DWR last week for approvals. Invoicing was received for component projects 1-4. The subgrantee agreement between Root Creek WD and Madera WD has been executed. The subgrantee agreement between Root Creek WD and Madera County is being negotiated between the 2 legal departments.
 - For project 2, the GSP updates are ongoing.
 - For project 3, the Madera Lake Pump & Pipeline is ongoing. Various permits were submitted to their respective agencies.
 - For project 4, Root Creek WD Pipeline is ongoing. Project was bid and is in the process of being awarded. Anticipated start of construction is in March.
 - For project 5, the Madera/Chowchilla Bypass Pipeline is ongoing.

13. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jeannie H reported that they had their February meeting on the 17th. Kristi R presented at the meeting, talking about their program as well as someone from the Madera County Department of Public Health who spoke about water testing. The Water and Natural Resources Department is currently working on SB 552. They will be presenting on this work either during the March or April meeting for the drought working group.
- Jenny N added that for next month's meeting, they are going to have staff from SHE provide an update on their water emergency programs. For April's meeting, they will have an update for the County's drought plan (SB 552).

14. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application Status

- Eddie M reported that they managed to submit a project, but it wasn't one of the original projects that had been discussed. DWR wants portions of the application to be completed by stating very specific quantitative benefits. Eddie added that the funding we have available is very challenging to get stuff implemented (i.e., put a well in the ground and put a tank on the ground). \$600,000 is not very

much to be sure everything can be constructed, and that's what DWR was wanting to hear. Eddie went back to the IRWMP Project List to identify a project that they know can be 100% completed with the funding available. They went with the Sierra Highlands project for the well rehab. These projects tend to be less expensive when compared to constructing something brand new. DWR has not provided any feedback yet, but feedback is expected over the next 2 or 3 weeks if DWR has any at all.

15. Discussion – Madera RWMG Future Meetings

- Jacob R reported that Bylaw 4.3 mentions that meetings will conform to the requirements of the Brown Act. The legal feedback received has been that the group does need to follow the Brown Act, but there are a few IRWM groups that do not follow the Brown Act. Jacob reached out to some groups via email but did not hear anything back. For the groups that do have websites, some information was posted regarding their meetings following the Brown Act:
 - North Coast Resource Partnership (formally the North Coast IRWMP):
“...Adherence to the Brown Act, ensuring a process that is open, transparent and inclusive to all stakeholders”.
 - San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed IRWM:
“All meetings of the Steering Committee will be noticed and conducted in conformance with the Brown Act”.
 - East Contra Costa County IRWM:
“All Governing Board meetings are open to the public and noticed in accordance with the Brown Act”.
 - Jacob also mentioned that he found a quote on the Association of California Water Agencies' website about IRWM:
“IRWM is a voluntary, collaborative effort to plan and implement water management solutions on a regional scale”.
- Gretchen H added that Bylaw 4.1 states that meetings shall be held in the following 3 locations: Madera, Oakhurst, and Chowchilla. We are not currently holding the meetings at those 3 locations. Jacob mentioned that the meetings are not currently being held at those 3 locations due to the Emergency Proclamation that was established by Governor Newsom in response to COVID. That proclamation expires on March 1st.
- Kristi R added that the Madera RWMG is not an agency. Kristi is wondering how we are subject to the Brown Act since we are just a group.
- Melanie A commented that Jacob reached out to her about this issue since she is a lawyer for the Madera WD. Melanie had a coworker do the research about this issue, and the Brown Act application comes into play since the group is a State created entity, created under statute. Melanie thinks the group has to follow the Brown Act because of the way it was formed. Melanie added that the group has had great attendance while being on Zoom.
- Gretchen went on to the County of Ventura's website, and found that the website states that the Brown Act allows teleconference meetings if they comply with the following specifications: 1) the teleconference location is accessible to the public and it is noted in the agendas, 2) the meeting is useful to the public, 3) all votes are taken by roll call, and 4) at least a quorum of the members are located within the boundaries of the territory over which it exercises jurisdiction. Bobby M added

that he thinks for this the meeting information would have to be posted on all our office doors or where we login for the Zoom meetings and have the door open to the public to join that location. Gretchen can see this being possible at the physical meeting location.

- Bobby added that for the Air Board, they have 3 designated meeting locations with the agenda posted out front. This could be a realistic accommodation for the group. Jacob mentioned that for the new Brown Act requirement AB 2449, a quorum must participate in person from a singular physical location identified in the agenda, that is open to the public, and within the boundaries of the agency. This new requirement begins on March 1, 2023, and sunsets on December 31, 2025. Jeannie H mentioned this new requirement takes effect automatically. Jeannie also added that members of the board now can participate virtually but must have just cause or an emergency circumstance as AB 2449 states. If a board member meets just cause or an emergency circumstance to attend virtually, they must notify Jacob before the meeting to make sure there is going to be a quorum and they have to give the reason for not being able to meet in-person. If it's an emergency circumstance, they must "describe in approximately 20 words without disclosing personal medical information". A just cause situation would be providing care for a family member, they have a contagious illness, physical or mental disability, etc. The public can attend virtually as they wish, but not board members to have a quorum. Board members can only use the just cause exemption and emergency circumstance exemption to meet online and count towards the quorum twice each per year.
 - Bobby asked that for the quorum, does it have to be at 1 physical location, or can it be at multiple, and Jeannie mentioned that in the past this group has had physical meeting locations at 3 rotating designated areas, but only met at 1 of those locations each time. They're backing away from the AB 361 Emergency Proclamation for the Brown Act and going towards the new AB 2449 Brown Act requirements starting on March 1st. Bobby added that if we continue to follow the Brown Act, board members cannot continue to only meet online, and Jeannie said that's correct but the public can attend the meetings online.
 - Gretchen asked what happens if you have board members that are not able to meet in-person each month, and Jacob mentioned that you can still meet virtually if you meet one of the exemptions to count towards the quorum, but you can only use each exemption twice each per year. Gretchen added that she would not be able to meet in-person at 1:30 pm since she has children to pick up from school. Jacob added the group could decide to change the meeting time if they wish so more members can attend in-person.
 - Dina N recommended checking with the State to see if we do in fact have to follow the Brown Act. If we don't, we can just amend the bylaws and continue to meet remotely. Kristi agrees that it would be good to check with the State. Jason R also agrees. To make it easier for those that will have to travel, Jason was wondering if the physical locations would be the same as before COVID (Madera, Chowchilla, and Oakhurst). Gretchen asked if the meeting could take place at all 3 locations at the same time to reduce travel, and Jacob mentioned that in order to have a quorum under

AB 2449, the quorum must participate in person from a singular physical location.

- Jacob will reach out to the DWR IRWM team and see what they say about groups having to follow the Brown Act. Bobby also asked Jacob to continue reaching out to groups and following up with those that do not follow the Brown Act.
- Bobby asked if Jacob had any recommendations for the board, and Jacob mentioned he discussed the group following the Brown Act back in October 2021 with Jeannie and Stephanie A, and Stephanie brought up that she was involved with some IRWM groups before the current job she has with Madera County. Those groups did not follow the Brown Act. Jeannie mentioned that those groups did not meet monthly but met on a quarterly basis. This group could possibly decide to meet quarterly or every other month.
- Jacob will share the AB 2449 document with the board members that explains what must be done to meet a quorum, how board members can attend virtually and still count towards the quorum, etc.
- Bobby added that more information is needed before we can set a rotating meeting schedule for a physical location. For the March 20th meeting, we can have the physical location be at the Madera County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Jacob will work on getting this space reserved for the March meeting. Clyde W added that for the physical location, he just asks that it have the capability to have others join remotely via Zoom. Al S added that having meetings on Zoom has been more productive when it comes to getting opinions and discussions from others. Before when meeting in-person, there may have been 10-12 people at the meetings vs now on Zoom when we have 25+ people at each meeting.

16. Discussion – IRWMP Project List – Call for Projects

- Jacob R reported that the 2023 Call for Projects will open on Friday, March 3rd, and close at 5 pm on Wednesday, April 12th (40 days). Jacob will be sending out an email to the email list on March 3rd.

17. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA

- Jeannie H commented that they received the LandFlex grant award last Friday. Madera County GSA within the Madera Subbasin received \$9.3 million. More information to come later about this.
 - Dina N asked if Jeannie could talk details about this, and Jeannie mentioned not yet because they haven't had the meeting yet to get those details. It'll be building on the SALC program that they have had in the past.
 - Bobby M asked if this grant was a result of the Board of Supervisors' actions taken over the past year (passing fees, fines, requirements, etc.). Sam C added that this grant did require that they have an allocation program adopted and the use of ET measurement.
- Carl J added that for the Madera ID GSA, they've been delivering water to all their basins for the last 60-days. They have a lot of growers that are doing on-farm recharge as they're able to get surface water. They're selling water at \$10/acre-foot right now. This price will be ongoing for the next month or so. They're trying to get as much recharge as they can with the water that's coming.

- Don R added that for Gravelly Ford WD GSA, they have been delivering water since January 18th and they're giving it to their growers for free. They're also putting as much water into their ponds as they can.
- Bobby M added that the Board of Supervisors is looking into doing recharge credit. They're looking to review this in the coming weeks with a retroactive credit.

18. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Bobby M mentioned that Jacob R sent out an invite to the Picayune Tribe to join the group. We have not received a reply yet.
- Jacob added that he called Aliso and New Stone but no answer or call back.

19. Future Agenda Items

- No new future agenda items. The LandFlex program can be added later once more information is known.

20. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2023, at 1:30 pm at the Madera County Board of Supervisors' Chambers.

21. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.



Madera County Domestic Well Inventory Update



Project Background/Objectives

- DWR Prop 68 Grant Funding
- GSPs included Domestic Well Mitigation Programs to avoid adverse impacts to this group of beneficial users
- Need for improved understanding of locations, density, construction of active domestic wells, and costs (Part 1: Domestic Well Inventory)
- Provide Input to Domestic Well Mitigation Program
- Identify/address additional monitoring needs with dedicated MWs (Part 2: Install new MWs in areas with clusters of domestic wells)

Inventory Dataset Characteristics

Data Source	Historical Well Presence	Well Status (active)	Location Accuracy	Construction (depth, screens)
DWR Well Completion Report Database	Since early 1900s	No	Variable (some only to PLSS section)	Usually included
County Well Permit Database	Since 1990s (Mad=1990, Mer=1998)	No	By APN (not all match parcel GIS data) or Address	No (only seal depth)
County Parcel Data	Inferred from Use/Dwelling Code	No	By APN	No
Census Information	Inferred from # Households	No	By Census Block	No

Comparison of Total Numbers of WCRs and Permits to Estimated Number of Parcels with a Dwelling Outside of Water System Boundaries

Years	Chowchilla Subbasin	Madera Subbasin
WCRs (since 1970)	500	4822
WCRs (since 1990)	374	3446
Permits (since 1990)	439	4210
<i>Ratio Permits to WCRs (since 1990)</i>	1.2	1.22
Estimated Potential Domestic Wells from Upscaled WCR Data (since 1970)	600	5883
Parcels with Dwellings Outside Water Systems	967	5898

Note: This table provides WCRs since 1990 to allow comparison to permits. However, the analyses are based on WCRs since 1970.

Analysis of Dry Domestic Wells Using Average-Year and Dry-Year Start Sequences to Start GSP Implementation Period Adjusted for County Permits (Chowchilla Subbasin)

Years	Total Number of Wells	Base Case Hydrology	Dry Start Hydrology	Average of Two Sequences
2020 to 2024	480	48	102	75
2025 to 2029	378	0	73	37
2030 to 2034	305	50	1	25
2035 to 2039	304	1	0	1
Total 2020 to 2040		99	176	138

Notes: Analysis includes wells drilled since 1970 and assumes dry well threshold is 10 feet of well saturation above bottom of well. Total Number of Wells is based on Dry Year Sequence, and does not include dry wells occurring before 2020.

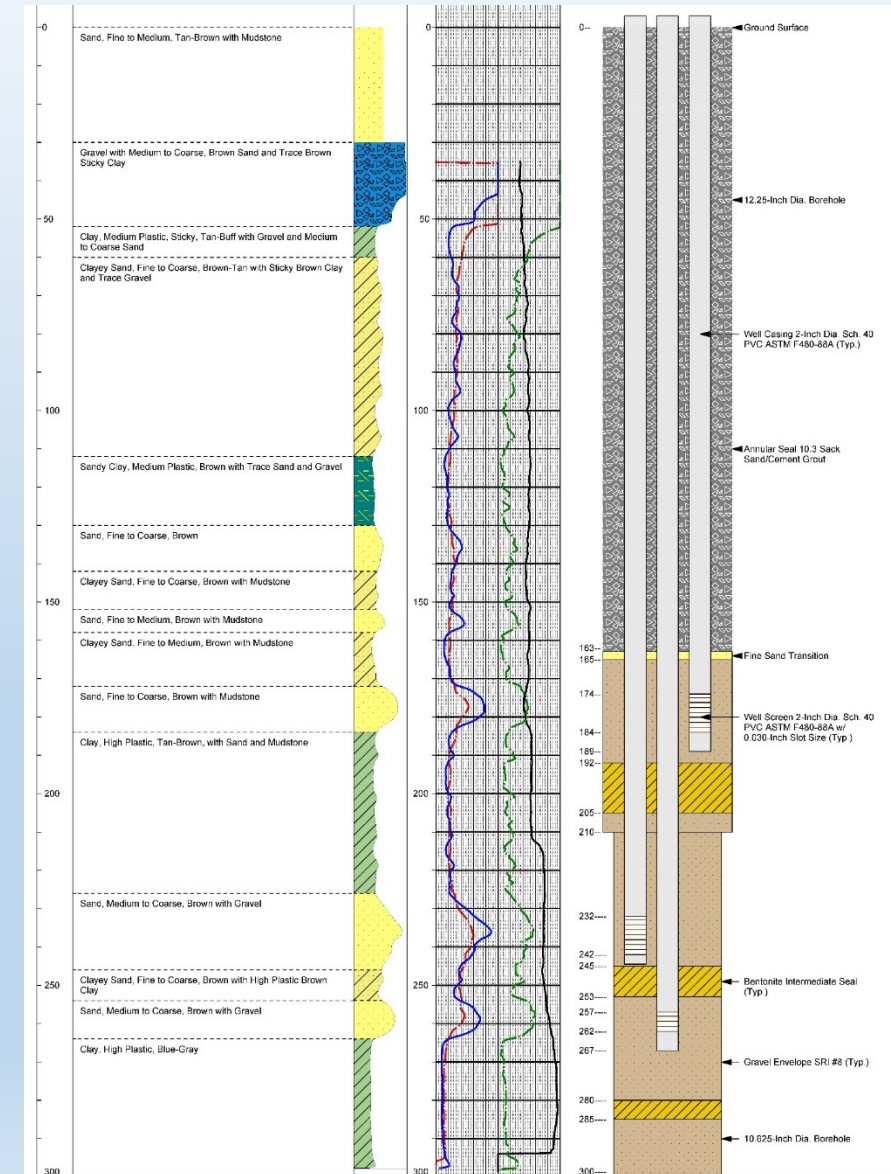
Analysis of Dry Domestic Wells Using Average-Year and Dry-Year Start Sequences to Start GSP Implementation Period Adjusted for County Permits (Madera Subbasin)

Years	Total Number of Wells	Base Case Hydrology	Dry Start Hydrology	Average of Two Sequences
2020 to 2024	4962	350	427	389
2025 to 2029	4535	185	1,017	601
2030 to 2034	3518	406	134	270
2035 to 2039	3384	0	0	0
Total 2020 to 2040		941	1,578	1,260

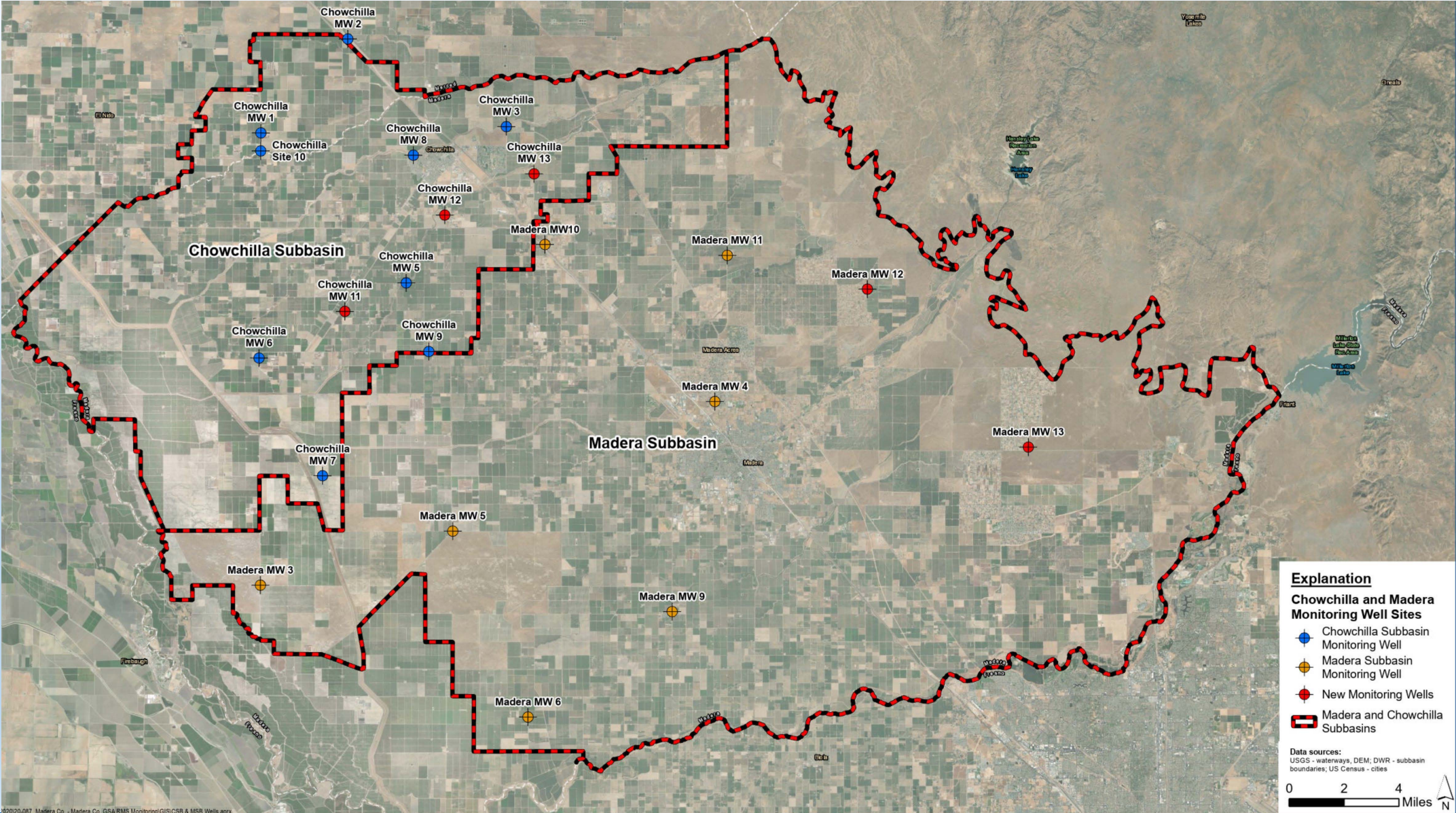
Notes: Analysis includes wells drilled since 1970 and assumes dry well threshold is 10 feet of well saturation above bottom of well. Total Number of Wells is based on Dry Year Sequence, and does not include dry wells occurring before 2020.

Monitoring Well Construction and Instrumentation

- Test hole drilling up to 800 feet at three locations in Chowchilla Subbasin and two locations in Madera Subbasin
- Lithologic and geophysical logging of each test hole
- Construction of up to three wells at each location screened in different depth zones
- Measurement of groundwater levels and collection of groundwater quality samples from each well
- Install instrumentation for long-term water level monitoring; surveying



Nested Monitoring Well Location Map



Nested Monitoring Well Summary

Site	Borehole Depth (ft bgs)	Well Screens	Comments
CSB MW-11	800	122-152; 206-396; 460-550	
CSB MW-12	800	372-452; 551-571; 694-714	
CSB MW-13	800	210-415; 510-580; 670-705	
MSB MW-12	470	355-465	Lost circulation during drilling limited total depth.
MSB MW-13	640	200-280; 396-436; 522-532	Lost circulation during drilling limited total depth.

Notes: Well Screens column in table indicates uppermost and lowermost depth of screen for each well casing, and do not necessarily represent continuous screened intervals.

Summary for Domestic Well Inventory Prop 68 Grant

- Finalized Domestic Well Inventory Reports (April 2022)
- Drilled/installed new nested monitoring wells (Summer/Fall 2022)
- Installed transducers and collected GW quality samples (Fall/Winter 2022)
- Prepare Well Installation Reports (Winter 2022/2023)

Discussion