

MID AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Welcome! Below is the third set of articles related to the MID GSA. Again, we appreciate that you have subscribed to the MID GSA email distribution list and are becoming better informed on groundwater topics in the Madera area. This set of articles is meant to update you on the technical information being presented by the MID GSA. If you would like more information on the Madera Subbasin in general, please visit <http://www.maderacountywater.com/>.

(Reminder, refer to the definitions on the back page of this insert for commonly used acronyms and terms related to groundwater management).

MID GSA PRESENTS FURTHER TECHNICAL INFORMATION

At the MID GSA meeting on October 16, 2018 and at the Madera Subbasin Technical Workshop on October 18, 2018, the MID GSA presented more detailed information on the MID GSA including what projects have already been completed and what is currently being planned to achieve sustainability by 2040.

Between the enactment of SGMA in 2014 and today, MID and the MID GSA have been working diligently to implement projects and programs to enhance water supplies and reduce the potential need for demand management (pumping restrictions). MID and the MID GSA have made significant progress over the last four years towards this goal. Since 2014, numerous projects have been completed and programs established to augment water supplies. MID rehabilitated and began utilizing recharge basins located throughout the District, MID installed over 12,000 feet of pipeline, completed system automation of over 50 sites, annexed the Madera Ranch (over 10,000 acres of grazing land), established an On-Farm Recharge Program, and acquired and imported additional surface water supplies in this four-year timeframe.

*“As a MID Board Member and MID grower, I am thrilled and relieved that the MID GSA is not planning on the need for pumping restrictions if supplies can be enhanced. As a grower, that takes away a huge concern.” **Jim Erickson, MID Board President.***

These actions and investments since 2014 have already contributed significantly to reaching sustainability in the MID GSA. While the gap is closing, a small groundwater deficit currently exists, the MID GSA does have plans though for closing this gap and meeting sustainability in the near term. These plans include acquisition of additional recharge basins and facilities (currently in progress), further enhancing grower programs such as the On-Farm Recharge program, expanding partnerships with other water districts to increase supplies, and exploring new fee structures and incentive based programs for landowners. However, these programs will take investment of the MID GSA and thus the landowners. Again though, the expectation is that with these investments, demand management (pumping restrictions) will not be required.

*“I’ve farmed in MID for the last 40 years, it is great to know that even with SGMA I can continue to farm in MID as I always have.” **Tim DaSilva, Tim DaSilva Farms***

MID AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT - continued

While these programs are achievable by the MID GSA in the foreseeable future, they will require land-owner participation. MID GSA will need the following:

- Continued investment in water supply projects and programs
- Increased stakeholder participation in programs such as On-Farm Recharge
- To analyze current assessment and water pricing structures

While implementation of SGMA continues, landowners in the MID GSA will likely continue to see their water levels in wells decline despite the MID GSA reaching sustainability. This situation will likely continue until the remainder of the Madera Subbasin becomes balanced.

MID is continuing to cooperate with other GSAs in the Madera Subbasin to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) so that sustainability can be attained basin-wide by 2040.

“Madera Irrigation District has been looking out for our community’s water needs for almost a century now and is well situated and fully prepared to lead us through the maze of SGMA requirements for the next one hundred years!” **Al Sheeter, Manager, Mordecai Ranch**

View the interactive map to determine which GSA your land is in and which agency will be managing your groundwater, visit the link <http://bit.ly/MIDGSA18>. Again, the information in this set of articles relate to land within the MID GSA.

LEARN THE LINGO - NEW DEFINITIONS

- Aquifer:** A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit ground water
- District:** Madera Irrigation District or MID
- Overdraft:** The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin
- Sustainably:** In a way that can be maintained at a certain rate or level

KEY ACRONYMS IN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

- SGMA:** Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
- DWR:** California Department of Water Resources, the state agency tasked with assisting in implementing SGMA
- SWRCB:** California’s State Water Resources Control Board, the state agency tasked with intervention and enforcement
- GSA:** Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP:** Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- MID GSA:** Madera Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency

12152 Road 28 1/4
Madera, CA 93637



MADERA
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

(559) 673-3514
www.madera-id.org