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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT COMPLETES TRANSFER OF MADERA RANCH

Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) is proud to announce that the sale of Madera Ranch for conservation purposes is complete. The transaction was finalized on April 23, 2026. Madera Ranch is located in Madera County approximately four miles southwest of the City of Madera. Madera Irrigation District purchased the Madera Ranch in 2005. In 2008, MID sold approximately 2,700 acres of cultivated land, the District continued to own and operate the remaining almost 11,000 acres as grazing land.

The Madera Ranch has had a very long and complicated past. From ownership by an Enron subsidiary to unsuccessful attempts to create a water bank on pristine grassland, the Madera Ranch had countless hurdles and a history longer and more complex than most. With optimism in October 2023, the MID Board of Directors entered into an Option Agreement with Trust for Public Land (TPL) to preserve this very unique and special piece of property.

As the intent of the Option Agreement originally stated, the property was conveyed to TPL and then subsequently to an environmental steward, Dawn Ranch Conservation Properties LLC. Extensive deed restrictions have been placed on the property to ensure that it is preserved for open space and endangered species habitat into perpetuity. The MID Board of Directors was able to accomplish their objective, protecting this important piece of property located in Madera for generations to come while also realizing the monetary benefit of a property transfer.

The funds generated from the sale will be reinvested back into MID, supporting the District's mission to obtain and manage affordable surface water and groundwater supplies in a manner which will ensure the long-term viability of irrigated agriculture.

“Through a tremendous amount of hard work by dedicated Staff and Board Members, MID has been able to achieve this incredible goal. Not only MID’s landowners, but the community of Madera now and into the future will benefit from the preservation of this property” stated Dave Loquaci, MID Board President. “This is a monumental success for Madera Irrigation District and I am beyond proud to be a part of it.”

For more information on MID, please visit www.madera-id.org.