



Merced Subbasin GSA

Governing Board Meeting

March 27, 2023



Flood Water Recharge Update

Overview of Governor's Executive Order N-4-23

- Effective March 10, 2023, the order allows growers to divert water from rivers or streams for recharge without the need to obtain a water right.
- Diverters must file two reports with the Water Board
 1. A Preliminary report within 14 days of initial diversions
 2. A final report by June 15, 2023
- Reports must identify:
 - The diverter
 - The conditions that triggered the diversions
 - The point(s) of diversion
 - The flooded area
 - When diversions occurred and ceased
 - The amount of water diverted

Flood Diversion Report Form

Flood Diversion Reporting Form: Executive Order N-4-23

Use this form to report information regarding [Executive Order N-4-23](#)
If you have questions, email FloodDiversion@waterboards.ca.gov

Please attach verification of information provided to email submittal, as necessary.

1 Please indicate initial or final report:

Initial Report Final Report Date This Report was prepared:

2 Diverter information:

Name:
Email Address:
Job Title:
Entity Name:

Submit to: FloodDiversion@waterboards.ca.gov
and CC: Contact@MercedSubbasinGSA.org



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Allocation Policy: Spatial Variance Options

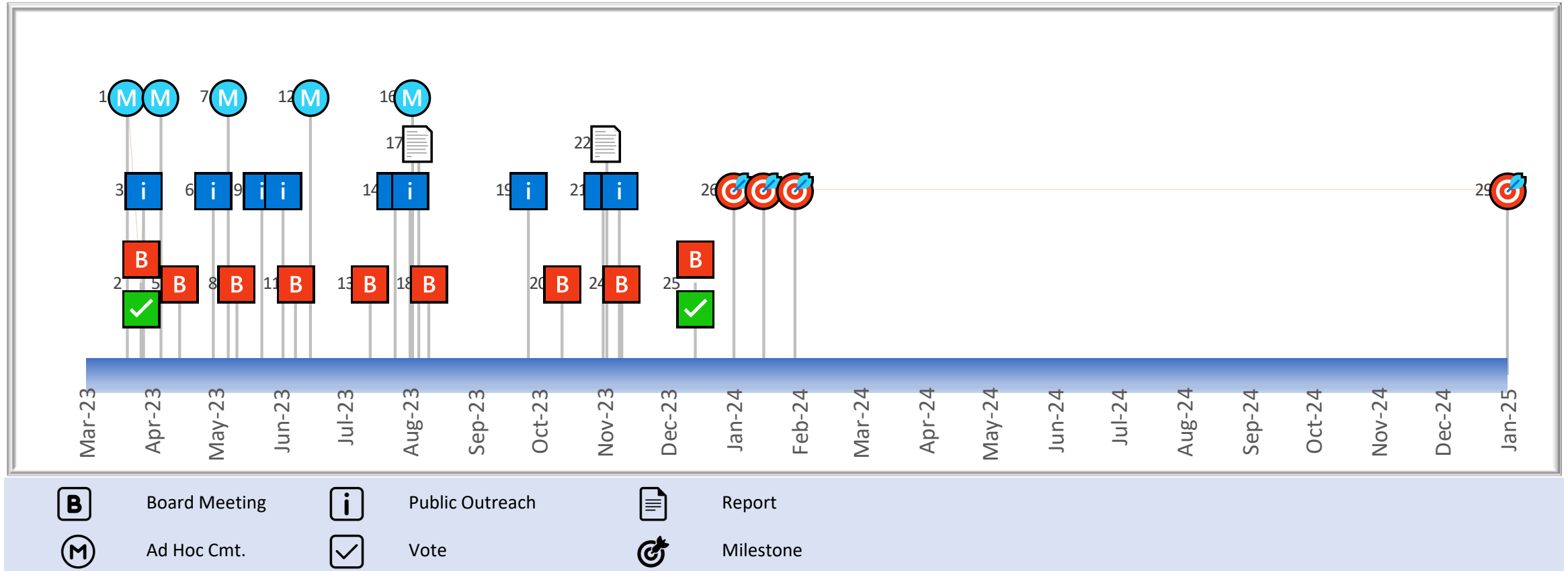
- **Option 1: Allow Sustainable Yield values to vary by Sustainability Zone (SZ), where the variance reflects current local conditions such as proximity of groundwater levels to those reported during Fall 2015 groundwater levels.**
 - Intent is that there would be more native groundwater available (Sustainable Yield) for a SZ not experiencing groundwater level declines.
 - For illustrative purposes, this option could result in circumstances where one SZ may have a Sustainable Yield value of 0.5 af/ac/yr while another may have 2.5 af/ac/yr.
 - Adjustments to Sustainable Yield may occur on a 5-year basis, depending on the progress toward achieving GSP objectives.
 - Additional limitations to pumping any portion of the Sustainable Yield below the Corcoran Clay layer may be required based upon technical evaluation of conditions in the SZ.
 - This may impact whether Transition Water would be needed in a SZ if the Sustainable Yield is enough to continue existing crop mixes (noting that Transition Water is intended to help shift from high consumptive use of groundwater to a lower consumptive use condition).

Allocation Policy: Spatial Variance Options

- **Option 2: Create a third allocation term, potentially labeled “Sustainability Zone Surplus”, where the surplus would be available to a SZ depending on the groundwater conditions in that SZ.**

- Sustainable Yield allocations would be consistent for all SZs,
- Additional limitations to pumping any portion of the Sustainable Yield below the Corcoran Clay layer may be required based upon technical evaluation of conditions in the SZ.
- If groundwater levels in any SZ are at or above those reported during Fall 2015 (approximately October 2015 through January 2016) and average conditions have remained stable for a defined period of years, then a calculable volume of Sustainability Zone Surplus would be made available to the SZ and allocated to the agricultural lands similar to the Sustainable Yield.
- The Sustainability Zone Surplus would be re-evaluated every 5 years (or other reasonable timeframe) to capture any trending away from groundwater stability.
- Sustainable Yield would also be re-evaluated every 5 years and adjusted depending on the progress toward achieving GSP objectives.
- This may impact whether Transition Water would be needed in a SZ if the Sustainable Yield is enough to continue existing crop mixes (noting that Transition Water is intended to help shift from high consumptive use of groundwater to a lower consumptive use condition).
- The volume of Sustainability Zone Surplus would be determined based upon hydrogeologic conditions present in the SZ as determined through a technical evaluation

Groundwater Allocation Policy Timeline





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Next Governing Board Meeting

April 13, 2023