

EKI TECHNICAL PRESENTATION #18

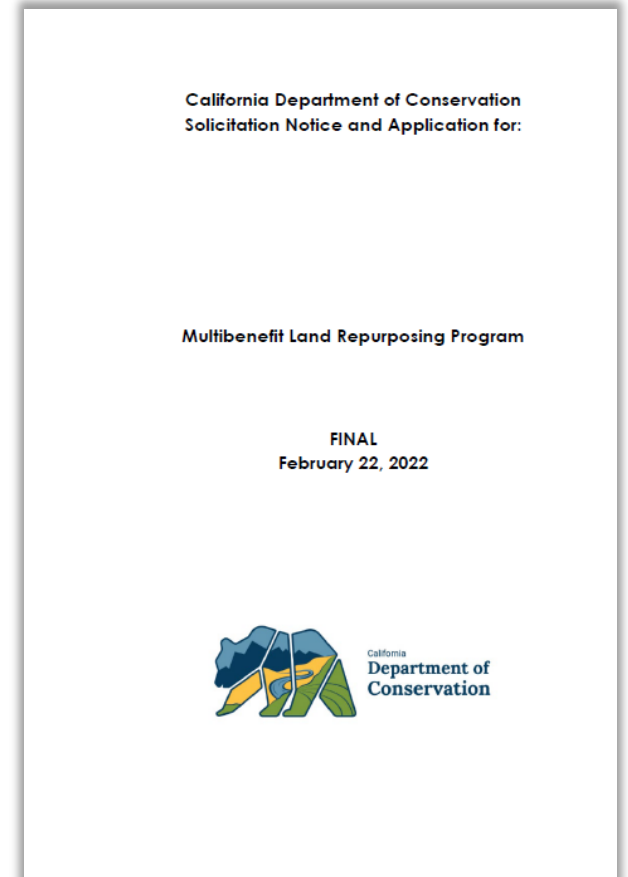
WHITE WOLF GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

23 MARCH 2022



MULTIBENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Led by the Department of Conservation
- Funded by the Budget Act of 2021, which appropriated \$50 million to the program
- Increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits.



MULTIBENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM OVERVIEW – REGIONAL BLOCK GRANT

- 3 to 5 grants available, up to \$10M each
- Preference given to areas with Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
- 3 years to encumber (through 30 June 2024) and 2 years to fully liquidate (30 June 2026) program funds
- Requires partnering with stakeholders
 - Partnerships: “commitments by other organizations, government agencies, private citizens or volunteer groups **to provide funds or in-kind services.**”

MLRP GRANT APPLICATION OVERVIEW

- The application must contain all of the materials listed below:
 - Cover sheet
 - Applicant eligibility and capacity
 - Basin description
 - Proposal summary
 - Community Engagement and Collaboration
 - Partnerships
 - Policy and Project Expertise
 - Budget summary
 - Project Maps
 - Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

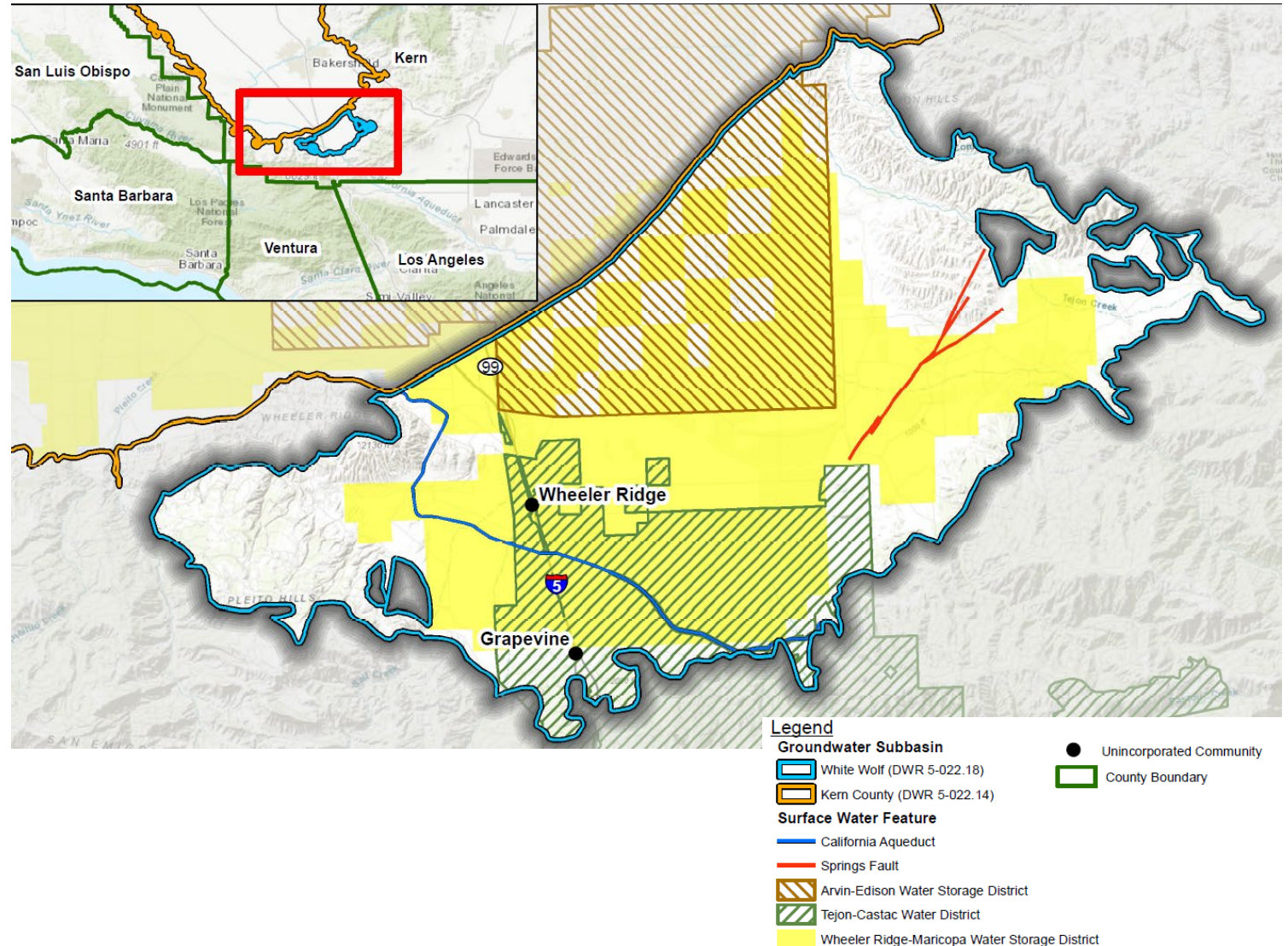
APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY AND CAPACITY

- The White Wolf Subbasin is an eligible groundwater basin since it is a medium priority basin where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared
- The White Wolf GSA is an eligible regional block grant applicant
- Utilizing the same framework as the DWR Prop I and Prop 68 grants, TCWD will serve as grant administrator and oversee all grant correspondence, invoicing, and reporting



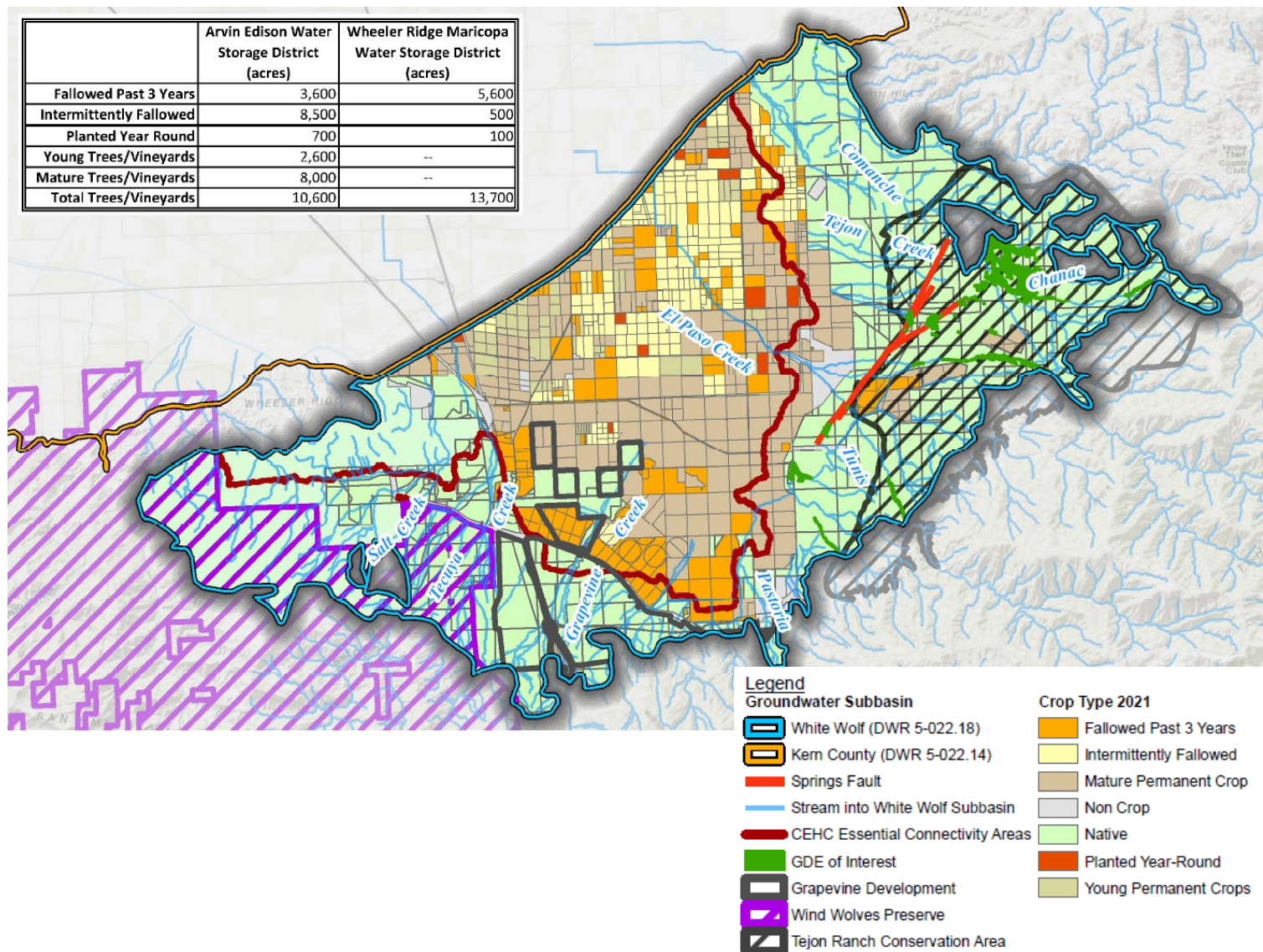
BASIN DESCRIPTION

- The Basin encompasses 107,532 acres
 - 32% are for irrigated agriculture
 - 66% are undeveloped lands (i.e. native, pasture, or conservation and preserve)
 - 2% are developed (i.e. M&I)
- 35% of the Basin is mapped as a DAC
- Basin has experienced declining water levels and a net decrease in groundwater storage over the last 7 years



POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- The GSP identifies 24 Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs), with two P/MAs specifically for land repurposing to reduce groundwater extractions:
 - P/MA #14:AEWSD Groundwater Subsidies for Land Conversion
 - P/MA #15:WRMWSL Land Retirement and/or Conversion
- Target repurposing lands are located near El Paso Creek and in the eastern foothills area

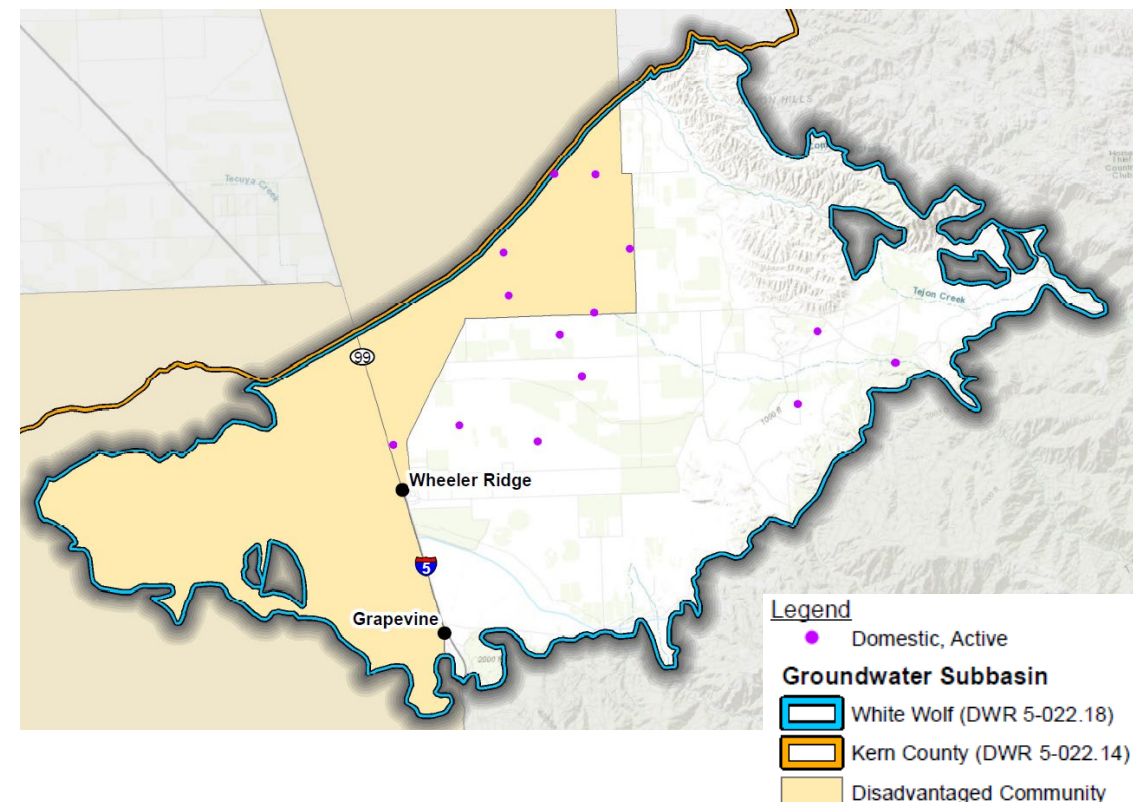


PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- Initiate land repurposing through a systematic process that:
 - Considers multiple beneficial uses, engages landowners, reduces groundwater use, supports wildlife habitat, and helps the Basin work toward achieving its Sustainability Goal as outlined in the GSP
- Scope of work
 - Task 1: Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan Development
 - Task 2: Project Development and Permitting
 - Task 3: Land Repurposing Project Implementation
 - Task 4: Partner's Capacity Needs Support
 - Task 5: Community Outreach
 - Task 6: Monitoring

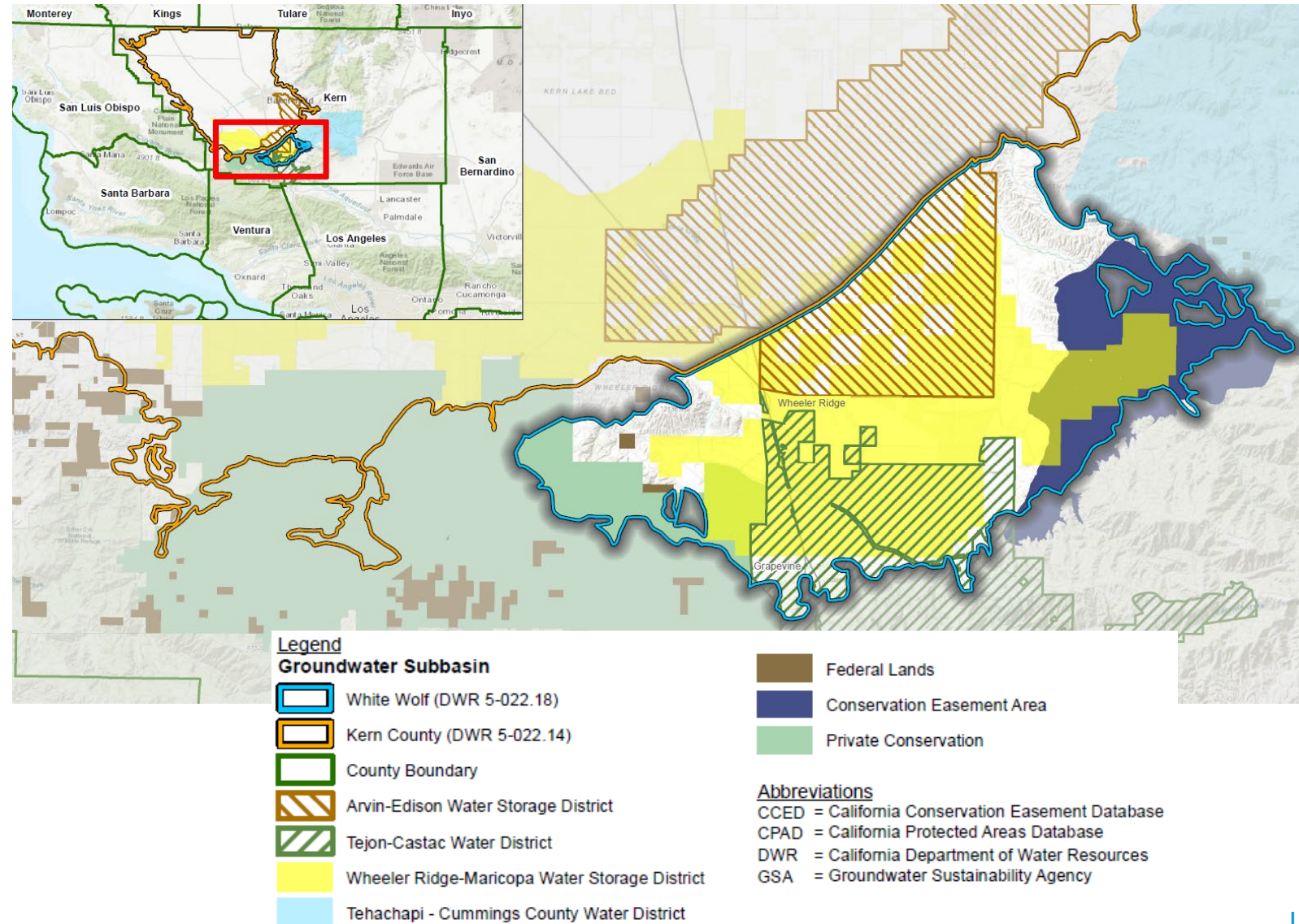
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- Long successful history of GSA member district collaboration:
 - GSA Formation
 - Creation and re-classification of the White Wolf Subbasin
 - Joint application for DWR Prop I and Prop 68 Grants
 - Adoption of the Basin's GSP
- Extensive experience with conducting community engagement to stakeholders:
 - Stakeholder survey and direct outreach to public water systems
 - Public workshops, Board meetings, Public hearing
- 35% of the Basin is mapped as a DAC



PARTNERSHIPS

- Three committed partners to provide in-kind staff time:
 - AEWSD
 - TCWD
 - WRMWSD
- Potential other partners:
 - Wind Wolves Preserve
 - Kern County



POLICY AND PROJECT EXPERTISE

- WRMWSD design, permitting, and construction of the Mettler recharge facility
- AEWSD acquisition and development of Sunset Spreading Works
- AEWSD supported privately-owned ag land conversion to solar arrays by participation in Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Preliminary budget summary, to be finalized with proposed scope of work

Task	Total
Task 1: Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan Development	\$ 180,000
Task 2: Project Development and Permitting	\$ 520,000
Task 3: Land Repurposing Project Implementation	\$ 8,370,000
Task 4: Partner's Capacity Needs Support	\$ 230,000
Task 5: Community Outreach	\$ 300,000
Task 6: Monitoring	\$ 240,000
Task 7: Administrative Costs	\$ 160,000
Total	\$ 10,000,000

RESOLUTION FROM GSA BOARD

- Authorizes the submittal of the grant application for a 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program grant
- Authorizes entrance into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation and accept template terms and conditions
 - TCWD designated authority on behalf of the GSA
- Authorizes a designated individual to accept the award and execute tasks
 - Secretary of the Board

QUESTIONS?

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