RECHARGE Land Repurposing Solutions Seminar

Taylor Broadhead, Audubon California

John Michael Domondon, Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts

Allison Tristao, Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts



Recharge Refresher

How is groundwater recharged?

• Natural vs Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

Types of MAR:

- Dedicated basins
- Wetlands
- Injection wells or subsurface
- Streams and canal seepage
- On farm-recharge



Recharge Feasibility Considerations

- Water Rights
- Access to Conveyance
 - Irrigation Systems
- Soil Suitability
- Underlying geology
 - depth to groundwater
 - corcoran clay
- Crop Suitability (On-Farm Recharge)



he Soil Agricultural Groundwater lanking Index (SAGBI) is a suitability ndex for groundwater recharge on gricultural land, based on deep vercolation, root zone residence time, opography, chemical limitations, and ioil surface condition. Suitability of Soil for Traditional Groundwater Recharge

Stakeholder Benefits

<u>Wildlife</u>

- 90% of historical wetland acreage lost
- Remaining 5-10% of acreage supports 20% of North America's Waterfowl
- High potential benefits to grower and wildlife



Pixley National Wildlife Refuge 2021 / Kevin Rangel

Stakeholder Benefits

Communities

- Increased water quantity
- <u>Potential</u> benefit to water quality



Stakeholder Benefits

Landowner:

- Slowing or halting subsidence
- Decrease cost of pumping
- Financial incentives through district
- Reliable water source



Grower Incentives through District

- Landowner Developed Credits
 - Flexibility to water account
 - Build for future use
 - Transfer to different parcels
- Groundwater trading programs
 - Lower Tule, Pixley, and Eastern Tule GSA
- Replenishes the aquifer
 - Stabilizes the groundwater level

• Potential ET reduction to your account

District Process/Requirements

- Notify District
- Fill out application
- Install a meter/turnout

Other things to note:

- Water cannot be diverted out of the basin
- Crops cannot be grown in the facility(unless cover crop)
- Facility must be large enough to hold a 24 hour water order
 - Average is a minimum of 5 acres
- Depending on water conditions water ownership ranges from 75/25 to 90/10

Example: Wildlife-Friendly Recharge Basin at Deer Creek

Features:

- Gently sloped sides
- Vegetation for habitat, food, and infiltration
- Reduced flood risk to Alpaugh
- Can recharge up to 40-45 AF per day



Example #2: DCTRA Recharge Basin

Features:

- Gently sloped sides
- Vegetation for habitat, food,and infiltration
- Designed for migratory birds
- Can recharge up to 10-15 AF per day



Questions?