

# Agenda Item #8

## Fallowing Program Summary

### Program Outline

- GSA determines # of acre feet of water to remove from the system
- Growers bid acres/acre feet to fallow
- Bids are scored and accepted
- Fallowing occurs
- Farmers are paid at the end of the fallowing period

### Program Details

#### Bidding

- Number of acres/acre feet to fallow will be determined by the board of directors
- 2023/2024 program goal is +/-15000 acft (5555 acres)
- 2.7 acre feet per acre will be fixed value assigned to each acre
- Eligibility:
  - a. Any farm within the Greater Kaweah GSA with 4 or more acres is eligible to bid
  - b. Bids can come from any region of the GKGSA
- Bids will be made in Acres of land fallowed
- Bids will be based on field boundaries defined in the GKGSA dashboard
- Must include APN Plus Field Number/Name
- Bidders may sign up for 1 year at a time
- Sealed Bids will be submitted Online or at the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District office

#### Scoring process

- Bids will be opened and scored by a 3rd party.
- The process will be blind
- Bids will be prioritized based on reducing most water usage at lowest cost

#### Cost of program/payout

- Payments will be made +/-14 months from start of water year, (December 2024)
- Fallowing income can offset pumping fees on remainder acres
- Will be one annual payment
- Grower can elect to receive income in December or January

#### Other

- Verification will be done using LandIQ & ground truthing
- Cover crops are allowed via rainwater only

## Timeline

Feb 21, 2023 1:00 PM	Combined following, Rural communities, stakeholder committee (Calendared)
Feb 24, 2023 09:00	Fallowing Committee Meeting (Calendared)
March 29, 2023 1-4pm	Public Meeting Elks lodge Open of public comment (Calendared)
April, 11, 2023 09:00	Fallowing Committee Meeting (Calendared)
May 8, 2023	Board Meeting (present program)
May 17, 2023 09:00	Fallowing Committee Meeting
June, 12 2023	Board decides target reduction
Aug 1, 2023 (tent)	Bidding opens
Aug 14, 2023	Bidding Close
Aug 15-Sept 10, 2023	Bids evaluation
Sept 11, 2023	Board accepts bids
Sept 15, 2023	Inform bidders if they are accepted or not
Oct 1, 2023	Water Year starts
April 2024	Fallowing verification
August 2024	Fallowing Verification
Sept 30, 2024	Water Year ends
Dec/Jan 2024	Payments