



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

February 2022

SGMA News

Press Release
Chowchilla GSP Determination
Chowchilla GSP Determined Incomplete
[Click Here](#)

Field Verification Opportunity

The County GSAs are looking for growers who are willing to participate in a program to field verify IrriWatch.

In order to participate in the program, you must be able to provide flowmeter

data at regular intervals via a smartphone based mobile data collection platform. Data should be submitted monthly, and will include the flowmeter GPS location, an entry of the flowmeter totalizer value, a picture of the totalized value, and a selection of the totalizer units.

The flowmeters must be installed and maintained to the manufacturers standards and be calibrated within two years of participation. Upon sign-up, you will be asked to provide a diagram of your fields and which flowmeter is measuring the applied water to which field(s). There must be a clear understanding of which flowmeter(s) measure applied water delivered to which field(s), to accurately compare to IrriWatch data.

If you have questions or would like more information on how to participate please contact our office: (559) 662-8015.

IrriWatch FAQs

Q: I stopped irrigating, why does IrriWatch still show ETAW on my fields?

A: ETAW is the evapotranspiration of applied water, which does not directly correlate to irrigation practices in time. Even though you may have stopped irrigating your fields, the plants are still able to transpire water that was previously applied and stored in the root zone.

Q: The assessed and/or irrigated acreage and crop type that I see for my parcels in IrriWatch is not what I believe to be correct. How should I address this?

A: Official acreage and crop data is taken from the Madera County Assessor's Office. Any discrepancies between your APN, irrigated acreage numbers, or actual crop type should be addressed directly with the Assessor's Office. IrriWatch will be periodically updated with the official data from the Assessor's Office. The Assessor's Office can be reached at (559) 675-7654 or assessor@maderacounty.com

Q: I sold my property/I just bought property. How do I adjust my parcels in IrriWatch?

A: Property ownership data maintained by the County Assessor's office will be periodically updated in IrriWatch to reflect property transfers. The agreement of how fees payable to the GSA, associated with the property in question, will be transferred and paid must be determined by the parties involved in the sale of the property. The County GSAs are not responsible for transferring or reconciling payments associated with a transfer of title.

Q: Can I register my parcels in IrriWatch if I haven't already?

A: Yes, please email etmeasurement@maderacounty.com with your APN numbers and a preferred email address for your IrriWatch account.

Q: My allocation in IrriWatch seems slightly different than my 2021 allocation. What happened?

A: Allocations shown on the IrriWatch platform during 2021 were based on 2016 Statewide crop data irrigated areas from DWR. While often similar to the legal assessed parcel acreages on file with the County Assessor's Office, there can be differences between these acreages. The Groundwater Allocation Reports provided in this mailing correctly use Madera County Assessor's data for the following: (1) total assessed parcel acreage, (2) irrigated acreage, and (3) crop type. IrriWatch and future groundwater allocation reports will continue to use these Assessor's data in 2022 and future years. Contact the Madera County Assessor's Office at (559) 675-7710 or assessor@maderacounty.com for information or to make any modifications. Importantly, IrriWatch's ETAW measurements are unaffected by these changes; only the allocation calculations are impacted.

Q: Some graphs and reports aren't available in IrriWatch. Where did these go?

A: Based largely on grower feedback, IrriWatch is currently updating several reports and ways to view allocations and ETAW on a parcel and farm unit level. Once these updates are finalized, additional information and training will be provided. Final allocation and ETAW data for 2021 is provided on the attached groundwater allocation reports.

Q: Should I plant cover crops? Will they affect my ETAW?

A: The County GSAs recognize the importance of and benefits provided by cover crops. The GSA does not offer advice on what should or should not be planted. It should be noted that cover crops are plants that transpire water. In addition to increasing soil fertility, it should also be noted that cover crops may (1) increase infiltration capacity (and thereby decrease runoff), (2) increase soil water holding capacity, and (3) decrease evaporation from bare soil. Growers will need to weigh all of these factors when deciding to plant cover crops.

Madera County GSA 5-Year Allocation Schedule

Madera County GSA:	Inches of ETaw		
Year	Madera Subbasin	Chowchilla Subbasin	Delta-Mendota Subbasin
2021	28.3	26.7	19.8
2022	28.0	26.3	19.6
2023	27.7	25.9	19.3
2024	27.4	25.5	19.1
2025	27.1	25.1	18.9

ETaw:

Volume of applied water that is transpired by plants and evaporated from the soil (consumptive use). Measured by remote sensing, including satellites.

The Drought ... Year 3

After a soaking wet December that ended fire season, delivered more than 15 feet of snow to the Sierra Nevada, and boosted hopes that California's severe drought might be coming to an end, dry weather is back, in a big way. Like a baseball player stuck in a hitting slump, it hasn't rained significantly in weeks, since Jan. 4. Although reservoirs received a nice boost from big storms in December and late October, they still remain well below normal levels in most parts of the state. Time to start sweating that the state's two-year drought might be turning into a three-year drought? Not yet, say experts.

California is nearing that make-or-break point to pick up some rain and snow totals. January has turned out to be a total bust for big storms, continuing that winter whiplash of wet to dry weather. Almost all the gains we've made reducing the severity of our two-year drought came from storms in October and

December.... Since January and February are historically the wettest months of the year, there's still a chance to get back on track.

Click here for more information - [Droughts, Explained](#)

Has your well gone dry?
If you are concerned about your water well or if you are out of domestic water please call or visit the website to learn more about the resources available to you in the San Joaquin Valley.

Available resources:

- Bottled Water
- Well Assessment
- Water Tank
- Water Quality Testing

Water is Essential

¿Se está secando su pozo?
Si le preocupa la cantidad de agua en su pozo o si no tiene servicio de agua, llámese o visite el sitio web para obtener más información sobre los recursos disponibles para usted en el Valle de San Joaquin.

Recursos disponibles:

- agua embotellada
- Evaluación de pozo
- Sistemas para agua
- Pruebas de calidad del agua

Agua es Esencial

Visit for a list of resources by county
www.mywellwentdry.org

Call Self-Help Enterprises
559.802.1685

Visite para ver que recursos hay por condado
www.mywellwentdry.org

Llame a Self-Help Enterprises
559.802.1685

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO WELL OWNERS IN MADERA COUNTY

Has your well gone dry? Are you worried about your well going dry?

Most resources are available for free.

Residents of Madera County and the Central Valley who have been affected by the impacts of the drought have immediate resources available to help maintain their access to drinking water. These funds come from the State Water Resources Control Board and most are free to you.

Resources include:

Bottled Water
Water Tanks
Water Assessment Testing
Water Quality Testing

If you are concerned about your well or out of water for your home, visit www.mywellwentdry.org for a list of resources by county or call [Self-Help Enterprise](#) at 559-802-1285 or 559-802-1685.

Septic Systems

Leaking or poorly maintained septic systems are a very dangerous form of pollution. Septic systems work with the surrounding soil to filter the liquid layer of waste from a private home. When the system is broken or has completely failed, solid, undigested particles of waste leach into the soil. This severely disrupts the balanced process of absorption and filtering causing harmful bacteria, excess nutrients, and active viruses to travel into the groundwater. The leakage can also cause the liquid waste to bubble up to the surface, causing yards to become contaminated and even flood with liquid waste.

Stormwater runoff can easily carry the liquid waste to the storm drains and directly to the local water ways. These excess nutrients and pathogens are not only hazardous to wildlife and detrimental to water quality, but they also pose a public health risk. The US Environmental Protection Agency warns that when a person comes in contact with septic system contaminated water, they are at risk of developing eye or ear infections, gastrointestinal disease, or even hepatitis.

In order to avoid risking public health and damaging the ecosystems, the EPA suggests having septic systems inspected every 3 years and emptied as

needed. Additionally, it is important never to dispose of hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

[See the Madera County Liquid Waste webpage for more info on hazardous waste.](#)



PARTNER ORGANIZATION JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in working on issues related to resource management here are links to Partner Organizations who currently have positions open. Ideal candidates have experience/knowledge with key land management strategies, water issues, agriculture, and/or understand topics on wildfire resilience, landscape restoration, and collaboration.

[American Forests](#)

[Careers – California Association of Resource Conservation Districts \(carcd.org\)](#)

[Coarsegold Resource Conservation District](#)

[Natural Resource Conservation Service - USA Jobs](#)

[Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council](#)

If You Need Us

The Water & Natural Resources office is located on the third floor of the County Government Center. Water and Natural Resource staff can be reached at 559-662-8015 or you can visit us on-line at - maderacountywater.com.



Snow day on Deadwood, Highway 41 heading north to Oakhurst.

Upcoming Events and/or Meetings

Please check the website through the links below for meeting announcements and schedules or for telephone numbers to call and check on meeting times and locations with the agencies.

[Chowchilla Subbasin](#)

[Chowchilla Water District GSA](#)

[Clayton Water District](#)

[Coarsegold Resource Conservation District](#)

[Delta-Mendota Subbasin](#)

[Gravelly Ford GSA](#)

[Madera Ag Water Association](#)

[Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District](#)

[Madera Irrigation District GSA](#)

[Madera Regional Water Management Group](#)

[Madera Subbasin](#)

[Madera Subbasin](#)

[Madera Water District GSA](#)

[Merced County GSA](#)

[Merced Subbasin GSA](#)

[Root Creek GSA](#)

[Triangle T GSA](#)

*Madera County Water & Natural Resources, 200 West 4th Street, Suite 3100, Madera, CA 93637
Phone: 559-662-8015.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).