



**WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWS**

May 2022

Events and Meetings

**Friday, May 20, 2022 - 10:00 am
Drought Workgroup**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89233429167?pwd=VEZESHBM5FN3d0d0L2xrd2l2M25JQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3342 9167

Passcode: 632203

Or Call: 1-669-900-9128



Are you prepared for wildfires?

As California experiences its third consecutive year of severe drought, we must brace for another season of significant and widespread wildfires. Find out if your home is prepared for a wildfire, plus get tips and tactics that could save your home and your life during Wildfire Preparedness Week May 2-8.

Learn more at readyforwildfire.org

Conservation Lunch & Learn

June 2, July 7, August 4, 2022
12:00 pm—1:00 pm

- Water saving habits
- Water efficient products and fixtures
- Indoor appliance use and tips
- Outdoor irrigation types and tips



Please use the link below to join the meetings!

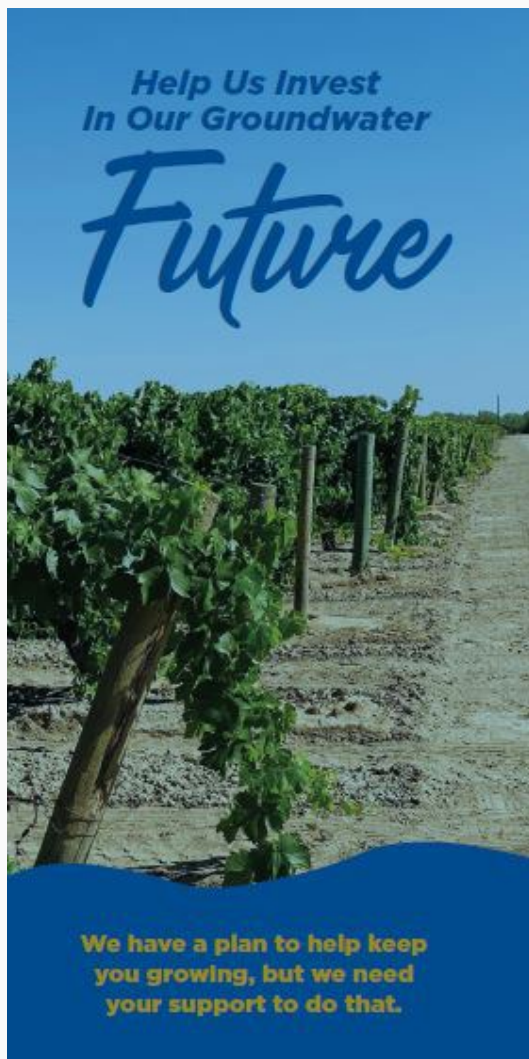


<https://bit.ly/3hdOT4e>

Meeting ID: 826 1165 3559

Passcode: 180733

Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Proposition 218 Notification



Current groundwater extraction in our area is unsustainable

We are doing all we can to ensure that groundwater is available now and in the future for all who rely on it for their well-being and their livelihoods. There are four projects we are planning to invest in to attain sustainability:

Creating groundwater recharge facilities:

By 2040, in wet years, recharge will generate 115,000 acre-feet (AF) in the Madera Subbasin and 80,000 AF in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

Participating in Sites Reservoir: Sites will provide on average 10,000 AFY in the reservoir for the GSAs' managed lands. In addition to new water, participation will provide multi-year water storage and use of GSA recharge facilities in dry years.

Mitigating domestic well impacts: We will contribute to a program that will drill replacement wells for homeowners whose wells have been dewatered by over-extraction. We estimate that approximately 1,200 replacement wells will be drilled over the next 10 years through this project.

Repurposing the land: A voluntary, annual program will provide incentive payments of \$600 to \$760 per acre to remove currently irrigated lands from production. With annual enrollment, this program is designed to achieve up to 50% of the GSPs' demand management goals, over time, to help achieve groundwater sustainability for the subbasins.

▶ The Reason for the Rates and How the Rates Were Derived

The SGMA mandates critically-overdrafted subbasins reach sustainability by 2040. As part of this process, the County became the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for all lands without another GSA. Projects and management actions were developed as part of the GSP. SGMA requires fees imposed for projects be adopted in accordance with subdivisions (A) and (B) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, which is part of Proposition 218.

A rate study to determine the amount of revenue required for projects and management actions has been conducted by Raftelis, an independent consulting firm. This study concluded that the proposed rates will provide funds sufficient for the County GSA to cover the costs of implementing GSP projects, including recharge, participation in Sites Reservoir, land repurposing and domestic well mitigation. The proposed rates were calculated per Enrolled Acre and rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The rates are proposed for a period of five years, the maximum adoption period allowable by state law. The five-year rates represent the average cost of service in each year over the period. By state law, the County GSA may not collect more revenue than the cost of providing service. For a more detailed account of the proposed rate calculations, the Rate Study may be viewed at <https://www.maderacountywater.com/county-gsa-fee-structure/> or the County of Madera Government Center at 200 W 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637.



▶ What Services Do the Rates Fund and Why Are the Rates Needed?

The County of Madera GSA is the agency responsible for managing groundwater for the area overlying the Madera Subbasin within its jurisdiction. The proposed rates are required to generate sufficient revenues to recover the cost of service for groundwater management, namely, funding projects and other actions for implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"). The rates are derived from the cost of service and include all GSP projects and programs and the related costs of operations, capital facilities, debt service, and prudent cash reserves. Rates pay for GSP projects only, specific to the Madera subbasin, and cannot be utilized by other County Departments or the County of Madera General Fund.



To Protest The Rate

NOTIFY

1) Notify the County GSA in writing by close of business June 20, 2022 that you oppose the proposed rates. You must identify the property (by Assessor's Parcel Number) affected by the proposed rates, and the property owner must sign, and print their name, on the written protest. Send to Chief Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Fourth Floor, 200 W. 4th Street, Madera CA 93637; OR

ATTEND

2) Attend the June 21, 2022, public hearing at the time and place identified on page 1 of this notice and submit a written protest before the close of the public hearing.

Pursuant to SB 323, any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, validate, or annul an ordinance, resolution, or motion adopting, modifying, or amending water or sewer service fees or charges adopted after January 1, 2022, shall be commenced within 120 days of the effective date or the date of final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance, resolution, or motion, whichever is later.



▶ Legal Requirements

Article XIII D of the California Constitution (also known as Proposition 218) requires that providers of public utility services, including water services, levy service charges that recover only the cost of providing the service to each parcel. The rates proposed herein are designed to meet all legal requirements to recover the required revenue from all parcels subject to the rates.

▶ Compliance with Proposition 218

Proposition 218 requires that public utility providers follow a strictly defined process for increasing fees such as water service rates. The County GSA must 1) inform affected property owners of the proposed rates, 2) clearly demonstrate that the amounts of the proposed rates are cost justified (the water rate cost of service study is on file at the office of the County GSA), and 3) hold a public hearing no less than 45 days after noticing property owners, at which the County GSA hears all protests to the proposed rates. These rates are subject to "majority protest," meaning they cannot be imposed if a majority of affected property owners submit written protests opposing the rates. If a majority protest does not exist, and if the proposed rates are adopted, the Board of Directors reserves the right to implement fees lower than those noticed, if financially prudent. The Board of Directors does not have the right to increase fees greater than those noticed without re-noticing affected parcels and adopting new fees, subject to a majority protest.



The Costs of Ensuring Our Water Future

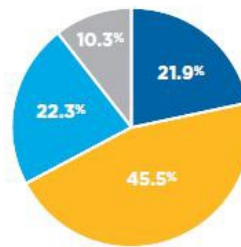
The projects we described will cost the GSAs approximately \$220M Madera / \$75M Chowchilla to implement over the next 10 years. This considerable investment accounts for subbasin cost shares with other GSAs, private contributions, and public grant estimates. The proposed fees include all, and only, the projects included in the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

Proposed Rates

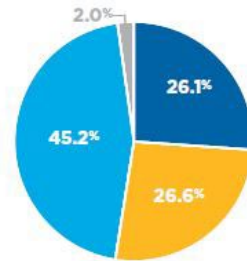
We have developed a rate proposal for groundwater users in each subbasin to pay for these investments. The proposed rates cover only the costs of the projects that benefit each subbasin directly. The funds generated from the rates can only be used for these projects and cannot be utilized by, or transferred to, any other County of Madera Department.

How is our investment split between the different projects?

Madera Subbasin
FY 2023 to FY 2027



Chowchilla Subbasin
FY 2023 to FY 2027



- Sites
- Recharge
- Land Repurposing
- Well Mitigation

Five-Year Rate Schedules (\$/Enrolled Acre*)

Subbasin	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027
Madera	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$246
Chowchilla	\$203	\$203	\$203	\$203	\$203
Delta-Mendota	\$138	\$138	\$138	\$138	\$138

*An enrolled acre is an acre within a farm unit that receives an allocation

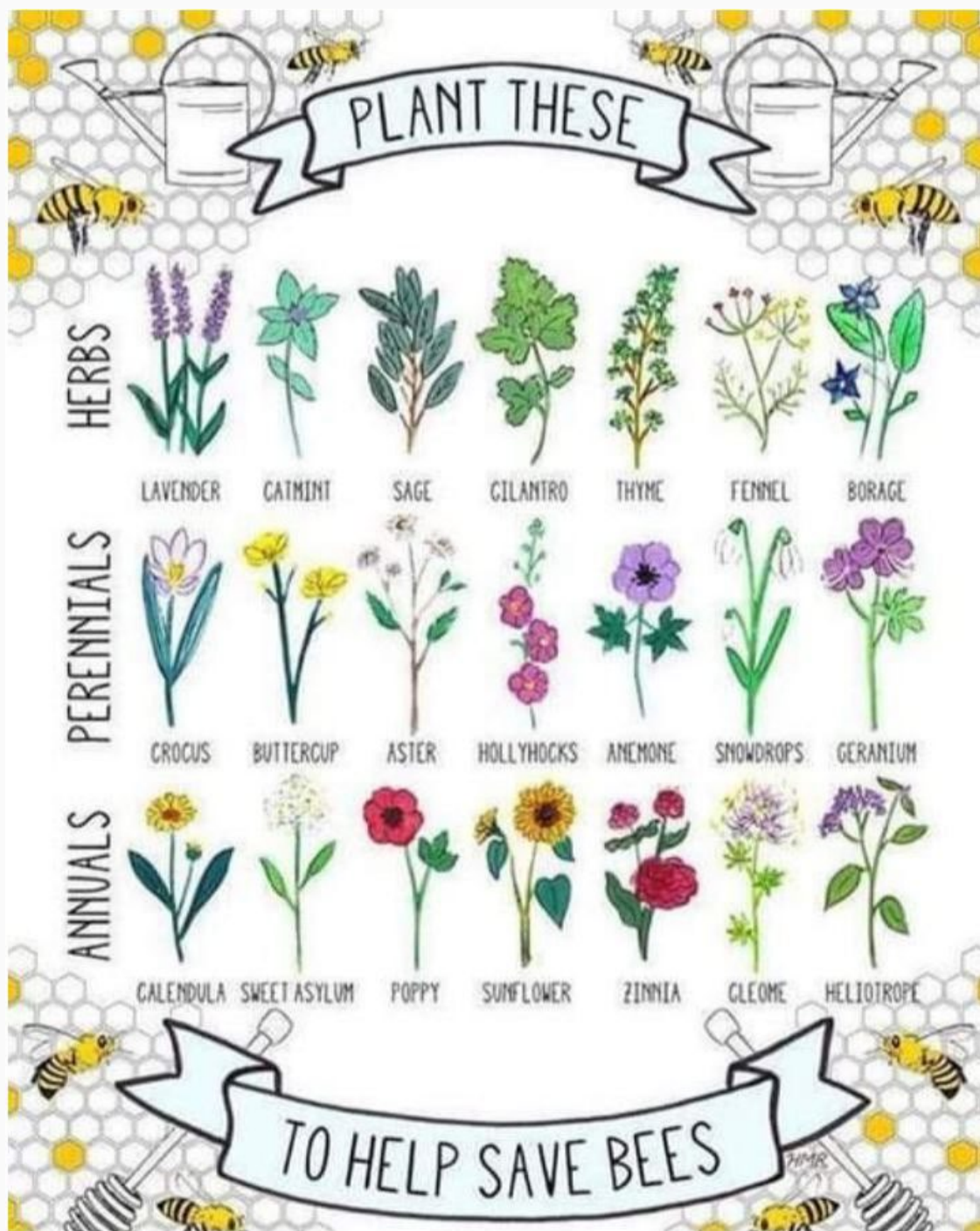
What if the rates are not adopted?

If we aren't successful in adopting these new charges for groundwater management and service, there are some consequences to consider.

- We can't bring in new water, so we can't do recharge.
- The allocation may decrease more quickly.
- The state may intervene and we lose local control.

If you have questions, ideas, or just want to talk through this in more detail please contact County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency at mcwater@maderacounty.com or 559-662-8015. For more information, visit <https://www.maderacountywater.com/county-gsa-fee-structure>.

Planting for Pollinators



Do you need bottled water?
We provide an interim solution for clean drinking water for domestic well owners working toward a permanent and sustainable solution to their drinking water needs.
Call Bottled Water
559-802-1284
bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org

Is your well pumping sand or low producing? Do you think your well is failing?
We will inspect the quality of your well and measure the depth of the well and the depth to water. We will help you determine if your well is in good operating condition.
Call Water Wells
559-802-1289
waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org

Do you need to test the quality of your water?
We can provide accurate information on the quality of your water, with short and long term solutions if contaminants are found.
Call Water Quality
559-802-1285
waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org

Has your well gone dry? Have you lost access to water in your home?
We can help you by installing a large water storage tank on your property and connecting it to your home.
Call Drought Support
559-802-1685
droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org

0445 W. ELOWIN CT. | VISALIA, CA 93291

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](#) for:

Bottled Water: 559-802-1284

Water Wells: 559-802-1289

Water Quality: 559-802-1285

Drought Support: 559-802-1685.

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](#)

[Public Policy Institute of California \(PPIC\)](#)

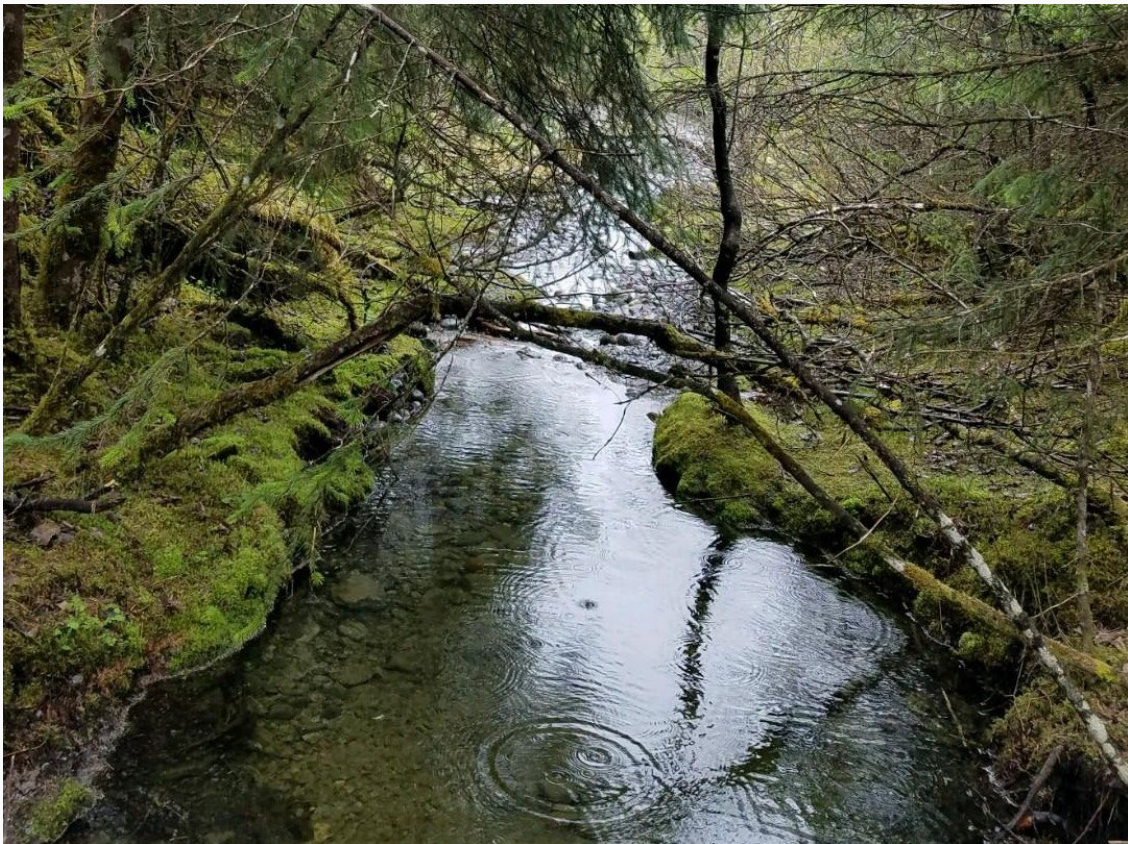
[Self Help Enterprises](#)

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

[Yosemite National Park](#)

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.



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?