

Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation Agency



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Flood Control Agency responsible for?

A: The primary responsibility of the Agency is the operation and maintenance of the federally authorized flood control facilities along the Ash Slough, Berenda Slough, and Fresno River. These include levees and project channels. The Agency is also responsible for administering the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for unincorporated Madera County, maintaining an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), assisting with flood fight activities, and other regulatory requirements.

Q: How is the Flood Control Agency funded?

A: The Agency is funded through collected property taxes and grants. The revenue received from taxes amounts to approximately \$250,000 per year, which is not sustainable and must be subsidized by grants.

Q: What should I do if I see a problem on a levee?

A: In the event of an emergency such as levee penetrations, flooding, or levee failure, call 9-1-1. For general maintenance issues, you can call 3-1-1 from within the County and report the issue. If you are outside of the County, please call (559) 662-8015.

Q: What is being done about the vegetation overgrowth in the waterways?

A: Vegetation removal work is expected to begin in the Fall of 2022. The Agency has recently entered into an agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that allows vegetation removal in the Ash Slough, Berenda Slough, Fresno River, Chowchilla River, and Dry Creek. Prior to completing any maintenance, the Agency must complete biological surveys and agree to any mitigation measures. Landowners may also complete some vegetation removal activities, with supervision. Please contact our department (559) 662-8015 to find out more.

Q: Who is doing this work?

A: The Agency relies on partner agencies or contractors to perform maintenance work. Work is often performed by Madera County Public Works or agencies that utilize the facilities to convey water.

Q: Can I clear brush on a levee or creek?

A: The Agency has developed a "Farmland Maintenance Program" which would allow landowners to perform maintenance activities on portions of levees and channels, with supervision. Interested landowners should contact the Water and Natural Resources Department (559) 662-8015.

About the Agency

The Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation Agency (MCFCWCA) was founded by the State Legislature in 1969 to construct, operate, and plan flood control, water supply, drainage, and groundwater recharge projects. The MCFCWCA is a special district, with the Madera County Board of Supervisors serving as the Board of Directors of the MCFCWCA. The Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources staffs the MCFCWCA.

The Water and Natural Resources Department responsibilities include floodplain administrative activities that entail the following:

- Ensuring compliance with state and Federal levee maintenance requirements
- Educating the community about reducing flood risks
- Administering the state Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for unincorporated Madera County.
- Administration of the County's Special Flood Hazard Ordinance as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to remain eligible for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Download a Farmland Maintenance Program Application from our website:

maderacountywater.com/flood-control/

