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| **WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS****Recharge & Store Groundwater** |

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| By order of the Governor, due to the historic atmospheric river event, on behalf of Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation Agency, flows from waterways within its jurisdiction can now be diverted to farmland for purposes of flood management and recharge within the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins within Madera County. A separate notice will come from the Lower San Joaquin Levee District. If you farm within the County groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) and are interested in a credit for water applied for flood management and recharge, you must have a meter to measure the flow of water.Included in the Governor’s Executive Order is a prohibition that water cannot be diverted for recharge on dairy land application areas, lands with fertilizer and/or pesticide application within the last 30 days, and lands where application of water will damage infrastructure. For complete details within the Governor’s Executive Order, please see the order below: [GSS\_9534-1E-20230310135616 (ca.gov)](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/3.10.23-Ground-Water-Recharge.pdf?emrc=d6c4ac) |

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| **Governor Newsom Issues Executive Order to Use Floodwater to Recharge and Store Groundwater** |

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| **WHAT TO KNOW:** As storms bring rain and snow to California, Governor Newsom signed an executive order that makes it easier to capture floodwater to recharge groundwater – temporarily lifting regulations and setting clear conditions for diverting flood stage water without permits to boost groundwater recharge storage. |

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| SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to enable local water agencies and other water users to capture water from the latest round of storms to recharge state groundwater supplies.  The order suspends regulations and restrictions on permitting and use to enable water agencies and water users to divert flood stage water for the purpose of boosting groundwater recharge. The order includes wildlife and habitat protections, ensuring that any diversions would not harm water quality or habitat or take away from environmental needs. **WHAT GOV. NEWSOM SAID:**“California is seeing extreme rain and snow, so we’re making it simple to redirect water to recharge groundwater basins. This order helps us take advantage of expected intense storms and increases state support for local stormwater capture efforts.” **A copy of the executive order can be found**[here.](https://mclist.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=afffa58af0d1d42fee9a20e55&id=99fca276cc&e=0b74f1d313) [**FACT SHEET:**Learn more about what the state is doing to reduce flood risks and recharge groundwater basins.](https://mclist.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=afffa58af0d1d42fee9a20e55&id=aa6c6b92ba&e=0b74f1d313) **HOW WE GOT HERE:*** This executive order follows Governor Newsom’s [order](https://mclist.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=afffa58af0d1d42fee9a20e55&id=50730729b5&e=0b74f1d313) in February to protect the state’s water supplies from the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather.
	+ Allowed the State Water Project to conserve **237,000 acre-feet of water** while providing protections for Delta smelt.
	+ Allowed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to divert over **600,000 acre-feet**of floodwaters for wildlife refuges, underground storage, and recharge.
* California has bolstered supply and storage, including a combined 1.1 million acre-feet of water – enough for 2.2 million households’ yearly usage:
	+ The State Water Board has authorized nearly **790,000 acre-feet** in diversions for groundwater recharge and other purposes since late December 2022.
	+ The State Water Board streamlined the permitting process for temporary groundwater storage permits to fast-track efforts to capture floodwater to recharge groundwater basins. So far this winter it has authorized **186,153 acre-feet for recharge** under those processes.
	+ DWR has awarded $68 million to 42 groundwater recharge projects that provide nearly **117,000 acre-feet of potential recharge**capacity. Ongoing applications include 52 groundwater recharge projects worth $211 million.
	+ Since 2020, the State Water Board has provided $1 billion for 13 projects to bring**88,000 acre-feet per year**to the state’s water supplies.
* In August, the Administration released “[California’s Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](https://mclist.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=afffa58af0d1d42fee9a20e55&id=c07b2f7d0b&e=0b74f1d313)” calling for investing in new sources of water supply, accelerating projects and modernizing how the state manages water through new technology.
* Leveraging the more than $8.6 billion committed by Governor Newsom and the Legislature in the last two budget cycles to build water resilience, the [state is continuing to take aggressive action](https://mclist.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=afffa58af0d1d42fee9a20e55&id=1e6751a8d2&e=0b74f1d313) to prepare for the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather on the state’s water supplies. In the 2023-24 state budget, the Governor is proposing an additional $202 million for flood protection and $125 million for drought related actions.
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| *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](https://maderacountywater.us19.list-manage.com/profile?u=58cfa0ba8c3919b95f24fac11&id=e869574bf0&e=f787005428) or [unsubscribe from this list](https://maderacountywater.us19.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=58cfa0ba8c3919b95f24fac11&id=e869574bf0&e=f787005428&c=9545877623).  |

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