




WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

SGMA News



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

The historic passage of SGMA in 2014 set forth a statewide framework to help protect groundwater resources over the long-term. The goal of SGMA is to halt overdraft and achieve locally defined sustainability goals in California's 94 high and medium priority groundwater basins over a 20-year timeframe.

Groundwater is a critical component of California's water supply, accounting for up to 60 percent of the state's total supply during drought, and 40 percent in average years. California's groundwater basins are the state's largest form of water storage - at least 850 million acre-feet capacity, compared to the 50 million acre-feet that all the major above-ground reservoirs can hold combined. As weather patterns have become more variable and extreme due to the effects of climate change, groundwater management is an essential part of California's water resilience and drought mitigation efforts. SGMA provides the framework for long-term groundwater sustainability.

**New SGMA brochure being made available in English,
Spanish**

DWR has [released a brochure](#) that provides an overview of the elements in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). In 2014, SGMA was passed to create a statewide framework that would provide long-term protection of groundwater resources. The brochure describes benefits of SGMA and includes DWR resources to help with SGMA compliance. A [Spanish version](#) of the brochure is available.

Comment Period Closing Soon



Yosemite National Park is Holding their Second Public Comment Period on How to Improve Access

After receiving nearly 7,000 comments during the first public comment period on ways to improve access and the visitor experience at [Yosemite National Park](#) in California, the National Park Service is staging another comment period to gather more input.

Comments received during the first period helped inform the development of management concepts and refine issue statements. Comments gathered during the current period will help the park refine preliminary ideas, strategies, and concepts and will inform the development of future management alternatives.

The initial comment period ran from December 2022 through February 3, 2023. This second round, which opened Thursday, runs through September 6.

For More Information - [National Parks Traveler](#)

You can learn more about the issues,
and leave your comments, [at this page](#).

Winter Clean-up



Eastern Madera County 2023

Winter Storm Fire Hazard Mitigation

Do you still have storm-related tree and brush damage and debris?
YS RC&D C is partnering with American Tree Medics Inc to provide hazardous fuel reduction and defensible space clearing of storm-related hazards.

Funding for this project was provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Prevention Grants Program.

CAL FIRE
CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Are you in need of these services?
We are now taking applications!



YOSEMITE SEQUOIA
RC & D COUNCIL

AMERICAN TREE MEDICS

Do you have storm related tree/brush damage and debris?

Yosemite/Sequoia RC & DC has received funding provided by CalFire, to help low-income and disabled folks in the Eastern Madera County clean up hazardous debris related to the January-March 2023 storms.

If you or anybody you know needs assistance clearing debris, please complete the application on-line.

[Click here to apply](#)

Summer Refresher

Is Your Yard in Need of a Summer Refresh?

With summer's sunny days and warm nights, it is one of the best seasons to be outside working in the yard and garden. If you want to refresh areas of your current landscaping, check out creative new design options and resources that will help get you started!

[Read the full Blog to learn more](#)



Upcoming Events

State Parks Ready to Celebrate California Biodiversity Day



California State Parks invites the public to become community scientists and celebrate [California Biodiversity Day](#), Thursday, Sept. 7. More than 40 parks statewide will be hosting dozens of special events and engaging activities from Saturday, Sept. 2, through Sunday, Sept. 10. The public is also invited to a friendly bioblitz competition to see who can record the highest number of species of plants and animals in California's State Park System. Humboldt Redwoods State Park holds the record of 380 species identified in 2022. California Biodiversity Day was established in 2018.



Private Well Classes Available

Would you like to learn about your responsibilities as a private well owner? The Private Well Class program uses a combination of online and in-person methods to boost knowledge and competency of the individual well owner as well as the thousands of dedicated environmental health, cooperative extension, and water well professionals that serve well owners day to day. The Private Well Class webinars are live sessions, in addition to the [main email course](#) material. They reinforce the topics in your email lessons with additional examples. The webinars are also your best opportunity to ask questions.

You can find the upcoming dates below.

Webinar registration is separate from enrollment in the email class. Both are free, but they are different. Also, you must register for any of the webinar dates separately. During the webinar you will see the presentation on your computer screen and hear the presentation through your computer speakers.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

What Real Estate Professionals Need to Know about Homes with Well Water
September 12, 2023, 1pm Central

[Registration](#)



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Independent, objective, nonpartisan research

DWR Director Nemeth Participating in Groundwater Event

The ideas for achieving groundwater sustainability in the San Joaquin Valley will be discussed [during an event](#) in Fresno on Wednesday, Sept. 20. The day will feature authors of a new [Public Policy Institute of California](#) study along with State and local experts covering key issues and solutions. DWR Director Karla Nemeth will be participating in a discussion on how agencies and organizations can work together to achieve the goals. In-person attendance is limited; a live stream of the event will be available.

[Click Here to Attend the Event](#)



Join the Sierra Nevada Alliance for the Great Sierra River Cleanup!

Taking place on September 23rd, clean ups will be happening throughout the region, and the Sierra Nevada Alliance is calling you on for help!

The cleanup is part of California Coastal Commission's Coastal Cleanup Day,

which is the largest coordinated volunteer event in the country!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the event or contact Natasha@sierranevadaalliance.org if you're interested in hosting a cleanup!

IRRIGATION EVALUATIONS

STANISLAUS MERCED MADERA COUNTIES

APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER

Have an Irrigation Specialist evaluate your existing irrigation system for FREE!



THEY WILL:

- CONDUCT AN IN-FIELD SYSTEM AND SITE EVALUATION
- IDENTIFY ANY SYSTEM INEFFICIENCIES
- DEVELOP FULL CONSERVATION PLAN

TO SCHEDULE AN EVALUATION PLEASE CONTACT:

KEVIN REYES
programs@maderachowchillarcdd.org
559-755-5148



Well Assistance



Four initial steps for owners to take after a well runs dry

A [new flyer](#) from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. The first step provides website information for contacting a certified well professional. The flyer information is part of the [Be Well Prepared](#) program that provides information and resources to help deal with impacts of

climate-driven weather extremes on groundwater supplies and drinking water wells.
The flyer is available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO WELL OWNERS IN MADERA COUNTY

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,

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.

Visit our website at:
maderacountywater.com
We have made some changes!

Have questions on your allocation, measurement, or any other GSA concern?
[Schedule an appointment](#) with us! We can also be reached at (559) 662-8015,
at the County Government Building on the third floor, or you can visit us online
at maderacountywater.com.



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