



**WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS  
FOR GROWERS  
IN THE MADERA COUNTY GSA**

**JULY 2023**



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**MEASUREMENT**

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If you have land that was fallowed last year, and is now in production, please notify us at [etmeasurement@maderacounty.com](mailto:etmeasurement@maderacounty.com); similarly, if you're fallowing land this year that was irrigated last year, please also notify us.

### Friendly Reminder!

If you are using private meters to measure your water use, don't forget to capture your meter reading at the end of this month and submit it to the [flowmeter portal](#) by the 10th of August. Please make sure your picture is clear. Here is an example:



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## RECHARGE

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### Flood Diversion Reminders!

If you are taking water off the Eastside/Chowcilla Bypass, you need to notify the [State Water Resources Control Board](#) and the [Madera County Water & Natural Resources Department](#) within 14 days of when the diversion ends.

Forms:  
[WNR EO N-4-23 Grower Information Form](#)  
[SWRCB Reporting Form](#)

Visit the [State Water Resources Control Board](#) website for more information.

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## LAND REPURPOSING

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### Exciting News!

A new grant program is launching to help growers who want to voluntarily convert agricultural land to lower water intensive crops or a different productive use. Madera County is developing the Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) in partnership with the Madera Farm Bureau, Madera Ag Water Association (MAWA), Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District and the California Farmland Trust. [Stay tuned](#) for upcoming MLRP Madera workshop announcements and information on how growers can provide input on the plan design!

Visit the [Land Repurposing](#) page for more information.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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### CDFA Dairy Plus Program

CDFA is accepting applications now through 8/28 for their new [Dairy PLUS Program](#). The program has \$75M that will be deployed over the next 5 years to support Advanced Manure Management practices. For farmers that already

have subsurface drip irrigation systems, there is an opportunity to receive funding for incorporating manure effluent as a fertilizer replacement in combination with other eligible practices under the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP).

Technical Assistance is being provided by UCANR Climate Smart Agriculture Community Education Specialists who are available to help answer questions from farmers who are interested in applying. The nearest specialist is Caddie Bergren [cmbergren@ucanr.edu](mailto:cmbergren@ucanr.edu).

## **Subsurface Drip Irrigation**

There is also an opportunity for a 70-acre alfalfa farmer that is currently flood irrigating and interested in converting to subsurface drip irrigation (SDI). A large beverage company that is seeking water savings from the conversion has a contract that equates to \$105,000 (or about half the cost of the system) that would be paid over three years. Water savings will be tracked via a water meter and cross referenced with evapotranspiration data. For more information you can reach out directly to Val Fishman, a consultant to Netafim who is helping to broker the contract between the farmer and the installer, which is GAR Bennett.

Val can be reached  
at [val.fishman@netafim.com](mailto:val.fishman@netafim.com) or [valfishmancgw@gmail.com](mailto:valfishmancgw@gmail.com).

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## **RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

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Calling all growers interested in advancing scientific research!

We are seeking someone with an alfalfa field ideally in Madera who would generously permit us to install a small tower for measuring evapotranspiration.

Rest assured, this endeavor will not disrupt your work in the field, and we will make every effort to stay out of your way! Your collaboration plays a crucial role in enhancing the accuracy of our water consumption estimation models.

Together, we can revolutionize our understanding of agricultural practices and

contribute to scientific advancements. Join us in shaping the future of farming!

If you are interested, please contact Ali Ghorbanpour

at [akghorbanpour@ucdavis.edu](mailto:akghorbanpour@ucdavis.edu).

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## DOMESTIC WELLS

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On May 17, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announced the official launch](#) of the new [Be Well Prepared](#) program that provides information and resources to help well owners, well users, and local agencies be ready for impacts of climate-driven weather extremes on groundwater supplies and drinking water wells.

As part of the Be Well Prepared program, DWR has released a new flyer that provides four initial steps to take if a well owner thinks their well has gone dry.

These flyers are available for download, at the links below in the following languages:

- [English Be Well Prepared flyer](#)
- [Hmong Be Well Prepared flyer](#)
- [Spanish Be Well Prepared flyer](#)

As Step 4 of the flyer suggests, please feel free to pass this email on to neighbors, family, and friends that may live in a household with a well or maybe experiencing dry well conditions.

Additional resources for well owners can be found on the [Be Well Prepared website](#).

For questions or more information, email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).



**BE WELL**  
**prepared**

## What do I do if my well goes dry?

For domestic well owners or  
residents on groundwater wells,  
follow these four initial steps if you  
think your well has gone dry

**1**

### Contact a Certified Well Professional

A certified well professional can diagnose the cause of a dry well, and in some cases, it may be easy to fix. Find a Certified Well Professional in your area:

[wellowner.org/find-a-contractor](http://wellowner.org/find-a-contractor)

If a well professional determines that your well is dry due to lowering of groundwater levels, go to Step 2.

**2**

### Contact Your Local Emergency Response Entity or Service Provider

In the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern: first call **Self-Help Enterprises** (a service provider) at 559-802-1685 or email:

[droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org).

In all other counties, find your County Emergency Drought Contact here:

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/emergency\\_contacts.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/emergency_contacts.html), or contact your county Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services.

**3**

### Make Sure Your Dry Well is Reported

You should report a dry well on the California Department of Water Resource's Dry Well Reporting System: [mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report](http://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report) (voluntary). If you are receiving support from Self-Help Enterprises, they will help make sure your dry well is reported to the state.

**4**

### Check on Your Neighbors and Share This Information!

It is important to look after our neighbors and communities during drier and drought years.



For additional information and resources, visit: [water.ca.gov/bewellprepared](http://water.ca.gov/bewellprepared)

## APPOINTMENTS



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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  
or you can visit us online at [maderacountywater.com](http://maderacountywater.com).

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

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