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WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS MADERA COUNTY GSAs



LOOK BACK TO 2023

2023 was a very busy year for the Madera County GSAs in securing grants, implementing recharge and land repurposing projects and actively participating in water sustainability efforts at the statewide level.

Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)

- Madera Subbasin GSPs: [Approved](#) by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR);
- Chowchilla Subbasin GSPs: Deemed inadequate by DWR, revised and resubmitted to the State Board; and

- Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSPs: Deemed inadequate by DWR, being revised to be resubmitted to State Board.

Land Repurposing

- Adopted rules for Voluntary Land Repurposing in December 2022; funding has been put on a hold due to a lawsuit;
- Secured a LandFlex grant and provided three incentive payments to landowners to remove permanent crops; and
- Conducted three workshops to gather community and grower input on [Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing](#).

Recharge

- Shared a draft emergency recharge policy with the Board in January 2023;
- Began permitting for multiple grant-funded recharge projects;
- Grower-led [recharge](#) over 70,000 AF at various grower locations; and
- Connected Ellis Basin to a permanent electricity source for recharge.

Domestic Well Mitigation

- Began a Domestic Well Mitigation Program in the Chowchilla Subbasin, under leadership from [Chowchilla Water District](#); and
- Applied for a grant to collaboratively develop rules for Domestic Well Mitigation in the Madera Subbasin.

People

- Hired four water resources specialists for grower relations of 370 farms; and
- Participated in multiple statewide efforts including the SJV Water Blueprint, the SJV Collaborative Action Program and the SJV Partnership Work group to advocate for agriculture and domestic wells and bring more water into the Valley.

LOOK AHEAD TO 2024

As the Madera County GSAs move into 2024, the main goals are to:

- Adopt a recharge credit policy and implement recharge credits for activities conducted in 2023;
- Assess penalties for overuse in 2023;
- Begin Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing pilot projects and open for applications county-wide;
- Contribute to efforts for Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation; and
- Adopt a comprehensive county-wide drought plan.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (559) 662-8015, [schedule an appointment](#) or explore our online resources at maderacountywater.com.

Have a wonderful Holiday!



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