



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024


SGMA NEWS

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program | MLRP Madera

Stakeholder and Public Input Workshops

The MLRP in Madera County is seeking input on the draft guidelines for the program. Join an upcoming workshop to learn more about the proposed plan and upcoming funding opportunity for land repurposing projects.





VIRTUAL WORKSHOP Monday, September 9 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Zoom Webinar ID: 889 3970 3303	IN-PERSON WORKSHOP #1 Wednesday, September 11 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Madera County Government Center - 3rd Floor Presentation Room 3200 200 W. 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637	IN-PERSON WORKSHOP #2 Wednesday, September 11 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fairmead Elementary School Cafeteria 1942 1/2 Avenue 22 3/4, Chowchilla, CA 93610
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 **Lunch IS PROVIDED** **fAmiLy FRIENDLY**

**In-person workshops will include light refreshments and all information will be provided in English and Spanish.*

About MLRP Madera

MLRP is a grant program to support voluntarily ag land repurposing projects that save water while also producing additional benefits for rural communities and ecosystems. For more information, visit maderacountywater.com/multibenefit-land-repurposing-program/.



Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan (MALRP) Administrative Draft

The Madera County MALRP Administrative Draft is open for public comment.

Please send comments to Katie

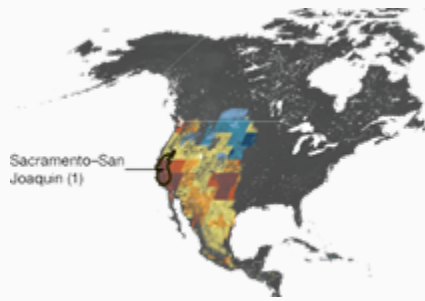
Carlson kcarlson@zanjeroams.com by 9/12/2024.

The [MALRP Administrative Draft](#) can be accessed at

<https://www.maderacountywater.com/multibenefit-land-repurposing-program/>.

 <h1>AZOLLA</h1> <h2>AZOLLA</h2>	<p>What is Azolla?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azolla (aka - mosquito fern, duckweed fern, fairy moss) is a floating plant. - Azolla has small, closely overlapping scale-like leaves, with their roots hanging in the water. - A stand can double in as little as 1.9 days. - Most species of Azolla are green, but turn red or reddish-brown, causing the water surface to appear to be covered with an intense red carpet. - Azolla cannot survive winters with prolonged freezing.
	<p>How does Azolla spread and grow?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azolla can be widespread in natural ponds and irrigation canals. - It can spread from the feet and feathers of waterfowl. - If nutrients are introduced into the pond through runoff or erosion, the Azolla population may appear to explode overnight. - Reducing nitrogen and phosphorus from the water entering the pond water may help to control it.
	<p>What are the potential benefits of Azolla?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In most parts of the world, it is commonly grown as a feed for animals. - It is a companion plant for rice since it fixes nitrogen and suppresses weeds. - It is rich in proteins, amino acids vitamins (vitamin A, vitamin B12, Beta Carotene) and minerals. - It can be used as a bio-fertilizer by fixing atmospheric nitrogen and storing it in its leaves to help improve crop yields. - Azolla makes an excellent ingredient in compost because of its nitrogen content. - One benefit of a dense population of Azolla is that it may actually block sunlight from hitting the pond and may keep other weeds and algae from growing.
 	<p>When is Azolla a problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the population of Azolla gets too high it can clog irrigation screens, outlet gate structures, and circulation and fountain pumps. - It is reported that cattle won't drink from ponds that are covered with Azolla and have been known to drown by entering deep water, since livestock don't and/or can't see the water. - Thick infestations of these plants that completely cover entire water bodies can cause de-oxygenation of water. - Dense infestations can inhibit recreation such as swimming, boating, and fishing. - In many cases, it causes complete loss of aesthetics.
	<p>How do you control an existing Azolla problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The best recommendation is to drag or rake the Azolla out of your pond. - Spraying Azolla with herbicides will have only limited success because each of the very small plants must be treated. If you are successful in controlling a large infestation of Azolla serious degradation of water quality has been reported because of the large mass of rotting dead Azolla decomposing in the pond. - Use a leaf blower to gather the Azolla in one corner of pond to make it easier to rake. - This is a continual job because it will come back – carried from water body to water body by ducks, geese, etc.

[Click Here for a Copy of the Flyer](#)



Mapping the world's groundwater-dependent ecosystems

[Scientists from The Nature Conservancy and the Desert Research Institute](#) have generated a [global map of groundwater-dependent ecosystems](#).

These are areas, such as desert springs and mountain meadows, where hidden water tables meet the Earth's surface. Mapping these ecosystems is making it easier to implement conservation projects to protect them.

BE SAFE



Monitor Heat and Drought with New Tools on Drought.gov

New interactive maps on [drought.gov](#) can help users better prepare for heat and drought in their community, with data from NOAA's National Weather Service. Drought.gov now displays customizable maps showing National Weather Service heat advisories, warnings, and watches, as well as 3–7 and 8–14 day heat hazard outlooks. These maps can be overlaid with the U.S. Drought Monitor to monitor areas where extreme heat may worsen existing drought conditions. These maps provide information about drought and heat at a local level, which in turn can help users prepare for the possible impacts of heat and drought, including increased chances of wildfire starts, more severe wildfires, poor air quality, damage to crops and yards, and harm to human health. [Learn more >](#)



Harvest Season Increases Equipment and Vehicles on Rural Roads

Throughout the Central Valley, farms are humming with activity as many of our [350+ crops are harvested](#) this time of year. August and September are typically considered peak season, though there's always something in season locally. Harvest brings along with it increased traffic to rural roads during all hours of the day and night, including harvesters, tractors, trucks and vehicles. Many times, these pieces of equipment are moving much slower than the posted maximum speed, thus caution and patience needs to be exercised by fellow drivers. The public is urged to slow down, pass only when lawful and safe, and recognize visibility can be difficult during certain periods of the day and night.

FIRE SAFETY



Check Air Quality Levels and Wildfire Smoke in Your Area Using AirNow

[AirNow](#) highlights air quality in your local area and at state, national, and world views. AirNow's [Fire and Smoke Map](#) provides detailed, up-to-date information that can be critical to users experiencing smoke events. AirNow reports air quality using the official [U.S. Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#), a color-coded index designed to communicate whether air quality is healthy or unhealthy for you. When you know the AQI in your area, you can take steps to protect your health. [Learn more >](#)

Monthly newsletter released by wildfire and forest task force

The [California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#) has released the latest version of its monthly newsletter. The August edition has details on a new strategy to conserve Southern California's montane forests and protect downstream watersheds, a website that helps educate the public on the benefits of prescribed burns and cultural fires, and a new tool for collecting and planting seeds to create landscapes resilient to wildfire.



More on: [California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#)
Latest version of its [monthly newsletter](#).



About the Madera County Firewise USA® Program

In partnership with [Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council](#) and [Madera County](#), Coarsegold RCD is coordinating the establishment of new Firewise USA® communities in Eastern Madera County.

Interested in starting a Firewise USA® Community in your neighborhood? A minimum of eight occupied residences in a neighborhood are necessary to start the application and Coarsegold RCD is here to help in the process.

Technical assistance, access to the CRCD Firewise USA® tool cache, volunteer labor and grant funding (when available), and a working collaboration between neighbors and local fire prevention agencies are all benefits of becoming a certified Firewise USA® community.

Visit the [NFPA Firewise USA®](#) website to learn more about the Program. [Reach out to Coarsegold RCD](#), your Regional Firewise USA® Coordinator, to start the process of becoming Firewise USA® today!



Domestic Well Mitigation Program in the Chowchilla Subbasin

The Chowchilla Subbasin is pleased to offer a domestic well mitigation program for domestic wells in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

If your domestic well goes dry, please call the program administrator at Chowchilla Water District at 559-665-3747.

Visit our website at:
maderacountywater.com

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.

