



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

SGMA NEWS

CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN 2025 REVISED GSP

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OPEN AGAIN

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The 30-day public review period **began on January 15, 2025** and will end on **February 17, 2025**.



The LandFlex Grant Program was developed by the Department of Water Resources to provide drought relief for drinking water wells near vulnerable communities. LandFlex funding was awarded to three farmers in Madera County GSA and all three projects were completed in 2024. Through LandFlex, the Madera County GSA farmers participated in preventative fallowing of their enrolled acreage for 1-year while permanently retiring their groundwater overdraft allocations. Reducing overdraft groundwater pumping means more water is left in the ground making it available for rural drinking water wells, as well as helping to bring the basin closer to sustainable levels. Although a range of crops were taken out of production, LandFlex participants have the flexibility of using their sustainable yield amount for future cropping, planting pollinator habitats, or other low-or no-water use purpose.

FLOOD NEWS



Sandbags can play a major role in flood prevention, acting as a crucial instrument in protecting property from flood waters. Sandbags when applied correctly can be used to build temporary barriers diverting the flow of water away from areas of concern. However, it is important to understand the proper technique when using sandbags. If stacked incorrectly the barrier may leak or over time fail completely. Over filling bags with sand is a common mistake that often results in injury. To avoid such mistakes here is a short instructional video showcasing the proper technique and procedures for filling and stacking sandbags.

***For more instruction on filling sandbags -
click below and watch this video***
[Filling and Placing Sandbags](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring & Tool Tutorial, Feb. 5, 2025

In an online tutorial and meeting to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5, DWR will provide an overview of the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) features and underlying data, demonstrate how to navigate and apply the tool to commonly asked questions, and offer opportunities for participants to ask questions and discuss potential uses. This event runs one hour and starts at 9:00 a.m. [Registration](#) is required to attend this online event.

THE PRIVATE WELL
CLASS

Partners
AN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

The Private Well Class webinars are live enrichment sessions, in addition to the [main email course](#) material. They reinforce the topics in the email lessons with additional examples. The webinars are also the best opportunity to ask questions. Webinar registration is separate from enrollment in the email class. Both are free, but they are different. Also, register for any of our webinar dates separately.

Upcoming Webinars

How to Find Local Information and Help

February 18, 2025, 1pm Central

[Registration](#)

Outreach Strategies for Working with Private Well Owners

March 12, 2025, 1pm Central

[Registration](#)



Webinar Coming Soon!

**Herbicides for Regrowth
Management and Protection of
Desired Species**

Thursday, February 20th, 9:30-11:30AM

REGISTER NOW



LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE & STEWARDSHIP *WEBINAR SERIES*

Herbicides can be a powerful tool in forest management, enabling land managers to target invasive species and manage aggressive regrowth, quickly and at low cost. Join us to discuss the use of herbicides to mitigate wildfire risk and protect native plants. Herbicides experts from public agencies and industry will share their knowledge on best practices, safety, and effectiveness - tailored to the unique challenges of the Sierra Nevada.



Y/S RC&DC is able provide this series to the Southern Sierra region due to support from the [AIM Program by Coalitions and Collaboratives Inc. \(COCO\)](#)

[Click: AIM Program by Coalitions and Collaboratives Inc. \(COCO\)](#)



CAFF California Small Farm Conference, Feb 23–28

The [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#) (CAFF) will host its [37th annual California Small Farm Conference](#) starting on Sunday, Feb. 23. The week-long event will feature more than 60 virtual and in-person workshops and gatherings around the state. This year's theme, "Rooted in Place," honors the vital

relationship between farmers, communities, and the land they steward. [Registration fees](#), starting at \$20, are based on a sliding scale to help ensure everyone can attend. Founded in 1978, CAFF is a California-based nonprofit that builds sustainable food and farming systems through local and statewide policy advocacy and on-the-ground programs to initiate institutionalized change.

OTHER NEWS

A flyer for the MCFB Scholarship Application. The top half features a photograph of three young men in a field, one holding a corn cob, with a circular inset showing a classroom scene. Below the photo, the text reads "MCFB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION" in large, bold letters. To the right is a QR code. Below the QR code, a paragraph describes the program: "The Madera County Farm Bureau is offering multiple scholarships for graduating seniors who reside in Madera County and are looking to pursue a career in agriculture or are the child of parents who are agricultural laborers." Underneath, a section titled "OUR PROGRAM:" lists three bullet points: "\$2,000-\$2,500/year", "Given over 4 years totaling \$8,000-\$10,000", and "DUE MARCH 4, 2025". A green button says "APPLY NOW!". At the bottom, the MCFB logo is on the left, and contact information is on the right: "CONTACT US", "www.maderafb.com", "office@maderafb.com", and "559.674.8871".

MCFB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Madera County Farm Bureau is offering multiple scholarships for graduating seniors who reside in Madera County and are looking to pursue a career in agriculture or are the child of parents who are agricultural laborers.

OUR PROGRAM:

- ✓ \$2,000-\$2,500/year
- ✓ Given over 4 years totaling \$8,000-\$10,000
- ✓ DUE MARCH 4, 2025

APPLY NOW!

MCFB MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

CONTACT US
www.maderafb.com
office@maderafb.com
559.674.8871

The Madera County Farm Bureau is excited to announce that our 2025 scholarship application is open! Please see below for additional information. The application can be found by clicking the button under the flyer, scanning the QR or by visiting our website <https://maderafb.com/scholarship-application/>

Applications DUE MARCH 4th!

If you have any questions, please contact the MCFB Office by phone or email
559.674.8871

office@maderafb.com

[Madera County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program](#)



The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program

The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program (APEP) is funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric company (PG&E). Its purpose is to educate and promote electric savings through better and more efficient energy and water use. The program focuses on electrical use of non-residential, PG&E electric or natural gas account that is primarily used for pumping water for the following:
Production agriculture; landscape or turf irrigation; municipal purposes, including potable and tertiary-treated (reclaimed) water but excluding pumps used for industrial processes, raw sewage, or secondary-treated sewage.

[Learn more about the program](#)



There have been updates with the agricultural burning requirements for certain crops. As of January 1, 2025, small orchard removals, vineyard removals, and surface harvested prunings are also prohibited from open burning.

[Learn more about current open burning requirements](#)

[Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program Flyer](#)

Save the Date for CA Tree School 2025!

Mark your calendars for next year's CA Tree School! Our Forest Stewardship team is bringing Tree School to two new locations:

**CA Tree School- Santa Cruz on April 5th at the Mt. Madonna School,
Watsonville CA**

**CA Tree School- Oakhurst on April 12th at the Yosemite Adult School,
Oakhurst CA**

Tree School 2025 is an exciting chance to expand your knowledge of forest management, connect with other landowners and forest enthusiasts, and meet natural resource professionals from UC ANR.

[For More Information](#)

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.

