



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

May 2025

SGMA NEWS



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

This is an email from the Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Office. The prior public comment period announcement, sent out earlier today, contained an incorrect link. We kindly ask that you disregard that version and refer to this updated announcement.

Please do not reply directly to this email; for more information or general inquiries, please contact: sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period Opens for Groundwater Sustainability Plan

A modified groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Chowchilla and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin has been adopted and submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR, the Department). As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Department posts adopted GSPs on the [DWR SGMA Portal](#) and provides an opportunity for public comments on that GSP (Water Code § 10733.4(c)). However, this basin is currently under the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) and is

subject to the Board’s state intervention process because DWR determined the 2022 GSP to be inadequate. The Department’s SGMA Portal is being utilized to accept adopted GSPs from basins with GSPs determined to be inadequate, however the Department will not evaluate or assess any GSPs covering this basin under the provisions of Chapter 10 unless requested to do by the Board under Water Code §10735.2(b) or until the Board notifies the Department that state intervention is complete and indicates jurisdiction of the basin should be returned back to the Department.

Posting the GSP on the SGMA Portal initiates a 75-day public comment period. The Department will provide notice if it commences evaluation of the GSP and will open a second public comment period. Below is a table with a link to the submitted plan, counties it covers, and the public comment period end date.

Information about how to comment can be found in a public comment fact sheet, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Public comments are welcome and encouraged. A SGMA Portal account is not necessary to submit comments

Basin	Local ID (if applicable)	County Covered	Public Comment Period End Date
Chowchilla	N/A	Madera Merced	6/4/2025

Basin	Local ID (if applicable)	County Covered	Public Comment Period End Date
Delta-Mendota	N/A	Fresno Madera Merced San Joaquin Stanislaus	6/16/2025



2024 MLRP Annual Report

Check out the [2024 MLRP Annual Report](#)—a reflection of the impactful work and collaboration happening across the program. Prepared by the Statewide Support Entity with input from block grantees and DOC staff, the report highlights progress across grantee projects, the results of statewide support, and continued alignment with MLRP’s mission of advancing community, environmental, and agricultural resilience.

The report includes:

- Overviews of each grantee’s efforts and progress
- Visuals that illustrate collective impact
- Stories and photos from meetings and on-the-ground projects
- Key takeaways that highlight the shared path forward



2025 Telemetry Pilot Project

Madera County GSAs are considering a telemetry pilot project for 2025. It would review how to incorporate telemetry as a reporting option for the use of privately own meters as a measurement method. If you are currently using telemetry with your meters, please let your Water Resources Specialist know if your operation would be interested in participating in the potential pilot project. Unsure who is your water Resources Specialist? Contact the office at (559) 662-8015.

HAVE A RECHARGE PROJECT CONCEPT AND WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Types of Recharge

Direct Recharge
Surface water primarily applied to dedicated recharge basins outside of the irrigation season.

In-Lieu Recharge
Surface water primarily applied to cropped surfaces during the irrigation season (irrigation).

Flood-MAR
Uses flood events or anticipated rainfall for cropped surfaces and recharge basins.

Important items to consider for any recharge project include, but aren't limited to:

- Water Supply
- Cost (Capital and Operations & Maintenance)
- Permitting
- Design
- Long-term Maintenance Obligations
- Funding Opportunities
 - National Resources Conservation Service
 - WaterSMART
- Schedule

Direct Recharge Project Guidance

Flow * Duration = Opportunity

Site Selection Considerations

- Infiltration rates
- Water conveyance to site
- Topography

Earthwork

- Balance cut/fill to minimize costs

Embankment Recharge Basin Sizing

- Large enough to accomplish recharge objective
- Stay under jurisdictional thresholds
- See figures on next page for more information

Recharge Suitability Index -

<https://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/sagbi/>

Does Madera County have a recharge policy?

Yes, Madera County has two recharge policies - one for surface water and one for floodflows - that provide recharge credits to qualified landowners. Scan the QR codes for more information.

Policy 1



Policy 2



Recharge Study Interest Form

The Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency is looking for landowners with land that can be used for recharge. If you have land that you believe may be suitable, please scan the QR code and fill out the form.



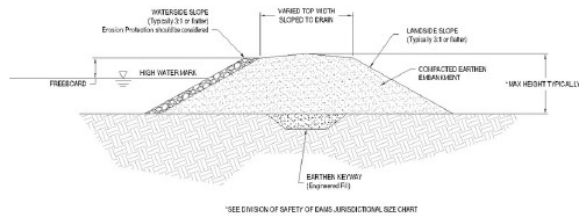
Helpful Conversions

- 1 acre foot (AF) = 1 foot of water over 1 acre
- 1 cfs for 24 hours = 2 AF
- 1 cfs = 449 gallons per minute

For more information, contact your Madera County Water Resources Specialist at 559-662-8015 or wnr@maderacounty.com.

The illustrations and recommendations contained herein are provided as general guidelines and are not intended to be used for construction. Consultation with an engineering professional is required to ensure a project design is conducive to site conditions.

Typical Embankment



Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) Jurisdictional Chart

This chart illustrates the height and storage-capacity thresholds that trigger when DSOD must take jurisdiction over a "dam."

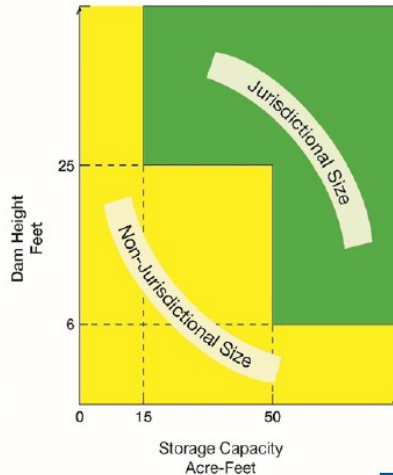
In general, it's best to keep embankments shorter than 6 feet above the lowest adjacent ground along the outside toe of the basin.

However, as shown in the chart, the embankment height can exceed 6 feet if the basin storage capacity is under 50 AF.

Consultation with a licensed engineer is recommended to make jurisdictional determinations.

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/Division-of-Safety-of-Dams/Jurisdictional-Size-of-Dams>

PROVISIONS OF DIVISION 3 OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE AFFECTING JURISDICTION OVER DAMS AND RESERVOIRS



FLOOD NEWS

An Introduction to Flooding in California

(Complete article by Jeffrey Mount)

The following points are essential to understanding flood risk in the state:

- **Flood risk is high.** Roughly one-in-five Californians are at risk of flooding and all 58 counties have had severe flood emergencies.
- **Flooding comes in many forms.** There are four general types of floods: fluvial (overflow from rivers); pluvial (rainfall that exceeds urban drainage systems); debris flows (sediment-laden flows that often form below burned areas); and coastal flooding (high waves and tides).
- **Structures are commonly used to mitigate floods.** Thousands of miles of levees, hundreds of dams, bypasses, and flood retention basins are used—at great economic, social, and environmental cost—to manage floods.
- **Non-structural flood control is also a vital tool.** All major urban areas make use of hazard mitigation planning and land use zoning, with the latter largely reliant on federal flood hazard maps.
- **Climate change is increasing risk.** The design and operation of flood infrastructure and the development of flood hazard maps all have a fundamental problem: they are based upon the climate of the past and not the present.
- **There are many obstacles to reform.** Human nature, economic pressure to develop in flood-prone areas, and the difficulty of changing the institutions that manage floods make it hard to tackle increasing flood risk. But the most difficult hurdle may be financial.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Learn about the State Water Resources Control Board and DWR's efforts in publishing critical urban water use and drought data on the California Natural Resources Agency's [Open Data Portal](#) and why open and well-documented drought data is essential for building California's water resilience. Ashley Vizek from [FlowWest](#) will discuss the process of preparing datasets for public use. Also, Master of Environmental Data Science students from the [University of California Santa Barbara's Bren School](#) will share insights from their work analyzing this newly released data. This hour-long webinar is on Wednesday, May 7, starting at noon. [Registration](#) is required. Hosted by the California Water Data Consortium, all [Data for Lunch events](#) are free and open to the public. To receive information about upcoming presentations, [subscribe](#) to the Consortium's email list.

Pruning and Recovery of Unproductive Super High Density (SHD) Orchards Field Seminar



Get the latest information and findings (in Spanish and in English) from the SHD olive research conducted by our partner and collaborator IRTA (Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology) in Cataluña, Spain with very prestigious guest Dr. Juan Francisco Hermoso.

- Wednesday May 7, 2025
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am in Spanish - En Español
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in English

[For More Information and to Register](#)



**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

RUSTY LANTSBERGER

March 24, 2025

Attn: Madera County Grower/permittee

Madera County Agriculture Commissioner is planning another pesticide **disposal** event for all Madera County Agriculture permit holders, this includes Restricted Materials Permits and Operator Identification numbers. The 2023 events were a success, and we would like to build on that momentum.

This will be a **one day only event**. The drop off event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. @ the Madera County Ag Commissioner's office, 145 Tozer St. Suite 101. Madera 93638.

Enclosed you will find a pre-registration survey that needs to be completed and returned. If we have an email address, you will also receive an electronic copy of the form. Email completed forms to MaderaPUE@maderacounty.com or drop them off at the office by April 30, 2025. This information must be collected so we can inform the vendor of the volume of product so we can prepare appropriately.

No fumigants will be accepted the day of the event. If you need to dispose of fumigant materials, contact the Madera County Ag Department prior to the event so we can make the proper arrangements.

Grower/farmer participation in the disposal project is voluntary and the disposal project is not enforcement oriented, in other words pesticide enforcement actions will not be taken against participants disposing of any pesticides through the sponsored event.

Those interested in participation must pre-register by completing the form located below or visiting the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers website at:
<https://www.maderacounty.com/government/agricultural-commissioner-weights-and-measures>

Note: This is **not** an empty container collection event.

I look forward to your participation.

Pesticide Disposal Day - Registration Page Informational Page



Join DWR's [California Water Plan Team](#) for a [workshop webinar](#) that will share and discuss [water balance data](#) — data foundational to building the state's water resilience. Creating and enhancing water resilience requires an understanding of how and where water is used in the state, as well as the source of the supplies. This continues the annual releases of water year information, in direct response to requests from many water managers. The webinar will take place on Thursday, May 8, 1:30–3:45 p.m. More information is available on DWR's [California Water Plan Water Use and Supply Balances Webinar](#) webpage. [Registration](#) is required.

Follow us for
event updates



SAVE THE DATE

“WILDFIRE READY EMC”

A Community Wildfire Adaptation Event
May 10th, 2025, Oakhurst Community Center

speakers - resources - strategy - preparation - event readiness - recovery-
insurance - vegetation management practices - affordable home retrofits -
comprehensive community protection plans - zone zero - firewise
communities - funding - native fire resistant landscaping-protecting pets -
asset and record management - individual risk assessment - community
chipping - defensible space assistance programs - forestry education

WILDFIRE WON'T
WAIT FOR YOU
TO BE READY



www.easternmaderacountyfiresafecouncil.com



Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.



FAM CO
FIRE ADAPTED
MADERA COUNTY
People, Partnerships, Mitigation, & Restoration



OLIVE POMACE VALORIZATION

OLIVE MILLING BY-PRODUCTS: THEIR USE AND VALUE

Join our Olive Pomace Valorization Workshop, with our visiting expert Dr. Pablo Monetta from INTA (National Agricultural Technology Institute in San Juan, Argentina), to explore sustainable solutions for the use of olive mill by-products, including composting, phenolic compound recovery, and biorefinery applications. Learn practical techniques, environmental benefits, and economic insights for maximizing value from olive waste.

- Friday July 11, 2025
- 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, Sensory building (392 Old Davis Road, Davis CA 95616)

[For more information and to register](#)

OTHER NEWS

SEEKING FARM & LANDOWNER PARTNERS FOR A HEAT HEALTH STUDY

HELP PROTECT OUTDOOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FROM HEAT STRESS & KIDNEY DISEASE



ABOUT THE STUDY

A Stanford University team is conducting a research study to evaluate **low-cost cooling technologies for outdoor agricultural workers**. With rising temperatures, farmworkers face serious heat-related health risks, including irreversible kidney damage that can lead to end-stage kidney disease.

Our goal is to identify cooling solutions that are effective, affordable, and acceptable—improving worker safety, comfort, and productivity.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

We are looking for farm and landowner partners willing to:

- Host on-site field trials to test cooling interventions
- Allow outdoor agricultural workers to participate in testing
- Collaborate to find practical, scalable solutions

WHAT WE'RE TESTING

We aim to determine which cooling technologies are most effective, feasible, and acceptable in real-world farm conditions. Examples include:

- ✓ Cooling bandanas
- ✓ Cooling mitt
- ✓ Other innovative solutions to reduce heat stress

Field trials will include health marker testing and user surveys. The study will be designed to minimize disruption to daily operations, and **compensation will be provided to employers and participants.**

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- ✓ Support worker safety and well-being
- ✓ Improve heat resilience, kidney health, and productivity
- ✓ Contribute to scalable solutions for a global, climate-vulnerable workforce

WANT TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO

Shuchi Anand, MD MS
Associate Professor
Director, Center for Tubulointerstitial
Kidney Diseases
Division of Nephrology



sanand2@stanford.edu

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.

