



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

SGMA NEWS

County GSA Committee Meeting

Please be advised that due to IT renovations in the Board Chambers, there will be no December 2025 Madera County GSA Committee Meeting.

In case you missed the Madera County GSA Committee meeting on November 18, 2025, the recording and agenda packet are available on the [Board meeting portal](#). Information can also be found on the [County GSA Committee](#) webpage.



The [California Water Data Consortium](#) and its partners have released a new white paper. “[Groundwater Accounting Platform — Real-World Impact from DWR Investment in Open, Scalable SGMA Tools](#)” highlights how DWR’s investment in open-source groundwater tools is accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) across diverse basins in the state. The white paper addresses common challenges faced by groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), namely (1) making complex water data accessible to growers, (2) building trust while introducing new policies, and (3) avoiding the reinvention of tools already developed by other agencies.

The white paper documents the successful pilot deployments in six diverse GSAs,

showcasing how the public investment in a shared, open-source [Groundwater Accounting Platform](#) provides a scalable solution by allowing agencies to configure a single platform to fit their unique needs rather than starting from scratch.



State Water Board launches new webpage and dashboard

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) [Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment \(GAMA\) Program](#) has launched a new webpage titled "[Effects of Recharge on Groundwater Quality](#)" and it includes a new Aquifer Recharge and Groundwater Quality (ARGQ) Dashboard. The new webpage features sections such as the Data Visualization Dashboard, groundwater quality case studies, and related recharge projects. The new ARGQ Dashboard is a tool developed to help individuals and agencies visualize potential connections between water quality and groundwater recharge events. The dashboard allows users to view charts of water quality results from wells alongside historic precipitation and groundwater elevation data. These new additions aim to improve understanding of groundwater recharge in California.

FLOOD

2025/2026 Sandbag Locations



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Tyson J. Pogue, Sheriff-Coroner

Emergency Sand and Sand Bag Locations 2025-2026

(Revised 10-14-2025)

Below is the list of locations that have sand and sandbags available for residents, depending on where they live. For all locations, you must bring your own shovels. The County has a limited supply of Sandbags. If you need additional sandbags, you can purchase them at a local hardware store. Some locations do not have sandbags. Please refer to the table to determine which locations have bags and which do not.

Please go to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) YouTube page for directions to properly filling and placing of sandbags. <https://youtu.be/H-aQubE1kwM>

For additional Winter Weather Information, such as knowing weather terms, preparing, and safety tips, go to <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.

Madera County Valley Locations

Name	Address	Sand	Bags
Madera County Fire Station #1	Between the Fire Station and Fire Administration (14225 Road 28, Madera, CA 93638)	✓	✓
Madera County Fire Station #3	21205 Road 26 Madera, CA 93638 559-661-0507	✓	✓
Madera County Fire Station #19	35141 Bonadelle Avenue, Madera, CA 93638 559-645-1399	✓	✓

Madera County Mountain Locations

Name	Address / Location Details	Sand	Bags
Madera County Fire Station #8	47050 Road 417, Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-683-8008	✓	✓
Madera County Fire Station #11	33400 Douglas Ranger Station Road, North Fork, CA 93643 559-877-2600	✓	✓
Madera County Fire Station #12	48355 Liberty Drive, Oakhurst, CA 93644 559-683-4808	✓	✓

☎ (559) 675-7770

📍 2725 Falcon Drive, Madera, CA 93637

✉ Sheriff@MaderaCounty.com

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City of Chowchilla Locations

Sand and Sandbag Sites are for City Residents Only.

Name	Address / Location Details	Sand	Bags
Chowchilla Public Works Yard	360 North 1 st Street (@ Sonoma Avenue), Chowchilla, CA 93610	✓	✗
Chowchilla City Hall	130 South 2 nd Street, Chowchilla, CA 93610 Hours: Monday to Friday 7am to 4pm	✗	✓
Chowchilla Police Department	122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, CA 93610 Hours: After City Hall Business Hours Only	✗	✓

City of Madera Locations

Please go to the City of Madera's website for up-to-date information. Sand and Sandbag Sites are for City Residents Only.

<https://www.madera.gov/news-item/flood-prepare-dress-and-sandbag-locations/>

Name	Address / Location Details	Sand	Bags
Madera Public Works Corporation Yard	1030 South Gateway Drive, Madera, CA 93637	✗	✓
City of Madera Sand Locations	Northwest Corner of "E" Street & 14 th Street, Madera, CA 93637 (across the railroad tracks from the Public Works Corporation Yard)	✓	✗

[Click Here for Document](#)



Be Winter Wise! After the Storm

- After a storm it may become very foggy for a few days - WHEN IT IS FOGGY - SLOW DOWN!
- DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Rely on utility crew.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking. Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

- Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.
 - Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
 - Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire departments.
 - Use flashlights – NOT lanterns, matches or candles – to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.
 - Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.
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EVENTS

DEC 2, 2025

 **MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

AG PLASTIC CONTAINER RECYCLE EVENT



Recycling & shredding provided by Interstate Ag Plastics
Supported by Ag Container Recycling Council

Accepting:

- Triple rinsed pesticide containers (inspection mandatory & containers must be clean)
- 30 or 55 gallon drums (must be cut in half or quarters lengthwise *top to bottom*)
- Caps, labels, and bungs must be removed
- No need to peel off those pesky sticky labels
- No bulk cage type containers
- No trash or poly pipe

MCFB Parking Lot
1102 S Pine St
Madera, CA 93637

VISIT
WWW.MADERAFB.COM

EMAIL
OFFICE@MADERAFB.COM

CALL
559.674.8871

  **Register Today!**  **MADERA/CHOWCHILLA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

ANY CONTAINERS NOT MEETING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Register Here
[2025 Fall Ag Plastic Container Recycle Event](#)



GROWING WITH BIOCHAR

A Training Event for California Agriculture

This free, full-day training is designed for agricultural professionals who are interested in supporting farmers to effectively incorporate biochar into farming practices, but are unsure of where and how to start. Participants will gain practical knowledge, proven tools, and peer connections to support biochar adoption across California's diverse cropping systems. **Choose one session to attend.**

Registration is required – limited seats available.

SACRAMENTO	PARLIER
Dec. 8, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm <i>Sacramento State University, The University Union, Cottonwood Suite</i> Cost: Free	Dec. 10, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm <i>Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Nectarine Room</i> Cost: Free
growingwithbiocharSACRA.rsvpify.com	growingwithbiocharParlier.rsvpify.com

Whether you advise farmers, manage land, shape sustainability programs, or develop agricultural policy, this event will help you confidently integrate biochar into regenerative agriculture and connect with a growing community of practice.

- Gain practical insights from leading researchers, practitioners, biochar producers and agency partners
- Understand cost-share programs and policy incentives (NRCS, CDFA)
- Explore crop-specific case studies and on-farm applications
- Build a community of practice to support biochar outreach and implementation

Eligible for 5.5 hours of Continuing Education Credits for Certified Crop Advisors through the Agronomy Society of America (ASA)

For more information, please contact Tera Lewandowski at tera@biochar-us.org



Groundwater and Well Construction 101

December 17, 2025 | 1 PM CT

Hosted by PrivateWellClass.org

This free webinar will cover types of wells, well construction, the basic components of well systems, and water treatment options.

[Register »](#)

OTHER NEWS



Multibenefit land repurposing for water security

A new peer-reviewed article in the online journal [Frontiers in Water](#) advocates for multibenefit land repurposing (MLR) as an innovative strategy to address water scarcity, contrasting it with the negative impacts of simply leaving unplanted land barren. MLR is a proactive alternative that strategically incorporates multiple benefits from the start, supporting a mosaic of productive agriculture, healthy communities, and thriving habitat. The article, [Enhancing water security and landscape resilience through multibenefit land repurposing](#), spotlights California's [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program](#) (MLRP) and the San Joaquin Valley as a primary example. MLRP repurposes agricultural lands into uses that deliver multiple benefits, such as habitat restoration, [groundwater recharge](#), and open space creation. The article concludes that lessons from California's ongoing experimentation can be applied to other agricultural areas worldwide facing similar water scarcity issues.

ATTENTION!

If your well is experiencing production problems or if you have lost access to drinking water, please contact **Self-Help Enterprises**.

Self-Help Enterprises is a non-government organization that specializes in providing emergency drinking water and interim services.

For long-term assistance please complete the **Self-Help Enterprises** intake form for water sustainability at:



(559) 802-1685

droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org

8445 W. Elowin Court
Visalia, CA 93291

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>

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.

