



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS



MAY 2026



Water Awareness Month

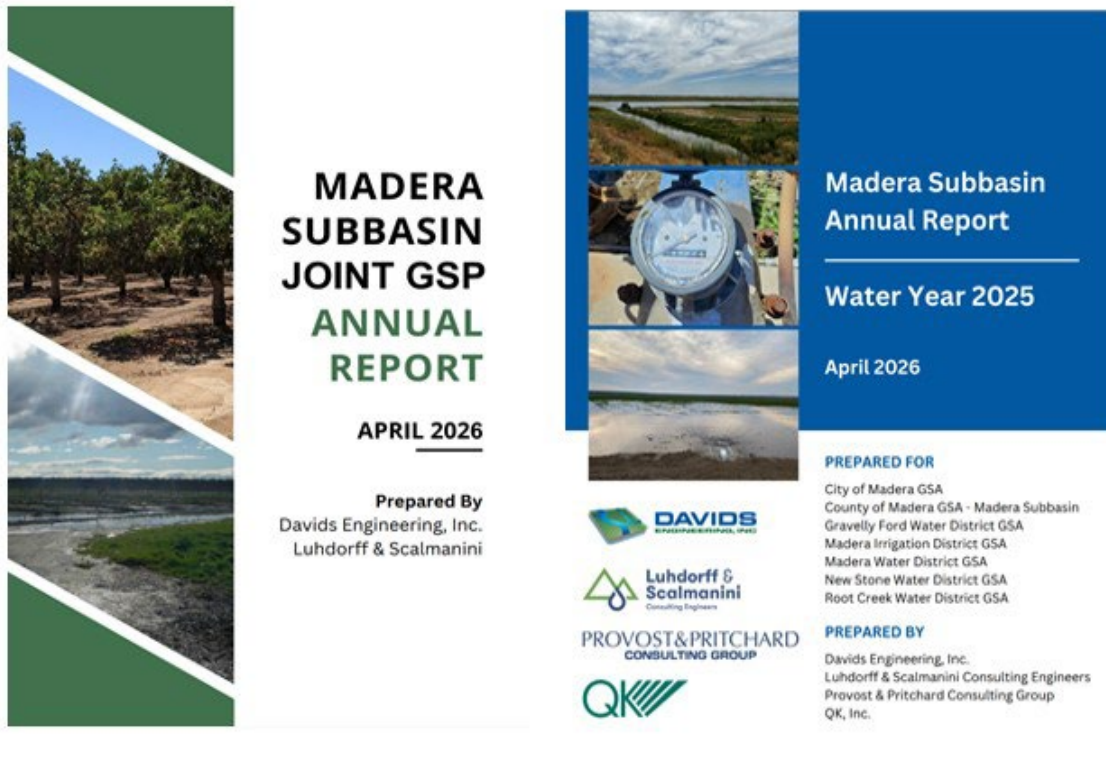
SGMA NEWS

COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) COMMITTEE MEETING

The Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee Meeting will be held on May 5, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. Please see details below for more information. This is a public meeting and all are welcome to join.

Meeting Location:
Madera County Government Center
200 W. 4th Street, Madera CA 93637
Board of Supervisors Chambers

The agenda and supporting documents are available at <https://www.maderacountywater.com/county-gsa-committee/>.



The Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Annual Report can be viewed here:

[Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Annual Report Water Year 2025](#)

The Madera Subbasin Annual Report can be viewed here:

[Madera Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2025](#)



The Chowchilla GSP Annual Report can be viewed here:

[Chowchilla Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2025](#)

The Delta-Mendota GSP Annual Report can be viewed here:

[Delta-Mendota GSP Annual Report Water Year 2025](#)

DELTA-MENDOTA RETURNS TO DWR

At its April 7th Board meeting, the State Water Board approved a resolution to return the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin to the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) jurisdiction under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

In March 2023, DWR determined that the local plan to achieve groundwater sustainability in the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin was inadequate and referred the subbasin to the State Water Board for potential [state intervention](#). The local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) for the subbasin revised their plan and the State Water Board determined that the new plan addresses the problems that DWR identified as well as Board staff concerns and, by implementing the revised plan, the GSAs are on track to achieve sustainable groundwater management. Local GSAs will continue managing groundwater in the subbasin under DWR's jurisdiction.

[For more information about the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin, please visit the](#) State Water Board's Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin webpage.



About Madera County GSA's Dry Well Program

The Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (MCGSA) Dry Well Program (Program) provides financial assistance to landowners impacted by declining groundwater levels in the Madera Subbasin, within the MCGSA. This Program helps fund (up to \$36,000) the drilling of new domestic well or connection to an existing community water system to replace those that have gone dry or been damaged by subsidence.

MCGSA Dry Well Program Contact Information
Phone: (559) 655-6807 | Email: info@maderadrywell.com | Website: www.maderadrywell.com

Madera County GSA Dry Well Program Eligibility



To determine which GSA your property is within, please visit the Program website at maderadrywell.com.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a landowner with a domestic well located within the MCGSA boundaries.
- Property must have a domestic well that went dry after 1/1/2026 or is on the Self-Help Enterprises Interim water assistance list (with a dry domestic well due to declining groundwater levels that occurred after the 1/1/2020 cutoff).
- Property owner must have owned property for a minimum of one year.
- Dwelling unit must be considered "habitable."

Madera County GSA Dry Well Program Process

Apply	Assessment	Approval	Payment	Record
Complete application and submit a \$100 application and assessment fee. If the well qualifies for mitigation, the application and assessment fee will be reimbursed as an eligible mitigation cost.	MCGSA or its agents will conduct a well assessment.	If well qualifies, the landowner will select three (3) bids from well drillers - at least two (2) bids must be from the MCGSA-qualified well driller list. MCGSA will approve one of the bids.	MCGSA will advance the landowner up to \$36,000 in eligible mitigation costs on a schedule set by MCGSA. At completion, the landowner must provide sufficient documentation to support the amount advanced and landowner must return any advanced funds to MCGSA that were not used (as specified in landowner agreement).	Record of mitigation is filed on the deed.

Contact Information for Surrounding Madera Subbasin GSAs

Madera Irrigation District, City of Madera, Madera Water District - (559) 656-9099
Root Creek Water District - (559) 252-2305
Gravelly Ford Water District - (559) 424-1000
New Stone Water District - (559) 834-6677

Madera Dry Well Program

The Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (MCGSA) Dry Well Program (Program) provides financial assistance to landowners impacted by declining groundwater levels in the Madera Subbasin, within the MCGSA. This Program helps fund (up to \$35,000) the drilling of new domestic well or connection to an existing community water system to replace those that have gone dry or been damaged by subsidence.

[Click here or scan the QR code in the flyer above or visit \[maderadrywell.com\]\(http://maderadrywell.com\) for more information.](#)

FLOOD

The Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation

Agency (MCFCWCA) successfully completed the rehabilitation of 9.9 miles of levee patrol roads under the Flood System Repair Project (FSRP). This initiative restored critical infrastructure across the Fresno River, Ash Slough, and Berenda Slough to maintain the integrity of the state's flood control system.



Key Benefits

- **Enhanced Emergency Response:** Rehabilitated patrol roads and access ramps provide a stable, dependable surface for heavy vehicles and first responders to reach critical sites quickly during high water events.
- **Reliable Maintenance Access:** The all-weather roads allow agency staff to perform proactive inspections and routine maintenance, such as vegetation and sediment removal which are essential for preventing long term structural issues like erosion or seepage.
- **Infrastructure Structural Integrity:** Recompacting the upper six inches and adding a new 4-inch layer of Class 2 aggregate base protects the levee crown from deteriorating

due to weather or vehicle wear. This reinforcement helps maintain the levee's designed height and prevents the crown from lowering over time.

- **Protection of Local Assets:** By maintaining a dependable levee system, the project helps safeguard surrounding residential properties, agricultural lands, and critical local infrastructure from flood hazards

EVENTS

Discover the
Potential
of OpenET at
May 5 Webinar



Internet
of Water
COALITION

The [Internet of Water Coalition](#) will host a webinar discussing the value of OpenET on Tuesday, May 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. [OpenET: Strengthening Water Resilience with Satellite-Based Evapotranspiration Data](#) will explore OpenET's approach to making critical evapotranspiration data accessible and transparent for farmers, water managers, and policymakers. Featured speaker [Sara Larsen](#), CEO of [OpenET Inc.](#), will dive into the OpenET platform, sharing why it is needed, how it was created by a unique public-private-philanthropic partnership, and who is using it. She'll also share what's on the horizon for OpenET, including plans for expansion and new features. [Registration](#) is open now for this free online event.

WEBINAR INVITATION
Vision & Investment Plan
for the San Joaquin Valley

Join us on May 12th to learn more about how the CAP vision and investment plan establishes a comprehensive policy framework to guide integrated regional water and land management for decades to come. You will learn about a roadmap for sustainable water and land management across the valley.

KEY VALLEY CHALLENGES

- Diverging water conservation
- Cumulative water demand
- Competitive water & food
- Aging infrastructure
- Fragmented governance
- Impacts on other resources

CAP SHARED VISION

- Safe drinking water for all
- Reduced evaporation for
- Conserved water
- Increased agriculture
- Strong communities

Through coordinated implementation and sustained funding, the San Joaquin Valley can achieve a future with safe drinking water for all residents, restored ecosystem health, vibrant water user supplies, a diversified agricultural economy, and empowered local communities.

ABOUT THE CAP
A coalition of 80+ leaders from agriculture, water agencies, environmental groups, local governments, universities, and other stakeholders are working together on the Valley's long-term water, land, and climate strategy.



Collaborative Action Program

You are invited to attend the **CAP Webinar: Vision & Investment Plan for the San Joaquin Valley on May 12, 2026, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.** This webinar will walk participants through a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable water and land management across the San Joaquin Valley. Attendees will gain insights into a detailed planning document and have the opportunity to engage in a live Q&A session with project leaders. This event is designed for CAP members and organizations connected through their networks. We encourage you to share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested.

Register here: [Introducing the CAP Project Prioritization Tool Webinar – Fill out form](#)

We look forward to your participation.

May 7, 2026 TSB Ag, Building Farm Resilience with Pollinator Habitat. Topics include carbon sequestration and water use benefits of habitat and Bee Better Certified farms.

May 14, 2026 Bullseye Farms, Pollinator Habitat Program demonstration and hands-on activities.

May 7, 2026 - 8:30am to 1:00pm - TSB Ag, Building Farm Resilience with Pollinator Habitat. Topics include carbon sequestration and water use benefits of habitat and Bee Better Certified farms.

[More information, speakers and registration on our TSB Ag flyer.](#)
[Click Here to Register](#)

May 14, 2026 Bullseye Farms, Pollinator Habitat Program demonstration and hands-on activities.

[More information and registration on our Bullseye Farms Flyer.](#)
[Click Here to Register](#)

FIELD TOUR

PRESCRIBED BURNING GIANT SEQUOIA GROVES AND LARGER LANDSCAPES IN THE SOUTHERN SIERRAS

A practical workshop for land managers, foresters, NGOs, and prescribed burn professionals

May 21, 1:30 PM – May 22, 4 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
<https://link.ucanr.edu/2026-sequoia-tour>

MAY 22 ONLY

\$40

FULL REGISTRATION

\$75

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on May 22; full registration includes optional overnight camping with dinner provided at Whitaker's Forest

Please contact Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu or (209) 966-2427 with any questions

Registration

OTHER NEWS



The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) is a California Department of Conservation (DOC) block grant aimed at funding local entities in regions needing to improve groundwater sustainability. Madera County is one of eight grantees across the state that has been awarded an MLRP grant to develop and implement a local MLRP program. The Madera County MLRP helps incentivize landowners to voluntarily transition irrigated farmland to more sustainable uses, while protecting local economies and communities.

Find out what has been happening with the Madera County MLRP program:
[HERE](#)



Do you have A PRIVATE WELL?

This Free Class offers an Introduction for Well Users

learn how to care for your well - Understand what to do (and what not do) when it comes to using private well water.

ensure a safe water supply - Find out what to test for, why, and how often to protect your family from contamination.

extend the life of your well - Discover best practices for maintenance to protect your financial investment.

[Class Enroll in Class – PrivateWellClass.org](http://PrivateWellClass.org)



California Officials to Turn Central Valley River into a State Park

“It is a wonderful day to be a Californian,” California Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot said.

State officials paid a special visit to the San Joaquin River Parkway on Wednesday.

“The real announcement is that today we’re beginning the process to establish three new state parks,” California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Armondo Quintero said.


Quintero says the current map of California state parks forms a loop around the outskirts of the state, so now he wants to fill in the middle.

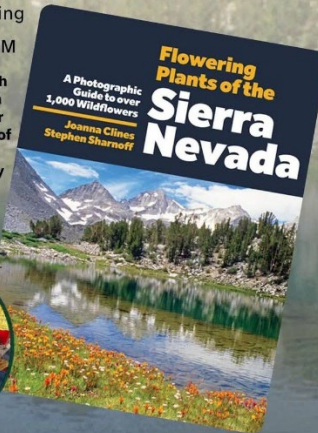
[California officials to turn Central Valley river into a state park | CBS47 and KSEE24 | News from YourCentralValley.com, Fresno CA](#)

**Flowering Plants
of the Sierra Nevada**
with Joanna Clines


Lecture and Book Signing
Saturday, May 16th 3-6PM


Join us for an afternoon with author and botanist Joanna Clines as she discusses her new book, *Flowering Plants of the Sierra Nevada*, with outstanding photography by Stephen Sharnoff.

 \$10 General
\$5 Students



A limited number of books will be available for purchase or bring your own!

 Yosemite Gateway Art Center
40982 Highway 41 in Oakhurst
559-683-5551 • ygac.org





Visit our website at:
[maderacountywater.com](https://www.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](https://www.maderacountywater.com).

