



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

JUNE 2026

FLOOD NEWS

Methodology

- Combination of mechanical and hand crew removal and water safe chemicals



Victory for Ash Slough: 700 Tons of Invasive Weed Removed

Madera County and Chico based nonprofit River Partners have successfully removed 700 tons of the highly invasive plant *Arundo donax* from a 300 acre stretch of Ash Slough. The massive cleanup marks a critical victory for local flood safety, water conservation, and wildfire prevention.

Originally planned to span five regional waterways including Berenda Slough,

Chowchilla River, Dry Creek, and the Fresno River, crews shifted their full focus to Ash Slough due to the sheer density of the infestation. *Arundo donax*, also known as giant reed, poses severe threats to the Central Valley ecosystem:

- **Flooding:** The weed grows up to 30 feet tall, clogging waterways and forcing floodwaters to overtop riverbanks and levees.
- **Water Loss:** It consumes five times more water than native plants, draining vital groundwater.
- **Fire Hazard:** Unlike native river vegetation, it is highly flammable even when green.

By eliminating this ecological threat, the project restores natural river flow and protects Madera County communities from future climate disasters.

Results

- From October 1 through November 30 **700 tons of *Arundo* were removed**



SGMA NEWS

County Groundwater Sustainability Committee Meeting

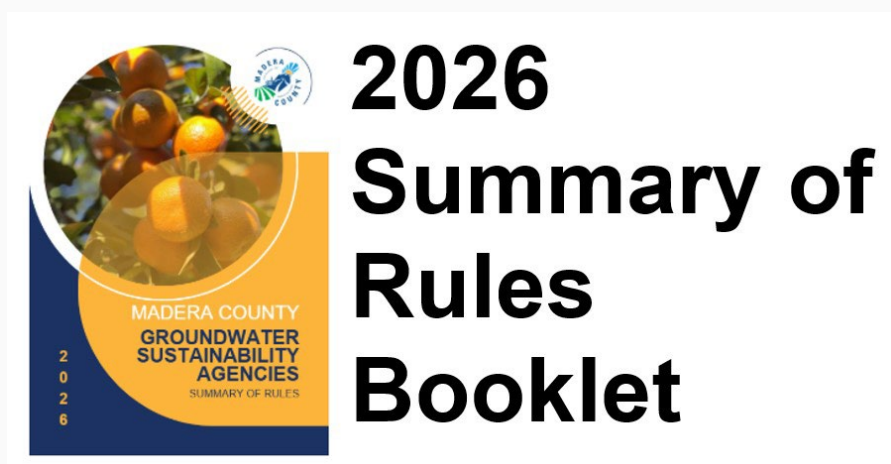
NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

**Madera County
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
(in the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins)
Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026
At 1:30pm**

MEETING LOCATION
Madera County Government Center
200 W. 4th Street, Madera CA 93637
Board of Supervisors Chambers

In case you missed the Madera County GSA Committee meeting on May 05, 2026, the recording and agenda packets can be viewed on the [County GSA Committee](#) webpage. Information can also be found on the [Board meeting portal](#).



An updated Summary of Rules Booklet for 2026 is out now! Growers should expect to receive a hard copy in the mail. Didn't receive a copy? You can view it on our website or call our office to schedule a time to pick one up in person.

[Click Here to View the Booklet Online](#)



Delta-Mendota Subbasin - Spring 2026 Newsletter

Delta-Mendota Subbasin exits State Water Board Intervention, Returns to DWR Oversight
 The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) unanimously adopted a resolution on April 7, 2026, to return the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to the jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). By avoiding a "probationary" designation, the subbasin's growers will not be required to pay the state a \$300 fee to register their wells and then pay \$20 per acre foot pumped.

The Water Board's decision follows the release of a March 2026 Water Board Staff Assessment which concluded that the subbasin's Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) had made significant progress in addressing previously identified deficiencies through its revised, 2024 single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The Water Board became involved in oversight for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in March 2023, after DWR determined that the subbasin's multiple GSPs did not meet the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's (SGMA) regulatory requirements. DWR referred the subbasin to the Water Board for further review under SGMA's intervention provisions and a potential probationary status.

Key Progress and Improvements

The State Water Board staff's recommendation was based on several critical updates made to the subbasin's revised GSP:

- **Unified Management:** The GSAs adopted a single, subbasin-wide plan instead of multiple individual plans.
- **Drinking Water Protection:** A new mitigation program was established to protect domestic drinking water wells from the impacts of declining groundwater levels or water quality degradation.
- **Pumping Reductions:** The plan now includes pumping limits and specific pumping reduction plans for each GSA group to combat chronic groundwater lowering and land subsidence.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** The agencies expanded the frequency and scope of well sampling to better track and address groundwater quality concerns. GSAs will continue to evaluate the GSP as they work toward achieving sustainability.

The GSP will be periodically reviewed by DWR and the Water Board Staff Assessment also includes recommendations for future GSP revisions.

Subbasin GSAs Partner to Tackle Groundwater Management via New Joint Powers Authority

The 23 Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs have formed a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to collaboratively manage groundwater through a single GSP. A JPA is a legal entity formed by two or more public agencies to jointly exercise common powers. JPAs allow agencies to cooperate, pool resources for insurance, issue bonds, and/or manage regional projects including the implementation of a GSP.

Since the formation of GSAs in the Subbasin, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) has provided fiscal, contracting and administrative services for the subbasin. The assistance of SLDMWA was invaluable and greatly appreciated by the GSAs. Recently, SLDMWA's Board consolidated its mission to focus on core objectives and transitioned away from providing these services. In response, the Subbasin GSAs evaluated several options to ensure continuity of necessary services and decided to form a JPA.

The new Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority, governed by a 7-member board representing all the subbasin GSAs, ensures local control and protects member rights while managing sustainability efforts. The goal of the JPA is to deliver collaborative, efficiency-driven sustainable management of the Subbasin's groundwater. (Note: Going forward there will be 21 GSAs as Oro Loma and Widren Water Districts have joined the Central Delta-Mendota GSA JPA.)

Members of the public are invited to attend the JPA Board of Directors meetings online or in person at the Grassland Water District Water District Board Room, 200 W. Willmott Avenue, Los Banos. An opportunity for the public to make comments is included in every agenda. Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month, except in September and November of 2026 when meetings will be on the 3rd Monday.

Subscribe to the mailing list here:
<https://deltamendota.org/jet-involved>

New Policy Safeguards Domestic Wells in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin
 A new Domestic Well Mitigation program is being implemented to protect shallow well users from declining groundwater levels caused by subbasin groundwater management. The subbasin GSA created the program using state and community organization guidelines. While fewer than three wells per year are likely to be affected, the Mitigation Policy will address eligible wells.

Who Can Apply

The program focuses on domestic well owners and small water systems using groundwater for household needs. To qualify:

- The well must have been in use when the revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan was adopted. (2024)
- The well owner must register their well (if a local GSA has a registration program).
- Wells installed after plan adoption at shallower depths than GSA-approved thresholds are not eligible.

How the Program Works

If a domestic well stops producing water, the well-owner can request emergency assistance (such as bottled water or tank delivery). Once a complete application has been submitted, the GSA will make reasonable efforts to provide short-term emergency water. The GSA where the well is located will conduct a field investigation to find out what caused the well failure and identify the most appropriate solution. Solutions might include lowering a pump, deepening or replacing a well, or connecting to a nearby water system. If the failure isn't related to groundwater levels, for example a mechanical failure, the GSA will help connect the owner with other available resources.

Program Funding

A \$300,000 pool has been set aside to allow a quick response to a domestic well failure. Each GSA will also fund its own investigations and emergency water supplies as needed.

Domestic Well Policy Briefing

June 5, 2026, Noon

GSA representatives, NGOs and other Community members are invited to find out more about the new Domestic Well Policy at a lunchtime briefing on May 29. During this session we will review the application process and more details about program implementation. Registration is open now [HERE](https://stantec.zoom.us/j/9a9SOTzm53NO_spmrA).

https://stantec.zoom.us/j/9a9SOTzm53NO_spmrA

Central Valley Program Aims to Protect Households from Contaminated Well Water

GSAs in the Delta-Mendota and other Central Valley subbasins have partnered with Valley Water Collaborative (VWC) to offer free, confidential nitrate testing for private wells and provide free, safe drinking water to residents with contaminated wells. This program, funded by the State Water Board's SAFER program, addresses high nitrate levels and includes testing for other contaminants like arsenic.

VWC works with various GSAs to fulfill requirements under the Nitrate Control Program and GSP implementations. The partnership allows the organizations to work collaboratively to avoid duplication of efforts in their respective administration of their programs.

VWC will provide Delta-Mendota subbasin residents with information regarding the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy. In the event VWC encounters a dry well that may be eligible for mitigation under the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, VWC will notify the Delta-Mendota contact person and provide the resident with referral information on the resident's options for seeking mitigation under the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy.

To learn more about groundwater testing for nitrates and temporary free drinking water for those impacted by nitrates, visit: <https://valleywater.org>.

How to find your GSA

Not sure what GSA you are in? You can check on the DWR website, on-line GSA Map Viewer. Just enter your home or business address [HERE](https://dwr.water.ca.gov/water/index.jsp#gsa).
<https://dwr.water.ca.gov/water/index.jsp#gsa>

Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs	Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs	Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs
Aliso Water District	City of Patterson	Northwestern Delta-Mendota
Central Delta-Mendota	County of Modoc—3	Patterson Irrigation District
City of Oak Park	Davis	Turner Island Water District-2
City of Firebaugh	Farmers Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange
City of Gustine	Fresno County Management Area 'A'	Contractors Water Authority
City of Los Banos	Fresno County Management Area 'B'	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
City of Mendota	Grassland Water District	
City of Newman	Merced County Delta-Mendota	

Delta-Mendota Subbasin 2 Spring 2026 Newsletter

Click Here to Read the Delta Mendota Newsletter



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Program
A Public Guide to Protecting Your Drinking Water
 Special Briefing
 Friday, June 5, 2026
 Noon – 12:45 p.m.
 Register Here:
https://stantec.zoom.us/meeting/register/Jr_Ua9SOTzm53NO_spmrA

You Are Invited
 The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin invite you to attend a special briefing on their Domestic Well Program. During this session you will learn more about what the program includes, who is being protected and the critical steps the GSAs are taking to protect drinking water. The briefing will focus on domestic wells and small water systems with 14 or less connections. You will hear about steps to take if lower groundwater levels put a well at risk, or if there are issues with a dry well, or well water quality. If you have a domestic well in the subbasin or help people that do, this briefing is for you. In addition to a presentation, time will be set aside for questions and comments. Register at the link above or with the QR Code in this box.



Spanish translation will be provided.

Register Here



MADERA COUNTY GSA
DRY WELL PROGRAM



MADERA COUNTY GSA
DRY WELL PROGRAM

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 \$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.

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.

Pre-Qualified Drillers
For a list of pre-qualified drillers, please visit maderadrywell.com.

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 solicit 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 \$35,000 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).	Records of mitigation is filed on the deed.

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."



For more information, scan the QR Code for Program Details & Application

Contact Information for Surrounding Madera Subbasin GSAs

Madera Irrigation District, City of Madera, Madera Water District - (559) 655-9099
 Root Creek Water District - (559) 256-2305
 Gravelly Ford Water District - (559) 474-1000
 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 \[maderadrywell.com\]\(http://www.maderadrywell.com\) for more information.](http://www.maderadrywell.com)

EVENTS



FIRE ADAPTED MADERA COUNTY (FAM CO) WILDFIRE RESILIENCE OFFICE



RIBBON CUTTING & RESOURCE FAIR

Celebrate the Grand Opening of the FAM CO Office!

Join us as we open a new hub for wildfire resilience, community preparedness, collaboration, and regional partnerships in Eastern Madera County.

- Meet local partners
- Learn about ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts
- Pick up program resources and information
- Help us celebrate this exciting milestone for our communities



DATE: June 2nd | **TIME:** 12:30 pm – 2 pm | **LOCATION:** 40232 Junction Drive, Oakhurst, CA 93644, Oakhurst Government Center



Next Lunch-MAR webinar on Wednesday, June 3

The next [Lunch-MAR meeting](#) — “Flows, Fish, and FIRO” — will feature Dr. Andy Martin, acting deputy director in the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center’s Environmental Laboratory at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This [hour-long webinar](#) begins at 12:30p.m on Wednesday, June 3. Registration is not required to attend.



IRRIGATION EVALUATIONS
FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER

Maximize your crop production by identifying inefficiencies in your irrigation system. Our free evaluations help you conserve water while improving distribution uniformity and system performance — leading to healthier crops and higher yields with less waste.

We Will:

- Conduct an in-field system and site evaluation
- Identify any system inefficiencies
- Develop full conservation plan

To schedule an evaluation, please contact:
Kevin Reyes
Programs@maderachowchillarcad.org
(559) 755-5148

MADERA/CHOWCHILLA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

California almonds
Almond Board of California

#NOREGRET Initiative



XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

June 11, 2026

Field Day

Join us at **Terranova Ranch**, a state leader in sustainability and pollinator hedgerows

- Tour pollinator hedgerows and learn about their benefits and management
- Learn how to find and identify key pollinators and beneficial insects
- Get guidance on managing pests while supporting pollinators
- Learn how to get financial and technical support to plant pollinator habitat

Who Should Attend?

- Farmers of specialty crops
- Conservation practitioners
- Pollinator and wildlife enthusiasts

Join us for Coffee and Donuts at 8 am
8:30 am - 11:30 am

Terranova Ranch, Inc.
W Floral Ave,
Helm, CA 93627

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JENAE.MCCARTHY@XERCES.ORG

cdfa CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

June 11, 2026 Terranova Ranch,
Pollinator Habitat Program demonstration and hands-on activities
[More information and registration on our Terranova Ranch Flyer.](#)

A flyer for a GIS for Forestry Workshop. The left side features a vertical image of a tree trunk with a white GIS map overlay. The right side is a green background with white text. At the top, logos for 'Informatics & GIS University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources', 'UC CE University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources', and 'YOSEMITE ADULT SCHOOL' are displayed. The main title 'GIS FOR FORESTRY WORKSHOP' is in large, outlined letters. Below it, a paragraph describes the workshop for natural resource professionals. The dates 'JUNE 29-30, 2026' and location 'YOSEMITE ADULT SCHOOL, 49949 HIGH SCHOOL RD., OAKHURST, CA' are listed. A registration cost of '\$60' with lunch included is noted. A QR code and the text 'Space is limited. Register online @ https://link.ucanr.edu/gis-oakhurst' are provided. A footer line says 'Please contact Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu with questions'.

[Register Here](#)

OTHER NEWS

CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER
BE READY TO GO **RED FLAG WARNING**
WWW.READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG



HIGH FIRE DANGER
GUSTY WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY
WEST SIDE HILLS ON THE COASTAL RANGE AND THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: IN EFFECT 5 AM SATURDAY TO 8 PM MONDAY

HIGH FIRE DANGER
GUSTY WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY
FOR THE MOJAVE DESERT AND SLOPES IN EASTERN KERN COUNTY: IN EFFECT 5 AM SATURDAY TO 11 PM SUNDAY

Apply to be Part of the 2027 Class of UC Master Gardeners



Fresno and Madera County residents who want to share their passion for gardening with the public are encouraged to apply to become volunteer Master Gardeners.

The program, offered in counties throughout the state by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, trains and certifies gardening enthusiasts to extend research-based knowledge on home horticulture, pest management and sustainable landscaping.

Currently there are about 270 Master Gardeners in Madera and Fresno counties. In 2027, Fresno will add 40 volunteers and Madera will add 10. The application period is now open through July 31 for the class of 2027. After the deadline, applicants will be invited to Meet the Master Gardeners at the Garden of the Sun, where they will schedule their interview appointments.

[Click here 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.

