



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

 **July 2026** 

SGMA NEWS

County Groundwater Sustainability Committee Meeting

The Madera County GSA Committee meeting that is
scheduled for
July 14, 2026 at 1:30 PM.

To review past meetings, please visit the [County GSA Committee](#) webpage.
Information can also be found on the [Board meeting portal](#).

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](#).

COUNTY GSA BOARD MEETING

The next County GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for **July 21, 2026.**

For more information, visit the [Board meeting portal](#) to view the full agenda packet and recording.



The Madera Planting Project Takes Root

Madera Community College, in collaboration with UC Agriculture & Natural Resources' **Dr. Yessica V. Fernández Galicia**, has planted over **3,100 agave plants representing 20 species** as part of the new **Agave Innovation Center Project**, a living laboratory built on four core pillars: regenerative agriculture, biodiversity, education, and community engagement.

The project's practices are designed to improve soil health, water infiltration, and long-term ecosystem resilience. Contour berms were constructed to capture rainfall and reduce runoff, while minimal soil disturbance and permanent soil cover strategies were incorporated to promote soil biological activity and improve water-use efficiency. These practices provide a framework for evaluating low-input production systems adapted to semi-arid environments.

Learn more via the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium: <https://cvhec.org/member-news-madera-college-tequilera-academic-program-announced/>



¿THREE QUESTIONS?

Each Month we will sit down with a member of the community to ask three questions. This month, our conversation is with...

Dr. Yessica V. Fernández Galicia, Technical Designer for the Agave Innovation Center Project:

1. What moment or event caused you to become interested in Agave?

It was the moment that I realized that Agave is the plant for the future. We have only just begun to realize the potential in bioplastics, biofood and other bioproducts. Humans produce a lot of contamination that contributes to climate change and we need to shift the way we consume. The Agave plant can grow in the very soils that other plants cannot, without the need for a lot of water or chemical products.

2. What do you love or appreciate about Agave?

I look across the landscape in in my pueblo in Mexico and see Agave growing everywhere, and yet they grow naturally with no human intervention whatsoever. Nobody tends to it and it gives us so much!

3. Name something that the Agave plant has taught you?

The most important lesson is that humans need to be careful with mother nature. Mother nature gives us everything we need to survive. Humans strive for more and more; they work hard and then get sick from it, and yet all the things you need grow free all around you.

Domestic Well News

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.

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

Madera County GSA Dry Well Program Process

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Apply</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Assessment</p> <p>MCGSA or its agents will conduct a well assessment.</p> | <p>Approval</p> <p>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 drillers list. MCGSA will approve one of the bids.</p> | <p>Payment</p> <p>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).</p> | <p>Record</p> <p>Record of mitigation is filed on the deed.</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|

Contact Information for Surrounding Madera Subbasin GSAs

Madera Irrigation District, City of Madera, Madera Water District - (559) 655-9099
 Root Creek Water District - (559) 255-2305
 Gravelly Ford Water District - (559) 434-1000
 New Stone Water District - (559) 834-6077

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 for more information.](#)



Enroll in Class

Learn the Fundamentals on Your Own Time

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.

Enroll in Class

[Water and Public Health Program –](#)

STAY COOL/STAY SAFE

EXTREME HEAT SAFETY



STAY COOL

- Stay in the shade
- Use cooling aids
- Use a fan or air conditioner
- Wear a hat, glasses, and lightweight clothes



STAY HYDRATED

- Drink water regularly throughout the day to replace fluids lost from heat and sweating.
- Avoid waiting until you are extremely thirsty to hydrate.

SYMPTOMS OF HEAT ILLNESS



- Heavy sweating
- Feeling very tired and weak
- Feeling dizzy, lightheaded, or sick to your stomach

WATCH THESE GROUPS CLOSELY FOR SIGNS OF HEAT ILLNESS

Children under 5, adults 65+, people taking certain medications and persons with disabilities.



SEGURIDAD ANTE CALOR EXTREMO



MANTENTE FRESCO

- Quédese en la sombra.
- Use métodos para mantenerse fresco.
- Use un ventilador o aire acondicionado.
- Use sombrero, lentes de sol y ropa ligera.



MANTENTE HIDRATADO

- Beba agua con regularidad durante el día para reponer los líquidos perdidos por el sudor y el calor.
- Evite esperar a tener mucha sed para hidratarse.

SÍNTOMAS DE INSOLACIÓN



- Sudoración intensa
- Cansancio y debilidad extremos
- Mareo, aturdimiento o náuseas

VIGILE ATENTAMENTE A ESTOS GRUPOS PARA DETECTAR SIGNOS DE INSOLACIÓN

Niños menores de 5 años, adultos mayores de 65 años, personas que toman ciertos medicamentos y personas con discapacidades.



COOLING SITES

MADERA

- Sheriff's Office: 2725 Falcon Drive
- PanAm Community Center: 703 Sherwood Way
- Madera Police Department: 330 S. C St.

CHOWCHILLA

- 122 Trinity Ave, Chowchilla, CA 93610

OAKHURST

- Sheriff's Office: 48267 Liberty Drive

PETS AND LIVESTOCK

- Keep pets indoors or in shaded areas as much as possible.
- Provide shade (trees, buildings, or sunshades).
- Make sure animals always have access to cool, clean water.



CENTROS DE ENFRIAMIENTO

MADERA

- Oficina del Sheriff: 2725 Falcon Drive
- Centro Comunitario PanAm: 703 Sherwood Way
- Departamento de Policía de Madera: 330 S. C St.

CHOWCHILLA

- 122 Trinity Ave, Chowchilla, CA 93610

OAKHURST

- Oficina del Sheriff: 48267 Liberty Drive

MASCOTAS Y GANADO

- Mantenga sus mascotas adentro o en la sombra lo más posible.
- Proporcionar sombra (árboles, edificios o parasoles).
- Asegúrese de que los animales siempre tengan acceso a agua fresca y limpia.



[Madera County Public Health for More Information](#)



Rivers and Streams Are Running COLD!

NWS Hanford



Warm air temperatures can create a false sense of security for boaters and beach goers! **Warm air temperatures do NOT mean warm water temperatures!**

Cold water VERY quickly removes heat from the body, creating loss of dexterity. Here's how quickly:

| Water Temperature | Loss of Dexterity |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 40-50 degrees | Under 5 minutes |
| 50-60 degrees | 10-15 minutes |
| 60-70 degrees | Around 30 minutes |

ALWAYS wear a lifevest!



ALWAYS bring a life preserver with you!



DO NOT go into closed rivers, streams, and lakes!



If a wildfire threatens your home or community, you may need to leave quickly 🔥... See more



EVENTS



Next Lunch-MAR webinar
Wednesday, July 1

The next [Lunch-MAR meeting](#) — “Scaling Up Recharge on the Sacramento Valley” — will feature David Guy, president of the Northern California Water Association. This [hour-long webinar](#) begins at 12:30p.m. on Wednesday, July 1. Registration is not required to attend.



FARMER SKILLS SHARE & NETWORKING

Join APC for a farmer skills sharing & networking event to learn from and connect with farmers, partners, and others working across the agriculture industry.

Dinner will be provided courtesy of Gulab Indian Bistro.

 **July 1, 2026**
5:00-7:00pm

 **Binational of Central California**
3302 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno, CA

 **Interpretation will be available**

 **RSVP via E-mail**
rizpah.bellard@fahrlc.com

INTERESTED IN SHARING A SKILL?
We are seeking 5 presenters for 10-minute presentations followed by Q&A. Email rizpah.bellard@fahrlc.com with your name, company/farm, and suggested skill topic to learn more.

Interested in sharing skills?
Email: rizpah.bellard@fahrlc.com

FRESNO STATE

Jordan College of Agricultural
Sciences and Technology

Smart Farm University Project

FREE educational workshops on the following:

July 09:
Kings River Land Trust



July 24:
Agrotourism 101



July 31:
Triple F Ranch
& Farming Forest



Click or Scan the
QR code to Register.



Attend In-Person or Online.

In-Person seating is limited.

Juan Jose Rodriguez; Project Manager: 559-278-4860



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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

MADERACHOWCHILLA
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

California
almonds
Almond Board of California

#NOREGRET'S
Initiative



PARKWAY

THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY
& CONSERVATION TRUST

the river is calling.

Sycamore Island and K'uik'ui Ranch (formerly Ball Ranch)

6:00 am - 8:30 pm

Sycamore Island

39664 Ave 7 1/2, Madera, CA 93636

Days Open: Open daily

Seasonal Hours of Operation: January, February, March, October, and November
open 6:00 am-5:30 pm

April and September open 6:00 am-7:00 pm

May-August open 6:00 am-8:30 pm

Entrance Fee: Access is free Monday through Friday

K'uik'ui Ranch

Days Open: Open daily

Seasonal Hours of Operation: January, February, March, October, November, and
December open 6:00 am-5:30 pm April and September open 6:00 am-7:00 pm May-
August open 6:00 am-8:30 pm

Entrance fee: Access is free

Grab your fishing poles and enjoy the warm weather at Sycamore Island and K'uik'ui Ranch! Both places are a great choice for hiking, biking, fishing, birding, and more.

For more information and to sign up go to [Places](#)



PrivateWellClass.org

Brought to you by the Illinois State Water Survey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Our free webinar, *Septic Systems 101*, is scheduled for next week! There's still time to get registered and submit your questions in advance. In this free 120-minute webinar training hosted by The Private Well Class, you'll learn:

- What is safe to flush down my drains?
- Do I need to put additives in my septic tank?
- How do I prolong the life of my system?

As always, we'll begin with a short presentation covering the most common questions, followed by plenty of time for additional Q&A. Here are the details:

Septic Systems 101

July 9, 2026 from 1:00-3:00 PM CT

[Register for the webinar](#)

OTHER NEWS

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](#)



Firework Pet Safety

While we enjoy the beautiful fireworks, most pets do not. Without proper supervision and planning, many pets will become frantic and often run away. Here are some tips to help prepare your pets and keep them safe.

Lost pets increase 30% around the 4th of July. On average, only 14% are returned to the owners.

- STAY INSIDE**
Keep pets inside, and if possible, stay with them
- MAKE THEM FEEL SAFE**
Make sure they have access to their "safe place"
- AVOID THE NOISE**
Drown out the noise of fireworks with music
- MAKE SURE PETS HAVE PROPER FITTING COLLARS WITH CURRENT ID TAGS**
Most importantly **ACT NORMAL**. If pets sense that you are confident and relaxed, chances are, they will be too!



Heat Stroke in Dogs



Signs

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Panting | Weakness | Shaking |
| Drooling | Listlessness | Collapse |
| Vomiting | Poor Coordination | Seizures |
| Diarrhoea | | |

What to do

1. Remove the dog from heat source - seek shade or air-conditioning
2. Cool the dog with water (cool, NOT iced), spray with a hose, submerge in a bath/pool (if safe to do so), or drape with wet towels and use a fan
3. Check rectal temperature every 10 - 15 minutes and stop cooling if temperature drops below 39.5 C
4. Offer the dog a drink of water - do not force them to drink
5. Get the dog to a vet as soon as possible, even if everything seems ok

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.



*Madera County Water & Natural Resources, 200 West 4th Street, Suite 3100, Madera, CA 93637
Phone: 559-662-8015.*