



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

 **AUGUST 2026** 

SGMA NEWS

County Groundwater Sustainability Committee

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

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

**Tuesday, August 4, 2026
At 1:30pm**

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

Notice is hereby given that the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee Meeting of August 4, 2026 is cancelled and rescheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026.



An amended groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is now posted on the [SGMA portal](#) and is open for public comment. Public comment for the amended GSP ends on August 15th. Multiple counties are covered under this GSP, including a portion of Madera County.

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

Apply 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.	Assessment MCGSA or its agents will conduct a well assessment.	Approval If well qualifies, the landowner will submit 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.	Payment 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).	Record Record of mitigation is filed on the deed.
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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) 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 \[maderadrywell.com\]\(http://maderadrywell.com\) for more information.](#)

FLOOD

FOR THE PEOPLE THAT JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FLOOD WATCH AND A FLOOD WARNING LET'S TRY WITH TACOS

Watch : We have the ingredients to make tacos.

Warning : We are having tacos. Right now.

TACO WATCH	TACO WARNING
GET READY: Everything you need for tacos is on the table.	GET TO YOUR SEAT: Tacos have arrived!
	

SO TO RECAP – A WATCH MEANS CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT FOR A FLOOD - A WARNING MEANS ONE IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY

The Taco idea is taken from the Tornado Watch.

[Watches vs. Warnings? Think Tacos.](#)

STAY COOL/STAY SAFE

NWS Hanford, CA

extreme
major
moderate

1 - minor

little/none

Minor HeatRisk is the 1st of 4 levels of HeatRisk

What is Minor HeatRisk?

What it means:

- Heat that is tolerated by most - **very common**
- Minor Risk of heat-related illnesses to those **extremely sensitive** to heat- such as older adults (65+), infants, those without effective cooling, and those with chronic diseases (heart disease, obesity, poor blood circulation).

Actions to take:

- Drink plenty of water or sports drink
- Reduce time spent outdoors or stay in the shade
- Open windows at night

NWS Hanford, CA

extreme
major
moderate

2 - moderate

minor

little/none

Moderate HeatRisk is the 2nd of 4 levels of HeatRisk

What is Moderate HeatRisk?

What it means:

- Heat that is tolerated by the well-acclimated - **happens many times a year**
- Moderate Risk of heat-related illnesses to those sensitive to heat, such as older adults (65+), infants, athletes, outdoor workers, those without effective cooling, and those with chronic diseases. Some risk to general population.

Actions to take:

- Drink plenty of water or sports drink
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Reduce time spent outdoors or stay in the shade
- For those without a/c, use fans to keep air moving and open windows at night.

Even when the air is **hot,
water can be **cold**!**

Always wear a life vest

Even experienced swimmers can quickly lose muscle control

Cold water can kill


weather.gov

EVENTS



Next Lunch-MAR webinar on Wednesday, August 5

The next [Lunch-MAR meeting](#) will feature executive team members from the [Groundwater Demand Management \(GDW\) Network](#). Their presentation, “Groundwater Demand Management in California: An Overview of Case Studies, Implementation, Economics & Policy,” will examine real-world case studies across the state related to GDW. The discussion will compare measurement methods, funding mechanisms, and the key elements that define successful GDM communities, and explore lessons learned and strategic wins in basin-scale implementation.

FRESNO STATE | Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Smart Farm University Project

FREE educational workshops on the following:

August 06:
Risk Management Agency

August 13:
Farm Service Agency

August 20:
Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA

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

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



FRESNO STATE Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Smart Farm University Project

ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਮੁਫਤ ਵਿਦਿਅਕ ਵਰਕਸ਼ਾਪਾਂ:

August 06:
Risk Management Agency

August 13:
Farm Service Agency

August 20:
Agricultural Marketing Service

ਵਿਅਕਤੀਗਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਵੋ।

ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ QR ਕੋਡ 'ਤੇ ਕਲਿੱਕ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਸਕੈਨ ਕਰੋ।

ਵਿਅਕਤੀਗਤ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਸੈਸ਼ਨ ਲਈ ਸੀਟਾਂ ਸੀਮਤ ਹਨ।

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

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

FRESNO STATE Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Smart Farm University Project

Talleres educativos GRATUITOS sobre lo siguiente:

August 06:
Risk Management Agency

August 13:
Farm Service Agency

August 20:
Agricultural Marketing Service

Asista en persona o en línea;

Haga clic o escanee el código QR para registrarse.

Los asientos para asistir en persona son limitados.

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

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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SMOKE READINESS WORKSHOP

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed to help residents of Mariposa and Madera County learn how to protect themselves from wildfire smoke during prolonged fire events and have a chance to ask questions to the local Air Pollution Control Board

LEARN HOW TO

- Protect yourself and your family from wildfire smoke
- Build a low-cost DIY Air Filter
- And more!

AUGUST 15, 2026, 12:00 - 4:00 PM
OAKHURST, CA
Cost: \$10 (scholarships available)



REGISTER AT

link.ucanr.edu/smoke

4 DIY AIR FILTERS WILL BE RAFFLED OFF TO PARTICIPANTS!

For more information contact Laura Wisdom at lwisdom@ucanr.edu



UC CE

UC Cooperative Extension
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources









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@maderachowchillatcd.org
(559) 755-5148

MADERA/CHOWCHILLA
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

California
almonds
Almond Board of California

#NOREGRET
Initiative

OTHER NEWS

Companion Plants Help Manage Garden Insect Pests

By Jeannette Warnert, UC Master Gardener

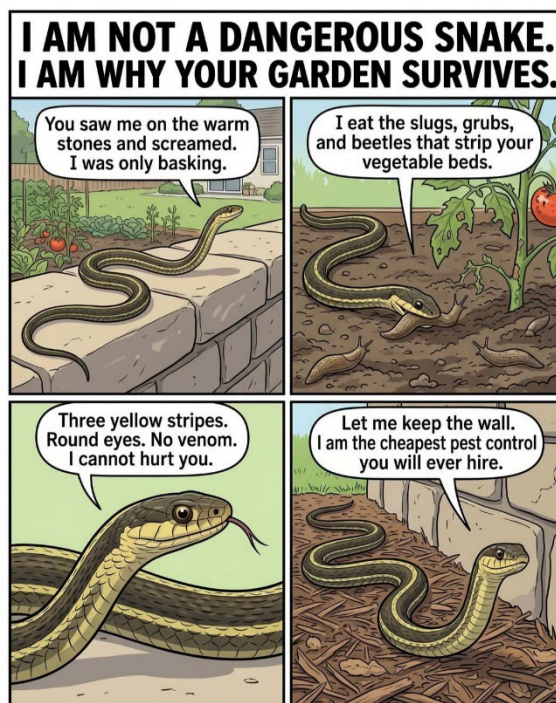


Every job is a little easier with a companion. The same is true for vegetables and herbs in the garden. With companion plants attracting insects that attack garden pests, the vegetables thrive and the garden blooms beautifully.

In Fresno gardens where companion planting was established in the spring, insects like lacewings and lady beetles are now battling vegetable pests. Lacewing larvae have strong jaws that they use to grasp and kill prey. Lady beetles feed primarily on aphids. Because predator insects are very mobile, purchasing and releasing them is not effective. But creating conditions in the garden that are appealing to predator insects allows gardeners to take advantage of their voracious appetites.

Lady beetles love flowers with flat, open tops that are easy to land on and provide accessible nectar, such as sweet alyssum, yarrow, cosmos, sunflowers and calendula.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.





Integrating barn owl nest boxes and trapping for the sustainable management of rodent pests in California's nut orchards

PI- Matthew Johnson; Co-PIs: Daniel Karp and Roger Baldwin; Key Personnel: Shelly Connor

Rationale: Rodents are a major concern for growers in nearly all agroecosystems globally. In the southern Central Valley, a particularly severe and ongoing rat outbreak is devastating nut orchards, causing an estimated \$100-300 million dollars of damage to almond orchards in 2024 alone. While rodents have traditionally been managed with rodenticides, increasing awareness of non-target impacts has led to recent, strict statewide limits on anticoagulant rodenticide use, hindering growers' ability to contend with escalating rodent pressure. This proposal seeks to test, refine, demonstrate, and disseminate a new integrated and sustainable rodent management plan for nut orchards in the Central Valley, leveraging both conservation biological control via barn owls and cutting-edge, rat trapping technologies.

Project Goals:

- Evaluate barn owl nest boxes and automatic resetting traps as economically viable alternatives to rodenticides.
- Assess the capability of nest boxes and trapping for delivering area-wide rodent management strategies for orchards and adjacent areas.
- Popularize sustainable pest control strategies via holistic outreach and education plans.

Approach: We will conduct a large, before-after-control-impact study across almond and pistachio orchards, comparing owl activity and rodent pressure in control orchards to those that receive either barn owl nest boxes alone or barn owl nest boxes alongside novel, automatic-resetting, rat traps. The experiment will be coupled with an economic analysis to assess the costs and benefits of alternative rodent management techniques. In addition, we will harness owls with high-resolution, GPS-tags to quantify where they hunt, both to evaluate their potential for providing area-wide pest control, as well as how rat trapping may affect barn owl behavior and reproduction.

Benefits to industry: This project will evaluate the potential for delivering a chemical-free solution to an urgent problem facing California nut growers. Findings from this project have great potential to support nut orchard growers as they contend with both escalating rodent pressure and increasing regulatory burdens. Transitioning scientific findings to real-world, practical solutions requires cost assessments, decision support, and focused outreach. We will create online, mobile-friendly tools that will help growers determine where, when, and how to deploy owl nest boxes and rat traps to maximize rodent control. We will then share our findings and decision-support tools at demonstration field days, in short films, in a continuing education course, and via extension materials targeted to growers, industry leaders, and the public.

Schedule of field activities:

	2026-2027				2027-2028				2028-2029			
	Sum.	Fall.	Wint.	Spr.	Sum.	Fall.	Wint.	Spr.	Sum.	Fall.	Wint.	Spr.
Select study sites												
Monitor rodents with tracking tunnels												
Install Barn Owl nestboxes												
GPS tag owls and monitor nest boxes												
Intensive rat trapping												
Maintenance rat trapping												
Economic damage assessment												

Cal Poly
Humboldt.

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



California Department of
dpr Pesticide Regulation

Owl Box link

[Click here](#) to read the full request.

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.

