



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year!!!

SGMA NEWS



New 2024 Water Leaders cohort report targets sustainability

The [2024 California Water Leaders cohort](#) has released a report with targeted recommendations on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation for policy makers and government agencies to consider. The recommendations aim to ensure that the state's over-pumped groundwater basins reach sustainability under SGMA, which became law in 2014.

The 21-page report, [Recommendations for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#), published by the [Water Education Foundation](#), proposes fostering a more equitable and transparent approach to groundwater sustainability as California grapples with the increasing pressures of climate

change, prolonged droughts, and the demands of a growing and diverse population.

FLOOD NEWS

Winter is Here - Be Prepared

There may be a widespread sigh of relief throughout Madera County as the first drops of rain hit the ground and in many communities rain means the end of fire season. However, we must not be fooled into thinking the threat is over. According to the California Department of Water Resources “Today, more than 7 million Californians, or 1 in 5, live in the 500-year floodplain, and approximately \$580 billion in assets (crops, structures, and public infrastructure) are exposed to flooding.” ([Flood Planning and Studies](#))

That does not mean that it only floods once every 500 years. This means there is a .2% chance of a flood happening every year. Most live in a 100-year flood zone which means there is a 1% chance every year for a flooding event to occur in the area. The threat has compounded over recent years due to the many fires leaving barren scars across the mountains of Eastern Madera County. These burn areas have been stripped of all vegetation allowing water and debris to flow at dangerous and unobstructed speeds towards rivers and streams that run through many Madera communities.

We can all be grateful for the rain and can even enjoy the peace of mind knowing that fire season went back into hibernation. But Madera County residence need to stay vigilant and understand that winter can bring many trials of its own. Below are some tools that will help plan for these flooding events and to keep you better informed.

What can you do to prepare for a flood?

- Make your emergency plan today for your home or farm. Get started here: www.ready.gov/plan
- Register for [MCAAlert](#) for emergency updates!
- Build a kit. You'll need to plan for two situations: remaining in your home after a disaster or evacuating to a safer location. Gather the supplies you

may need in case a flood leaves you without power, water or gas.

Supply list: www.ready.gov/kit

- FEMA has a checklist that provides an idea of what to gather to ensure your family's basic comfort and well-being in case of an emergency evacuation. Download a PDF checklist [here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE & STEWARDSHIP

WEBINAR SERIES

Join us for our 3-part series bringing attention to the essential topic of long-term maintenance for fuels and forest health projects. Learn from topic experts and discuss challenges and solutions with other organizations from the Southern Sierra!

Topic	Date	Time
Prescribed Grazing for Consumption of Wildfire Fuels	October 17, 2024	10:00-12:00
Prescribed & Cultural Burning for Maintenance and Stewardship	November 12, 2024	9:30-12:00
Herbicides for Regrowth Management and Desired Species Protection	January/February, 2025	Time TBD

Register Now for Session #1 – Prescribed Grazing
<https://bit.ly/47P9ndD>

[Contact Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council for information regarding the January and February Webinars](#)

IRRIGATION AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS



JANUARY 17TH, 2025

9-11AM

**MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
1102 S Pine ST. Madera, Ca 93637**

TOPICS INCLUDE

- CONSERVATION PLANNING
- GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT
- IRRIGATION DATA & SCHEDULING
- MAINTENANCE FOR EFFICIENCY

TO REGISTER:

<https://maderachowchillarcd.org>

CONTACT:

KEVIN REYES (559) 755-5148
PROGRAMS@MADERACHOWCHILLARCD.ORG



[To Register](#)

THE PRIVATE WELL
CLASS

Partners
AN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

The Private Well Class webinars are live enrichment sessions, in addition to the [main email course](#) material. The webinars are a good opportunity to ask questions. Webinar registration is separate from enrollment in the email class. Both are free, but they are different.

Upcoming Webinar

What Environmental Health Professionals Need to Know about Wells
January 30, 2025, 1pm Central

[Registration](#)

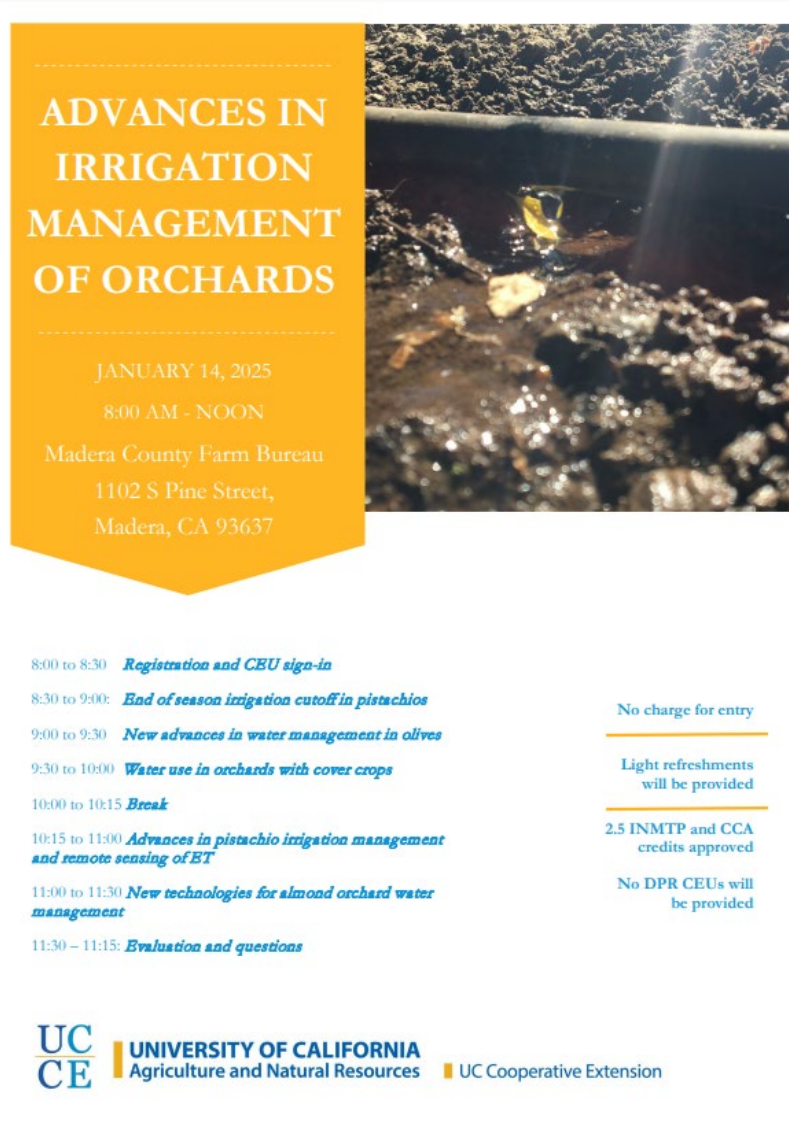
OTHER NEWS

New Funding Opportunity from USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced \$2 billion of assistance through their Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program. Growers could be eligible for up to \$125,000 in assistance. Please reach out to your local FSA office for more information. USDA is accepting applications from now through Jan. 8, 2025.

[Find your local FSA Office](#)

- [More information about the program](#)



ADVANCES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OF ORCHARDS

JANUARY 14, 2025
8:00 AM - NOON
Madera County Farm Bureau
1102 S Pine Street,
Madera, CA 93637

8:00 to 8:30 *Registration and CEU sign-in*

8:30 to 9:00: *End of season irrigation cutoff in pistachios*

9:00 to 9:30 *New advances in water management in olives*

9:30 to 10:00 *Water use in orchards with cover crops*

10:00 to 10:15 *Break*

10:15 to 11:00 *Advances in pistachio irrigation management and remote sensing of ET*

11:00 to 11:30 *New technologies for almond orchard water management*

11:30 – 11:15: *Evaluation and questions*

No charge for entry

Light refreshments will be provided

2.5 INMTP and CCA credits approved

No DPR CEUs will be provided

UC CE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources UC Cooperative Extension

Do you have Questions? Call: 559-674-8871



Start the countdown! Season 5 of our podcast, [Tap Talk: Drinking Water in Rural America](#), is officially returning in the new year. The first episode of Season 5, TT049, is scheduled to debut on January 2. The episode will feature Terry Morse, CEO of the [National Ground Water Association](#), discussing NGWA's [Groundwater Foundation](#) and [Water Well Wish](#) program.

TT049 will release on *Tap Talk's* website, in addition to audio platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more. Subscribe to *Tap Talk* wherever you get your podcasts!

Join Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative for their 2024 Virtual Prescribed Burn Training

Take action for fire safety and landscape health by joining the **2024 Virtual Prescribed Burn Training**. This three-day online workshop, running **January 30–February 1, 2024**, is perfect for landowners, land managers, community leaders, and anyone interested in the benefits of prescribed burns. You'll gain expert insights on planning and executing prescribed burns, learn about permitting requirements, fire ecology, and safety, and discover how to work with agencies and community groups to build a resilient fire strategy.

Why attend?

- 💧 Enhance your knowledge of fire management.
- 💧 Learn practical skills for controlled burning.
- 💧 Network with a growing community of fire stewards.

Cost: Free to attend, but space is limited—don't wait!

Click the button below to register today!
[YGPBC 2024 Learn and Burn Workshop](#)



The poster features the Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative logo at the top left, which includes a silhouette of a person with a tool. To the right of the logo, the text reads "PRESCRIBED BURN SEASON KICKOFF". Below this, there are four event boxes. The first box is for "YGPBC Happy Hour in Oakhurst" on December 12th at Idle Hour Winery and Kitchen. The second box is for "YGPBC Happy Hour in Mariposa" with a date to be determined at Sierra Cider. The third box is for "Learn & burn, classroom day" on December 14th at Yosemite Adult School, with a registration requirement. The fourth box is for "Learn & burn, field day" on December 15th, also with a registration requirement. At the bottom, there is a "REGISTER FOR THE LEARN & BURN AT" section with a QR code and the URL <https://ucanr.edu/learn&burn24>. A contact information line at the very bottom asks to contact Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu or (209) 966-2417.

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	WHEN	REGISTRATION
DEC 12	YGPBC Happy Hour in Oakhurst	Idle Hour Winery and Kitchen (41139 CA-41, Oakhurst)	Thursday, December 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM	
DATE TBD	YGPBC Happy Hour in Mariposa	Sierra Cider (5611 Sierra Meadows Lane, Mariposa)	Date to be determined	
DEC 14	Learn & burn, classroom day	Yosemite Adult School (49948 High School Road, Oakhurst)	Saturday, December 14 from 9 AM to 3 PM	Registration required!!!
DEC 15	Learn & burn, field day	Location TBD (dependent on conditions)	Sunday, December 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM	Registration required!!!

REGISTER FOR THE LEARN & BURN AT
<https://ucanr.edu/learn&burn24>

Please contact Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu or (209) 966-2417 with any questions

Save the Date for CA Tree School 2025!

Mark your calendars for next year's CA Tree School! Our Forest Stewardship team is bringing Tree School to two new locations:

**CA Tree School- Santa Cruz on April 5th at the Mt. Madonna School,
Watsonville CA**

**CA Tree School- Oakhurst on April 12th at the Yosemite Adult School,
Oakhurst CA**

Tree School 2025 is an exciting chance to expand your knowledge of forest management, connect with other landowners and forest enthusiasts, and meet natural resource professionals from UC ANR.

[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.

