



**WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS
FOR GROWERS
IN THE MADERA COUNTY GSAs**

JANUARY 2025



SUBBASIN UPDATES

2025 Revised Chowchilla GSP Public Review Draft

Don't miss out on the online public workshop scheduled for tomorrow,
January 24, 2025!

Online Public Workshop Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SHK05Q3ZRcS7LG5LNbBwNA

CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN 2025 REVISED GSP

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OPEN AGAIN

2025 REVISED GSP	SUBMIT COMMENTS	PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD	ONLINE PUBLIC WORKSHOP
A copy of the revised GSP can be found at www.maderacountywater.com/chowchilla-subbasin	Comments on the revised GSP can be submitted via email to the Plan Manager at dwelch@cwdwater.com	The 30-day public review period began on January 15, 2025 and will end on February 17, 2025.	January 24, 2025 10 a.m. via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SHK05Q3ZRcS7LG5LNbBwNA

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) REVISIONS OVERVIEW

As of January 2025, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Chowchilla Subbasin have revised the Subbasin GSP on four occasions. Following is a brief summary of the revisions made through various sections of the GSP.

GSP REVISIONS COMPLETED IN JULY 2022	Addressed the potential deficiencies identified by DWR in their January 2022 consultation letter, and discussed during five DWR consultation meetings between December 2021 and May 2022; summarized the progressive implementation actions taken by the GSAs since submission of the GSP in January 2020; recognized the Subbasin GSAs' clear and formal commitment to fund and implement a Domestic Well Mitigation Program beginning no later than January 1, 2023, including the execution of a memorandum of understanding (MOU); and reaffirmed commitment to implementing the GSP and achieving sustainable groundwater conditions by 2040.
GSP REVISIONS COMPLETED IN MAY 2023	Resolved the remaining deficiencies identified by DWR in their March 2023 consultation letter related to groundwater levels and subsidence through establishment of more conservative sustainable management criteria related to groundwater levels and subsidence rates in the Subbasin; reaffirmed commitment to upholding the Human Right to Water and to sustainably manage groundwater in the Subbasin for all beneficial uses and users; provided updates to recognize the launch and current status of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program in 2023; clarified the benefits of projects and management actions to all sustainability indicators; provided updates on further efforts to implement projects and management actions since July 2022; and reaffirmed GSP implementation will achieve sustainable groundwater conditions by 2040, in accordance with SGMA.
GSP REVISIONS COMPLETED IN AUGUST 2024	Amended the Domestic Well Mitigation Program to include mitigation for water quality; developed an MOU between the GSAs and the Chowchilla Management Zone; completed a detailed critical infrastructure review and revised subsidence SMC; and developed a Demand Management And Subsidence MOU.
GSP REVISIONS COMPLETED IN JANUARY 2025	Deleted "same" in the definition of an undesirable result for the Reduction of Groundwater Storage sustainability indicator, modified the Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels undesirable result definition slightly to add numerical values, added additional supporting language in the Revised GSP to further highlight a cap of 75 domestic wells impacted by groundwater level decline stemming from a downward revision of the interim milestones, and highlighted that a domestic well "trigger" is likely to be developed as part of preparing the Demand Management and Subsidence Mitigation Program that would trigger action ahead of reaching the cap.



Learn more about the Chowchilla GSP



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[View PDF Flyer](#)
[Chowchilla Subbasin 2025 Revised GSP](#)

2025 Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Amendment and Public Hearing

On January 28, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at their special meeting in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, located at the Madera County Government Center, 200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Plan 2025 Amendment. The Public hearing will also be live streamed on the [Madera County Board Meeting portal](#).

The 2025 Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Amendment can be accessed at <https://www.maderacountywater.com/madera-subbasin/>

LAND REPURPOSING

LandFlex Highlights

The LandFlex Grant Program was developed by the Department of Water Resources to provide drought relief for drinking water wells near vulnerable communities. LandFlex funding was awarded to three farmers in Madera County GSA. All three projects were completed in 2024. Through LandFlex, the Madera County GSA farmers participated in preventative fallowing of their enrolled acreage for 1-year while permanently retiring their groundwater overdraft allocations. Reducing overdraft groundwater pumping means more water is left in the ground making it available for rural drinking water wells, as well as help bring the basin closer to sustainable levels. Although a range of crops were taken out of production, LandFlex participants have the flexibility of using their sustainable yield

amount for future cropping, planting pollinator habitats, or other low-or no-water use purpose.



INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES



The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program

The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program (APEP) is funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric company (PG&E). It's purpose is to educate and promote electric savings through better and more efficient energy and water use. The program

focuses on electrical use of non-residential, PG&E electric or natural gas account that is primarily used for pumping water for the following: Production agriculture; landscape or turf irrigation; municipal purposes, including potable and tertiary-treated (reclaimed) water but excluding pumps used for industrial processes, raw sewage, or secondary-treated sewage.

[Learn more about the program](#)



San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Updates

There have been updates with the agricultural burning requirements for certain crops. As of January 1, 2025, small orchard removals, vineyard removals, and surface harvested prunings are also prohibited from open burning.

[Learn more about current open burning requirements](#)

[Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program Flyer](#)

DWR's WY 2023 Land Use Data

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has made the Provisional Water Year (WY) 2023 Statewide Land Use Data available. The Land Use Program collaborates with Land IQ, LLC to support DWR's continuous effort to provide detailed, up-to-date, and precise land use data, with accuracy rates exceeding 95%. This is achieved through remote sensing, field surveys, statistical analysis, and temporal methods.

The WY 2023 land use data can be accessed now, or in the upcoming days and weeks, through one of the links provided below:

[DWR Land Use Viewer](#)
[DWR Land Use Program Website](#)
[SGMA Data Viewer](#)
[California State Geoportal](#)

CONTACT US

For questions, please contact your Water Resources Specialist directly, call us at (559) 662-8015, email ETmeasurement@maderacounty.com, visit our [website](#), or [schedule an appointment](#).



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