



Regional Water Management Group **Monday, June 24, 2024, 1:30 pm**

Notice and agenda for the regular meeting of the
Madera Regional Water Management Group.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that the Madera RWMG meeting will be held
VIA In-Person & Teleconference:

AGENDA

In-Person Meeting Option:

200 W 4th Street
3rd Floor Presentation Room
Madera, CA 93637

Online Meeting Option:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86417775368?pwd=766A9eVAfbba3xlvbA8CrkUC2KmmV.1>

Description: RWMG Meeting June 24, 2024, 1:30 PM

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592
or +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 864 1777 5368

Passcode: 975040

1. Opening
 - A. Flag Salute (Jacob Roberson)
 - B. Introductions (Everyone)
2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes
 - A. Approval of June 24, 2024, Agenda
 - B. Approval of April 22, 2024, Minutes

3. Public Comment

The first 15 minutes of each regular meeting is set aside for members of the public to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the Group, but not appearing on the agenda. Items presented under public comment may not be discussed or acted upon by the Group at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to comment at the time the item is called for consideration by the Group. Any person addressing the Group under public comment will be limited to a 3-minute presentation to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Also, all persons addressing the Group must state their name and county of residence for the record.

Items of Interest (Jacob Roberson)

- A [first-of-its-kind study on the Merced River Watershed](#) has examined the effectiveness of Flood-MAR to reduce flood risk, improve water supply, and enhance ecosystems. The study was done in partnership between DWR and the Merced Irrigation District in which multiple Flood-MAR strategies were shown to provide some level of resilience under a range of climate change scenarios. DWR is conducting similar studies for the other tributaries of the San Joaquin River to support the design and implementation of local pilot projects. The [study report](#) and technical appendices are available under the “Merced River Watershed Flood-MAR Reconnaissance Study” accordion tab on DWR’s [Flood-MAR webpage](#).
- DWR has published an [inaugural report](#) detailing the ongoing, proactive planning among state agencies and local partners to prepare for the eventual return to dry conditions. The report documents the first year of DWR’s [Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners \(DRIP\) Collaborative](#), a statewide drought task force launched in 2023 that is comprised of 26 members from different state agencies and various water user groups. The DRIP Collaborative develops actionable recommendations on coordinating proactive planning, emergency response, and post-drought management to improve water resilience by providing data and resources to small water suppliers and rural communities needed to address future water shortages.

In the past year, the DRIP Collaborative has identified three topics to focus on:

- Drought definition and narrative
 - Drought-relevant data
 - Drought preparedness for domestic wells
- New facts sheets from the State Water Resources Control Board have been released. These fact sheets describe general information about California water rights and reporting requirements. The fact sheets were sent to landowners and water right holders adjacent to the Merced River to improve understanding of water rights and reporting requirements after dry hydrologic conditions from 2020 – 2022 severely limited surface water supplies for diversions and instream flows.

[Water rights 101 fact sheet](#)

[Water rights reporting requirements fact sheet](#)

- The USA NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments, and Tribal organizations to plan and implement authorized watershed-project plans for the purposes of flood prevention, watershed protection, public recreation, public fish and wildlife, agricultural water management, municipal and industrial water supply, and water quality management.

This grant has a rolling deadline. Please [click here for more information](#).

- DWR is accepting public comments on a series of [draft water resource management strategies](#) that have been developed in support of the [California Water Plan Update 2023](#). Water resource management strategies can be a technique, program, or policy that is used to meet water-related management needs. DWR has updated eleven strategies, which include: agricultural water use efficiency, conjunctive water management, desalination, flood management, municipal recycled water, precipitation enhancement, recharge area identification, utilization, and protection, reservoir reoperation, urban stormwater runoff capture and management, urban water use efficiency, & watershed management.

The water resource management strategies are on the Madera RWMG's project proposal form under "project criteria – CA water management plan", and help group members when it comes to selecting projects to apply for available IRWM funding.

[A reviewer's guide](#), with instruction on submitting comments, is available in the [draft introduction](#) to the Resource Management Strategies for the California Water Plan Update 2023. Comments must be received by May 31st to be used to inform the final versions of the strategies.

- DWR has released the [Spring 2024 Semi-Annual Groundwater Conditions Report](#), which provides a look back at groundwater conditions during California's historic 2023 Water Year. This report, for the first time, includes groundwater sustainability plan annual report data reported by local GSAs across 99 groundwater basins, which make up over 90% of the groundwater use in the state.

The data in this report shows that during the 2023 Water Year, 4.1 million acre-feet of managed groundwater recharge occurred, which is almost double the amount of the previous wet water year in 2019. The report also details an increase of groundwater in storage of 8.7 million acre-feet. For more information about this report and additional groundwater information, see the following resources:

- [Press Release \(May 6, 2024\)](#)
- [California's Groundwater Semi-Annual Conditions Update](#)
- [California's Groundwater \(Bulletin 118\)](#)
- [California's Groundwater Live](#)

- The next Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) Stakeholder Meeting will be held online via Zoom on Wednesday, June 26th. The meeting is open to the public and all interested stakeholders.

The tentative agenda currently includes a focused discussion on a workplan to address uncertainties and validate the Groundwater Protection Formula, Values and Targets developed for the ILRP. The workplan was developed collaboratively by several 3rd party Coalitions representing growers within the Central Valley region. A final agenda will be sent prior to the meeting.

- DWR hosted the Spring 2024 GSA Forum on May 23rd. The theme of the event was *Applications of State Assistance: Leveraging Statewide AEM Data at the Basin Level to Inform GSP Implementation*. A recording of the event will be shared once it's available. The next event will be held this Fall.
- A new accounting program is now available and offers data-driven solutions for the American West. The Groundwater Accounting Platform empowers users to manage water supplies long-term, and helps communities avoid undesirable outcomes and meet community-established goals. The Platform functionally supports GSAs as they manage resources in priority basins under SGMA.

This accounting tool is a reliable tool for effectively balancing water supply and demand, and is now ready for adoption and use by GSAs throughout California. Learn more about this tool by [clicking here](#).

- The [Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment \(GAMA\) Program](#) includes several projects to meet the [statutory requirements of Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001](#) and GAMA Program goals. As California's most comprehensive and state-of-the-art groundwater research program, these projects inform citizens, community water systems, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies.

[The Priority Basin Project](#) provides a comprehensive statewide assessment of groundwater quality to help identify and understand the risks to groundwater. The project started assessing public system wells (deep groundwater resources) in 2002 and shifted focus to shallow aquifer assessments in 2012. Since 2002, the US Geological Survey (USGS), the project's technical lead, has performed baseline and trend assessments and sampled over 3,000 public and domestic water supply wells that represent 95% of the groundwater resources in California. The program will be shifting to its 3rd decadal phase (beginning around July 2024) by assessing the drivers of groundwater change, while continuing trends and shallow aquifer sampling on a reduced level, as well as publicly accessible [online tools](#).

- [The California Fire Foundation \(CFF\): Statewide Grant Opportunity](#) is accepting applications through June 30th. This program supports projects that actively address wildfire preparedness and/or prevention needs, including vegetation management, education, planning, community outreach, and specialized equipment. Up to \$25,000 is available for each successful application. California-based fire departments, firefighter associations, federally-recognized tribes, and local nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply, and can do so by [clicking here](#) (a California Fire Foundation Grant Interface account is required to apply online). Grants will be awarded in August.
- [The US Bureau of Reclamation Tribal Domestic Water Supplies Program](#) is accepting applications through August 4th. This program supports water projects to provide domestic water supplies to existing tribal communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies. Domestic water supplies for communities include a communal benefit (e.g., school, hospital, nursing home, etc.).

4. Review & Approval

A. June Financial Report (Jacob Roberson)

5. Review & Approval – Madera RWMG Accounting Functions (Jacob Roberson)

6. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

A. San Joaquin Valley (Becky Horn and Jacob Roberson)

- o Projects 12 and 13

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 – IRWM Implementation Grant

A. San Joaquin Valley Counties

- o Parkwood (Fahed Mosleh)
- o City of Madera (Keith Helmuth)
- o City of Chowchilla (Jason Rogers)

8. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant (Gretchen Heisdorf)

9. Discussion – Drought Working Group (Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez)

10. Discussion – Sierra Highlands Water Treatment Plant Project (Fahed Mosleh / Craig Wagner)

11. New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG (All)

12. Future Agenda Items (All)

13. Next Meeting Time – Monday, July 22, 2024, at 1:30 pm on Zoom

14. Adjourn