

Managing Agricultural Lands Under Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Productive Alternatives for Growers

When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM-Noon, Registration opens at 7:30 AM

Where: University of California Cooperative Extension, Kern County
1031 South Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Contact: Mandeep Riar (Restoration Ecology and Weed Science Advisor)

Email: mrriar@ucanr.edu | Phone: 661-868-6216

Light refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Registration link: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=46986>

Registration fee: \$25.00

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will provide growers with timely updates on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and explore practical options for managing land that may be fallowed under groundwater restrictions. Presentations will highlight opportunities for on-farm recharge, technical assistance available to growers, and research-based insights into annual grains, and other potential crops suited for water-limited environments. The goal is to equip participants with knowledge and strategies that can help turn SGMA-related challenges into productive alternatives for their operations.

AGENDA

7:30 AM Registration, Coffee and Doughnuts

8:00 AM Welcome and Introductions
Mandeep Riar, UCCE Farm Advisor (Kern, Tulare, and Kings)

8:15 AM SGMA and Farmland Transitions in the San Joaquin Valley
Caitlin Peterson, Public Policy Institute of California

8:45 AM Train the Trainer: On Farm Recharge/AgMAR
Rogell Rogers, Sustainable Conservation

9:15 AM Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers
Groundwater Technical Assistance Program (URCTA)
Luis Paniagua, SGMA Community Education Specialist, UC SAREP

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM Evaluating Effects of Deficit Irrigation Strategies on Forage Sorghum
Yields and Nutrient Composition
Jackie Atim, UC ANR Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist

10:30 AM Strengthening Water-limited Small and Medium Farms in California with
Agave Cropping
Srabani Das, UC ANR Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist

11:00 AM Management Approaches for Maximizing Water Productivity of Winter Cereal
Forage and Grain Crops
Mark Lundy, Associate Professor of Cooperative Extension, UC Davis

11:30 AM Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)- New Funding Opportunities
Megan Powers, CA Department of Conservation

12:00 PM Lunch

CCA credits pending