



Water Resources Update

Colusa County Department of Agriculture

Water Resources

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<http://countyofcolusa.org/index.aspx?nid=656>

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About Water Resources

Water Resources is housed under the Colusa County Department of Agriculture. We are involved in the following activities:

- Groundwater Management
- Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (NSV IRWMP)
- California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)
- Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- Sites Reservoir Outreach
- Other water-related activities

If you ever have questions or need information, feel free to contact staff, or visit the [Water Resources](#) section on the Colusa County website.

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Public Groundwater Meeting Materials

A Public Groundwater Information Meeting was held on May 12, 2015 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Colusa County Fairgrounds

This educational meeting provided information on groundwater law, groundwater conditions in Colusa County and surrounding areas, and information on the new groundwater legislation. There were approximately 110 people in attendance, including a mix of landowners, water agencies and homeowners. The powerpoint presentations from this meeting can be downloaded on the Water Resources website, [Groundwater Information](#) page. We plan to provide more public outreach meetings in the future.

Did you know...

The Colusa County Groundwater Commission meets quarterly and their meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of five members, appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Colusa County adopted a Groundwater Management Plan in 2008.

Colusa County is part of the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning group (NSV IRWMP). This six-county group also includes the counties of Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter and Tehama.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

SGMA (pronounced sigma) is the new groundwater legislation that went into effect January 1, 2015. This law gives eligible local agencies authority to manage groundwater locally, with State oversight. All high and medium priority groundwater basins must be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022, (or 2020 for basins in overdraft). The first step in the process is for the eligible local agencies to determine the make-up of the governance structure(s) in their groundwater basins. The governance agencies, known as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) can be a single entity managing an entire basin or a combination of GSAs.

In Colusa County, we have two groundwater basins that are subject to SGMA - the Colusa Basin which spans portions of Colusa, Yolo, Glenn and Tehama Counties, and the West Butte Basin which spans portions of Colusa, Glenn and Butte Counties (see map below).

Water Resources staff is working with a third party facilitation service (provided by the Department of Water Resources) to coordinate meetings with the GSA-eligible agencies in Colusa County. These meetings, which are anticipated to start up in the next two months, will bring the agencies together to determine an agreeable governance structure for our area. This meeting process is expected to take at least a year. We will also be planning public outreach meetings to engage private pumpers and other local community members.

There are many requirements with this new groundwater legislation, but most importantly, local agencies must demonstrate that they are managing the groundwater basins sustainably or the State will step in. This is going to take a lot of coordination and cooperation basin-wide. Although individual landowners are not eligible to be a GSA, it is important that they stay informed and engaged in the planning process, and offer input.

SGMA - How to Stay Informed:

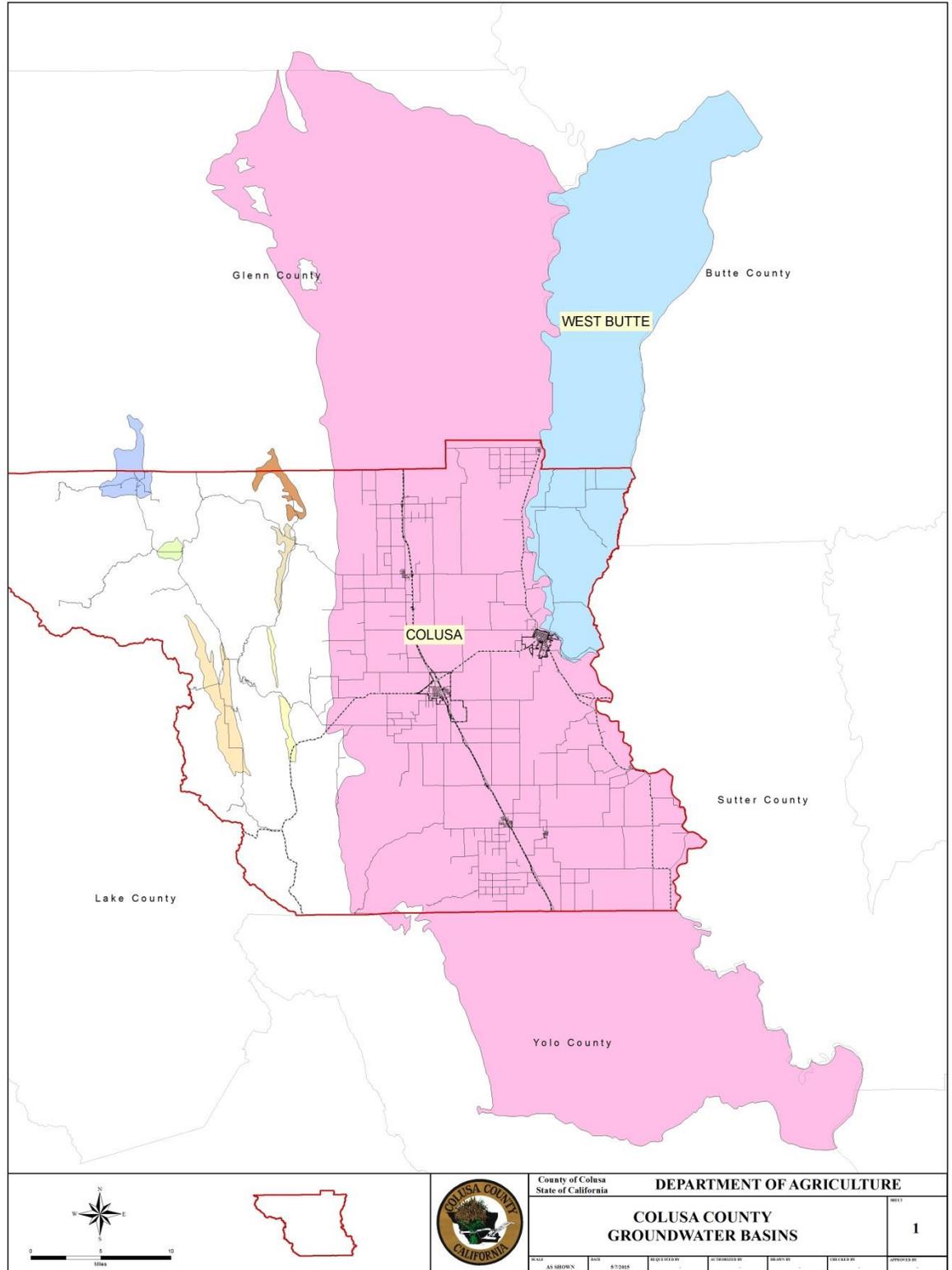
- ✓ Get on our email notification list - call or email Water Resources Staff
- ✓ Visit our website: [Water Resources](#)
- ✓ Visit DWR's Groundwater Information Center website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwinfo/index.cfm>
- ✓ Do you have questions? Call or email Water Resources Staff



Did you know...

The Colusa County 2014 Crop Report is out. The gross value of all agricultural crops produced in Colusa County in 2014 was \$876,347,000. This is a decrease from 2013's gross value of \$920,110,930. The decrease is mainly due to reductions in surface water allocations to agriculture. There were approximately 45,000 acres of annual crops taken out of production in Colusa County due to reduced surface water supplies. (Please note that gross values do not reflect a net return to the producer.)

This map shows the groundwater basins in Colusa County. The Colusa Sub-Basin (medium priority) and West Butte Sub-Basin (high priority) are subject to SGMA. There are six sub-basins on the west side of the county that are all designated as very low priority and therefore are not subject to SGMA.



Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM)

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley (Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta) have been working together for over 10 years to lay the foundation for an integrated regional plan to address water-related issues such as economic health and vitality; water supply reliability; flood, stormwater and flood management; water quality improvements; and ecosystem protection and enhancement. The counties have completed the development of a valley-wide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and have committed to continuing the efforts of regional water management through this plan.

NSV Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. See the website for more information: <http://nsvwaterplan.org>

Urgency Ordinance Restricting Well Construction

On June 30, 2015, Colusa County passed a temporary urgency ordinance restricting new well permits for six months, through January 31, 2016. During this six month period, Water Resources staff is working on coordinating a groundwater study that will supplement local knowledge of groundwater conditions in relation to drought, land use changes, changes in irrigation practices and other factors. At the end of the six month period, the urgency ordinance can either be dropped or, with a public hearing, extended for another six months.

Groundwater Levels

Average June groundwater measurements in the county were at levels that were seen last fall. Fall is when groundwater levels are at their lowest. We expect to see record low groundwater levels this fall.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be taking groundwater level measurements during the first week of August. That data will be available in late August.

Well Outages

We have received reports this year of approximately 20 domestic well outages and one public supply well outage. Unfortunately not everyone reports well outages so we don't have an accurate count. We know there are many unreported outages. The majority of domestic well outages are happening in the Arbuckle area, and the College City area.

Report Well Outages

In an effort to help assess impacts from the current drought, the Colusa County Groundwater Commission is asking landowners to voluntarily report any well issues they are having. This information will help in our efforts to gain a better understanding of local groundwater conditions. Specific well locations will not be made public. If you are experiencing issues with your well (ag, domestic or other), please fill out the [Well Reporting Form](#) with as much information as you can. We appreciate your participation.

Drought Task Force

The County has a new Drought Task Force in place that includes these County departments: Ag/Water Resources, Environmental Health, Public Health, Public Works, and Sheriff/OES. Other folks that are participating are: City of Colusa, City of Williams, Public Utility Districts, Tribes, DWR and CalOES. The DTF is in place to address county-wide drought impacts in a coordinated fashion.

Drought State of Emergency

At their July 28 meeting, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors signed a Resolution proclaiming a local drought emergency in Colusa County, due to economic impacts to agriculture and impacts to well owners who have lost water.

Sites Reservoir

The Sites Reservoir JPA Board consists of representatives from: County of Colusa, County of Glenn, Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, RD108, Maxwell Irrigation District, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and 4 new seats representing the TCCA districts that have agreed to invest in the project.

The Sites JPA Board recently hired a General Manager to keep things on track and moving forward. The JPA Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority office, 5513 Highway 162 in Willows, CA 95988.



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

All agendas and minutes for the Colusa County Groundwater Commission and Water Users Group meetings are available on the [Water Resources](#) website.

August 19, 2015

NSV IRWM TAC Meeting

9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall

There will be an educational water forum at this meeting

August 25, 2015

Water Users Group Regular Meeting

10:00 a.m. – noon, Location TBD

September 10, 2015

Groundwater Commission Regular Meeting

1:30-3:30 p.m., Location TBD

[More info](#)

September 21, 2015

Sites JPA Regular Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, 5513 Highway 162 in Willows, CA 95988

