



COUNTY OF COLUSA

*Department of Agriculture, Water Resources
100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A; Colusa, CA 95932*

Private Pumper Advisory Committee

May 26, 2016

Dear Landowner;

On January 1, 2015, historic groundwater legislation went into effect in California. This legislation, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), affects every well owner in the State. We, as private groundwater pumpers in Colusa County who have been involved in local groundwater management activities, are writing to provide you with information regarding SGMA implementation efforts in Colusa County, and to let you know how you can stay informed and engaged as critical groundwater management decisions are being made.

SGMA creates a framework for sustainable groundwater management, with an emphasis on local control and local management of groundwater basins. Under the law, Counties are presumed to represent private pumper areas when such areas are not represented by some other eligible Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (e.g. Water Districts, Irrigation Districts, Cities, etc.). If the County chooses to opt out of these responsibilities, the State Water Resources Control Board will take over management of these areas, at a greater cost to landowners. Rest assured, Colusa County is committed to represent these private pumper areas, and as such, the County has formed a Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) to ensure that individual landowners and well owners have a voice in this process .

The central purpose of the PPAC is to advise the County on how to effectively represent private pumpers in SGMA implementation, given the diversity of groundwater conditions across the county. The PPAC plays two key roles in local SGMA groundwater planning. First, the PPAC acts as a liaison between private pumpers and the County by communicating the needs of private pumpers to the County. Second, PPAC members are tasked with sharing current SGMA-related information with their neighbors. Maintaining open, two-way communication will provide private pumpers throughout the county the opportunity to be represented and informed on county-wide groundwater planning activities.

As PPAC members, we urge you to contact any one of us with your questions and thoughts regarding SGMA. We also encourage you to attend local groundwater meetings and to take advantage of the resources that are available to you to engage in the SGMA planning and implementation process in Colusa County. There are several simple ways you can be informed:

- Get on the **Colusa County Water Resources email list** to receive meeting announcements and current news: email mfahey@countyofcolusa.org or call: 530.458.7709

- Visit the **Colusa County Water Resources Website**: www.countyofcolusa.org, under *Departments > Agricultural Administrative Services > Water Resources*
- Visit the California Department of Water Resources (**DWR**) **SGMA Website**: www.water.ca.gov/groundwater
- **Attend local groundwater meetings**. The following regular meetings are open to the public:
 1. Groundwater Commission
 2. GSA Workgroup
 3. Private Pumper Advisory Committee
 Meeting information, agendas and presentations can be found on the [Colusa County Water Resources Website](http://www.countyofcolusa.org). Stakeholders are encouraged to attend these meetings.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of the private pumpers are integrated into local SGMA implementation efforts in Colusa County.

Sincerely,

PPAC Members

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