



# 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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## The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

### Important Upcoming Colusa County Groundwater Meetings:

**January 11, 2016**

**Public Meeting**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Colusa County Fairgrounds, Atwood Hall**

This is an informational meeting for the public regarding SGMA.

**January 19, 2016**

**SGMA Working Group Meeting**

**9:00 a.m. – noon**

**Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room**

**100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932**

This will be a working meeting with all of the GSA-eligible agencies to begin local governance planning. This meeting is open to the public, but it will be a working meeting for the agencies at the table.

### Important Dates related to SGMA:

- **June 30, 2017** – GSAs must be established for all high & medium priority basins
- **January 31, 2022** – GSPs due for high & medium priority basins not in overdraft

### Meeting Facilitation Update:

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved a contract with the Center For Collaborative Policy (CCP) to work in Colusa County to facilitate a series of meetings that will keep local agencies moving forward with SGMA planning and implementation. The scope of work includes a series of public meetings with the GSA-eligible agencies in the county, as well as several public outreach meetings.

Facilitation with CCP is currently underway. Facilitators are meeting with all of the agencies that have filed to be GSAs in Colusa County, and our facilitator gave a presentation at the December 10 Groundwater Commission meeting. We have scheduled our first two facilitated meetings (see information above). We are also working on a media campaign in an effort to ensure that the public is informed and engaged.

While we work within Colusa County political boundaries on SGMA planning, Staff continues to communicate planning activities with Yolo County, Glenn County, and each of the other four counties involved in the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWM region (Butte, Tehama, Shasta, Sutter).

The County envisions a partnership with local agencies and landowners that implements SGMA the right way, ensures that we are regional and Statewide leaders, and keeps our citizens ahead of the curve on groundwater management policies.

Although individual landowners are not eligible to be a GSA, it is important that they stay informed and engaged in the planning process. It is especially important for groundwater users that are not part of a water district (private pumpers) to participate in SGMA planning.

### **SGMA - How to Stay Informed:**

- ✓ Get on our email notification list for updates and meeting announcements - 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



### **Household Water Tank Program, Update**

This summer, the County of Colusa initiated a Household Water Tank program to provide water to residents whose domestic wells went dry, and who were unable to resolve their well problems. This program is partially funded by the County and partially funded by the California Office of Emergency Services Disaster Assistance Act program (CDAA). Five households are receiving weekly water deliveries. To-date, none of these wells has come back online. Water will continue to be delivered to these households until groundwater levels recover enough to provide water to the wells. For more information on the County Household Water Tank program, including eligibility, please see the Colusa County website: <http://countyofcolusa.org>



### **Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM)**

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley (Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta) are working together to coordinate, communicate and address regional water-related issues.

#### **NSV IRWM Board will be accepting new and updated project proposals in 2016**

As part of the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan development process, the NSV IRWM Board invites Project Proponents to submit new projects or modify previously submitted projects for review and possible inclusion in the NSV IRWM Plan.

The project submission period will take place from **January 4 - February 5, 2016**. A press release will go out from each of the six counties in mid-December.

The NSV IRWM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets monthly, and they regularly provide educational forums at their meetings. These forums feature expert speakers from throughout our region presenting information on current water-related issues. The December TAC meeting has been cancelled. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall. The agenda will be available in advance of the meeting.

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



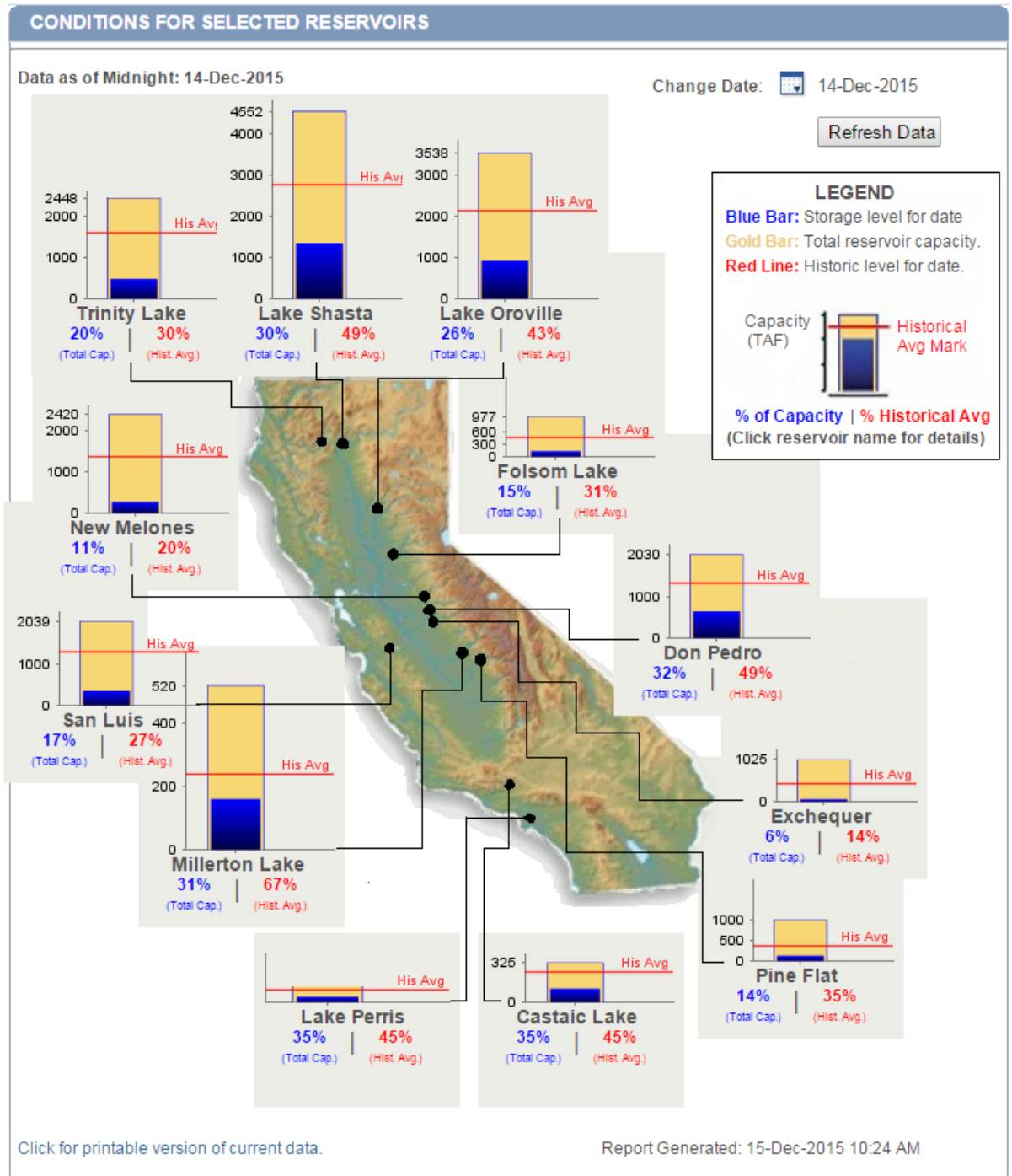
## Sites Reservoir

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 seats representing the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority districts that have agreed to invest in the project. Planning efforts are moving forward at a brisk pace.

The JPA Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for December 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority in Willows, CA. See the website for more information: [www.sitesjpa.net](http://www.sitesjpa.net)



# Reservoir Conditions (12.14.2015)



## Supreme Court to Hear Waters of the US Appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court on December 11th agreed to hear the challenge to an Eighth Circuit decision that found courts have the right to review the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determinations about whether a body of water is subject to its authority under the Clean Water Act.

As the Capital Press reported, "At this point, three federal appeals courts have been unable to agree on this question. Attempts by landowners to contest "jurisdictional determinations" have been rejected by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees nine Western states, and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees three Southern states.

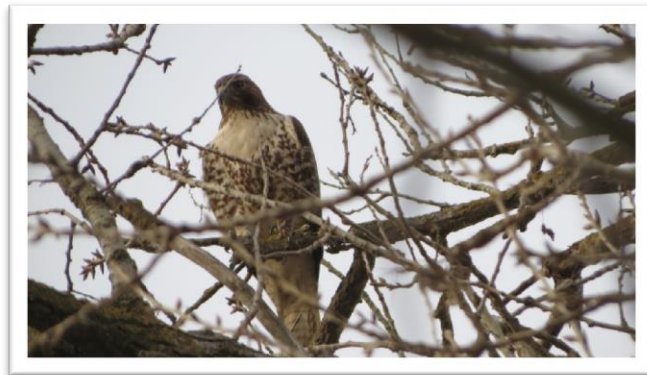
However, the 8th Circuit Court, which has jurisdiction over seven Midwestern states, arrived at the opposite conclusion. In a ruling earlier this year, the court held that landowners can ask federal judges to reverse such determinations, which carry the heavy regulatory burdens of complying with the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court has now agreed to clear up this confusion by reviewing that lawsuit, in which a Minnesota peat moss company disputed the federal government's determination that its wetlands come under federal jurisdiction." *(from the Northern California Water Association [NCWA], Week In Review)*

## El Niño Update

For an update on upcoming El Niño activities, read the California Weather Blog from Weather West: "Long-range ensemble forecasts (from all major international models) are suggesting the development of a large-scale atmospheric pattern over the next 2-3 weeks that strongly resembles the very active and wet one which has been long-advertised by the CFS and other seasonal models for winter 2015-2016. In other words, it appears that El Niño's influence will finally start to dominate—and significant rains will return to all of California—before the end of December."

Read the entire Blog here: <http://www.weatherwest.com>



## 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.

### December 21, 2015

#### Sites JPA Regular Meeting

9:00 a.m. at Tehama Colusa Canal Authority  
5513 HWY 162, Willows, CA 95988

### January 11, 2016

#### SGMA Public Meeting

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Colusa County Fairgrounds, Atwood Hall  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Colusa, CA 95932

### January 19, 2016

#### SGMA Working Group Meeting

9:00 a.m. – noon  
Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

### January 20, 2016

#### NSV IRWM TAC Meeting

9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall  
201 North Lassen, Willows, CA 95988

### March 10, 2016

#### Colusa County Groundwater Commission Regular Meeting

Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

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For more information, please contact staff,  
or visit the [Water Resources](#) section on the Colusa County website.

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Wishing you all a wonderful  
holiday season and a very  
Happy New Year!