



# Water Resources Update

Colusa County Department of Agriculture

## Water Resources

100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. A, Colusa, CA 95932 | 530-458-7709

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

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## The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

### Upcoming Colusa County SGMA Meetings:

**June 22, 2016**

**Private Pumper Advisory Committee Meeting (PPAC)**

**10:00 a.m. – noon**

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

*The PPAC is a Committee of local private pumpers working with the County to ensure that the needs of private pumpers in Colusa County are considered in SGMA implementation. These meetings are open to the public. For more information on the PPAC, see page 2.*

**GSA Working Group Meeting #5**

**July 15, 2016** (*Rescheduled from July 6*)

**9:00 a.m. - noon**

**Colusa County Farm Bureau, 520 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932**

*This is the fifth in a series of facilitated working meetings for GSA-eligible agencies to coordinate local governance planning. These meetings are open to the public.*

### Important Dates related to SGMA:

- **June 1, 2016** – Emergency Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations go into effect
- **January 1, 2017** – DWR Releases BMPs for the sustainable management of groundwater
- **June 30, 2017** – Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be established for all high & medium priority basins
- **January 31, 2020** – GSPs due for high & medium priority basins in overdraft
- **January 31, 2022** – GSPs due for high & medium priority basins not in overdraft

### SGMA Updates

- **Emergency GSP Regulations** were approved by the California Water Commission on May 18 and will take effect June 1, 2016. GSP Regulations are available on DWR's website: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>
- **The County of Colusa has formed a Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC)** to ensure that the unique interests of well owners in the white areas of the County are being addressed. See Page 2 for more information on the PPAC.

## SGMA - How to Stay Informed:

- ✓ Get on the Colusa County Water Resources email notification list for updates and meeting announcements - call or email Water Resources Staff
- ✓ Visit the Colusa County Water Resources 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
- ✓ If you are a Private Pumper, contact one of the County Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) members with your questions/concerns/suggestions (see below)

## Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC)

Under SGMA, Counties are presumed to represent private pumper areas, known as the "white 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. 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 SGMA planning and implementation.

The PPAC plays two key roles: first, the PPAC acts as a liaison between private pumpers and the County by communicating the needs of private pumpers to the County; and, second, PPAC members will share current SGMA-related information with their neighbors.

Below is a list of the PPAC members. The PPAC urges you to contact them with your questions and thoughts regarding SGMA. They would also like to encourage landowners in Colusa County to attend local groundwater meetings and to take advantage of the resources that are available to engage in the SGMA planning and implementation process in Colusa County. (See above, "How to Stay Informed").

### PPAC Members

Lorraine Marsh	<a href="mailto:sycamoremarshfarm@gmail.com">sycamoremarshfarm@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Moresco	<a href="mailto:aggiejeffm@gmail.com">aggiejeffm@gmail.com</a>
Darrin Williams	<a href="mailto:williamsfarms@frontiernet.net">williamsfarms@frontiernet.net</a>
Doug McGeoghegan	<a href="mailto:dbmcgeoghegan@hotmail.com">dbmcgeoghegan@hotmail.com</a>
Kim Gallagher	<a href="mailto:Gallagher.kimberly@gmail.com">Gallagher.kimberly@gmail.com</a>
Derrick Strain	<a href="mailto:dstrain@strainranches.com">dstrain@strainranches.com</a>
Jim Peterson	<a href="mailto:jamespeterson@chiconut.com">jamespeterson@chiconut.com</a>

### PPAC Alternate Members

Ben Carter	<a href="mailto:bencarter@succeed.net">bencarter@succeed.net</a>
Matt LaGrande	<a href="mailto:mattlagrande@frontiernet.net">mattlagrande@frontiernet.net</a>
Bob Harper	<a href="mailto:bharper@chiconut.com">bharper@chiconut.com</a>

## Measuring Subsidence in The Northern Sacramento Valley

One of the six Critical Parameters that must be addressed in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) under SGMA is land subsidence. In 2008, The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) initiated a baseline subsidence survey throughout the Sacramento Valley region. The plan at that time was for DWR, working with County staff, to complete a resurvey every three to five years in order to monitor any changes in land surface elevations. Due to funding restrictions, there has not been a resurvey since the initial 2008 survey, leaving a significant data gap in many Sacramento Valley groundwater basins.

Since 2008, new technologies are being utilized to measure land subsidence, including remote imaging from satellite and airborne systems. Last year, NASA released a report from a 2014 subsidence survey utilizing these newer technologies. Their survey focused mainly on the San Joaquin Valley, but reached as far north as Arbuckle in Colusa County. The NASA report indicated a "small area of intense subsidence evident near Arbuckle... totaling about 5" (five inches) for the last half of 2014." The report also revealed areas of subsidence in nearby Yolo and Zamora in Yolo County.

Monitoring efforts have been mainly focused in the San Joaquin Valley where subsidence is being measured in multiple feet, resulting in damage to important infrastructure. Now that we are seeing "hot spots" in the Sacramento Valley, we need to get a clear picture of the extent of subsidence so problems can be addressed now, before irreparable damage occurs.

In light of these concerns, County Water Resources staff from Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Sutter, Shasta and Tehama, along with Assembly Member James Gallagher and his staff, recently met with DWR staff in Sacramento to convey our concerns and the need for subsidence monitoring in the Sacramento Valley. During our conversation, we stressed our willingness to work cooperatively with DWR by providing staff resources to assist with a monitoring effort, as was the case in the 2008 survey. We also stressed the need to gather data now so we can address any potential problems. It is equally important to determine if subsidence is not occurring so we can tell the story of successful groundwater management in our region and include this information in local Groundwater Sustainability Plans. DWR will be required to provide subsidence data to GSAs to assist with SGMA planning efforts. Our goal is for DWR to agree to help fund and facilitate a regional subsidence resurvey in the Sacramento Valley in Spring of 2017.

In the meantime, Colusa County Water Resources staff has coordinated with DWR's Northern Region office to schedule a limited GPS subsidence resurvey in the Arbuckle area in late May, 2016. DWR will provide equipment, staff and data processing. Colusa County will provide staff resources. This limited survey will serve to ground-truth the results of the NASA survey, and will also provide another set of data which will add value to future surveys. We are grateful to the DWR Northern Region staff for working with the County on this effort and other efforts to help us better understand local groundwater conditions.

## Drought Update

California is in its fifth year of drought. Rain and snow levels this winter were much improved over the past few years in Northern California, but not enough to bring the State out of drought. On May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued an executive order that makes some emergency water cuts from the last few years permanent. *“Californians stepped up during this drought and saved more water than ever before,”* said Governor Brown. *“But now we know that drought is becoming a regular occurrence and water conservation must be a part of our everyday life.”* (For more on the executive order, see the [California Drought webpage](#)).

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

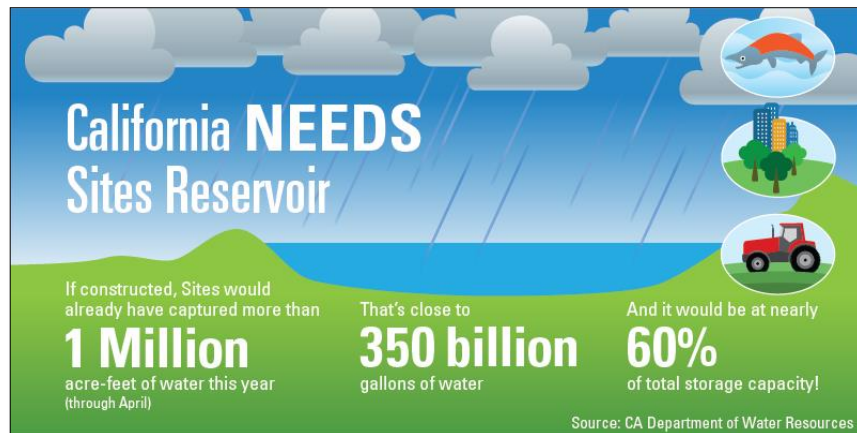
The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley (Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta) are working together to coordinate, communicate and address regional water-related issues.

The next NSV IRWM Board meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall.

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

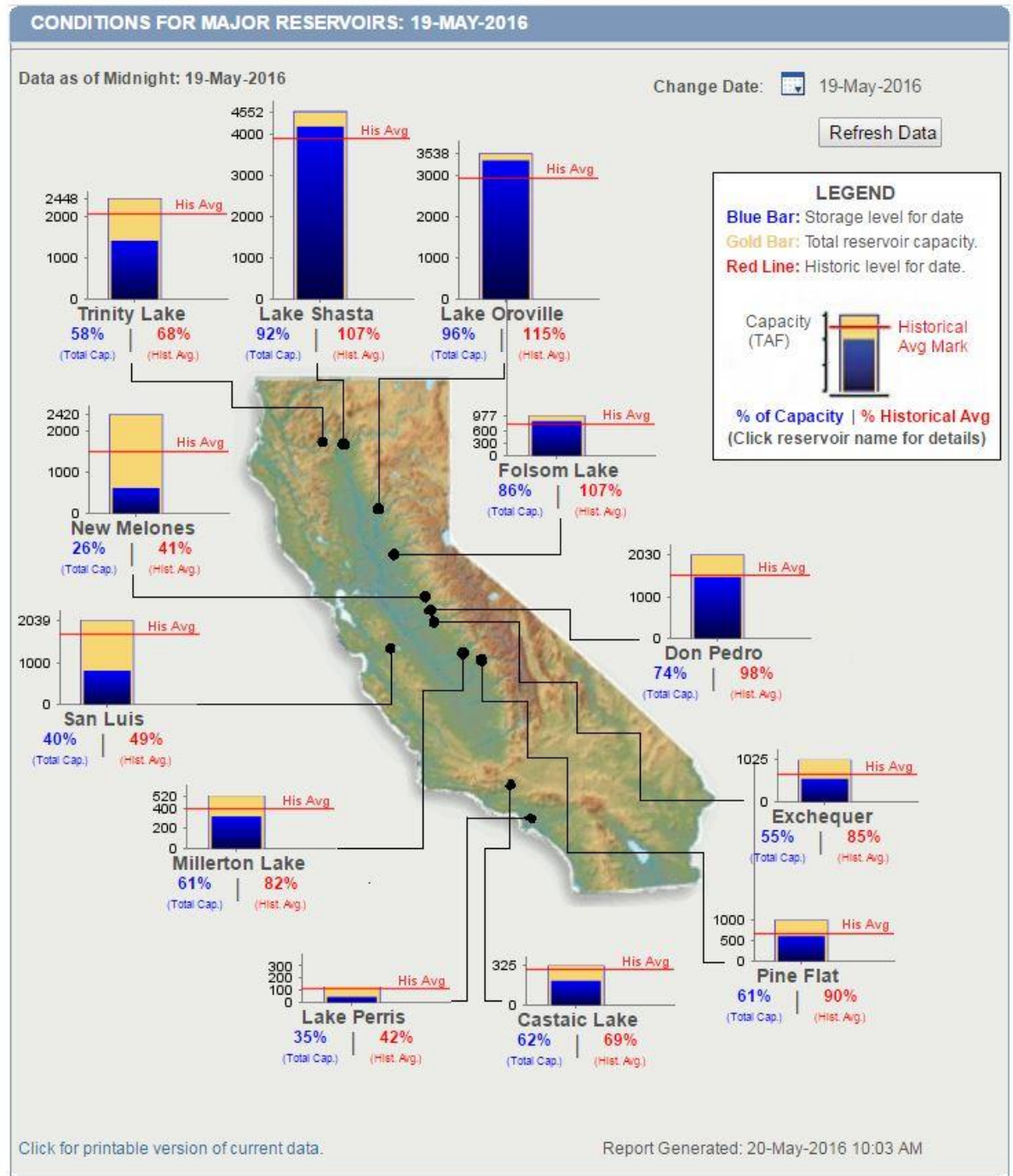
## Sites Reservoir Update

The Sites Project Authority Board, General Manager, and planning team continue to make progress on their work to make Sites Reservoir a reality. See the website for meeting information: [Sites JPA Website](#) (look for an updated Sites website coming soon!)



# Reservoir Conditions (5.19.2016)

Click [here](#) for daily reservoir conditions.



## Groundwater Levels

Spring groundwater level measurements are currently available on the Water Data Library website (<http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>) and CASGEM website (<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>).

Our groundwater level monitoring network is showing groundwater levels in the County at or below Spring, 2015 levels, with a few exceptions. Roy Hull from the Department of Water Resources, Northern District, will give a report on current groundwater conditions at the **June 16 Colusa County Groundwater Commission meeting** (see below for meeting details).



## Upcoming Meetings & Events:

### **June 13, 2016**

#### **Sites JPA Regular Meeting**

1:30 p.m. at Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Willows, CA

*Meeting materials can be found on the [Sites JPA](#) website.*

### **June 15, 2016**

#### **NSV IRWM TAC Meeting**

9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall

201 North Lassen, Willows, CA 95988

*Meeting materials will be available on the [NSV IRWMP](#) website.*

### **June 16, 2016**

#### **Colusa County Groundwater Commission Regular Meeting**

Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

*Meeting materials will be available on the [Water Resources](#) website.*

### **June 22, 2016**

#### **Private Pumper Advisory Committee Meeting**

10:00-noon

Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

*Meeting materials will be available on the [Water Resources](#) website.*

### **July 15, 2016**

#### **Colusa County GSA Working Group Meeting #5**

9:00 a.m. - noon

Colusa County Farm Bureau

520 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932

*Meeting materials will be available on the [Water Resources](#) website.*

**For more information** on local water-related issues, please contact staff, or visit the [Water Resources](#) section on the Colusa County website.

**Staff contact:**

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