



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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SGMA Reminders and Updates

The County of Colusa and other local agencies and stakeholders have been working cooperatively on a proactive approach to SGMA implementation since early 2015. The County Board of Supervisors are dedicated to being part of a partnership 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.

Formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) is the first major task required by local agencies. According to the legislation, only public agencies that have water use, water management, and/or land use authorities are eligible to be a GSA. These include counties, cities, irrigation and reclamation districts and public water suppliers. GSAs are the governing bodies that will be responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability plan (GSP) and implementing SGMA locally. GSA-eligible agencies in Colusa County have formed a Governance Workgroup that has been meeting regularly to determine the best approach to SGMA governance in the county. Groundwater users from the County's Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) are also participating in these meetings, along with other interested stakeholders.

GSA-eligible agencies will have to make very important decisions regarding their level of participation in governance. Implementing SGMA will require significant resources from GSAs. Some agencies may not have the necessary resources, yet they don't want to be left out of the process. Other agencies may not want to participate and prefer to leave decision making to other agencies. The Governance Workgroup is discussing options to include different levels of engagement from agencies and private pumpers. The local agencies in Colusa County are approaching governance in a very inclusive manner, trying to determine the best structure that will allow all interested parties to participate.

Five facilitated Governance Workgroup meetings and one Governance Subcommittee meeting have taken place in Colusa County. The next Governance Workgroup meeting will be held August 24th. The August 24 meeting will include consideration and discussion of two proposed Governance structures that will be brought forth by the Governance Subcommittee. Plans for the near future include coordinating with Glenn and Butte Counties who share subbasins with Colusa County. These meetings are open to the public and are noticed at the project website (see web links below).

Next Steps

The Colusa SGMA Governance Workgroup will continue to convene regular planning meetings over the next year. By the end of 2016, and possibly sooner, we anticipate that the Colusa County portions of the Colusa Subbasin and West Butte Subbasin will have a defined governance structure. Once that structure is agreed upon, legal agreements, such as Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreements and Coordination Agreements will be drawn up.

Upcoming Colusa County SGMA Meetings:

SGMA Governance Workgroup Meeting #6

August 24, 2016

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Westside Water District

5005 State Highway 20, Williams, CA 95987

Private Pumper Advisory Committee Meeting

August 26, 2016

10:00 a.m. - noon

Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Important Dates related to SGMA:

- **December 30, 2016** – Governance Structure defined in Colusa County
- **January – June, 2017** – Legal agreements developed for Colusa County Governance
- **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 - 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
- ✓ Check out the [Colusa County Groundwater Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ If you are a Private Pumper, contact one of the County Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) members with your questions/concerns/suggestions (see below)

What are Private Pumpers?

Private Pumpers are landowners outside of a water district who operate Ag wells. Private Pumpers do not have access to surface water and they are dependent on groundwater to irrigate their crops.

Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC), Update

At their January, 2016 meeting, under direction of County Supervisors, the Colusa County Groundwater Commission formally formed the Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) to ensure that individual well owners that are outside of any water district have a voice in SGMA planning and implementation in the county. The PPAC has been meeting regularly since April, and attending the local Governance Workgroup meetings.

The PPAC was originally developed to play two key roles: first, to act as a liaison between private pumpers and county government by communicating the needs of private pumpers to the County; and, second, to share current SGMA-related information with their neighbors. The GSA Workgroup has been discussing the PPAC having a greater role than advisory, including participation in local SGMA governance.

At the June 30, 2016 PPAC meeting, members were encouraged to develop a proposal of how they envision the PPAC's role in SGMA governance. PPAC members met and presented their unified message at the July 15 Governance Workgroup meeting. The PPAC was thankful to the County for having the forethought to create the PPAC. They expressed concern, however, that SGMA does not include all stakeholders, and specifically excludes private pumpers from being part of governance. The PPAC identified six unique groundwater areas in the county and described their vision of five to six Private Pumper representatives as voting members of a GSA board. They explained that the intent of their request is to ensure that a local GSA has balanced representation from all stakeholders.

Colusa County Supervisors recognized early on the critical role that private pumpers play in groundwater management under SGMA. County officials also understand the impact that SGMA will have on private pumpers. The proactive approach taken in Colusa County to form the Private Pumper Advisory Committee has been recognized by surrounding counties, and PPACs are being considered in other locations.

Below is a list of the Colusa County PPAC members. The PPAC welcomes other private pumpers to contact them with 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	sycamoremarshfarm@gmail.com
Jeff Moresco	aggiejeffm@gmail.com
Darrin Williams	williamsfarms@frontiernet.net
Doug McGeoghegan	dbmcgeoghegan@hotmail.com
Kim Gallagher	Gallagher.kimberly@gmail.com
Derrick Strain	dstrain@strainranches.com
Jim Peterson	jamespeterson@chiconut.com

PPAC Alternate Members

Ben Carter	bencarter@succeed.net
Matt LaGrande	mattlagrande@frontiernet.net
Bob Harper	bharper@chiconut.com

Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Groundwater Monitoring and Data Management Program

Groundwater monitoring and data management are required components in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Colusa County has received grant funding from the 2015 Counties with Stressed Basins, Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program. The project Work Plan contains several tasks to advance SGMA implementation locally.

As background, in 2015, the County contracted with Davids Engineering, Inc. for services related to SGMA, which included a county-wide groundwater assessment to better inform staff and County Supervisors about groundwater conditions. Building on this work, Davids Engineering, with assistance from a hydrogeologist from West Yost Associates, will complete several tasks under the Proposition 1 grant Work Plan that will enhance groundwater data collection and data management efforts. These tasks include:

- Evaluating existing county-wide groundwater development
- Characterizing potential future groundwater development
- Assessing the adequacy of the current county monitoring well network
- Assessing the need for additional dedicated monitoring sites
- Developing an initial groundwater data management and reporting program

The SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations contain specific requirements for monitoring and reporting groundwater conditions. This project will provide our local Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies a jump start on SGMA implementation. The tasks outlined in the Work Plan will be integrated into the local Groundwater Sustainability Plan or Plans, which must be completed by January 31, 2022.

Work on the above tasks will begin in the coming weeks. Look for project updates on the Water Resources section of the Colusa County website, coming soon.

Information on the Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant funding recommendations, proposal evaluations and more can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/solicitation.cfm>

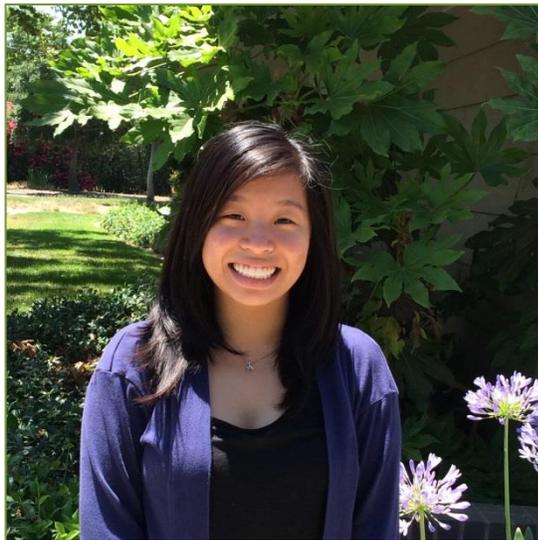


Summer Intern

A well distribution inventory is a required component in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Our summer intern is compiling that information for Colusa County.

As a foundational component of managing groundwater resources, and complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Colusa County Water Resources continues to compile key information about groundwater wells countywide. This work was started last year by Chelsea Bauman who moved on to accept a full time Ag Biologist position with the Colusa County Department of Agriculture. The task continues this summer with another intern, Christina Leung, who recently graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor's of Science in Hydrology.

Starting with DWR's well data, which locates wells to only section center points, Christina is determining more precise well locations based on scanned well completion reports provided to the County by DWR. This work is being done in a Geographic Information System (GIS) environment using ArcGIS software, to facilitate mapping and analysis. Well locations are edited and moved to their actual location based on information on the well completion reports, augmented by inspection of aerial imagery. As of this writing, Christina has reviewed and successfully relocated about 85 percent of the 2,060 well locations in the database. Around 300 well locations will require more detailed review of available information, or possibly mapping by field inspection and recording of GPS coordinates. While this work has been underway, Christina has also been compiling available information regarding land subsidence and riparian water use along the Sacramento River.



Christina Leung is working as a summer intern assisting Colusa County Water Resources by compiling key well data to help advance local SGMA planning efforts. The Summer Intern program is coordinated with Davids Engineering, Inc. in Davis.

Drought Update – Domestic Wells

Be Prepared for Drought-related Well Outages

California is now in its fifth year of drought and groundwater levels in Spring, 2016 did not show significant recovery over Spring, 2015 levels. It is important to prepare for potential drought-related well problems. Shallow wells (less than 100 feet) are most at risk especially during the middle of summer (June-August) when groundwater levels are at their lowest. The area south of Williams and around Arbuckle are at higher risk, with some groundwater levels more than 100' below ground surface. *See the link below to download a drought-preparedness flyer.*

Household Water Tank Program: If your domestic well has gone dry due to on-going drought conditions, you may be eligible for assistance. *See the link below for more information on this program.*

Report Well Problems: In an effort to assess drought impacts and general groundwater conditions, the Colusa County Water Resources Department (Department of Agriculture) is compiling information on well problems county-wide. This information will help in our ongoing efforts to gain a better understanding of the local groundwater system. We are gathering information on all well types (domestic, irrigation, other) and all well issues, whether drought-related or mechanical. If you are experiencing issues with your well (ag, domestic or other), please fill out the Well Reporting Form by clicking on the link below and filling out as much information on the form as you can. Specific well locations will not be made public. We appreciate your participation. *See the link below for more information.*

[Please see the Drought page on the Water Resources website for more information on the above drought topics.](#)

Groundwater Levels

The California Department of Water Resources is taking summer groundwater level measurements now. We will have those results in in the next few weeks. With increased surface water supplies this year, and reduced groundwater pumping, we are hoping to see improvements over 2015 summer levels.

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 September 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall. The next TAC meeting will be held October 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall. NSV TAC meetings regularly feature guest speakers that provide information on regional water issues. NSV Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. See the website for more information: <http://nsvwaterplan.org>

Colusa County Water Resources has not had any reports of domestic well outages in 2016. We did receive several reports in 2015.

Sites Reservoir Update

...if Sites Reservoir had been in place last year, more than one million acre feet of water that flowed out to sea could have been put into storage in Sites for later use.

The Sites Project Authority Board, General Manager, and planning team continue to make progress on their work to make Sites Reservoir a reality. Recently, an opportunity to buy into the project was opened up to local water districts and local governments. Colusa County was among the entities to submit a proposal to participate in Phase 1 of project development. The County committed to 10,000 acre feet of potential supply from the reservoir annually.

The County's commitment plus commitments from other Northern California agencies add up to over 164,000 acre feet. According to Supervisor Gary Evans, in order to receive funding for reservoir construction from Proposition 1, the Sites Project Authority must demonstrate local interest in the project before statewide interest. The Authority has focused on Northern California interests first to keep the project as locally-led as possible. These local commitments will also help to fulfill the Proposition 1 requirements.

The goal was to garner total commitments of 250,000 acre feet, which would include statewide interests. To-date, that goal has been surpassed, with commitments totaling over 340,000 acre feet.

Recent ongoing drought, and restrictions on water deliveries have demonstrated the critical need for more water storage in California. According to the Northern California Water Association, if Sites Reservoir had been in place last year, more than one million acre feet of water that flowed out to sea could have been put into storage in Sites for later use.

Colusa County Supervisors Vann and Evans have worked tirelessly on the Sites Reservoir project, along with several local water leaders. Supervisor Vann currently sits as the Sites Project Authority Chair.

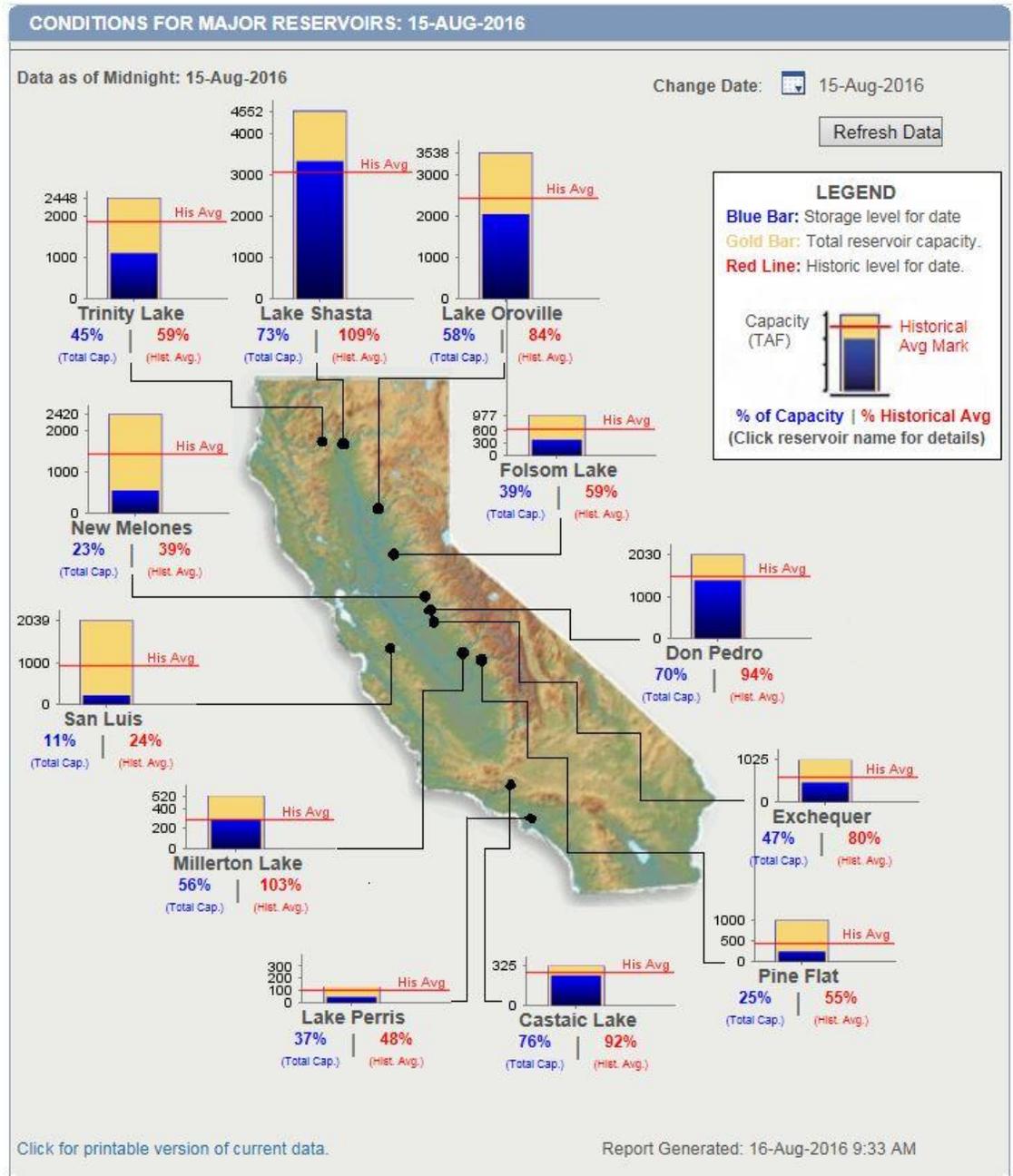
See the website for more information including upcoming meetings: [Sites JPA Website](#) (look for an updated Sites website coming soon.)



Reservoir Conditions (8.15.2016)

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

California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

August 24, 2016

SGMA Governance Workgroup Meeting #6

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Westside Water District

5005 State Highway 20, Williams, CA 95987

August 26, 2016

Private Pumper Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. - noon

Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

September 8, 2016

Colusa County Groundwater Commission Meeting

10:00 a.m. - noon

Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

September 12, 2016

NSV IRWM Board 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.

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

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All of these meetings are open to the public and stakeholders are encouraged to attend to learn more about local and regional water management planning.