



Water Resources Update

Colusa County Department of Agriculture

Water Resources

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

[Website](#)

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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 group continues to make progress. In Colusa County we are currently working on development of a work plan to guide future technical studies and a draft Agreement between all parties that will be participating in local governance. While we work locally to ensure SGMA compliance, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are working on Statewide guidance and regulatory provisions:

DWR - Final Basin Boundary Modifications Released

On October 18, DWR released the [final modifications](#) to California's groundwater basin boundaries preparing the way for local agencies to bring their basins into balance. Of significance to Colusa County are two basin boundary adjustments to the northern and southern portions of the Colusa Subbasin.

SGMA initially established the basin boundaries as defined in [Bulletin 118](#), a comprehensive report on California groundwater resources. Of the 54 requests for changes to basin boundaries, DWR approved 39, denied 12, and three were deemed incomplete. Most of the modifications were made to basins in the Central Valley and included refinements reflecting waterways, county lines and geologic information. The new basin boundaries will be included in the interim update of Bulletin 118, due out by January 1, 2017. Another basin boundary modification request period may be held in 2018 based on demand from local agencies and/or GSAs.

DWR - Best Management Practices (BMPs) Public Meetings Announced

SGMA directs DWR to identify BMPs for the sustainable management of groundwater basins and publish them on the DWR website by January 1, 2017. BMPs are intended to provide clarification, guidance, and examples to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) develop the essential elements of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. DWR is seeking public input through a series of [meetings](#) scheduled as follows:

- **November 14**, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows, CA
- **November 15**, 2016, 9:30 a.m., California Water Commission, Resources Building, Sacramento, CA (Live streaming video available at <http://cwc.videoss.com/>)
- **November 16**, 2016, 4:00 p.m., Clovis Veteran's Memorial Building, Clovis, CA
- **November 17**, 2016, 1:00 p.m., Delhi Community Center, Santa Ana, CA

View the BMP meeting announcement here:

http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/BMP_Meeting_Announcement.pdf

The comment period for BMPs is from October 28, 2016 through November 28, 2016

SWRCB - Fees for State Intervention

The State Water Resources Control Board, Groundwater Management Program (GMP), is developing a fee schedule for SGMA and they are soliciting public input on the proposed fee schedule prior to Board adoption in spring 2017.

Portions of basins that are not within the management area of a GSA by July 1, 2017, are considered unmanaged areas. Groundwater extractors in unmanaged areas are required to file an annual groundwater extraction report with the State Water Board. (Wat. Code §5202, subd. (a)(2).) If locals fail to form a GSA, fail to develop an adequate sustainability plan by the deadline, or fail to implement the plan adequately, the State Water Board may designate the basin as probationary and step in to directly manage groundwater extractions in the basin.

For more information on the proposed fees and public input process, visit the website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/fees.shtml

Important Dates related to SGMA:

- **October 28-November 28, 2016** – BMP comment period
- **January 1, 2017** – DWR Releases final BMPs
- **January 1, 2017** – Bulletin 118 Interim Update due
- **Spring, 2017** - State Water Resources Control Board releases their final Fee Schedule
- **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](#)

What is a Private Pumper?

A Private Pumper is a landowner outside of a water district who operates an Ag well or wells. Private Pumpers do not have access to surface water and they are dependent on groundwater to irrigate their crops.

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

Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC), Update

Colusa County developed a Private Pumper Advisory Committee to ensure that groundwater pumpers outside of water district boundaries have a voice in SGMA planning and implementation. According to the legislation, counties are responsible for management of these areas. In Colusa County, local GSA-eligible agencies and the PPAC continue to work collaboratively to develop a framework for groundwater management under SGMA. Below is a list of the Colusa County PPAC members. The PPAC welcomes 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.

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

As mentioned in past newsletters, Colusa County has received grant funding from the 2015 Counties with Stressed Basins, Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program. The work plan contains several tasks to advance SGMA implementation locally. Work on this project is just getting under way. This project will enhance local groundwater data collection and data management efforts. The SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations contain specific requirements for monitoring and reporting groundwater conditions, and for data management. 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 plan tasks include:

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

For more information, visit: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/solicitation.cfm>

Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM)

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP (Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta) are working together to coordinate, communicate and address regional water-related issues. NSV Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings are open to the public. TAC meetings feature educational presentations on regional and statewide water topics. The next TAC meeting is November 16 at Willows City Hall in Glenn County. See the website for more information:

<http://nsvwaterplan.org>

Groundwater Levels

The California Department of Water Resources has completed their summer, 2016 groundwater level measurements. The results do show improvement over 2015, but they also show that dry conditions have had an impact on groundwater resources over the past five to ten years. You can find more information in a presentation by the California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region office on the NSV IRWM website: <http://nsvwaterplan.org/>

Sites Reservoir Update

On October 21, several state and local elected officials, regional water managers, agricultural leaders, and others gathered to celebrate recent significant milestones in the development of the Sites Reservoir project. These milestones include:

- AB 2551 was signed into law: a bi-partisan measure that gives flexibility in construction methods to help ensure the project gets done on time and on budget
- New agencies have joined Sites, with 34 agencies now participating, showing a high level of interest and demonstrating project viability
- The new Sites information portal launched: new website, logo and social media
- The Sites Project moved into a new office, located in Maxwell, CA

“Sites is a local project with statewide benefits,” said Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County Supervisor and the Sites Project Authority’s chair. “The project will be owned, managed and operated locally, but in a way that integrates with—and relieves stress on—the state’s burdened water system.”

Vann added that, “There is a lot of excitement brewing about Sites—with our new members, new office, and new website—we are ready to work as a community and move this project forward.”

For more information on the Sites Reservoir project visit the NEW website:

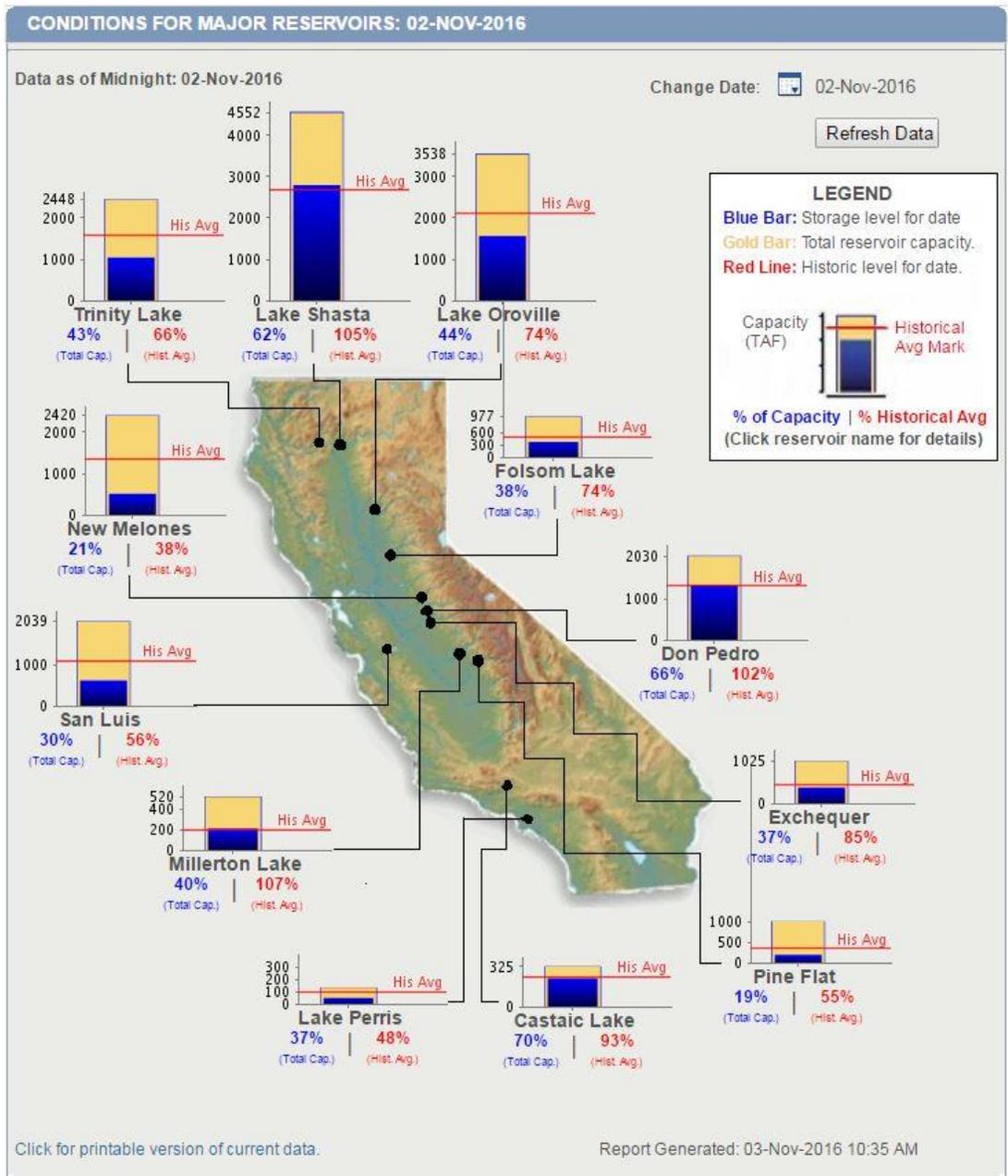
<https://www.sitesproject.org/>

...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.

Reservoir Conditions (11.2.2016)

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

California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



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.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Governance Workgroup Meeting #9

November 16, 2016

9:00-noon

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

November 16, 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.

Governance Subcommittee Meeting #5

December 6, 2016

9:00-noon

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

Governance Workgroup Meeting #10

December 16, 2016

1:00-4:00

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

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

Staff contact:

Mary Fahey
100 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite A,
Colusa, CA 95932
email: mfahey@countyofcolusa.org
Phone: 530.458.0719 (office), 530.383.4625 (cell)

