The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established a process for local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to request that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) revise the boundaries of Bulletin 118 groundwater basins or subbasins in order to promote sustainable groundwater management. DWR completed the first round of Basin Boundary Modifications (BBMs) under SGMA in 2016. On January 1, 2018, DWR opened the second and current round of BBM modifications. Proposals are due September 28, 2018. Once a BBM request is submitted and deemed complete by DWR, a 30-day public comment period is opened. It is anticipated that DWR will release the initial results of round two BBMs in late 2018, after which another 30-day public comment period will open.

The purpose of this newsletter is to describe two basin boundary modification proposals being considered in the basins that lie in, and adjacent to, Colusa County:

1. The Colusa Groundwater Authority is proposing modifications to the West Butte and Colusa Subbasins.

2. The County of Butte is proposing modifications to the Vina, West Butte and East Butte Subbasins.

These proposed modifications are discussed in detail on the following pages.

More information on BBMs
You can find a map of statewide groundwater basins by accessing DWR’s online Basin Boundary Assessment tool: [https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bbat/](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bbat/)

You can find more information about Basin Boundary Modifications, including a list of proposed modifications and submitted BBM proposals by accessing DWRs online SGMA Portal: [https://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/](https://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/)

More information on BBMs can be found on DWR’s website: [https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications)
**LOCAL BASIN BOUNDARY MODIFICATION (BBM) PROPOSALS**

**Colusa Groundwater Authority Proposed Basin Boundary Modification (BBM)**

In May, 2018, the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) submitted an initial notification to DWR of a *proposed jurisdictional Basin Boundary Modification* that would consolidate a portion of the West Butte Subbasin (5-21.58) with the Colusa subbasin (5-21.52). This jurisdictional consolidation would bring the Colusa County portion of the West Butte Subbasin that lies on the west side of the legal service area boundary of Reclamation District 1004 into the Colusa Subbasin.

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A Jurisdictional Basin Boundary Modification involves the addition, deletion, or relocation of a basin or subbasin boundary that is not a scientific modification but promotes sustainable groundwater management.

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**COLUSA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY PROPOSED BASIN BOUNDARY MODIFICATION 2018**

Colusa Subbasin (5-21.52); West Butte Subbasin (5-21.58)

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**Legend**

- PROPOSED BASIN BOUNDARY MODIFICATION
- RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1004
- LAFCO BOUNDARY
- 108_B116_CA_GroundwaterBasins

**Subbasins**

- EXISTING COLUSA SUBBASIN
- EXISTING WEST BUTTE SUBBASIN

Colusa Groundwater Authority, June, 2018

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**Data Sources:**
2. GSA Boundaries from DWR GSA Data Viewer, downloaded
3. California Counties from DWR GSA Data Viewer, downloaded
4. Reclamation District 1004 Boundaries from Colusa County LAFCO
The Colusa Groundwater Authority identified that this proposed jurisdictional basin boundary modification would improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of sustainable groundwater management within these basins. The current Bulletin 118-defined basin boundaries split the CGA into two subbasins, which will require the CGA to participate in the development and implementation of two separate Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The majority of the CGA’s jurisdiction lies in the Colusa Subbasin, where we have achieved very effective sustainable groundwater management planning, in close coordination with the Glenn Groundwater Authority. Consolidation of the CGA’s jurisdiction would allow this coordinated effort to continue seamlessly through GSP development.

The CGA intends, through development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, to delineate Management Areas in the Colusa Subbasin. Management Areas are tools that GSAs can use to define areas in the basin where more localized groundwater management can take place. Management Areas can be defined by unique hydrological conditions, or other parameters. It is anticipated that the area in the West Butte Subbasin proposed to be consolidated into the Colusa Subbasin would become its own Management Area in the Colusa Subbasin GSP.

The proposed Basin Boundary Modification does not alter any landowner’s water rights - the CGA does not have that authority. Additionally, the proposed BBM does not have any bearing on groundwater transfers - Colusa County’s Groundwater Ordinance remains in place and the GSA cannot override any County Ordinance.

Opportunities to Provide Input
The CGA is interested in receiving feedback regarding the proposed BBM from local agencies and landowners in the Colusa and West Butte Subbasins. In May, 2018, a notification of the proposed BBM was distributed to the CGA’s email distribution list and a notification was posted on the DWR SGMA Portal website. The proposed modification has been discussed at several public CGA Board meetings, Colusa County Farm Bureau Board meetings, Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP meetings, RD 1004 Board meetings, West Butte Subbasin Workgroup meetings, and other various public meetings. Information is also posted on the CGA website.

A presentation and discussion regarding the CGA’s proposed Basin Boundary Modification will be held at the next Colusa Groundwater Authority Board Meeting:

September 25, 2018
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Members of the public that wish to learn more are encouraged to attend this meeting. Additionally, comments and questions can be sent to CGA Staff via email to Mary Fahey at mfahey@countyofcolusa.com, mail: 100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932, or by phone: 530-458-0719.
Butte County’s Proposed Basin Boundary Modification

Butte County is working toward submitting a BBM request to DWR in coordination with the Feather River Water Districts (Western Canal Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, Biggs West Gridley Water district, and Butte Water District) and other GSAs to modify the Vina, West Butte, and East Butte Subbasins. The proposed modification would create a new “Butte Subbasin” by consolidating large portions of the West Butte and East Butte Subbasins. The “Butte Subbasin” would include Butte County GSA areas, RD 2106, RD 1004, the Feather River Districts, the City of Biggs, the City of Gridley and small portions of the Glenn County GSA and Colusa Groundwater Authority. The southern boundary would mostly align with the Butte-Sutter County line. As a result of these modifications, the Vina Subbasin expands to the south to include Butte County GSA areas and Durham Irrigation District.

This modification, combined with the CGA’s proposed modification would remove the West Butte Subbasin, and reduce the number of subbasins in Butte County from four down to three. Similar to the CGA’s proposed BBM, Butte County’s proposal provides greater efficiency and will reduce costs for long-term governance of groundwater in these subbasins and for development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

See map of the proposed “Butte Subbasin” on Page 5.

For questions or additional information regarding Butte County’s Basin Boundary Modification, please contact Christina Buck at (530) 552-3593 or cbuck@buttecounty.net
Butte County Proposed Basin Boundary Modification in the West Butte, East Butte and Vina Subbasins

The area outlined in the dashed red line is the proposed Butte Subbasin BBM.

The CGA’s proposed BBM aligns with the proposed Butte Subbasin boundary in Colusa County.
DWR's BBM Public Comment Opportunity

Once the Basin Boundary Modification proposals are posted to the California Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) online Basin Boundary Modification Request System, public comments can be submitted pursuant to Article 4, Section 343.12 of the Basin Boundary Modification Emergency Regulations (see below). Public comments will be accepted by DWR for 30 days after the BBM request is posted.

§ 343.12. Public Input
(a) Any person may provide information to support or oppose a proposed boundary modification request as follows:

(1) Public input must be submitted by written notice to the California Department of Water Resources within 30 days after the Department posts a notice that the request is complete pursuant to Section 343.10(c), and provide the requesting agency a duplicate copy of that information the same day.

(2) Public input must include the name, address, and electronic mail address of the person or entity providing that input.

(3) Public input must include a clear statement of the basis for the support of or opposition to the proposed boundary modification.

(4) The level of detail provided by public input need not be as comprehensive as that contained in the request, but must rely on similar scientific and technical information as the particular boundary modification request to which it is addressed, and will be evaluated by the Department using the same criteria.

(b) The Department shall post all public input on the Department’s Internet Web site.

(c) The Department is not required to respond to comments received through public input, but will consider such comments as part of its evaluation of a boundary modification request.

(d) The Department shall give the requesting agency a reasonable opportunity to respond to public input, including the opportunity to modify the boundary modification request.

ABOUT THE COLUSA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

The Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) was formed on June 29, 2017 to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations and ensure that groundwater is managed locally. The CGA is a Joint Powers Authority and is recognized by DWR as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Colusa County portion of the Colusa Subbasin, and portions of the West Butte Subbasin outside of Reclamation District 1004. (see map, page 8).

Members of the Colusa Groundwater Authority Board:
1. County of Colusa
2. City of Colusa
3. City of Williams
4. Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
5. Maxwell Irrigation District and Westside Water District (1 seat)
6. Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District and Provident Irrigation District (1 seat)
7. Colusa County Water District
8. Reclamation District 108
9. Reclamation District 479
10. Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
11. Private Pumper Representative from Colusa County Groundwater Commission
12. Private Pumper Representative from Colusa County Groundwater Commission

A Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is responsible for performing the duties and exercising the necessary powers to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act at the local level. A single agency can be a GSA, or a combination of local agencies can form a GSA through a Joint Powers Agreement or other legal Agreement. SGMA law required GSAs to be in place by June 30, 2017.

Any “unmanaged areas” (areas not covered by a GSA) in a groundwater basin that is subject to SGMA will come under management of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Colusa Groundwater Authority was formed to ensure that the groundwater resources in Colusa County are managed locally and State intervention is avoided.
Colusa Groundwater Authority Jurisdiction
The Colusa Groundwater Authority covers the areas outlined in pink on this map. The Blue area is the Colusa Subbasin and the green area is the West Butte Subbasin. A map of statewide GSAs can be found on the DWR GSA Map Viewer.

Colusa Groundwater Authority GSA

Get to know the Colusa Groundwater Authority, and keep up with the latest SGMA news. Visit the website: Colusagroundwater.org
SGMA – STAY INFORMED:

Between now and January 31, 2022, the CGA will be developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Colusa Subbasin. If you have not been involved in local SGMA planning, now is the time!

There are many opportunities to be engaged and informed about local groundwater management planning:

- Get on the CGA email notification list for updates and meeting announcements - call or email Staff (see contact info below), or sign up on the website: https://colusagroundwater.org/contact-us/
- Visit the CGA Website regularly: http://colusagroundwater.org
- Attend Colusa Groundwater Authority Board meetings
- Visit DWR’s Groundwater Information Center website: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management
- Visit the DWR SGMA Portal: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#intro

The next meeting of the CGA Board is September 25, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at Colusa Industrial Properties. The full Board meeting schedule can be found on the CGA website: https://colusagroundwater.org/meetings/

All CGA Board meetings are open to the public.

Staff contact:
Mary Fahey, CGA Program Manager
100 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932
email: mfahey@countyofcolusa.org
Phone: 530.458.0719