



# 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)**

As mentioned in our last newsletter, SGMA is the new groundwater legislation that went into effect January 1, 2015. This law gives eligible local agencies authority to manage groundwater locally, with State oversight. All high and medium priority groundwater basins must be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022, (or 2020 for basins in overdraft). The first step in the process is for the eligible local agencies to determine the make-up of the governance structure(s) in their groundwater basins. The governance agencies, known as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) can be a single entity managing an entire basin or a combination of GSAs. In Colusa County, we have two groundwater basins that are subject to SGMA - the Colusa subbasin and the West Butte subbasin.

### Important Dates:

- June 30, 2017 – establish GSAs for all high & medium priority basins
- January 31, 2022 – GSPs due for high & med. priority basins not in overdraft

Latest News: the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved a contract with the Center For Collaborative Policy to work in Colusa County to facilitate a series of meetings that will keep us moving forward with SGMA planning and implementation. This will include a series of public meetings with the GSA-eligible agencies in the county, as well as several public outreach meetings. We anticipate meetings to start up in late October/early November. The plan is to have a local governance structure in place by June of 2016.

Although individual landowners are not eligible to be a GSA, it is important that they stay informed and engaged in the planning process.

### **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

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Workshops Scheduled for October

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a series of informational meetings around the State during October, including a combined Public and Technical Forum November 5 in Redding from 1-4 PM at the Redding City Hall, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding. A Public and a Technical informational meeting will be held on Tuesday October 27 from 1-4 PM (Technical Session) and 6-8 PM (Public Session) at the CalEPA Building 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento. The October 27 sessions will be webcast and available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>

The public forums are intended to provide residential well owners, groundwater users, and other interested members of the public with information on the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The public forums will focus on: the public stakeholder role in SGMA implementation; local agency requirements regarding GSA formation and public involvement; drought management and groundwater sustainability; SGMA and water rights; and state involvement under SGMA (including technical and financial assistance and state intervention).

The technical sessions are intended for local public agencies and organizations to inform staff, governing boards, and leaders of local public agencies and organizations. The technical sessions will focus on: local agency requirements regarding Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation, groundwater sustainability, and public involvement; the status of SGMA implementation within the meeting location's region; technical and financial assistance available from the state; and understanding the implications of state intervention in the absence of local action.



## Report Well Outages

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 problems with your water well, please take a few minutes to fill out the "Report of Well Problems" form which can be found on the County of Colusa website at <http://countyofcolusa.org>. This reporting is voluntary and specific well locations will not be made public.

## Household Water Tank Program

For Colusa County residents, if your domestic well has gone dry due to on-going drought conditions, you may be eligible for assistance. The Household Water Tank Program may provide property owners: a 2,500 water tank which is equipped with an in-line pump; any ground preparation necessary to place the tank, and, an initial delivery of 2,500 gallons of water. The property owner is responsible to connect the tank to their water system. Following installation, the County will deliver up to 2,500 gallons of water approximately weekly. For more information on this 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.

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 next TAC meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall, and will feature:

- Bill Ehorn, Department of Water Resources with a regional groundwater update
- Tracie Billingham, DWR along with a representative from the SWRCB discussing funding opportunities for SGMA planning and implementation

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. The group is currently working on amending the bylaws, and development of a financial model.

The JPA Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, Willows, CA.

### 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.*

**October 21, 2015**

**NSV IRWM TAC Meeting**

9:00 a.m. at Willows City Hall

***There will be an educational water forum at this meeting***

**December 10, 2015**

**Colusa County Groundwater Commission Regular Meeting**

10:00 a.m. - noon at Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

**October 19, 2015**

**Sites JPA Regular Meeting**

9:00 a.m. at Glenn Colusa Irrigation District  
344 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988

**October 29, 2015**

**Reception Celebrating the Sacramento Valley**

4:00 p.m.

Matchbook Winery in the Dunnigan Hills

***See next page for more information***

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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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*Join us for a reception  
celebrating the  
Sacramento Valley  
and its special  
farms, fish and wildlife*



Matchbook Winery  
in the Dunnigan Hills

Thursday, October 29, 2015  
4:00 pm

RSVP: [dherrera@norcalwater.org](mailto:dherrera@norcalwater.org)  
12300 County Road 92B, Zamora

See [matchbookwines.com](http://matchbookwines.com) for directions

Photos by Brian Kiser and Phil Robertson