



**COUNTY OF COLUSA**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**GROUNDWATER COMMISSION**  
100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932

STAFF  
**Mary Fahey**  
Water Resources  
Coordinator  
530.458.7709

Matt LaGrande | Lorraine Marsh, Chair | Jeff Moresco | Bruce Rolen, Vice Chair | Darrin Williams

**REGULAR MEETING NOTICE OF THE COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION**

**Location:** Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932  
**Date:** **December 8, 2016**  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - Noon

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (\*action item)

a. **Pledge of Allegiance**

b. **Introductions: Members of the public in attendance:**

Gerry Rominger, landowner  
Rod Bardford, landowner  
Christy Scofield, landowner  
Gilbert Ramos, landowner  
Brett Matzke, Cortina Rancheria  
Craig Bradford, landowner  
Bob Wallace, landowner  
Roy Hull, CA Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office  
Joe Carrancho, landowner  
Shelly Murphy, Colusa County Water District  
Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community  
Tiffany Sines, Vann Brothers  
Suzie Dawley, Colusa County Environmental Health  
Jenna Longchamps, CCEH  
Greg Plucker, Colusa County Planning Director  
Staff: Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources

c. **Roll Call**

All Commissioners were present: Matt LaGrande, Lorraine Marsh, Chair, Jeff Moresco, Bruce Rolen, Vice Chair, Darrin Williams

d. **\*Acceptance of Agenda**

Move to approve, Commissioner Rolen; Second, Commissioner LaGrande, Pass unanimously

e. **\*Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2016 and September 8, 2016**

Move to approve, Commissioner Williams; Second, Commissioner Rolen, Pass unanimously

f. **Period of Public Comment**

There was no public comment

2. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. **Staff Report**



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Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources reported on the following:

**Prop 1 Counties with Stressed Basins Funding Application:**

Colusa County was awarded a grant from the Department of Water Resources, Proposition 1, Counties with Stressed Basins, Sustainable Groundwater Management Program. The grant award is for \$250,000. The project includes new Monitoring and Data Management programs that will be integrated into a future Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The project is in the early stages and will be completed by March, 2018.

**Subsidence**

In 2008, DWR completed a GPS land subsidence survey in the Sacramento Valley. A limited resurvey of the Arbuckle area was completed in June, 2016 and revealed up to 2 feet of subsidence. DWR will resurvey the entire Sacramento Valley in spring, 2017. DWR is providing training, equipment and technical expertise while local agencies will provide field staff.

**Phase I and Phase II Bay-Delta Plan Updates**

Proposed new in-stream and Delta flow requirement currently under consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board could have a significant impact on surface water supplies. This will ultimately affect groundwater supplies which will hinder our SGMA implementation efforts. Commissioner Rolon discussed the proposed updates and that everyone needs to be engaged in these issues and support the surface water districts' efforts to protect surface water supplies in the Sacramento Valley.

**Groundwater Levels**

Ms. Fahey also handed out information on current groundwater levels compared to this time last year. Things look positive over last year, but long term, groundwater levels are still down.

3. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS** (\*action item)

a. DWR Update and Discussion; Roy Hull, Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office  
Mr. Hull presented draft groundwater level change maps. These maps reflect groundwater level changes over time in Colusa County in wells at the 100'-450' range. The following timeframes were discussed:

- a) Fall of 2015 to 2016. During this period, groundwater levels have mostly stabilized and some have come up.
- b) Fall of 2011 to 2016 (2011-2016 is a period of drought). During this time period the average change in groundwater levels across the County is negative 10 feet, with some areas down as much as 50 feet.
- c) Fall of 2004 to 2016 (2004 is considered a normal year). During this time period the average change in groundwater levels across the County is negative 15 feet.

Mr. Hull mentioned that the timing of the measurements has an impact on the measurements. Spring measurements may be more reflective of conditions. Fall measurements show levels just after the aquifers have been worked pretty hard.

**Question:** Can we say that we are on a recovery basis? **Answer:** Mr. Hull said that we are stabilizing but it will depend on precipitation. The demand for water hasn't changed. The wildcard is surface water supplies. The



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take-away is that we have not recovered from the drought. We have stabilized but we are still at the bottom of the curve. Colusa County's Prop 1 funding to develop the monitoring network will be really helpful.

Mr. Hull reported that he has been spending a lot of time working on land use data. He is focusing statewide, not just Colusa County. In the past, DWR has been completing county land use updates just two or three counties at a time, so there are big gaps. Now they are working with Land IQ to complete remote sensing on a yearly basis. It's a 60 meter grid. They are looking at 2014, 2015, 2016. The data will be available as shapefiles. Locals will have to help vet some of the data. It is 95-98% accurate. We will have better information going forward. The Basin Prioritization team is gathering a lot of valuable data that will be available to the GSAs.

Mr. Hull discussed the Best Management Practices being developed by DWR for SGMA. They have posted several of them. They will be adding to them and updating them as living documents. They have completed a Monitoring Protocols BMP that will be helpful for Colusa County.

**b. SGMA Update**

i. GSA Workgroup

Ms. Fahey provided a quick SGMA update. The group's first order of business is to develop governance. The basins must be covered by GSAs with no overlaps by June 30, 2017. The group is considering a single GSA that will cover the entire county portions of the basins. We are working on an MOU that will eventually lead to a JPA. Private individuals are not allowed to be a GSA per SGMA, only public agencies are eligible. Colusa County supervisors recognized the important role that private pumpers play in SGMA and formed the Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC). The original purpose was advisory only, but PPAC members advocated for role in governance. The supervisors and work group have agreed to this. Ms. Fahey mentioned that Colusa County has to coordinate with both Glenn and Butte Counties, and meetings are being set for staff and facilitators from each county. Conversations between supervisors in the three counties will also take place.

Mr. Williams mentioned that the language in the MOU has softened after several edits, which is good, however private pumpers are not signatories to the MOU. Mr. Williams has asked Ms. Fahey to agendize the MOU at a future PPAC meeting for review and discussion. PPAC members should be signatory to the MOU. Ms. Fahey mentioned that there is still time for the PPAC to develop Principles. Mr. Williams said that is not necessary. They are happy with the direction the MOU is heading, and the private pumpers have given input during the discussions.

ii. PPAC

This has been covered in other discussion.

iii. DWR Best Management Practices

This has been covered in other discussion.

c. \* Set 2017 Meeting Schedule; Suggested quarterly meeting dates (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) at **10:00 a.m.**, with special meetings as needed: **March 9; June 8; September 14; December 14**

The June date should be moved to June 22 due to the Colusa County Fair during the June 8 time period and GCID Board meeting on the second Thursday in June.



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Move to approve the proposed 2017 meeting with the June date changed to the 22nd, Commissioner Rolen; Second, Commissioner LaGrande, Pass unanimously

**d. Commissioner Comments and Updates**

Mr. Williams updated the Commission on the private pumpers forming a water district in the Arbuckle area. It is still moving forward and they anticipate turning in an application in January.

Mr. Wallace, landowner, asked for time for public comment to be opened. Chair Marsh agreed. Mr. Wallace described the Reber Plan that was proposed many years ago. The plan proposed a dam in the Bay at the Carquinez Straight that would create a freshwater lake in the Delta. Mr. Wallace asked that the Commission and others consider this plan. He feels it would solve the problems in the San Joaquin Valley and reduce the need for Northern California water in Southern California.

**e. Items for next agenda**

None

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular meeting date: **March 9 at 10 a.m.**