

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

August 4, 2021 | 10:00-Noon

Meeting Materials

AGENDA ITEM 1 Call to Order

1.c Approval of Minutes from the May 5, 2021 Meeting

Action Item

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Minutes from the May 5, 2021 Groundwater Commission Meeting



COUNTY OF COLUSA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932
530-458-0719

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION MEETING

Darrin Williams, Dist. 1 | Deke Dormer, Dist. 2 | Matt LaGrande, Dist. 3 | Vacant, Dist. 4 | Jeff Moresco, Dist. 5

Meeting Minutes

Location: This meeting was held remotely via Zoom

Date: May 5, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The meeting began with a Roll Call of Officers and introductions of others in attendance.

Introductions

Staff and public in attendance:

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources	Brandon Davison, DWR
Jeff Sutton, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	Colt Esenwein, City of Williams
Ashley Driver	Arne Gustafson
Dan Ruiz, Maxwell and Westside Water Districts	

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dormer, LaGrande, Moresco, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Approval of Minutes from the November 4, 2020 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to approve the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner LaGrande seconded. The motion passed 3-0, with Commissioner Williams abstaining.

Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC FORUM

DWR Update, *Brandon Davison, California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office*
Mr. Davison provided an overview of groundwater level measurements from Summer and Fall of 2020. He also presented information about the current dire drought conditions in California with a focus on the Northern Sacramento Valley region.



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Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA Update; *Commissioner Moresco, Commissioner Williams, Mary Fahey (Staff)*

Ms. Fahey provided a SGMA update which included information about Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, upcoming meetings, Sustainable Management Criteria, and other local SGMA planning and implementation efforts.

2021 Water Transfers; *Jeff Sutton, General Manager, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority*

Mr. Sutton described current water supply conditions and said that this year is the second driest year in recorded history. An expected half-million acre-feet of snow melt runoff has melted into the ground and did not make its way to the streams that would normally carry that water into our local reservoirs. North of Delta and South of Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) contracts are now at 0%. He stated that water transfers are a lifeline to get through years like this. He explained how, working within the regulatory environment, water transfers are a big part of the puzzle that helps balance things in these challenging years. Water transfers help to preserve our water rights and protect the local economies. Mr. Sutton went on to describe the locations and timing of local water transfers that are happening this year.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Commissioner Comments and Updates

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

Items for Next Agenda

None suggested at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Regular meeting date: August 4, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Fahey".

Mary Fahey
Secretary

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

August 4, 2021 | 10:00-Noon

Meeting Materials

1.d Period of Public Comment

Any person wishing to address the Commission on any item not on today's Agenda may do so at this time. The Commission will not be making a decision or determination on items brought up during Public Comment.

AGENDA ITEM 2 Public Forum

2.a Surface Water Update

Thad Bettner will provide a presentation about current surface water supply challenges, groundwater pumping programs and water transfer programs in this unprecedented drought year. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

2.b Groundwater Levels and Drought Conditions Roundtable Discussion

This will be an opportunity for Commissioners, Commission Staff and the public to share information and insight regarding groundwater conditions, crop and other impacts from the current drought, and any other relevant information related to current drought and groundwater conditions.

2.c Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA Update

Commission Staff and Groundwater Commissioners/CGA Groundwater Pumper representatives, Williams and Moresco, will provide an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation in Colusa County, including the timeline for completing the Groundwater Sustainability Plans and opportunities for public comment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SGMA Update

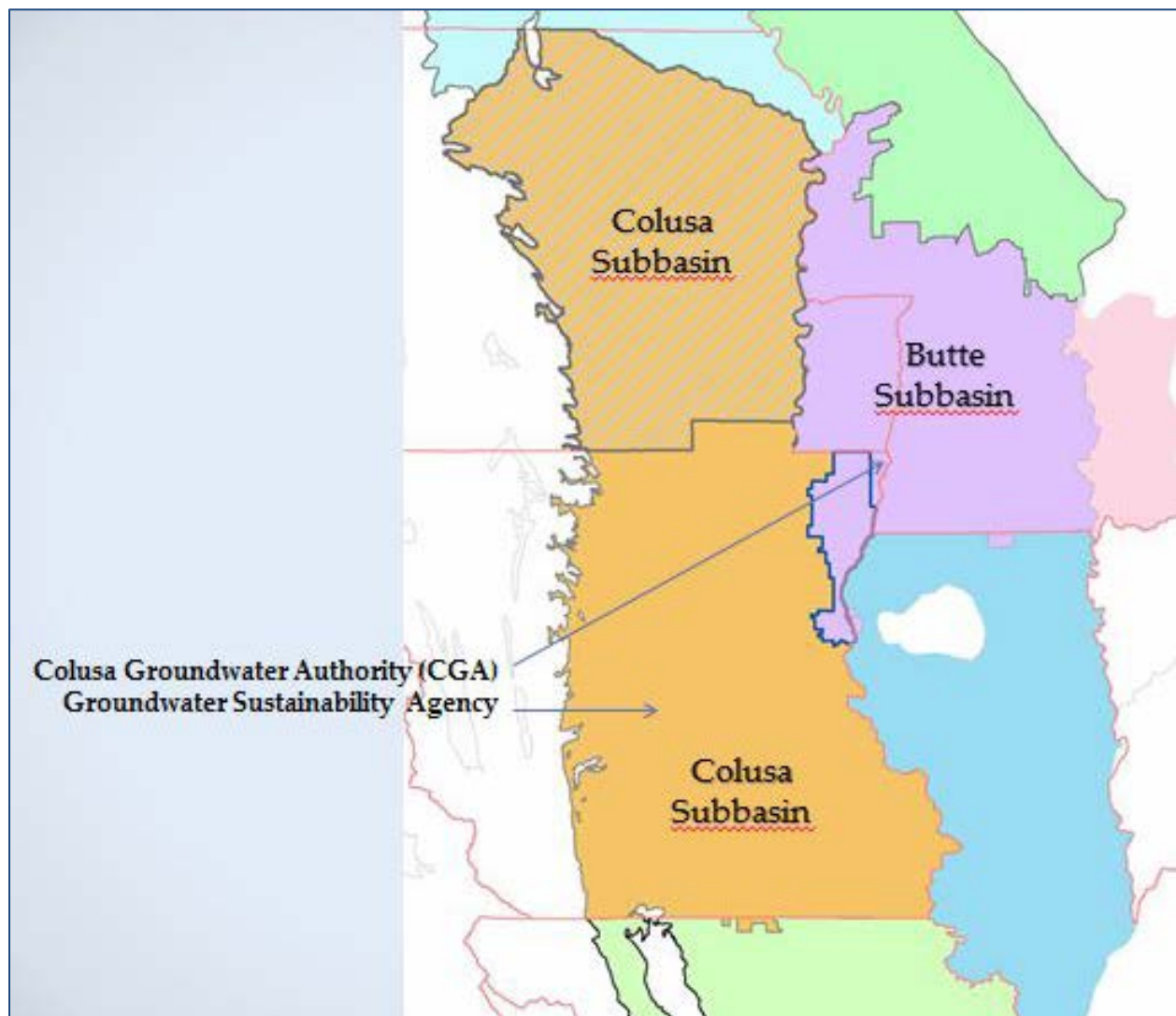
Colusa County Groundwater Commission

August 4, 2021

Public Forum: Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA update

Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)

The Colusa Groundwater Authority is working with the Glenn Groundwater Authority to develop a single GSP for the Colusa Subbasin. The CGA also manages a very small portion of the Butte Subbasin and they are working with ten other GSAs in the Butte Subbasin to complete a single GSP. Plans are due to the State January 31, 2022.



The schedule for completion and adoption of the Colusa Subbasin GSP is below:

GSP Chapter	Draft completion and Review Start Date	Review End Date	Review Duration (days)	Status
Chapter 1 – Introduction	4/7/2021	5/5/2021	28	Completed
Chapter 2 – Plan Area	4/7/2021	5/5/2021	28	Completed
Chapter 3 – Basin Setting	4/7/2021	5/5/2021	28	Completed
Chapter 4 – Monitoring Networks	4/7/2021	5/5/2021	28	Completed
Chapter 5 – Sustainable Management Criteria	7/16/2021	8/13/2021	28	Draft released
Chapter 6 – Projects and Management Actions	7/16/2021	8/13/2021	28	Draft released
Chapter 7 – Plan Implementation	9/13/2021	10/31/2021	48	
Chapter 8 – References and Technical Studies	9/13/2021	10/31/2021	48	
Executive Summary	9/13/2021	10/31/2021	48	
Complete Draft GSP	9/13/2021	10/31/2021	48	
Final Draft GSP Completed	11/30/2021			
CGA GSP Adoption Public Hearing (GGA will also hold a public hearing)	12/14/2021 (tentative)			
GSP submitted to State	By 1/31/2022 (the State will offer another 60-day public comment period on submitted GSPs)			

Meetings – Colusa Subbasin

The Colusa Groundwater Authority/Glenn Groundwater Authority **Joint Technical Advisory Committee** meets monthly on the second Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m. **The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 13.**

The **Colusa Groundwater Authority Board** meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. **The next meeting will be held August 24.**

All meeting are open to the public, and meeting materials can be found on the CGA website: <https://colusagroundwater.org/meetings/agendas-and-minutes-2021>

Sustainable Management Criteria

The Sustainable Management Criteria for the five applicable Sustainability Indicators (S.I.) have been adopted by the Colusa Groundwater Authority and the Glenn Groundwater Authority Boards. The S.I. are:

1. Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels
2. Reduction of Groundwater Storage
3. Seawater Intrusion*
4. Degraded Water Quality
5. Land Subsidence
6. Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

**Seawater Intrusion is the sixth S.I., and was assessed and determined to be not applicable; undesirable results are not occurring and are unlikely to occur in the Colusa Subbasin.*

Well Monitoring Pilot Program

From among the total of 21 applications submitted, six were selected for enrollment in the program, including three in the Colusa County portion of the subbasin and three in the Glenn County portion. Site inspections were completed, program participation agreements have been executed by the respective GSAs and program participants, and monitoring equipment has been installed. The GSAs are excited to have this program up and running and will be collecting data from the participating wells soon.

Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)

The technical team has worked on identification and development of PMAs that could be implemented to ensure that the Colusa Subbasin can be operated within its sustainable yield. The current drought illustrates the importance of these PMAs.

Currently, the draft GSP contains:

- **Planned PMAs (5)**
 - Project proponents working to implement at this time
 - Detailed descriptions
- **Ongoing PMAs (6)**
 - Existing projects that are temporary and could be continued, or are limited in scope and could be expanded
 - Summary descriptions
- **Potential PMAs (22)**
 - Conceptual
 - Will be evaluated and developed further based on monitoring of PMA performance and groundwater conditions
 - Summary descriptions

Public Outreach

Two SGMA-Series public meetings were held July 28 (virtual) and July 29 (in-person) to provide information about GSP development and the release of draft chapters 5 and 6. The virtual meeting was held via Zoom, and was also live-streamed on the Colusa Subbasin Facebook page.

Information about these meetings can be found on the CGA website:

<https://colusagroundwater.org>

- Colusa Subbasin SGMA Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/ColusaSubbasin>
- Colusa Subbasin SGMA Twitter Page: <https://twitter.com/ColusaSubbasin>

Interbasin Coordination

The draft Northern Sacramento Valley Inter-Basin Coordination Report is completed. The content of the report is the result of staff recommendations resulting from regional inter-basin coordination meetings among staff representatives from 11 subbasins (Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Sutter, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Yolo), facilitated by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) in 2020-2021.

This report outlines a framework for inter-basin coordination for sustainable groundwater management in the Northern Sacramento Valley. It describes a menu of options for ongoing communication and collaboration between and among groundwater subbasins over the

twenty-year implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This framework can be used by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and will likely be included as an appendix in the Colusa Subbasin GSP.

Interbasin Coordination meeting summaries, maps of participating basins, and a spreadsheet comparing the different models being used can be found on the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation website here: [Inter-basin Coordination \(buttecounty.net\)](https://www.buttecounty.net/inter-basin-coordination)