



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

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

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

Meeting Agenda

Location: **Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room**
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Date: **October 3, 2017**

Time: **10:00-Noon**

1. CALL TO ORDER (*action item)

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Introductions
- c. Roll Call
- d. *Approval of Minutes from the June 16, 2017 Meeting
- e. *Acceptance of Agenda
- f. 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.

2. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (*action item)

- a. Presentation and Discussion; Groundwater Update, Roy Hull, DWR Northern Region Office
- b. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Staff Report Attached
 - i. Update on Activities
 - ii. Discussion on Outreach to Private Pumpers
- c. Commissioner Comments and Updates
- d. Next Meeting Date
- e. Items for Next Agenda
 - i. Discussion; Hear Report from Landowner Regarding Well Performance Problems
 - ii. Other

3. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular meeting date: **To be determined**

TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS: California Government Code Section 84308 requires you to disclose campaign contributions to Groundwater Management Commissioners if they amount to \$250 or more and were made within the last twelve months. Please announce your applicable campaign contributions when you speak. Any disabled person needing special accommodation to participate in the Commission proceeding is requested to contact the Colusa County Water Resources Division prior to meeting and arrangements will be made to accommodate you.



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Meeting Minutes

Location: **Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room**
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Date: **June 16, 2017**

Time: **1:00-3:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER (*action item)

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Introductions

Staff and public in attendance:

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources Manager

Greg Plucker, Director of the Colusa County Community Development Department

Tiffany Sines, Vann Brothers

- c. Commissioners' Oath of Office, *Colusa County Clerk*

Ann Nordyke, Chief Clerk to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors, gave the Oath of Office to the Commissioners present at this meeting.

- d. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Williams, Dormer, LaGrande, Moresco

Commissioners Absent: Charter

- e. *Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Williams moved to accept the agenda. Commissioner LaGrande Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

- f. 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.

There was no public comment.

2. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (*action item)

- a. *Election of Officers

Commissioner LaGrande moved to elect Commissioner Williams as Chair and Commissioner Moresco as Vice Chair of the Groundwater Commission. Commissioner Dormer Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).



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b. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update, *Water Resources Manager*

Ms. Fahey provided a brief summary of the formation of the Colusa Groundwater Authority to serve as the GSA for the County portions of the basins that are subject to SGMA, excluding the service area of Reclamation District 1004 as they will be a stand-alone GSA. She updated the Commission on the public hearing process for the agencies to sign on to the Joint Powers Agreement. Ten agencies have voted unanimously to sign on. There are two more public hearings scheduled for next week for the Cities of Colusa and Williams. Once all agencies have signed on, Ms. Fahey will submit the GSA filing to the Department of Water Resources by the June 30 deadline.

Commissioner Williams asked if there has been much public comment at the hearings. Ms. Fahey said that she has not been able to attend all of them, but the only hearing she has attended where there was public participation was at Reclamation District 479 where two landowners attended and asked questions. Overall it has been a very positive process, however it is a little worrisome that the public does not seem to be very engaged.

c. *Recommendation for appointment by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors, two Commissioners to serve as the private pumper representatives on the Colusa Groundwater Authority board
Commissioner Moresco moved to recommend Commissioner Williams to serve on the JPA Board. Commissioner LaGrande seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent). Commissioner LaGrande moved to recommend Commissioner Moresco to serve on the JPA Board. Commissioner Dormer seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

d. Determine meeting schedule

The Commission decided to wait until the meeting schedule of the Colusa Groundwater Authority is known, and then schedule the next Commission meeting a week prior to their first meeting. When the Authority meeting schedule is set, the Commission meeting schedule will be set at one week prior to each Authority Board meeting. The Commissioners agreed that a 10:00 a.m. meeting time is desirable.

e. Commissioner Comments and Updates

There were no comments or updates.

f. Items for next agenda

The Commission requested a SGMA update, including a Colusa Groundwater Authority update. Ms. Fahey will check with Mr. Hull from the California Department of Water Resources about a possible groundwater level update and subsidence survey update.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Moresco moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dormer seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent) and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



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COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION MEETING

Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Meeting Date: October 3, 2017 | 10:00-Noon

Staff Report

AGENDA ITEM 2.b: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

i. Update on Activities

- See the attached Water Resources Update newsletter for an overview of GSA formation in the Colusa and West Butte subbasins.
- The newly formed Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) has held two regular meetings and one special meeting. A regular meeting schedule is yet to be determined. Five subcommittees have been formed:
 - 1) **Executive Committee** – this is a standing committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair and 4 other JPA members. This committee is responsible for, among other things, developing meeting agendas and coordinating with the Glenn Groundwater Authority.
 - 2) **Legal Services subcommittee** – this is a short-term committee responsible for developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal counsel for the CGA, issuing the RFP, reviewing proposals and making a recommendation to the CGA Board.
 - 3) **Technical Work Plan subcommittee** – this is a short-term committee that is coordinating with the Glenn Groundwater Authority Technical Committee on items such as an RFP for a basin-wide water budget, and details of the Work Plan that will be integrated into a Proposition 1 grant proposal for GSP development.
 - 4) **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Project subcommittee** – this is a short-term committee that is coordinating with EDF on their project to develop an open source data platform for estimating Evapotranspiration.
 - 5) **The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Project subcommittee** – this short-term subcommittee will communicate with TNC to determine potential benefits of coordinating on their Proposition 1 grant proposal for a multi-benefit groundwater recharge and habitat creation project.
- Proposition 1 grant funding application due November 13, 2017
 - The California Department of Water Resources has released a Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects Proposal Solicitation Package under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant program for GSP development.
 - The CGA and Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) will develop a Colusa basin-wide GSP.
 - The CGA has contracted with Davids Engineering, Inc. to write the proposal with support from Colusa and Glenn County's Water Resources staff.



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- The Colusa Subbasin is eligible for up to \$1 million in funding. There is a 50% cost share, which may be waived due to the basin being designated economically disadvantaged.
- Facilitation Support Services (FSS)
 - DWR has signed a contract with the Center for Collaborative Policy (Dave Ceppos) for FSS for the Colusa Subbasin. Staff will hold a preliminary strategy meeting with Dave before launching the facilitation. Dave will also be working in the West Butte subbasin.

ii. Discussion on Outreach to Private Pumpers

One of the roles and responsibilities of the Groundwater Commission is to provide outreach to the private pumper community in the County. Community outreach will be a big push during GSP development.

There seems to be a lack of knowledge regarding SGMA among the general public. This agenda item provides time for the Commissioners to discuss their current thoughts/experiences about discussing SGMA with others in the agricultural community, especially private pumpers.



Colusa County Water Resources Update

Water Resources Division, Colusa County Community Development Department

100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. A, Colusa, CA 95932 | 530-458-0719

[Website](#)

JULY 12, 2017

SPECIAL SGMA EDITION

UPDATE - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Planning in Colusa County

The first major deadline for compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was June 30, 2017. As mandated by SGMA, every high and medium priority groundwater basin in the State was required to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or multiple GSAs, with no conflicting overlaps by the June 30 deadline. Any non-compliant groundwater basins are considered to be in a probationary status and the State Water Resources Control Board will assume management of those basins.

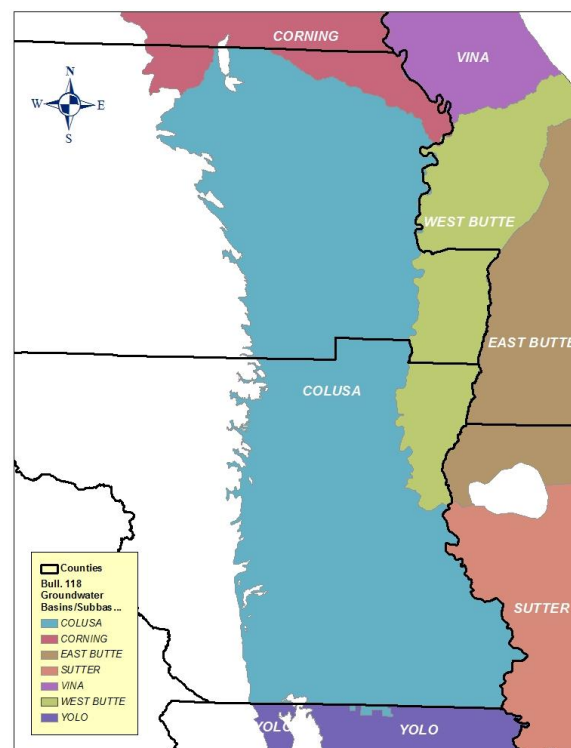
Two groundwater basins within Colusa County are subject to SGMA; the Colusa subbasin (medium priority), and the West Butte subbasin (high priority). We are happy to report that GSAs have been successfully filed and both basins are SGMA-compliant. The agencies that will be participating as GSAs are ready to begin development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and to work to ensure that the local groundwater resource is managed sustainably into the future.

Background

SGMA was signed into law in September, 2014. In Colusa County and in the Sacramento Valley region as a whole, agencies have been working hard over the past two-plus years to ensure that the region's groundwater basins are compliant with SGMA law and that groundwater is managed locally.

When the SGMA planning process began, 28 agencies were identified in Colusa County as eligible to be a GSA. By late 2015, certain circumstances led to eight agencies within the County portions of the basins filing to be stand-alone GSAs. This created eight overlapping and conflicting GSAs, and it was necessary to resolve these overlaps, as SGMA requires a collaborative approach to groundwater management.

A **Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)** is responsible for developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to meet the sustainability goal of the basin to ensure that it is operated within its sustainable yield, without causing undesirable results.



Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 118 High and Medium Priority Groundwater Basins. Colusa County shares the Colusa subbasin with Glenn County and the West Butte subbasin with Glenn and Butte Counties.

Colusa County obtained facilitation support services provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and began a series of facilitated GSA Workgroup meetings. Dave Ceppos from the Center for Collaborative Policy, Sacramento State University was the facilitator for both Colusa and Glenn Counties, among others. The Workgroup met regularly over the past two years to determine the best GSA structure for the County portions of the groundwater basins. The Workgroup consisted of interested GSA-eligible agencies within Colusa County, including the agencies that had previously filed to be GSAs and others. Private groundwater pumper representatives also participated. All meetings were open to the public, and the County maintains the [Water Resources website](#) where all meeting materials and other relevant information are available for viewing and download.

As GSA Workgroup meetings progressed, rather than focusing on multiple stand-alone GSAs, the direction of the group turned to forming one multi-party GSA to cover the county portions of the basins. It was agreed that this type of collaborative approach would allow the agencies to pool their resources and result in the most efficient and cost-effective governance structure.

SGMA allows multiple agencies to form a single GSA through formation of a Memorandum of Agreement, a Joint Powers Agreement, or other legal Agreement. The Colusa GSA Workgroup developed a set of Common Principles which were integrated into a Memorandum of Agreement. Ultimately, the Workgroup decided that a Joint Powers Agreement would be a stronger document, and with the help of a Legal Review Subcommittee, A Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) was drafted to form the Colusa Groundwater Authority GSA.

What is a Private Pumper?

A Private Pumper is a landowner outside of a surface water supply 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.

SGMA does not allow private entities such as Private Pumpers to be a GSA, yet they could be very much affected by this new groundwater law if fees and/or pumping restrictions are put into place. The Colusa Groundwater Authority recognizes the importance of Private Pumper involvement in SGMA planning, and has appointed two Private Pumpers to serve on the Authority Board.

Current Status

During the months of May and June, each of the Member agencies that are signatory to the Colusa JPA held public hearings to consider the adoption of a resolution approving the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement establishing the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA); and to authorize the CGA to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the County portions of the Colusa and West Butte subbasins. All resolutions passed unanimously, and on June 29, 2017, the Colusa Groundwater Authority's GSA notice was submitted to DWR and the notification was posted on DWR's [SGMA Portal](#) website. The agencies that had previously filed to be GSAs rescinded those filings and all overlaps were resolved. Reclamation District 1004 chose to remain a stand-alone GSA in the West Butte subbasin. The Colusa Groundwater Authority GSA covers the entire county portions of the Colusa Subbasin, and the county portions of the West Butte subbasin excluding the RD 1004 service area.

Members of the Colusa Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency:

1. Colusa County
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

Other Agencies in the Basins

A similar approach to Colusa's was taken in the Glenn County portion of the Colusa subbasin. The Glenn Groundwater Authority was formed to act as the GSA for the Glenn County portion of the Colusa subbasin. Several agencies in the West Butte subbasin decided to remain as stand-alone GSAs, including Reclamation District 1004 which is mostly located in the Colusa County portion of the West Butte subbasin.

Members of the Glenn Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency:

1. Glenn County
2. City of Orland
3. City of Willows
4. Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
5. Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
6. Provident Irrigation District
7. Glide Water District
8. Kanawha Water District
9. Orland-Artois Water District

Glenn County has a Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC). The PPAC is an Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors representing private pumper concerns and interests regarding SGMA.

The **Colusa subbasin** spans a large area of Colusa and Glenn Counties, and there are two GSAs in the basin:

- The Colusa Groundwater Authority
- The Glenn Groundwater Authority

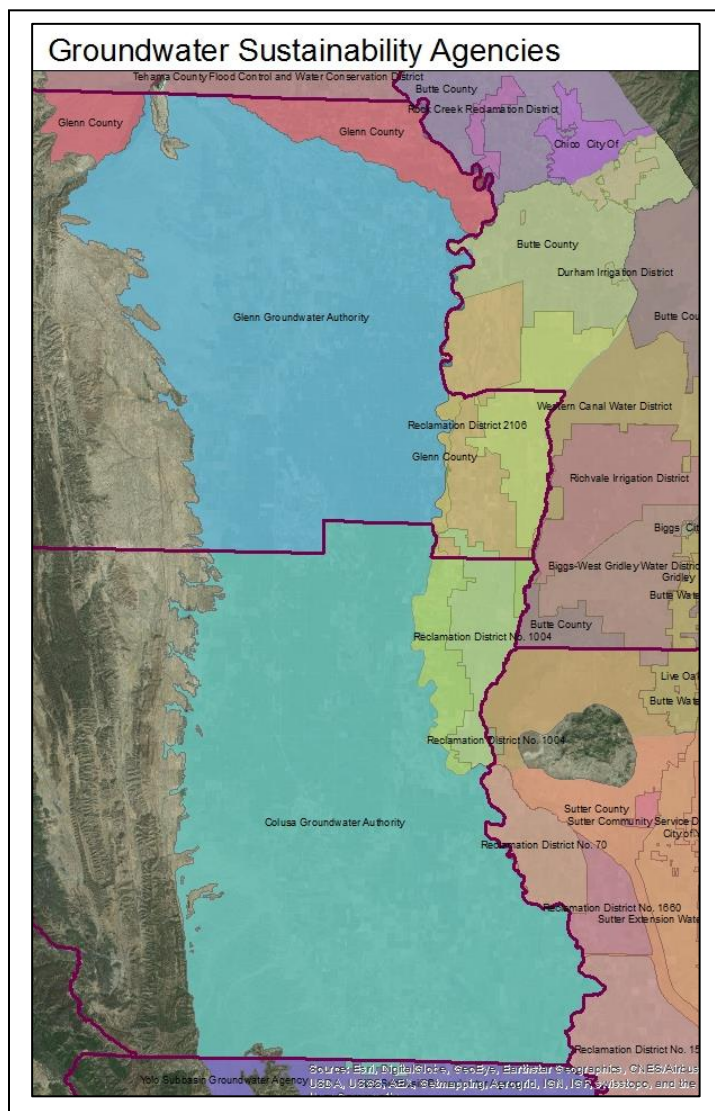
The **West Butte subbasin** spans portions of Colusa, Glenn and Butte Counties. There are seven GSAs in the basin:

- Colusa Groundwater Authority
- County of Glenn
- County of Butte
- Reclamation District 1004
- Western Canal Water District
- Reclamation District 2106
- City of Chico
- Durham Irrigation District

State Intervention Information

If unmanaged areas of a basin existed on July 1, 2017, those areas shall be subject to groundwater extraction reporting in accordance with Part 5.2 (commencing with §5200) of Division 2 of the Water Code and could be subject to fees listed in §1529.5

[Click here for information on SWRCB SGMA intervention fees.](#)



Next Steps

The first meeting of the Colusa Groundwater Authority has not yet been scheduled. It is planned to take place in early August. Please email [County Water Resources Staff](#) if you would like to be on the email notification list for upcoming meetings.

The next major SGMA deadline for our basins is January 31, 2022 when GSAs must complete a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for each of the basins they will manage. The Colusa Groundwater Authority will work with the Glenn Groundwater Authority to develop a single GSP for the Colusa subbasin, and will similarly work with the agencies in the West Butte subbasin to develop a West Butte GSP. The agencies will pursue Proposition 1 grant funding from DWR for GSP development. There will be ample opportunity for public input during GSP development.



STAY INFORMED!

All beneficial uses and users of groundwater (Water Code Section 10723.2) must be taken into consideration during SGMA planning and implementation. There will continue to be ample opportunities for public engagement during GSP development. If you are not on the County's SGMA email list, please contact [Water Resources staff](#) to ensure you receive meeting notices and other relevant information.

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 (see contact info below)
- ✓ Visit the Colusa County [Water Resources website](#)
- ✓ Visit DWR's Groundwater Information Center website: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/index.cfm>
- ✓ Visit the DWR SGMA Portal: <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#gsa>

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

Staff contact:

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