



Colusa County Water Resources Update

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V2.E4

In this issue:

Groundwater:

- SGMA Update
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Stay Informed
- Sustainable Groundwater Management in Colusa County

Surface Water

- Sites Reservoir Project Update
- Reservoir Conditions

Regional Coordination

- Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP
- Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program Update

General Updates

- DWR Update
- 2018 Water Bonds
- Colusa County Grown
- 53rd Annual Colusa Farm Show
- Upcoming Meetings & Events

GROUNDWATER

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

The County of Colusa and other local agencies and stakeholders have been working cooperatively on a proactive approach to implementing the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#) since early 2015. SGMA requires that all high and medium priority groundwater basins, as identified in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118, be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or combination of GSAs by June 30, 2017.

As reported in the July Special Edition of the Colusa County Water Resources newsletter, the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) has been established to act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Colusa County portions of the Colusa subbasin and portions of the West Butte subbasin. The CGA is a Joint Powers Authority consisting of the following Members:

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

The CGA has many responsibilities and authorities associated with its GSA status. Some of these include: development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, extensive public outreach, coordination with neighboring GSAs and neighboring basins, monitoring and reporting, conducting studies and determining sustainable yield, enforcing rules, regulations and ordinances, charging fees, etc.

The newly formed Colusa Groundwater Authority Board began meeting in August, 2017 and to-date they have held five meetings. These initial meetings have mostly been addressing administrative items to get the CGA up and running. The next meeting of the CGA Board is January 24, 2018. The Board will meet quarterly on the fourth Wednesday of January, April, July and October, 2018.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Development

Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

The first major task for the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) is to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). GSPs must be adopted by **January 31, 2022** (Plans for critically overdrafted basins are due January 31, 2020). Within the plans, groundwater conditions must be adequately defined and monitored to demonstrate that the Plan is achieving the sustainability goal for the basin.

The CGA and Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) have submitted a proposal for Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater grant funding for GSP development for the Colusa subbasin. The total grant funding requested is \$1 million. The total cost for all necessary tasks to develop a GSP for the Colusa subbasin is estimated to be \$1,497,400. The CGA and GGA will be responsible for developing a funding strategy to cover the additional \$497,400 (assuming the full \$1 million is awarded).

A similar grant proposal was submitted by Butte County for the West Butte subbasin, and the CGA will be coordinating GSP development activities with the other GSAs in the West Butte. The Work Plans for the Colusa subbasin, the West Butte subbasin and other surrounding subbasins were developed in a coordinated manner, demonstrating a collaborative effort in our region.

As the CGA and other GSAs move forward to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans, there will be ample opportunity for public input. **The CGA encourages all stakeholders, including members of the public, local agencies and others, to be engaged in the GSP development process.**

Groundwater Studies

As the CGA and other GSAs move forward implementing SGMA and developing GSPs, we will be conducting studies and gathering data to better understand the local groundwater system. This will allow for effective and efficient groundwater management that will ensure long-term sustainability. Three important groundwater projects are in the works locally:

The County of Colusa received a Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant for Counties with Stressed Basins in 2016. County staff is working with Consultants from Davids Engineering, Inc., on a groundwater monitoring and data management program. Staff is coordinating efforts with Glenn County staff in the Colusa Subbasin. This project will be completed by the end of March, 2018.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Northern Region Office, in cooperation with several local agencies, completed a Sacramento Valley-wide GPS land subsidence survey in summer, 2017. DWR staff is processing the data and results from this survey are expected in summer, 2018.

Water budgets are a first step to understanding local conditions and determining if basins are sustainable. The Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) recently issued a Request for Proposals for a Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Water Budget for the Colusa Subbasin. This project is scheduled to begin in the early part of 2018.

Results of all of the technical work completed locally will be readily available to the public.

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:

- ✓ Sign up for the **Colusa County Water Resources email notification list** for updates and meeting announcements - call or email [Water Resources Staff](#)
- ✓ Visit the [Colusa County Water Resources website](#)
- ✓ Visit DWR's [Groundwater Information Center website](#)
- ✓ DWR's SGM Program publishes a twice monthly electronic newsletter to keep you informed about SGM Program news and other announcements. [Subscribe to receive updates on current and future SGM Program activities.](#)
- ✓ Check out the [Colusa County Groundwater Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ If you are a Farm Bureau member, check in with your local FB Board
- ✓ Look for upcoming public meetings and workshops



Sustainable Groundwater Management in Colusa County

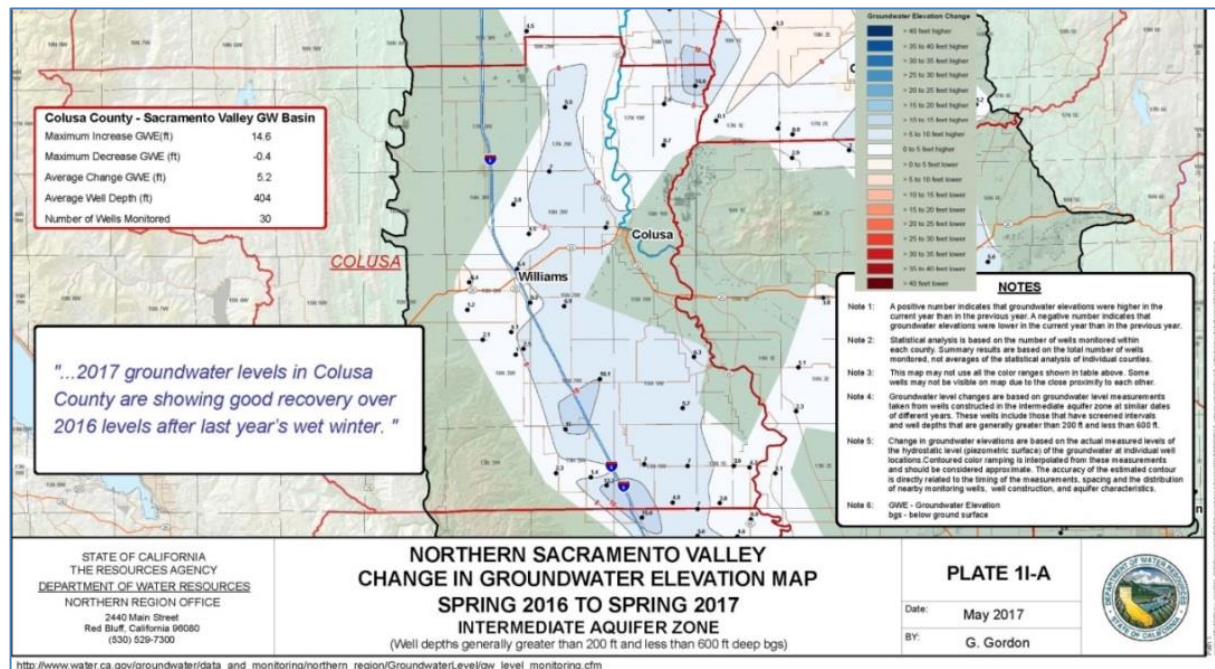
Appeared on the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Blog; 11.30.2017

These are historic times for groundwater management in California, with the onset of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and recent extreme drought conditions that were followed by one of the wettest winters on record.

Prior to this last winter, a ten year stretch of generally dry conditions existed in the Sacramento Valley, creating many challenges for water managers. Challenges, yes, but these extreme conditions have also provided an excellent opportunity to evaluate the resiliency of the groundwater system. In Colusa County, groundwater conditions are generally good, however groundwater levels in the southwest portion of the County were drawn down considerably during the drought, which is not surprising. This area of the County is ideal for growing tree crops, but it is also an area where surface water supplies were cut back several years, including a 0% allocation in 2014 for the first time in history, and again in 2015.

Despite these challenges, 2017 groundwater levels in Colusa County are showing good recovery over 2016 levels after last year's wet winter. This is illustrated on DWR's groundwater level change map below.

As we move into the era of SGMA, The Colusa Groundwater Authority, which will be implementing SGMA in Colusa County, will be coordinating with other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to plan and implement projects and programs that will preserve and enhance sustainable groundwater conditions locally.



SURFACE WATER

Sites Project, Progress Report

The cover image features a blue-tinted photograph of a wetland landscape with a single bird, possibly a heron, standing in the water. The text "SITES PROJECT | DECEMBER 2017" is centered above the main title.

Progress Report

The Sites Project continues to build momentum.

The past year was important for the project as it moves toward the construction of an offstream storage reservoir in Northern California that will secure statewide water supplies while benefiting critical ecosystems. Highlights from 2017 include taking several key steps in the environmental review process, submitting an application for Proposition 1 funding and generating critical financial and general project support. The below items are a summary of the events and milestones from the past year.

Fast Facts

Social Media

Facebook	Twitter	Website
489 Page likes	667 Followers	8,431 Users
5,264 Reached on Facebook	250 Retweets and mentions	14,151 Sessions
571 Page engagement	85,500 Tweet impressions	44,888 Pageviews

55

Media Coverage

Print and online articles and editorials related to the project

45

Event Participation

Briefings, public meetings, legislative brownbags, site tours and community events

 **Sites** SITESPROJECT.ORG

2017 SITES PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

January

- [Supplemental Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report](#) published by the Sites Project Authority (Authority), signaling initiation of the scoping public review period (January 31, 2017 – March 2, 2017)
 - [Press Release](#)
- Conducted a project site tour for several legislative representatives, labor organizations and various statewide stakeholders

February

- Two public open house scoping meetings held in Sacramento and Maxwell
 - [Environmental Review Process Overview fact sheet](#)
 - [Meeting Poster Boards](#)
 - [Meeting Presentation](#)



March

- Project representative from the Placer County Water Agency [testified in support of the project before the House Committee on Natural Resources](#)
- Four Community Coffee meetings held in Maxwell to provide local residents the opportunity to identify areas where the project can be improved, ask questions and express concerns
- Conducted briefings for several Congressional Representatives in Washington D.C.

April

- Participation in several important events by project representatives, including the California Water Commission's monthly meeting and a brownbag at the Capitol for legislative staff
- Held briefings for various stakeholders, including several non-governmental organizations



May

- As of May 3rd, 1.8 million acre-feet could have been stored in the Sites Reservoir if it existed during 2017's rainy spring

June

- In response to common questions and concerns about property and community impacts and the Authority's plans to mitigate for impacts, a [Landowner Frequently Asked Questions document](#) was released, covering a variety of topics including the Authority's organizational structure and purpose, land acquisition, operations and design
- First quarterly Landowner Newsletter sent to potentially impacted property owners in the project footprint covering news and updates, upcoming meetings and events and other relevant topics
- Two Community Coffee meetings held in Maxwell to discuss project status and updates

- Project represented on the Association of California Water Agency's Spring Conference Water Storage Integration Study Panel

July

- Property owners in the newly identified "Power Alternative" alignment participated in a meeting with project representatives to discuss project status and updates, potential impacts to their properties, ask questions and identify future information sources



November

- [Updated benefits infographic published](#), detailing the public benefits of the Sites Reservoir
- [Animation](#) covering the multiple and diverse benefits of the Sites Project published
- Tour stop on the Water Education Foundation's Northern California Tour
- Conducted a project site tour for a Northern California Senator and several stakeholders from his district
- Participated in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Roundtable on Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Project Delivery/Partnerships

October

- Extensive and diverse coalition representing labor, business, water and agricultural interests, residents, various local and statewide agencies, as well as several cities and counties from the Bay Area to Southern California formalize support for the project
 - [List of Supporters](#)
 - [Letters, Cards and Resolutions](#)

If constructed, SITES RESERVOIR would be

FULL!

Providing an additional **1.8 million** acre-feet of water

Or more than **580 billion** gallons of water

*This water year starting October 1.
Source: CA Department of Water Resources

More Stored Water for:



August

- [Application for Proposition 1](#), Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funding submitted to the California Water Commission
 - [WSIP Application Executive Summary](#)
- [Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement](#) (Draft EIR/EIS) released by the Authority and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for public review and comment through November 13, 2017
 - [Press Release](#)
- [Draft Federal Feasibility Report released by the Authority and Reclamation](#)
- [List of current and prospective non-Federal and non-State agency participants](#) in the Phase 1 development of the Sites Project expands to 33. List includes agencies representing the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area and Southern California.

September

- Quarterly Landowner Newsletter sent to potentially impacted property owners in the project footprint
- Community Coffee held in Maxwell to discuss project status and updates
- [Draft EIR/EIS public review period extended to January 15, 2018](#)
 - [Informational Document](#)



December

- Two public open house meetings on the Draft EIR/EIS held in Sacramento and Maxwell
 - Draft EIR/EIS fact sheet
 - Meeting Poster Boards
 - Meeting Presentation
- Presentation to the California Water Commission
- Quarterly Landowner Newsletter sent to potentially impacted property owners in the project footprint
- Community Coffee meeting held in Maxwell to discuss project status and updates



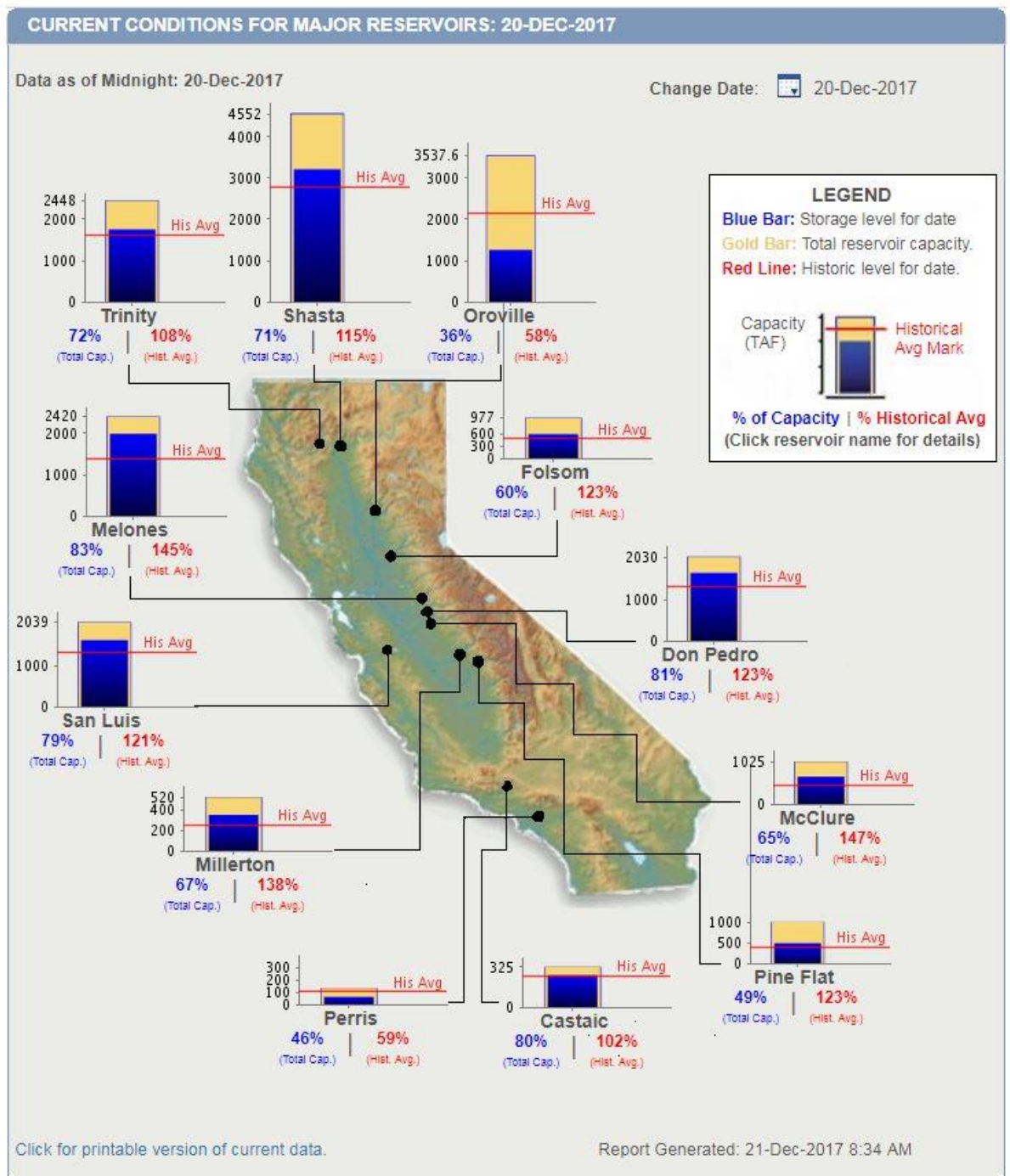
SITESPROJECT.ORG

DECEMBER 2017

Reservoir Conditions (12-20-17)

[Click HERE for daily reservoir conditions.](#)

California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



REGIONAL COORDINATION

Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM)

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP (Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta) are working together to coordinate, communicate and address regional water-related issues.

The NSV IRWM group is currently working with Burdick and Company on a Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACI). This program is being initiated in IRWM regions throughout the state. The program includes rural community engagement and technical needs assessments in all Disadvantaged Communities (DAC). The purpose is to work with DACs to develop water-related project proposals and to bring projects to a level that is competitive for funding. The process begins with a needs assessment in each identified DAC place. It is anticipated that Burdick and Company will come back in the fall of 2018 with a list of proposed projects in the NSV region.

Additionally, as part of the Disadvantaged Community Involvement process, Community-Based Needs Assessments are being made throughout the Sacramento River Funding Area. This effort is a pilot program involving one DAC place per region. The goal of this effort is to engage at a community level and identify potential issues or project opportunities not previously identified, or become aware of potential issues within the communities that could have a detrimental effect on water projects so that the water agencies can mitigate and address those concerns, thus having an easier time implementing projects. In the NSV region, the unincorporated town of Grimes in Colusa County was chosen for a pilot project. Due to the large size of the NSV region, a second pilot study may be completed in another DAC place.

NSV Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings are open to the public. TAC meetings feature educational presentations on regional and statewide water topics. The next TAC meeting is January 17, 2018 at Willows City Hall in Glenn County. See the website for more information:

<http://nsvwaterplan.org>

Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program

Are you meeting Water Quality Regulations?

An Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update By Kandi Manhart, Subwatershed Coordinator

As many of you know who have irrigated Ag lands, or managed wetlands, the *Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program* (ILRP) has grown each year since 2014 with more and more annual reporting requirements. These reports are required and Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program (CGSP) must collect 100% by the due dates to meet the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group [Order No. R5-2014-0030] adopted March 12, 2014.

If you have commercial irrigated Ag lands and have never heard of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, please call the CGSP office at 530-934-8036 to make sure we can help you meet these 'Water Quality Regulations'. Better safe, then sorry!

For the coming months check your mailboxes. And, if you have enrolled irrigated parcel(s) with CGSP be sure your contact information is current. As a Member, CGSP will help you in completing the required reports:

- ✓ Farm Evaluations
- ✓ Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Worksheets
- ✓ Certified NMP Worksheets and Summary Reports for those parcels located in a 'High Vulnerability Area', and
- ✓ **NEW** Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP)

What does this **NEW** Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP) mean? If one or more of your parcels fall within one of the identified categories as having the potential to discharge sediment to off-farm surface waters, then you may need to attend a training, take an open book test and develop a SECP; other certification options available. The first training was November 2 and more will be held: January 9, 11, 18, and 23 in 2018. Also **NEW** this year is the expansion of the High Vulnerability Areas for Nitrogen Management Plan reporting due to changes in the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR). Additional Members will need to complete and Certify their Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheets and return a Summary Report. Additionally, more Grower Self-Certification NMP trainings will be scheduled in January/February 2018. More information will be mailed specific to Members in the coming months for all reporting requirements.

ENFORCEMENT: Regional Board is continuing their enforcement effort to ensure all parcels subject to the ILRP are coming into compliance. They will also be enforcing the reporting requirements and have begun On-Farm Compliance Inspections in our area.

In close, if you or someone you know wants to ensure compliance with the ILRP to meet these 'Water Quality Regulations' or just to learn more, please call 530-934-8036 or email Kandi Manhart at cgsubwatershed@sbcglobal.net.



GENERAL UPDATES

DWR Update

SGMA Data, Tools and Reports

DWR has a long history of data collection and reporting as well as developing useful tools and reports across California. With the passage of SGMA there is an increased need for local and state agencies and the public to easily access water data to make informed management decisions. Check out the [DWR Data, Tools and Reports website](#).

New Draft Best Management Practice

DWR has released the [Draft Sustainable Management Criteria Best Management Practice \(BMP\)](#). This BMP offers guidance on developing the four sustainable management criteria identified in the GSP Regulations: minimum thresholds, undesirable results, measurable objectives, and the sustainability goal. DWR seeks public comments on the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria BMP. The deadline for submitting public comments is by **5 pm Monday, January 8, 2017**.

California Water Plan Update

The [California Water Plan](#) (Water Plan) is the State government's strategic plan for managing and developing water resources statewide for current and future generations. It provides a collaborative planning framework for elected officials, agencies, tribes, water and resource managers, businesses, academia, stakeholders, and the public to develop findings and recommendations and make informed decisions for California's water future. Opportunities to get involved with the Water Plan will be announced in the [California Water Plan eNews](#).

Lake Oroville Spillway Update

DWR met its goal of repairing and reconstructing the main, gated flood control spillway at Lake Oroville by November 1, 2017 to handle flows of 100,000 cubic-feet per second this winter. Preparing the main spillway for the rainy season was a primary objective of the Lake Oroville Spillway's Emergency Recovery Project, which has now completed its first phase after a massive construction effort that rebuilt and strengthened more than 2,270 feet of the 3,000-footlong main spillway. Additional information is available [here](#) (events, updates, news, photos, video, maps, etc.).

DWR released the [operations plan for Lake Oroville during the 2017-18 rainy season](#) to protect public safety while construction continues on the reservoir's main and emergency spillways. The plan, which will guide reservoir operations between November 1, 2017 and April 2018, calls for DWR to maintain lower-than-average lake levels during the winter months to provide space for inflows and manage releases from the substantially reconstructed main spillway.

2018 Water Bonds

Two general obligation bonds will likely appear on the ballots in California in 2018. Both bonds include funding for various water-related programs.

The California Drought, Water, Parks, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 is a \$4 billion bond measure to finance water and parks projects, climate change preparedness, coastal protection, and outdoor access issues. The bond was placed on the June ballot through passage of SB 5, by Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León.

The State Water Supply Infrastructure, Water Conveyance, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration, and Drinking Water Protection Act of 2018 is a proposed \$8.9 billion bond measure that would fund a wide range of programs from wastewater recycling to water conservation incentives to watershed improvements, and groundwater programs including SGMA implementation. Initiative backers are currently collecting signatures for this bond measure to appear on the November ballot. More information can be found on the website: waterbond.org. The Colusa Groundwater Authority, at their December 8, 2017 meeting, voted to support this bond.

Colusa County Grown



Colusa County Grown (CCG) is growing and glowing as they promote Colusa County agriculture at every opportunity. The first year of the CCG membership drive has been successful and there is great anticipation to increase memberships substantially in 2018. The **Colusa County Resource Conservation District** spearheaded the efforts to create this campaign to support local producers and businesses. Another motive of the district was to initiate an avenue to promote the outstanding work that farmers are doing to ensure healthy natural resources for current and future generations. The district feels it is of utmost importance to tell the farmer's story, especially when it comes to how they conserve water, improve soil health and provide wildlife habitat.

The district is pleased with the interest the program has generated during the first year of soliciting membership and the dedication they have witnessed from the initial CCG Board of Directors. Colusa County Grown has a strong social media presence on Facebook and the program's website at colusacountygrown.org. Please check out these two sites to see CCG in action.

The newest edition of the CCG Farm and Food Guide has been published and is available at the Colusa County RCD's office (100 Sunrise Blvd, Ste B, Colusa or call 530-458-2931x4). The guide is a keepsake publication that can be referred often to find out where to purchase local produce at peak freshness and learn more about local farmers that are making a difference. CCG is currently holding quarterly membership meetings. **Please contact the CCRCD or CCG social media to learn how to join today.**

The 53rd Annual Colusa Farm Show is February 6-8, 2018

For 53 years, the Colusa Farm Show has meant one-stop shopping for all farm services. The purpose of this showcase is to acquaint agriculturalists with the latest in modern farming equipment and techniques. Year-in, year-out, the Farm Show is attended by farmers and suppliers from all over the world.



2018 USDA FARM SHOW SEMINAR

Among other informative seminars, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colusa County Resource Conservation District and Farm Service Agency are putting their heads together to create a seminar for the 2018 Colusa Farm Show. The seminar will tentatively take place on **February 7th at 10:00 am at the Stagehand Theater**. These agencies will give basic overviews of their purpose and explain the current opportunities that are available to producers.

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District will also staff an exhibit in the Main Exhibit Building to teach the public about the district and provide information on the Natural Resource Conservation Service Farm Bill programs and technical assistance.

For more information on the 2018 Farm Show, visit the Website: colusafairgrounds.com/farm-show

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board

January 8, 2018

1:30 – 4:30

Glenn County Department of Agriculture, Willows

Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP Technical Advisory Committee

January 17, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Willows City Hall

Sites Reservoir Authority Board

January 22, 2018

1:30 p.m.

Sites Project Office, Maxwell

Colusa Groundwater Authority Board

January 24, 2018

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

53rd Annual Colusa Farm Show

February 6-8, 2018

Open daily 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Free admission and Free parking

1303 10th Street (Highway 20), Colusa, CA 95932

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

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All of these meetings are open to the public and stakeholders are encouraged to attend to learn more about local and regional water management planning efforts.

Wishing you and yours a peaceful
Holiday, and hoping Santa brings lots
of rain in the New Year!

