

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Plan Authority and Administration

On August 26, 2003, the Butte County Board of Supervisors formally approved resolution 03-134 directing the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation (Department) to proceed with the development of a countywide AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The resolution is included as Appendix A. The County is an authorized groundwater management agency within the meaning of California Water Code (CWC) § 10753¹ (b) as a consequence of the fact that the County provides flood control services in County Service Area 24. The plan does not conflict with existing groundwater ordinances and groundwater management plans, the Department shall endeavor to coordinate this GMP with local agencies that have adopted rules and regulations to implement and enforce their own AB 3030 plans as required by CWC § 10753.9(a).

The Department has been participating in groundwater management activities for multiple years. The Department has focused on helping local users manage groundwater more effectively through several programs. In the last several years, the Department has increased groundwater level and quality monitoring, and has worked with other entities to collect and disseminate water quality and quantity data. Additionally, the Department assists other entities within the County with locally-driven groundwater management activities. The GMP documents the County's existing groundwater management programs, and explains potential future actions to increase the effectiveness of groundwater management.

AB 3030 History

The California Groundwater Management Act, or AB 3030, was adopted by the California legislature in 1992, which created provisions in the California Water Code Sections 10750 et.seq. to manage the safe production, quality and proper storage of groundwater. Though adoption of a Groundwater Management Plan is not required by law it is encouraged. AB 3030 is applicable to local agencies, including counties, to

¹ CWC § 10753(a) Any local agency, whose service area includes a groundwater basin, or a portion of a groundwater basin, that is not subject to groundwater management pursuant to other provisions of law or a court order, judgment, or decree, may, by ordinance, or by resolution if the local agency is not authorized to act by ordinance, adopt and implement a groundwater management plan pursuant to this part within all or a portion of its service area.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a local public agency, other than an agency defined in subdivision (g) of Section 10752, that provides flood control, groundwater management, or groundwater replenishment, or a local agency formed pursuant to this code for the principal purpose of providing water service that has not yet provided that service, may exercise the authority of this part within a groundwater basin that is located within its boundaries within areas that are either of the following:

(1) Not served by a local agency.

(2) Served by a local agency whose governing body, by a majority vote, declines to exercise the authority of this part and enters into an agreement with the local public agency pursuant to Section 10750.7 or 10750.8.

develop a county-wide groundwater management plan for portions of the groundwater basin not presently covered by another groundwater management plan. As stated above, in August 2003 the Butte County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 03-134 (Appendix A) directing the Department of Water and Resource Conservation to proceed with the development of a county-wide AB 3030 Plan.

Per Water Code Section 10750 et.seq., the County's AB 3030 Plan is a stand alone document. According to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), 149 agencies have adopted AB 3030 plans and others have begun the process. In some basins groundwater is managed by statutory or judicial authority.

One benefit to Butte County's adoption of its AB 3030 Plan is to meet objectives of grant funding opportunities available under the Groundwater Management Assistance Program (AB 303). Last January 2004 Butte County applied for an AB 303 grant in the amount of \$236,000 to support the development of a Basin Management Objective (BMO) Information Center, which is a web-based data center with GIS components. The County's grant application was outscored by competing proposals primarily because the County did not have an AB 3030 Plan in place.

The County DW&RC has developed the AB 3030 Plan to remain in context with the proposed County Integrated Water Resources Plan which is anticipated to be considered by the Board in early 2005. The DW&RC desires to perform and evaluate the scientific studies that will be necessary in the future to assist local policy makers.

Section 1.2 discusses the GMP's objectives, and Section 1.3 outlines the area covered by the GMP. The overall plan development process, as required by the CWC, is described in detail in Section 1.4, and the public involvement process is described in Section 1.5

1.2 Plan Objectives

The GMP supports the long-term maintenance of high quality groundwater resources within the Plan Area for agricultural, environmental, rural domestic and urban needs. Specifically, the Butte County Groundwater Management Plan endeavors to:

- Minimize the long-term drawdown of groundwater levels;
- Protect groundwater quality;
- Prevent inelastic land surface subsidence from occurring as a result of groundwater pumping;

- Minimize changes to surface water flows and quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality;
- Minimize the effect of groundwater pumping on surface water flows and quality; and
- Evaluate groundwater replenishment and cooperative management projects.

1.3 Area Covered by Plan

The Butte County GMP includes those areas overlying a groundwater basin or associated groundwater sub-basin within Butte County not otherwise managed under an existing AB 3030 groundwater management plan (CWC § 10750.2(b)) or regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (CWC § 10750.7(a)). The Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin resources within Butte County are located in the North Yuba, East Butte, West Butte, and Vina groundwater sub-basins. These sub-basins are shown on Figure 1-1.

The Butte County GMP Plan Area is shown on Figure 1-2. Areas managed under existing AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plans by a local agency (CWC § 10750.2(b)), and therefore excluded from inclusion in this GMP, include those areas within the borders of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, and Western Canal Water District. Areas overlying the groundwater basin that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (CWC § 10750.7(a)), and therefore excluded from inclusion in this GMP, include those areas within the service area of California Water Service Company – Chico and California Water Service Company – Oroville. Additionally, the foothill and mountain areas of the County do not overlie groundwater basins as defined in Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118-2003, and are therefore not included under this GMP.

Within Table 1-1, Inventory Units correspond to the above referenced groundwater sub-basins. Inventory Sub-units represent a geographical area that is a subset to an Inventory Unit. Inventory Sub-units generally represent organized water suppliers or other independent water use areas that have common land use and water supply sources. Water resources within Inventory Units and Inventory Sub-units have been characterized in detail in the reports *Butte County Groundwater Inventory Analysis* (DWR, 2000) and *Butte County Water Inventory and Analysis* (CDM, 2001). These reports are available at the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation office library for use by the public.

**Table 1-1
Butte County AB 3030 GMP Included Areas**

Inventory Units	Inventory Sub-Units	Areas Within Sub-Units	Included in Butte County GMP
East Butte	Biggs-West Gridley	Biggs-West Gridley Water District	
		City of Biggs	*
		City of Gridley	*
	Butte	Butte Water District	
		City of Biggs	*
		City of Gridley	*
	Butte Sink	All	*
	Cherokee	All	*
	Esquon	Durham Mutual Water District	*
		All Other Areas	*
	Pentz	All	*
	Richvale	Richvale Irrigation District	
	Thermalito	Thermalito Irrigation District	*
All Other Areas		*	
Western Canal	Western Canal Water District		
North Yuba	North Yuba	California Water Service, Oroville	
		All Other Areas	*
Vina	Vina	California Water Service, Chico	
		All Other Areas	*
West Butte	Angel Slough	All	*
	Durham/ Dayton	California Water Service, Chico	
		Dayton Mutual Water District	*
		Durham Irrigation District	*
		All Other Areas	*
	Llano Seco	All	*
	M&T	M&T Ranch	*
	Chico Urban Area	All	*
Western Canal	Western Canal Water District		

Note that the Chico Urban Area, which may include portions of the West Butte and Vina sub-inventory units, or that portions of that BMO sub-unit that are not presently covered by an AB 3030 Plan by the local water purveyor, are addressed in the Butte County GMP.

Areas overlying the groundwater basin that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (CWC Section 10750.7(a)), including the area served by the California

Water Service Company - Chico, are managed under an Urban Water Management Plan and are not included in the Butte County GMP.

1.4 Plan Development Process

There are five main steps in the development of an AB 3030 groundwater management plan, defined under CWC § 10753.2 through 10753.6, as summarized below.

Step 1- Provide public notification of a hearing on whether or not to adopt a resolution of intention to draft a GMP and subsequently complete a hearing on whether or not to adopt a resolution of intention to draft a GMP. Following the hearing, draft a resolution of intention to draft a GMP.

Step 2 - Adopt a resolution of intention to draft a GMP and publish the resolution of intention in accordance with public notification (6066 gov code). Upon written request, provide copy of resolution of intention to interested persons. The Butte County Board of Supervisors adopted the resolution of intention to develop a GMP on August 26, 2003.

Step 3 - Prepare draft GMP within 2 years of resolution of intention adoption. Provide to the public a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in developing the GMP, as discussed in section 1.5 below. This may also include appointing a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Step 4 - Provide public notification (6066 gov code) of a hearing on whether or not to adopt the GMP, followed by a hearing on whether or not to adopt the GMP.

Step 5 - If Protests are received for less than 50% of the assessed value of property in the county area the plan may be adopted within 35 days after completion of Step 4 above. If Protests are received for greater than 50% of the assessed value of the property in the county area, the plan will not be adopted. Section 10753.6 of the California Water Code (re: writing protest: content; majority protest) states that in order for a majority protest to exist to the adoption of the plan, written protests covering over 50% of the assessed value of the land area (as shown in Section 1, Figure 1-2 of the draft GMP) must be filed and not withdrawn before the conclusion of the second public hearing.

At its September 28, 2004 meeting the Butte County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing and approved the County GMP on a unanimous vote. The draft Butte County GMP was prepared in accord with CWC Section 10750 et.seq.. The availability of the draft GMP was announced at the April 6, 2004 meeting of the Butte County Water Commission. The public review draft was posted on the Department's (Department of Water and Resource Conservation - DW&RC) web-site and hard copies of the draft were also placed in local Butte County libraries in April 2004.

In addition to the activities described above the public was notified of the availability to review the draft GWP in its "WaterSolutions" newsletter which includes a mailing list of approximately 200 persons and organizations. Further, public notices were placed in local newspapers (Gridley, Chico, Oroville, Paradise) in May 2004 to inform the community that the draft GMP was available for review and comment. Comments were requested by June 30, 2004, however, many were received by the Department through late August 2004.

At its August 3, 2004 meeting the Butte County Water Commission moved that the draft GMP be taken to the Board and set a public hearing to announce their intention to adopt a GMP. On August 17, 2004 the Board adopted Resolution No. 04-152 (attached in Appendix G) to schedule a public hearing on September 28, 2004 for the purposes of hearing protests and adopting the draft GMP.

The County received numerous helpful comments to the draft GMP but did not receive written protests regarding the plan's adoption. A copy of Resolution No. 04-181 passed by the Board by unanimous vote on September 28, 2004 is included in Appendix G.

1.5 Public Outreach and Education

Public outreach and education is a primary function of the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation. The Department encourages two-way dialogue, characterized by information dissemination and requests for suggestions and feedback on Department activities. In addition to public outreach completed during development of the GMP as required under CWC § 10753.2 through 10753.6, the Department has regularly disseminated information on GMP development as part of its ongoing public outreach effort.

GMP-related information and draft documentation are available to the public on the Department's website (<http://www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource/>) and have been included in the Department's monthly newsletter, *Water Solutions*, that is distributed in hardcopy and via e-mail to all interested parties. The Department also provides regular updates on plan development to the Butte County Water Commission and Board of Supervisors, with opportunity for the public to provide comment directly to Water Commission and Board of Supervisor members.

The Department has reported on GMP development during meetings with interested stakeholders. Stakeholder groups include the Butte Basin Water Users Association, Upper Ridge Coordinating Committee, Integrated Plan Steering Committee, and the Integrated Watershed Stakeholders Group. Individuals attending these meetings typically represent a wide range of organizations, including watershed groups, water agencies, independent groundwater users, interest groups and the general public.

Future GMP public outreach and education will focus on GMP implementation activities. Following the Board of Supervisors' February 10, 2004 approval of a Basin Management Objective (BMO) ordinance, the Department is supporting local areas pursuing development of BMOs within their respective areas. Butte County Ordinance 3869, describing BMO development and implementation, is included as Appendix B. The Department has developed a Basin Management Objective Development Packet for use by local BMO representatives in each of the 16 areas identified in the approved ordinance. The packets are intended to provide information and guidance necessary to develop BMOs within each area.

In June 2004 the Department facilitated a meeting in Durham, California to educate the community and to initiate development of BMOs and the formation of a Water Advisory Committee (WAC) to support their development. In July 2004 the Department conducted five additional meetings held in Chico, Oroville, Gridley, Durham and Magalia to introduce the draft County Integrated Water Resource Plan, of which BMOs, and the draft AB 3030 Plan, are important components as they regard integrated water resource planning.

1.6 Management Plan Components

The Butte County GMP includes the following required and recommended components:

- CWC § 10750 *et seq.* (seven mandatory components). Recent amendments to the CWC § 10750 *et seq.* require GMPs to include several components to be eligible for award of funding administered by DWR for the implementation of groundwater related studies, construction of groundwater projects and groundwater quality projects. These amendments to the CWC were included in Senate Bill 1938, effective January 1, 2003.
- CWC § 10750 *et seq.* (12 voluntary components). CWC § 10750 *et seq.* includes 12 specific technical issues that could be addressed in GMPs to manage the basin optimally and protect against adverse conditions.
- DWR Bulletin 118-223 components (seven recommended components).

Table 1-2 summarizes the required and recommended components of an AB 3030 plan pursuant to current guidance and the report section where each component is addressed.

1.7 Organization of AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan

This GMP is organized into four sections:

- Section 1 - Introduction;

- Section 2 – Water Resources Setting;
- Section 3 – Plan implementation; and
- Section 4 – References.

To support the GMP the following appendices have been added:

- Appendix A – Resolutions passed by the Butte County Board of Supervisors
- Appendix B – Butte County Code, Chapter 33A Groundwater Management (BMO Ordinance)
- Appendix C – Butte Basin Water Users Association Groundwater Status Report 2004
- Appendix D – Butte County Code, Chapter 33 Groundwater Conservation
- Appendix E – Butte County Code, Chapter 23B Water Wells
- Appendix F – California Code of Regulations, Title 3 Pesticides and Pest Controls
- Appendix G – Public comments to the draft GMP and DW&RC responses to comments, discussed at the September 28, 2004 public hearing of the Board of Supervisors

**Table 1-2
Butte County AB3030 GMP Components**

Plan Component Description	Butte County Plan Section
CWC § 10750 et seq., Mandatory Components	
1. Documentation of public involvement statement	1.5
2. Establish basin management objectives	3.2, 3.5.3, 3.6.1
3. Monitoring and management of groundwater elevations, groundwater quality, inelastic land surface subsidence, and changes in surface water flows and quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by pumping.	3.4
4. Plan to involve other agencies located within groundwater basin.	3.7.2
5. Adoption of monitoring protocols by basin stakeholders.	3.4, 3.5.3
6. Map of groundwater basin showing area of agency subject to GMP, other local agency boundaries, and groundwater basin boundary as defined in DWR Bulletin 118.	Figure 1-1 Figure 1-2
7. For agencies not overlying groundwater basins, prepare GMP using appropriate geologic and hydrogeologic principles.	1.3
CWC § 10750 et seq., Voluntary Components	
8. Control of saline intrusion.	3.4.2, 3.6.2
9. Identification and management of wellhead protection areas and recharge areas.	3.5.6
10. Regulation of the migration of contaminated groundwater.	3.5
11. Administration of well abandonment and well destruction program.	3.5.1

12. Mitigation of conditions of overdraft.	3.6.3
13. Replenishment of groundwater extracted by water producers.	3.6.3
14. Monitoring of groundwater levels and storage.	3.4.1
15. Evaluate conjunctive use operations.	3.6.2, 3.6.3
16. Identification of well construction policies.	3.5.1
17. Construction and operation by local agency of groundwater contamination cleanup, recharge, storage, conservation, water recycling, and extraction projects.	3.6.3
18. Development of relationships with state and federal regulatory agencies.	3.7.1
19. Review of land use plans and coordination with land use planning agencies to assess activities that create reasonable risk of groundwater contamination.	3.5.5
DWR Bulletin 118 Suggested Components	
20. Manage with Guidance of advisory committee.	3.6.1, 3.7.2
21. Describe area to be managed under GMP.	1.3
22. Create link between BMOs and goals and actions of GMP.	Section 3
23. Describe GMP monitoring program.	3.4
24. Describe integrated water management planning efforts.	3.8
25. Report on implementation of GMP.	3.9.1
26. Evaluate GMP periodically.	3.9.2