



**Butte County  
Department of Water and  
Resource Conservation**

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**Butte County Water and  
Resource Conservation**



**Water & Resource  
Conservation**

**Our Mission**

To Manage and Conserve Water and Other Resources for the Citizens of Butte County

**Our Goals**

- Ensure an abundant and sustainable water supply to support Butte County's economy, environment and communities
- Effectively manage groundwater resources to ensure a long-term water supply for Butte County
- Promote water conservation as an important part of a long-term and sustainable water supply.
- Improve the utilization of the State Water Project Table A allocation
- Support Area of Origin and existing water rights

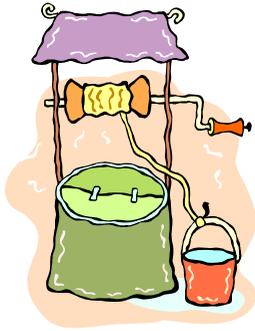
**What the Department  
Does to Protect and  
Conserve Water  
Resources**

- **Protecting Groundwater** through some of the strongest policies and programs in California
- **Monitoring and Evaluating Groundwater Conditions** to track trends in groundwater elevation, water quality and subsidence
- **Supporting Sustainable Water Supplies** for the long term health of our communities, economy and environment
- **Advocating** for the preservation of Area of Origin statutory protections and other established surface water rights.
- **Working Cooperatively** throughout the region because we share a common watershed and groundwater basins. Advancing education and outreach because a well-informed public strengthens our ability to sustain our water resources through forums such as the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum

## Protecting and Managing Groundwater

Butte County's groundwater is one of its most precious resources and critical to the County's economy, communities and environment. Butte County has a comprehensive set of policies and programs that protect groundwater including:

**Groundwater Conservation Ordinance** (Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code) is a referendum passed by voters in 1996. It requires any water transfer outside of the county which involves groundwater to be subject to a permit which involves evaluation of impacts, public review and County approval.



**Butte County Groundwater Management Plan** adopted in 2005 established the County's approach to protect groundwater resources on a cooperative basis with input from stakeholders.

**Butte County General Plan 2030** includes a Water Resource Element and other policies and goals to sustain groundwater and other natural resources.

## Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting

Protecting and conserving water resources must be based on factual, scientific information.

**Tracking** groundwater conditions is integral to water resource planning. Over 100 wells are monitored four times a year. Water from key wells is analyzed to detect saline intrusion or other water chemistry changes. Devices for the detection of land subsidence have also been installed.

**Basin Management Objectives (BMO) Program** (Chapter 33a) provides a scientifically-based approach to evaluate groundwater conditions in specific areas. The Technical Advisory Committee reviews groundwater data and provides recommendations for improvements on an annual basis. Through the Water Advisory Committee, the BMO program fosters communication with local stakeholders on groundwater conditions.

**Continuing Scientific Investigations** are necessary to improve the understanding of our complex water resources with the goal of improving decisions to assure the sustainability of our communities, economy and environment.

**Accessibility** to data and information on Butte County's water resources is provided through the Department's website.

## Supporting Sustainable Water Supplies



Butte County supports efforts to sustain water supplies for communities, agriculture and people. The Department:

- **Manages the Butte County's State Water Project Table A** allocation so it will be an asset for future generations.
- **Promotes Water Use Efficiency** through public education.
- **Supports Local Water Supply Projects** through partnerships with local water agencies and groups. The Department has brought in more than \$9 million in grants to support local projects since 2002

■ Subscribe to the monthly *WaterSolutions* Newsletter. Call us at (530)538-4343 or email us at [bcwater@buttecounty.net](mailto:bcwater@buttecounty.net)

## Working Cooperatively Regionally and Beyond

Butte County actively supports regional coordination of water resources and advocates for the County's water resource interests.

**Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NSVIRWMP)** is being developed for Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Colusa, Shasta and Sutter Counties. The NSVIRWMP will establish the region's water resource goals and priorities.

**State and Federal Water Policies** can affect the sustainability of our water resources. The Department actively engages in the California Water Plan, the Delta Plan, and monitors potential legislation.



■ Butte County Water Commission is the principle advisory body for the Board of Supervisors on water issues. The Water Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.