

## **FOREWORD**

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In November 1996, the voters in Butte County voted in “AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN BUTTE COUNTY”. One of the stated purposes of the Ordinance was that “The groundwater underlying Butte County is a significant water resource which must be reasonably and beneficially used and conserved for the benefit of the overlying land by avoiding extractions which harm the Butte Basin aquifer, causing exceedance of the safe yield or a condition of overdraft.” The ordinance is now codified as Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code relating to groundwater conservation.

Prior to 2000, Butte County Code, Chapter 33, required that the Groundwater Status Report be delivered to the County by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. During 2000, the Butte County Board of Supervisors amended Chapter 33 to require the Groundwater Status Report be delivered by February 21<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Section 3.01 – “Groundwater Planning Process” requires that the Butte Basin Water Users Association prepare a groundwater status report based upon the data gathered and analyzed pursuant to Section 3.02 – “Groundwater Monitoring”. The Groundwater Status Report is in response to this requirement.

The Department of Water Resources Northern District in Red Bluff supplied monitoring information and hydrographs that are used in this report and we would like to thank them for their cooperation and support in supplying this information.

The purpose of this report is to summarize groundwater level and land subsidence data collected by Butte County and DWR up to and through October 2003. The report presents locations of wells and extensometers, information related to groundwater level trends, and hydrographs depicting groundwater levels over time. It is our intent that this information be used to provide a better basis for understanding groundwater level trends in Butte County.

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Ed Craddock, Chairman  
Butte Basin Water Users Association