

Butte County Water Advisory Committee  
April 23, 2009  
Minutes

**Start-up**

Sub-unit representatives in attendance: Nora Todenhagen, Chico Urban Area; Rick Ponciano, Esquon and Pentz Interim; Lee Heringer, M&T; Toni Ruggle, North Yuba; Gene Harris, Richvale; Ted Trimble, Western Canal; Jim Brobeck, Foothill/Mountain at-large; Dave Pittman, City of Oroville at-large; Gary Cole, Cherokee Watershed at-large; Barbara Hennigan, Big Chico Creek at-large.

Sub-unit representatives not in attendance: Catherine Cottle, Angel Slough; Karen Peters, Biggs-West Gridley; Mark Orme, Butte; Gary Kerhoulas, Butte Sink; Myron Openshaw, Cherokee; Raymond Antonowich, Durham-Dayton; Dave Sieperda, Llano Seco; Mike Edwards, Thermalito; J Knight, Vina; Hayden Wasser, City of Biggs at-large; Tom Nickell, City of Chico at-large; Joe DiDuca, Town of Paradise at-large; Nani Teves, Little Chico Creek Watershed Alliance at-large; Chuck Kutz, Butte Creek Watershed at-large, Rocky Donati, Agriculture at-large.

Others in attendance: Water Commissioner David Skinner, Paul Gosselin, Kristen McKillop, Lynne Pillus.

**2009 BMO's**

Kristen reported that the document was approved at the April 1, 2009 Water Commission meeting. It is on the May 5, 2009 Board of Supervisors agenda for adoption.

**2009 Spring measurements**

There was no detectable inelastic subsidence reported. That data, as well as the groundwater elevation data, is available at the Water Data Library.

2008 and 2009 groundwater measurements were presented with both alert stages and measurements in order to make a comparison. Each sub-inventory unit is also using a different period of record average to establish alert levels. Also, using an average to set alert levels causes the level fluctuations. One well that is currently in Stage 3 Alert is at a higher level in 2009 than in 2008. Different methodologies are used in each sub-inventory unit, so there is no consistency that enables the Technical Advisory Committee to review the data.

**WAC Updates**

Paul said that more data was needed. He said that in the long term the Tuscan study would help with steam/aquifer interaction data, as well as the environmental monitoring proposal that we are working on with the University. He stated that it is time for the

stakeholders to establish the next step once a Stage 3 is reached. Possible procedures were discussed by the WAC.

Paul reported on the Drought Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed possible impacts for the upcoming year, such as increased use, fire risk and ecosystem issues.

Paul discussed the County budget situation. The budget will be released to the public on May 5, and the budget hearing process will start on May 18. He said the BMO process has been resource intensive and if there are staffing cuts they will have to be cut back also.

### **Comment Period**

None heard.

### **Wrap Up**

Elevation measurements will be taken in July and August, and water quality measurements will be taken the last week of July, if staffing permits. The next scheduled meeting of the WAC is September 24, 2009. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Todenhagen.