



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

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- Paul Gosselin,
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- Andrew Funk,
Water Resources
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- Lynne Pillus,
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**Butte County Water
Commission**

George Barber, Chair
DC Jones, Vice-Chair
Larry Grundmann
Mark Kimmelshue
John Lane
Ryan Schohr
David Skinner
Ernie Washington

Vacant—Landowner,
surface water



Our Mission:

*“To manage and
conserve water and
other resources for
the citizens of Butte
County”*

WaterSolutions

January 2012

**Happy New Year
2012**

The past year presented many challenges ranging from the continued economic downturn to numerous state policy initiatives. But there were far more positive developments than negative. Hydrologic conditions were favorable, with snow pack, reservoir levels and stream flows among the highest in many years. The improved conditions were reflected in higher groundwater levels and acceptable groundwater quality measurements. Although hydrologic and groundwater conditions have improved, there is no guarantee that favorable conditions will continue as evidenced by the current dry conditions.

After five years of implementation, the Basin Management Objective (BMO) program was reviewed by a subcommittee of the Water Commission with input from Water Advisory Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and the public. The review identified areas that were successful and those needing improvement. To clarify the intent of the program and build upon the best practices employed over the

past five years, the BMO Ordinance was modified this year. As the BMO program enters this new phase, we will continue to identify and implement improvements.

The Lower Tuscan Aquifer Monitoring, Recharge and Data Management Project had a full range of monitoring activities in 2011 led by our consultant team, Brown and Caldwell. Three components of the recharge investigation were conducted and ten dual ring infiltrometer tests were completed. Two stream gauges were installed along each of five creeks – Mill, Deer, Big Chico, Butte and Little Dry Creeks – and were monitored throughout the year. Measurements taken at each station provide estimates of discharge, and potential recharge to the lower Tuscan Aquifer. One of the most exciting developments was the completion of aquifer performance tests at two locations. Looking ahead to the final year of the Tuscan Aquifer Project, the major activities will include another aquifer performance test, stream monitoring and data analysis

and reporting.

Regional coordination through the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSVIRWM) process reached major milestones in 2011. In January the NSVIRWM governing board was seated and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was subsequently formed. Work quickly began on establishing operating principles and the work plan to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plan. The NSVIRWM group announced a series of workshops in January 2012 to solicit public input on the IRWM. The specifics on the workshops can be found in this newsletter. The NSVIRWM launched its website - [http://
www.nsvwaterplan.org](http://www.nsvwaterplan.org).

State initiatives presented many challenges in 2011 and will continue to do so in 2012. The development of the California Water Plan Update continues to move forward and will have a number of activities in 2012. The implementation of the

(Continued on page 4)



Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

About the Board

The Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Board (Board) has been working since January 2011 to guide the IRWM process. The Board consists of three appointments made by each of the six Boards of Supervisors in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter and Tehama Counties, for a total of eighteen members. A Technical Advisory Committee has been appointed to advise the project staff and make recommendations to the Board. The TAC will meet monthly and the Board meets quarterly. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Board and TAC meetings.

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley have been working together for over 10 years to lay the foundation for an integrated regional plan to address water-related issues such as economic health and vitality; water supply reliability; flood, stormwater and flood management; water quality improvements; and ecosystem protection and enhancement. The counties have committed to developing a valley-wide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan by September 2013.

Project Overview

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to enhance coordination of the water resources in a region. IRWM involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, tribes, individuals and groups to address water-related issues and offer solutions which can provide multiple benefits to the region.

Representatives of the six counties are working in partnership with community stakeholders, tribes and the public to identify the water-related needs of the region. This information will be used to develop goals and objectives of the IRWM Plan, and ultimately lead to the identification of projects and programs to be included in the Plan. When it is adopted in September 2013, the Plan will better position the region and local partners to receive funding for high-priority projects.

Public Outreach Workshops

There will be several public outreach workshops held throughout the course of the project. The first of these will be held in January 2012.

Wednesday, January 18th — Oroville, 9 to 11 am at Feather River Tribal Health Auditorium, 2145 5th Avenue

Wednesday, January 18th — Red Bluff, 2 to 4 pm at the Red Bluff Community and Senior Center, Westside Room, 1500 So. Jackson Street

Thursday, January 19th — Colusa, 3 to 5 pm at the Colusa Indian Community Council, Community Center Building, 3730 Highway 45

(This meeting will also be webcast.)
Please check the website for more specific information.

Outreach Meetings

County staff are also conducting outreach in several communities throughout the region and are available to attend meetings to share information and gather ideas from community members. Please contact the staff representative in your county to learn more.

Get Involved!

We want to hear from you! The project team invites the public to be involved in the development of the IRWM Plan. There are several ways to get involved. You can get more information about local watersheds and water-related issues and provide your comments at the project website www.nsvwaterplan.org. At the website, you can also sign up to receive regular updates via email.

County Outreach Representatives

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Consultant Team Representatives

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IRWMP Timeline and Plan Development Schedule

Phase 1: Develop Goals and Objectives



Public Outreach Workshops



Board Meeting
December 5



Board Meeting
March 5



Board Meeting
June 4



Board Meeting
September 10



Board Meeting
December 3

Phase 2: Develop Actions and Prioritize Project



Public Outreach Workshops

Phase 3: Develop IRWMP



Draft IRWMP Released for Public Comment



Public Outreach Workshops



Final Plan Adopted



Board Meeting
March 4



Board Meeting
June 3



Board Meeting
Sept. 9

TAC TAC

2011 OCT 2012 JAN MAR MAY JUL SEP NOV 2013 JAN MAR MAY JUL SEP



Meeting

Schedules

Butte County Water Commission

1/4/12, 1:30 p.m.
Board of Supervisors
Chambers
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

2/1/12, 1:30 p.m.
Board of Supervisors
Chambers

Water Advisory Committee/Technical Advisory Committee

April 26, 2012
HR Training Room
2279 Del Oro Ave
Oroville, CA 95965

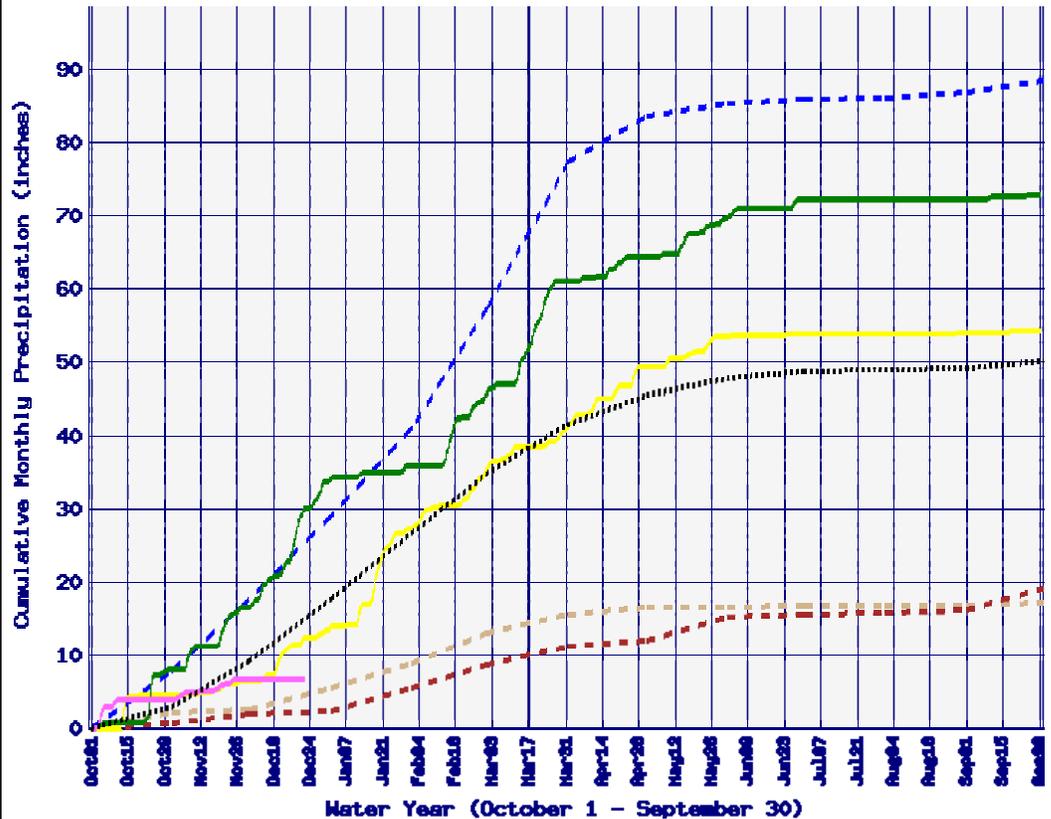
Drought Task Force

TBA
Water & Resource Conservation Conference Room, 308 Nelson Ave.
Oroville, CA

Butte County Board of Supervisors

1/10/12, 9:00 a.m.
Board of Supervisors
Chambers

1/24/12, 9:00 a.m.
Board of Supervisors
Chambers



(Continued from page 1)

2009 Delta Reform Act provided the legal foundation for the development of the Delta Plan and Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Another important aspect of the 2009 Delta Reform Act is the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM). The CASGEM program is a new requirement for groundwater monitoring as a condition to secure water related loans and grants. The Department was approved as the CASGEM monitoring and reporting agency for Butte County.

These are some but not all of the highlights from the past year. As we enter a new year, we remain committed to conserve and manage water - the life blood to our economy, communities and environment.

We wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Welcome Andrew Funk

By Paul Gosselin

We are pleased to announce that on January 9, 2012, Andrew Funk will join the Department of Water & Resource Conservation as a Water Resources Scientist.

Andrew, a northern California native, brings a wide range of water resource experience. Most recently he has been working on water resource projects in Colorado. Among other projects, he has worked on assessing the economics of water use efficiency for the California Public Utilities Commission, including the use of remotely sensed imagery and GIS.

In 2005-6, Andrew was a member of Governor Richardson's New Mexico Climate Change Water Impacts Work Group. That Work Group produced a report entitled, "The Impact of Climate Change on New Mexico's Water Supply and Ability to Manage Water Resources."

Andrew received a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from the University of California, Davis and an M.S. in Water Resources from the University of New Mexico. Through his academic career, his research has included studies of the Delta ecosystem and the Lake Tahoe watershed.

Please join us in welcoming Andrew to Butte County.