

# WaterSolutions

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

## Welcoming 2020

By Paul Gosselin

Not only are we marking the end of the year but also the end of a decade. The past ten years brought many challenges and opportunities for water resource management. We experienced historic drought conditions and record setting wet years. But the past year was unlike any of the past years. The year began and continues with the enormous Camp Fire recovery efforts. The Camp Fire presented unique water challenges. The Camp Fire destroyed the upper portion of the Miocene Canal. The shut off of water going down the Miocene Canal created a crisis for farmers, residents and the environment along the Miocene Canal corridor. The County facilitated discussions with those affected, PG&E, California Water Service and other partners. In spite of the dire circumstances, creative options were brought forward by residents, Del Oro Water Company, Paradise Irrigation District, University of California Cooperative Extension and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Unfortunately, PG&E did not actively participate or offer any solutions. As we enter the second year of a damaged Miocene Canal, action needs to occur to avoid further damage to growers, residents and the environment. The Board of Supervisors intends to send a letter to state and federal agencies regarding the environmental and other impacts. The burn scar from the Camp Fire posed risks to creeks, streams and groundwater. The Department provided technical assistance to federal, state and local organizations on monitoring efforts. Given the nature of contaminant transport, monitoring efforts should continue for a couple of years.

WELCOMING 2020, page 3 >>



### Inside this issue

Mountain Counties Funding .....	2
SGMA Meetings.....	4
North State Precipitation .....	4

## Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

### NSV IRWM in the Mountain Counties Funding Area

By Christina Buck

A portion of the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM) Plan area in Butte County falls outside of the Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA) and within the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA). As a result, as a representative of the NSV IRWM, Butte County staff coordinates with the other eight IRWMs in the MCFA. There is general agreement among the nine IRWMs in the MCFA that Prop 1 IRWM grant money should be split evenly between the IRWMs over the two funding rounds. A Memorandum of Commitment formalizing this agreement is being considered by each of the IRWMs and was signed by the NSV Board at their December meeting. Although the NSV IRWM does not intend to submit an application during Round 1 (as we did in December for seven projects for funding from the SRFA), under the 1/9th split arrangement, the MCFA would set aside the NSV portion of money for Round 2. This will afford more time to get projects in this area of the NSV region ready for implementation funding under Round 2. Possible projects could include the Palermo Clean Water Improvement project along with others that could be added to the NSV IRWM Plan in the future.

To facilitate this effort, there is about \$45,000 per IRWM in the MCFA for Technical Assistance to aide projects for Disadvantaged Communities. The only project in the NSV IRWM plan in the MCFA at this time is The Palermo Clean Water Improvement Project. Palermo has a drinking water quality problem due to households' dependence on shallow domestic wells and also inadequate septic systems in this area because of poorly draining soils. Given the conceptual phase of this project, it is not ready to be included in an application for the Prop 1 IRWM implementation grant program under Round 1. As described above, it seems promising that funding will be set aside for the NSV in Round 2. In the meantime, available Technical Assistance funds can be used in 2020 to further develop the scope of the Palermo project to address a critical water quality issue and advance its readiness for IRWM funding, or other available funding sources. Additionally, the proposed scope of work for the Technical Assistance funds builds off recent assessments of water and wastewater systems in the area to move additional projects toward grant application readiness. The draft proposal to utilize the \$45,000 in Technical Assistance funds was reviewed and approved by the NSV Board in December.

Contact Christina Buck with questions.

## >>> Welcoming 2020 (Cont.)

Shifting to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), significant progress on governance and groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) development was made over the past year. The governance structures in the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins are complete and pave the way for GSP development. The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency are fully functioning agencies. The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee held their first meeting in December 2019. In the Butte subbasin, the Butte Subbasin Advisory Board will hold its initial meeting in early 2020. The development of the GSPs for the three subbasins are proceeding on schedule. The basin setting chapters of the GSPs are expected to be presented for public review in early 2020, with completion in the middle of the year. The Sustainable Criteria development will begin in the middle of 2020. Two years from now, GSPs for the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins must be completed and submitted. Public engagement over the next two years will be critical to develop GSPs that reflect the groundwater sustainability desires of the community.

Improving our understanding of the groundwater basin was advanced through the Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM). Data was acquired through the AEM project in December, 2018 and the report was completed in the spring of 2019. Significant work continues to interpret and assess the data. A team from Stanford University is working with the Department and Chico State on this effort. We expect to present findings from the study in the spring of 2020. We will be looking for opportunities to acquire further AEM data in the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins. Additionally, the Department is participating on a project led by the Stanford University team to integrate InSAR with AEM into the Butte Basin Groundwater Model. This project will take three years to complete. We are excited for this opportunity to utilize geophysical data.

Through unexpected challenges and implementation of new initiatives, the Department continued to carry out its core responsibilities. The monitoring and reporting of groundwater conditions are compiled in the Annual Groundwater Status Report that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in February. Regional collaboration through the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) and the Upper Feather River IRWM will continue to seek funding for local water management projects. These projects will improve water supply reliability and waste water.

As we enter 2020, the 2020 water year is off to a promising start. Since weather patterns can change quickly, we must remain vigilant to use water efficiently. With all that is planned and unexpected in the next year, we hope everyone has a productive and safe 2020.

Want to  
know more  
about Butte  
County's  
water?

We want to  
make it easy...

Text

**BCWATER**

to **22828**

to get  
started.

Message and data  
rates may apply.

## Meeting Schedules

### Water Commission

1/8/2020, 1:30 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
25 County Center Drive

### Board of Supervisors

1/14/2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
25 County Center Drive

1/28/2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
25 County Center Drive

### Technical Advisory Committee

1/14/2020, 2:00 p.m.  
Tahoe Room  
202 Mira Loma, Oroville

## Department of Water & Resource Conservation

308 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965  
Phone: 530.552.3595  
Fax: 530.538.3807  
E-mail: [bcwater@buttecounty.net](mailto:bcwater@buttecounty.net)  
Website: [www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource](http://www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource)

## Water & Resource Conservation Staff

- Paul Gosselin, Director
- Christina Buck, Assistant Director
- Kelly Peterson, Water Resource Scientist
- Autum Thomas, Administrative Analyst

## Water Commission

- Mark Grover
- Richard Harriman
- DC Jones
- Tod Kimmelshue, Vice-Chair
- George Nicolaus
- Mauny Roethler
- David Skinner, Chair
- Matthew Tennis
- Ernie Washington



**Butte County**

WATER & RESOURCE CONSERVATION



## Vina GSA Meeting

To be announced

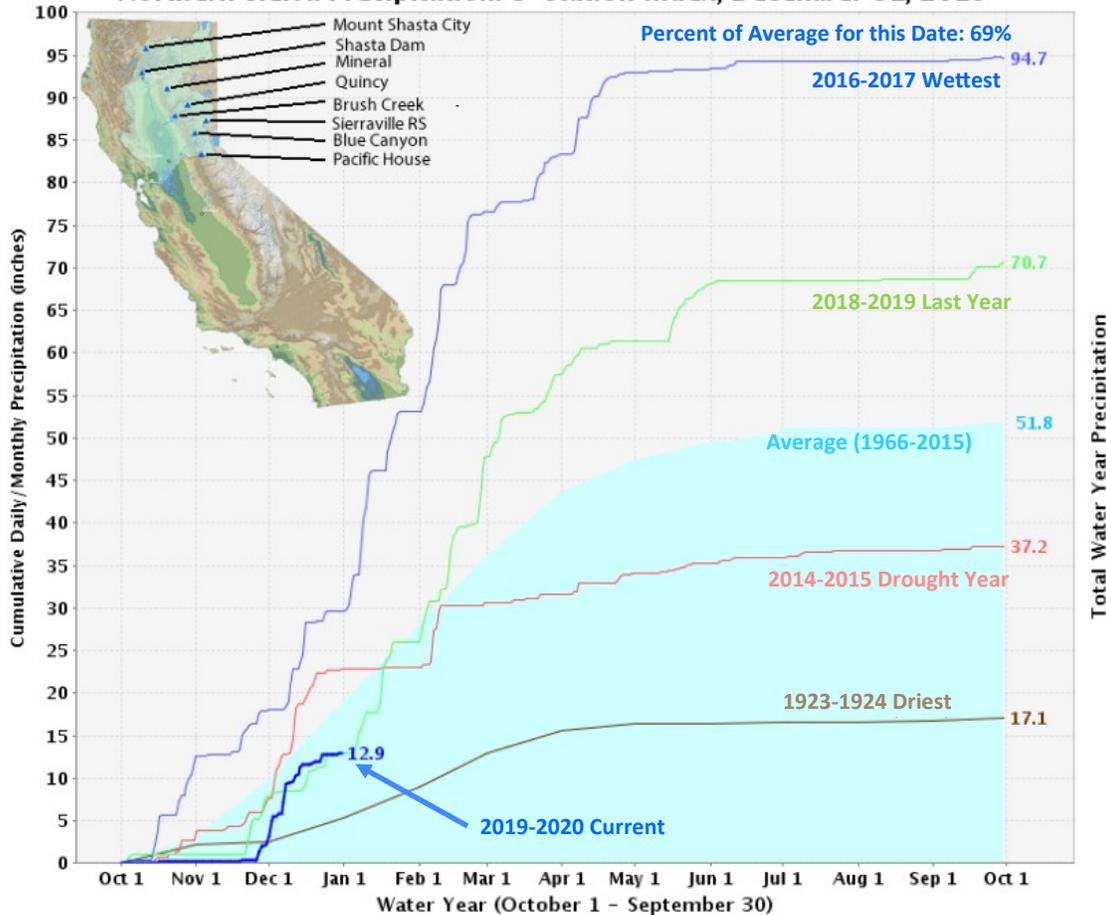
## Vina Advisory Committee Meeting

To be announced

## Wyandotte Creek GSA Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020—1:00 pm  
Oroville City Council Chambers  
1735 Montgomery Street, Oroville

**Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, December 31, 2019**



— Average (1966-2015) 
 — 1923-1924 (driest) 
 — 2014-2015 
 — 2016-2017 (wettest) 
 — 2018-2019 
 — 2019-2020 (current)