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BUTTE COUNTY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 17, 2022
TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Butte County Board of Supervisors Chambers
25 County Center Drive, Suite 205
Oroville, CA 95965

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87992850614?pwd=UkdnZ0ZQTitLNk9XaGdJUzE2NVdsUT09>

Passcode: TAC

Or One tap mobile:

US: +14086380968,,87992850614#,,,,*226760#

or +16699006833,,87992850614#,,,,*226760#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or

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Webinar ID: 879 9285 0614

Passcode: 226760

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introductions and TAC Roll Call
2. *AB 361 – Authorization to Utilize Alternative Standards for Teleconferencing Public Meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Christina Buck, Water and Resource Conservation)
3. * Approval of minutes for the January 19, 2022 meeting (Chair Connell)
4. *Presentation of the 2022 spring groundwater levels, conditions, changes and trends (Kelly Peterson, Water and Resource Conservation)
5. Discussion and direction regarding 2022 Groundwater Quality Monitoring (Kelly Peterson, Water and Resource Conservation)
6. Departmental updates (Staff, Water and Resource Conservation)
 - a. Board of Supervisors holding a Water Workshop May 24, 2022
 - b. Drought Activities and Updates
 - c. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Updates

7. TAC members wishing to address items not listed on the agenda. (The Technical Advisory Committee is prohibited by state law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda).
8. Public Comment: Any person wanting to address the Technical Advisory Committee on any item NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA may do so at this time. The Technical Advisory Committee will not be making decisions or determinations on items brought up during Public Comment.
9. Future Meeting topics, dates and locations: Fall 2022 TBD

* Indicates attached items

RESOLUTION OF THE BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD OF May 17, 2022 THROUGH June 15, 2022 PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Butte County Water Commission Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov't Code section 54950 et seq.), so that any member of the public may attend, participate and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions and requirements; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e) requirements include but are not limited to (1) the existence of a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625 and (2) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as of the date of this Resolution, the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended and modified the teleconferencing requirements under the Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950 et seq.) to allow local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconference; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21, which extended the provisions of N-29-20 concerning the conduct of public meetings through September 30, 2021, and the Governor subsequently signed legislation revising Brown Act requirements for teleconferenced public meetings (Assembly Bill 361, referred to hereinafter as "AB 361"); and

WHEREAS, to preserve public health and safety, the State Public Health Officer has issued various orders and guidance regarding COVID-19 prevention measures, which include references and a statement of support for social distancing recommendations (see Guidance for Use of Face Coverings (updated July 28, 2021) and COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People (dated August 24, 2021)); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Industrial Relations has issued COVID-19 Prevention regulations in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (Section 3205 et seq.) which requires employers to (1) have a written COVID-19 prevention program including employee training that promotes physical distancing as an infection prevention measure and (2) consider implementing physical distancing where feasible as a response to COVID-19 outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the TAC finds that State officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency, including all information related to this matter; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the TAC desires to continue to have the flexibility to meet via tele/video conference and the TAC finds that it and its legislative bodies shall be permitted to conduct their meetings by teleconferencing without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3) pursuant to section 54953(e), and such

legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed by section 54953(e)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND AND ORDERED by the TAC

1. The facts set forth in the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this resolution by reference;
2. As a result of the continuing COVID-19 state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, State officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing based on the State Public Health Officer's guidance and recommendations supporting social distancing and the Department of Industrial Relations' issuance of COVID-19 Prevention regulations through Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, section 3205 et seq. promoting social distancing in the workplace.
3. Under the present circumstances, the TAC and any of its legislative bodies are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) June 15, 2022 or (ii) such time the TAC adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which its legislative bodies may continue to teleconference without compliance with Section 54953(b)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the TAC this 17th day of May, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Joe Connell, Chair
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISOR COMMITTEE

ATTEST:

By: _____

Christina Buck, Assistant Director
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

MINUTES OF THE
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 27, 2022 10:00 AM
Online Only

1. Introductions and Roll Call

TAC members present: Chair Joe Connell, Mike Crump, Jeff Davids, Todd Greene, Richard Price and Debbie Spangler

TAC members absent: Kyle Morgado

2. AB 361 – Authorization to Utilize Alternative Standards for Teleconferencing Public Meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Motion made by Richard Price, Second by Mike Crump, to authorize use of alternative standards for teleconferencing. Motion carried 6-0 with no abstentions.

No public comments were received.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.

Motion made by Richard Price, Second by Mike Crump, to nominate Joe Connell as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion carried 6-0 with no abstentions.

Motion made by Jeff Davids, Second by Mike Crump, to nominate Kyle Morgado as Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion carried 6-0 with no abstentions.

No public comments were received.

4. Approval of minutes for the September 23, 2021 meeting

Motion by Jeff Davids, second by Todd Greene to approve the minutes for September 23, 2021. Motion carried 6-0 with no abstentions.

No public comments were received.

Agenda moved to item 6.

6. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Updates
a. Vina, Butte and Wyandotte Creek Subbasin updates

Information only, no action

Agenda returned to item 5.

5. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on SGMA Annual Reports/Groundwater

Status Report Approach and Draft Components

- a. Contour maps
- b. Hydrographs – Available for download here: [Draft Hydrographs](#)
- c. Water Budget Estimates
- d. Change in Storage

Tasha Levinson and Aimee Raymond addressed the TAC Information only, no action.

Agenda continued to item 7.

7. Departmental updates
 - a. Drought Activities

No public comments were received.
Information only, no action

8. TAC members wishing to address items not listed on the agenda.

No public comments were received.
Information only, no action.

9. Public Comment: Any person wanting to address the Technical Advisory Committee on any item NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA may do so at this time. The Technical Advisory Committee will not be making decisions or determinations on items brought up during Public Comment.

No public comments were received.

10. Future Meeting topics, dates and locations: May 2022 TBD

* Indicates attached items

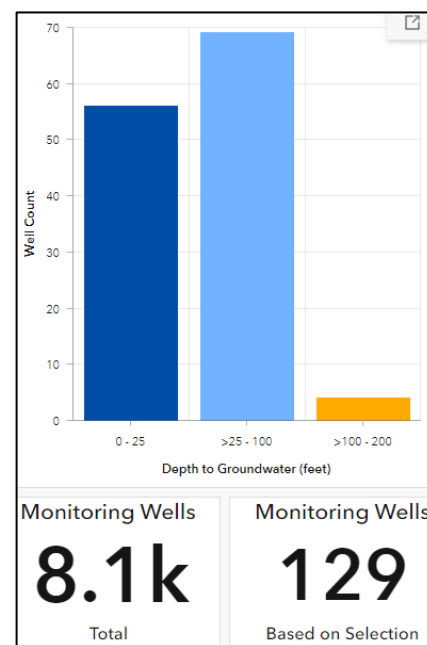
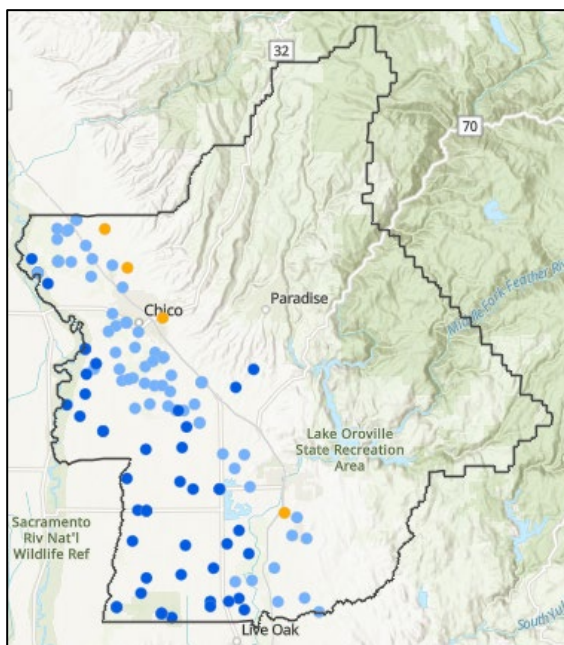
Spring 2022 Groundwater Level Monitoring Results

Spring 2022 groundwater level measurements were collected in the field during the week of March 7-11, 2022 by staff from the Northern Region Office of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) with support from Butte County Water and Resource Conservation staff.

All groundwater monitoring results are available online at new DWR's California Groundwater Live website available here: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/> Data is available to download and allows users to explore, analyze, and visualize the latest groundwater data and trends throughout the state amongst other things. You can easily look at information specific to any subbasin and also for specified time periods as well as a number of other filters.

Now that all three subbasins we work in are transitioning to managing groundwater under their Groundwater Sustainability Plans, we are using the information from this website to provide relevant data about groundwater, and show useful graphs and figures specific to each subbasin.

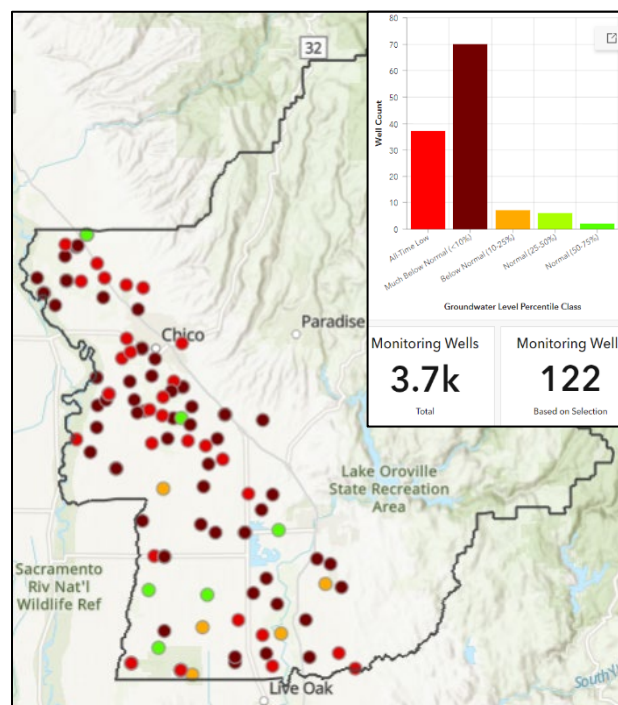
Below is an example of current groundwater levels in Butte County including the Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins and Butte County portion of the Butte subbasin. Current groundwater levels are shown, color-coded by the depth to water in each well measured. The figure below shows depths to water in these monitoring wells in spring of 2022. The total number of monitoring wells represents statewide numbers and there are 129 in Butte County.



As shown, wells closer to the western border of the county have groundwater levels closer to the ground surface (0-25 feet) than those in the central portion of the alluvial subbasin in the County which tend to show groundwater levels between 25 – 100 feet below the ground surface. Only a few wells in and to the north of Chico as well as one well near Palermo had groundwater levels between about 100 and 200 feet.

The graphics below show Spring 2022 groundwater level conditions in Butte County including the Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins and the Butte County portion of the Butte subbasin. These are based off a statistical analysis to compare the most recent measurement to the previous 10 years of measurements for that well for the same month to determine whether it is above or below normal. Conditions are color coded with blue/purple colors representing above normal groundwater level, green representing normal and red/brown/yellow colors representing below normal conditions. We are in the third year of a very severe drought and as you can see, most (88%) of the well measurements were at an all-time low or within the lowest 10% of the well’s previously recorded measurements this spring. The total number of monitoring wells in these graphics represent statewide numbers and there are 122 in Butte County.

Well measurements displayed below include those taken within 60 days of April 25, 2022, and at least 10 years of data must exist for the well to be displayed. The website allows users to explore groundwater level conditions by county, groundwater subbasin, depth to water category, well depth, or time period.



Additionally, one useful capability of the website is that you can click on a well of interest and view all of the data that has been collected for the well and you can also see the measurements plotted on a hydrograph to view the data through time. This helps to provide a better understanding of many things i.e. just how low an all time low measurement actually is when compared to all the years of data that have been collected.

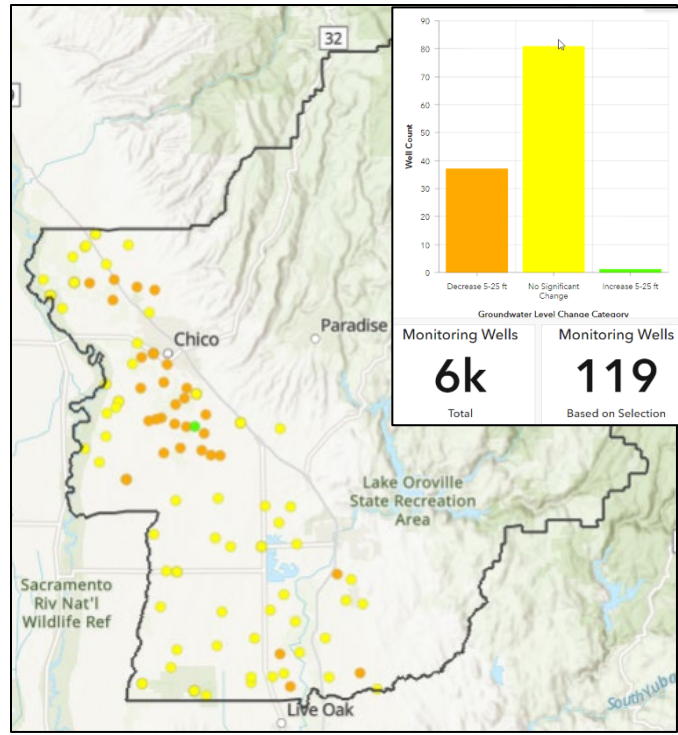
Another useful way to view the data is to compare Spring 2022 groundwater levels to other recent years. The website allows users to compare current levels to 1, 3, 5 and 10 years back for either spring or fall. It is important to consider the water year type of each year compared. The current 2022 water year will likely have a final designation as a *Critical* water year type, the same as last year. Both 2019 and 2017 were *Wet* water year types representing the 3- and 5-year change years.

According to the N. Sierra Precipitation 8-station Index, 2017 had the highest precipitation on record. The 2012 water year, representing the 10-year change was a *Below Normal* water year type. The graphics for the 3, 5 and 10-year changes are available to explore online.

The graphic below shows well groundwater level changes between Spring of 2021 to Spring 2022 which were both designated as *Critical* water year types and were the 2nd and 3rd years of our current 3-year drought.

Most wells did not see any significant changes between these years. The wells measured that did see a significant decrease in groundwater elevations between Spring of 2021 to Spring 2022 (45% of the total measured) in general:

- Wells north of Chico saw between a 5 and 14 foot drop
- Wells near Chico saw between 5 - 8 foot drop
- Wells south of Chico and north of Richvale Highway experienced a 6 - 10 foot drop with the exception of one well which fell 18 feet in groundwater level elevation near the intersection of Grainland and Aquas Frias Roads
- Wells near Palermo saw an 11 foot drop
- Those closer to the southern boundary of the County saw between a 7 – 9 foot drop



Information and graphics about long-term groundwater level trends are also available and shown in the graphic below. A statistical analysis is used to determine whether each monitoring well has had an increasing, decreasing or stable trend based on the previous 20 years of records for spring measurements. All wells in Butte County displayed either show no long-term trends or show long-term trends of groundwater levels decreasing by up to 2.5 feet. The long-term trend data can be explored by county, groundwater basin, groundwater level trend category or well depth.

