

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND REFERRED
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

Copies of all communications are available at the
Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

1. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, July 25, 2018
2. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, July 30, 2018, *Groundwater management boundaries shifting*
3. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, August 1, 2018
4. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, August 8, 2018
5. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, August 13, 2018, *Butte County still a leader in water conservation*
6. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, August 15, 2018, *Meeting Wednesday night in Durham on groundwater planning*
7. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, August 15, 2018
8. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, August 22, 2018
9. *Article from *Chico News & Review*, August 23, 2018, *Water War*
10. *Email from Bob Mulholland to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, August 27, 2018, *Proposition 3*

INTEGRATE
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Wednesday Update



July 25, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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Governor Brown to host Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco

Governor Brown will be hosting the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) next month in San Francisco. In addition to recognizing local and regional achievements in addressing climate change, the three-day event will encourage commitments to decarbonize the global economy. The summit will run Sept. 12-14.

GLOBAL CLIMATE
ACTION SUMMIT

Stakeholders meeting to discuss water data governance options

The partner agency team for the [Open and Transparent Water Data Act](#) will hold a [public meeting](#) Thursday, Aug. 2, in Sacramento. It is an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss long-term water data governance options, and get an overview of a report from the Redstone Group on [sustainable governance and funding of open water data](#).

Delta Stewardship Council continues summer series on data to decision-making

This week's [Delta Stewardship Council meeting](#) will include a presentation on the role of the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program. The presentation is part of the council's summer series on [data to decision-making](#). The meeting will be tomorrow, July 26, in Sacramento.

Obstacles of sharing monitoring data is on agenda for tomorrow's meeting

The California Water Quality Monitoring Council's [Data Management Workgroup](#) is meeting tomorrow, July 26, in Sacramento. The [agenda](#) includes a series of presentations on obstacles faced by non-State organizations when it comes to publicly sharing monitoring data.

Free community planning software being made available across California

A software program for [sustainable city planning](#) is being offered to hundreds of cities, counties, and regional agencies across California. [Urban Footprint](#) helps planners determine the best outcomes for their communities. The software offers a data library, scenario planning capabilities, and analysis modules to evaluate planning projects.



PPIC research applies recent drought lessons to climate change simulations

Next month in San Francisco, the [Public Policy Institute of California](#) (PPIC) will discuss the state's ability to prepare for drought and climate change. [The program](#) on Monday, Sept. 10 will look at new research from the PPIC that takes lessons learned from the recent drought and applies them to climate change simulations.

Inaugural Western Groundwater Congress set for next month in Sacramento

The Groundwater Resources Association's inaugural [Western Groundwater Congress](#) will run Sept. 25-27, in Sacramento. The event will cover on a variety of topics focused on groundwater quality and groundwater resources. [Early registration rates](#) are available through Sunday, Aug. 19.

Groundwater management boundaries shifting

By: Steve Schoonover, July 30, 2018

OROVILLE » The local effort to manage the water beneath Butte County continues to be tweaked, with the Board of Supervisors Tuesday backing a change for some planning boundaries.

The changes still have to be approved by the state.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, plans have to be prepared to maintain the amount and quality of the water in California's aquifers. In Butte County's case, the area of the Sacramento Valley floor is included, but not the foothills. That part of the county had arbitrarily been divided into four "sub-basins," each of which would have an agency created to come up with and maintain the plan.

The old boundaries split the cities of Chico and Oroville, and the Western Water District, between two sub-basins.

The plan the supervisors backed Tuesday has three basins that would not divide any entities, and each of which get most of their water from similar sources.

The Vina sub-basin would extend from the Tehama County border south to include Chico, Durham and Butte Valley. Most of the water used there is groundwater.

The Butte sub-basin would encompass irrigation districts that use surface water. It would include the Western Canal Water District, the Richvale Irrigation District, the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and the Butte Water District that draw from the Feather River, and Reclamation Districts 2106 and 1004 as well as the M& T Ranch, which draw from the Sacramento River.

The Wyandotte Creek sub-basin would include the entire city of Oroville, the Thermalito Water and Sewer District and all the areas south and east of the Feather River down to the Yuba County line.

If the proposed boundaries are approved by the Department of Water Resources, the next step will likely be setting up joint power authorities to draw and maintain the plans. As envisioned, they would be governed by board drawn from the water providers in the sub-basin, with representatives of independent household and agricultural well users.

More information is available on the county Department of Water and Resource Conservation website, www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation. Contact Steve Schoonover at 530-896-7750.

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN eNEWS

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Wednesday Update



Aug. 1, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

- WATER PLAN
- CALENDAR
- COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS
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Flood-MAR workshop and webinar will seek public input on strategy

A chance to provide input on DWR's [flood-managed aquifer recharge](#) (Flood-MAR) activities, will be available during a [workshop and webinar](#) session in Sacramento on Aug. 30. Flood-MAR is a resource management strategy that uses flood water to recharge groundwater aquifers. The emerging strategy will help improve water resources sustainability throughout California. News and updates are available by subscribing to the [Flood-MAR Listserv](#).

Delta's contaminants and nutrients are examined in science board's review

The [Delta Independent Science Board](#) has finished a [review](#) on the scientific basis for assessing water quality in the Delta. The review focuses on the Delta's contaminants and nutrients. It also looks at how findings about those elements have been used in ecosystem health decisions.



Discussing tribal perspectives on landscape and cultural resources restoration work

The California Landscape Conservation Partnership's [Tribal Team](#) will be hosting a [webinar](#) on Monday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m. It will include a presentation and discussion about tribal perspectives on ecological landscape and cultural resources restoration work. The speaker will be [Ron Goode](#), chairman of the North Fork Mono Tribe.

PPIC panel discussion will look at ways to improve California's drought resilience

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has taken a look at reforms that are needed to help the state manage drought in a changing climate. The findings will be part of a [panel discussion](#) on Monday, Sept. 10, in San Francisco. The PPIC took lessons learned from the recent drought, and applied them to a variety of climate change simulations. A panel of experts will talk about reforms to improve drought resilience.



Caltrans study looks at the ways California will be getting around in the future

The way people travel and the way goods are transported has an effect on the way water is used in California. Caltrans has released a [new study](#) that looks at the transportation transformation in the state's future. It covers evolving technology and potential ideas that could have a major influence on the way Californians get around in the years to come.

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Wednesday Update**Aug. 8, 2018**

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Adaptation forum will cover strategies for creating resilient communities

[Registration](#) is open for the [3rd California Adaptation Forum](#). It will be Aug. 27-29, in Sacramento. The biennial event will feature a variety of workshops and breakout sessions covering various adaptation strategies for creating resilient communities.



There will also be a presentation on new summary reports for [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#).

Two-day workshop will include a close look at California's climate change assessment

A [two-day workshop](#) and webcast based in Washington, D.C. will take a close look at California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. The first day will cover all aspects of the assessment; the second day will be spent looking at assessments being done in other states. The workshop and webcast will be Aug. 14 and 15.

The potential of delta salinization to be discussed during Davis symposium

The [Delta Science Program](#) and UC Davis are teaming up on a [symposium](#) that will look at the potential for climate change to cause salinization in deltas and estuaries. There will be discussion on how information on salinity adaptation can be used to better manage the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The symposium will be Sept. 26, in Davis.

California's new laws on water use goals to be addressed during webinar

California's new legislation on water use goals will be discussed during an [Alliance for Water Efficiency webinar](#) on Wednesday, Aug. 29. [Two bills signed by Governor Brown](#) earlier this year will require urban water providers to set new targets for water use. This webinar will cover the implementation timeline, formulas for calculating water targets, and other elements of the new laws.

White paper explores the development of cash reserve policies for utilities

The American Water Works Association has released a [white paper](#) to help utilities develop cash reserve policies. The report uses case studies to provide utilities with examples on how they can apply their unique circumstances and considerations to create a reserve plan. Details are available in this [announcement](#).

Comments being accepted on draft plan for protecting California's marine areas

Public comments are being accepted on a draft action plan, [Marine Protected Area Monitoring](#). Developed by the Ocean Protection Council and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the plan is part of the effort to protect and sustain California's marine resources. The [comment deadline](#) is Thursday, Aug. 16.



New management plan for Inyo National Forest will cover 10-15 years

A revised [land management plan](#) has been released for the [Inyo National Forest](#). It focuses on forest health, while providing water and recreational benefits. The plan covers land management for the next 10 to 15 years. There is also a final [environmental impact statement](#).

Butte County still a leader in water conservation

By: Staff Reports, August 13, 2018

Butte County continues to outpace the state by a long shot when it comes to water conservation, according to numbers released last week by the state Water Resources Control Board.

The board released water savings reported for June by 360 urban water suppliers in the state, which averaged 16.8 percent compared to June 2013, the benchmark year before the last drought.

The four Butte County water agencies that report beat that by almost 10 percent, at the least.

The Del Oro Water Co. led the way with 38.6 percent savings, compared to June 2013. Del Oro serves Magalia, Sterling City, Lime Saddle and a number of other small communities in Northern California.

Customers of the Oroville Division of the California Water Service Co. had savings of 28 percent, with the Chico Division of Cal Water at 26.1. The Paradise Irrigation District reported savings of 27.7 percent.

Cal Water's Willows Division saved 26.1 percent, and the Marysville Division saved 24.7 percent. Yuba City reported 20.4 percent savings.

Red Bluff, however used more water in June than in June 2013, but just slightly. Water use was up by 0.3 percent.

Regionally, the differences were not pronounced. Savings in the Sacramento River watershed were 18 percent; on the South Coast, 16.1 percent; in the Bay Area, 17.2 percent.

The Sacramento Valley does use significantly more water per person per day than the urban centers or the state as a whole. In June that number was 169 gallons, compared to 96 gallons on the South Coast and 83 gallons in the Bay Area.

Locally per capita daily water use was 87 gallons for Del Oro customers, 106 gallons in Oroville, 173 gallons in Chico, 217 gallons in Paradise, and 155 gallons in Willows.

Meeting Wednesday night in Durham on groundwater planning

By: Steve Schoonover, August 15, 2018

DURHAM — A meeting is planned Wednesday night in Durham on local efforts to keep the state from taking over management of Butte County groundwater.

The meeting is 6-8 p.m. in the Durham Memorial Hall, 9319 Midway,

In September 2014, the governor signed a series of bills passed by the Legislature requiring development of plans to manage the groundwater basins under the state to avoid “undesirable results.”

The move was in response to excessive pumping during the drought that caused a decline in water tables and intrusion of salt water into coastal aquifers.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act allows local authorities to draw their own plans, as long as they accomplish the objectives of the state law, within deadlines it set.

If the locals don't do it, the state will step in, take control, and impose its own plan. The county government and water providers here think that's a bad idea, so they have been working toward the local alternative.

The effort is still in the preliminary stages. The deadline to have plans in place for the groundwater basins beneath Butte County is Jan. 31, 2022.

What's being discussed so far is a governance structure to manage the plans once they are developed, and what the boundaries of the local basins would be.

Wednesday's meeting is intended to bring Durham residents up to speed on what's going on, answer questions and take comments.

Currently, the county and water agencies are leaning toward setting up joint powers authorities to manage the plans. Those are agencies that handle a governing need that crosses jurisdictional lines. An example is the Butte County Association of Governments that handles transportation planning in the county and operates Butte Regional Transit among other things.

JPA's are usually governed by a board composed of representatives from each of the entities included. For example the Vina Sub-basin encompasses the northwest county. The JPA board for it has been envisioned as including a representative from Butte County, the city of Chico and the Rock Creek Reclamation District, as well as an independent agricultural pumper and someone on a house-

hold well.

A move is underway to have Durham included in the Vina Sub-basin. If that is approved by the state Department of Water Resources, a representative from the Durham Irrigation District might be added to the JPA board as well.

More information about local groundwater management in Butte County is available at www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation.

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Wednesday Update



Aug. 15, 2018

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Listening sessions scheduled to review new water conservation legislation

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board have scheduled [three listening sessions](#) to discuss a draft report, [Making Water Conservation A California Way of Life](#). It is a primer on new water conservation and drought planning legislation in California. The listening sessions will be Wednesday, Sept. 5, in Sacramento; Friday, Sept. 7, in Los Angeles; and Tuesday, Sept. 11, in Fresno.



Russian River Pilot workshop materials made available online

Notes and materials from the [July 31 workshop](#) on the [Russian River Pilot](#) project have been posted online. The pilot is exploring how regional leaders and the State can cooperate more effectively to improve water resources sustainability for the Russian River. The work is part of the sustainability outlook for Update 2018.

\$395 million in federal funding available under two mitigation programs

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has announced new [federal funding opportunities](#) under two grant programs. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation and the Flood Mitigation Assistance programs offer a total of more than \$395 million in funding nationwide. The deadline for filing a [notice of interest](#) is Tuesday, Sept. 4.



Cal OES

WestFAST newsletter takes extensive look at the wildfires in the West

The [latest edition](#) of the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) newsletter deals extensively with wildfires in the West. The articles include a look at fire imagery developed by NASA, and work being done to forecast wildfire activity. [WestFAST](#) is a collaboration of 12 federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West.

CALFIRE issues assessment of state forest and rangeland sustainability

CALFIRE's [Fire and Resource Assessment Program](#) is out with its look at the state's forests and rangelands. [The report](#) covers sustainability assessments on a variety of topics involving private and public lands. One chapter is dedicated to water resources. It looks at opportunities for watershed protection.



Analytics platform will be presented at State Water Board's brown bag seminar

The State Water Board will be offering a [brown bag seminar](#) on a novel bio-optics geospatial analytics platform that can be used to monitor water quality. Bio-optic modeling can also provide information on managing vegetation and soils to reduce fire risk. The [seminar](#) will be Thursday, August 30, in Sacramento.

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Wednesday Update



Aug. 22, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

Save the date for Update 2018 plenary in West Sacramento

Save the date for the [California Water Plan Update 2018 plenary](#). It will be at the Civic Center Galleria in West Sacramento on [Oct. 9 and 10](#). It will be an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss [Update 2018](#) with DWR representatives. State Controller Betty Yee will deliver the keynote address. Registration details and webcast information will be announced in an upcoming edition of the California Water Plan eNews.



Registration is open for next week's Flood-MAR workshop in Sacramento

A [public workshop](#) on flood-managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR) will be held Thursday, Aug. 30, in Sacramento. It will be an opportunity for public input on [DWR's Flood-MAR activities](#). Flood-MAR is a resource management strategy that uses flood water to recharge groundwater supplies. [Registration](#) is required. The workshop will also be available as a webinar.

Flood-MAR overview available in video of last month's webinar

To learn more about the basic elements of Flood-MAR, a video of last month's [Watershed University webinar](#) is available online. It features DWR's Kamyar Guivetchi providing an overview of the Flood-MAR process. He explained how it helps California prepare for extreme floods and droughts, and the public-private partnerships needed to scale-up the implementation of Flood-MAR projects.

Issue brief looks at beneficial uses of groundwater recharge

The University of California has released an [issue brief](#) after taking a look at groundwater recharge. The paper examines when groundwater recharge of surface water is a beneficial use. The findings do include recommendations for clarifying current State policy to encourage recharge projects.

Explore California's streamflows with new interactive website

A new interactive website from UC Davis provides a chance to explore and visualize streamflow patterns across the state. [California eFlows](#) includes details on [stream classifications](#) and a variety of [flow metrics](#) for seasons throughout the year. The website will eventually encompass information on hydrology, geomorphology, and ecology to help with environmental water management decisions in California.



Water loss audit reports from urban retail water suppliers due Oct. 1

DWR is reminding California urban retail water suppliers that annual [validated water loss audit reports](#) are due on Monday, Oct. 1. The audit spreadsheet is available from the [American Water Works Association](#). All reports must be submitted using DWR's [Water Use Efficiency Data \(WUEdata\) portal](#).

Water War

By: Graham Womack, August 23, 2018

Butte County farmers showed up in force to a rally at the state Capitol, riled by recently proposed updates to the Bay-Delta Plan aimed largely at buoying the state's imperiled salmon population.

On July 6, the State Water Resources Control Board announced it was looking to increase water flows for portions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The board noted on its website that it was "part of a delicate balancing act—addressing an ecological crisis in the watershed and preventing further collapse of Bay-Delta fisheries while acknowledging the other vital water uses for millions of Californians."

Local farmers, though, fear that 55 percent to 60 percent of water might be diverted under this plan, potentially harming agriculture. So on Monday (Aug. 20), the Butte County Farm Bureau sent two buses carrying approximately 80 people from Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties to a "Stop the Water Grab" rally at the north steps of the Capitol in Sacramento.

"The impacts of the state water board's Bay-Delta amendment is going to reach far and wide," Colleen Cecil, executive director for the Butte County Farm Bureau, told the CN&R. "It'll affect everybody in the state."

An estimated 1,500 people attended the rally. The event attracted numerous local, state and federal officials, including U.S. Congressmen Doug LaMalfa, Tom McClintock, Jeff Denham and Jim Costa.

"We're all Californians," LaMalfa told the CN&R after giving a speech. "We're all fighting for similar things."

Les Heringer has managed the M&T Ranch just southwest of Chico since 1986, growing almonds, walnuts and prunes as well as beans and wheat. Heringer and his adult son Lee, who's worked on the ranch 10 years, each made the trip to the Capitol.

"What brought me out here today is ag is fully engaged on protecting our water," Les said. "If there's no water, there's no farm. We cannot farm without water."

Lee agreed: "I think it's important to show Sacramento how important of an issue this is to farmers," he said. "It's not just affecting people's pocketbooks. It's affecting their livelihoods and all the employees that depend on their income from these ranches to provide for their families."

David Lundberg, a rice farmer who lives in Chico, said he made the trip to the event because of talk of people losing 50 percent of their water.

"It's pretty devastating for everybody who has water," Lundberg said.

The state water board has retreated somewhat since releasing its proposals. While it was scheduled to hold hearings Aug. 21-22 to review the plans, the agenda for these hearings noted that "any final action by the [board] will be continued to a future [board] meeting."

Jon Rosenfield, a conservation biologist with the Bay Institute in San Francisco, said by phone that updating state and federal water

standards could help restore salmon populations. His group's position is that to do so, 50 percent to 60 percent of water flow must remain in-river from February through June and other standards must be in place the rest of the year to govern temperature. He'd also like to see California become more sustainable in its water usage.

"What the board is proposing is not going to cut it," said Rosenfield, who didn't attend the rally but noted that others from his group did.

Following the rally, the board updated a list of frequently asked questions. The list notes that a flow proposal for the lower section of the San Joaquin River "would provide a range of 30 to 50 percent of unimpaired flow from February through June in the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers."

The board added, "The starting point is proposed to be 40 percent of unimpaired flow. This is not the same as a 40 percent reduction."

All of this might not be enough, though, to bring local farmers on board with the plans and avert a legal battle.

"There will be a lawsuit," Cecil said. "Without a doubt, there will be a lawsuit."

She added that the California Farm Bureau, the 53-county group that the Butte bureau belongs to, has a team of attorneys. She also anticipates lawsuits against the state from irrigation districts and possibly the federal government, since the plans could impact the New Melones Dam reservoir and its functionality.

It would be only the latest skirmish between President Donald Trump and Gov. Jerry Brown, with the administration falling short in a lawsuit earlier this year against California over its sanctuary state policy.

Trump has weighed in on California water policy before, including on Aug. 6, when he tweeted that "California wildfires are being magnified & made so much worse" because water to fight the fires was "being diverted into the Pacific Ocean."

While The New York Times and others quickly refuted Trump's claim, it has supporters, including LaMalfa—the Congressman said he asked Trump during a campaign stop in Redding in June 2016 why water was being run out to the ocean.

Asked if he'd heard rumblings of a federal lawsuit, LaMalfa said, "It'd be rumbly right now to say that. But yes."

LaMalfa noted that he'd recently spent time in Shasta County with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke due to the ongoing fire in his district. Zinke, the Congressman said, was aware of the support among three members of the water board for the Bay-Delta updates.

"He as well as those folks on Bureau of Reclamation are really upset that three out of five members of an appointed board could go so far to try to make that kind of decision," LaMalfa said.

Thomas, Autum

From: Gosselin, Paul
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Buck, Christina; Peterson, Kelly; Thomas, Autum
Subject: FW: Proposition 3

FYI – Could you add this to the WC correspondence? thanks

From: Menchaca, Clarissa
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 3:39 PM
To: BOS <BOS@buttecounty.net>
Cc: Gosselin, Paul <PGosselin@buttecounty.net>; Hatcher, Casey <CHatcher@buttecounty.net>
Subject: FW: Proposition 3

Please see the below correspondence from Bob Mulholland concerning Proposition 3.

Clarissa Menchaca
Associate Clerk of the Board

[Butte County Administration](#)
[25 County Center Drive, Suite 200, Oroville, CA 95965](#)
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From: Bob Mulholland <chicobob@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 3:32 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@buttecounty.net>; Admin Front Desk <CountyAdminFrontDeskHG@buttecounty.net>
Cc: Steve Schoonover <sschoonover@chicoer.com>; news@chicoer.com; KHSL TV <news@actionnewsnow.com>; KRCR TV <news@bontencalifornia.com>; Lorraine Dechter <ldechter@actionnewsnow.com>; Jerry Olenyn <jolenyn@krcrtv.com>; chiconewstips@newsreview.com; Melissa Daugherty <melissad@newsreview.com>
Subject: Fw: Proposition 3

August 27, 2018

Butte County Board of Supervisors
Cc. Media

I wish it was an error in the Chico Enterprise-Record (8/27/18), that the Butte County Water Commission is recommending the Butte County Board of

Supervisors to pass a Resolution to oppose Proposition 3 on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

Proposition 3 includes over \$200 million for repair work on the Oroville Dam and \$100 million for fire recovery and mitigation. When Proposition 3 passes, the Powers to Be will work with various government agencies from the state to the local level to implement it. If the Butte Board of Supervisors is on record in opposition for the state to spend the money on Oroville Dam, most likely the State will take that message at face value and hold off on allocating money for Oroville. After all, state bond money is allocated over years, as the payments are part of the state's General Fund and they can't spend the total bond money in one year.

Over the decades I have been in a lot of private meetings in the State Capitol where budgets are being discussed and decided on. On some occasions- I heard- no need to send money to that county, their Board of Supervisors was against the idea or bill. If the Butte County Government and local Agencies are urging a No vote on Proposition 3, the Message will be clear- put the Oroville Dam at the end of the list- years down the road.

The Sites Reservoir is a good example. It will be funded by Proposition 1, which passed statewide on the 11/4/14 ballot with a 67.1% vote. Colusa County, the home of the Sites Reservoir, passed it with a 67.4%. Smart voters- they'll see billions of dollars coming into their small populated county. Butte County voted 52.1% for Proposition 1.

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