

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND REFERRED
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2018**

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Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

1. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, August 29, 2018
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3. *Letter from Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, September 7, 2018, Re: September 11, 2018, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Vina JPA Agreement
4. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, September 12, 2018
5. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, September 16, 2018, Groundwater managing agencies begin to take shape
6. *Article from *Sacramento Bee*, September 17, 2018, Farmers thought they had 20 years to use groundwater as they wished – maybe not anymore
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Wednesday Update



Aug. 29, 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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New location announced for this week's public workshop on Flood-MAR

A new location has been chosen for this week's [public workshop](#) on [flood-managed aquifer recharge](#) (Flood-MAR). It will be held tomorrow, Aug. 30, at 304 S Street, in downtown Sacramento. Flood-MAR is an emerging water management strategy that used flood water to recharge groundwater aquifers.

California releases reports assessing climate change in the state

The State has released [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), which details the latest science on effects of climate change, along with planning tools to limit those effects. The assessment is a compilation of dozens of reports that cover a variety of topics including wildfires, droughts, and coastal erosion.



UC Davis study looks at how water managers use climate change information

A [UC Davis study](#) provides a look at how the latest climate information is being used by drinking water utility managers in California. The report found a wide range of opinions among the managers, from those who keep close tabs on climate change research, to those who only embrace the elements that align with their political goals or social interests.

Agricultural symposium will be part of next month's Global Climate Action Summit

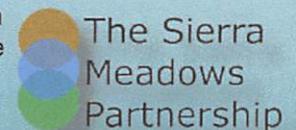
A [symposium on improving agricultural resiliency](#) during times of climate change will be held Monday, Sept. 10, in Davis. There will be discussions on strategies that promote food security and health. The symposium is affiliated with the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) being held that week in San Francisco.

California Water Quality Monitoring Council sets meeting for next week in Sacramento

The [next meeting](#) of the [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#) will be Wednesday, Sept. 5, in Sacramento. The [agenda](#) includes a link for using Skype for Business to gain remote access to the meeting. Actions of the council are advisory to the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency.

New website for group promoting conservation of meadows in the Sierra

The Sierra Meadows Partnership has taken the wraps off its [new website](#). It will promote the group's [strategy](#) of improving meadow restoration, protection, and conservation. An estimated 18,000 meadows cover approximately 280,000 acres in the Sierra. The largest is the 4,600-acre Monache Meadow in the Inyo and Sequoia national forests.



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Wednesday Update



Sept. 5, 2018

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Online registration opens for the Update 2018 plenary meeting in October

[Online registration](#) is available for the [California Water Plan Update 2018 plenary meeting](#) on Oct. 9 and 10, in West Sacramento. Registration is required to attend. California State Controller Betty Yee will be the keynote speaker, with opening remarks delivered by DWR Director Karla Nemeth and DWR Deputy Director Kristopher Tjernell. Updates to the [draft agenda](#) and other meeting materials will be posted on the Update 2018 plenary website as they become available.

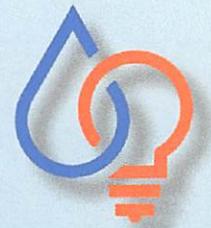


Video of last week's Flood-MAR workshop posted online

A [video](#) of last week's [flood-managed aquifer recharge](#) (Flood-MAR) workshop has been posted online. Recorded on Aug. 30, the workshop provided an update on DWR's Flood-MAR program activities and next steps. The [slide presentation](#) used during the workshop is also available.

Workshops will help water districts understand new California conservation laws

The California Municipal Utilities Association is offering [two workshops](#) on [new California laws](#) that mandate water conservation measures for water districts and municipalities. There will be panel presentations to explain the requirements that will create changes in local water management. The workshops will be Tuesday, Sept. 18, in Los Angeles; and Friday, Sept. 21, in Sacramento.



Webinar will look at how climate change has some species on the move

The effects of climate change include some species moving away from their natural or traditional habitats. This species redistribution will be discussed during a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, Sept. 25. The discussion will include how the problem needs to be addressed at local, national, and international levels. The webinar is sponsored in part by the [National Marine Protected Areas Center](#).

DWR applied water models to be presented during Bay-Delta science conference

The [10th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference](#) will include a presentation on [DWR's models](#) for Delta Evapotranspiration of Applied Water ([DETAW](#)) and California Simulation of Evapotranspiration of Applied Water ([CalSIMETAW](#)). The conference is a forum for science-based information relating to the Bay-Delta system. It will be Sept. 10-12, in Sacramento.

Conservation districts conference to be held in San Diego this year

Registration is open for this year's [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts conference](#). It will be held Nov. 14-17, in San Diego. This year's theme is, "Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities." [Discounted registration rates](#) have been extended through Monday, Sept. 17.

AGRICULTURAL GROUNDWATER USERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

Butte County
Department of Water and Resource Conservation
RE: Vina GSA
308 Nelson Ave.
Oroville, CA 95965
BCWater@buttecounty.net

September 7, 2018

RE: September 11, 2018, Board of Supervisors Meeting – Vina JPA Agreement

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As the Board of Directors for the Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County ("AGUBC"), a 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation, we thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments regarding the decision before you in approving the Vina Joint Powers Authority ("Vina JPA") Agreement as presented by County staff. We support the version of the Vina JPA Agreement that has been submitted, which document is the result of many months of discussion and collaboration in the community. Specifically, we appreciate the dedication of staff members Paul Gosselin, Christina Buck, and Kelly Peterson (Department of Water and Resource Conservation) in taking time to prepare and meet with us and other interested parties to put together a governance structure that facilitates a variety of perspectives and input for the ultimate purpose of preparing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") for the Vina Subbasin.

You will note that the proposed JPA Agreement has the AGUBC providing 4 nominations to the JPA Board for the Ag Stakeholder seat with selection by unanimous vote by the JPA Board appointees from the 4 GSA-eligible entities in the proposed Vina Subbasin. This is not a new concept – selecting an agricultural stakeholder seat on a JPA board by an outside organization. We understand that there are at least 2 instances (Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency and Salinas Valley Basin GSA) where a similar agricultural seat on a JPA Board is selected by an outside organization (the County Farm Bureau).

We are a new organization with Articles of Incorporation filed on August 11, 2017, and we formed at the encouragement of County staff to provide a focal point for interaction between agricultural operations whose livelihoods are based on agriculture ("Commercial Agriculture") and Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA")-eligible entities. Our ultimate purpose is to promote Commercial Agriculture's perspective as our community looks to achieve sustainable water in Vina Subbasin. Commercial Agriculture operations' livelihoods rely on water – it is our lifeblood. As such, we want the best candidate to fill the Ag Stakeholder seat on the JPA Board and want to have confidence in that person. For further reasons expressed below, we feel it is reasonable and appropriate for the AGUBC to provide the 4 nominations for the Ag Stakeholder seat on the JPA Board.

We recognize the potential impact of SGMA on all groundwater users in the Vina Subbasin, and we also recognize that we must all work together and be part of the solution to reach sustainability goals. Attached for your information is a one-page information sheet about the AGUBC and our goals and objectives, previously provided to County staff for dissemination to any inquiring about our organization. Our membership is open to ALL interested Commercial Agriculture meeting the criteria identified in the attached information sheet. We encourage all Commercial Agriculture relying in whole or in part on groundwater to take notice and be engaged in this process.

The AGUBC was comprised of 15 members when we first organized one year ago, and we have conducted extensive outreach to inform Commercial Agriculture throughout Butte County about SGMA and the goals of the AGUBC. We currently have **46 members** comprising approximately **59,532 acres** in **Butte County**, of which approximately **45,486 acres** are within the proposed **Vina Subbasin**. A map illustrating AGUBC acreage within the proposed Vina Subbasin is also attached for your information. We are also informed that there are approximately 84,000 irrigated acres within the proposed Vina Subbasin, based on County staff analysis of 2015 DWR data. Therefore, the AGUBC acreage constitutes more than a majority of the acreage in the proposed Vina Subbasin. Additionally, the AGUBC is positioned to reach the majority of Commercial Agriculture acres within the proposed Vina Subbasin, with the goal of getting consensus on elements of the GSP, including future management actions.

Consequently, we urge the Board of Supervisors to approve the Vina JPA Agreement in its form as currently presented by County staff.

Respectfully,

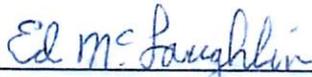
Board of Directors, Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County



Rich McGowan, Director



Darren Rice, Director



Ed McLaughlin, Director



Todd Turley, Director

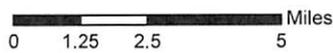
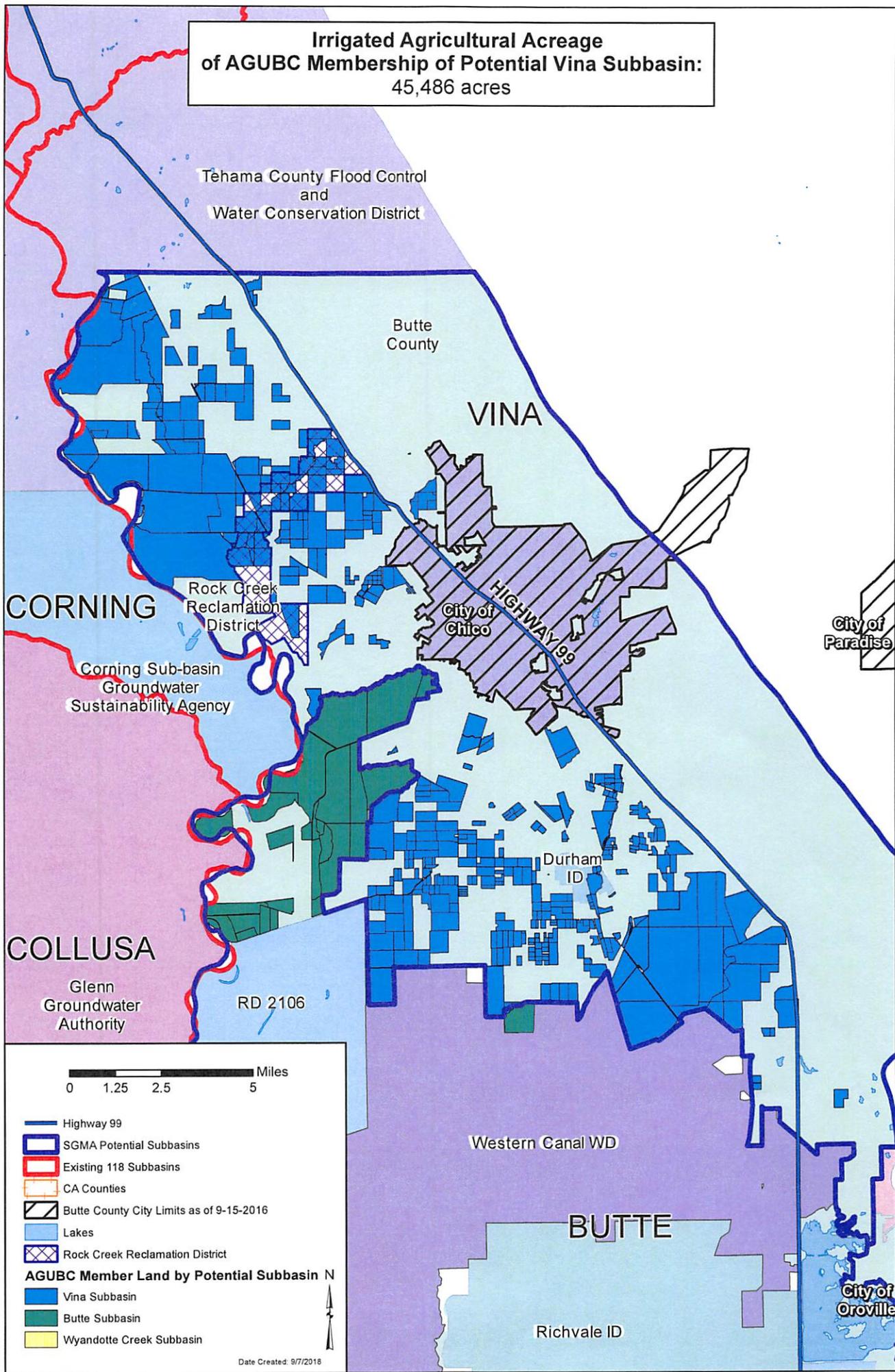
AGUBC Information Sheet (August 28, 2018)

- Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County, a private, nonprofit 501(c)(6) corporation (“AGUBC”).
- Articles of Incorporation filed August 11, 2017.
- Formed at encouragement of Butte County staff to provide a focal entity for County staff and other GSA-eligible entities in Butte County to interact with commercial agriculture in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) process, including governance and the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for each of the subbasins within Butte County.
- Current Membership Total: 46 paid memberships (entities/individuals or combination of entities/individuals) representing approximately 59,000 acres in Butte County.
- Membership Fees and Vote: \$2500 per membership (application); one vote per membership.
 - Started with 15 members.
 - Fees needed to be sufficient to get organization going and to keep it operating.
- Qualifications for Membership (Inclusive of all commercial agricultural operations in Butte County that qualify): (1) Commercial agriculture operations with acreage relying on groundwater and/or non-district surface water in Butte County; (2) Fills out application; (3) Pays initial membership fee.
 - Smaller commercial agriculture operations are encouraged to combine to join under one membership (for a maximum combined acreage of 250 acres) obtaining 1 vote.
- Numerous outreach efforts (face-to-face meetings, including Farm Bureau announcements) made in all subbasins to: inform commercial agriculture operations about the organization and its objectives; inform them about the impacts of SGMA, and provide an opportunity for any to join.
- Numerous meetings/outreach efforts with GSA-eligible entities (County staff, Chico City staff, Rock Creek Reclamation District, water districts, etc..) since inception of AGUBC, including attendance at governance workshops, consistent with agreement with Butte County to advocate for and implement landowner representation (Butte County Resolution No. 17-170).
- Seeking ways to stay engaged (and keep commercial agriculture operations engaged) in the SGMA process, including development of GSPs and sustainable solutions.
- SGMA Objectives of the AGUBC:
 - Organize to pool resources so growers can better control their own destiny and have a meaningful voice in any decision that affects future, sustainable groundwater use.
 - Have at least one voting seat on any governance body created to create, approve, and implement GSPs affecting their use of groundwater.
 - Preserve all their options, including the option of going through the LAFCO process to create or convert to a public water district and GSA-eligible entity (see Butte County BOS Resolution No. 17-170 passed on October 10, 2017).
 - Serve as a central information hub to its members.
 - Provide forum for grower members to interact with GSAs in the development of GSPs.

AGUBC Board Members: Rich McGowan, Ed McLaughlin, Darren Rice, and Todd Turley

For Further Info.: Rich McGowan (President) – (530) 624-3614; rmfrich@hotmail.com
 Ed McLaughlin (Vice President) – (530) 521-2007; dmclau99@sbcglobal.net
 Darren Rice (Treasurer) – (530) 518-5519; almondfarmer@msn.com

**Irrigated Agricultural Acreage
of AGUBC Membership of Potential Vina Subbasin:
45,486 acres**



- Highway 99
 - SGMA Potential Subbasins
 - Existing 118 Subbasins
 - CA Counties
 - Butte County City Limits as of 9-15-2016
 - Lakes
 - Rock Creek Reclamation District
- AGUBC Member Land by Potential Subbasin N**
- Vina Subbasin
 - Butte Subbasin
 - Wyandotte Creek Subbasin

Date Created: 9/7/2018

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Wednesday Update*Sept. 12, 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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Mojave Desert chosen as site for California Biodiversity Council meeting

The [California Biodiversity Council](#) has chosen Nov. 1 and 2, for its fall meeting and field trip. This year it will be in the [Mojave Desert](#). The time will be spent examining the ecology, biology, and conservation history of the desert. There will also be discussions on how the lessons can be applied in other parts of California.



California Biodiversity Council

Governor Brown signs EO safeguarding California's unique biodiversity

Just days before the world comes to San Francisco for the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) to collaborate on ways to protect the environment, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed an [executive order](#) to safeguard California's unique plants, animals, and ecosystems which are threatened by climate change. The steps outlined in the executive order and complimentary [California Biodiversity Initiative](#) will improve understanding of the state's biological richness and identify actions to preserve, manage, and restore ecosystems to protect the state's biodiversity from climate change.

Week-long workshop will look at restoring Sierra meadows and streams

A [week-long workshop](#) on the restoration of meadows and streams in the Sierra will be hosted by the [Maidu Summit Consortium](#) in October. The topics will include evaluating, planning and implementing restoration designs in mountain settings. Sessions will be held at locations in Placer and Plumas counties from Oct. 22 through Oct. 26.



EDF releases two new groundwater management papers

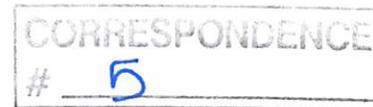
The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has recently released two papers related to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). [One paper](#) addresses how to comply with SGMA without changing groundwater rights, and the [other paper](#) proposes an approach for GSAs to address surface water depletions.

Draft Delta Science Plan Update open for public comment through Sept. 20

Public comments are being accepted on the [draft Delta Science Plan Update](#). The update provides a plan for building a foundation of scientific knowledge in the Delta. Instructions for submitting comments are on the first page of the draft. The comment deadline is Thursday, Sept. 20.

UCCE workshops will provide prescribed fire training for landowners

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is offering [two workshops](#) to provide landowners with information on prescribed fire planning. They will include a fire demonstration at the UC Berkeley Blodgett Research Forest in El Dorado County. The workshops will be Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Colfax; and Thursday, Oct. 4, in Arnold. The demonstration will be scheduled later in the month.



Groundwater managing agencies begin to take shape

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By Steve Schoonover

sschoonover@chicoer.com
[@ER_sschoonover on Twitter](#)

OROVILLE » Two of the agencies that will manage the water beneath Butte County began to take shape this week, one with some controversy.

Groundwater sustainability agencies are required

under the September 2014 law regulating the state's aquifers, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The GSAs are supposed to set sustainability goals for the various groundwater basins in the state, develop plans to reach those goals, and then administer the plans to ensure the goals are met.

When the law was passed, Butte County, Chico and Oroville and a number of irrigation districts

filed to be GSAs. As talks have continued, it's become clear the way to go was with a single agency for each "sub-basin," created through an agreement by the governments involved to share powers.

Tuesday, the Butte County Board of Supervisors voted to abolish its GSA and enter into partnerships to create single

agencies for two of the expected three sub-basins in the county.

The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency would include representatives of the county, the city of Oroville and the Thermalito Water and Power Agency, with an agricultural well user and a domestic well user. There was no public comment on the proposal and it passed unanimously.

It would be responsible for the plan for the valley floor east and south of the Feather River, and including the entirety of Oroville city and the Thermalito District.

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency would draw the plan for the northern part of the valley floor inside the county, running from Butte

was challenged during the hearing, because the county had proposed allowing the Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County to vet and nominate four candidates, from which the representatives of the the four government bodies would choose the ultimate board member.

The Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County is a nonprofit formed at the advice of the county as a way for farmers on wells and not part of an irrigation district to have a say in the groundwater discussions.

It formed in August 2016 and now has 46 members, covering 59,532 acres, the board was told. That includes 45,000 of the 84,000 acres of irrigated land in the Vina Sub-Basin.

unanimously to proceed as proposed.

There remains one wrinkle in the Vina process though. The governing board of both GSAs will pick a diverse advisory board that will actually do much of the work of drafting the plan. In the Wyandotte Sub-Basin, the Oroville tribes have a seat on the advisory board. In the Vina Sub-Basin, the Mechoopda want a seat on the governing board. The tribe's proposed casino off Highway 149 near Highway 99 will be dependent of groundwater.

That issue was not resolved Tuesday, as county Water and Resource Conservation Director Paul Gosselin said the county was a little behind on getting the plan developed by the Jan. 30, 2022, deadline.

Valley to the Tehama County line, and encompassing the city of Chico.

As proposed, it would have representatives of the county, Chico, the Durham Irrigation District, the Rock Creek Reclamation District, again with an ag well user and a domestic well user.

The process of selecting the ag representative

A representative of a resident of the Rock Creek Reclamation District argued the group was likely to favor large growers, and freeze smaller ones off the governing board.

But other speakers denied the process would be weighted toward large growers. County staff offered a couple of ways to ensure that didn't happen, and the supervisors ultimately agreed, voting

If that deadline is missed, the state will impose its own plan, with fees and restrictions of pumping determined in Sacramento.

“The last thing we want is the state coming in and telling us how to do our business,” Gosselin said. *Contact reporter Steve Schoonover at 530-8967750.*

Sunday, 09/16/2018 Pag.A01

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THE SACRAMENTO BEE

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WATER & DROUGHT

Farmers thought they had 20 years to use groundwater as they wished - maybe not anymore

BY DALE KASLER
dkasler@sacbee.com

September 17, 2018 02:00 AM

California farmers are laboring under a daunting edict: They must stop over-pumping groundwater from beneath their ranches. The saving grace is that state law gives them more than 20 years to do it.

Now, however, a landmark court ruling could force many farmers to curb their groundwater consumption much sooner than that, landing like a bombshell in the contentious world of California water.

For the first time, a California court has said state and county governments have a duty to regulate groundwater usage when it's clear that the pumping drains water from adjacent rivers.

"This is going to be an immediate obligation, not one that they can wait 20 years," said James Wheaton of the Environmental Law Foundation, an Oakland nonprofit that won the lawsuit.

"They're going to have to act now."

The Aug. 29 ruling by the Third District Court of Appeal involves the Scott River in Siskiyou County, an obscure 60-mile tributary of the Klamath near the Oregon border that suddenly looms as a major artery in California water law. Wheaton said the ramifications go far beyond Siskiyou's borders.

"This ruling applies statewide," he said.

The court case spotlighted the often overlooked connection between rivers and aquifers. Rivers aren't just fed by rainwater and melting snow; they also depend on groundwater. Richard Frank, a UC Davis law professor who worked on the lawsuit, said farmers in the vicinity of the Scott pump so much groundwater that portions of the river go nearly dry during the summer. That has had a devastating effect on fish populations, including the endangered coho salmon.

"That's jobs and dollars and our livelihood," said Glen Spain, a lawyer who worked on the case and regional director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "If you're a fish, a dried-up river is death."

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Ironically, the ruling would probably have the least impact in parched regions like the San Joaquin Valley, where aquifers already have been drained so badly that they no longer feed the rivers, said Brian Gray, a water-law expert at the Public Policy Institute of California.

The court established a broad, general principle – essentially, that groundwater pumping that harms rivers violates California law, and Siskiyou County officials must take that into account when they allow new wells to be drilled. Additional court cases or other actions would be needed to establish hard-and-fast rules on what's permissible, Wheaton said. He said the Environmental Law Group hasn't decided which steps to take.

“Is this going to change anybody's pumping next year? Not to my knowledge,” said Chris Scheuring, general counsel at the California Farm Bureau Federation.

But the ruling could eventually have an effect in plenty of places. Ellen Hanak, a water-policy expert at PPIC, said groundwater pumping by wine grape growers has been shown to reduce flows significantly on the Russian River, for example. In one case, a decade ago, the river ran so low that endangered salmon were left to die on the river banks, prompting regulations requiring farmers on the Russian to coordinate their pumping activities to keep flows high enough.

Last month's court ruling could eventually bring far stricter restrictions. The Farm Bureau was concerned enough that it argued in court against the ruling.

Restricting groundwater pumping “could have a significant negative economic impact on many landowners, and frustrate long-existing, investment-backed expectations to a water right that has never before been so limited,” the Farm Bureau's lawyers wrote in a legal brief with the Pacific Legal Foundation, a property-rights nonprofit in Sacramento.

Groundwater is California's lifeline, particularly in agriculture. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, aquifers generate about 40 percent of the water used by farms and cities. In lean times, it gets worse. During the recent five-year drought, farmers drilled thousands of new groundwater wells and extracted as much as 8.4 million acre-feet of water out of the aquifers each year, according to a UC Davis study. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons.

Alarmed about falling water tables and other consequences, the Legislature acted in 2014 to rein in groundwater consumption. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will require “critically over-drafted” groundwater basins to come into balance – meaning farmers will have to put as much into the basin as they take out – by 2040. The groundwater basins in better shape have until 2042 to become sustainable. Generally speaking, “sustainable” means the basins are in no worse shape than they were in January 2015.

Regional agencies are in charge of developing the sustainability plans, and state officials who oversee SGMA say last month’s court ruling won’t change that. The decision “does not interrupt DWR’s implementation of SGMA nor uproot development of groundwater sustainability plans by local agencies,” said Joyia Emard, a spokeswoman for the Department of Water Resources, in an email.

Even with two decades-plus of lead time, farm advocates say SGMA will likely force the permanent retirement of hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland. Environmentalists, however, say the Scott River can’t wait for the law’s deadlines to kick in.

In its lawsuit, the Environmental Law Foundation cited a legal doctrine known as “the public trust.” It’s a powerful doctrine, rooted in ancient Roman law, and says the state and county governments have the duty to protect public resources such as water. The public trust doctrine was the basis for one of the most important legal decisions in California water history – the state Supreme Court’s 1983 ruling that gave broad protections to Mono Lake on the eastern slope of the Sierra. That ruling prompted state regulators several years later to significantly curtail the city of Los Angeles’ ability to draw water from the lake.

Now the concept is being applied to groundwater pumping and the impact it has on the state’s rivers. “If you pump out the groundwater and deplete the river, you potentially violate the public trust,” said the PPIC’s Gray.

In the lawsuit, Siskiyou County officials said there was already a law in place to rein in pumping operations – the SGMA groundwater law – which overrides the public trust issue. The court flatly rejected that argument. Siskiyou County’s attorneys couldn’t be reached for comment for this story.

Wheaton said he doesn’t want to use the ruling to hurt farmers, who he said have suffered plenty in recent years. But he said the rivers have to be protected, and soon.

With the ruling, “we have a very powerful tool,” the environmental lawyer said. “We want to wield it in a way that’s responsible but effective.”

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Revised guidelines released for habitat conservation strategies

The [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) has released the [revised program guidelines](#) for regional conservation investment strategies. The strategies are intended to protect or restore habitats for species that may be vulnerable or declining. The guidelines also cover regional conservation assessments.

New online platform provides support and resources for implementing SGMA

A new online platform is available to support the implementation of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The [Groundwater Exchange](#) offers water managers and water users a variety of resources related to SGMA. Details are available in this [news release](#). A [webinar](#) featuring a live demonstration of the exchange will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11.



Nature-based stormwater projects to be explored during October seminar

A [seminar](#) on nature-based stormwater projects is set for Monday, Oct. 1, in Sacramento. It will explore strategies that nurture soils while reducing greenhouse gasses and improving air quality. The event is part of the seminar series presented by the [Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water](#) (STORMS).

Drought management report offers list of reforms for California

A [drought management report](#) from the [Public Policy Institute of California](#) offers a list of reforms needed to prepare for future droughts, especially in light of a changing climate. The list includes improving the state's water grid, and updating water allocation rules. The report also calls for reliable funding for adapting to climate change.

Helping water providers understand California's new water efficiency regulations

Water providers looking for answers about California's new water efficiency legislation, may find them in a [webcast series](#) being offered by the [WaterNow Alliance](#). The series of five webcasts will begin Wednesday, Sept. 26, and will run through December. Earlier this year, Governor Brown signed legislation [creating a new structure](#) for water suppliers to develop water efficiency strategies.

Symposium will focus on potential salinization problems in the Delta

Registration is open through Friday, Sept. 21, for next week's [symposium on the effects of salinization](#) in the Delta. Climate change poses a salinization threat to the network of tidal wetlands and freshwater rivers in the Bay-Delta system. The symposium will be Wednesday, Sept. 26, at UC Davis.

Up to \$12 million available for Delta science studies, workshops will explain process

CDFW and the Delta Science Program are offering two online workshops to explain the application process for [funding of Delta scientific studies](#). As much as \$12 million in funding will be awarded. The workshops will be [tomorrow, Sept. 20](#), and Wednesday, Oct. 17.



Local water savings about double state's rate

CONSERVATION

By Steve Schoonover

sschoonover@chicoer.com
[@ER_sschoonover on Twitter](#)

SACRAMENTO » The latest water conservation figures released by the state show Butte County saving at about double the statewide rate.

The Water Resources Control Board released the number for July last week, and statewide water savings were 13.6 percent lower than in July 2013, the benchmark pre-drought year.

Locally, the Oroville Division of the California Water Service Co. reported savings of 29.5 percent. Cal Water's Chico Division had savings of 24.9 percent and Paradise Irrigation District customers saved 25.4 percent, compared to July 2013. The Del

Oro Water Co. reported savings of 21.7 percent, and Cal Water Willows customers saved 28.6 percent.

The Water Board has been collecting the data from urban water providers for 50 months now. In 2015, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered a 25 percent reduction in water use due to the drought, and the numbers took on more significance.

But Brown officially declared the drought over in April 2017, and the Water Board allowed water providers to set their own conservation targets. Water savings have declined fairly steadily statewide since then, except for a jump this March that has faded since then.

Regionally, the Sacramento River watershed posted July water savings of 17.3 percent compared

to 2013, while South Coast conservation was 9.9 percent and the Bay Area was 16.5 percent.

Locally more water is used per capita than statewide, however, where the average use per person, per day is 117 gallons.

Only Del Oro beat that at 101 gallons per person per day. The figure for Chico was 197 gallons; Oroville, 143 gallons; Paradise, 257 gallons; and Willows, 157 gallons.

Statewide the savings in July amounted to 92,858 acre-feet, according to the Water Board. *Contact reporter Steve Schoonover at 530-896-7750.*