

COUNTY AND MULTI-PARTY EFFORTS TO MANAGE WATER RESOURCES IN THE NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Shasta

Tehama

Butte

Glenn

Colusa

Ernie Ohlin

Deputy Director

Tehama County Public Works

Water Resources

December 03, 2008

BACKGROUND

- Tehama County Ordinance 1617 (1994)
 - Prohibiting “mining” of groundwater
 - Reaffirmed Counties “police power”
- Tehama County adopts AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan (1998)
- Established a Technical Advisory Committee
- Conducted a Countywide “Water Inventory Analysis”
- Soon to install the sixth and seventh 1,000 ft. deep multi-completion groundwater monitoring wells
- Developed website: www.tehamacountywater.ca.gov



Tehama County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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[Home](#)
[Tehama County AB 3030](#)
[Tehama County](#)
[Water Agency Contacts](#)
[Flood Control](#)
[Weather](#)
[Emergency Flood Work](#)
[Coordinate With D.W.R.](#)
[Levee Systems](#)
[Well Monitoring](#)
[Groundwater](#)
[Drainage Issues](#)
[Creek Maintenance](#)
[Floodplain Management](#)
[Watersheds](#)
[Tehama County Soil Survey](#)
[Creek Temperatures](#)
[SB1086 SRCAF](#)
[CALFED](#)
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[Flood Mitigation Plan \(FMP\)](#)

[Groundwater Monitoring Well Presentation Pictures](#)

[Flood Control Board of Directors, Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

[County Department Index](#)



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TIMES ARE CHANGING

- Delta Crisis
- Drought water bank
- South of Delta water shortage
- Northstate urban growth
- Increased agricultural acreage
- Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP)
- Uncertain weather patterns

***Need For Regional Planning & Participation**

NEED FOR REGIONAL PLANNING & PARTICIPATION

- Groundwater aquifers do not abide by political or jurisdictional boundaries.
- Water supplies and demands are influenced by factors outside of the receiving district.
- Project implementation and operation can affect your neighbor or your region.
- Understanding local and regional resources is essential.
- Northstate leaders recognize the importance of working together and sharing information.

EXAMPLE EFFORTS TO DATE

December 2005 – Four-County M.O.U.

A memorandum of understanding signed by the Board of Supervisors in four Northern Sacramento Valley Counties.

“The Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama share common surface water and groundwater resources. Based on these common resources, local water resource managers understand that coordination, collaboration and communication can result in an improved water resource understanding at both the county and regional level.”

EXAMPLE EFFORTS TO DATE (CONTINUED)

May 2007 – Multi-party M.O.U.

A memorandum of understanding which is an extension of the Four-county M.O.U. to include special districts, governmental entities and regulated water purveyors.

The Multi-party M.O.U. was initially intended to coordinate, collaborate and communicate on management activities associated with the "Lower Tuscan" and "Tehama" groundwater aquifers.

ONGOING MULTI-PARTY M.O.U. COORDINATED PROJECT

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Institute, is researching whether, and how, operation of the Lower Tuscan and related deep aquifers in the Sacramento Valley could be integrated with the operations of existing surface water reservoirs (Oroville, Shasta, Stony Creek) to produce possible additional new firm water supplies.

LOWER TUSCAN AQUIFER RESEARCH PROJECT

- Proposition 50 funded groundwater recharge research project to conduct field testing of stream infiltration, groundwater monitoring, aquifer response to pumping, etc., as related to the Lower Tuscan Aquifer System in Butte and Tehama Counties.
- Tehama County is collaborating with Butte County, who is the project leader through the Four-county M.O.U. process.

BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE INFORMATION CENTER (BMOIC)

- The Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama worked collaboratively through the Four-county M.O.U. to develop a cost effective, low maintenance data system to manage groundwater monitoring data information to be used by staff, stakeholders and neighboring counties.
- Data for key monitoring wells in each county is collected and used to analyze B.M.O. or groundwater trigger levels.

MANAGING THE RESOURCE LOCALLY

Tehama County Groundwater Monitoring “Trigger Levels”

- Even within Tehama County, it is important to work on a “regional basis.”
 - The Tehama County AB3030 Plan states that the citizen Technical Advisory Committee and the District shall develop a methodology to monitor changing groundwater levels and actions to inform the public and address the issue.
 - “Trigger Levels” and associated awareness actions have been developed for each of the twelve (12) groundwater sub-basins within Tehama County.

- Coordination, collaboration and communication is essential to successful management and planning
- The Northern Sacramento Valley has many valuable natural resources. Working together is vital to maintaining their longevity.