

**GLENN COUNTY  
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Glenn County Department of Agriculture  
720 North Colusa St., Willows, CA 95988  
Phone: 530.934.6501 FAX: 530.934.6503  
Email: [wateradv@countyofglenn.net](mailto:wateradv@countyofglenn.net)  
Website: <http://www.glenncountywater.org/>

**AGENDA**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, December 10, 2013  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
344 East Laurel Street  
Willows, CA 95988

**I. INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Water Advisory Committee Members:**

David Alves	Central River Irrigation Districts
Vacant	East County Reclamation and Irrigation Districts
Ted Trimble	East County Reclamation and Irrigation Districts
Sandy Willard Denn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Association
Bruce Roundy	Resource Conservation District
Mike Vereschagin	Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Districts
Mike Alves	Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Districts
Mark Lohse	At-Large Private Pumpers (Agricultural/Municipal/Industrial)
Vacant	At-Large Private Pumpers (Agricultural/Municipal/Industrial)
Darin Titus	At-Large Private Pumpers (Agricultural/Municipal/Industrial)
John Garner	At-Large Private Pumpers (Agricultural/Municipal/Industrial)

**Technical Advisory Committee Members:**

Lance Boyd	At-Large, South Area
Roy Hull	Department of Water Resources
Allan Fulton	UC Cooperative Extension
Vacant	Glenn County Planning and Public Works
Kevin Backus	Glenn County Environmental Health
Ben Pennock	At-Large, Central Area
Jim Donnelly	Glenn County Department of Agriculture
Anjanette Shadley Martin	At-Large, East Area
George Wilson	At-Large, North Area
Leigh McDaniel	Board of Supervisors (ex-officio)

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Consider approval of the Minutes from the joint WAC/TAC meeting of July 8, 2013.
- B. Consider approval of the Minutes from the meeting of June 11, 2013.

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **A. Public Comment:**

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

#### **B. Discussion and/or Action Items:**

1. TAC Report
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Term 2014-2015
3. Update on member vacancies
4. Update on 2013 Groundwater Substitution Transfers
5. Fall Groundwater Measurements
6. Reports
  - a) Board of Supervisors report
  - b) Western Glenn County ad hoc committee report

#### **C. Communications:**

#### **D. Member Reports:**

At this time WAC members are encouraged to discuss upcoming or ongoing activities that may be of interest to the committee.

### **IV. NEXT MEETINGS:**

The next WAC meeting will be tentatively scheduled at this meeting.

The next TAC meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance or accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Lisa Hunter at the Glenn County Department of Agriculture at 530-934-6501. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Glenn County Water Advisory Committee to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.101-35.164 ADA Title II.)

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee  
December 10, 2013  
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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- A. Consider approval of the Joint WAC/TAC July 8, 2013 Minutes.
- B. Consider approval of the June 11, 2013 Minutes.

# Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

## December 10, 2013

### Agenda Item B.2

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Subject: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Discussion:

As stated in the Policies and Procedures, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson should be elected during this last meeting of 2013 so they may take their positions for the 2014-2015 term at the next WAC meeting. Currently Chairperson Larry Domenighini and Vice Chairperson Sandy Denn have served one of two possible consecutive terms. During this item, nominations will be accepted, and a vote for the 2014-2015 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be conducted.

# Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

## December 10, 2013

### Agenda Item B.6

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Subject: Reports

Discussion:

- a) A recap of the Board of Supervisors report will be given.
- b) A summary of the discussions occurring at the ad hoc committee will be presented. The ad hoc committee will continue to meet and is requesting input and direction from the WAC. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January.



# Water Advisory Committee

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Web page: <http://www.glenncountywater.org/>

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## **Memo**

**To:** WAC/TAC members

**From:** Larry Domenighini

**Date:** December 4, 2013

**Re:** Activities Update

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In preparation for our next WAC meeting, I am sending out a recap of WAC activities since our July meeting.

## **Board of Supervisors Report**

In August Lisa and I briefed the Board of Supervisors on WAC and TAC activities. The following topics were covered:

1. Completion of the Glenn County Groundwater Reliability and Recharge Pilot Project Grant. The Final report is posted on the website. The \$250,000 grant-funded study identified approximately 3,700 acres in the Capay area currently using groundwater that could utilize GCID surface water most years. The cost to implement the project is currently estimated at \$8,000,000.
2. Spring 2013 groundwater measurements were taken in March. They are what would be expected in a dry year. The most significant decreases in groundwater elevations were in the Orland-Artois Water District and north Willows areas.
3. Summer 2013 Water Quality measurements were taken in July and August and a summary is available from the Ag Department. The measurements were within the historical range.
4. Water transfers: 2 districts partially within Glenn County are transferring water out of the basin this year. RD 1004 plans to transfer up to 7,175 AF coming from Glenn and Colusa Counties. Three of the wells are in Glenn County. GCID plans to transfer up to 5,000 AF all coming from 5 wells in Glenn County. The County continues to receive updates from both districts as to how the transfers are progressing.
5. Abnormal Groundwater Level reports: 3 verbal abnormal groundwater level reports had been received this summer. The Ag Department, GCID, and DWR have worked

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Representing: BOS District 3 Private Pumpers; BOS District 5 Private Pumpers; City of Orland, City of Willows; East Corning Basin Private Pumpers; Glenn County Farm Bureau; Glenn County Supervisors; Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Glide Water District, Kanawha Water District, Orland-Artois Water District, Orland Unit Water Users Assn., Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District, Provident Irrigation District; Reclamation District No. 1004; Reclamation District No. 2106; Resource Conservation District; Stony Creek Water District; West Colusa Basin Private Pumpers; West Corning Basin Private Pumpers; Western Canal Water District; Willow Creek Mutual Water Company.

cooperatively to determine if the groundwater substitution transfer programs have had any impact on the wells in question. So far, the data does not show a connection to a water transfer program.

6. Ad hoc committee

- The last several meetings for both the WAC and TAC have discussed declining groundwater levels in western Glenn County. Some of the decline may be due to dry conditions, changes in cropping, increased plantings, and/or changes in water availability.
- This has prompted the WAC to assign an ad hoc committee to further look into the situation. The committee is comprised of 4 WAC members, 3 TAC members, and landowners from the area in question.
- This will be an ongoing process and the committee is in the early stages of formulating a work plan.

7. WAC vacancy- Bruce Roundy will fill the RCD position vacated by Donnan Arbuckle's resignation. We will begin recruiting for the resulting vacancy of the resulting at-large private pumper position.

8. TAC vacancy-Planning and Public Works position currently vacant.

9. Upcoming Activities:

- The ad hoc committee will continue its investigation of the declining groundwater levels in western Glenn County and will work to develop a work plan to address the issue.
- Outreach and education efforts to landowners and agricultural, industrial, and domestic water users, will continue. This will include continued and increased coordination with other agencies and the public. The Glenn County Farm Bureau will be an important partner in this effort.
- The TAC will review the 2013 groundwater substitution transfer programs and evaluate the Export Water Transfer Guidelines after the conclusion of the transfer programs.
- The TAC will continue its review and monitoring of the abnormal groundwater level reports (including 2 from 2012).
- Fall groundwater measurements will be conducted in October. The TAC will review the Basin Management Objectives and make any recommendations for changes to the WAC.
- The WAC will begin the process next year of developing a work plan for completing the remaining unfinished tasks from the Preliminary Plan:
  - *Determine Groundwater Utilization opportunities and constraints: the use of modeling to develop a better understanding of the extent to which the*

*groundwater basin can be utilized without causing adverse impacts to help meet the water needs of the county under normal and emergency conditions.*

- *Formulate a drought preparedness plan: use groundwater models for “what if” scenarios to identify the most sensitive areas for potential adverse impacts and possible development of measures and protocols for response.*
- *Further development of a public information and education program: work with partners (DWR, GCFB, UCCE, neighboring govt. agencies)*
- *Develop an overall groundwater and coordinated water management plan by integrating the completed and to be completed tasks from the preliminary plan.*

### **Ad Hoc Committee Activities**

The ad hoc committee has met twice during the last four months. A preliminary list of tasks to be performed and issues for discussion was formulated and initial work has started. The list includes:

1. Modeling discussion: Funding to perform a model run would need to be obtained.  
Questions to ask for in modeling would include:
  - a. What are the existing conditions?
  - b. Will the aquifer reach equilibrium if land use stabilizes?
  - c. Land use changes affecting the aquifer?
  - d. Would in-lieu activities be feasible?
  - e. Ground water and surface water interaction?
  - f. How far down can the aquifer be drawn down without adverse impacts?
2. Cost study analysis comparing surface and groundwater economics.
3. Sandy Denn’s discussion points concerning policy discussion from July WAC meeting.
4. Options for County government involvement. This would consist of outreach to and education of landowners in the area concerning the groundwater status and efficiency and conservation of the resource.
5. Surface water discussion:
  - a. What would need to happen to get surface water for in-lieu recharge to these areas of need?
  - b. Who could provide the water/how much?
  - c. Detention basins and recharge possibilities-this included discussion on past projects developed by Colusa Basin Drainage District and reasons for not being implemented.
6. Bureau of Reclamation involvement
7. Well mapping and mapping out the “problem area”

We will recap these topics next week, but you have any questions or comments concerning these topics feel free to contact myself or Lisa.



Glenn County Water Advisory Committee  
December 10, 2013  
Agenda Item C

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Subject: Communications

See attached.



**PROVIDENT**  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

258 South Butte Street  
Willows, CA 95988  
(530) 934-4801  
(530) 934-3066 Fax



**PRINCETON - CODORA - GLENN**  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 98  
Princeton, CA 95970  
(530) 439-2248  
(530) 439-2163 Fax

August 13, 2013

RECEIVED

AUG 15 2013

GLENN COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Larry Domenighini, Chair  
Glenn County Water Advisory Committee  
720 North Colusa  
Willows, CA 95988

**Re: Undated "Points for Discussion Only" Regarding Private Wells**

Dear Larry:

A few weeks ago we received an undated document addressed to the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) entitled "Points for discussion only." The primary subject of the discussion points is privately owned wells. While the document indicates that it is a starting point for discussion, some of the fundamental assumptions behind the document and the points themselves raise serious concerns for us.

First, on every appropriate occasion, our districts have cautioned the WAC and the Board of Supervisors that the Groundwater Management Ordinance (Ordinance number 1237) includes a number of elements that are beyond the scope of the County's jurisdiction and authority or that the Ordinance is otherwise unenforceable against the districts. Thus you should not assume that any of our comments in this letter are a waiver of any challenge or defense we might raise to enforcement of the terms of the Ordinance against the districts in the future.

The opening paragraph of the discussion points shows a significant misunderstanding of the breadth of the Groundwater Ordinance, or evidences an intent of the primary authors of the Ordinance that it apply only to wells within a "surface water purveyor's [*sic*] boundaries."

To the contrary, the process by which the Ordinance was developed and the terms of it specifically *include* private pumpers. Four seats on the reconfigured WAC were set aside for those people. Moreover, there is nothing in the language of the Ordinance that distinguishes between wells within the boundaries of a water purveyor and wells outside the boundaries of a water purveyor. That is true both with respect to the establishment of Basin Management Objectives (BMO), and monitoring or enforcement steps that might be imposed in the event of exceedence of a BMO. If private pumpers who have been involved with the WAC and in the development of the Ordinance believe that the Ordinance is directed solely at water purveyors, they are mistaken, and the WAC should take immediate steps to inform them of that.

The second introductory paragraph refers to "the county's right and obligation to manage its own groundwater." At best this is loose drafting. The county does not have any of "its own groundwater," except that, like any other landowner in California, the county does have a right to use groundwater on county-owned land. We assume the author of the discussion points was attempting to characterize the limited legal authority of the County to manage groundwater within the County's boundaries. We will not comment on whether this limited authority is either a "right" or an "obligation." However, misconceptions that the County has an ownership interest or other dominion

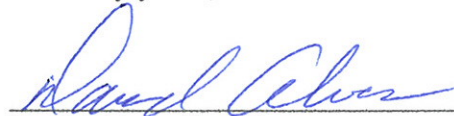
over groundwater resources, which could form the basis for regulation, are the basis of the tension over the language, and now implementation, of the Ordinance.

Generally with respect to the numbered discussion points, we believe it is inappropriate and possibly even unconstitutional, if the Ordinance or other future enactments of the County are enforced against different classes of well owners in different ways. While the discussion points do not offer a definition of a "commercial" well, it appears that the intent of the author is to address wells that are owned by private entities and that are being used for something other than a domestic water supply. To the extent this excludes any wells owned by the districts, we have no comment. On the other hand, on behalf of our landowners, who are, of course, private individuals, many of whom own wells that are used for other than domestic purposes, we strongly caution the WAC against singling out that class of wells for any purpose.

Frankly, we are unsure of the intent of the discussion points' focus on commercial wells in any event. However, this is simply a variation on the uncertainty we have had for several years about the intent of the Ordinance in the first instance. On numerous occasions we have made both oral and written comments that essentially concluded that the Ordinance was a solution looking for a problem. We still believe that.

We hope that, to the extent these discussion points are the subject of some further consideration by the WAC, we will learn more about their intended purpose. We also hope that the WAC will correct the mischaracterizations of the Ordinance.

Sincerely yours,



David Alves, President  
Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District



Elwood Weller, President  
Provident Irrigation District

cc: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Kanawha Water District  
Glide Water District  
Western Canal Water District





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Mailed out  
8-30-13  
LB

August 30, 2013

David Alves, President  
Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 98  
Princeton, CA 95970

Elwood Weller, President  
Provident Irrigation District  
258 South Butte Street  
Willows, CA 95988

RE: Comments on undated "Points for Discussion Only" document

Dear David and Elwood:

Thank you for your letter dated August 13, 2013. The "Points for Discussion Only" document in question was handed out at the July 8, 2013 Glenn County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting as part of the discussion of Agenda item B.5. *Western Glenn County Water Level Declines*. The main focus of the last two WAC meetings has been the groundwater situation in the western part of the county. The document's author is Sandy Willard Denn, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's representative on the WAC. Sandy's objective as she explained during the July 8 meeting when introducing the document is that it can be a starting point for discussions at future WAC meetings when options for addressing the western groundwater level declines are considered. The intention of this document was to urge others to begin thinking about possible solutions to a complex issue. Very limited discussion concerning the document occurred since Sandy offered it as an item to be considered before the next WAC meeting this fall.

Sandy had talked with me prior to the July 8 meeting concerning the document's subject matter and her purposes in preparing it. I welcomed her input and encouraged her to draft the document for the July 8 WAC meeting. I strongly feel that broad themed discussions will result in decisions that are sound. I also feel that encouraging open discussion, even if it seems controversial, will result in a stronger committee that is able to effectively communicate and use all the information available to make informed decisions and suggestions. Please feel free to contact myself or Sandy concerning this item. I have also invited Sandy to respond to you directly concerning your letter dated August 13. I appreciate your comments and welcome your participation as this and other topics are discussed.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Domenighini, Chair  
Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

cc: Sandy Willard Denn  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Kanawha Water District  
Glide Water District  
Western Canal Water District