

**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
Website: <http://www.glenncountywater.org/>

AGENDA

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014
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
Vacant	At-Large, North Area
Leigh McDaniel	Board of Supervisors (ex-officio)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Consider approval of the Minutes from the WAC meeting of December 10, 2013.
- B. Consider approval of the Minutes from the joint WAC/TAC meeting of July 8, 2013.
- C. 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. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Term 2014-2015
- 2. Update on member vacancies
- 3. Drought Conditions
- 4. Water/Irrigation Districts
- 5. Reports
 - a) TAC Report
 - b) Paso Robles Groundwater Basin – San Luis Obispo County
 - c) Western Glenn County ad hoc committee draft report
- 6. Other Topics of Interest

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
February 11, 2014
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Consider approval of the Minutes from the WAC meeting of December 10, 2013.
- B. Consider approval of the Joint WAC/TAC July 8, 2013 Minutes.
- C. Consider approval of the June 11, 2013 Minutes.

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.1

Subject: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Discussion:

As there were too few committee members present to produce a quorum at the December meeting, the election of a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was postponed until the present 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

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.2

Subject: Update on Member Vacancies

Discussion:

The WAC currently has two vacancies, one representing the East County Reclamation and Irrigation Districts and one representing at-large private pumpers.

The TAC also has two vacancies, one representing the Glenn County Planning and Public Works and one representing the At-Large, North Area.

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.3

Subject: Drought Conditions

Discussion:

On Friday, January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in California as a result of the prolonged drought conditions within the state. It is expected that 2014 will be one of the driest years ever recorded, with declining groundwater levels being exacerbated by a marginal snowpack, low surface water flows and already-depleted reservoirs. The proclamation calls for a number of conservation measures at the state and local level, expedited processing of water transfers and emergency measures for providing access to drinking water.

The County of Glenn also declared a State of Emergency at the February 4, 2014 Board of Supervisors meeting following a letter sent to the Governor echoing his concerns.



Office of Governor
Edmund G. Brown Jr.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, January 17, 2014

Contact: Governor's Press Office
(916) 445-4571

Governor Brown Declares Drought State of Emergency

Calls for Conservation Statewide, Directs State to Manage Water for Drought

SAN FRANCISCO – With California facing water shortfalls in the driest year in recorded state history, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these drought conditions.

“We can’t make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for the terrible consequences that California’s drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas,” said Governor Brown. “I’ve declared this emergency and I’m calling all Californians to conserve water in every way possible.”

In the State of Emergency declaration, Governor Brown directed state officials to assist farmers and communities that are economically impacted by dry conditions and to ensure the state can respond if Californians face drinking water shortages. The Governor also directed state agencies to use less water and hire more firefighters and initiated a greatly expanded water conservation public awareness campaign (details at saveourh2o.org).

In addition, the proclamation gives state water officials more flexibility to manage supply throughout California under drought conditions.

State water officials say that California’s river and [reservoirs](#) are below their record lows. Manual and electronic readings record the snowpack’s statewide water content at about 20 percent of normal average for this time of year.

The Governor’s drought State of Emergency follows a series of actions the administration has taken to ensure that California is prepared for record dry conditions. In May 2013, Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) to direct state water officials to expedite the review and processing of voluntary transfers of water and water rights. In December, the Governor formed a [Drought Task Force](#) to review expected water allocations, California’s preparedness for water scarcity and whether conditions merit a drought declaration. Earlier this week, the Governor toured the Central Valley and spoke with growers and others impacted by California’s record dry conditions.

The full text of the emergency proclamation is below:

A PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the State of California is experiencing record dry conditions, with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record; and

WHEREAS the state's water supplies have dipped to alarming levels, indicated by: snowpack in California's mountains is approximately 20 percent of the normal average for this date; California's largest water reservoirs have very low water levels for this time of year; California's major river systems, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, have significantly reduced surface water flows; and groundwater levels throughout the state have dropped significantly; and

WHEREAS dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems: drinking water supplies are at risk in many California communities; fewer crops can be cultivated and farmers' long-term investments are put at risk; low-income communities heavily dependent on agricultural employment will suffer heightened unemployment and economic hardship; animals and plants that rely on California's rivers, including many species in danger of extinction, will be threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased; and

WHEREAS extremely dry conditions have persisted since 2012 and may continue beyond this year and more regularly into the future, based on scientific projections regarding the impact of climate change on California's snowpack; and

WHEREAS the magnitude of the severe drought conditions presents threats beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in California due to water shortage and drought conditions with which local authority is unable to cope.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the state Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in the State of California due to current drought conditions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1.State agencies, led by the Department of Water Resources, will execute a statewide water conservation campaign to make all Californians aware of the drought and encourage personal actions to reduce water usage. This campaign will be built on the existing Save Our Water campaign (www.saveourh20.org) and will coordinate with local water agencies. This campaign will call on Californians to reduce their water usage by 20 percent.
- 2.Local urban water suppliers and municipalities are called upon to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions that could become necessary later in the drought season. Local water agencies should also update their legally required urban and agricultural water management plans, which help plan for extended drought conditions. The Department of Water Resources will make the status of these updates publicly available.
- 3.State agencies, led by the Department of General Services, will immediately implement water use reduction plans for all state facilities. These plans will include immediate water conservation actions, and a moratorium will be placed on new, non-essential landscaping projects at state facilities and on state highways and roads.

4. The Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) will expedite the processing of water transfers, as called for in Executive Order B-21-13. Voluntary water transfers from one water right holder to another enables water to flow where it is needed most.
5. The Water Board will immediately consider petitions requesting consolidation of the places of use of the State Water Project and Federal Central Valley Project, which would streamline water transfers and exchanges between water users within the areas of these two major water projects.
6. The Department of Water Resources and the Water Board will accelerate funding for water supply enhancement projects that can break ground this year and will explore if any existing unspent funds can be repurposed to enable near-term water conservation projects.
7. The Water Board will put water right holders throughout the state on notice that they may be directed to cease or reduce water diversions based on water shortages.
8. The Water Board will consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations, where existing requirements were established to implement a water quality control plan. These changes would enable water to be conserved upstream later in the year to protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead, maintain water supply, and improve water quality.
9. The Department of Water Resources and the Water Board will take actions necessary to make water immediately available, and, for purposes of carrying out directives 5 and 8, Water Code section 13247 and Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended on the basis that strict compliance with them will prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the emergency. Department of Water Resources and the Water Board shall maintain on their websites a list of the activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.
10. The state's Drinking Water Program will work with local agencies to identify communities that may run out of drinking water, and will provide technical and financial assistance to help these communities address drinking water shortages. It will also identify emergency interconnections that exist among the state's public water systems that can help these threatened communities.
11. The Department of Water Resources will evaluate changing groundwater levels, land subsidence, and agricultural land fallowing as the drought persists and will provide a public update by April 30 that identifies groundwater basins with water shortages and details gaps in groundwater monitoring.
12. The Department of Water Resources will work with counties to help ensure that well drillers submit required groundwater well logs for newly constructed and deepened wells in a timely manner and the Office of Emergency Services will work with local authorities to enable early notice of areas experiencing problems with residential groundwater sources.
13. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will launch a one-stop website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought) that provides timely updates on the drought and connects farmers to state and federal programs that they can access during the drought.
14. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will evaluate and manage the changing impacts of drought on threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, and develop contingency plans for state Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves to manage reduced water resources in the public interest.
15. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will work with the Fish and Game Commission, using the best available science, to determine whether restricting fishing in certain areas will become necessary and prudent as drought conditions persist.
16. The Department of Water Resources will take necessary actions to protect water quality and water supply

in the Delta, including installation of temporary barriers or temporary water supply connections as needed, and will coordinate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to minimize impacts to affected aquatic species.

17.The Department of Water Resources will refine its seasonal climate forecasting and drought prediction by advancing new methodologies piloted in 2013.

18.The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will hire additional seasonal firefighters to suppress wildfires and take other needed actions to protect public safety during this time of elevated fire risk.

19.The state’s Drought Task Force will immediately develop a plan that can be executed as needed to provide emergency food supplies, financial assistance, and unemployment services in communities that suffer high levels of unemployment from the drought.

20.The Drought Task Force will monitor drought impacts on a daily basis and will advise me of subsequent actions that should be taken if drought conditions worsen.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 17th day of January, 2014.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.,
Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN,
Secretary of State

COUNTY OF GLENN

AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2014 Submitting Department(s): Board of Supervisors <hr/> Contact: Supervisor Viegas Phone: 934-6400	BRIEF SUBJECT/ISSUE DESCRIPTION: Adopt Resolution "Declaring a Local Emergency Exists Due to Drought Conditions and Imminent Threat of Disaster in Glenn County"	
AGENDA PLACEMENT APPOINTMENT – Appearances by: (Specify Name & Title) Supervisor Viegas Required ___ Minutes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business – No <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence <input type="checkbox"/> Reports & Notices	ATTACHMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Minute Order <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Grant App. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Proclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Update <input type="checkbox"/> Code Update <input type="checkbox"/> Other	LEGAL/PERSONNEL/FISCAL <input type="checkbox"/> County Counsel <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Finance CLERK INSTRUCTIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Return Minute Order <input type="checkbox"/> Return Certified Copy Of: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
AFFECTED DEPARTMENT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Concurrence		

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMITTEE VACANCIES	LEGISLATION <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal	FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT	CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS
Public Hearings: <input type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit on File w/Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Affected Parties Notified Committees: <input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy Posted <input type="checkbox"/> Application Attached	Bill#: ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Latest Version of Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Letter Attached <input type="checkbox"/> List of Supporters/Opposers <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Relevance to County Interests <input type="checkbox"/> Description Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeted <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Attached <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5ths Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> Contingency Request	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Report Date of Original Contract: Contract No.: Fiscal Year:

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Recommendation of Supervisor Viegas to adopt Resolution "Declaring a Local Emergency Exists Due to Drought Conditions and Imminent Threat of Disaster in Glenn County".

John K. Viegas

Department Head

Reviewed By (if applicable):

 Personnel Director

 Department of Finance

cc:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION 2014-___

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY EXISTS DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS
AND IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER IN GLENN COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the County of Glenn has received the Emergency Proclamation due to the current drought conditions in the State of California. The conditions and concerns in your outline justifying the Proclamation are identical to those we have in the County of Glenn; and

WHEREAS, the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, is declaring the County of Glenn in a State of Emergency due to drought and a natural disaster area for consideration regarding any and all State and Federal relief assistance; and

WHEREAS, our County's economic engine is driven by agriculture, the home of over 1000 farms and ranches with over 489,000 acres in cultivation. Our major commodities are rice, almonds, dairies, walnuts, corn, and wheat. We have been called the "Olive Oil Capital" of California's new burgeoning olive oil industry and have a myriad of other important permanent crops including citrus, grapes, pistachios, and prunes; and

WHEREAS our groundwater tables are dropping. The Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District has been restricted from water diversions under the State Water Resources Control Board Term 91 provisions. Many water districts of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority are out of water for the 2013 irrigation season ending February 28th and we have been warned the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation expects to announce a **zero** water allotment for the 2014 season beginning March 1; and

WHEREAS, this crisis situation puts all of our residents and our economy at extreme risk. Our cities and rural residents rely on groundwater. Our farms and ranches that depend on surface water will turn to groundwater. Some will go dry. Our aquifers will be stressed to their limits. We have engaged all of our resources, limited as they are, to meet this challenge; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDERED AND DECLARED that Glenn County is a disaster area and that a local emergency exists in Glenn County.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California with the request that he proclaim the County of Glenn a disaster area and that a state of emergency exists, and that he request the President of the United States to declare the County a disaster area and issue an Executive Order to provide assistance to affected farmers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the State Offices of Emergency Services, State Senator Jim Nielsen, Assemblyman Dan Logue, Congressmen John Garamendi and Doug LaMalfa, and U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, State of California, at the meeting of said Board held on the 4th day of February, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT OR ABSTAIN:

MIKE MURRAY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

JAMIE CANNON,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Glenn, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



HUSTON T. CARLYLE, JR.,
County Counsel, County of Glenn, California

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.4

Subject: Water/Irrigation Districts

Discussion:

This will provide an opportunity for water/irrigation districts and users to discuss their current challenges and outlooks for the upcoming year.

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.5.b

Subject: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin – San Luis Obispo County

Discussion:

A presentation will be given regarding the recent developments in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. These developments have been the subject of local interest as they provide an example of how a severe water shortage and its effects on groundwater may be addressed by county governance options. This presentation summarizing the process the SLO County has undertaken was delivered to the ad hoc committee in January.

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

February 11, 2014

Agenda Item B.5.c

Subject: Western Glenn County ad hoc committee draft report

Discussion:

The ad hoc committee was formed at the July 8, 2013 WAC/TAC joint meeting. The committee met July 18, 2013, November 7, 2013, and January 10, 2014. The committee has discussed many topics that have been broken down into eight general categories in relation to the groundwater levels in western Glenn County. The general topics are as follows:

1. Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling
2. Cost Study Analysis
3. Recharge Activities
4. Surface Water Use
5. Coordination, Outreach, and Education
6. Mapping
7. Basin Management Objectives
8. County Governance Options

A draft report has been developed. This draft report was brought to the Board of Supervisors on February 4, 2014.

The ad hoc committee will continue to meet and is requesting input and direction from the WAC. The next meeting is scheduled for later this month.

DRAFT

Glenn County Water Advisory Committee-Ad hoc Committee Report on Groundwater Level Declines in Western Glenn County

"It is the desire of the people of Glenn County that sufficient and affordable water of good quality be available on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of agricultural, industrial, recreational, environmental, residential and municipal users within the county, both now and in the future."—Goal of the Glenn County Water Advisory Committee

The ad hoc committee was formed at the July 8, 2013 Water Advisory Committee (WAC)/Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) joint meeting. The committee met July 18, 2013, November 7, 2013, and again on January 10, 2014. The purpose of this committee is to:

1. Research the declining groundwater levels observed on the west side of Glenn County.
2. Develop potential solutions including stabilizing and/or reversing the downward groundwater level trend in that area.
3. Develop a list of projects.
4. Determine potential funding opportunities.
5. Develop additional ideas to investigate.
6. Make recommendations to the WAC.

It is the intention that the committee will develop an "Action List" to present to the Water Advisory Committee. The committee's expectation is to develop potential solutions, actions, and additional ideas to investigate that will help maintain a reliable water source for the people in Glenn County (County).

The committee has discussed many topics that have been broken down into eight general categories in relation to the groundwater levels in western Glenn County. The general topics are as follows:

1. Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling
2. Cost Study Analysis
3. Recharge Activities
4. Surface Water Use
5. Coordination, Outreach, and Education
6. Mapping
7. Basin Management Objectives
8. County Governance Options

Recommendations and work completed by the committee under these general topics are discussed below.

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Modeling

Use of groundwater and surface water modeling is suggested for Glenn County. It would also be reasonable to include Tehama and/or Colusa Counties if funding is available due to the similarities in hydrology and location.

It is this committee's opinion that surface and groundwater modeling that is coupled with other types of field monitoring is one element of a cost-effective approach to managing water supplies in Glenn County. It is the recommendation of this committee that the WAC and TAC seek funding for this item. While funding is being sought, the committees should research and investigate the types of models available, the extent of field calibration that has already been completed, and the appropriateness of their application to Glenn County and the surrounding northern Sacramento Valley area. A summary report should be encouraged. In addition, the committees must determine the criteria to be used and what questions the model should seek to answer (e.g. best places for recharge, water flow, sustainability at current use). This should be considered a foundational item.

Cost Study Analysis

A cost study analysis to determine the cost of groundwater use versus the cost of surface water use would help understand incentives and constraints to improving coordinated use of surface and groundwater resources. This would entail total costs of groundwater use including fixed capital costs and variable operating costs. Capital costs would include the cost of drilling, well construction, well development, power transmission costs, and costs for the pumping plant. Variable operating costs would include energy costs giving consideration to Time of Use (TOU) rates for electric motors and alternative fuels for engines, maintenance, and filtration. In a similar way, total costs of surface water will be evaluated to include operation, maintenance, wheeling charges, and water charges. Additional costs of filtration and treatment so water is of suitable quality for use in drip and microsprinkler irrigation will be included.

It is the recommendation of this committee to further improve the concept of this study and develop a plan to implement the study. Funding options should also be evaluated. Statewide specialists from University of California should be engaged in the development and execution of this study with Allan Fulton, TAC representative for the UC Cooperative Extension, being the lead for the TAC. The cost study would be designed upfront with direction from the TAC so that it would produce a cost range recognizing that each area would be different based on a variety of inputs such as groundwater levels, desired pumping capacity, well and pumping plant design, etc. A preliminary estimate of groundwater costs is \$60-120 per acre-foot which would be confirmed and further refined from this study.

Previous cost studies should also be researched in conjunction with this project such as the study used for the cost analysis presented in the Department of Water Resources, California Water Plan.

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Recharge Activities

The committee recommends continued investigation of potential recharge activities including in-lieu recharge, active recharge, and detention basins. It is this committee's opinion that active or in-lieu recharge with surface water is a critical piece of stabilizing groundwater levels and improving the overall water supply reliability in the area of concern. If successful, it could lessen the need for some of the measures described in the "County Governance Options".

A summary report of previous local studies should be developed. This report would include studies by the Colusa Basin Drainage District, the WAC's Stony Creek Pulse Flow study, the Stony Creek Fan Project Recharge study that was done by GCID, OAWD, AND OUWUA, and others. Areas summarized would include Wilson Creek, Walker Creek, gravel pits, ponding areas, and Stony Creek. Funding opportunities for project implementation would be researched.

New potential studies and sites should also be evaluated and funding researched. This would also include incorporating the possible reoperation of the T-C project to potentially make more water available for recharge. This would require coordination with water districts and water users in the areas being researched. In addition, naturally occurring groundwater recharge areas in the County should be identified and steps taken to protect them from future threats.

Surface Water Use

A fundamental objective is to use all available surface water supplies for beneficial uses within our area. By doing this, there is potential to lessen demand on groundwater during wet and normal hydrologic years and reserve groundwater for when surface water is critically short in supply. Although this may have a higher up-front cost to the water users, it will help ensure long-term sustainability of the groundwater supplies. The committee recommends continuing to investigate the ways in which all the available supplies can be utilized in an efficient manner. This includes a vast amount of outreach and coordination with both districts and landowners, which is also included in the outreach section.

Many of these tasks include coordination and cooperation with other agencies, water districts, and water managers. This could include inter-district transfers locally within the basin, potential transfer from a district to local groundwater-dependent landowners outside of the district, possible expansion of a current water district, or formation of a new district.

A list of possible water sources should be developed. It could include Orland-Unit Water Users, Orland-Artois Water District, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, regional or out-of-area suppliers, and others. Types of water must also be considered such as Central Valley Project contract water, base supplies, winter water, etc. Obstacles should be researched and noted as well. This could include water availability, infrastructure capacity, legal and political hurdles including state-wide actions, environmental interests, cost, district policies, timing, as well as others. A list of water uses (irrigation, domestic, recharge, etc.) should accompany these items as well. A report detailing these items is recommended.

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One example of these types of surface water use and recharge activities was the Glenn County Groundwater Reliability and Recharge Pilot Project. Developed as a response to public concern, the County applied for and obtained a grant to investigate the opportunity for in-lieu recharge in the groundwater dependent area in the Capay region in North-eastern Glenn County. This study investigated the potential to purchase surface water to irrigate the area's crops leaving the groundwater available for years in which the surface water was not available. This would create a more reliable water system that could use both surface water and groundwater as needed. The end result indicated that it is not currently feasible to move forward with the project due to cost, but now there is a plan that can be built upon in the future if some hurdles are minimized or removed to bring the cost down. It also provided an excellent opportunity for outreach in that area.

Coordination, Outreach, and Education

It is essential for water management throughout the County to include a robust coordination, outreach, and education program. Partnerships need to be developed and maintained for the ultimate good of the citizens in this County. These partnerships should be considered a long-term investment in the resources as the partnerships created should be maintained indefinitely. It is recommended that a coordination, outreach, and education program be formulated and implemented.

A list of potential partners should be developed including state agencies, local agencies, regional partners, and potentially other counties with similar resources and challenges. Examples are the Glenn County Farm Bureau, the Cities of Willows and Orland, local and regional water districts, managers, and users, the general public, the Glenn County Resource Conservation District, neighboring counties, the University of California and other academia, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, and others. This could provide for increased coordination in a multi-faceted approach to locally managing our precious water resources. The knowledge base and understanding between the groups would grow and also provide an increased level of outreach.

In addition to creating a list of partners, it should be considered fundamental to provide more information and ask for increased participation from our partners. This would also include more informational reports given by the WAC to groups such as the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, local City Councils, Farm Bureau, and other interested groups. It would also include creating more outreach materials in the form of articles in existing newsletters, such as Farm Bureau newsletters, and local newspapers. Additionally, the WAC website should also be updated on a regular basis. Examples of some topics could include efficiency versus conservation, encouraging surface water use to the extent possible in order to reserve groundwater use in areas with surface water availability for times in which surface water is not available, and the WAC and its role and the public's ability to participate.

Some additional areas of coordination include working with the University of California to develop potential studies that would benefit the management of water resources in the County. An example of a potential study is discussed previously under the Cost Study Analysis section.

DRAFT

Outreach to the groundwater-dependent, private pumper areas should include information regarding protection of the groundwater, coordination throughout the area and the County, potential district formation or other formal organization, the idea of a water users' cooperative in which there could be a voluntary cooperative pumping schedule to minimize the interference from one well to another, and other ideas as they become relevant.

It may become necessary to coordinate with California's Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding "time of use" incentives and the unintended consequences it has on other natural resources. Due to people generally being conscious of spending, they tend to pump their water when the rates are less expensive. Because everyone tends to pump at the same time, it seems to create a regional cone of depression causing some wells to operate inefficiently or cause them to dewater for a period of time. It also increases pumping costs since the water table is lowered at those times. Perhaps coordinating with the CPUC would lessen the impacts of the "time of use" issues.

Mapping

This section will address the importance of creating resource mapping. It is essential to have the ability to manage the County, area by area, depending on the particular needs of that area recognizing that each is unique. One task the committee completed was a draft map of the County indicating areas that have reached historic lows in groundwater levels. It is the recommendation of this committee that mapping of wells and associated data continue and expand. The following will summarize the efforts that have taken place so far.

Data in reference to groundwater levels has been collected from both private and dedicated monitoring wells located within Glenn County, in some cases dating as far back as the 1920's. The lowest levels in these wells were most frequently associated with measurements from the 1976-77 monitoring period, which coincided with one of the more severe droughts in California's history. In the years following the 76-77 drought, groundwater levels often approached these historic lows but rarely fell below them. However, recent (2012-13) data indicate levels in many wells have declined below those historic thresholds and are now at the lowest levels observed since monitoring began. It is important to note that the period of record for each well is different and not all wells include the previous drought years. Some of the newer monitoring wells may have less than ten years of data.

Although these declining water levels have been observed to some extent throughout the county, the effect seems to be somewhat regionalized, with the highest density of low-level wells concentrated in the Orland and Artois areas. This clustering of low-level wells has led to the region being recognized as an "area of concern" that will be of particular interest for monitoring, and potential efficiency and management strategies. To more fully assess the extent and severity of the issue, a preliminary review of available data concerning the area was conducted.

The area, as defined for the preliminary review, contains most of the area south of Orland and west of Road M, extending as far west as Road B, as far north as Wyo Road, and as far south as Road 48, with its southeastern portion between Roads 27 and 45 extending as far east as Road T (a map is included in the

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attachments). These borders are not presented as conclusive, but are intended to encompass most of the affected area based on the initial review of the available well data. The County's well database is a combined effort of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) well completion reports and County well drilling permit information. The database shows over 1000 total wells in the area, mostly domestic or irrigation wells, and the most common depth being 100-200 feet.

Readily available monitoring data obtained through DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) is available for 100 wells, and of those 100, 21 still show their lowest levels as occurring in 1977, while 21 had an all-time low water surface elevation level in 2013, and an additional 15 wells reached their lowest point in 2009-2012. Therefore, one out of every five monitored wells in the area was at its lowest-ever recorded level in 2013, and one out of every three wells monitored in the area was at its lowest-ever recorded level between 2009 and 2013. Decade-by-decade comparisons using this data are problematic due to inconsistencies in monitoring records, depth, well design and timing. The data suggests that the area identified is suffering from a regional depression in groundwater levels.

This scenario is not unexpected given the information provided by large-scale groundwater monitoring programs already underway within the state. Given the increased demand in the area, a general decline in groundwater levels in the absence of precipitation has been anticipated. However, area-specific information detailing the effects of the current water shortage on a regional or even individual level will identify the areas of greatest concern, and will be useful in developing and promoting local management strategies. It is the recommendation of this committee to produce a more thorough summary of available data and incorporate that information into a comprehensive and ongoing discussion of water resources in the county.

Basin Management Objectives

This section discusses the Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) set forth in Glenn County Ordinance 1237 adopted in 2012, which replaces Ordinance 1115 adopted in 2000. This ordinance is the Glenn County Groundwater Management Plan and stands as the backbone to managing our groundwater. It is essential to continually review and update the plan as new information becomes available and new or unusual situations arise.

It is the recommendation of this committee that the WAC direct the TAC to review the current BMOs and update if necessary. It will be important for these levels to accurately represent the wells and conditions in the area to best manage the groundwater.

New ways to view water management may become necessary to keep the aquifers of Glenn County healthy and sustainable. Some ideas to further investigate while reviewing the BMOs could be:

- a. Are the current BMO groundwater levels set at the appropriate levels?
- b. How do we distinguish different aquifer zones (shallow, intermediate, deep)?
- c. Do we need BMO zones?

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- d. Should the BMOs be based on the current political boundaries or is it time to manage the groundwater more cooperatively with neighboring entities and “blur” the BMO lines to better reflect the conditions of the aquifer in that region?
- e. Are the wells selected for BMOs representative of the area? Do they provide useful data?
- f. Should only dedicated monitoring wells be used rather than including irrigation and domestic wells?
- g. Consider using the cumulative frequency curve and well data to analyze the level of risk associated with BMO levels.

County Governance Options

The County has many potential opportunities to help ensure long-term sustainability of groundwater, the encouragement of using groundwater and surface water most efficiently, and has the ability to reach out broadly to the public and other entities. This committee chose to look at many potential government actions that can be taken if it becomes necessary. It is the committee’s desire that these ideas be thoroughly vetted at the WAC and the Board of Supervisors as well as through outreach to others while being more thoroughly developed.

County Efforts in Other Regions

San Luis Obispo County is currently dealing with severely declining groundwater levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater basin. A summary of the challenges and the actions occurring in that county were presented to the committee. It is this committee’s recommendation that the actions occurring in other counties be considered and evaluated informally while evaluating Glenn County’s position on groundwater management.

San Luis Obispo’s management strategy for the Paso Robles groundwater basin presents an interesting case study for other primarily agricultural counties contemplating emergency water conservation measures. The basin is an 800 square mile area in San Luis Obispo County, which provides the sole source of water for a significant portion of the county’s residents and an estimated 40% of its agricultural production. Monitoring data, modeling studies, and numerous reports of dry wells in the area all indicate that the basin is being drawn down beyond its ability to recharge. Faced with the prospect of a continually diminishing groundwater supply and no other major water source, the county was compelled to initiate a number of aggressive conservation and management strategies.

A Blue Ribbon Steering Committee, consisting of municipal water companies and governmental agencies along with several public organizations and landowner groups, was formed in 2011 to develop and implement the county’s basin management plan. As part of the development process, the committee collected and reviewed a number of proposed solutions, ranging from immediate emergency measures to long-term solutions, determining the best submissions by means of a weighted point system. The committee released a list of its top ranked solutions in August 2013 (see attachment).

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The county also adopted an urgency ordinance in August 2013. The ordinance is intended to minimize additional water use from the basin by prohibiting new or expanded crop production or the conversion of dry farmland into irrigated crop production, requiring all new wells to be metered, and requiring new development to be water neutral (via offset clearances issued by the department of planning). This ordinance provides for the immediate implementation of some of the adopted solutions, while others (such as the creation of a water district) are being phased in incrementally, with a large emphasis on education, outreach, and involvement of all affected parties.

While the effectiveness of these management efforts will not be apparent for some time, the process itself may be informative for other counties anticipating similar water issues. In the absence of existing emergency measures, outreach efforts and organizational structures, counties may find themselves inadequately prepared for severe water shortages. But pre-emptive discussion of such strategies, referencing the ones established in other areas but modified to reflect local needs, may minimize the damages if such shortages were to occur locally, and allow water use apportionment to occur cooperatively though defined parameters rather than through litigation.

Glenn County Options

While considering actions being taken in other regions, it is imperative that Glenn County actively engage in managing the resources that exist within our County. This is a cooperative effort between other water managers, such as water districts and municipalities, as well as private well owners. It is important that all involved are aware of the value of our resources and do what we can to protect them. While some of these ideas will not be popular and will be controversial, to benefit the citizens of this County, an open discussion should ensue. The ideas presented in this section must be further developed and vetted through the WAC, the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, and the public.

It is the intent of this committee to present a wide variety of potential ideas and solutions to the issues of declining groundwater levels. Not all may be feasible in the short-term, but should be considered to more fully discuss the options. Generally these options include changes to the County Ordinance governing water management, changes in well permitting, and addition of fees for management, coordination, and programs, or programs that could potentially be implemented. In reality, it should be a combination of the above listed factors to most effectively manage the resource.

The current County ordinance or a separate ordinance could be developed to include additional management strategies and clarify and update the adaptive management procedures. The updated ordinance could also include “emergency measures” similar to those used in San Luis Obispo County. It may become essential to stop using additional groundwater resources until some potential solutions can be implemented. This could potentially include a moratorium on new wells drilled with specific exemptions.

In conjunction with potential ordinance actions, well drilling permits issued by the Glenn County Environmental Health Department should be updated to include more information and potentially more requirements. Additional information or requirements that should be collected through permitting could include pumping test data, water quality testing, including testing for saline water intrusion,

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whether the well is a replacement well or new, and potential additional requirements if drilling is occurring in an area of concern or a BMO area that is in a Stage Alert status. The permits should also include an updated mapping interface which builds upon the current mapping that the County has already developed. This would provide for more easily collected and accurate data.

Additional possible revisions in an updated well drilling permit in areas of concern could include such things as requiring meters on new wells, with data being submitted to the County, higher fees for monitoring, studying, and oversight of areas with groundwater decline and sustainability of water throughout the County, restrictions on well locations (well spacing), requiring mitigation plans, and/or additional monitoring requirements. It is also suggested to consider types of use such as domestic wells versus production wells when determining potential requirements for each.

Generating local revenues to support local water resource management is a concern. Financial resources are necessary to support real-time monitoring and reporting of water resource conditions. Currently, Glenn County is under-funded to support the level of water resource management that is in the interest of the county as a whole. Potential fees for water management should be considered. It is crucial to the well-being of this County to provide funding to support the management of water county-wide. Fees could potentially include a county-wide water assessment for Water Protection per parcel, fees based on public benefit in areas of concern, revisit the water transfer fees in the Export Water Transfer Guidelines, in addition to well drilling permit fees. These ideas would need to be vetted more fully to determine the potential for these or other fee types to be implemented.

Monies collected through these venues should be used to fund a water coordinating department whose responsibilities would include data collection and management, implementation of the Groundwater Management Plan, and coordination of water programs. Some of these programs are state mandated, while others may be voluntary.

One potential program that could be implemented include the development of a mapping based Local Groundwater Users Program (Cooperative) for pumpers to voluntarily coordinate their pumping with others in the area. Another might be to create a program to help water users control and coordinate their costs (energy costs) associated with water use, for both surface water and groundwater. This could include projects to help fund alternative energy such as solar projects, or surface water filtration projects for micro and drip irrigation. Another potential program could be outreach and organizational efforts in groundwater dependent areas. This could initiate either informal or formal organization, such as a district, by the group. This would give groundwater users a collective voice for their region allowing for more local control.

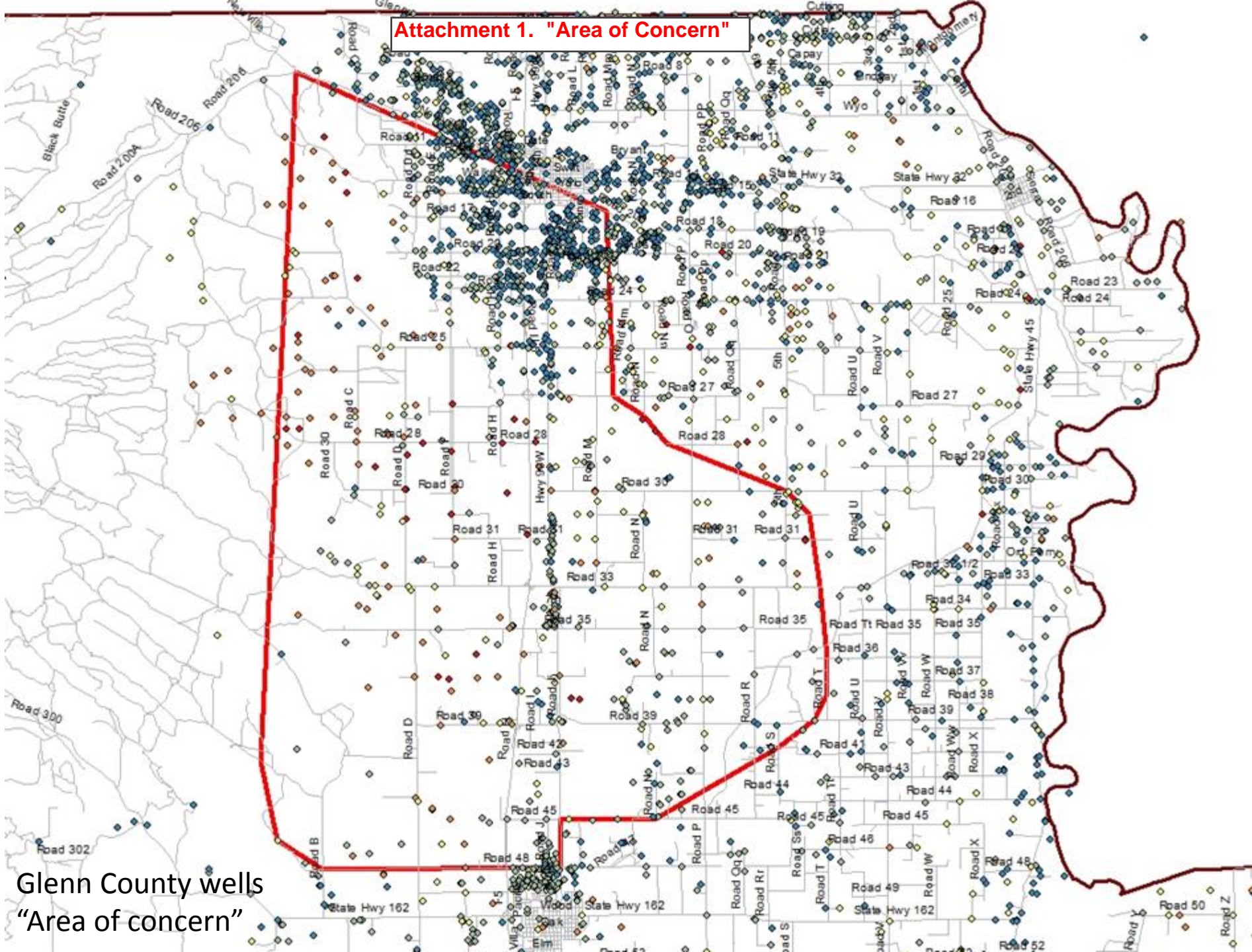
Summary

It is the hope of this committee that the ideas discussed in this report be a beginning point for an open discussion and potential updating of the management of water within Glenn County, especially in the western area exhibiting signs of groundwater decline. This report summarized several general categories and will be used to create an "Action List through the listed recommendations. Many of the

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ideas must be further developed and will need to be prioritized. Most have restrictions on implementation due to funding constraints. It is the intent of this committee to present this report to the Water Advisory Committee at the February 11, 2014 meeting for discussion and potential approval.

Attachment 1. "Area of Concern"



Glenn County wells
"Area of concern"

**Attachment 2. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin--
Blue Ribbon Steering Committee Top Ranked Solutions**

**Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan
Blue Ribbon Steering Committee
Top Ranked Solutions
August 21, 2013**

Solution Number	Solution Category	Water User	Solution
Emergency Solutions			
E-1	Management	Rural Residential	Provide a potable water source for use in trucking water to homes for emergency purposes.
E-2	Management	All areas	Create a structure to achieve an equitable allocation of safe yield for all Basin water users.
Short Term Solutions (Implementation in 1 to 5 years)			
ST-1	Management	All areas	Create a Basin-wide groundwater management structure(s). Create water districts or other management authorities to convey water to agricultural users and create small community systems for rural communities.
ST-2	Conservation	All areas	Identify, implement, and make available appropriate Best Management Practices.
ST-3	Management	Rural Residential, Agriculture and Rural Non-Domestic	Encourage projects that detain or slow runoff to recharge the Basin.
ST-4	Conservation	Rural Residential and Rural Non-Domestic	Maximize water use efficiency as appropriate to achieve water use reduction.
ST-5	Conservation	All areas	Meter all new and replacement wells and measure all well outputs and report.
ST-6	Conservation	Urban - Templeton and San Miguel	Participate in California Urban Water Conservation Council policies and practices as appropriate.
ST-7	Conservation	Rural Residential, Agriculture and Rural Non-Domestic	Conduct regular outreach activities.
ST-8	Management	Rural Residential, Agriculture and Rural Non-Domestic	Require new development to be water neutral.
ST-9	Management	All areas	Annually monitor status of Basin to determine whether solutions are effective.
ST-10	Management	Rural Residential	Require disclosure when land is sold that Basin is in decline and may not be suitable to rely on for intensive use.
ST-11	Conservation	Urban – Paso Robles, Atascadero, Templeton, San Miguel	Reduce per capita consumption to offset growth in service area where appropriate.
ST-12	Supplemental	All areas	Exchange or bank Nacimiento water with Santa Margarita Lake to benefit Basin.
ST-13	Supplemental	Paso Robles	Structure operations to use alluvial water first, Nacimiento water second and Basin last.
Medium and Long Term Solutions (Implementation in 6-10 years (Medium) and greater than 10 years (Long Term))			
MLT-1	Supplemental	All Areas	Implement water supply options associated with State Water and the Salinas River Corridor (may include use of Nacimiento & other areas of Basin & increasing the capacity of Santa Margarita Lake).
MLT-2	Supplemental	Monterey County	Explore opportunities with Monterey County including Lake Nacimiento / Lake San Antonio intertie (tunnel).
MLT-3	Supplemental	All areas	Direct delivery of unsubscribed Nacimiento or State Water Project allocation water.
MLT-4	Management	All areas	Prohibit groundwater exports from the Basin.
MLT-5	Management	All areas	Establish mechanisms to protect recharge areas and maximize watersheds.
MLT-6	Recycling	All areas	Incentivize the installation of grey water reuse systems onsite.
Completed or Already in Progress Solutions			
C-1	Supplemental	Atascadero	Utilize the full allocation (2,000 AFY) by fully utilizing the existing percolation ponds.
C-2	Conservation	Urban – Paso Robles and Atascadero	Participate in California Urban Water Conservation Council policies and practices.
C-3	Conservation	Agriculture – Irrigated Crops	Conduct outreach for County's groundwater level monitoring program.
C-4	Management	Agriculture & Rural Residential	Implement ordinances to prohibit subdivisions of land or General Plan Amendments in the Basin.
C-5	Management	Rural Residential	Implement landscaping ordinance.
C-6	Management	All areas	Establish baseline conditions of Basin through updated model.
C-7	Management	All areas	Implement landscaping ordinance (ag processing).
C-8	Management	Rural Residential	Implement Low Impact Development standards.
C-9	Supplemental	Templeton	Maximize or increase the use of the full Nacimiento allocation (250 AFY).
C-10	Supplemental	Shandon	Connect Shandon to State Water Project and set up distribution system (100 AFY).