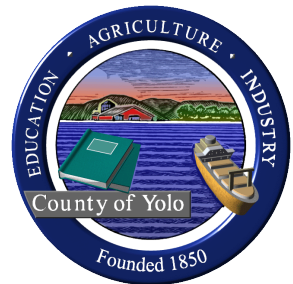


Agricultural Well Permit Update

Yolo County Board of Supervisors

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



- Summary of July 11, 2023, Board Discussion
- Overview of YSGA / County Responsibilities
- Well Permit Activity Update
- Groundwater Conditions Update
- Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Update
- Presentation of Options

July 11, 2023

Board of Supervisors



- The Board formally ended the local drought emergency proclaimed on July 27, 2021 (Resolution 21-98).
- The Board directed staff to return by the September 12, 2023, Board meeting with options for consideration, including a pause for new agricultural well permits in areas of special concern including Hungry Hollow, Western Winters (Golden Bear Estates), Yolo-Zamora, and the Plainfield Ridge, and other areas with significant groundwater data gaps.



Yolo County Environmental Health

- Protects **quality** of groundwater
- Protect public health and safety via construction standards
- Well permits: compliance with state, local standards

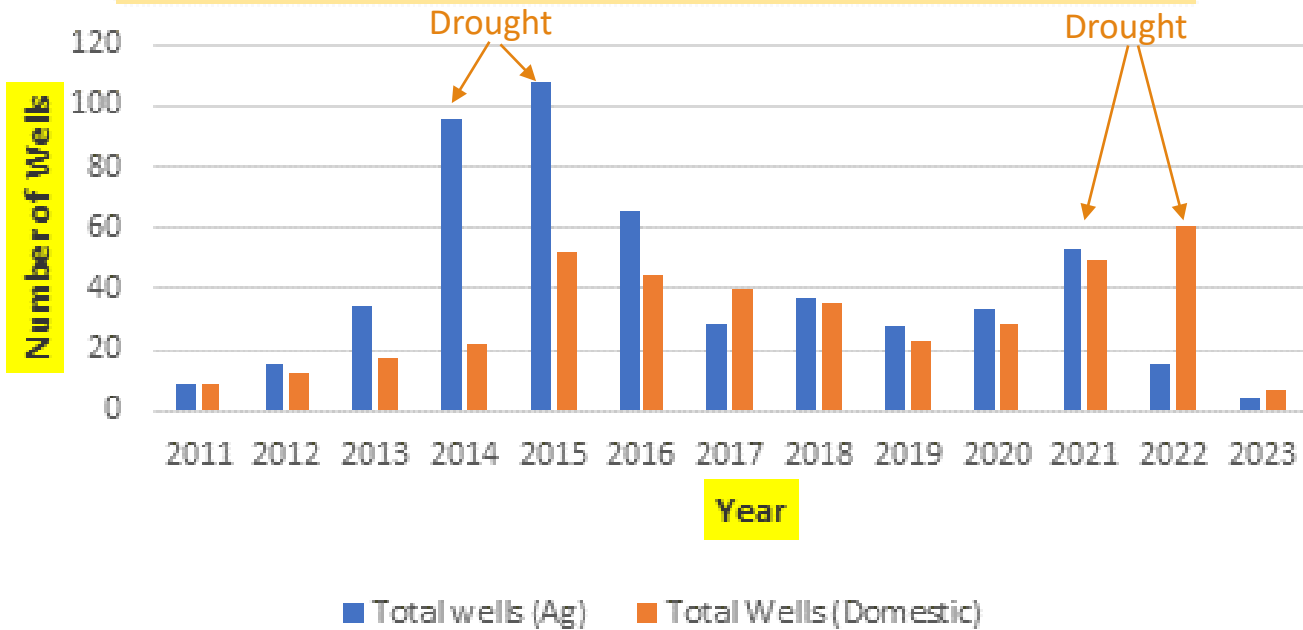
Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

- Protects **quantity** of groundwater
- Sustainability of entire subbasin over 20-year period
- Well permits: review for compliance with EO

Groundwater: Who Does What?

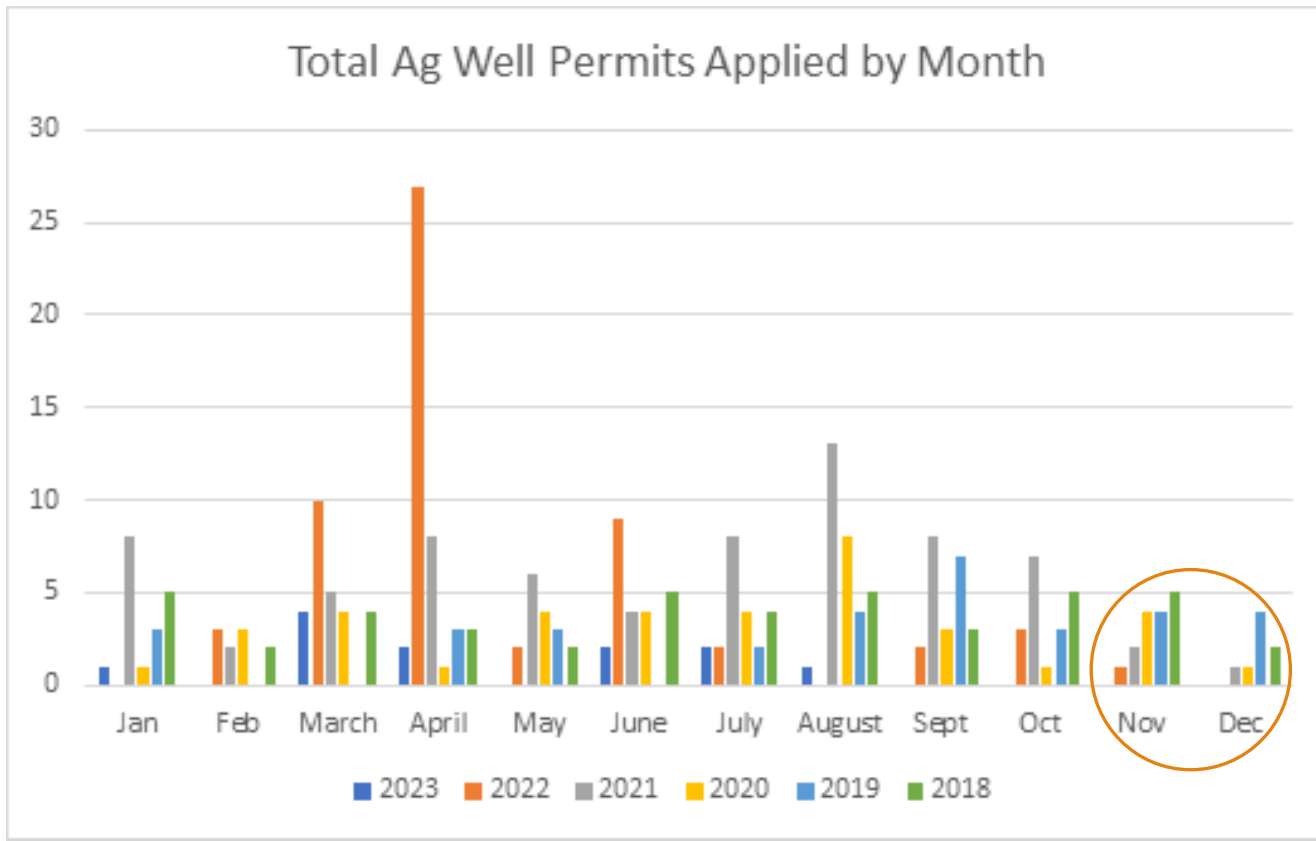


Total Completed Ag and Domestic Wells for Each Year Since 2011



Agricultural Well Permit Activity
Environmental Health Division

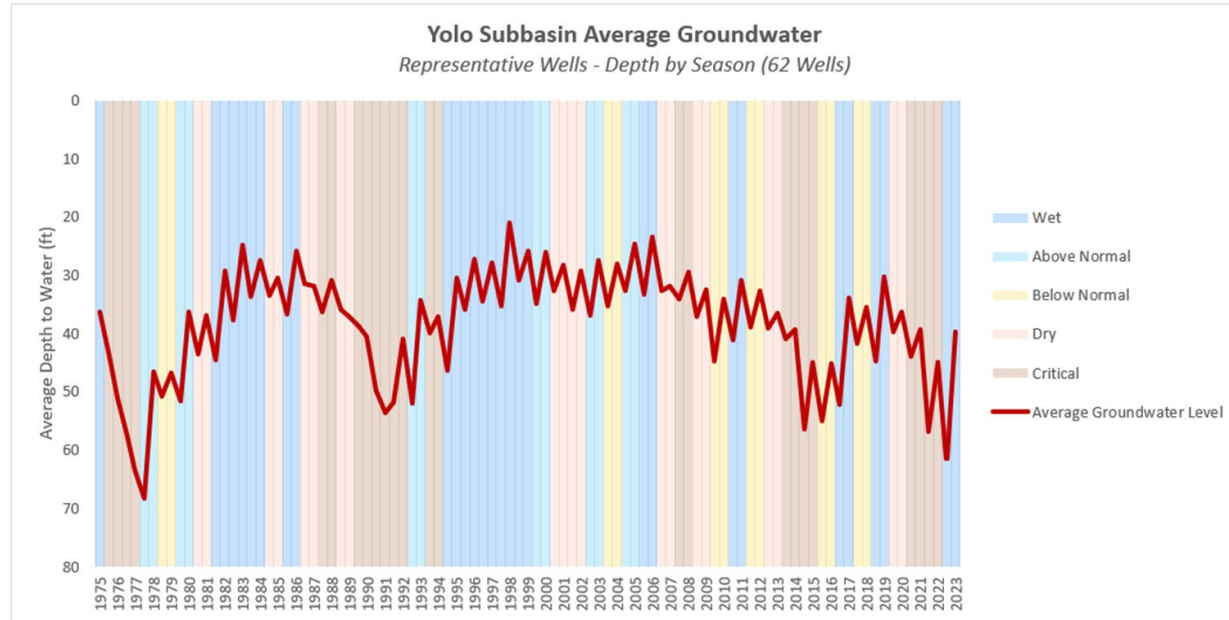




Agricultural Well Permit Activity Environmental Health Division



Groundwater Conditions Update: Yolo Subbasin Totals



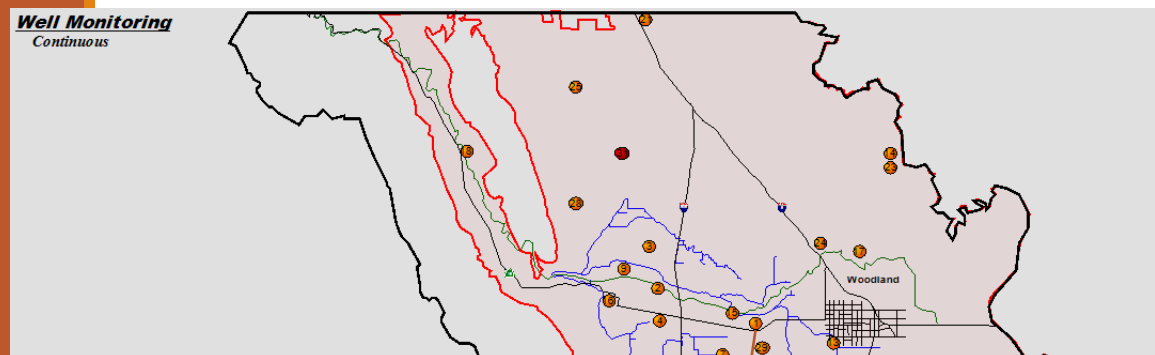
Mid-March 2021 Average Depth to Water ~ 39 feet
 Mid-August 2021 Average Depth to Water ~ 57 feet
 Early March 2022 Average Depth to Water ~ 45 feet
 September 2022 Average Depth to Water ~ 62 feet
 April 2023 Average Depth to Water ~ 40 feet

Of Note:
 1977-78 Recovery from Fall to Spring ~21 feet
 2016-17 Recovery from Fall to Spring ~ 18 feet
 2022-23 Recovery from Fall to Spring ~22 feet

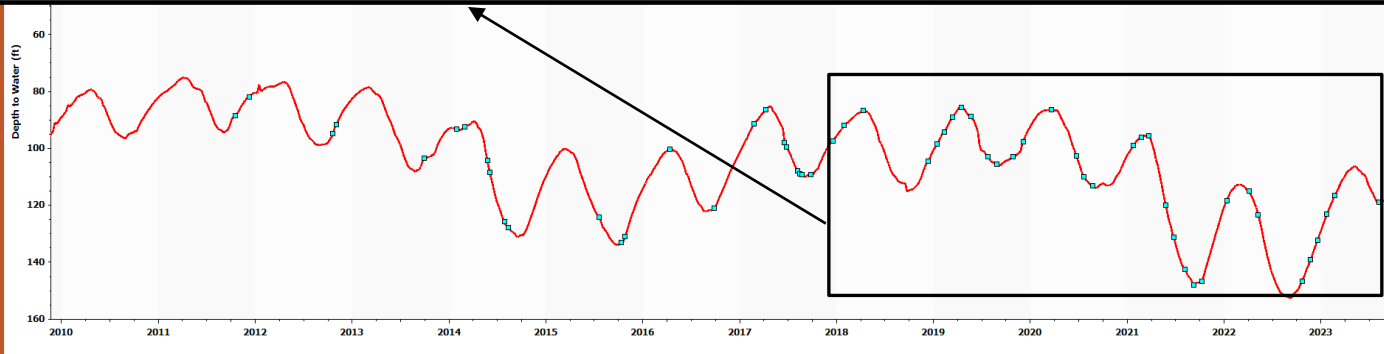
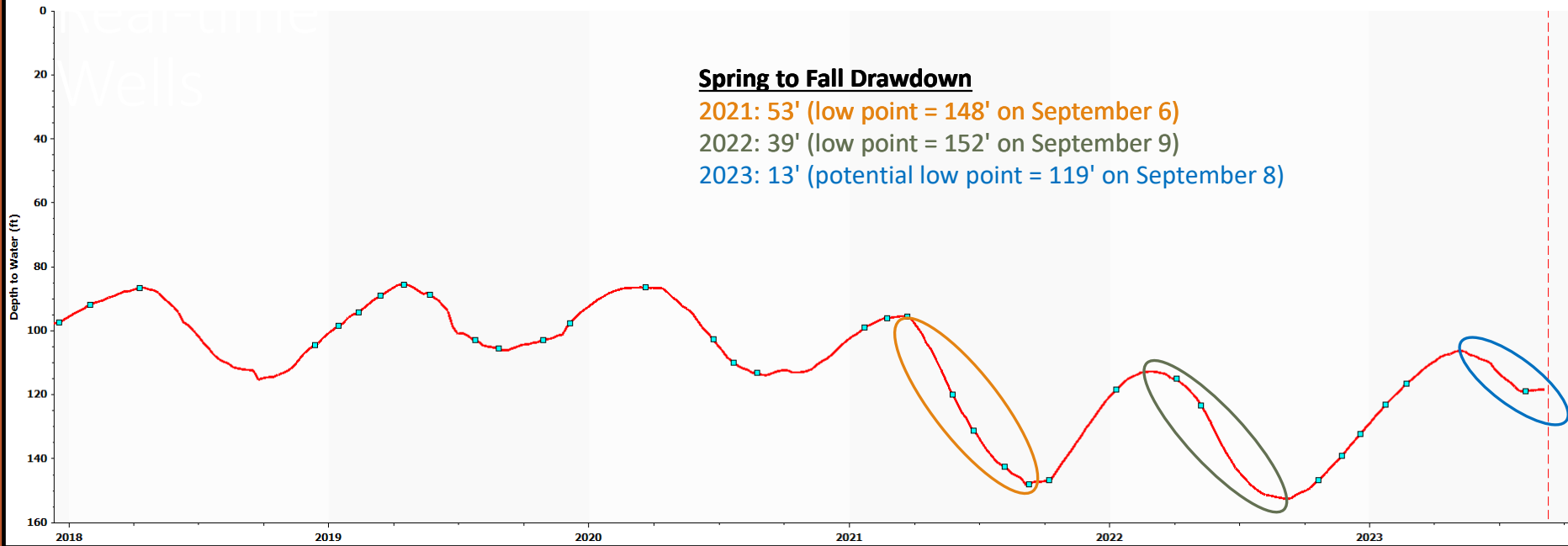


Data from Yolo Subbasin Annual Report 2022	Water Year (WY) 2019	WY 2020	WY 2021	WY 2022
Estimated Irrigated Agriculture (Acres)	263,481	231,253	213,776	179,966
Surface Water Diversions (AF)	465,500	494,000	324,200	184,900
Estimated Groundwater Extraction (AF)	310,400	285,500	399,200	348,900
Comparison to Subbasin Sustainable Yield (346,000 AF)	35,600	60,500	-53,200	-2,900

Groundwater Conditions Update:



1. HQ Well Depth to Water



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Update

- Areas of Special Concern

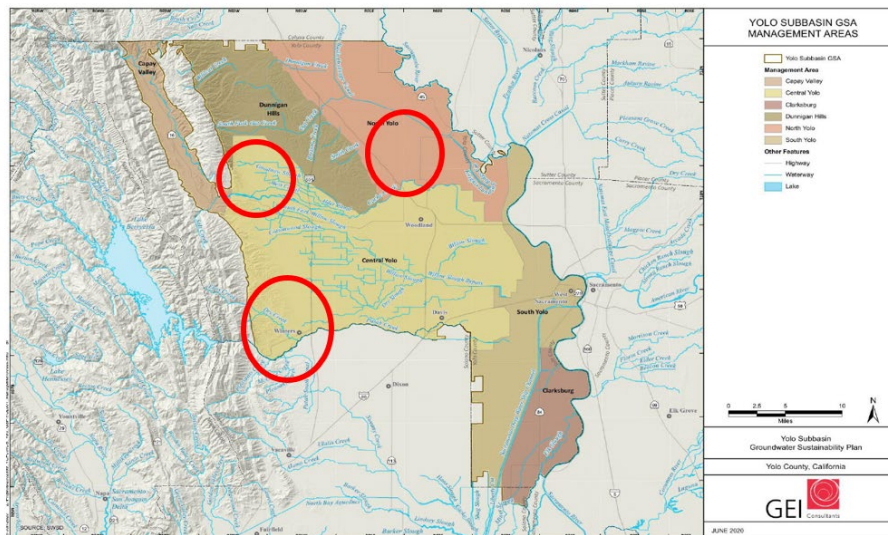
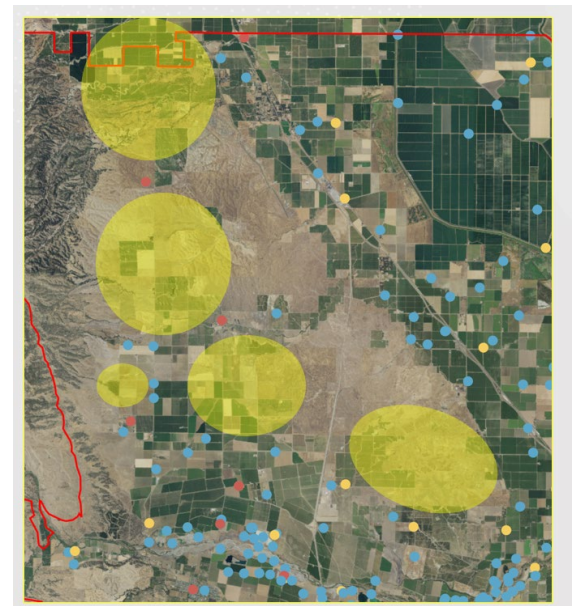


Figure 2-61. Yolo Subbasin Management Areas.

- Data Gaps



Long Term Effort:

- Working with consultant to revise setbacks,
 - Review interval screening concerns, and
 - Analyze data on conversion from non-irrigated to irrigated agriculture
-



Agricultural Well Permit Options

A. Continue Under Current Model (Status Quo)

- Groundwater level recovery underway
- Currently low demand for agricultural well permits
- Well drilling typically slowest in fall/winter months
- Mild temperatures have lowered irrigation demand
- YSGA process modifications imminent- November/December 2023

Benefits:

- EO is providing ample time for thorough review of permits per EO requirements
- EO allows requirements for additional information (I.e., hydrogeologist reports)

Concerns:

- Areas of Special Concern not currently formally delineated; process is underway



Agricultural Well Permit Options

B. Temporary Ordinance: Require more analysis with permit submittal

- Require hydrogeologist report with each new ag well permit submittal
- Return on 9/26 with proposed ordinance
- Temporary until YSGA process updated – November/December 2023

Benefits:

- Additional analysis assists with permit review
- Additional analysis could fill data gaps

Concerns:

- Reports are costly and may benefit large operations over small farms
- Reports take time: 3-6 months, exceeding length of intended "pause"



Agricultural Well Permit Options

C. Temporary Ordinance: Moratorium on New Ag Well Permits

- Exclude replacement ag well, domestic wells, and de minimis users
- Exclude Clarksburg, South Yolo, and Capay Valley Management Areas
- Temporary until YSGA process updated – November/December 2023
- Return on 9/26 with proposed ordinance

Benefits:

- Removes geographic ambiguity
- Affects potential permittees equally

Concerns:

- Unknown impacts on agricultural operations



Agricultural Well Permit Options

A. Current Model / Status Quo

B. Temporary Ordinance: Require more analysis with permit submittal

C. Temporary Ordinance: Moratorium on New Ag Well Permits



Questions?

