

## Julie Dachtler

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**From:** Jose Garcia <jgarcia2@yccd.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 23, 2025 11:14 AM  
**To:** Angel Barajas; Oscar Villegas; Lucas Frerichs; Mary Vixie Sandy; Sheila Allen; Clerkoftheboard  
**Subject:** RE: Opposition to Proposed 45-Day Moratorium on Agricultural Water Well Permits (Urgency Ordinance No. 1569)

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August 23, 2025

Yolo County Board of Supervisors  
625 Court Street, Room 204  
Woodland, CA 95695

### **RE: Opposition to Proposed 45-Day Moratorium on Agricultural Water Well Permits (Urgency Ordinance No. 1569)**

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Board,

As a local farmer, an active member of the Yolo County Farm Bureau, and a locally elected official, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 45-day moratorium on the issuance of new agricultural water well permits within the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's Focus Areas, as outlined in Urgency Ordinance No. 1569.

Let me be clear: I fully support a thoughtful, transparent study of well permitting procedures and long-term groundwater management strategies. I recognize the need to ensure a sustainable future for our shared water resources. However, imposing a blanket moratorium—even temporarily—on new agricultural wells will cause immediate, significant, and unnecessary harm to local farmers, with no demonstrable benefit to the study process itself.

Agricultural operations are highly seasonal and water dependent. The ability to drill or replace wells in a timely manner is often critical to maintaining crops, fulfilling contracts, and protecting farm viability. By halting well approvals, even for just 45 days, the County risks disrupting livelihoods, threatening crop production, and damaging trust between the agricultural community and local government. Many farms, particularly family-owned operations, cannot afford that disruption.

Furthermore, the proposed moratorium will not accelerate or materially aid the County's study efforts. A parallel process—one that allows permitting to continue with enhanced review or temporary conditions—could achieve the County's goals without penalizing farmers. Collaboration, not prohibition, is the path forward.

I strongly urge the Board to reject the moratorium and instead focus on forming the proposed stakeholder Working Group—including voices from the farming community—to help develop equitable, science-based well permitting reforms. The agricultural sector wants to be a partner in sustainability. But

that partnership cannot begin with a policy that undermines our ability to operate and threatens our livelihood.

Thank you for your time and for considering this perspective. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss constructive solutions that protect both our groundwater and our local farms.

Sincerely,

*Jose L. Garcia*

916.425.7054

Trustee Yuba Community College District Area 6  
Local Farmer, member of Yolo County Farm Bureau