

Julie Dachtler

From: Nancy Lea <nancylea.ca@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 10:05 PM
To: Julie Dachtler
Subject: Item 37. Comment Email: Yolo County Process by which Well Permits are Issued

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Dear Ms. Dachtler:

Please provide the Members of the Board of Supervisors with my comment tomorrow morning before the Meeting.

Thank you.

Nancy Lea

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I would appreciate it if you would review these comments before this agenda item is decided.

I am Nancy Lea: my husband Bob and I farmed walnuts north and west of Woodland for almost 50 years. We now lease our land for row crops.

Our well experience is limited: we drilled one well on a ranch we still own: we understand the process. We are lawyers and although we are not engaged in active law practices we are licensed in California.

We have familiarity with Administrative Law. We have talked with many farmers who farm in/near Yolo County areas with groundwater challenges. We have attempted to ascertain their concerns and their personal experiences with the Yolo County well permitting process. We are familiar with the issues surrounding the issuance of well permits in areas with groundwater challenges.

We have as the "well gate keeper" a county administrative process that issues well permits. If it is not run with widely accepted well executed checks and balances, it risks causing damage to not only the landowners who need well permits, and those who have concerns about the impact of those new wells, but the Yolo County concerned public who in turn could lose confidence in our County government.

Our concerns about the process have been garnered from the conversations noted above: allegations have been made that Yolo County EH "accepts" documents filed by "professionals" who may not be known or "vetted" by Yolo County administrators; there may have been erroneous (false?) information passed to the County on some of these well applications. We believe the County has an obligation to ensure that applications for a new well in a conversion from non-irrigated to irrigated or applications to install a "replacement well", have the specific required information etc. filed by professionals who are known by and have the confidence of the Yolo County EH Department as to their competency and credibility. This seems obvious in instances where there is a potential of damage to adjacent landowners if erroneous information is used as the predicate for replacement irrigation well decisions. I note the Glenn County ordinance, attached as an exhibit to the Staff Report, requires all information be reviewed by a County retained consultant to ensure integrity and presumably consistency in the process. (See, Glenn County Ordinance section 20-.08.090).

We are looking at an administrative process that, if mishandled, will cause great damage to Hungry Hollow, a historical agricultural area in Yolo County, which is home to unique crops and methodologies, along with other groundwater challenged areas in our County.

It has been said that a governmental process should be "efficient, cost-effective, legal, accurate, consistent, reputable and credible":

We trust that these are the guidelines for the Yolo County Well Permitting process.

Nancy Lea