

Julie Dachtler

From: Scott Steward <scottsteward@posteo.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 1:40 PM
To: Clerkoftheboard
Cc: April Meneghetti
Subject: RE: Item 37 for 8/26 BOS meeting: request Supervisors vote for the implementation of the 45 Focus Area well moratorium.

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Dear Supervisors,

A thank you to County Staff, your staff, for navigating a way to protect a vulnerable part of our County/region's groundwater

The Concerned Citizens, Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency, and the County recognize that time is needed to fill substantial information gaps before the once lofty goal of water budgeting regional groundwater supply can be put into practice. Protecting legacy use of groundwater, particularly for growing local food, can and should take priority. Please vote for the implementation of the 45 Focus Area well moratorium and direct staff to prepare the agenda item to allow for 10 10-month and then 12 12-month extension.

Here are some of the main gaps, named in the staff's Attachment A, that need time to be discerned.

- Currently, there are no limitations in the County's Zoning Regulations with respect to crop conversions on agriculturally zoned lands (conversions from non-irrigated to fully irrigated high water demand perennial crops). In the 2025 Annual Yolo Subbasin Report, YSGA noted with respect to the accuracy of water use estimates that the "largest source of uncertainty is land use data and irrigation applications."
- The YSGA is also working on land use model enhancements that are slated for future GSP updates that won't be completed until 2027. Currently, the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan does not include land use change forecasts, but holds the 2016 land use patterns constant into the future when modeling groundwater impact. The YSGA is very aware of the need for an update.
- The Hungry Hollow water budget development and associated White Paper are not expected to be completed until April 2026.

Years in the making, this 45-day Focus Area well moratorium is an essential and necessary additional step toward a reliable groundwater sustainability policy for our region.

Scott Steward
Fridays for Future
Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition
Culture of Community - Climate Team
Concerned Citizens