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PRESIDENT
Robert Falconer
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY & TREASURER
Miranda Driver

Submitted Electronically

August 20, 2025

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

RE: Groundwater in the Focus Areas and Well Drilling Moratoriums

Dear Members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors:

The Yolo County Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership organization with a mission of protecting and promoting agriculture throughout Yolo County. We represent over 700 farmers, ranchers, and citizens who are members of our organization. Agriculture represented \$901 million gross value to our county in 2023—a figure that understates agriculture's true economic impact when considering the value chain from farm to consumer.

The Yolo County Farm Bureau recognizes that there are areas in our county that face groundwater challenges. However, there are already measures in place to address these groundwater issues through the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan. We believe it is in the county's best interest to allow this process time to work and to define with scientific evidence the best means to proceed. If restrictions on landowners were to be considered, we strongly encourage that these be voluntary agreements rather than mandates.

A well drilling moratorium does not raise groundwater levels, fix dry wells, or change the hydrology of our county. The Farm Bureau recommends efforts be focused on pragmatic solutions such as increased access to surface water and groundwater storage and recharge projects. These are actions that will aid in sustainable groundwater management for future generations. Managing by scarcity is not a workable solution.

This groundwater challenge is equally shared—it is not an "us versus them" issue. We must preserve opportunity for future generations and keep options open for landowners in our county. If we are going to restrict the drilling of wells, we must ask why we are not also restricting the building of homes or the paving over of open land that contributes to groundwater depletion.

Farmers and ranchers cannot control the weather, rainfall, crop prices, or input costs. They make decisions daily that affect their ability to provide for their families and pay their employees while



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managing significant risk. Irrigation water is vital to any farm operation both agronomically and financially. Limiting landowners' rights to groundwater will reduce the value of their land and limit their ability to be financially successful. With crop prices currently down and input costs up, there is already a very difficult reality for many growers—a well moratorium could be the final burden that forces them out of business.

Agriculture is featured on the county seal today. The question before the county is whether agriculture will be allowed to remain viable for tomorrow.

The Yolo County Farm Bureau strongly opposes well drilling moratoriums and urges the county to focus on collaborative, science-based solutions that support both sustainable groundwater management and the continued viability of agriculture in Yolo County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert H. Falconer'.

Robert H. Falconer

President, Yolo County Farm Bureau