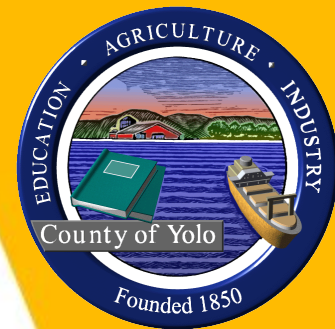




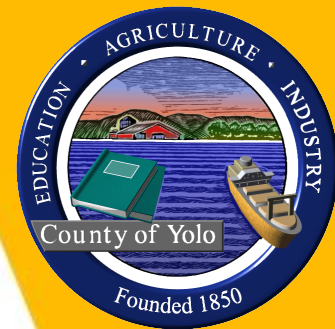
Agricultural Well Permitting

Department of Community Services
Division of Environmental Health



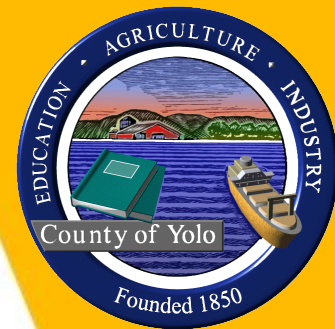
Agenda for today's presentation:

- Extension of current temporary 45-Day Moratorium (Urgency Ordinance No. 1576) in the YSGA Focus Area
- Agricultural Well Permitting Working Group
- Modifications and extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 1569



Temporary 45-Day Moratorium

- The Board adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 1576 on August 26, 2025 imposing a temporary 45-day moratorium on new agricultural wells in the Focus Areas.
- The purpose of the moratorium was to allow time to consider whether updates to County zoning regulations are warranted in the Focus Areas.
- The conditions that led to the moratorium still remain, and more time is needed to investigate and to determination if additional permitting or land use changes are warranted to address groundwater concerns, particularly in the Focus Areas.

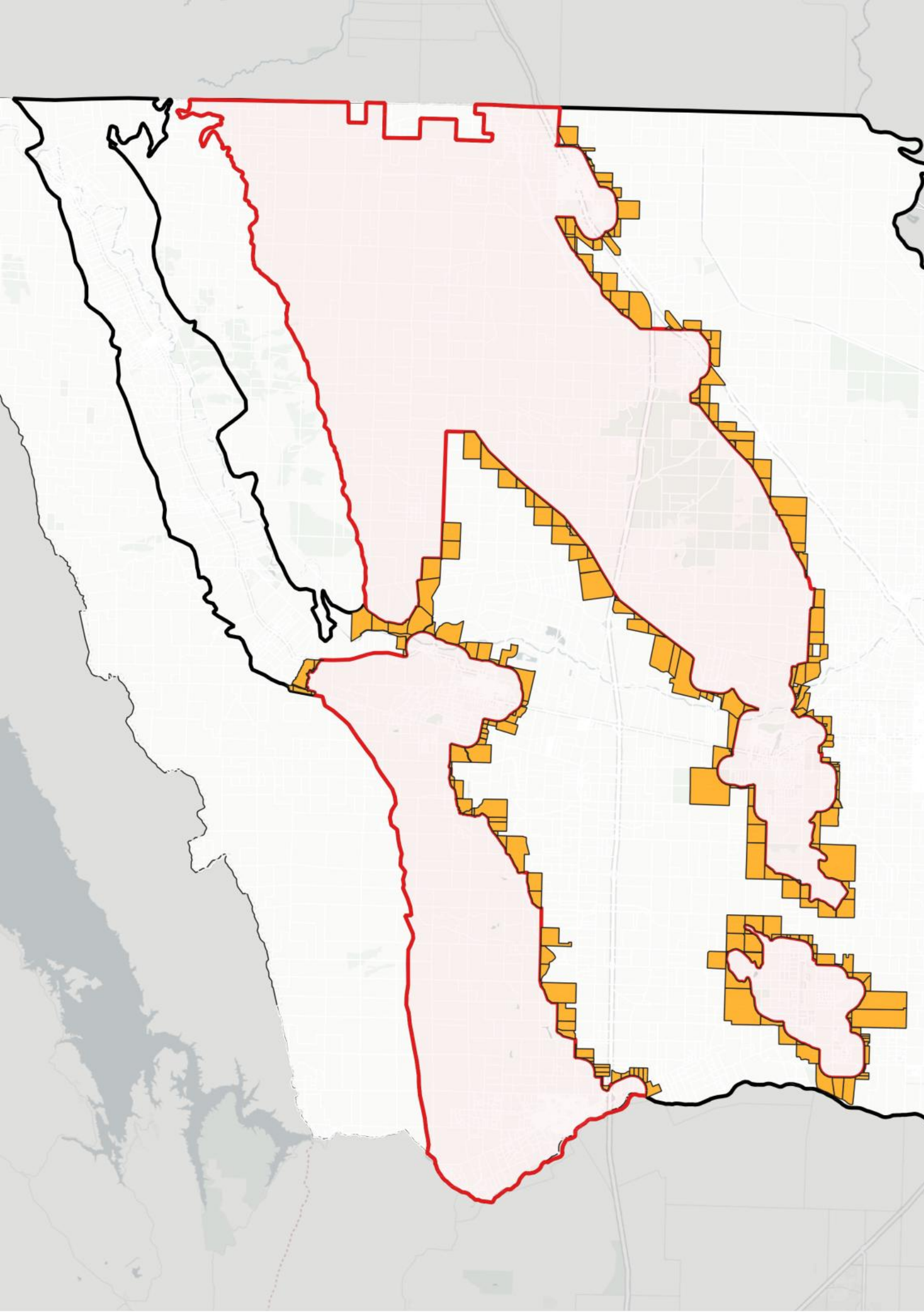


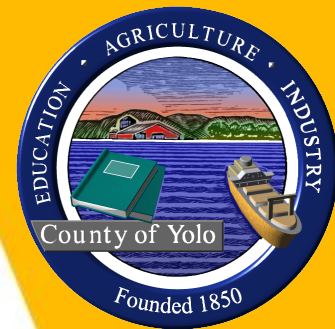
Moratorium Extension

- The moratorium may be extended an additional 10 months and 15 days until August 25, 2026.
- No more than two extensions of the moratorium are permitted.
- The moratorium may be rescinded by the Board prior to this date.
- Board may consider requiring staff to provide periodic updates to the Board such as 60-90 days.

Change to the Moratorium

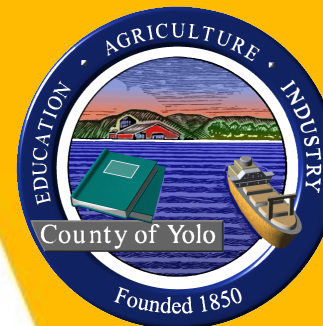
- The current moratorium applies to new agricultural wells proposed within the boundaries of the Focus Area include the entire parcel even if only a portion of the parcel is included within the Focus Area and the proposed well is located outside the Focus Area Boundary.
- After further discussion and consultation with the YSGA, staff recommend that the moratorium be narrowed to just new agricultural well permits located within the Focus Area boundaries.
- See Attachment G to Staff Report (West Yost Appendix) with more information on the methods used to delineate the Focus Areas, which also includes a 2,000-foot buffer to account for areas with reported concerns of declining groundwater levels, areas of dense domestic wells/small water systems, and reported dry wells that didn't have groundwater level recovery.





Hardship Exemption

- Urgency Ordinance allows for continued processing of permits, including YCEH and YSGA review while the moratorium is in effect.
- Urgency Ordinance further includes a Hardship Exemption that allows applicants to obtain an agricultural well permit in a Focus Area: “Any person may apply for an exemption from the provisions of this Urgency Ordinance on the grounds of economic or health and safety hardship.”
- Revised to clarify that the hardship may include an economic or health and safety hardship and does not need to meet a higher “taking” threshold.
- Hardship applications would be heard by the Planning Commission pursuant to the procedures established in Section 8-2.225 of the Yolo County Code of Ordinances. The Planning Commission’s decision may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

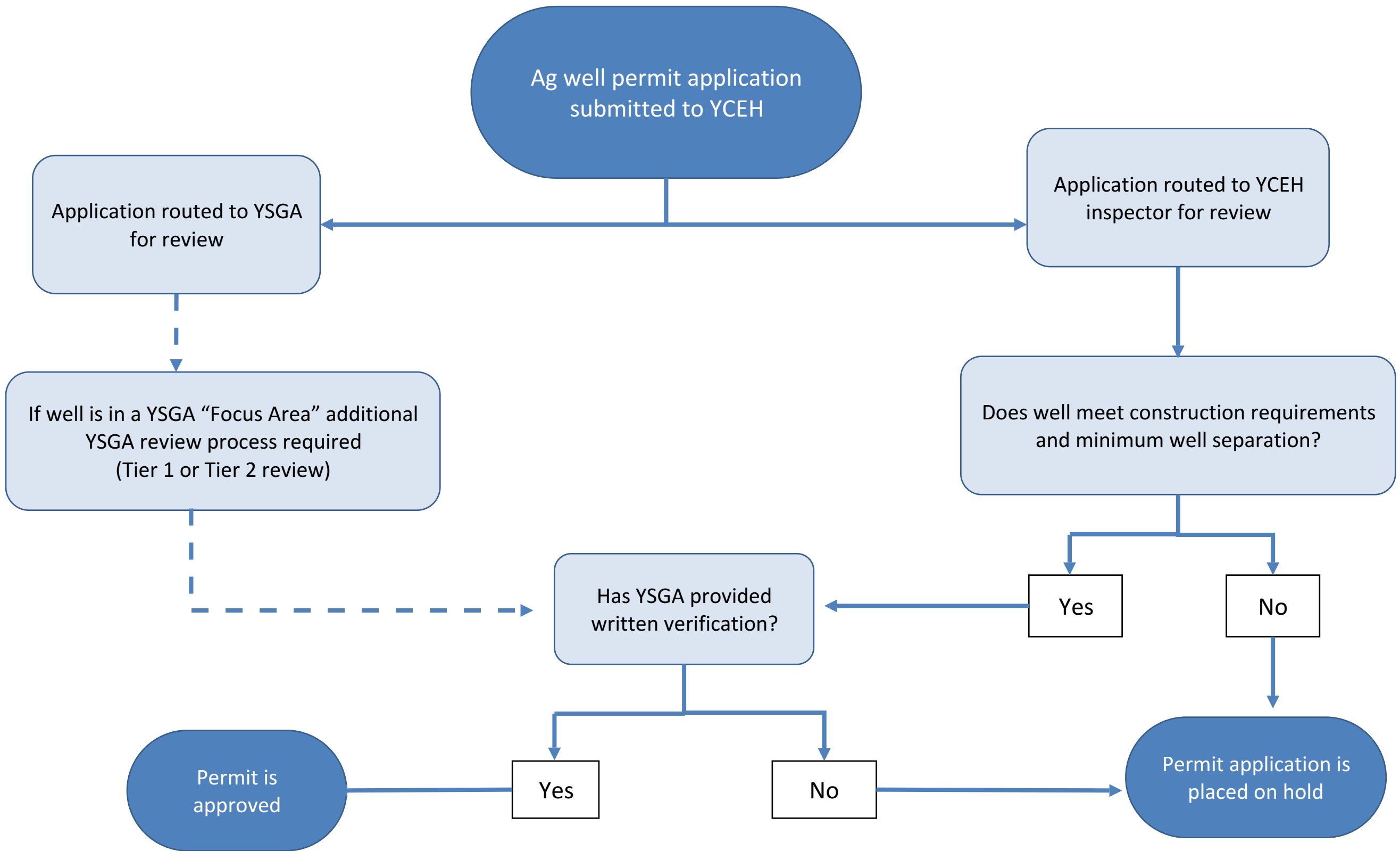


Agricultural Well Permitting Working Group

- Purpose of Working Group will be to review the options that have been brought before the Board of Supervisors including metering of wells, additional hydrogeologic review and review of crop conversions within the Focus Areas.
- The Working Group will provide recommendations to Environmental Health staff. Staff will then present these recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Staff recommends members of the working group include representatives from YSGA Staff, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Yolo County well drillers, Focus Area landowners and subject matter experts from UC Davis for no more than 12 members.
- The first meeting is to occur within 30 days.



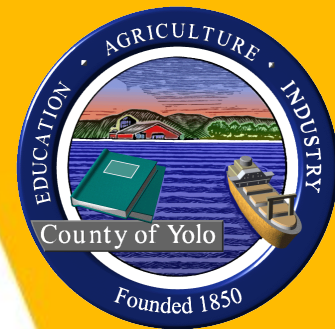
Agricultural Well Permit Application Process





Urgency Ordinance No. 1569

- Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 22, 2024 and is set to expire on October 31, 2025.
- Continuation of the well permitting requirements that were developed under the Executive Order including YSGA verification review and setback distances to nearby wells.
- Staff recommends codification of Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 into the well ordinance.
- Additional minor recommended changes to the permit term, application term, appeals process and pumping capacity verification will be added.
- Staff will return to the Board with the revised well permit ordinance on October 21, 2025, for introductions and second reading/adoption on November 4, 2025.
- Staff will also need to bring an urgency ordinance to extend Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 until the effective date of the new ordinance.



Recommended Actions

- Hold a Public Hearing to consider extending the current temporary 45-Day Moratorium on new agricultural well permits in the YSGA Focus Areas for up to an additional 10 month and 15 days with periodic updates to the Board.
- Introduce by title only and waive further reading of an Interim Urgency Ordinance extending the temporary moratorium.
- Determine adoption of the urgency ordinance is exempt from CEQA.
- Adopt proposed urgency ordinance extending the moratorium.
- Provide direction to staff regarding the draft charter for the Agricultural Well Permit Working Group.
- Provide direction to staff regarding modification and extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 1569's well permit requirements for Non-Focus Area agricultural well permits.