

Julie Dachtler

From: Scott Steward <scottsteward@posteo.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:19 PM
To: Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Item 31: Please vote in favor of the staff's recommendation to extend the 45-day focus area well moratorium

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Dear Supervisors,

As stated in Reason for Recommended Action/Background

A. Extension of the 45-Day Moratorium

1st sentence of the 4th paragraph of the

"the conditions that led to the Board's approval of the initial 45-day moratorium remain"

As stated in the suggested Ordinance to extend the Focus Area well moratorium

6. Implementation of the Urgency Ordinance and Continued Concerns in Focus Areas

About paragraph 10, Second Sentence:

According to Hungry Hollow residents who have been collecting groundwater data, of 20 landowners, 17 have had to lower their pumps and four have had to replace dry wells in the last 10 years. However, there are currently 19 permits in the application review queue, 11 of which are within the Focus Areas. The conditions in these particular areas and data gaps support the necessity of gathering additional information to better inform YSGA and the County's evaluation of proposed new ag wells in the Focus Areas without jeopardizing the sustainability of groundwater resources.

I would ask you to vote in favor of the staff recommendation to extend the 45 day focus area well moratorium.

Scott Steward

Davis Ca,

I would add two additional comments:

First, I want to thank April Maneghetti and the Department of Environmental Health staff for their diligent work on this ordinance and willingness to move forward with the Working

Group. I would also like to thank County Counsel Pogledich and Assistant Counsel Hood for the leadership they have shown in mastering the necessary language that has made the body of this ordinance possible.

Second, I would ask that the Supervisors take careful consideration of the thoughtful request by the Farm Bureau President, Robert Falconer. He raises reasonable considerations about the legacy of land use restrictions and their consistency with groundwater rights. While land use and water rights are historically private decisions, the authority of those decisions is embedded in the context of much smaller populations and the appropriation of vast tracks of land for modern agriculture, the majority of which was converted in less than the last 200 years. Before, these lands supported large populations for thousands of years with minimal irrigation, if any at all.

To compensate for the imbalance, modern agriculture and other water-intensive industries (e.g., mining) have introduced, we will be dependent on the accuracy of measurement of the balance of groundwater debt and groundwater regeneration. This is something we all have a stake in getting right.