

ORDINANCE NO. 1578

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EXTENDING URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1569 REGARDING
IRRIGATION/AGRICULTURAL WELL PERMITS THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2025**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to extend Urgency Ordinance No. 1569, which is currently set to expire on October 31, 2025, through December 9, 2025, when permanent changes incorporating the well permit procedures adopted in Ordinance No. 1569 are expected to take effect.

Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 was adopted to continue the well permitting procedures enacted in response to the Governor’s Executive Order (EO) requirements for new wells to address concerns that arose during the 2020-22 drought. On September 5, 2024, Governor Newsom issued a new EO N-3-24, which ended the drought state of emergency in 19 counties while maintaining it in the remaining 39 counties, including Yolo County. This emergency status continues to support long-term recovery from the three driest year period on record. As part of EO N-3-24, however, the Governor rescinded certain provisions of prior EOs related to the drought, including the well permitting procedures required by EO N-3-23 (Paragraph 4). Although the State-wide EO process is no longer mandated, public input revealed the need to continue the temporary well permitting procedures implemented under the EO while the County completes longer-term well permit ordinance updates to protect against significant irreversible change to groundwater levels.

On October 7, 2025, the Board of Supervisors also adopted an urgency ordinance, Ordinance No. 1577, extending the temporary moratorium on new irrigation/agricultural wells within the Focus Areas boundaries established by the Yolo Sustainable Groundwater Agency (YSGA) through August 25, 2026 pending study of regulations and ordinance changes that may be warranted for irrigation/agricultural wells in the Focus Areas in addition to the additional well permitting procedures approved in Ordinance No. 1569 . However, there is also a need to ensure continuation of Urgency Ordinance No. 1569’s procedures for wells outside of the Focus Areas. The Board is anticipated to consider codifying Ordinance No. 1569’s well permitting procedures on October 21, 2025 with a second reading and adoption of such changes on November 4, 2025. The effective date of such changes would not be for an additional 30 days, or until December 4, 2025. Accordingly, this Ordinance extends Ordinance No. 1569 to avoid any lapse in the application of the important well permitting procedures in Ordinance No. 1569.

SECTION 2. EXTENSION OF URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1569

In accordance with California Constitution, article XI, section 7 and Government Code section 25123(d), which authorize adoption of an interim urgency ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, the Board of Supervisors incorporates by reference the findings of Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 and, based on those findings, extends Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 for the term identified in Section 5 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. CEQA FINDING

The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment because the Ordinance will simply maintain requirements for well separation distances and GSA review to protect against impacts of new wells. It is therefore not a project under CEQA as the well permit procedures on the will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15060(c)(2).) It is further exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15307 and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines (Class 7 and 8 categorical exemptions) as an action taken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of natural resources and the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. In addition, this Ordinance is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERM/EXPIRATION

This uncodified Urgency Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption by a 4/5 or greater vote of the Board of Supervisors and shall be in force immediately through and including December 9, 2025, unless further extended prior to its expiration or the effective date of Ordinance No. 1578, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 6. PUBLICATION

Prior to expiration of fifteen days after adoption of this Ordinance, it shall be published by title and summary only in a newspaper of general circulation together with the names of members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo on October 21, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Allen, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs, Vixie Sandy.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

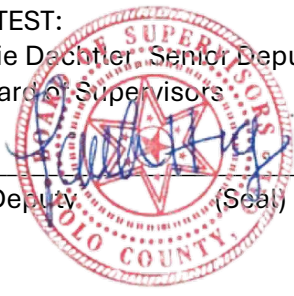
ABSTAIN: None.


Mary Vixie Sandy, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

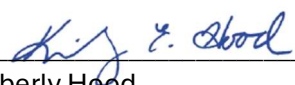
Julie Dechter, Senior Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors

By  _____
Deputy (Seal)



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel

By  _____
Kimberly Hood

Chief Assistant County Counsel