



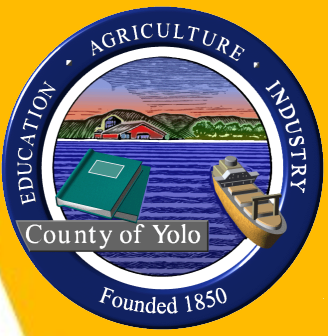
Agricultural Well Permitting

Department of Community Services
Division of Environmental Health



Urgency Ordinance No. 1569

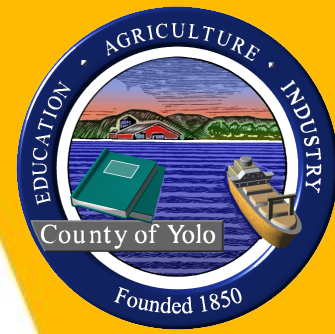
- Adopted on October 22, 2024, to continue the well permitting requirements that Yolo County Environmental Health (YCEH) and Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) adopted to meet the requirement of the Governor's drought related Executive Orders in 2022 and 2023.
- Will expire on October 31, 2025, without further action from the Board.
- These requirements have proven to be important to groundwater sustainability efforts and staff recommends codification of these well permitting procedures.



Well Permitting Procedures to be codified:

- GSA Review: Review by the applicable groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for verification that the new agricultural well is consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and will not decrease the likelihood of achieving a groundwater basin sustainability goal. For wells in the Yolo Subbasin, applicants will follow YSGA's verification process, including Focus Area tiered review.
- Well Separation Distances to Minimize Impacts to Nearby Wells: Comply with the well separation distance requirements that were developed for the County by Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers.

Pumping Capacity (gallons per minute)	Minimum Well Separation Distance (feet)
<i>Wells Within the Valley Floor Areas of the County</i>	
<500	250
500-999	500
1000-1499	1000
1500-1999	2000
≥2000	Report Required
<i>Wells in the Upland Areas of the County</i>	
<15	500
15-99	1000
≥100	Report Required



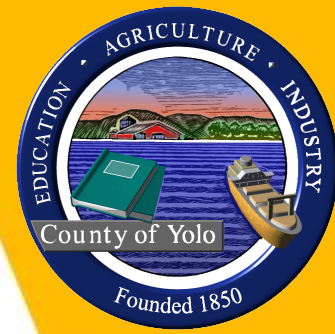
Additional Minor Recommended Changes:

- Permit Terms: Update the permit term of 120 days to match the 2 years that is currently in practice under the Urgency Ordinance.
- Application Terms: Adding a permit of time for which applications are valid. The term will be 1 year with an option to extend for an additional 180 days.
- Appeal Process: Change the appeals process so that a permit appeal first goes to the Planning Commission.
- Pumping Capacity Verification: Adding a requirement that new agricultural wells within the Focus Areas must provide a written report to YCEH stating the pumping capacity of the well after the pump is installed prior to final approval.



Extending Urgency Ordinance No. 1569

- Staff anticipate returning to the Board for second reading and adoption of this ordinance on November 4, 2025.
- The ordinance would then take effect 30 days thereafter on December 4, 2025.
- Staff recommend extending Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 with the adoption of the Urgency Ordinance included as Attachment B until December 9, 2025 or the effective date of new ordinance to ensure there is no lapse in application of these permanent well permit procedures to new agricultural well applications.
- Moratorium remains in effect for irrigation/agricultural wells in the Focus Areas per Urgency Ordinance No. 1577 and staff anticipate returning on November 4, 2025, with proposed changes to the scope of the moratorium per the Board's direction on October 7, 2025.



Recommended Actions

- Introduce by title only, waive first reading, and receive public comment on the proposed ordinance changes to Chapter 8, Article 8 and 10 of Title 6 of the Yolo County Code.
- Continue the item to the November 4, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting for a second reading and adoption.
- Introduce by title only and waive further reading of an Urgency Ordinance extending Urgency Ordinance No. 1569 to continue those well permitting requirements until December 9, 2025 or the effective date of the new ordinance, whichever is earlier, to ensure no lapse in application of these permanent well permit procedures.
- Determine adoption of the urgency ordinance is exempt from CEQA.