

May 4, 2011

PRESS RELEASE: GLENN COUNTY GROUNDWATER UPDATE

The semi-annual spring groundwater level measurements for Glenn County made by the California Department of Water Resources, Northern District (DWR) were completed during the weeks of April 4 and April 11, 2011. Spring measurements are the basis for groundwater level Basin Management Objectives (BMO) established to determine groundwater safe yield in many groundwater management sub-areas of the County.

BMO's for groundwater levels were established and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June, 2001. Currently, all of the wells utilized for BMO compliance are for domestic or agricultural use. Over the years, there have been many dedicated monitoring wells installed by the County and WAC member irrigation districts to monitor groundwater levels and quality. The intent of the monitoring wells is to develop a monitoring network independent from these production wells.

Based on this year's measurements in comparison to last year's measurements, 41 wells within the County that utilize spring measurements for BMO compliance were higher and 9 were lower.

The DWR monitors collects data from 156 groundwater data points, 82 of those are from the network of dedicated monitoring wells throughout the County. The dedicated wells have an average increase of 1.75 feet County wide. The remainder is irrigation and or domestic data points and has an average increase of 1.65 feet Countywide.

In the near future, DWR staff will provide statistical information on well depth and well use (domestic, irrigation, monitoring) in a report and present it at the Glenn County Water Advisory Committee's next meeting.

Current and historic groundwater levels in our region can be accessed through the WAC webpage: <http://www.glenncountywater.org> which will direct you to DWR's Water Data Library. Their web page is: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/> Point to Glenn County and navigate regionally from there. Butte County has developed a regional groundwater information data base program that provides access to groundwater-related information for agencies as well as interested parties with information relating to established BMO's for groundwater elevation, water quality, and land subsidence monitoring. The website address for access to the program is: <http://gis.buttecounty.net/bmoic3>.

If you feel you are experiencing pumping problems that may be due to low groundwater levels, there is a process for documenting this by filing a report of abnormal groundwater level with the Glenn County Department of Agriculture. These report forms are available at 720 N. Colusa Street, Willows or call (530) 934-6501 and a form will be sent to you.