

# COLUSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

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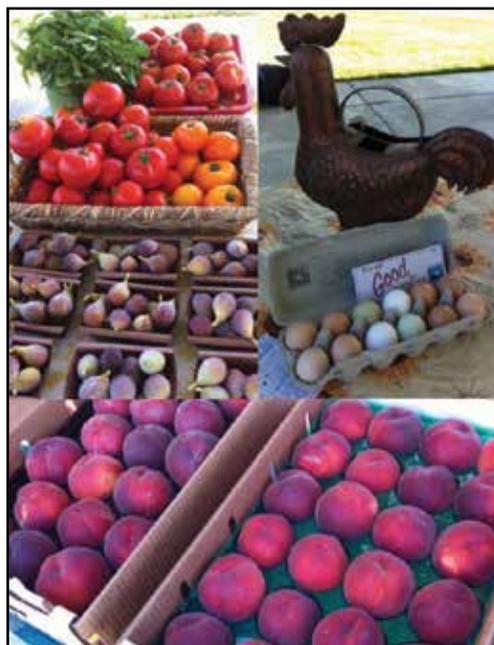
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## WELCOME *by Mary Fahey, Projects Manager*

It's Farmers Market season once again, and Colusa County's two certified markets started back up in June. Both markets feature an abundance of fresh, local products, while providing unique venues for community members to shop, socialize, and enjoy the downtown parks.

One of the many benefits of farmers markets is that they provide a direct link between consumers and producers. Through this direct interaction, consumers get to know where and how their food is produced and producers are able to tell their stories and engage consumers in the realities of farming. This year, it would be interesting to talk to local farmers market vendors about the effects that the drought is having on their operations.

As we head into summer, don't forget about your local farmers markets! For more information about opportunities to shop from local producers, you can pick up a Local Farm & Food Guide at the RCD office.



*Photo: Mary Fahey*

**Arbuckle Certified Farmers Market**  
 Opened Wednesday, June 11, 2014  
 Every Wednesday 5-7 p.m.  
 LaVanche Hursch Community Park  
 Downtown Arbuckle  
 Market Street Grill will provide  
 weekly dinners  
 For information: 530.383.4625

**Colusa Certified Farmers Market**  
 New Day - Thursdays!  
 Opened Thursday, June 12, 2014  
 Every Thursday, 4-7 p.m.  
 Colusa Memorial Park  
 10th & Market Streets, Colusa  
 For information email:  
[colusacountyfood@hotmail.com](mailto:colusacountyfood@hotmail.com)

## MISSION

The mission of the CCRCDD is to assist local landowners to protect, conserve and restore natural resources through information, education, and access to technical assistance programs. In doing so the CCRCDD will always take measures to protect the individual landowner's rights and fully support "from the ground up" conservation planning that promotes local, social, and economic sustainability through wise land use.

*(Adopted: March 21, 2002)*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tom Hickock, Director  
Gilbert Ramos, Director

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

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## STAFF

Patti Turner, Executive Director  
Mary Fahey, Projects Manager  
Liz Harper, Restoration Technician

## CONTACT US

Colusa County RCD  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite B  
Colusa, California 95932  
Phone: 530.458.2931  
Fax: 530.458.3683  
[info@colusarcdd.org](mailto:info@colusarcdd.org)

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.colusarcdd.org](http://www.colusarcdd.org)

## ABOUT THE COLUSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCDD)

### The CCRCDD focuses their efforts on:

- Promoting resource management and conservation practices that will improve the health of Colusa County Watersheds
- Supporting measures that provide for the best use of the land while sustaining our natural resources and local economy
- Providing conservation education to ensure Colusa County's natural resources will be valued and protected in the future

### CCRCDD's Natural Resource Priorities:

- Identify natural resources issues and concerns within all Colusa County Watersheds
- Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Work with all agencies of authority to reduce and control flooding
- Improve water quality and development
- Promote conservation practices for municipal, industrial and residential use
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and removal of non-native invasive species
- Improve Rangeland and Forest Resources
- Improve and Conserve wildlife and fishery habitat
- Reduce roadside pollution
- Protect agricultural viability
- Promote conservation education
- Promote director and staff development



*Photo: Jack Alderson*

## A FEW OF CCRCDD'S PROJECTS

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### COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

CCRCDD staff is working under the direction of the Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner to coordinate implementation of the Colusa County Groundwater Management Plan. See page 4 for information and updates.

### UPPER LITTLE STONY INHOLDER'S ALLIANCE FUELS TREATMENT PROJECT

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District is working with the USDA, Forest Service to implement the Upper Little Stony Inholder's Alliance (ULSIA) Fuels Treatment project. ULSIA is a local watershed group made up of private landowners within the boundaries of the Mendocino National Forest. The private lands targeted for fuels treatment are highly volatile to catastrophic wildfire. The project will include prescribed burning, shaded fuel breaks and thinning practices to approximately 700 acres of private lands. Project funding will afford the hiring of local contractors to provide equipment, labor and site supervision for the project and the Forest Service to implement prescribed burning practices on private lands.

### INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

CCRCDD staff have been assisting our local government by representing Colusa County through participation in the Westside and Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts. Both the Westside IRWMP and the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP have been adopted.

### NRCS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

CCRCDD staff is working with our NRCS office, through a Cooperative Agreement, to assist with customer service and to provide outreach to small acreage landowners.

### AUDUBON PARTNERSHIP

Our newest staff member, Liz Harper, is working as a subcontractor with Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program implementing hedgerow plantings at a ranch in Colusa County. This project is designed to maintain and enhance the physical and economic conditions for agriculture, while improving habitat for wildlife.

For more information on our projects, please visit our website at [www.colusarcdd.org](http://www.colusarcdd.org)

# COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

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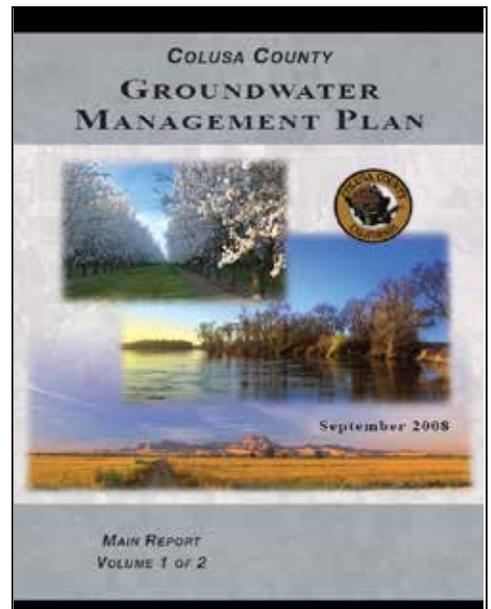
Here are the latest updates from the Colusa County Groundwater Team:

## Groundwater Commission

The Groundwater Commission has met five times since January, including two regular meetings and three special meetings. Special meetings were held to address local water transfer proposals that involved groundwater substitution. The next regular meeting of the Groundwater Commission will be held June 26, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colusa County Farm Bureau. Commission meetings are held quarterly and open to the public.

## Water Users Group

Most of the Water Users Group (WUG) members have been appointed by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors. The Water Users Group is comprised of individuals representing a cross section of landowners and managers representing water purveyors and non-organized areas. (*Colusa County GMP, 2008*). The first meeting of the WUG was held June 12, 2014. The WUG is busy reviewing the Colusa County Groundwater Ordinance and will be working on updating that document. Water Users Group meetings are held quarterly and open to the public. The next meeting is July 31, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room.



## Technical Support Team

The Technical Support Team (TST) has met five times since January. The TST consists of five members: the Water Resources Coordinator, a subcontracted advisor, Ag Department personnel, DWR personnel, and a hydrogeologic consultant. The TST is responsible for supporting groundwater management decision-making. This committee is working on development of a groundwater monitoring program which is an essential component of groundwater management.

## Groundwater Legislation

As we work towards implementing Colusa County's GMP, we are anticipating new legislation coming from the State regarding groundwater management. If you are interested in learning more about pending legislation, this website is a good resource: [http://www.opr.ca.gov/s\\_groundwater.php](http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_groundwater.php)

If you have any questions, or if you would like to get on an email notification list for upcoming meetings and information, please contact:

Colusa County Resource Conservation District  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite B  
Colusa, CA 95932  
530.458.2931 X117  
mary.fahey@ca.nacdnet.net (email)

Download the Colusa County Groundwater Management Plan here:

<http://colusagroundwater.ucdavis.edu/>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

### Colusa County RCD Board Meetings

Regular Board meetings are held the **3rd Tuesday of every month** at the Colusa Industrial Park conference room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932 at 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. **Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, July 15, 2014.**

For more information, visit our website:

[www.colusarc.org](http://www.colusarc.org)

### Colusa County Groundwater Commission

**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Colusa County Farm Bureau  
520 Market Street  
Colusa, CA 95932

### DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH A NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERN?

The Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan was completed in December, 2012. The Colusa County Resource Conservation District is working to identify projects to address the goals and objectives of the Plan. Do you have a natural resource issue on your land that you would like to see addressed, but need help? The CCRCD is currently creating a database of potential projects and seeking funding opportunities for implementation. **Please let us know if we can assist you, or if you would like more information: 530.458.2931, or email: [info@colusarc.org](mailto:info@colusarc.org)**

### Farmer Markets Are Coming!

#### Arbuckle Certified Farmers Market

**Opens Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

**Every Wednesday 5-7 p.m.**

**June-August**

**LaVanche Hursch Community Park**

**Downtown Arbuckle**

**For information: 530.383.4625**

#### Colusa Certified Farmers Market

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**10th & Market Streets, Colusa**

**For information email:**

[colusacountyfood@hotmail.com](mailto:colusacountyfood@hotmail.com)



Photo: Mary Fahey

## REPORT FAILING WELLS

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As early as May of this year, there were unofficial reports from landowners in Colusa County about decreased performance of their wells, both domestic and Ag, that were having problems as a result of dropping groundwater levels possibly due to drought conditions and/or increasing regional groundwater use. As we head into July, we anticipate that more wells will fail throughout the coming months. The Colusa County Groundwater Technical Support Team (TST) is asking landowners to report any well issues they are having this year. This information will help the TST in their efforts to analyze local conditions and gain a better understanding of the groundwater system and identify areas where data is not sufficient. The more we know about local conditions, the better we will be able to practice sustainable groundwater management to avoid future problems. If you are wary of reporting well problems on your property, you can just report the general area of the well but specific data is always appreciated. Specific well locations will not be made public.

**It would be helpful to have all or any of the following information:**

Your contact information (name, address, phone, email)

Well location: Latitude & Longitude; Section, Township, Range; cross streets; or general area

Type of well (Ag, domestic, combination, other)

Depth to water

Date measured

Static measurement - yes or no

Depth of well

Gallons per minute

% change in gallons per minute

Size and type of casing

Description of problem

**If you have a well in Colusa County that has gone dry or is experiencing decreased performance, please report to one of the following entities:**

Mary Fahey, Colusa County RCD; 530.458.2931 X117 or email: [mary.fahey@ca.nacdn.net](mailto:mary.fahey@ca.nacdn.net)

Colusa County Department of Agriculture: 530.458.0580

Suzie Dawley, Colusa County Environmental Health: 530.458.0395

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To learn more about this year's drought and its effects on the groundwater resource, visit these websites:

U.C. Davis Center For Watershed Science, California Water Blog: <http://californiawaterblog.com>

Brown and Caldwell Water News: <http://www.bcwaternews.com>

DWR Groundwater Information Center: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater>

## HEDGEROW WORKSHOP HELD AT DAVIS RANCH IN COLUSA

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On June 19, hedgerow enthusiasts from as far away as Lake County gathered at the beautiful Davis Ranch in Colusa to hear about the latest research being done on hedgerow plantings that are adjacent to farmland. The workshop is part of a hedgerow outreach project being spearheaded by Rachael Long, Director of the U.C. Cooperative Extension in Yolo County. The project, which will run for three years, is being funded by a grant from the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The goal of the project is to educate landowners about the many benefits of hedgerows on farmland and to encourage more hedgerow plantings throughout the Sacramento Valley. Each year, four educational hedgerow workshops will be held throughout the region. The project is in its first year, and the workshop at Davis Ranch was the third in the series. The next workshop will be held this fall at a location to be determined. Other project activities include, developing outreach materials such as infographics, installing five hedgerows on farmland in different areas of the region, and implementing surveys to gauge landowner attitudes towards hedgerows.



The June 19 workshop featured speakers discussing their work with hedgerows, including bird research, bee and pollinator research, integrated pest management, plant selection, and hedgerow establishment and maintenance. After the workshop, folks were invited to stay and tour the historic house and the hedgerows that have been installed at Davis Ranch.

Thanks to our hosts at Davis Ranch, John Brennan and Emily James.



*Photos: Kim Steinmann*

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RCD! (DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

As you are contemplating your charitable donations please consider a donation to your local Resource Conservation District. Charitable contributions to governmental units, such as the RCD, are tax-deductible under section 170 (c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code if made for a public purpose.

*Why support your RCD?:  
(From the CARCD website)*

RCDs are a leader in on-the-ground conservation efforts. The 99 districts statewide are the center of locally led conservation in their communities and accomplish thousands of practical, hands-on conservation projects every year. Often these projects involve agriculture and private land, but we also accomplish much more.

*Typical projects include:*

- Water conservation
- Watershed protection
- Creek restoration
- Stream bank restoration
- Habitat improvement
- Fish passage
- Hedgerow plantings
- Community education
- Grower workshops
- Native plantings
- Creek clean-ups
- Education of agriculturists on better and new environmental practices particularly around water conservation and BMPs
- Classroom visits
- Fire prevention projects
- Fire prevention education
- Technical assistance to agriculturists
- Watershed Management

RCDs are special districts that are a good example of strong local government. We are responsive and accountable to our communities to promote local conservation goals.

Since most RCDs do not receive tax payer funding, we bring millions of dollars to local communities through conservation projects funded mainly through grants and private contributions.

*We are your partner in local conservation and agriculture.*



Watershed Education



Stream Bank Restoration & Habitat Improvement



Field Days



*Photo: Jack Alderson*

# Thanks for Reading!

COLUSA COUNTY



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

100 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite B, Colusa, CA 95932 | 530.458.2931 | [www.colusarc.org](http://www.colusarc.org)  
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