

# Groundwater Reflections

Volume 33, Issue 2, Summer 2014



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## CGA FAMILY & FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

By Randy Delenikos,  
CGA Legislative Chair

Recognizing the importance of bringing new talent into the groundwater industry and rewarding CGA members, family, co-workers and friends with valuable contributions to their education, the California Groundwater Association this year awarded three \$2,000 scholarships to select students targeting an education and career in the groundwater-related world. Doubling the scholarship award values this year was a priority, given the increasing cost of a college education and the ability of the association to allocate fund-raising and money management for such an important cause.



**Scott Soares** of Modesto was chosen as a scholarship winner not only because he is related to a strong CGA member company (his father works for HOWK Systems of Modesto), but also because he intends to pursue a degree in law, focusing on water regulations for groundwater and agriculture. He will attend Northwest Nazarene University in Idaho. Scott is an overall 3.8 grade-point-average high school student and his essay to CGA shows a real understanding that there are tough issues and strong opinions on water rights in California. We will welcome him back to California to help defend our precious resource, water.



**Rogelio Juarez** of Brentwood, CA has been brought up in the groundwater business through his family, who owns & operates JJ Pump & Well Service in Oakley, CA. He has worked in the family business

for many years, knows the importance of electricity to pumps & water-control systems and intends to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Sporting a 3.68 college grade-point-average and a love of mathematics, Rogelio expects electrical engineering to drive his career goals and some day allow him to work on projects in the groundwater industry.



**Zachary Cipriano** of Petaluma, CA has known Sonoma branch CGA member Gary & Stephanie Mickelson of Jerry & Don's Pump for many years. His degree ambition is Natural Resources and

Forestry, currently attending Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, CA. With a grade-point-average of 3.12 in his first year at Cal Poly, his studies have shown him the need for a better understanding of watershed hydrology and he intends to be an avid steward of water conservation in his career pursuits.

For more information about the California Groundwater Association's Scholarship opportunities, please see this link:

<http://www.groundh2o.org/programs/scholarships.html>

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER 2014**

# **WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP**



## **2014 CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

- Sep. 11-13                    Hyatt Regency Valencia  
                                  Valencia.CA

## **CGA 66th ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW**



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“Groundwater Reflections” is produced by John Hofer and Marilyn Stornetta with the California Groundwater Association.

Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or the members of the California Groundwater Association

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CGA website: www.groundh2o.org



## CGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by  
*Michael F. Maggiora*

As we head into what will surely be a busy hot summer with everyone focused on providing water to our customers, remember it is important for your health and safety to **Re-hydrate** every day. It is also the law that employer's are required to provide 2 gallons of cool sanitary drinking water per day per employee. I had an OSHA representative speak at one of our branch meetings and it was a very informative presentation. If anyone is interested in getting an OSHA representative to speak at a local branch meeting, contact me at 831-724-1338 or email me at [watsonville@maggiorabros.com](mailto:watsonville@maggiorabros.com) and I will be glad to provide you with the contact information.

Speaking of **Re-hydrating**, when the summer comes to an end this year, it will be the perfect opportunity to **Re-hydrate in Riverside** at the 66th annual CGA Convention and Trade Show October 16 – 18. Not only is it exciting that the convention is coming back to California this year, but the Convention Committee is committed to bringing back family fun, live entertainment, and as always, exceptional educational opportunities. Don't miss out on the Grand Cash prize, wonderful auction items, and Riverside's newly refurbished convention center along with your choice of three excellent hotels.

By **Re-hydrating in Riverside**, you will be supporting our industry, our manufacturers and suppliers, as well as the committee members that donate countless hours to put the convention and trade show together. So make sure to take advantage of this great opportunity to **Re-hydrate** not only yourself, but also your family members and your employees. Register early and get set to **Re-hydrate in Riverside** this year.

Our next Board meeting is in Southern California at the Hyatt Regency in Valencia, September 11 – 13. Once again we are hosting the very popular all day water well construction seminar the day before on September 10th. This is an excellent seminar well worth attending. If you want to expand your knowledge or need continuing education hours, this is the opportunity you can not afford to miss. After that, stick around and attend a Board meeting, network, and talk to board members. You might be surprised at what you are missing out on. To find out more about the Board meetings and the seminar, check out the CGA website for information.

Finally, I am pleased to report our executive management transition plan is progressing quite well. I also want to personally thank all committee chairs and members for your hard work and dedication, as you make the CGA what it is today.

Hope to see you **Re-hydrate!**

Mike

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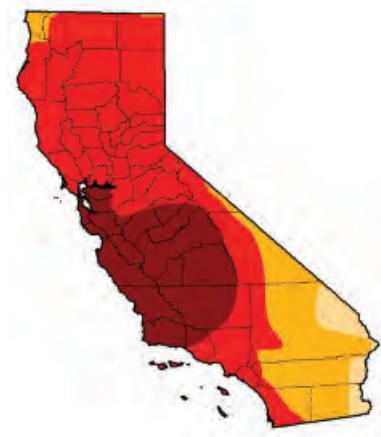


## CGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by  
*John Hofer*

Most of us have seen dramatic upswings in our businesses this year, even in the three months since the last Reflections was published. What was typically six weeks to two months scheduled work on the books has become six months to, and in some cases, over a year! It certainly is a far cry from several years ago, when a crippled economy and lack of severe drought conditions forced us all to scramble for each job.

Obviously this business windfall, although a welcome condition, has resulted in long hours and increased stress to all of us in the industry. This stress and anxiety is shared with our customers, particularly those with whom we have long-standing relationships. Many of them are having to deal with the continuing uncertainties relating to the State's response to the drought. Suddenly they need groundwater to augment surface water reductions and they want wells as soon as possible. It's difficult for them to understand why they have to wait so long now.



According to information released by the United States Department of Agriculture on April 24, roughly 77 percent of California is now under the effects of extreme or exceptional drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor publishes state maps for California, that focus on broad-scale drought intensity.



Moderate Drought



Severe Drought



Extreme Drought



Exceptional Drought

We, as an industry, need to remember that when the public reads these statistics, they tend to react dramatically. The last thing that they want to hear is that they have to wait to have their well drilled.

Over the past several weeks, the CGA office has heard comments from reporters and prospective customers alike regarding the current conditions throughout the State. Common themes include "The drought must be really good for business" and "By the time you can get a driller to show up, the drought will be over". We have tried to explain that the demand for wells has increased dramatically during the drought, but it seems as though our answers don't satisfy the questioners.

Perhaps it would be beneficial for business owners to spend a little more time explaining the reasons for delays. Comprise with them. Try to diffuse frustrations on both sides. The last thing CGA needs right now is a general perception that our members are happy to be making "fortunes" at the public's expense.

We all have a responsibility to maintain our quality and professionalism in these busy times, as well as in the hard times. When the drought eases, and it will eventually, will the customers that we turn away now still be as loyal?

John

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# Major Groundwater Management Bill Moves Forward in Legislature

By Pete Conaty

## SB 1168 (Pavley) Amended April 23, 2014 Groundwater Management

**Synopsis:** This bill seeks to establish a legal framework for the state and selected local entities to take control of all groundwater basins in the state, with exceptions as outlined in the bill. A competing bill, AB 1739 (Dickinson), also seeks to address this issue. It is reviewed on page 7.

**Specifics:** As amended 4/23/14, the bill proposes the following: **Chapter 1. Sustainable Groundwater Management.** Outlines the process by which that the control of groundwater basins shall be transferred to local government entities OR to the state if a local entity cannot or will not exercise local control of a groundwater basin.

**Chapter 2. General Provisions.** Provides detailed definitions of the terms in the bill to clarify what the author seeks to regulate. However, some terms are yet defined. Three examples are:

(g) "Sustainable groundwater management" means the management of a groundwater basin to provide for multiple long-term benefits without resulting in or aggravating conditions that cause significant economic, social, or environmental impacts such as long-term overdraft, land subsidence, ecosystem degradation, depletions from surface water bodies, and water quality degradation, in order to protect the resource for future generations.

(h) "Sustainable groundwater management plan" or "plan" means a document that describes the activities intended to be included in a groundwater management program.

(i) "Sustainable groundwater management program" or "program" means a coordinated and ongoing activity undertaken for the benefit of a groundwater basin, or a portion of a groundwater basin, pursuant to a groundwater management plan adopted pursuant to this part.

### Chapter 3. Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans.

Language Not Yet Provided

### Chapter 4. Local Groundwater Management Entities.

Language Not Yet Provided

**Comments.** We concur with the following portion of a Senate Natural Resources Committee analysis dated

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4/22/2014 stated the following, "Much Work Ahead". While there appears to be general agreement on a broad framework of a sustainable groundwater management system, there are quite a number of potentially contentious issues to be resolved. Some of these include:

- Appropriate protection of both property rights and community rights
- Integrating water quality with water supply considerations
- Representation on groundwater management entities
- Identifying mandatory elements for groundwater management
- Level of transparency in managing and use of groundwater
- Enforcement powers for groundwater management entities
- Reporting requirements for groundwater users
- Changes in land use planning, or not
- Financing of groundwater management activities
- Permitting of new and/or existing wells
- Scope and limitations on groundwater storage and banking

**Status.** On 4/22 on a 7-2 party-line vote, this bill passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee. It will next be heard on 5/5 in the Senate Appropriations Committee where it likely will be added to Suspense to wait for Budget Committee trailer language.

**Recommendation.** A number of sections in this bill do not yet contain any language or contain language so broad that private water rights are totally abrogated. For example, the existing language in Section 2 looks like it could be a full employment act for lawyers of all stripes

who could seek to use this law, if enacted, for their own agendas. These uncertainties put those parties who would be subject to being regulated at an unknown risk. The Committee analysis also notes the Governor intends to use trailer bill language as part of the Budget process to fast-track this issue later in the legislative process. Using the Budget process to eliminate policy committee oversight over controversial issues has been a very serious problem during past sessions. There have been many instances where language in a bill caused it to be defeated in Committee or on the Floor of either house. Then that same language was put into a budget trailer bill where the opposition could not stop the enactment of the objectionable language. In addition, none of the most influential groups affected have yet to reach an agreement and/or take a position on the bill. For this reason, the recommended position is **WATCH**.

#### **AB 1739 (Dickinson) Amended April 22, 2014**

#### **Groundwater Basin Management: Sustainability**

**Synopsis:** This bill seeks to establish a legal framework for the state and selected local entities to take control of all groundwater basins in the state, with exceptions as outlined in the bill. A competing bill, SB 1168 (Pavley), also seeks to address this issue (see page 6).

**Specifics:** As amended 4/22/14, the bill proposes the following:  
**Section 1. Groundwater Management.** Outlines the process by which the control of a groundwater basin that currently does not have regional or local oversight shall be established, to include authorization for an expedited timeline to be set.

**Section 2. Integration of Groundwater Management Plans.** Makes all future submitted groundwater management plans subject to existing city and/or county general plans and provides for local and state control over groundwater basins.  
**Section 3. Groundwater Sustainability.** Provides clarification of groundwater regulation proposed and provides detailed definitions of some of the terms in the bill for clarification. Requires a sustainable groundwater management plan shall be adopted for each groundwater basin and provides that the plan shall be adopted by 1/1/2020 and be updated every five years. Provides the plan must contain suitable objectives to achieve sustainable groundwater management in the groundwater basin within 20 years, to include an analysis demonstrating how the objectives will achieve sustainable groundwater management, and identify the parties responsible for achieving the objectives. Provides the DWR may grant an extension beyond the 20-year sustainability timeframe if necessary, but in no case may more than 30 years be allowed. Provides a plan must have an implementation horizon of at least 50 years with an annual report comparing the status of the groundwater basin to the groundwater management objectives.

#### **Groundwater Management Entities. Authorizes a groundwater management agency to:**

(a) Enter into a joint powers authority, participate in a memorandum of understanding among existing agencies, participate in an integrated regional water management planning group, any of which may include a locally authorized watermaster, or establish another form of appropriate local or regional sustainable groundwater management entity, (b) **Raise funds,** (c) **Regulate the pumping of groundwater,** (d) Establish, assume, or cooperatively manage well permitting programs to provide essential management information to implement a sustainable groundwater management plan and basin management objectives. The well permitting program may include, but is not limited to, information about the location, depth, water quality, construction, and production of a well and shall ensure that well abandonment standards are enforced.

**Drop Dead Date.** Provides, after a certain date (not yet in the bill), groundwater shall not be extracted within a groundwater basin for new commercial, multifamily residential, or industrial development, unless a groundwater basin has a sustainable groundwater management plan.

#### **Section 4. Appropriations Authorization.**

#### **Section 5. Local Agency/ State Mandates/Reimbursement language.**

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**Status.** On 4/29, this bill passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee (vote not yet available) where the CA Building Industries Association spoke in opposition. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee for its next hearing.

**Comments.** In the latest WPW Committee analysis, the following was noted, “On March 7, 2014, the Governor’s Office released a draft framework to assure that local groundwater managers have the tools and authority to manage groundwater consistent with the California Water Action Plan.” That document advises that “in developing ideas it may be helpful to consider whether local agencies need enhanced local agency authority and how the State should act...when local action has not occurred or has been insufficient. It also emphasizes that local agencies are the most familiar with the condition of their groundwater basins and are in the best position to manage those resources locally. It acknowledges that local agencies may need new or modified statutory authorities to manage groundwater more effectively. The framework also asks whether new tools are needed to address the allocation of groundwater, the ability to control pumping, the ability to assess fees for replenishment or other groundwater activities and the need for groundwater measurement and reporting. Additional questions include, but are not limited to whether existing GMPs should play a role and, if so, whether their content needs to change and whether there are existing barriers to adequately funding groundwater management efforts.”

**Recommendation.** A number of sections in this bill contain language so broad that private water rights and future drilling activities could be very negatively affected. For example, how the appointments to these new local entities will be made is still not clear. What is clear, though, is that this bill provides more detailed language to indicate the true purpose of this legislation. Yet there are still many issues outlined above in the Comments section for which no language or even oral discussions have yet been attempted. These uncertainties put all parties who would be subject to being regulated at an unknown risk. The latest Committee analysis in SB 1168 (Pavley) notes that it is the intent of the Governor to try to use trailer bill language to enact that bill. Because AB 1739 deals almost entirely with local aspects of groundwater regulation, it is unclear if the Budget trailer bill process will be used for this bill. However, the bill is so broad, it would affect 120+ water basins, two-thirds of which arguably do not need to be burdened with the more onerous requirements of this bill. That said, the author is working hard to try to mollify any concerns that the various stakeholders may have regarding how the bill would affect their business operations. Most groups affected have yet to reach an agreement and/or take a position on the bill. Thus the efforts of these two authors and the Governor appear to be a direct assault on private water rights, water drillers and the agricultural sector of the California economy. The recommended position is WATCH.

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## CGAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

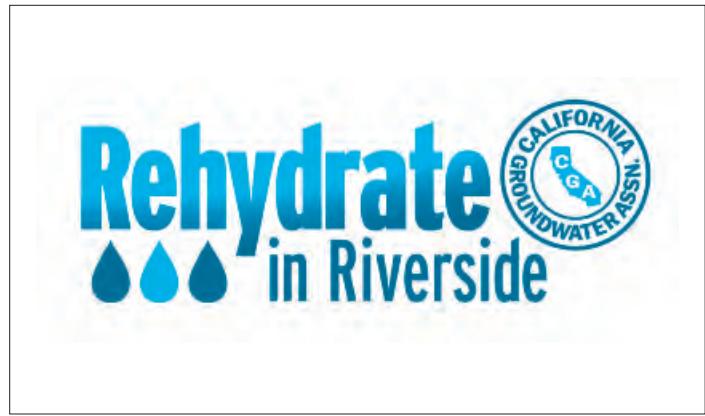
by  
Brenda Maggiora  
CGAA President

Officially, it is still Spring. However, the temperature in Gilroy today suggested otherwise. Tomorrow will likely be warmer. We are very quickly moving into the time of year when not only do you not want to be without water, but it is critical to be well-hydrated. As I sit writing this, I think, it is late, I had to have done at least 5000 mommy things today, and I'm a little tired. As much as I would love to write something profound and eloquent, I think, "Now would be a good time to plagiarize something or at least borrow some ideas". Scanning prior Newsletters, I hit payload, "... it is time to remember who we are, and come together, work together, and succeed together."

***It is time to remember who we are, and come together, work together, and succeed together.***

This is what CGA does best. Nothing I could write is more profound or eloquent. Thank you Mr. Martin for your profound eloquence.

I would like to share two pictures taken at a CGA Board Meeting, July 22, 2011, in Riverside, CA:





## INSURANCE CORNER

by Bob Murphy  
CGA Insurance Broker

### “Spring into Safety” for Summer 2014

Hope the Easter Bunny was good to all of you! Now we're hopping into the busiest season in years and safety will be the key to a successful year for every member. Customized loss control services, specific to your operations, can prevent accidents, reduce claim potential and help protect your business. Now, how are we going to do that? Risk management is the answer. Start with the CGA website for our OSHA Risk Control Guide, tailgate topics developed by the Insurance and Safety Committee, and link to Wells Fargo Insurance safety materials. Check out the updated CGA website anyway...it is cool!

Use a checklist as a guideline to reduce risk of injuries associated with our industry. Answer **Yes or No** with No answers indicating additional measures need to be taking to reduce loss potential. Here are some samples for your individual checklists:

#### General Safety & Planning

- Site assessment completed before job?
- Utilities clearly marked before drilling?
- Safety program & rules reviewed?
- Signed customer contract in place?
- Safety orientation held for all employees?
- Any underground exposures located?
- Utilities contacted prior to drilling?

#### Fleet Safety Program

- Evaluate drivers with DMV checks?
- Only authorized drivers use company vehicles?
- DOT regulations followed?
- Defensive driving training held?
- Vehicle use rules in place?
- Vehicle accident investigation done?
- Cell phone (PDA) use policy in place?
- Accident avoidance determined?
- Vehicle inspections performed daily?

#### Drill Rig Operation

- Safety check before transport to job site?
- Safe clearance to electric lines?**
- Route overhead clearance determined?
- Mast lowered when traveling on roads?
- All loads properly secured?

#### Environmental Protection (Good old Pollution – Ugh)

- Local Regulations and EPA followed?
- Spill control equipment accessible?
- Employees trained in spill response?
- Drill fluid, mud/wastewater containment?

#### Equipment & Vehicle Protection

- Yard fenced & secured every night?
- Flammable liquids used and stored properly?
- Yard have security lighting (not flashlights)?
- Downriggers and blocking used to reduce loss to rigs?
- Equipment & vehicles locked?
- Keys kept in a secure indoor area?
- Fuel storage properly set up?
- Equipment maintained?

#### Vendors/Subcontractors

- Written agreements** with indemnification in your favor?
- Certificates naming you as additional insured?
- Liability limits same or more than yours?
- Manufacturers' manuals provided customers?
- Customer instructed on operation?
- Safety instructions provided customers?
- Water testing guidance provided?

This is not an all-inclusive checklist; but a guide for your use in managing your business. Obviously Job safety is the additional key checklist to use to protect your employees and the public. Since summer is fast approaching **do not forget “Heat Illness” as a part of your IIPP as required by OSHA every year!**

Now that you are all Risk managers, go out and drill some wells, install some pumps and make some \$!

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## CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS IN SCOTT'S VALLEY

Last month, the CGA Board of Directors convened in Scott's Valley for the second meeting of 2014. Among items discussed during the meeting, the Board approved a 60-day review for the *Pozzolan Enhanced Grouts used in Annular Seals and Well Destruction* as recommended by the Standards Committee.

The Board discussed in detail potential drought related legislation, both at the local level and state-wide. Additionally, an ad hoc committee, consisting of Bob Murphy, Dave Landino, and Mike Meyer, was formed to formulate continuing education legislation.

### Committee Reports

**Executive:** Mike Maggiore reported that the administrative transition was moving forward.

**Budget:** Twyla Moline reported that the committee was recommending changing the accounting software to Quickbooks. The committee will be getting quotes for an annual audit.

**Caltrans:** Larry Rottman said that we still needed a member in the northern part of the state to attend future Northern California Caltrans meetings. He will check his notes to determine how the schedules are posted on-line.

**CGA Standards:** Mike Meyer reported that the committee had completed its work on the pozzolan grout standard, and that they were recommending it be released for 60-day review.

**Convention:** Ron Hedman reported that the committee had selected "Re-hydrate in Riverside" as the slogan for this year's convention. Virginia Beebe reported on her site visit to Riverside. Preparations are moving forward.

**Education:** Tim Guishard reported that the workshop had 21 registrants and generated \$1,700 after expenses. The committee has confirmed 16 speakers and topics. Potential continuing education legislation will be developed by the ad hoc committee.

**Fundraising and Activity:** Erik Lowe reported that the committee was recommending that \$2,000 be designated for the scholarship fund from money raised at the convention. The Board approved the recommendation. Ty Martin will be the MC at the banquet. Fundraising activities will be promoted in a series of fliers from the CGA office.

**Insurance:** Bob Murphy reported Wells Fargo Insurance provides workers compensation claims consulting. He indicated that State Fund has modified the basic rates with a 4-tier system. The committee reviewed CyberSure and available on-line risk control services, as well as the OSHA guide on the CGA website. The committee discussed the property/liability program and the need for accurate updated information so as to provide the best coverage and pricing.

**Legislative:** Tom Weimer, Jr. reported that the committee discussed potential new sources of water supply such as reverse osmosis and desalination. They suggested that Mike Guardino, Tylor McMillan, Bobbi Thompson, and Larry Rottman be added to the committee. Tom and Tylor will attend Sustainable Groundwater Management Workshop in Sacramento on April 16.

**Membership:** Casey Good reported that the committee reviewed membership numbers. The committee is exploring ways to reach out to former members. Mike Guardino will try to set up a meeting for the Bakersfield Branch in the next couple of months, but the committee noted that most branches were taking a break due to heavy workloads.

**Scholarship:** Randy Delenikos said the committee awarded three scholarships on \$2,000 each. Scott Soares and Zachary Cipriano were given CGA scholarships, and Juarez Rogelio was awarded the Sheryl Kratz scholarship. The committee will look at ways to increase the scholarship fund, and how to get more members to submit applications.

**Website:** The committee approved the new website format. They would like to see all committee notes, except financials, available to all members.

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## U.S. EPA Modifies Engine Replacement Rule

By Christine Reimer,  
NGWA Director of Government Affairs

In response to NGWA input, U.S. EPA modified its final rules to allow the use of new exempt engines to replace failed engines in water well drilling rigs up to 40 years old. EPA's initial proposal would have required that a new engine meeting current emission standards be used in the case of engine failure on water well drilling rigs older than 25 years. Depending on the make and model, there are physical and performance issues in bringing specialized water well drilling equipment up to Tier 4 engine standards. NGWA estimates that approximately 30 percent of water well drilling rigs would have had problems meeting EPA's initial proposal.

A copy of the final rule is available by going to the Federal Register, Volume 79, page 7077  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-02-06/pdf/2014-02612.pdf>

Industry members are advised to consult with applicable state rules, such as in California, for any additional state level requirements.

NGWA's DOT-OSHA Subcommittee volunteers took the lead in educating agency staff about water well drilling operations and securing workable changes to the final regulation.

## CGA ADJUSTS EXHIBITOR MOVE-IN TIMES TO ACCOMMODATE GOLFERS

As promised, changes are being made to the Annual Convention and Trade Show at Riverside this October. CGA has organized an early move-in time on Wednesday afternoon, October 15 for those exhibitors planning to play in the Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday. This priority set-up time, tentatively scheduled from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, was in response to complaints in the past that only allowed booth set-up on Thursday, thereby eliminating the golfing option for the exhibitors. Look for sign-up information and sponsorship opportunities beginning in June.



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# EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

by Kelly Doherty

## Obamacare and Rising Medical Costs Spur Need for Telehealth Services

It is now 2014 and millions of formerly uninsured patients are buying insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Individuals now have the ability to pay for a doctor visit but may have a difficult time getting a timely appointment. Patients are waiting an average of 18 days to schedule an appointment for a doctor.<sup>i</sup> To help address the growing demand, appointments are shorter and office visit tasks are increasingly being handled by nurse practitioners and physician assistants – leading to perceived lower quality care by patients.

- Although Federal assistance under health reform can help lower insurance premiums, subsidies do not help reduce your out of pocket and other associated costs (i.e. lost time and work) of actually seeing a doctor.
- Americans make over 3 visits to their doctor's office per year.<sup>ii</sup> For a family of four, this amounts to around 13 visits - totaling \$1430 and 35 hours of lost time annually. 4 out of 5 office visits could be better handled via the phone.
- With rising premiums and deductibles, many individuals forego going to the doctor, delay services and do not fill their prescriptions due to cost.
- With normal business hours of M-F 8am to 5pm, doctors' offices are closed over 75% of the time. Two-thirds of ER visits are made after these normal business hours.<sup>iii</sup>

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- No Geographic Limitations – access care while on vacation or from remote locations
- Quality – 97% of CADR+ users are “very satisfied”

#### LOWER COSTS

- Avoid high cost settings like the doctor's office, Urgent Care or Emergency Room
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- Unlimited access for the family for less than \$.32 a day – No copays or other charges at the time of service

#### CARE COORDINATION

- Electronic Health Records (EHR) – All consultations are recorded, added to your EHR and forwarded to your primary care physician
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<sup>i</sup> "Doctor Wait Times Rise As Obamacare Rolls Out", Forbes 1/29/14

<sup>ii</sup> CDC FastStats <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/faststats/docvisit.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> American College of Emergency Physicians,  
<http://www.acep.org/content.aspx?id=49128>

## DO WE DRINK THE WATER OR PRIME THE PUMP?

By John Hofer

Most of us in the west have heard the old adage about priming the pump. A man wandering in the desert, thirsty and near-delirious, happens onto a well with an old-fashioned pump handle. Beside the pump is a cup of water and a note telling him to pour all of the water into the pump and he will receive all the water he can use. Of course the temptation is to drink the cup of water and gain instant gratification, but the man takes a chance and primes the pump and is granted more water than he can possibly use. He leaves the note and a cup of water by the well for the next traveler, and continues on his journey. Now California faces the same question - drink the water or prime the pump.

California has long been known as a diverse state particularly in its climate. Precipitation varies greatly throughout the state with the majority occurring in the north. Massive engineering projects have succeeded in moving surface water from the areas of abundance to the areas in need, but population growth and periods of drought have stressed the existing infrastructure.

During periods of drought, as is now the case in California, water users turn to significant increases in groundwater pumpage to augment surface water deliveries that may have been decreased or cut off altogether. However, with increased pumping come a myriad of problems both scientific and political. Sustained pumping in excess of the annual recharge results in significant overdrafting of the aquifer that may take generations to recover. The "knee-jerk" reaction to decreasing water levels is often new legislation or ordinances designed to curtail new well drilling projects. The combination of decreasing surface water and a lack of new water wells can often result in decreased agricultural or residential development, thereby causing conflicts throughout all segments of the population.

The California Groundwater Association (CGA) was founded by drilling contractors in 1948, and now its members also include pump contractors, suppliers and manufacturers, geologists, engineers, hydrologists, government employees and others working in the groundwater field. The members consider themselves stewards of the state's groundwater resource, and towards that end strive to protect the aquifers while acting in the best interests of the industry.

Obviously the current three-year drought has produced a dramatic boom in business over the past year, particularly with the improving economic outlook. Nevertheless, CGA members have had to temper their enthusiasm by remembering their commitment to preserving the resource and the industry for future generations. CGA has become more proactive in developing common sense approaches to the problem. By working together,



we have been able influence groundwater regulators to produce guidelines that not only protect the resource, but also insure that the industry as a whole will survive.

CGA has been active in conducting a series of regional workshops across the state providing continuing education credits for local county and water district health inspectors. These events have concentrated on basic hydrogeology and well construction techniques, and have been well-attended, often by inspectors with little or no experience in water well construction. Our instructors, who are also members, have found that the process of creating a seminar and subsequently presenting it provides a clearer understanding of the problems routinely dealt with by regulators. This interaction certainly leads to a better relationship between the industry and its regulators, which has not always been the case in the past.

The people of California are figuratively walking in the desert looking for that elusive well. The temptation to quench our immediate thirst by draining the "cup" of available supply is often overwhelming. Now more than ever, it is incumbent on our industry to use the depleted resource intelligently so that the future generations of Californians can have sufficient groundwater. In effect, CGA is doing its part to "prime the pump".

Reprinted from *GeoDrilling International*  
April 2014

## CGA Welcomes New Members

Since February 1, CGA has added 5 new members:  
Dean Kunesh, Pacific Gas & Electric, San Francisco, CA  
Mike Bonkowski, Bonkowski & Assoc., Inc., Emeryville, CA  
Jeremiah Damery, San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health, San Luis Obispo, Ca  
Jarod Thiele, City of Ukiah, Ukiah, CA  
Del Nordby, Construction & Development Solutions, Santa Rosa, CA

When you meet any of these folks, please extend some CGA hospitality!

## CGA Says Farewell - and Welcome Back

It is with sadness that the CGA community says farewell to Marilyn Stornetta. Marilyn has been your association's Administrative Assistant for the past three years. She literally received an offer she couldn't refuse. We all wish her the best in her new endeavour. She will be sorely missed.

CGA is extremely happy to report that an old friend will be returning to help in the office. Aimee Jay will be making sure that the office continues to run smoothly. After an absence of almost four years, it's great to have her back.

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE DROUGHT?

From being involved in this industry, we all know about the current drought conditions in California. We fear what we think the legislators in Sacramento will do to us, and we worry if the Air Board will stop us from operating our rigs. Actually, we fear most what we can't control.

What we can control is our own response to the drought. The things we do as individuals will give us more credibility in our communities. With that in mind, the following tips are provided.

- Check for leaks in toilets, faucets, and hoses. Small leaks add up to large amounts and can cost big money.
- Irrigate in the early morning, before sun-up, so that the water has a chance to sink in during the day. This also eliminates mildew that could occur with late afternoon watering.
- Replace old toilets and clothes washers with new high-efficiency models. Most of these qualify for rebates.
- Compost organic kitchen scraps. Adding composted materials to the topsoil helps absorb and retain water.

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## **WHAT'S NEEDED TO SUSTAIN CALIFORNIA'S WATER RESOURCES**

By Tom Weimer, Jr.  
CGA Legislative Committee Chair

On April 16, 2014, I attended the Sustainable Groundwater Management Workshop in Sacramento. The purpose of this workshop was to hear proposals for groundwater management plans. After reading the California Water Action Plan ([http://resources.ca.gov/california\\_water\\_action\\_plan/docs/Final\\_California\\_Water\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/california_water_action_plan/docs/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf)) and then attending the workshop, it was disappointing that the proposals were directed mostly towards conservation through monitoring and regulation with no talk of alternative source development. Especially when you see water wasted every day in towns far from the farms that are being targeted for conservation. I have never met a farmer that uses water irresponsibly and wastefully, probably because they are very aware of how much that water costs them. Some could be more efficient but never wasteful like you see in the city.

There were three proposals heard and they were all similar well thought out plans based on conservation of groundwater. No alternative water sources were talked about at any length.

Valley Ag Water Coalition - Supposedly a farmer-backed coalition, they spoke of metering the amount of water pumped and taxing it to pay for regulatory costs and enforcement. As a farmer myself I can't see why another farmer would sign off on that. The tax or fees generated would be used to form local well monitoring agencies. They also spoke of a tier program for fees where the bigger farmers and newer developments would pay higher rates.

ACWA and the California Water Foundation had very similar presentations with power point to follow. These plans were aimed at getting funding from the state for monitoring and enforcement of the Groundwater Management Plans. They both call for local regulation and enforcement with the state as a backstop if the local entity cannot get it done.

I believe the CGA position is that monitoring and regulation is not in the best interest of the owner of the wells. It may be time to relax our position on well logs being made public. The information can be used as a tool by people in the trade to get necessary information that they usually get anyways.

My personal position on all of this is that just conserving and regulating groundwater is not the solution for long term sustainability. Short term, there should be some monitoring and perhaps regulations in only those areas that are in very extreme overdraft situations thereby causing problems with the environment and surrounding area. However, these measures should only be used on a temporary basis until alternative supplies can be acquired. The surface water system in our state is rapidly becoming antiquated. If all of the improvements that were recommended to the state in the 60's were implemented, we would not be in this situation now. We need more storage and better infrastructure throughout the state for surface water to take the pressure off of groundwater. Construction of desalination plants in the Coastal regions would take pressure off of groundwater there and allow farming to remain in those regions that require the coastal climate to grow the crops. Anything short of that will continue to put unsustainable demands on groundwater.

I realize the immense costs involved in these types of projects but we all must realize they are just as important as roads and bridges and waterways. If we don't make bold expensive moves to protect our state's water resources, California will not be California anymore, it will be just another overpopulated state with nothing more to offer than a nice place to live.

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## **CGA ANNOUNCES CONVENTION SEMINAR TOPICS**

The 66th Convention and Trade Show in Riverside this coming October promises to have seminars for every interest. For full days on both Thursday and Saturday, a variety of sessions will be presented in five different tracks. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

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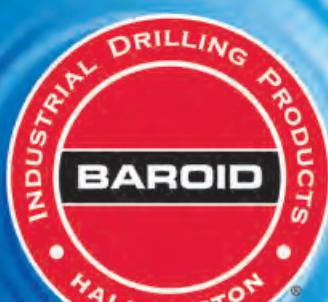
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