

Wild Wings County Service Area

Town Hall Meeting on July 7, 2021

Questions from Town Hall and Recap of Answers

What has been the effect of the development of the orchards directly west and south of Wild Wings?

Speaking in general, adding orchards or permanent crops on lands previously used as seasonal row crops tends to increase the long-term fixed water requirement for that land. However, we do not have specific details on the historic and current land uses on these properties nor other information needed to evaluate localized effects from these orchards.

Is it time to turn off front yard sprinklers?

Everyone should reduce their lawn sprinklers to not more than 3 days per week for 12 minutes a station. Everyone on the East side of Wildwings Drive and living on Wildwings Drive should water on Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, and everyone on the west side of Wildwings Drive should water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sundays.

Yes, what is the relative contribution of groundwater usage with Wild wings, golf courses, and agricultural activities on groundwater draw down.

We do not know the agricultural water usage on the groundwater basin in the area as they are not metered and not within Luhdorff and Scalmaini's purview. Regarding the Wild Wings community groundwater usage, by review records of the two Wild Wings wells we have estimated approximately 90 million gallons per year is pumped for the residential community and approximately 55 million gallons per year is pumped for the golf course.

Overall, how much will this cost the residents? Is the county paying for this or are the residents?

The cost to purchase and install a new pump at Canvas Back Well is about 30K. The cost to purchase and install a new pump and lower it by 120 feet at Pintail is about 70K, plus the engineering costs.

Have link to view the recording for those who couldn't make it?

Unfortunately, the Town Hall was not recorded. The PowerPoint presentation is made available as well as notes from the presenter and these written responses

The golf course has broken sprinklers that spew all over the road.

Yes, the golf course has been experiencing a lot of irrigation breaks this year. The irrigation system is now about 17 years old and the crew is working hard on keeping up with the repairs.

Does nearby mining impact ground water drawdown?

The removal of aggregate from below the groundwater table does not drawdown groundwater. However, mined aggregate is subsequently washed and separated by particle size. The wash water is supplied by an on-site water supply well. The effects of the mining

activities below the water table in conjunction with on-site groundwater extraction on groundwater levels is evaluated with a numerical groundwater flow model for each mining phase (i.e., mining property) as part of the permitting process. Impacts to groundwater resources are evaluated within a 1000' buffer around the mining pits. Although the Canvas Back Well is located outside of this buffer, potential effects at that location were previously analyzed in the context of the Shiffler permitting process. The results indicated no drawdown at the Canvas Back Well.

Regarding lowering water for front yards, we need to ensure the HOA is not going to site homeowners if the yards become more brown than normal.

There is a California ruling that an HOA cannot issue a fine or assessment on a homeowner for reducing or eliminating the watering of vegetation or lawns during a state or locally-declared drought emergency (Civil Code section 4735(c)). • An HOA cannot enforce architectural or landscaping guidelines or policies that prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, compliance with most local water-efficient landscape ordinances. • See additional information at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/prohibitions_hoas_fs.pdf

Agriculture typically contributes to at least 80% of fresh water usage

Yes, this is what has been estimated state-wide (including surface water and groundwater).

If we become a CSD who will ultimately pay for the well? The CSD or the County?

Regardless of whether the water or sewer systems are managed by the County as a CSA, or by the community as a CSD, the homeowners are required to pay for their water and sewage services, including a new well.

Is there sufficient benefit to justify replacing the Canvas Back Pump?

Yes. The Canvas Back that was installed was no longer able to produce any water due to the depth of the groundwater table and the specific characteristics of the pump that was installed. The new pump that was installed is designed for the deeper lift.

Even with the communication from the CSA, there are still households that are overwatering, with excess water streaming into the storm drains. Can the CSA specifically identify and work with these homeowners to reduce their water usage?

The County is working on outreach to the higher water users with information on conservation efforts, as well as providing contact information for investigating potential leaks.

If water is a problem, why is the golf course still watering and pumping? Why don't they go brown?

The golf course is no longer pumping water from either community well, rather they are pumping water underflow water from the creek and the wells are being reserved for the

community. In addition, the golf course has stopped watering the edges, fence lines, native areas, and the roughs. They are only watering the playing surfaces (fairways, greens, and tees) in an effort to keep the golf course in business, maintain the employees, and to help maintain the property values of the homes that surround the golf course. If the creek goes dry, the golf course will stop watering all but the greens. There is enough recycled water produced by the community to keep the greens alive, and thus not incur the large cost that would be needed to replace the greens in the future.

How many gallons of water are typically kept in the Holding Ponds next to each Mine. What is the expected amount of water in the holding pond for the Teichert Shiffler Mining proposal?

This question may be best answered by Teichert. We are not sure what is meant by holding ponds next to each mine. The mining pits fill with groundwater once they are dug below the groundwater table. So, the volume of water depends on the size and depth of the excavation. Every mining pit has its own geometry and depth and, while Teichert keeps track of mining depth, I am not sure if anybody has ever kept track of the amount of water in a pit at any one time. They often backfill on one side as they progress the pit on the other side.

Is the county going to discuss this issue with the surrounding ag owners that use 80% of the ground water?

At this time the answer is no, because state law allows everyone to pump as much water as they want. This will begin to change starting in January 2022 when the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Yolo County Ground water Sustainability Plan is due. This plan will provide a roadmap for how the local groundwater basins will reach long-term sustainability.

When this community was conceived and implemented by Lafco and the county, was there nothing in place to protect the homeowners of this community against just such a situation? In Short; does the county bear no responsibility in ensuring adequate services are available?

Here's a sentence from the LAFCo staff report below that may (or may not) be helpful. LAFCo is required under CEQA to rely on the County's analysis.

In addition to the 93 mitigation efforts delineated in the EIR, the County Board of Supervisors also imposed 118 conditions on the Wild Wings proponents when the Board approved the Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (Number 3847) in 1992. The Board, deciding that the applicants and the developer had satisfactorily met the EIR mitigation measures and Vesting Map conditions, approved the Wild Wings project in May 2003.

When the subdivision was approved in 1992, no one would have been able to predict a drought of this measure.

Why isn't it mandatory to reduce landscape watering?

The CSA does not have the authority to require mandatory conservation. Only the federal, state, or local (Yolo County Board of Supervisors) can mandate conservation. The Yolo County

Board of Supervisors' preference is to recommend voluntary restrictions and allow residents to comply on their own. Mandatory restrictions are being considered.

Managed aquifer recharge approaches can be implemented during the winter to mitigate groundwater depletion during the summer.

There are multiple concepts that can be explored. In-Lieu aquifer recharge has been successful in many cases – this is where an alternative water source is used during periods when it is available, such as surface water or intertie with another system, in lieu of the groundwater wells. For example, if the creek water that is currently being used to water the golf course were implanted regularly during wet or normal years this reduces the demand on the aquifer and helps recharge. Aquifer Injection is also becoming more widely used, also referred to as Aquifer Storage and Recovery. The City of Woodland recently installed two wells for this purpose. This is where a well is converted or installed with piping and equipment to inject water into the confined groundwater basin using an available/approved source of water during periods when it is available, such as the wetter months of the year. This requires surface or recycled water as the source, and the wells require a lot of maintenance to address clogging.

Please knock on your neighbor's door or leave them a note if there is excess or broken sprinklers.

Any thought to increasing the price for playing golf for non-residents to help costs of pump replacements?

A price increase has recently been implemented at the golf course. However, the revenue collected for golf cannot be used for other purposes such as the water or sewer systems. However, if there were to be excess revenue, it could be used to reduce the golf assessment that the residents pay on their tax bill.

It is my understanding that the HOA has a few million of our dues invested, would it be possible to use this HOA money to pay for a new well?

If the HOA wants to invest their reserves into a new well, the CSA wouldn't be opposed.

There was a number thrown out of Wildwing water supply needs of approximately 450 gallons per minute. Does the county have any idea how many gallons per minute are pumped to supply the surrounding orchards and farmland?

We have not investigated the amount of water being pumped from the groundwater basin for the orchards.

Can you comment on The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is the designated Groundwater Sustainability Agency who is managing the implementation of SGMA for Yolo County. According to the YSGA website the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is currently being developed. Chapters 1 and 2 have been written and closed for public comment. Chapter 2 provides a Water Budget. The YSGA posts links to meeting on their website. There is an Executive Committee meeting on July 26, 2021, a Working Group meeting on July 29, 2021, and most importantly a GSP Public

Workshop on August 11, 2021 at the Fairgrounds. The YSGA is also soliciting ideas for Projects and Management Actions relating to the Yolo Subbasin GSP (there is a form on the website for submitting ideas).

Can we get an accounting of wells that influence water levels in wild wings, and the amount of water that they are pumping?

This might be a good question for the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency. We do not possess this information.

Wouldn't we still have our wells to use for backup if a pipe was provided from Woodland?

This is not likely. In most cases when there is an intertie made it would involve consolidation and becoming a customer of the City of Woodland. It is possible in some cases to retain the wells such as if the inter-tie was only an emergency connection and the Wild Wings community remained an independent system. A lot of this would depend on the City's ability and willingness to provide service to the Wild Wings community.

If the new orchards are using the same underground water that Wild Wings is using, the problem will just get worse as the trees will require more water over the years. Hence, what to do about it?

The question about the water use of an orchard increasing over time is one for an agricultural specialist. Alternative water supplies are being considered by Yolo County.

Is it feasible to switch to the Canvas Back well (perhaps at Midnight Friday through Sunday evening) to allow homeowners to water lawn and do laundry and give the Pintail well a rest?

It is not possible to use the Canvas Back well to help relieve the Pintail well. The Canvas Back well is designated as a stand-by well because the level of arsenic in the water is slightly over the limit allowed. As a standby well it can only be used 3 times per year for 5 days at a time for a total of 15 days/year. As such, it is reserved for emergency use only such as if the Pintail well had to be taken offline for maintenance.

this is probably a moot point but if the canvass well were not emptied and repainted this year, would we be in dire straits?

Emptying the Canvas Back tank so that it could be painted did not result in the water shortage that is being experienced now. The amount of water stored in the tank is not even 1 days' worth of water that is used by the residents each day. The water shortage is due to the low levels of the water underground, that were not replenished by rain in the winter and also by the amount of water being pumped from underground.

Is the long term solution to provide a new well to replace the Canvas Back well or extend the water service from the City of Woodland? Could Federal funds be made available for either solution and if so who will seek federal funds?

Both options are being reviewed. The County would explore funding options

With a new well might the Arsenic issue be alleviated?

It is possible, but not guaranteed.

How many gallons will the new well hold and will we have a new holding tank as well?

The new well would target a capacity similar to the other wells to meet the Wild Wings demand, which is about 1,000 gallons per minute pumping capacity. There may not need to be a new holding tank if the new well is located near the Canvas Back site and can utilize the tank located on that site.

I would appreciate looking into funds from the state and federal

Kimberly Villa who is the CSA manager for the county has applied for federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for a new well and for 2 other projects for this community.

Who approves the recommendations that were provided this evening?

Decisions on operating the water, sewage and the golf course are made by the CSA manager, Kimberly Villa, after coordinating with the CSA community advisory board which are 5 members from the community that advise the County on matters relating to the CSA operations. Then all further action is handled through the County's procurement policy. In emergency situations, the CSA Manager and the CSA Advisory Committee Chairperson will determine the best outcome based on input from engineering consultants.

Do they look at location for the best pure water access vs. possible farming water runoff?

During a new well project we screen the area to identify and potentially contaminating activities and site the well to ensure it meets all sanitary setbacks. The surface and seal are design to protect the well from runoff.

Why are we not pursuing an arsenic removal solution for Canvas Back?

An arsenic removal study for Canvas Back has been in progress for the past year. The project has recently been put on hold because the Canvas Back well is going dry and so there may not be any water to treat. If a new well is drilled, it may or may not have levels of arsenic that require treatment. The arsenic study can be picked up again and completed at any time if the need arises.

If the long term solution turns out to be a new deeper well for Canvas Back can the proposal include provisions for an arsenic removal system?

The deeper well would be tested to determine if arsenic treatment was needed. If arsenic levels are below the Maximum Contaminant Level, treatment would not be required but we would include provisions to allow a treatment system to be added if the levels ever increase or the standard was lowered.

Can we have that wetting agent be applied to the front lawns in Wild Wings?

Homeowners can purchase a wetting agent and apply it to their individual lawns. The agent needs to be applied and watered in on a set schedule and it takes a while to become effective.