

**Vina GSA Grant Awarded Projects**  
**Total Grant Award: \$5,535,000**  
**Estimated Completion Date: March 2026**

**Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Updates, Data Gaps, and Outreach**

Implementing Agency: Vina GSA

Aims to enhance the understanding of the Vina subbasin's conditions by installing monitoring sites and equipment, focusing on domestic wells and implementing a Community Monitoring Program, alongside preparing the five-year GSP Periodic Evaluation and engaging with the public through various outreach efforts.

**Consultant:** Larry Walker Associates

**Project Partner:** Butte County Water and Resource Conservation

**Total Project Budget:** \$1,070,000

**Demand Reduction Strategies in the Vina Subbasin**

Implementing Agency: Vina GSA

Aims to enhance groundwater sustainability in the Vina Subbasin by reducing consumptive use through extending orchard fallowing periods to reduce evapotranspiration rates, promote and pilot precision irrigation, ET monitoring, and educational outreach.

**Consultant:** Geosyntec/LandIQ

**Project Partner:** Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County

**Total Project Budget:** \$2,440,000

**Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation**

Implementing Agency: Vina GSA

Aims to conduct feasibility and initial design for enhancing natural recharge along Lindo Channel using Big Chico Creek's excess flows to bolster groundwater for domestic wells and ecosystems through the Chico area, supplemented by monitoring wells to assess impacts.

**Consultant:** Geosyntec/West Yost

**Total Project Budget:** \$330,000

**Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study**

Implementing Agency: Butte County

Evaluates the potential for expanded surface water use for irrigation and the feasibility of a phased groundwater recharge plan in the Vina Subbasin, incorporating previous studies and considering factors like site suitability, water availability, legal aspects, and sustainability goals, aimed at identifying optimal recharge areas and projects.

**Consultant:** Geosyntec

**Project Partner:** Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County

**Total Project Budget:** \$850,000

### **Inter-basin Coordination, Modeling and Reporting**

Implementing Agency: Butte County

Focuses on creating a funding plan for the Vina GSA, preparing annual reports, analyzing GSPs for inter-basin coordination along the Sacramento River Corridor, and conducting integrated groundwater-surface water modeling, while ensuring transparency and engagement through regular meetings and communications.

**Consultant:** Montgomery and Associates

**Total Project Budget:** \$480,000

### **Outreach Program**

Implementing Agency: Butte County

Will support an Outreach Program by the GSA to communicate subbasin conditions, GSP development and implementation, and to create education and outreach materials that support and encourage public engagement in all other Components.

**Consultants:** Raftelis & Spruce Studio

**Total Project Budget:** \$165,000

### **Grant Administration**

Implementing Agency: Butte County

Administration tasks for the overall grant that includes invoicing, quarterly reporting, closeout reporting, and environmental information form(s).

**Total Project Budget:** \$200,000



# Update and Discussion of Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Funded Projects

Becky Fairbanks  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
May 22, 2024



## Background

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant Program
  - Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)- \$5.5M grant
  
- Vina GSA Board approved the approach to partner with Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation and Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County (AGUBC) to lead portions of the grant funded work



## Vina GSA SGMA Grant Projects -

Includes:

1. Project Management and Grant Administration (Butte County)
2. GSP Updates, Data Gaps and Outreach (GSA)
3. Demand Reduction Strategies (AGUBC)
4. Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation (GSA)
5. Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study (Butte County)
6. Inter-basin Coordination, Modeling and Reporting (Butte County)
7. Outreach Program (Butte County)



## 1. GSP Updates, Data Gaps and Outreach

Enhance groundwater subbasin knowledge and address groundwater data gaps.

- **Key Outcomes**
  - Expansion of the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network (installation of new sites and add equipment to measure existing wells)
  - Amend the Plan in response to identified data gaps and feedback from Department of Water Resources (DWR)
  - Public Review Draft of Periodic Evaluation (due to DWR in 2027)
  - Stakeholder Engagement
- **Consultant:** Larry Walker Associates
- **Implementing Agency:** Vina GSA
- **Partner:** Butte County Water and Resource Conservation
- **Project Total:** \$1,070,000
- **Estimated Completion Date:** March 2026



## 2. Demand Reduction Strategies in the Vina Subbasin

Enhance groundwater sustainability by reducing consumptive use

- **Key Outcomes**
  - Extend Orchard Replacement Pilot Program
  - Precision Irrigation Pilot Program
  - Stakeholder Engagement
- **Consultant:** Geosyntec/LandIQ
- **Partner:** Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County
- **Project Total:** \$2,440,000
- **Estimated Completion Date:** March 2026



## 3. Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation

Enhance natural recharge along Lindo Channel

- **Key Outcomes**
  - Pilot project feasibility and initial design
  - Install monitoring network
  - Stakeholder engagement
- **Consultant:** Geosyntec/West Yost
- **Implementing Agency:** Vina GSA
- **Partner:** City of Chico
- **Project Total:** \$330,000
- **Estimated Completion Date:** March 2026



## Projects Implemented by Butte County

### Includes

- Project Management and Grant Administration
- Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study
- Inter-basin Coordination, Modeling and Reporting
- Outreach Program

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## Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility

### TWO FOLD:

1. Assessing the feasibility of potential **water sources** and required infrastructure to **expand the use of surface water in the subbasin**
2. Identification of **potential recharge projects**, site evaluation, and pilot project





## Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study

- **Key Outcomes**
  - Summary Table of all water supply projects considered
  - Feasibility Analysis Report for Two Selected Projects
  - Groundwater Recharge Investigation Report
  - Pilot Recharge Project
- **Consultants:** Geosyntec, Outreach Firms
- **Implementing Agency:** Butte County
- **Partner:** Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County
- **Butte County Project Total:** \$625,000
- **Estimated Completion Date:** March 2026

### Next Steps:

Extensive outreach campaign to hear input on potential water supply projects and criteria for prioritization (expected June-August)

- Future agenda item for SHAC to brainstorm potential projects
- Discussion and potential recommendations from Butte County Technical Advisory Committee and Water Commission to Butte County Board of Supervisors



## Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling

Provide technical information and analysis to support coordination with neighboring subbasins

- **Key Outcomes**
  - **Joint Analysis and Evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)**
    1. Sacramento River Corridor
    2. Feather River Corridor
  - **Updates to Groundwater/Surface Water Model (i.e. Butte Basin Groundwater Model) to support GSP amendments**
- **Consultant:** Montgomery and Associates
- **Implementing Agency:** Butte County
- **Butte County Project Total:** \$480,000
- **Estimated Completion Date:** March 2026

### Next Steps:

Contracts are in place and project is just getting started. Internal coordination to outline schedule and public process.



## Role of SHAC: Discussion & Potential Recommendations

- Domestic Well Survey (late 2024)
- Community Monitoring Plan (late 2024)
- Fee Study (now)
- Outreach Materials (mid/late 2024)
- Draft Amendments to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (mid/late 2025)
- Draft Periodic Evaluation (early 2026)



## For Reference:

### **Task: Domestic Well Survey**

Perform a desktop survey of existing domestic well datasets to identify wells with poor construction information and wells with a high potential to go dry. Conduct a field visit to the wells identified and confirm use status. Perform well video surveys on wells in use with poor construction information. Update the current dataset of domestic wells with the results of the survey, including active domestic wells and their construction information.

#### Deliverables:

- Technical Memo

**Purpose: To address data gap-> uncertainty about the number of active domestic wells in the subbasin. Better characterize this “beneficial user” of groundwater**





## For Reference:

### **Task: Create Community Monitoring Plan and Equip Volunteer Wells with Monitoring Equipment**

Create a monitoring program plan for domestic well owners that will include methods for outreach and engagement, identifying and meeting education needs, identifying methods for data management, and how the plan will be implemented.

**Purchase necessary monitoring equipment to track water levels in 8 domestic wells.** Engage with domestic well owners who have volunteered to participate and install equipment necessary for monitoring.

#### Deliverables:

- Map of installed equipment
- Summary of well characteristics

**Purpose: Expand monitoring network and better engage and monitor groundwater conditions of domestic well user group**



## Role of SHAC: Project Updates

- Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation
- Demand Reduction Strategies in the Vina Subbasin
- Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study

#### Role of SHAC To be Determined:

- Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling (technical in nature)
  - NOTE: The approach to coordinating with neighboring subbasins for development of policies or inter-basin coordination agreements is outside of the grant project.



## Next Steps

- Contracts are in place and projects are **just getting started!**
- Opportunities for public engagement and input this summer and ongoing
- SHAC will be provided updates and will have opportunities to make recommendations to the GSA Board as projects unfold



## Questions?

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