



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency
308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, California 95965
(530) 552-3592 • VinaGSA@gmail.com

September 10, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
Governor's Office
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for an Extension to Submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is in the process of developing and implementing the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Vina subbasin. Despite the continued crises facing the community (e.g., Oroville Spillway Incident, Camp Fire, Butte Complex Fire), the Vina GSA and the community are keeping on schedule to submit the GSP by the January 31, 2022 deadline. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted and delayed well-planned community engagement. The Vina GSA Board respectfully requests your support to all for a two-year extension to submit the Vina GSP to January 31, 2024. We recognize that legislation and/or authorization based on the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration would be required.

We do not make this request lightly. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) sets a high bar for community and stakeholder engagement. Given the importance to the decisions in the Vina GSP that will affect all sectors of the community, the Vina GSA established a robust process to engage the community primarily through the Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee is a Brown Act committee that includes a wide array of stakeholders. Following COVID-19 protocols, advisory committees have been postponed and when resumed are under a virtual format, which can be somewhat intimidating and unattainable for some members of the public.

The Vina GSA Board is making the request to extend the deadline based on a unanimous recommendation of the Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the GSA Board. While the process to develop the Vina GSP remains on schedule, the COVID-19

pandemic undercut the process for critical community engagement. Shortchanging the public engagement process is not consistent with the intent of SGMA or the desire of the Vina GSA.

Additionally, the Vina subbasin is not in critical overdraft. Draft basin setting data indicates that the storage in the basin is in balance. The development of the Vina GSP is not addressing an imminent crisis, but rather long-term sustainability.

We respectfully request your support to extend the deadline for the Vina GSP. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Schwab". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Schwab, Chair

Cc: Senator Jim Nielsen
Assembly member James Gallagher
Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources
Butte County Board of Supervisors
Chico City Council
Durham Irrigation District



Butte County Board of Supervisors

25 County Center Drive, Suite 200
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.552.3300
F: 530.538.7120

www.buttecounty.net/administration

Members of the Board

Bill Connelly | Debra Lucero | Tami Ritter | Steve Lambert | Doug Teeter

September 29, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
Governor's Office
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for an Extension to Submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Governor Newsom:

Butte County is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the Butte subbasin and is a member agency of the Vina GSA and the Wyandotte Creek GSA. Development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) for the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins is underway. Despite continued crises facing the community (e.g., Oroville Spillway Incident, Camp Fire, North Complex Fire), the GSAs and the community are keeping on schedule to submit GSPs by the January 31, 2022 deadline. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted and delayed well-planned community engagement. The Butte County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your support for a two-year extension to submit the Butte, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek GSPs to January 31, 2024. The County understands legislation and/or authorization based on the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration may be required to approve this request.

The County does not make this request lightly. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) sets a high bar for community and stakeholder engagement. Given the importance of the decisions in the GSPs that will affect all sectors of the community, each of the GSAs established a robust process to engage the community.

Following COVID-19 protocols, advisory committees have been postponed and then resumed under a virtual format. Many of those in the community are unable to participate in virtual meetings. While the process to develop the GSPs remains on schedule, the COVID-19 pandemic undercut the process for critical community engagement.

Shortchanging the public engagement process is not consistent with the intent of SGMA or the desire of the GSAs.

We respectfully request your support to extend the deadline to submit the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek GSPs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" being more prominent than the last name "Lambert".

Steve Lambert, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Jim Nielsen
Assemblymember James Gallagher
Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources