



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

CORRESPONDENCE VINA STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From: "Buck, Christina" <CBuck@buttecounty.net>

Subject: RE: Basin Setting summaries request

Date: May 19, 2021 at 4:11:07 PM PDT

To: "'jimb@aqualliance.net'" <jimb@aqualliance.net>, "Gosselin, Paul" <PGosselin@buttecounty.net>, Tania Carlone <tcarlone@cbi.org>

Hi Jim,

Basin Setting drafts have gone out for public review in both the Corning and Colusa subbasins. Those documents which include water budgets and contour maps are available on their respective websites. This content is also available for the Vina subbasin, as you know, in the draft Basin Setting chapter (available <https://www.vinagsa.org/groundwater-sustainability-plan-gsp>).

<https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/>

<https://colusagroundwater.org/projects/groundwater-sustainability-plan/>

Having a shared understanding of the aquifer system and HCM is a critical component of interbasin coordination and long term groundwater management in the Sac Valley. Fortunately, there are largely shared datasets and reports being referenced by the Basin Setting work in these different subbasins (seasonal monitoring data, DWR Geology report of the Sac Valley etc.). There is also local data and reports that refine the regional understanding. It will take a significant effort, after GSPs are adopted, to evaluate the data and assumptions of the GSPs and work toward a truly coordinated HCM in the region. This is one of the proposed pillars of coordination. We've heard from stakeholders and decision makers in Butte County that this should be a priority.

But there is not the time, resources, or need to do that summary and evaluation now. **Interbasin evaluation work is not necessary for defining Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) or identifying Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).** The SMC seeks to identify the groundwater conditions at which undesirable results occur within the basin. This is independent of what causes those conditions and therefore they stand alone from interbasin interactions. Once SMCs are adopted throughout the region, then an evaluation of whether one subbasin's decisions prevent another subbasin from reaching sustainability. The evaluation of submitted GSPs is the earliest that an analysis could be conducted through an appropriate methodology. The approach on evaluating adjoining GSPs will require dialogue with adjoining GSAs and stakeholders. I look forward to delving into this process once the GSP is submitted. Additionally, an on-going effort to evaluate adjoining GSPs will need to be developed since conditions will change over the 20 year GSP planning period. I recognize that this may seem like kicking the can down the road. But the target for achieving sustainability including addressing the potential affects from adjoining subbasins is 2042, not 2022.

Regarding PMAs, based on the HCM of the Vina subbasin and content described in the Basin Setting chapter, the declines we see in the Vina subbasin are not caused by actions outside of the subbasin. There is an imbalance of recharge and pumping within the subbasin that needs to be addressed. The Vina GSA board has given direction that the imbalance we should plan for going forward is about 15,000 AF/yr.

Once the Interbasin Coordination Framework report that CBI is drafting is available, we could circle back to some of the monitoring and modeling data from the Basin Setting work in Butte County subbasins that inform us on interbasin flow. This would be helpful context when considering the nature of coordination that should be pursued with neighboring subbasins and along various shared boundaries.

Best,
Christina

From: jimb@aqualliance.net <jimb@aqualliance.net>

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:22 AM

To: Buck, Christina <CBuck@buttecounty.net>; Gosselin, Paul <PGosselin@buttecounty.net>; Tania Carlone <tcarlone@cbi.org>

Subject: Basin Setting summaries request

ATTENTION: This message originated from outside **Butte County**. Please exercise judgment before opening attachments, clicking on links, or replying.

Hi Christina,

What is the status of the Basin Setting/HCM documents in the GSAs in proximity to the Vina and Butte GSAs (including these two GSAs). It is my understanding that to develop the sustainable management criteria and subsequent PMAs DWR suggests starting with the hydrogeologic conceptual model and the water budget.:

<https://s29420.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BMP-2-Monitoring-Networks-and-Identification-of-Data-Gaps.pdf>

This figure shows the context of the BMPs as they relate to various steps to sustainability as outlined in the GSP Regulations.

According to the summary of the March 2 2021 Interbasin Coordination meeting

“Given current time and resource constraints, the group acknowledged they had set unrealistic expectations related to the ability to share, compare, and analyze technical information across subbasins to identify significant differences in the next few months. While some comparisons of model results will be possible over the next several months, technical teams will probably not have the ability to address discrepancies during initial GSP development.”

Early drafts of Basin Setting documents revealed critical discrepancies in model outcomes that determine the direction and volume of flow between GSA basins. These opposing model results form the basis of analyzing the efficacy of experimental recharge projects in Butte County and, conversely, the impacts of increased pumping and groundwater substitution water transfers out of Glenn/Colusa/Sutter/Counties.

An assessment of the uncertainty in the Hydrologic Conceptual Model components, along with the identification of data gaps of the physical system and water use practices in the

basin, are all necessary elements of the HCM. "Uncertainty" refers to a lack of understanding of the basin setting that significantly affects an Agency's ability to develop sustainable management criteria and appropriate projects and management actions in a Plan. It is important to adequately evaluate data gaps and uncertainties within a Hydrologic Conceptual Model as these data gaps often drive the types and locations of monitoring that should be conducted to reduce uncertainties in these conceptual model components. I like to think that the seasonal monitoring we have invested in can provide sufficient data to create groundwater elevation contour maps showing the spatial distribution of groundwater elevations and help identify areas of low and high groundwater level areas within a basin allowing us to predict and visualize interbasin flow direction.

Can you provide the SHAC with a summary of model and monitoring results that inform us on interbasin flow direction/volume? What discrepancies have been identified to date?

Thanks,

Jim Brobeck

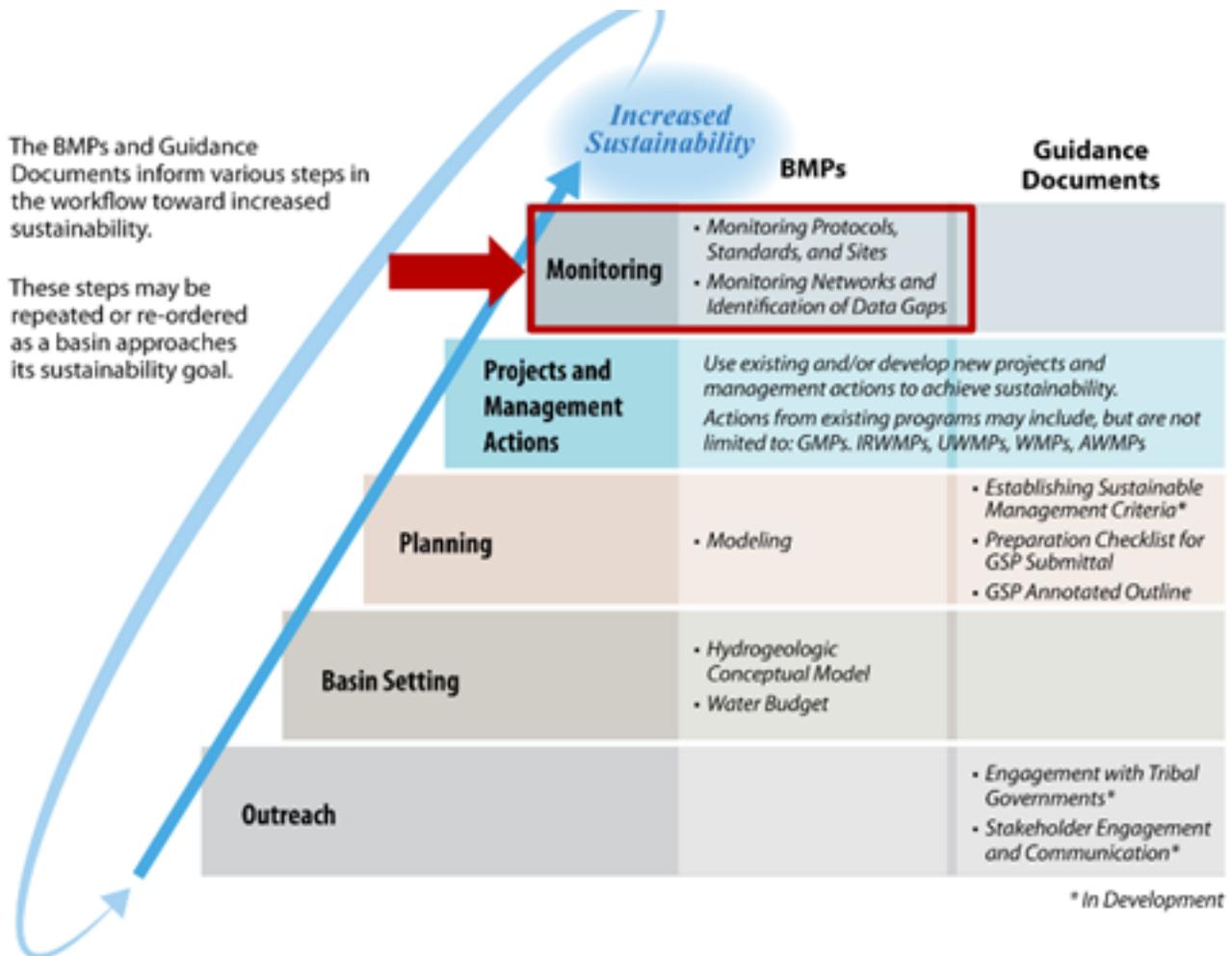


Figure 1 – Logical Progression of Basin Activities Needed to Increase Basin Sustainability

From: Mariana Rivera-Torres <mrivertorres@cbi.org>

Subject: PUBLIC NOTICE: Comments sought on Sustainable Management Criteria

Date: May 19, 2021 at 8:24:28 PM PDT

Cc: Tania Carlone <tcarlone@cbi.org>, "Gosselin, Paul" <pgosselin@buttecounty.net>, "Peterson, Kelly" <kpeter@buttecounty.net>, Linda Herman <linda.herman@chicoca.gov>, Erik Gustafson <erik.gustafson@chicoca.gov>, Kamie Loeser <kamie@kamieloeser.com>, Jeff Carter <jeff@jjcarterlaw.com>, Colin Klinesteker <cklinesteker@mechoopda-nsn.gov>, Christina Buck <cbuck@buttecounty.net>, Jon Lavy <jonlavy@comcast.net>, Darren Rice <almondfarmer@msn.com>, Joe Turner <JTurner@Geosyntec.com>, Bob Anderson <BAAnderson@Geosyntec.com>

Dear Vina SHAC Members,

We are writing to inform you that the Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Network Chapters for the Vina Subbasin are available for public review through **June 18, 2021**. You can find more information below.

Best regards,
Mariana

—
Mariana Rivera-Torres

Consensus Building Institute

520/528.0498 (cell)

mrivertorres@cbi.org | www.cbi.org

Watch our new video on CBI's work: <https://youtu.be/RniP-Q5fpPw>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Rock Creek Reclamation District
<vinagsa@gmail.com>

Subject: PUBLIC NOTICE: Comments sought on Sustainable Management Criteria

Date: May 19, 2021 at 4:10:00 PM PDT

To: tcarlone@cbi.org

Reply-To: vinagsa@gmail.com



Public Notice:
Comments Sought on the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria Chapter, Monitoring Networks Chapter and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Section

Drafts Available: <https://www.vinagsa.org/sustainable-management-criteria>

Public review drafts of the Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Network Chapters for the Vina subbasin are available for review and a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period ends on **June 18, 2021**.

The documents can be found online:

<https://www.vinagsa.org/sustainable-management-criteria>

To better organize public comments, we are requesting that commenters use a comment tracking sheet (available with the draft documents).

This [Cover Letter](#) provides important background on the drafts, highlights focus areas for public comment, and provides directions for submitting comments.

We look forward to your thoughts on the Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Network Chapters. This is a significant step in developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan in the Vina Subbasin.

Sustainability Indicators



Lowering
GW Levels



Reduction
of Storage



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface Water
Depletion

Sincerely,

Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency | www.vinagsa.org

Rock Creek Reclamation District | www.rockcreekreclamation.com

Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation | 308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA
95965

[Unsubscribe tcarlone@cbi.org](mailto:tcarlone@cbi.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by vinagsa@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



June 3, 2021

Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency
ATTN: Chair Ann Schwab
308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Chair Schwab,

On behalf of Governor Newsom, I first want to thank you for your dedicated leadership in your community during these challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic is a continuing and unprecedented global crisis and it has impacted our communities across California in many ways. I appreciate your attention to these impacts weighing on your community.

Your recent letter(s) submitted to the Governor requests an extension of the deadline for submitting your groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and highlights your concerns over your ability to ensure robust public outreach and stakeholder engagement with the limitations on public interaction resulting from COVID-19. We recognize the limitations all state and local entities have experienced with holding meetings virtually, especially in rural and mountainous areas where internet connectivity is less available and reliable. Despite these COVID-19 challenges, public agencies, such as yours, are continuing to provide their best efforts to ensure public engagement and oversight of activities in the public's interest.

With this in mind, a suspension or change to the submittal deadline cannot be granted. The GSP submittal process and deadline is in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which cannot be changed without an amendment to the law and approval by the Legislature. If a local agency does not submit a GSP by the statutory deadline, DWR is required to refer the basin to the State Water Board for intervention.

The Administration is committed to the central tenant of SGMA which is local control. To facilitate such, SGMA establishes a timeframe of 20 years for basins to achieve their sustainability goals and provides an outcome-based process for SGMA implementation to occur. Through this outcome-based process, local agencies have an opportunity to improve plans and continue public outreach over time. A number of DWR and other state agency assistance programs have been established to help with public outreach and to assist groundwater managers in maintaining local control throughout GSP development and implementation.

DWR values the working partnership with water managers in your basin, which have been established through continued dialogue and dedicated planning and financial assistance (summarized in Attachment A) to support your plan development and facilitate engagement among stakeholders. If you find your local outreach efforts lacking, even with this assistance and the efforts we have collectively undertaken, I encourage you to review the attached summary of state assistance (Attachment B) and reach out to my staff (identified below) so you can use all applicable programs that will aid in your local SGMA efforts.

For these reasons, I encourage you to continue working towards submitting your GSP by the statutory deadline. Within that plan, you may identify any data gaps, including how stakeholder engagement has been impacted by COVID-19, and document the next steps that will be taken to fill those gaps. As locals continue to conduct engagement efforts, GSAs can amend their plans at any time to reflect stakeholder input. This documentation in the GSP will allow DWR to understand your planning efforts and complete the

evaluation of your plan. Given this information, DWR will be able to align future assistance to continue to support locals in implementing their GSP and filling the specified data gaps.

Please contact Acting Deputy Director Steven Springhorn (Steven.Springhorn@water.ca.gov) or DWR's Northern Region Office Chief Teresa Connor (Teresa.Connor@water.ca.gov) if you have any additional questions, or if you need help in navigating moving forward.

Sincerely,



Karla A. Nemeth

cc:

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California

The Honorable Jim Nielsen, California State Senate

The Honorable James Gallagher, California State Assembly

Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, Rural County Representatives of California

Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties

Paul Gosselin, Water and Resource Conservation Director, Butte County

Enclosure:

Attachment A: Summary Table of DWR Facilitation and Grant Funding Support

Attachment B: Summary of Statewide SGMA Assistance (June 2021)

Attachment A:

Summary Table of DWR Facilitation and Grant Funding Support				
Subbasin	Funding Recipient	DWR Facilitation Funding	DWR Planning Funding	Total DWR Funding Support
Vina Subbasin, Butte Subbasin, Wyandotte Creek Subbasin	Butte County	\$173,000	\$1,498,800	\$1,725,800
Vina Subbasin	Vina GSA	\$54,000	--	
Big Valley Basin	County of Modoc GSA	\$82,000	\$987,660	\$2,068,845
	Lassen County	--	\$999,185	
Colusa Subbasin	Colusa County	\$112,000	--	\$2,171,600
	Colusa Groundwater Authority	\$60,000	\$1,999,600	

Attachment B:

Summary of Statewide SGMA Assistance (As of June 2021)

The State is committed to supporting locals to develop and implement their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). In addition to the two agencies (Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board) with defined roles in SGMA, there are other State agencies with existing programs that support local groundwater management. The following summarizes that assistance.

Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Since 2015 DWR has provided planning, technical, and financial assistance to support locals with SGMA implementation.

Planning Assistance

- **Basin Points of Contact/Regional Coordinators:** Each of the 94 high- and medium- priority basins are assigned a Point of Contact (POC) and a Regional Coordinator (RC) from DWR Region Offices. POCs and RCs assist Ground Sustainability Agencies and stakeholders in the basin to connect with DWR and locate resources for assistance. The following links contain each basin's POC and their respective contact information:
 - [Northern Region](mailto:Patricia.Vellines@water.ca.gov) – RC: Pat Vellines (Patricia.Vellines@water.ca.gov)
 - [North Central Region](mailto:Chelsea.Spier@water.ca.gov) – RC: Chelsea Spier (Chelsea.Spier@water.ca.gov)
 - [South Central Region](mailto:Amanda.Peisch@water.ca.gov) – RC: Amanda Peisch-Derby (Amanda.Peisch@water.ca.gov)
 - [Southern Region](mailto:Brian.Moniz@water.ca.gov) – RC: Brian Moniz (Brian.Moniz@water.ca.gov)
- **Facilitation Support Services (FSS):** Provides professional facilitators to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) foster discussions among diverse water management interest groups.
 - GSAs or other groups coordinating with the GSAs to develop GSPs, are eligible to apply on a continuous basis using the following link:
<https://sgma.gsa.water.ca.gov/SGMPUB/Facilitation/2020/FSSApp2020.aspx>
- **Written Translation Services (WTS):** Available to help GSAs, or other groups assisting in local SGMA implementation efforts, to communicate the groundwater planning activities with their non-English speaking constituents.
 - GSAs or other groups coordinating with the GSAs to develop GSPs, are eligible to apply on a continuous basis using the following link:
<https://sgma.gsa.water.ca.gov/SGMPUB/Translation/TranslationServiceRequest.aspx>

Technical Assistance

- **Technical Support Services (TSS):** Provides DWR technical staff and drilling and other contractors to assist GSAs with the installation of dedicated groundwater monitoring wells and other monitoring stations to fill data gaps identified in the basins.
 - For more information or help starting a TSS application, contact DWR's Region Coordinators at sgmp_rc@water.ca.gov
- **Data and Tools:** Statewide datasets and models have been developed to assist GSAs and the public by providing information to help inform the development of GSP elements. The following datasets and tools have been made available:

- Eight new online interactive maps for the public to view and download SGMA datasets: groundwater levels, wells, environmental, land use, and subsidence data
- A water resources management and planning model that simulates groundwater, surface water, stream-groundwater interaction (C2VSim-FG)
- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools>
- **Guidance and Education:**
 - [Six Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) and five Guidance Documents](#) to provide clarification, guidance, and examples to help GSAs develop elements of a GSP.
 - [California's Groundwater Update](#): State's official publication on the occurrence and nature of groundwater in California.

Financial Assistance

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Programs:**
 - **SGM Planning Grant Program:** provides funds to develop and implement sustainable groundwater planning and projects. Approximately \$150 million (M) has been awarded to date through three rounds of solicitations. Funding has been provided by Proposition 1 and Proposition 68.
 - **SGM Implementation Grant Program:** designed to fund projects and programs that will assist GSAs implement their GSPs. Proposition 68 authorized ~\$100M for this new program.
 - The FY 20/21 Budget directed the acceleration of \$26M for the critically overdrafted (COD) basins responsible for implementing GSPs or Alternatives to a GSP. Final awards for this first round were announced April 23, 2021.
 - The second round for the remaining funds will begin in early 2022.
- **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program:** provides funding for projects and programs that implement an IRWM Plan, including groundwater management projects. Approximately \$220M of Proposition 1 funding has been awarded in 2019/2020.
 - Another \$180M in Proposition 1 funds will be available in 2021-2022 timeframe.
- **Drainage Reuse Grant Program:** provides funds to local public agencies, including public universities, in the state of California for research and/or programs that resolve agricultural subsurface drainage water issues. The program is funded by Proposition 204, through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), who has entered into a memorandum of understanding to transfer the funds, as well as the responsibility for implementing the programs required by the legislation, to DWR. Approximately \$1.1M was awarded in 2020.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

SGMA requires the State Water Board protect basins that are not managed sustainably through a process called State Intervention. In addition to this responsibility, the State Water Board has initiated assistance that will support locals with SGMA implementation. Assistance has been organized and distributed by the following categories:

Planning Assistance

- **Recharge Permitting Options:** Capturing surface water to artificially recharge groundwater aquifers is a potential method for improving groundwater basin conditions. To help support this method, the Division of Water Rights has developed a streamlined permitting process for diversions of water from high flow events to underground storage.

- Streamlining is primarily achieved through identifying eligibility criteria and a simplified water availability analysis targeting diversion of high flow events during winter.
- Temporary water right permits for groundwater recharge may be appropriate for short-term projects where an urgent need exists.
- New legislation through AB 658 gave the State Water Board a new 5-year temporary permitting option, also authorizing a 5-year temporary change petition.

Technical Assistance

- **Water Availability Tool**: State Water Board staff has developed an interactive Fully Appropriated Stream Systems (FASS) GIS Web Map, which provides users with information on fully appropriated stream systems, including seasonal limitations, relevant court references, and Board decisions/orders.
 - The interactive map can be accessed online and includes an overview and quick reference guide.
 - State and Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers are included as separate layers in the web map, as those systems also have limitations on new water right applications.

Financial Assistance

- **Groundwater Grant Program**: will administer a total of \$800M to prevent and cleanup contamination of groundwater that serves (or has served) as a source of drinking water. The funds are available as planning grants and construction grants.
 - Round 3 Solicitation is expected to open in Summer 2021.
- **Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP)**: promotes the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater to augment fresh water supplies in California, by providing technical and financial assistance to agencies and other stakeholders in support of water recycling projects and research. The funds are available as planning grants and construction grants.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program**: provides low-interest loans to public agencies for planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects.
- **Small Community Funding**: is available to help small DACs, providing drinking water service to less than 10,000 people or wastewater service to less than 20,000 people, with: technical assistance needs, interim water supplies, and implement eligible drinking water or wastewater capital improvement projects. The funds are available as planning grants and construction grants.
- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program**: assists public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The funds are available as planning grants and construction grants.
- **Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program**: will administer \$74M in grants from Proposition 68 for treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water.

Department of Conservation (DOC)

The DOC offers financial incentive programs to further California's goals to conserve agricultural lands, restore and manage watersheds, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- **2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator (SGMA) Grant Program**: awards funding for watershed coordinators that will build broad coalitions of

government, stakeholders, and communities to develop plans and projects to improve watershed health and meet California's groundwater sustainability goals. Awarded \$1.5M in January 2021.

- **[Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation \(SALC\) Program](#)**: SALC is a component of the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. SALC complements investments made in urban areas with the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, development of agricultural land strategy plans, and other mechanisms that result in GHG reductions and a more resilient agricultural sector.
 - Draft Guidelines for Round 7 were released February 19, 2021

Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

CDFA supports agricultural production by incentivizing practices resulting in a net benefit for the environment through innovation, efficient management and science.

- **[State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#)**: provides grant funding to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy. Approximately, \$81.1M has been awarded to date to nearly 835 projects, covering over 137,000 acres. CDFA estimates that over 81,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions will be reduced annually.
- **[Healthy Soils Program \(HSP\)](#)**: consists of two components: the HSP Incentives Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects.
 - HSP Incentives Program provides financial assistance for implementation of conservation management that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2020 HSP Incentives Program selected 324 projects for award, requesting almost a total of \$22M.
 - HSP Demonstration Projects showcase California farmers and rancher's implementation of HSP practices. The 2020 HSP Demonstration Projects selected 20 projects for award, requesting a total of over \$2.9M.