



1 **Meeting Brief**

- 2 ➤ The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) met virtually on November 17, 2020.
- 3 ➤ **Meeting Notes:** The SHAC approved the previous meeting notes (9/15/20 and 10/20/20).
- 4 ➤ **Updates:** The SHAC received an update from the Vina GSA Management Committee,
- 5 including a newly created inter-basin coordination webpage to share updates and meeting
- 6 materials [[Access here](#)].
- 7 ➤ **Project and Management Actions (PMA):** The SHAC reviewed the scope of the PMAs and
- 8 continued the brainstorming conversation on the PMA ideas and concepts generated at the
- 9 October SHAC meeting [[access online board](#)]. SHAC members identified additional potential
- 10 PMAs and information needs. After some discussion, SHAC members determined they were
- 11 not ready to share levels of support about ideas generated until they had more information,
- 12 particularly related to the legal implications and a better understanding of terms.
- 13 ➤ **Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC):** The SHAC received an overview presentation of the
- 14 SMC key components and offered some preliminary comments and clarifying questions. The
- 15 SHAC will have a more in-depth SMC discussion during the next meeting.
- 16 ➤ **Next Meeting:** The SHAC will meet again via video conference on December 15, 2020 from
- 17 9:00-12:00.

DRAFT

18 **Action Items**

Item	Lead	Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include discussion about domestic well user representation during the December SHAC meeting. 	Vina GSA Management Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an additional map to illustrate recharge opportunities. 	Vina GSA Management Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and share a glossary of key terms related to PMAs 	Vina GSA Management Committee	

19 **Summary**

20 The Vina SHAC met on November 17, 2020 via video conference, as a result of COVID-19. 23

21 participants attended, including Vina SHAC members, GSA member agency staff, a technical

22 consultant, and members of the public. Below is a summary of key themes and next steps

23 discussed at the meeting. This document is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it

24 focuses on the main points covered during the group’s discussions.

26 **1. Introductions & Agenda Review**

27 The SHAC members, facilitator, technical consulting teams, and staff introduced themselves. The

28 facilitator gave a brief overview of the agenda.

30 **2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

31 A SHAC member shared he had received a call from an environmental stakeholder who expressed

32 concern with the lack of representation on the SHAC for flood zones (e.g., Cherokee Canal),



1 related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and flood control. P. Gosselin (Butte
 2 County) shared that the SHAC could suggest adding another member to the SHAC if warranted.
 3 Any interested party can attend the public meetings and can contact the Vina GSA Management
 4 Committee [see full list [here](#)]. In addition, D. Rice (Rock Creek Reclamation District) shared he will
 5 now be attending SHAC meetings. In collaboration with Butte County, Rock Creek Reclamation
 6 District will be conducting a feasibility study for flood control and recharge opportunities to
 7 mitigate flooding.

8 9 3. Meeting Notes Review & Consideration

10 The SHAC approved the revised 9/15/20 SHAC meeting notes [[access here](#)] and the 10/20/20
 11 SHAC meeting notes [[access here](#)].

12 4. Vina GSA Management Committee Reports

13 a) *Vina GSA Board Updates*: The next GSA Board Meeting is November 18th [more information
 14 on the [website](#)]. The Board will consider the approval of the revised Vina SHAC Charter, a
 15 cooperation agreement with Rock Creek Reclamation District, an update on facilitation
 16 support services, and other routine items. In addition, K. Loeser (Durham Irrigation District)
 17 will be sharing information for participation on a free Ethics online training. The training will
 18 include a presentation on the Brown Act.

19 b) *Inter-basin coordination updates*: Butte County has created an inter-basin coordination
 20 webpage on its website to share updates, meeting agendas, summaries and other meeting
 21 materials. The webpage is live and available at:
 22 [https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-
 23 Act/Inter-basin-Coordination](https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-Act/Inter-basin-Coordination)

24 25 Discussion | Public Comment

26 a) A SHAC member asked if the inter-basin coordination meetings were open to the public. The
 27 meetings remain at a staff-level, but meeting materials are publicly available.

28 29 5. Projects and Management Actions (PMA)

30 The SHAC received a presentation focused on PMAs purpose, criteria, and scope, building on
 31 the brainstorming conversation on PMA ideas and concepts [[access slides](#)]. Initially, the
 32 facilitation team intended to identify additional potential PMAs, review some of the
 33 information needs identified previously, and conduct initial polls to gage the SHAC members
 34 level of support for the PMA ideas generated from the October SHAC meeting [[access online
 35 board](#)]. After some discussion, SHAC members determined they were not ready to express
 36 levels of support until they had more information, particularly related to the legal implications,
 37 and a description of PMA terms related to groundwater recharge. Additionally, the SHAC was
 38 interested in a map showing potential recharge areas.

39 40 Discussion:



1 a) *Information Needs:* During the previous meeting, SHAC members identified a list of
 2 information needs. The list below identifies the information needs and the action taken to
 3 provide that information by the Vina GSA Management committee.
 4

Information Needs	Action Taken
Water Resources Element in General Plan 2030	In meeting materials [access here]
Updated model technical information	Shared via email on 10/16 [access correspondence here]
Existing relevant land use ordinances	Will be included in GSP General Plan paragraph
Information about voluntary inter-basin coordination agreements	Article 8 Inter-basin Agreements [Access here]
Information about Paradise-Chico Intertie	In meeting materials [access here]
Efficacy of recharge programs (regional studies and existing studies)	Will continue to be revisited
Legal implications	Will continue to be revisited
List of key terms	Will be provided at the December meeting

5
 6 In addition to the list of PMAs, the SHAC will identify a list of concerns or considerations to keep
 7 in mind for future regulatory measures to ensure the PMAs have a net benefit to the basin and
 8 will not negatively impact others. J. Turner (Geosytenc) also explained that recharge projects
 9 through the Water Board have to undergo analyses, studies, and permitting. As a suggestion, a
 10 SHAC member suggested including developing regulatory measures regarding recharge as a
 11 PMA for consideration.
 12

13 b) *Preliminary PMA ideas and concepts:* The table below captures a modified and classified list
 14 of preliminary PMAs generated from other GSPs and an initial brainstorming activity during
 15 the November SHAC meeting. During the meeting, the SHAC provided additional PMA ideas,
 16 shown below in red.
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Table 1. Modified List of PMAs (Nov 2020)

Type	Ideas and Concepts
Groundwater Recharge	Other recharge
	a) FloodMAR
	b) Recharge basins
	c) Stormwater recharge (land application)
	d) Injection wells
	e) Scientific analysis and report on recharge areas
	f) Develop regulatory measures (re. recharge)
	In-lieu recharge
	g) Paradise-Chico Connection
h) Table A Water	
i) Purchase other water sources (lower cost)	



	<p>Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Wastewater recycling (land application) k) Wastewater reuse (beyond traditional sewer) l) Wastewater “scalping”
Demand Management	<p>Multi-agency / incentive- based conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive-based groundwater pumping reductions • Irrigation efficiency (tax relief) • Promoting urban conservation / water efficient appliances • Encouraging native plants, drought-tolerant plants, and xeriscaping • Pressure regulated sprinklers • Automatic water metering technology • Rainwater harvesting / tanks • Domestic greywater catching systems for landscapes <p>Land-use agencies (City/County)/ Zoning Ordinances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low impact development / Green infrastructure • Preserving rice production • Swimming pool regulations • Moratorium on artificial lakes • Well moratorium • Preserving grazing lands – discouraging expansion of irrigated ag. • Well depth regulations <p>Vina GSA Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater pumping allocations (with metering) • Voluntary land fallowing • Non-native vegetation removal
Augment Stream Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental water purchase
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater contamination clean up (emerging contaminants)
Domestic Well Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening wells (consider removing) • Connecting to existing water purveyors (consider removing)
Other/ Cross-cutting projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS mapping of wells • Greater inter-agency coordination • Monitoring water use intensity and land use panel • Expansion of water districts to “white areas” • Coordination with general plan updates • Upper watershed work / forest management • Water markets

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c) Initial Polling & Temperature Check:

The SHAC began discussing levels of support regarding Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) [more information [access here](#)]. A few SHAC members expressed their support. One SHAC member requested a better map of potential recharge projects. One concern is that most of the projects illustrated in the map are focused on the western and southern parts of the Vina Basin, but very little focused on the northern area. Another SHAC member shared lack of support for recharge, due to previous experience with state water law. This member expressed distrust about the potential motives and goals behind the state’s encouragement of recharge, which may be driven by a desire to move water to other parts of California.



1 Other SHAC members highlighted that Joshua Pierce (Domestic Well User) has missed four
 2 consecutive meetings, raising concerns about appropriate representation from domestic well
 3 users during important discussions. This has been noted and will be brought to the Vina GSA
 4 Board meeting in December. Once the position is vacated, the GSA board may immediately seat
 5 a new representative from qualified applicants.

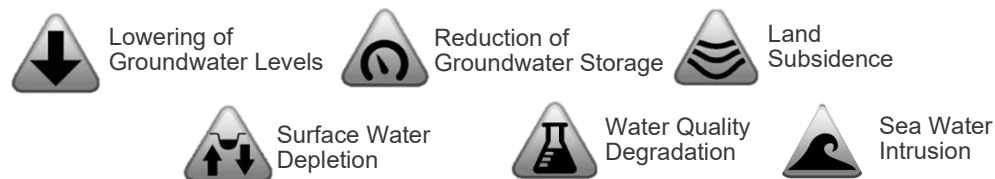
6
 7 After some discussion, SHAC members did not feel ready to express initial levels of support, as
 8 they need more information. Some of the key concerns include legal implications of recharge
 9 programs, consequences to rate payers (i.e., domestic ag. Pumpers), efficiency level at various
 10 depths, and the limitations of existing regional groundwater models. P. Gosselin (Butte County)
 11 shared that the various considerations will be addressed at a later stage (i.e., cost/benefit,
 12 efficacy, intended purpose, legal implications, etc.).

13
 14 Outcomes & Next Steps | PMAs

- 15 a) The Vina GSA Management Committee will provide a better map of potential recharge
 16 projects and a glossary of key terms identified in the brainstorming session. During the next
 17 meeting, they will gather additional terms or concepts to include in the glossary.
- 18 b) The facilitation team and management committee will revisit the approach for PMA
 19 discussions at future meetings.
- 20 c) Some of the SHAC’s suggestions for future PMA conversations include (1) starting with less
 21 controversial topics (e.g., demand management), (2) providing a paragraph describing key
 22 concepts to ensure all SHAC members are on the same page, (3) adding a survey alongside
 23 the terms or encouraging SHAC members to consider their likes and dislikes before the next
 24 PMA discussion, and (4) providing more information about legal implications and efficiency
 25 of artificial recharge.

26
 27 6. Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Overview - Discussion

28 The SHAC received an overview presentation and held preliminary discussion of SMC key
 29 components in preparation for a more in-depth SMC discussion at December SHAC meeting
 30 [access [presentation slides](#) | [Best Management Practices report](#)]. The SMC is the umbrella that
 31 includes: Sustainability Goal (qualitative), Undesirable Results (quantitative), Minimum
 32 Thresholds (quantitative), and Measurable Objectives (quantitative). Overall, sustainability is
 33 demonstrated by the avoidance of Undesirable Results for the six sustainability indicators below.
 34 What is considered “significant and unreasonable” is determined by local GSAs and stakeholders.





1 Discussion | SMC

- 2 a) *Modeling*: In response to a SHAC member's question about modeling, C. Buck (Butte County)
 3 explained that one of the requirements is to quantify the "sustainable yield number."
 4 However, pumping within sustainable yield is not evidence for sustainable management.
 5 Modeling plays a role, helping identify sustainable conditions and guide decision making;
 6 however, a model cannot be used to claim sustainability. It needs to be backed by monitoring
 7 data. Further, J. Turner (Geosyntec) shared that every management action or project
 8 proposed has to address undesirable results identified.
- 9 b) *Funding and implementation*: One SHAC member asked when and by whom is the decision
 10 of how the PMAs will be financed. J. Turner (Geosyntec) explained that part of the PMA
 11 criteria to be assessed includes how projects will be funded and when. Not all projects need
 12 to be funded by the GSA; some projects can be implemented by private individuals, which
 13 may reduce costs. The PMA chapter will identify cost and funding source. For example, if a
 14 GSA would like to facilitate local recharge Flood MAR by drafting a programmatic CEQA
 15 online. The decision-making body is the Vina GSA.
- 16 c) *Groundwater levels as a proxy*: J. Turner (Geosyntec) explained the GSA can choose to use
 17 groundwater levels as a proxy to measure groundwater storage, land subsidence, surface
 18 water depletion, etc.
- 19 d) *Regional Modeling*: A SHAC member highlighted that the DWR Best Management Practices
 20 report shared described the benefits of developing models that encompass the whole region.
 21 This ties to his concern that demand from Glenn and Colusa will prevent Vina from achieving
 22 sustainability goals. He suggested using maps and figures to communicate modeling output
 23 with the public. C. Buck (Butte County) shared that one of regional models is SVSIM,
 24 developed by DWR, with the objective to understand impacts to streams by potential
 25 groundwater transfers. This model did not come out in time for Butte County's Basin Setting
 26 process, but neighbors to the north are using it, providing an opportunity to compare across
 27 models, complement our understanding, and refine the approach at the 5-year update.

28
 29 Outcomes & Next Steps | SMC

- 30 a) J. Turner (Geosyntec) is preparing a presentation in the next months. This presentation
 31 will include "strawman" SMC statements to get the SHAC's opinion, based on experience
 32 in other basins. It is up to all the stakeholders to define what is sustainable. Geosyntec
 33 will share scientific information and proposals, and the SHAC will have the opportunity to
 34 ask questions, share concerns, and propose modifications.
- 35 b) A. Hussein (Geosyntec) will lead the PMA process and looks forward to the SHAC's input
 36 on how to frame PMAs in the GSP. Based on his experience in other subbasins, he shared
 37 that the fact that the SHAC is actively engaged and providing feedback is key for the
 38 success of a GSP. He highlighted that one of the key portions of GSP is the implementation
 39 section (post Feb 2021). Some GSPs are going well and others are having to revisit or
 40 relitigate some of the issues that could have been solved during GSP development.

41 7. Next Steps

42 The Vina SHAC will reconvene on December 15, 2020 from 9am-12pm via videoconferencing.



1 Participants

Participant	Representation/Affiliation	Present
Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) Members		
Anne Dawson	Domestic well user	Y
Bruce Smith	Business representative	Y
Cheri Chastain	CSU Chico	Y
Christopher Madden	Butte College	Y
Gary Cole	Agricultural well user	Y
George Barber	California Water Service	Y
Greg Sohnrey	Agricultural well user	Y
James Brobeck	Environmental representative	Y
Joshua Pierce	Domestic well user	N
Samantha Lewis	Agricultural well user	Y
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Member Agency Representatives		
Christina Buck	Butte County	Y
Paul Gosselin	Butte County	Y
Kelly Peterson	Butte County	Y
Linda Herman	City of Chico	Y
Erik Gustafson	City of Chico	Y
Jeff Carter	Durham Irrigation District	N
Kamie Loeser	Durham Irrigation District	Y
Colin Klinesteker	Mechoopda Indian Tribe	Y
Darren Rice	Rock Creek Reclamation District	Y
Technical Consultants		
Joe Turner	Geosyntec	Y
Amer Hussain	Geosyntec	Y
Facilitator		
Tania Carlone	Consensus Building Institute	Y
Mariana Rivera-Torres	Consensus Building Institute	Y

2 Approximately four members of the public attended the meeting.