



1 **Meeting Brief**

- 2 ➤ The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) met virtually on August 17, 2021 [[Access](#)
- 3 [Recording Here](#)].
- 4 ➤ **Overview of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Components and Public Review**
- 5 **Process and Timeline:** The SHAC received a presentation of a high-level overview of GSP
- 6 chapters to orient the SHAC to the complete draft GSP before public release. The public had
- 7 an opportunity to provide comment [[Access Draft GSP Overview Presentation](#)].
- 8 ➤ **Outreach and Engagement:** The SHAC discussed outreach and engagement strategies for
- 9 public review of draft GSP and provided input to the Management Committee. The public had
- 10 an opportunity to comment [[Access GSP Public Review Process & Timeline Presentation; Draft](#)
- 11 [GSP Outreach & Engagement Presentation](#)].
- 12 ➤ **Tuscan Water District LAFCO Application Discussion:** The SHAC received an overview
- 13 presentation from a Tuscan Water District representative and asked clarifying questions. The
- 14 SHAC discussed potential recommendations to the Vina GSA board regarding Vina GSA
- 15 comments to LAFCO. The public had an opportunity to provide comment [[Access Tuscan](#)
- 16 [Water District presentation; Management Committee staff report](#)].
- 17 ➤ **Next Meeting:** The SHAC will meet again via video conference on October 19, 2021, from
- 18 9:00-12:30. The September meeting is canceled.

19 **Action Items**

Item	Lead	Completion
• Share estimated expenditure in consultancy services for GSP development.	CBI & Management Committee	Emailed on August 20, 2021
• Include management area boundaries and main roads in the Vina Subbasin maps.	Management Committee	
• Revise and upload approved Vina SHAC notes (6/15/21 and 7/20/21) to the website.	CBI & Management Committee	<a href="#">[Access Here]</a>
• Review and ensure consistency in GDE maps and figures (Figure 4 and Figure 6)	Butte County	
• Review and ensure consistency with GSP Chapter numbering (i.e., PMA Chapter)	Management Committee	
• Post SHAC meeting recording on the website.	CBI & Management Committee	<a href="#">[Access Here]</a>

20 **Summary**

21 The Vina SHAC met on August 17, 2021, via video conference, because of COVID-19. Participants

22 included Vina SHAC members, GSA member agency staff, technical consultants, representatives

23 from the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR), and members of the public. Below is a

24 summary of key themes and next steps discussed at the meeting. This document is not intended

25 to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the group’s



1 discussions. The video-conference meeting recording is available on the Vina GSA website  
2 [\[Access Here\]](#).

3

4 1. Introductions & Agenda Review (0:00:00)

5 The SHAC members, facilitator, technical consulting teams, and staff introduced themselves. The  
6 facilitator gave a brief overview of the agenda.

7

8 2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda (0:04:55)

9 *SHAC Comments:*

- 10 • S. Goepf (domestic well user) referred to a letter he provided on July 20, 2021, which is  
11 included in the Correspondence Document in the agenda packet [\[Access Here\]](#). S. Goepf  
12 expressed concerns related to the 2014 Bond Act related to the expenditure of taxpayer  
13 money invested in studies instead of water storage infrastructure. He would like to receive  
14 an estimate from staff on how much money has been spent for consultants in the Vina  
15 Subbasin.

16

17 *Public Comments:*

- 18 • A member of the public shared an update on a report received during the last Board of  
19 Supervisors' meeting related to Oroville Dam, which highlighted concerns related to DWR's  
20 handling of the SGMA process and the quality of technical information related to domestic  
21 wells.

22

23 3. Meeting Notes (00:06:15)

24 The Vina SHAC reviewed and approved the 6/15/21 and 7/20/21 SHAC meeting notes [\[Access  
25 Here\]](#).

26

27 *SHAC Comments:*

- 28 • S. Lewis (ag representative) would like to modify the PMA Table in P.3 to state "initial  
29 target" rather than planned.
- 30 • S. Goepf (domestic well user) would like to know how much water is released by the  
31 City of Chico into the Sacramento River.
- 32 • A. Dawson (domestic well user) expressed disappointment with the Vina GSA Board's  
33 decision to negate the target of 15,000 acre-feet and to convene an *ad hoc* committee  
34 for reevaluation. She pointed out the data clearly shows the last 20 years do not  
35 represent the past decades.
- 36 • D. Kehn (CalWater) asked for an update on the timing and task for the *ad hoc*  
37 committee. The group will be reviewing the Projects and Management Actions (PMA)  
38 Chapter and revisit some of the language in the projects, in track changes.

39

40 The Vina SHAC voted on the approval of the 6/15/21 meeting notes. The meeting notes were  
41 approved.




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Yes A. Dawson, J. Brobeck, G. Sohnrey, G. Cole, B. Smith, C. Chastain, D. Kehn, S. Goepf, S. Lewis

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2 The Vina SHAC voted on the approval of the 7/20/21 SHAC meeting notes, pending the minor  
3 changes made. The meeting notes were approved.

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Yes A. Dawson, J. Brobeck, G. Sohnrey, G. Cole, B. Smith, C. Chastain, D. Kehn, S. Goepf, S. Lewis

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4  
5 4. Overview of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Components and Public Review  
6 Process and Timeline: (0:22:52)

7  
8 The SHAC received a presentation of a high-level overview of GSP chapters to orient the SHAC to  
9 the complete draft GSP before being released for public review. The public had an opportunity  
10 to provide comment [Access [Draft GSP Overview Presentation](#)].

11  
12 *GSP Components*

- 13     ▶ **Executive Summary**
- 14     ▶ **Chapter 1 - Agency Information, Plan Area, Communication:** This chapter includes  
15 agency information, plan area, management programs, data sources, and  
16 communication.
- 17     ▶ **Chapter 2 - Basin Setting:** This chapter includes the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model  
18 (HCM), Groundwater Conditions, and the Water Budget.
- 19     ▶ **Chapter 3 - Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC):** This chapter includes the  
20 Sustainability Goal, Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds, and Interim Milestones  
21 for the different Sustainability Indicators (i.e., Groundwater Levels, Groundwater Storage,  
22 Groundwater Quality, Seawater Intrusion, Land Subsidence, and Interconnected Surface  
23 Waters).
- 24     ▶ **Chapter 4 - Monitoring Networks:** This chapter describes objectives and monitoring  
25 programs for the SMC (e.g., Groundwater Levels, Groundwater Quality, Land Subsidence,  
26 etc.). It also covers monitoring protocols for data collection, representative monitoring  
27 sites, and the network assessment and improvements.
- 28     ▶ **Chapter 5 – Projects and Management Actions:** This chapter includes projects and  
29 management actions. The project portion describes project identification, project  
30 implementation, list of projects (i.e., planned, potential, and conceptual projects),  
31 notification process, and management actions.
- 32     ▶ **Chapter 6 – Implementation:** This chapter includes an estimate of costs, funding  
33 alternatives, schedule, data management system, annual reporting, evaluation report,  
34 and inter-basin coordination.
- 35     ▶ **Chapter 7 – References**
- 36     ▶ **Chapter 8 – Appendices**



1 *SHAC Discussion:*

2 Chapter 2- Basin Setting

- 3 - J. Brobeck (environmental rep) shared that an attorney from the Department of Water  
 4 Resources (DWR) clearly stated they will not allow subbasins to double count water. He  
 5 is concerned with inconsistencies between the hydrological models' calculation of cross-  
 6 basin boundary flows into the water budgets. He encouraged the consultants and staff to  
 7 take a close look at basin settings & HCM to ensure there are no significant inconsistencies  
 8 and therefore avoid the risk of DWR not approving the plans. C. Buck (Butte County)  
 9 shared DWR will go beyond the estimated water budgets and evaluate the PMAs  
 10 described to address the diverse Sustainability Indicators to get a fuller picture of cross-  
 11 boundary interactions and impacts. C. Buck highlighted that part of the inter-basin  
 12 coordination efforts could include circling back with the technical consulting teams once  
 13 the plans are out. The biggest anticipated challenge will likely be closer to the border of  
 14 Butte and Colusa subbasins. Davids Engineering will take a closer look. J. Brobeck worried  
 15 the tight timelines are leading to rushing things through. He would like to consult with  
 16 Valerie Kincaid to avoid running into legal problems later.
- 17 - B. Smith (business rep) appreciated the inclusion of the AEM study and the correlation  
 18 with electric logs. He suggested clarifying the AEM study included the area to the west of  
 19 Chico (beyond the subbasin boundary).
- 20 - A. Dawson (domestic well owner) would like the subbasin map to delineate the  
 21 management areas and the main roads/streets to help people know where they are, in  
 22 relation to the monitoring wells.

23 Chapter 3 Monitoring Networks & Chapter 4 Sustainable Management Criteria

24 J. Turner (Geosyntec) highlighted the technical team used a polygon approach rather than a  
 25 radius approach.

- 26 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) stated using the historic low as the MO is problematic and  
 27 reaching the MT even temporarily would lead to devastating impacts. He was struck by  
 28 comments by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National  
 29 Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). J. Brobeck wondered when the Management Committee  
 30 and the GSA will respond to the comments provided. He is concerned with the lack of  
 31 adequate consideration of their concerns. C. Buck (Butte County) shared staff compiled the  
 32 comments and provided the compilation to the Board. The Board provided direction and  
 33 made the decision to go for the MT and MO outlined in draft chapter, which were adjusted  
 34 based on the polygon approach. The SHAC and the public will have more opportunities to  
 35 comment when the full draft is out for review. Timing of responses to comments is yet to  
 36 be determined. J. Turner (Geosyntec) shared the data gaps for surface water depletion will  
 37 be filled during GSP implementation and the SMC will be revised accordingly.



- 1 • A. Dawson (domestic well owner) shared her frustration with the process followed at a prior  
2 GSA Board meeting, when the GSAs made the decision to use the polygon approach. The  
3 analysis conducted was not presented to the SHAC for discussion, and she felt the process  
4 was pushed by the Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA. She is particularly concerned with  
5 the result of those changes being that the MT in South Chico dropped 20-30 feet.
- 6 • B. Smith (business rep) shared he looked at DWR's webpage to look at monitoring data and  
7 assess whether Glenn County Irrigation District (GCID)'s emergency pumping was impacting  
8 the Vina Subbasin conditions. He expressed concern with the inability to access hourly  
9 measures. J. Turner (Geosyntec) shared the subbasin will develop a data management  
10 system to have data readily available. C. Buck (Butte County) clarified the ability to update  
11 the data management system will be limited by when the data is downloaded and posted.  
12 B. Smith highlighted that while monitoring is important, the subbasin needs a plan to make  
13 data accessible right away, particularly when considering drought implications and future  
14 recharge projects.
- 15 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) expressed concern that many monitoring wells in the  
16 Monitoring Network do not meet the criteria for selection. Some do not have listed screen  
17 intervals; others have screens with broad ranged, which in his view are not suitable for  
18 monitoring.

#### 19 Chapter 5: Projects and Management Actions

- 20 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) expressed concern with the Tuscan Water District's intention  
21 to extend water production through aquifer recharge as a strategy to achieve sustainability.
- 22 • D. Kehn (CalWater) shared the chapter numbers do not align between the chapters released  
23 and the website (e.g., PMA is said to be Chapter 5 and 6). J. Turner (Geosyntec) clarified the  
24 PMA Chapter is Chapter 5. The Management Committee will ensure the website is  
25 consistent.

#### 27 *Public Comment:*

- 28 • A member of the public asked what chapter would characterize the discrepancies between  
29 hydrological models used in neighboring subbasins and how the plan would characterize  
30 gaps in knowledge and data, including stream depletion and inter-basin flows. They would  
31 like to ensure the gaps in knowledge are accurately characterized and would like to ensure  
32 public comments are responded to in a way that is legally compliant. Lastly, they suggested  
33 writing a formal request to DWR for timely data availability during drought and ensuring the  
34 SHAC members' work and time are honored and recognized during the process. J. Turner  
35 (Geosyntec) shared the model will be reevaluated and updated during GSP implementation  
36 (every 5 years). Data gaps will be clearly identified, and the implementation schedule will  
37 indicate how the gaps will be filled and addressed. The GSP will also indicate how public  
38 comments will be responded to.



- 1 • A member of the public objected to the procedure followed and lack of substantial
- 2 information backing the GSA decision to change the SMC without the SHAC’s review and
- 3 evaluation. Further, they suggested bringing in Valerie Kincaid to analyze the process
- 4 followed between the GSA Board and the Vina SHAC and would like to ensure the serious
- 5 concerns raised by the SHAC are not avoided. Further, drought concerns would need to be
- 6 addressed prior to the five-year reviews.
- 7 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) highlighted “data gaps” are not the same as the model
- 8 discrepancies between neighboring subbasins. He stated response to questions and
- 9 comments raised during public review should occur during GSP development. Waiting until
- 10 the GSP is fully drafted and during GSP implementation would stunt the advisory board and
- 11 the public’s ability to influence local actions and decisions.

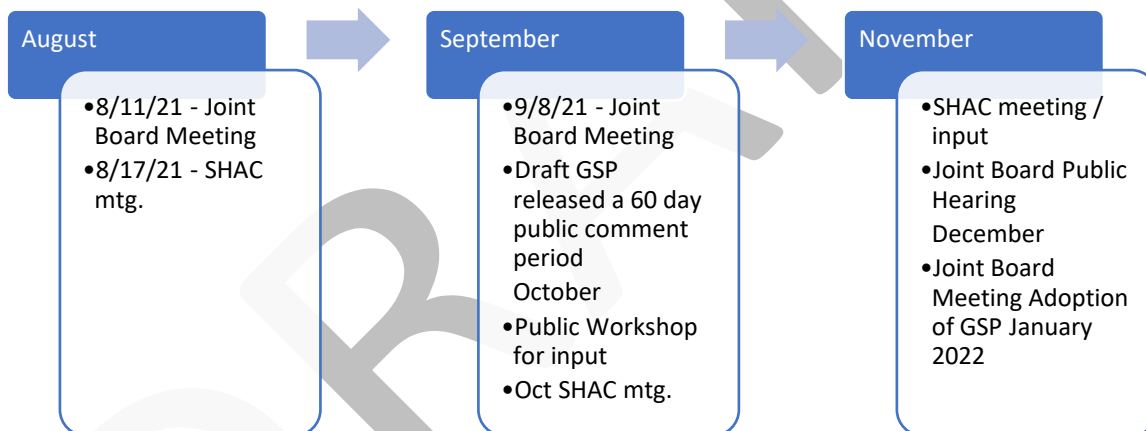
12

13 5. Outreach and Engagement for Public Release of Draft GSP (01:13:05)

14 The SHAC reviewed the draft GSP public review process and timeline [[GSP Public Review](#)

15 [Process & Timeline Presentation](#)]. The timeline is also summarized in the figure below.

16



17

18 *Public GSP Workshop (01:17:29)*

19 CBI provided an overview presentation to share initial thoughts and gather SHAC input for the

20 public GSP workshop to be held in October 2021. The presentation included workshop

21 description, desired objectives, initial thoughts on design, and other considerations [[Access](#)

22 [Slides](#)]. SHAC members were encouraged to attend and spread the word.

23

24 *SHAC Feedback:*

- 25 • Find ways to reach stakeholders, who may not be as informed about the GSP development
- 26 process. A priority area is North Vina.
- 27 • Include details and information related to data gaps at the stations.
- 28 • Some SHAC members are very concerned about Covid-19 and the new variants and would
- 29 like to ensure there is a virtual meeting option.





- 1 • People, not as familiar with SGMA, will be overwhelmed with the amount of information.
- 2 Include charts and other visuals to promote understanding. Keep information high level and
- 3 clear.
- 4 • Full group discussions are preferred over breakout groups to foster shared understanding.
- 5 Allow participants to ask questions together.
- 6 • Keep the meeting short. Prepare an elevator speech per station.
- 7 • Consider using Next Door as a platform to advertise. A. Dawson (domestic well rep) offered
- 8 to post information once available.
- 9 • Consider recording webinar portions and post online. Provide many opportunities for
- 10 comment.
- 11 • Share information about SHAC and GSA Board members.
- 12 • Frequently asked questions:
  - 13 ○ Connection between SGMA, current drought conditions, and proposed PMAs
  - 14 ○ How are acute drought impacts accounted/considered?
  - 15 ○ Support and resources available for wells going dry
  - 16 ○ What is covered/not covered by SGMA
  - 17 ○ Who is creating the plans and who do they represent? How can the public provide
  - 18 input?

19  
20

## 21 6. Tuscan Water District LAFCO Application Discussion (1:37:00)

22

23 The SHAC received an overview presentation from Tovey Giezentanner regarding the Tuscan  
 24 Water District (TWD) LAFCO Application. The full application is available online [[access here](#)].  
 25 Butte County Staff prepared a summary of the TWD proposal, analysis and a series of specific  
 26 issues for the Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) to consider for a potential  
 27 recommendation to the Vina GSA Board. The SHAC discussed potential recommendations from  
 28 SHAC regarding Vina GSA comments to LAFCO. The public had an opportunity to provide  
 29 comment [Access [Tuscan Water District presentation; Management Committee staff report](#)].  
 30

30

### 31 *SHAC Discussion*

- 32 • S. Goepp (domestic well user) asked why the Vina GSA Board plans to hold a closed session.
- 33 C. Buck shared the GSA had a conversation with Valerie Kincaid, legal counsel, about the
- 34 potential relationship in the future and thought it would be appropriate to have a closed
- 35 session to explore. A member of the public expressed concern with having those meetings
- 36 without public participation.
- 37 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) highlighted the application mentions recharge programs
- 38 various times, while the presenter did not reference recharge as part of their primary
- 39 purpose. J. Brobeck is concerned about the controversy surrounding the TWD application
- 40 and the legal implications of recharge. Further, he asked the presenter to provide the names
- 41 for the largest landowners and greater clarity about how assessments or payments would
- 42 be estimated in the future. J. Brobeck disagreed with the claim that Butte County cannot



- 1 implement PMAs and expressed distrust of the TWD anticipated project activities related to  
2 water transfers and recharge. T. Giezentanner highlighted the primary purpose for the  
3 proposed district is to support PMAs that would achieve sustainability. The first step is to  
4 form the Water District; once it's formed the district would look at PMAs to pursue. The  
5 presenter highlighted the various levels of constraints in place (i.e., the GSAs, regulations,  
6 ordinances, and rules in place. Butte County has the authority and power to protect  
7 groundwater and a considerable public process is required before pursuing any specific  
8 projects. T. Giezentanner highlighted the intent to be consistent with projects and programs  
9 authorized by local GSPs and encouraged SHAC members to review more details available in  
10 the application [[access here](#)]. Further, T. Giezentanner highlighted all petitions are public  
11 information, and the SHAC can look at the individual names of all involved, including the  
12 largest landowners.
- 13 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) shared the presenter didn't mention that some entities  
14 supporting the district are not local. He is concerned that one of the intentions is to break  
15 up representation of the board into subgroups, which could remove domestic well  
16 representative from the board. He does not see the need for another agency with  
17 taxing/assessment capabilities and shared the GSAs in place should suffice to implement the  
18 GSP.
  - 19 • B. Smith (business rep) shared he did not get the feeling while reading the application that  
20 TWD was attempting to hide the possibility of recharge projects nor did he detect any hidden  
21 agenda. He has many farmer friends and understands the rationale for supporting the  
22 formation of the district; however, B. Smith is concerned with politics and would like the  
23 know more information about the number of people involved or impacted by the decision  
24 to form the district. Stakeholders in Butte County will vote and rally, so he encouraged the  
25 proponents to carefully consider the politics at play.
  - 26 • G. Cole (ag representative) shared that one of the purposes behind the district is to raise  
27 funds. The amount of money fundraised from landowners is significant. Further, bypassing  
28 mention of the recharge projects the district would pursue raises issues of transparency.
  - 29 • G. Sohnrey (ag representative) shared other districts nearby are engaging in water recharge  
30 projects, including Western Water Canal that holds primary and secondary water rights. In  
31 wet years, Western Water Canal users rely on surface water and recharge additional flows,  
32 while in dry years users rely on groundwater. Recharge had historically happened and will  
33 likely take place in the future. The proposal presented is not referring to transfers outside of  
34 the county, and PMAs will need to be approved by the Vina GSA. Raising money will allow  
35 water users the ability to leverage resources and pursue funding together that cannot be  
36 pursued individually. He is a domestic user and represents agricultural users; he does not  
37 want to negatively impact domestic well users and disagrees with divisive narratives.
  - 38 • A. Dawson (domestic well owner) would like more information about the largest four  
39 landowners, the amount of land they own, and how many seats they would occupy on the  
40 TWD board. Having one seat for domestic well users seems like a token. If the goal is to  
41 represent domestic well owners and small users, then they should consider changing the





- 1 voting structure to be one owner, one vote. This arrangement would be more equitable and  
 2 lead to less suspicion.
- 3 • C. Chastain (CSU Chico) encouraged updating the TWD's website to include all the supporting  
 4 information and to foster a greater level of transparency. T. Giezentanner agreed to provide  
 5 the link to the website with all the information and did not want to single individual people  
 6 out.

#### 8 *Public Comment*

- 9 • A member of the public asked for more information about the petitioners owning the two  
 10 largest farms. Based on the maps provided, the top four landowners own 54% of the land.
- 11 • A member of the public highlighted the resolution of the application will be discussed and  
 12 reconsidered in the future, especially given all the recent changes (e.g., spillways, fires,  
 13 floods, canal acquisitions, recent land-use change decisions, and Covid-19 implications).  
 14 There are around 6,500 people in the proposed district, most of whom do not know about  
 15 the formation of TWD. The real issue is one of policy and anticipated changes/objectives for  
 16 the next two decades. A conversation at the board level to define the County's Department  
 17 of Water and Resource Conservation's role is warranted.
- 18 • A public member asked how many of the small farmers would have to vote together to  
 19 override 1 vote from one of the largest landowners. It seems like a vast majority would be  
 20 needed. Further, they expressed concern with the impacts to urban forests and the  
 21 consequences to the shallow aquifer when the deep aquifer is over drafted. C. Buck shared  
 22 the Basin Setting chapter has additional content to describe the connection [[access here](#)].
- 23 • Lastly, a member of the public expressed concern about small farmers that could be quickly  
 24 paid off by larger scale landowners. This public member was concerned with the business  
 25 model outlined in application and the use of public funds to benefit individuals.

#### 27 *SHAC Recommendations*

28 Vina GSA Staff highlighted a series of recommendations for SHAC's input and consideration,  
 29 outlined in the Staff Memo [[Access Here](#)].

- 30 • C. Chastain (CSU Chico) shared based on the information presented, she did not feel she  
 31 had enough information and understanding to answer the questions outlined, without  
 32 knowing the scope of actual projects. She did notice significant red flags.
- 33 • C. Buck (Butte County) reframed the question to ask the SHAC what role they see the Vina  
 34 GSA taking to implement the GSP in the subbasin. Under the current structure, the GSA  
 35 was formed with a JPA and does not have employees on their own but can contract staff.  
 36 The SHAC can help inform how the GSA interacts with other agencies and entities, as well  
 37 as what tasks fall under its jurisdiction.
- 38 • B. Smith (business rep) would like to revisit this question with additional time. He felt the  
 39 presentation was limited and one-sided. He believes the voting structure is questionable  
 40 and strongly suggests revisiting it.
- 41 • D. Kehn (CalWater) did not feel comfortable agreeing or disagreeing to any of the  
 42 recommendations without a basis of comparison.



- 1 • S. Goepf (domestic well rep) shared he tends to be a supporter of special districts because  
2 they are more efficient. However, he needs more time to think about this.
- 3 • A. Dawson (domestic well rep) shared her perspective on the questions posed. If the TWD  
4 functions as proposed, (1) she believes it would help the overall management of surface  
5 irrigation water and groundwater resources within the Vina sub-basin, Butte County and the  
6 region; yet, it could be a threat to the overall agricultural water supply in Butte County or  
7 otherwise compromise the ability of existing local water agencies to protect the current  
8 water supply available to the residents and irrigation water users in Butte County. She is  
9 concerned with a hidden agenda.
- 10 • J. Brobeck (environmental rep) provided written comments included below.
- 11 ○ *What affect, if any, will this proposal have on the operations and functions of*  
12 *your agency?* This proposal will hijack the Vina GSA Stakeholder's Advisory  
13 Committee's influence on the nascent Project Management Action development  
14 by prioritizing expensive experimental aquifer recharge infrastructure over  
15 rational demand management through efficiency, conservation, and delayed  
16 orchard redevelopment.
- 17 ○ *Does your agency believe the formation of the proposed TWD will help or hinder*  
18 *the overall management of surface irrigation water and groundwater resources*  
19 *within the Vina sub-basin, Butte County, and the region?* The projects  
20 envisioned by the TWD require making use of existing senior water diversion  
21 rights by expanding the use of diverted river water into historically absent  
22 irrigation purposes. This may jeopardize senior claims to the need for the water.  
23 The legal consequences of experimental in-lieu recharge include the possibility  
24 that recharge projects may underestimate the amount of water that migrates or  
25 is "lost", which could result in allowing the recharger to extract more water than  
26 is reasonable, which could result in decreasing the amount of water available for  
27 overlying groundwater users.
- 28 ○ *Should the TWD be approved and formed, would your agency be willing to enter*  
29 *into cooperative agreements or studies with the TWD to examine methods of*  
30 *maintaining or enhancing local groundwater supplies?* Agreements between the  
31 VGSA would need to be fully vetted to understand the legal and hydrological  
32 consequences of the experimental and expensive water transfer and recharge  
33 projects clearly envisioned by the TWD application.
- 34 ○ *Would you agree or disagree, that the proposed formation of the TWD would be*  
35 *a threat to the overall agricultural water supply in Butte County or otherwise*  
36 *compromise the ability of existing local water agencies to protect the current*  
37 *water supply available to the residents and irrigation water users in Butte*  
38 *County?* I agree that the projects envisioned by the TWD to engage in water  
39 import, transfer and recharge within the Vina and a portion of the Butte Sub-  
40 basins could lead to the integration of the Tuscan Aquifer System into the state  
41 water supply through conjunctive use and thereby threaten the local control of  
42 the Aquifer System to meet the goal of maintaining groundwater levels adequate



1 to sustain municipal, agricultural and domestic use and the quality of streams  
2 and groundwater dependent vegetation.

- 3 • G. Cole (ag representative) shared it may be premature to offer a recommendation, as the  
4 proposed role seems to be almost in competition with the GSA and could be a threat to  
5 groundwater in Butte County. He would like to reconsider in the future.
- 6 • G. Sohnrey (ag representative) shared his positive experiences in TWD meetings he has  
7 attended. He has not felt a competition between bigger, smaller farmers, and domestic  
8 users. The conversation has focused on how to protect the aquifer for future generations.  
9 He feels the formation of the district would be a win-win to all and would not threaten  
10 local conditions. He encouraged communicating a neutral vote and let LAFCO decide.

#### 11 *Outcomes & Next Steps*

- 12 • Butte County staff will bring forward concerns and support expressed for the Vina GSA  
13 Board's consideration.

#### 15 7. Management Committee Updates

16 The Vina GSA Management Committee provided verbal updates. The last Vina GSA Board will  
17 take place on September 8<sup>th</sup>, as a joint board with Rock Creek GSA. The Management  
18 Committee has posted a request for applications for a Vina SHAC vacancy, open through  
19 August 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### 21 *Public Comment*

- 22 • A member of the public asked a clarifying question regarding overdraft, particularly related  
23 to who regulates and who bears the burden of management decisions. C. Buck (Butte  
24 County) shared that SGMA, passed in 2014, represents the first state-wide regulation with  
25 teeth. The GSP addresses planning, policy, and actions to manage groundwater in a  
26 sustainable manner. It used to be decentralized and unregulated in the past. T. Carlone (CBI)  
27 encouraged the public participant to attend the public workshop in October 2021 for more  
28 information.
- 29 • A member of the public highlighted structural challenges with holding joint Vina GSA and  
30 Rock Creek Reclamation Board meetings, particularly related to pressures to form ad hoc  
31 committees and make decisions that change the GSP without SHAC consideration.
- 32 • A member of the public highlighted the Butte County Water Commission will be revisiting  
33 the TWD LAFCO application and encouraged others to attend.
- 34 • A member of the public expressed familiarity with the variety of powers a special district can  
35 take, and urged caution, encouraging more information on the structure and stakeholders  
36 engaged. The impact of a special district can be dramatic, citing Westlands WD in the San  
37 Joaquin Valley. They encouraged spending sufficient time understanding the structure,  
38 composition, and powers before making decisions.

#### 39 *Next Steps*

40 The September SHAC meeting is canceled. The SHAC will meet again via video conference on  
41 October 19, 2021, from 9:00-12:30.



1 **Participants**

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

2 Approximately twelve members of the public attended the meeting.

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