Item 4.1
Consideration of SHAC Recommendations and Provide Direction on Potential Revisions to the Draft Periodic Evaluation and Draft Amended GSP

Vina GSA and Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA Joint Board Meeting

November 4, 2026

Presentation by: Christina Buck, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Butte County
Dept. of Water and Resource Conservation
[Providing technical staff support to the Vina GSA]

1

Requested: Board Direction

ITEM 4.1

Oct 28, 2026	Nov 4, 2026	Nov 18, 2026	Dec 9, 2026
SHAC Five recommendations, each 8-0	**Joint GSA Boards** Direction on revisions to the public review drafts	**SHAC** Review revised drafts (only as needed, per Board direction)	**Joint GSA Boards** Public hearing; consider approval of the PE and adoption of the Amended GSP

January 2027 – Submittal to DWR

Requested Action: Each Board review and consider the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) recommendations and

1. provide direction to staff on revisions to the public review Draft Periodic Evaluation and Draft Amended GSP and
2. confirm next steps for either presentation to and recommendation from SHAC, need for joint ad hoc, or neither.

2

The Building Blocks (Plain Language)

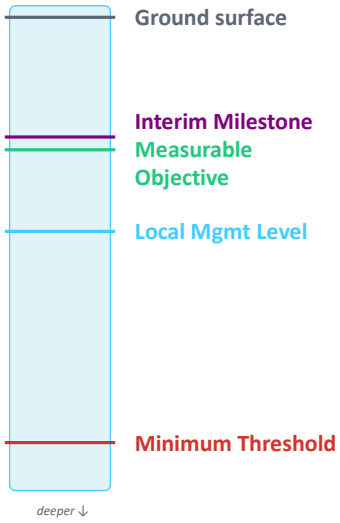
RMS wells — The specific wells we watch — the subbasin's "gauges" with assigned thresholds (31 wells, 26 areas in 3 Management Areas)

Interim Milestone (IM) — A 5-year checkpoint (2027) that tracks progress toward the MO; in Vina it sits right about at the MO.

Measurable Objective (MO) — The level we manage toward — the goal. Sits well above the MT (avg ~65 ft). Mostly below historical lows.

Local Management Level (LML) — An early-warning trigger below the MO — prompts investigation, evaluation of impacts, and Board action

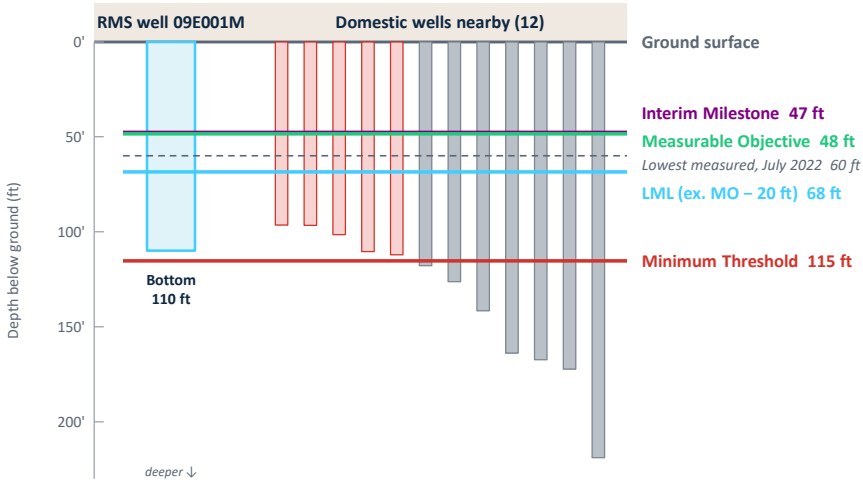
Minimum Threshold (MT) — The regulatory "low line." Defines conditions when undesirable results occur



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RMS Well Depth in relation to MT

Example (well 09E001)



8 of 31
RMS wells with MT that sits below the bottom of the RMS well itself

RMS Wells selected

- **To align/be representative of nearby domestic wells**
- **Historical record, good quality measurements**
- **Geographic distribution**

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Board Direction

ITEM 4.1

Aug 12, 2026

Joint GSA Boards

- Alternative 1 MTs (2022 GSP)
- LMLs 20 ft below the MO
- Prescriptive language on "what would happen if we hit the LMLs"
- Vina 3-2; RCRD 6-0

Sept 15, 2026

Public Review Drafts

- PE and Amended GSP released
- LMLs at 14 of 31 RMS wells

Oct 14, 2026

Vina GSA Board

- Alternative 3 for MTs did not pass (2-3)
- Consensus: LMLs 15 ft below the MO, "excluding wells within the Chico Management Area"
- Remove "non-dry year" language (4-1)
- Refer LMLs and interrelated issues to SHAC (5-0)

Oct 28, 2026

SHAC

- Five recommendations, each 8-0 (one member absent)
- RCRD representative supported four of five; the exception was LML depth

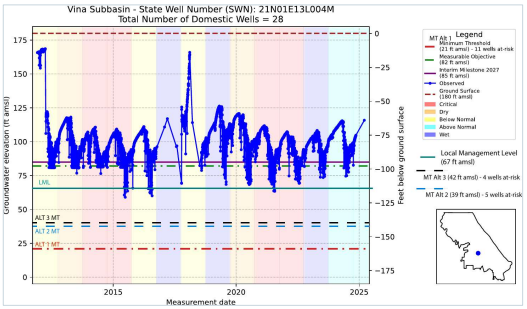
With the MTs unchanged, the LMLs are the GSAs' early-warning tool within the "margin of operational flexibility."

Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA Letter (Oct 23)

ATTACHMENT A

RCRD GSA letter and proposed LML language:

- **Keep the 2022 MTs** and keep the non-dry year provision
- **LMLs at every RMS well** except the Chico MA
- **LMLs 20 ft below the MO**, not 15 — 20 ft "would sit below every hand reading at those 25 wells since 2001"
- **Confirm** a static reading within two weeks
- **Trigger** when below the LML through the year to the same season
- **Technical Committee** investigates each sustainability indicator; report within 180 days
- **Boards decide actions** through a public process



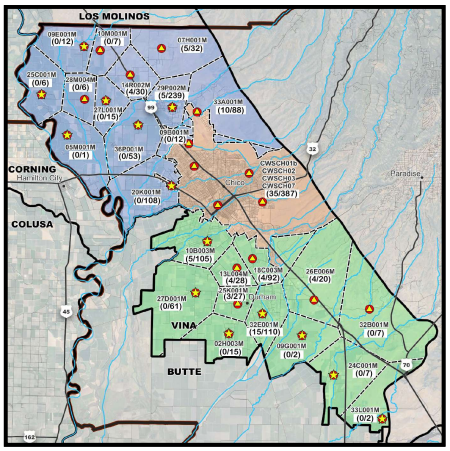
21N01E13L004M with LML 15 ft below the MO (67 ft amsl) — RCRD's example well

SHAC Recommendations (October 28, 2026)

ITEM 4.1

The SHAC used the RCRD letter and redline as its starting point. Each passed 8-0.

1. LMLs assigned to all 25 **North and South MA** RMS wells
2. Set LMLs **15 ft below the MO** RCRD representative opposed
3. Triggered by a **static fall measurement** below the LML in two consecutive calendar years
4. Once triggered: **monthly monitoring and outreach** (notification); add this to step-by-step process as drafted by RCRD
5. Chico Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment becomes a **GSP Project**; LML trigger reference removed



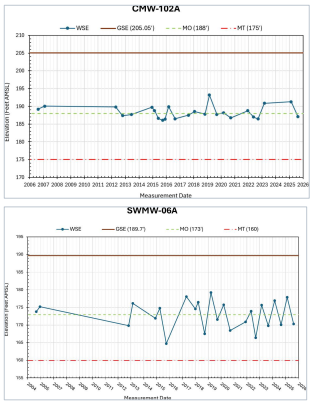
All 25 North & South MA RMS wells carry an LML; no LMLs in the Chico MA (orange). Attachment C.

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Requested Joint Board Direction for Final Draft Documents: Items 1-5

ITEM 4.1

1. **New Chico shallow wells:** Confirm addition of CMW-102A and SWMW-06A (MTs 30 ft bgs); 31 RMS wells total
2. **Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment:** Include as a GSP Project (rather than under 'Other Projects'); remove the LML trigger
3. **Which wells:** LMLs assigned at all 25 North and South MA RMS wells; none in the Chico MA (SHAC/RCRD agreement)
4. **Trigger:** Static fall measurement below the LML in two consecutive calendar years, with RCRD's static-confirmation step
5. **Response:** RCRD's step-by-step structure, plus monthly monitoring and outreach once triggered



Item 1: Chico MA shallow wells CMW-102A and SWMW-06A.

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP consistent with items 1-5, or as directed (can take items one at a time or together).

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Item 6: LML Depth — 15 ft or 20 ft Below the MO?

ITEM 4.1

15 **15 ft below the MO**

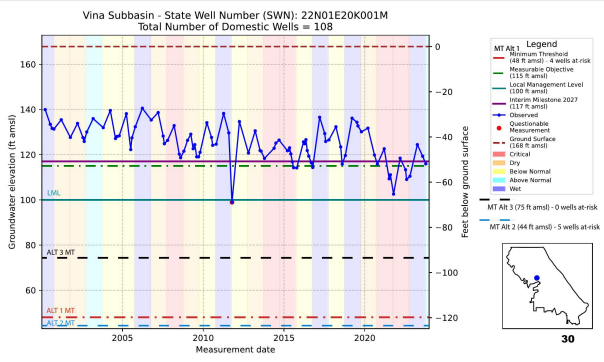
- SHAC recommendation (8-0)
- Vina GSA Board preference, Oct 14

20 **20 ft below the MO**

- RCRD position (Oct 23 letter)
- Aug 12 joint direction (Vina 3-2; RCRD 6-0): public review draft

RCRD concern: at 15 ft, investigations could start at levels reached when the subbasin was healthy.

Neither instance RCRD cites would meet the SHAC's two-consecutive-fall trigger.



22N01E20K001M: one October 2011 hand reading below an LML set 15 ft below the MO (100 ft amsl). Attachment C; the Alt 2/Alt 3 MT lines are from public comment — MTs are unchanged.

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP to set LMLs at (15 or 20) feet below the Measurable Objective, or direct a meeting of the joint ad hoc per the cooperation agreement

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Item 7: Non-dry Year Language

ITEM 4.1

DWR Corrective Action 3a — two ways to respond

1 **Remove**

the non-dry year condition from the undesirable result definitions

2 **Keep, and describe**

how extractions and recharge will be managed so dry-year declines are offset in other years

Sept 15 public review drafts

Direction to date

Jul 22	**SHAC:** Remove (6-1)
Aug 12	**Joint GSA Boards:** Retain (Vina 3-2; RCRD 6-0)
Oct 14	**Vina GSA Board:** Remove (4-1)
Oct 23	**RCRD GSA letter:** Retain
Oct 28	**SHAC:** Not addressed

Per the Cooperation Agreement, a change to the shared plan requires approval of both Boards.

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP to (remove or retain) the non-dry year language, or direct a meeting of the joint ad hoc per the cooperation agreement

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Next Steps Following Tonight's Direction

ITEM 4.1

Nov 4
Joint Boards give direction

Nov 18 SHAC
Review of revised drafts — only as needed, per Board direction

Directly to Dec 9
Staff and consultant team revise drafts and prepare staff report

Joint GSA ad hoc
If the Boards' motions are not consistent, per the Cooperation Agreement

Dec 9
Public hearing; final direction on revisions; consider approval of the PE and adoption of the Amended GSP

Jan 2027
Submit to DWR

Requested Direction: confirm the next step — SHAC, ad hoc, or neither.

If the Boards Disagree: Cooperation Agreement Path

ITEM 4.1

Both Boards must approve. Each GSA has the sole right to approve any portion, section or chapter of the GSP (§3.5(b)); neither GSA can bind the other without its written consent (§6.3).

1 §4.1
Joint Management Committee
Two representatives per GSA. Recommends to both Boards only by unanimous consent; advises when an Ad Hoc is needed.

2 §4.4
Ad Hoc Committee
Up to two Board members from each GSA, convened on the Committee's recommendation, to attempt to resolve the impasse.

3 §7.1
Dispute Resolution
One representative of each GSA meets and confers; if unresolved, the Committee may engage a trained mediator or pursue legal remedies.

4 §7.2
Withdrawal
Either GSA may withdraw on 30 days' written notice; the GSAs then meet and confer on a SGMA coordination agreement, if necessary.

less formal → more formal

Staff memo: items without consistent direction tonight go to the joint ad hoc

ITEM 4.1

Requested Action: Summary

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP consistent with items 1-5, or as directed (can take items one at a time or together).

1. New Chico Shallow Wells
2. Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment
3. Which wells assigned LMLs
4. Trigger definition
5. Response if LML triggered

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP to set LMLs at (15 or 20) feet below the Measurable Objective, or direct a meeting of the joint ad hoc per the cooperation agreement

Requested Action: Move to direct staff to revise the public review drafts of the PE and amended GSP to (remove or retain) the non-dry year language, or direct a meeting of the joint ad hoc per the cooperation agreement

Confirm next step: joint ad hoc, revised documents to SHAC, or revised documents to Joint Boards on Dec. 9

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Additional Slides For Reference

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Comparison: Public Review Drafts, SHAC, and RCRD

REFERENCE

Topic	Public Review Draft	SHAC Recommendation	RCRD Position (Oct 23 letter)	Status
Minimum Thresholds (MTs)	2022 GSP MTs retained (Alternative 1)	Not revisited (Alternative 3 failed 2-3 at the Vina GSA Board on Oct 14)	Supports keeping MTs as drafted	**Not revisited**
Which wells have LMLs	14 of 31 RMS wells	All 25 North and South MA RMS wells; none in the Chico MA	All RMS wells except the Chico MA	**Agree**
LML depth	20 ft below the MO	15 ft below the MO	20 ft below the MO	**Differ**
When an LML is triggered	Reached and persists across multiple measurements in differing seasons	Static fall measurement below the LML in two consecutive calendar years	Confirmed static reading below the LML that persists to the same season a year later (e.g., fall–spring–fall)	**Closely aligned**
What happens when triggered	Report to SHAC and Boards; investigate cause; technical report; Boards may consider actions	Monthly monitoring and outreach (notification) begin when triggered; step-by-step process as drafted by RCRD	Confirm and report; Technical Committee investigates cause and impacts; report within 180 days; Boards decide actions; document in Annual Report	**Complementary**
Chico Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment	Formal evaluation triggered when a Chico-area or GDE well reaches its LML (PE §4.5.6)	Develop as a GSP Project (rather than Other Projects); remove the LML trigger	Not addressed in letter; RCRD representative in favor at SHAC	**Agreement at SHAC**
"Non-dry year" language	Retained	Not addressed Oct 28; SHAC recommended removal 6-1 on July 22, 2026	Keep (per Aug 12 joint direction)	**Differ**

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Non-dry Year Language in the Public Review Drafts

REFERENCE

Draft Amended GSP §3.3.1 — Undesirable Result

"Two RMS wells within a management area reach their MT for two consecutive years of non-dry year-types."

Non-dry = wet, above normal, below normal; dry = dry and critical (Sacramento Valley Water Year Index)

Applies to: Groundwater Levels (§3.3.1), and by proxy Storage (§3.4.2) and Interconnected Surface Water (§3.8.4); Water Quality (§3.5.1)

Draft PE §3.1.2 — GSA Response to RCA 3a

"The GSAs will manage groundwater extractions and recharge to ensure reductions in groundwater levels or storage during dry years are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other years. The basin has recently experienced two unprecedented droughts (2014/15 and 2021/22). Groundwater levels have rebounded from these droughts due to recent above normal and wet years. The GSAs expect wet and dry cycles to continue. The GSAs continue to develop recharge projects and demand management actions to implement if groundwater levels begin to drop below measurable objectives. The GSAs will manage groundwater levels at the interim milestones / measurable objectives. Local Management Levels (LMLs) – set 20 feet below the MO – were defined at fourteen (14) RMS wells to prompt Board consideration of adaptive management actions if groundwater levels persistently reach the LML. LMLs were assigned to a selection of RMS wells to provide early information for three considerations: areas of shallow groundwater and identified groundwater dependent ecosystems (based on the 2026 ESA analysis), areas near the Subbasin boundary where conditions are coordinated with adjacent subbasins, and one area with a high density of domestic wells. LMLs are further described in Section 3.1.3: Amendments to GWL SMC."

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REFERENCE

Chico Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment

Provided by Audubon in coordination with City of Chico

- Described under the “Other Projects” section in the public review draft of the PE
- Fills a data gap on how dependent Chico's unirrigated, deep-rooted trees are on groundwater vs. soil moisture/creek recharge — helping address DWR Corrective Action 3 for environmental users.
- Two-Tiered Vulnerability Assessment- Tier 1: satellite z-NDVI greenness screening (Rohde et al. method); Tier 2: City tree inventory + field checks near shallow, GDE-sensitive RMS wells.
- Baseline begins now; formal evaluation only if a Chico-area/GDE well reaches its LML.
- Partners: City of Chico Urban Forestry, County, possibly CSU Chico.