

6. Update on Funding Pursuits for Vina GSP Projects and Management Actions

Vina SHAC

March 22, 2023



Funding Opportunities

Three Grant Applications

- A. SGM Grant Program Application- Submitted December 2022 to DWR
- B. DROP Application- Submitted by Butte County January 2023 to State Water Board
- C. Planned: Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program Application (CA Department of Conservation)- Submission by Vina GSA by March 2023 deadline

During the project prioritization discussion for the SGM Grant, other potential funding sources were discussed for each project



#	Project	Potential Funding Sources per 10/26/2023 SHAC Discussion	Status of Funding Pursuits, 3/9/2023
1	GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities	Local	Local- Included in GSA Revenue Projection (~\$186K/yr)
2	Data Management System	Local	Local- Included in GSA Revenue Projection (\$5K/year)
3	Community Monitoring: Domestic Well Survey	Drought Funding, TSS	SGMA Grant (\$100K)
4	Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)/Associated Impacts on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Local	SGMA Grant (\$200K)
5	Monitoring Network Enhancements	TSS, Local	SGMA Grant (\$400K)
6	Inter-basin Coordination Activities	FSS, Local	SGMA Grant (Joint GSP Analysis- \$200K)
7	Project and Management Action Implementation	Local	SGMA Grant (Fee study/BBGM Modeling/Legal Implication of Recharge=> \$275K)
8	Agricultural Surface Water Supplies	USBR WaterSmart?, NRCS	SGMA Grant (Feasibility-\$275K)
9	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency	RCD/NRCS, USBR WaterSmart	SGMA Grant (\$1M)
10	Extend Orchard Replacement	Possible DWR Program	SGMA Grant (\$1.5M); Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Program (~\$3.5M)
11	Domestic Well Mitigation	Drought Funding	County DROP application to State Board (submitted Jan. 2023)
12	Well Permitting Ordinance	Local	County DROP application to State Board (submitted Jan. 2023)
13	Expansion of Water Purveyors' Service Area	Drought, State Board	County DROP application to State Board (submitted Jan. 2023)
14	Sand Creek Flood MAR/Ag MAR Project Phase 2	Local	
15	Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Analysis and Site Evaluation	Local	SGMA Grant (\$600K); Federal Funding Earmark List (County)
16	Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation	Local	SGMA Grant (\$350K)
17	Recycled Wastewater Feasibility Study	Other money	



A. SGM Grant Application

	Project Name	Implementing GSA	Grant Request
1	Grant Agreement Administration	Vina GSA	\$200,000
2	Monitoring Network Enhancements	Vina GSA	\$400,000
3	Community Monitoring: Domestic Well Survey	Vina GSA	\$100,000
4	GSP Implementation and Compliance Activities	Vina GSA	\$660,000
5	Inter-basin Coordination Activities	Vina GSA	\$450,000
6	Extend Orchard Replacement Program	Vina GSA	\$1,500,000
7	Lindo Channel Surface Water Recharge Implementation	City of Chico	\$350,000
8	Agricultural Surface Water Supplies Feasibility Analysis	Vina GSA	\$275,000
9	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Program and Education	Vina GSA	\$1,000,000
10	Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Analysis and Site Evaluation	Vina GSA	\$600,000
Grant Requested			\$5,535,000



B. Butte County Drought Resilience and Outreach Project (DROP)

- ▶ Funding Source: County-wide and Regional Funding Program- State Water Board
- ▶ For Counties to implement regional programs that address **drought-related and/or contamination issues for state small water systems and domestic wells** serving Disadvantaged Communities and low income households
- ▶ Applicant: Butte County (coordinated effort between Administration, Office of Emergency Management, Water and Resource Conservation, and Division of Environmental Health)
- ▶ 5 year project timeline (ending in 2028)
- ▶ Total budget: \$17,209,353
- ▶ County-wide

Project Objectives:

1. Establish an infrastructure foundation of drought education, preparation, and responsiveness for households, as well as county systems.
2. Ensure residents maintain their right to water during critical water shortage.
3. Resolve drought related and contamination issues for small water systems and domestic wells serving disadvantaged communities and low-income households.



DROP Components

1. County-wide Planning and Outreach

- ▶ Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan
- ★ ▶ Well Ordinance Amendment (GSP PMA 5.3.3 Well Permitting Ordinance)
- ▶ Outreach Campaign
- ▶ Drought Navigator

2. Interim Drought Solutions (meeting immediate needs)

- ▶ Storage Tanks to households
- ▶ Hauled Water
- ▶ Water Filling Stations
- ▶ Bottled Water

3. Long-term Water Resiliency Solutions

- ★ ▶ Well Testing, Repair, and Replacement (GSP PMA 5.3.2 Domestic Well Mitigation)
- ▶ Small System Replacement
- ★ ▶ Limited-Scale Consolidation (GSP PMA 5.3.6 Expansion of Water Purveyors' Service Area)



C. Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program

- ▶ Grant opportunity through CA Department of Conservation
- ▶ Round 2- deadline March 29, 2023
- ▶ On March 8, 2023, Vina GSA Board authorized development and submission of application



Context: The Need for Action

- ▶ Why consider developing a land repurposing strategy?
 - ▶ Groundwater levels in the Vina Subbasin are declining.
 - ▶ SGMA requires groundwater sustainability.
 - ▶ Conditions such as climate change, impacts to water resources, or other external actions continue to pose challenges to sustainability.
 - ▶ Projects and management actions identified in the Vina GSP to achieve groundwater sustainability are broadly focused in three areas:
 1. Development of conservation opportunities, including temporary land repurposing strategies
 2. Development of recharge opportunities
 3. Development of new water supplies (increase use of surface water)



Developing the Toolbox: Demand Conservation

- ▶ The Project & Management Actions chapter of the Vina GSP describes several conservation projects aimed at achieving groundwater sustainability, including:
 - ▶ 5.2.3.1 - Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency
 - ▶ 5.2.3.2 - Residential Conservation
 - ▶ 5.2.3.5 - Fuels Management for Watershed Health
 - ▶ 5.2.4.6 - Rangeland Management
 - ▶ 4.2.4.7 - Removal of Invasive Species
 - ▶ 5.2.5.1 - Extend Orchard Replacement
- ▶ The proposed project for the DOC MLRP would, if funded, fast-track the region's ability to develop a community-supported plan and more aggressively pursue the Vina GSP's identified conservation-related projects.



DOC MLRP Grant: Proposed Project Description

- ▶ Use a **bottom-up community engagement approach** to develop a multi-benefit agricultural land repurposing plan to **identify and implement temporary and permanent land repurposing solutions** in the Vina Subbasin to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply and recharge, habitat, and climate benefits.
- ▶ **Build on planning work already done** as part of the development of the Vina Subbasin's GSP, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the GSP's **Extend Orchard Replacement PMA project**.
- ▶ **Collaborate and partner with stakeholders representing a wide array of interests**, including farmers and ranchers, disadvantaged communities, tribes, and land conservation.
- ▶ Emphasis on opportunities for **temporary repurposing**
- ▶ Ensure that permanent land repurposing will be conducted through willing participants on lands least viable for agriculture and that contribute to resource connectivity.



DOC MLRP Grant: Proposed Project Details

- ▶ **Applicant:** Vina GSA
- ▶ **Funding Request:** ~\$3.5 million
- ▶ **Location:** Vina Subbasin
- ▶ **Potential Partners:** Butte County, RCRD, BCFB, AGUBC, other tbd
- ▶ **Potential Collaborators:** Tribes, Disadvantaged Communities, Family Water Alliance, CA Farmland Trust, Sacramento River Forum, other tbd
- ▶ **Program Components:**
 - ▶ Develop Plan - stakeholder and interested party driven process
 - ▶ Develop, Design, & Permit Projects - of projects identified in Plan
 - ▶ Implementation - of prioritized projects
 - ▶ Monitoring - of implemented projects
- ▶ **Application due March 29, 2023. Awards announced in June 2023.**



Next Steps

- ▶ Submit MLRP Grant Application
- ▶ Wait for award announcements in June 2023 (for DWR SGM and DOC MLRP grants).
- ▶ Late 2023- Establish funding agreements
- ▶ Likely begin projects late 2023/early 2024

