



Vina
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Agenda Transmittal

Agenda Item: 6.2

Subject: Ratify Letters of Support for Butte County and Durham Irrigation District for Butte County's Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding

Contact: Dillon Raney

Phone: (530) 552-3589

Meeting Date: April 10, 2024

Regular Agenda

Department Summary:

Butte County requested a support letter from the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in support of its application for Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding. This funding pertains to the On-Farm Flood Capture and Recharge Project, aimed at enhancing both aquifer recharge operations and flood capture capabilities, thereby bolstering Butte's agricultural economy and contributing to the advancement of groundwater sustainability in the Vina subbasin. This project is consistent with the strategic initiatives highlighted in the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), specifically the Surface Water Supply and Recharge Feasibility Study component.

Similarly, the Durham Irrigation District (DID), a member agency, sought a letter of support from the Vina GSA for Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding for their 1.0 Million Gallon Water Storage Tank Project. The proposal presented by DID highlights the urgent need to address challenges posed by aging infrastructure and aligns with the Vina GSP efforts to manage groundwater sustainably in areas showing critical decline. The localized groundwater depression in the Durham area, as noted in the GSP, illustrates the specific challenges faced by DID's service area. This condition, alongside the overall gentle gradient of the subbasin and its adjacency to the Sacramento River, accentuates the need for projects like DID's to ensure the effective management of our groundwater resources.

Due to the urgency of the requests, which preceded the next scheduled board meeting, staff verified the project's alignment with the Vina GSP, then the GSA Program Manager drafted the letters, which were then signed by the Board Chair, pending ratification at the forthcoming board meeting.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation: Ratify the letters of support for Butte County and Durham Irrigation District for the Butte County's Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding



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

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaMalfa:

On behalf of the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), I write to express our strong support for Butte County's Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding request for its On-Farm Flood Capture and Recharge project. In Butte County, agriculture is not only a cornerstone of the local economy but also a way of life. However, our community is confronted with the critical challenge of ensuring groundwater sustainability amidst prolonged drought conditions. This initiative is crucial for preserving our valuable groundwater resources and supporting agricultural operations.

The project aims to enhance aquifer recharge operations and flood capture capabilities. This will significantly support Butte's agricultural economy and advance groundwater sustainability efforts, aligning closely with the Vina GSA's strategic initiatives under our Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), particularly in enhancing groundwater recharge.

Currently, our agency is spearheading a feasibility study focused on identifying and evaluating innovative recharge methods within the Vina subbasin. Collaborating with Butte County not only underscores our joint commitment to sustainable water management but also ensures that securing these critical funds will substantially aid the Vina GSA in advancing its sustainability objectives. The development and execution of effective recharge strategies identified through our study are instrumental in fortifying our collective efforts towards a resilient and sustainable groundwater future for our community.

Supporting water resources and replenishment is synonymous with supporting Butte's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers, as well as the county's overall prosperity. We appreciate your consideration of Butte County's request and your continued support for the well-being of Butte County's communities.

Sincerely,

Evan Tuchinsky
Board Chair, Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency



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March 27, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), I write to express our strong support for Butte County's Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding request for its On-Farm Flood Capture and Recharge project. In Butte County, agriculture is not only a cornerstone of the local economy but also a way of life. However, our community is confronted with the critical challenge of ensuring groundwater sustainability amidst prolonged drought conditions. This initiative is crucial for preserving our valuable groundwater resources and supporting agricultural operations.

The project aims to enhance aquifer recharge operations and flood capture capabilities. This will significantly support Butte's agricultural economy and advance groundwater sustainability efforts, aligning closely with the Vina GSA's strategic initiatives under our Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), particularly in enhancing groundwater recharge.

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Sincerely,

Evan Tuchinsky
Board Chair, Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency



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March 28, 2024

Congressman Doug LaMalfa
120 Independence Cir Suite B
Chico, CA 95973

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

I am writing to provide a strong endorsement for the funding request submitted to Congressman LaMalfa by the Durham Irrigation District (DID) under the Community Project Funding. As the Board Chair for the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), I understand the critical importance of sustainable water resources in ensuring the well-being of our community and preserving our most precious resource – our water.

The proposal presented by DID not only highlights the urgent need to address challenges posed by aging infrastructure but also aligns with the Vina GSA's efforts to manage groundwater sustainably in areas showing critical decline. The localized groundwater depression in the Durham area, as noted in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Vina Subbasin, illustrates the specific challenges faced by DID's service area. This condition, alongside the overall gentle gradient of the subbasin and its adjacency to the Sacramento River, accentuates the need for projects like DID's to ensure the effective management of our groundwater resources.

DID, a member agency of the Vina GSA, is situated in a critical zone where groundwater levels are in persistent decline, emphasizing the project's relevance and urgency. The area serviced by DID is characterized by declining groundwater levels and a cone of depression, underscoring the necessity for immediate and targeted intervention to prevent further deterioration of water availability and quality.

Furthermore, the replacement of aging infrastructure as proposed by DID is a crucial step towards achieving water efficiency and minimizing water loss, thus ensuring sustainable and clean water for public water systems. The project's focus on upgrading and implementing sustainable water management practices is essential for safeguarding our community's water resources for future generations.

With approximately 500 connections within our small town, including homes, schools, parks, and recreational facilities, DID plays a crucial role in supporting the Durham community's quality of life. The aging infrastructure faces significant efficiency and reliability concerns, with potential impacts on water quality and availability during drought periods posing a matter of concern for both our residents and the sustainability of our parks and recreational spaces. The urgent need for above-ground water storage will help relieve stress on the wells and provide an above-ground water resource in case of an emergency.

I am confident that the Community Project Funding is well-suited to address DID's immediate needs and aligns with our shared goals of promoting sustainability and resilience in water management. The commitment of DID to utilize the funds efficiently and effectively reflects their dedication to serving our community and protecting our resources.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support DID's funding request. This collaboration will not only strengthen our water infrastructure but also contribute to the sustainability of the district for years to come.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at evantuchinsky@outlook.com.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Tuchinsky', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Evan Tuchinsky
Board Chair, Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency