



1 Meeting Brief

- 2 ➤ The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) met virtually on January 19, 2021.
- 3 ➤ **Meeting Notes:** The SHAC approved the previous meeting notes (12/15/20) [[Access Here](#)].
- 4 ➤ **Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC):** The SHAC continued discussion on the SMC and
- 5 provided input on proposed Measurable Objectives (MO) and Minimum Thresholds (MT)
- 6 [[Access Presentation Slides](#) | [Access SMC Supporting Materials](#)].
- 7 ➤ **Projects & Management Actions (PMAs):** The SHAC briefly reviewed PMA materials and next
- 8 steps. Materials prepared by the Vina GSA Management committee included a staff memo
- 9 discussing legal implications [[Access Here](#)], a PMA glossary of terms [[Access Here](#)], and a draft
- 10 PMA submittal form [[Access Here](#)].
- 11 ➤ **Next Meeting:** The SHAC will meet again via video conference on February 16, 2021 from
- 12 9:00-12:00. In addition, the Vina GSA Board will have a public workshop focused on SMC on
- 13 February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

14 Action Items

Item	Lead	Completion
• Finalize Vina SHAC meeting summary (12/15/20).	CBI & Management Committee	Upon completion
• Update domestic well table to indicate elevation and not depth.	Geosyntec	Upon completion
• Characterize diversity of SHAC’s perspectives regarding the SMC for the Vina GSA Workshop.	CBI & Management Committee	Upon completion
• Share recharge maps with the SHAC.	CBI & Management Committee	Upon completion
• Post meeting recording on the website.	CBI & Management Committee	Done [Access Video Access Audio].

15 Summary

16 The Vina SHAC met on January 19, 2021 via video conference, as a result of COVID-19. 37

17 participants attended, including Vina SHAC members, Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

18 member agency staff, technical consultants, representatives of the CA Department of Water

19 Resources (DWR), and members of the public. Below is a summary of key themes and next steps

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

21 focuses on the main points covered during the group’s discussions. The video-conference

22 meeting recording is available at the Vina GSA website [[Access Video Recording](#) | [Access Audio](#)

23 [Recording](#)].

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25 1. Introductions & Agenda Review

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

27 facilitator gave a brief overview of the agenda.



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2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

- a. **Delta Conveyance Project:** A SHAC member brought up the tunnel associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. P. Gosselin (Butte County) responded that this is the third attempt to develop the Delta Conveyance Project, which would affect the Butte Subbasin and not the Vina Subbasin as much. Butte County will evaluate the impacts if and when the project moves forward.
- b. **Water Quality:** A SHAC member raised concern regarding water quality issues related to homeless camps along creeks and streams in the subbasin. P. Gosselin (Butte County) explained that GSAs will keep those impacts in mind but do not have jurisdiction over that matter. Other state and regional agencies are responsible for monitoring and regulating water quality concerns, depending on the type of contaminant. Point source pollution falls under the Regional Water Board or the CA Department of Toxic Substances. Non-point source pollution is managed by the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards through specific programs. Monitoring is conducted by local groups under the Regional Board's guidance. Regulatory structures are housed at a state level, sometimes through Environmental Health. That said, water quality concerns associated directly with groundwater pumping fall within the GSAs' purview. Consultants shared that while the Vina Subbasin has good water quality at the moment if certain natural contaminants are traced through monitoring in the future, the GSA can set up criteria to address them. A SHAC member shared there is existing valuable information in a number of well logs in Chico (shallow, intermediate, and deeper zones) that could be analyzed.
- c. **Meeting Notes:** A SHAC member requested a shorter turnaround for the meeting notes. The facilitation team will aim to prepare and distribute the meeting minutes within two weeks of the meeting, noting they first undergo internal review within the Management Committee.

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3. Meeting Notes Review & Consideration

The SHAC reviewed and approved the 12/15/20 SHAC meeting notes [\[Access Here\]](#).

4. Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Overview - Discussion

The SHAC received a presentation from Geosyntec, GSP technical consultants, continuing the discussion on SMC. Geosyntec provided a brief overview of the approach. SHAC members provided input on proposed Measurable Objectives (MO) and Minimum Thresholds (MT). Geosyntec prepared a packet of supporting materials to accompany the presentation, including proposed representative monitoring site locations [\[Access Presentation Slides\]](#) | [Access SMC Supporting Materials](#)].



1 **Recap**

2 *SGMA Terminology*

3 Sustainability, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), is demonstrated by
 4 the avoidance of Undesirable Results for the six sustainability indicators: lowering of
 5 groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, land subsidence, surface water depletion,
 6 water quality degradation, and sea water intrusion. SMC and representative monitoring locations
 7 must be developed for each of the indicators below. Each undesirable result must include three
 8 elements:

- 9 a) **Description of Undesirable Results:** what constitutes a “significant and unreasonable”
 10 condition
- 11 b) **Minimum Threshold:** avoidance criteria, or quantitative definition of groundwater conditions
 12 at a representative monitoring site at which undesirable results may begin to occur
- 13 c) **Measurable Objective:** management target (quantitative) that reflects the basin’s desired
 14 groundwater condition and allows GSAs to achieve sustainability goals within 20 years. MOs
 15 are achieved incrementally through the Project and Management Actions (PMAs).

16 *Vina SMC Development Schedule:*

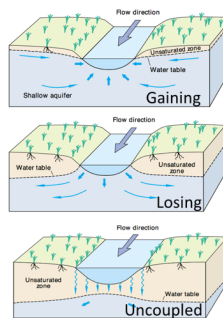


18 *Strawman Undesirable Results & Sustainable Management Criteria*

19 The technical team presented refined draft, or “strawman” undesirable results, measurable
 20 objectives, and minimum thresholds to gather the SHAC’s input to make further refinements to
 21 the draft SMC.
 22

23 *Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water*

24 B. Anderson (Geosyntec) reviewed the modes of stream-aquifer
 25 interaction (gaining, losing, and uncoupled), presented an analysis of
 26 existing information (stemming from the model, existing studies, GDE
 27 analysis, etc.), and recommended an approach for this SMC. In sum,
 28 Geosyntec found significant data gaps, and propose a “do no harm”
 29 SMC criteria. In other words, the plan would first indicate that
 30 managing groundwater levels to proposed measurable objectives
 31 (either 2015 or a 2030 projection) should maintain the level of
 32 connectivity and seasonal interactions that are occurring currently.
 33





1 Using the framework, the GSA can then develop more specific SMCs as appropriate for specific
 2 stream reaches and associated GDEs where there is a clear connection to groundwater and an
 3 associated management action would help maintain ecological integrity.

4
 5 **Draft Undesirable Results and Sustainability Criteria**

Undesirable Result Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water depletion caused by groundwater pumping prevents beneficial uses over a sustained period. This includes environmental beneficial uses in natural stream channels that support a viable ecosystem, particularly ecosystems containing endangered species. • Surface water depletion in streams containing Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) is the first priority.
Minimum Threshold (onset of undesirable result) & Measurable Objective (desired condition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Threshold – Groundwater connected to upland streams that are shown to be losing along their entirety will not be assigned MO/MT • Groundwater connected to upland streams that are shown to have one or more gaining reaches will be assigned specific MO/MT values based on site specific stream/aquifer dynamics
Quantitative definition of significant and unreasonable impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >10% reduction in GDE species resulting from pumping within the GSA.

6
 7 Geosyntec shared key takeaways from their analysis, which focused on key areas with GDEs
 8 identified: GDEs in Floodplain Areas and GDEs in Upland Areas.

- 9 a. Uncoupled groundwater surface water conditions are more prevalent in the Vina
- 10 Subbasin that previously expected.
- 11 b. Stream/Aquifer interaction in upland tributary areas differs from stream aquifer
- 12 interaction near the Sacramento River mainstem.
- 13 c. Streamflow profiles and groundwater levels in shallow wells adjacent to natural stream
- 14 channels are needed to evaluate depletion, so there are significant data gaps for defining
- 15 measurable objectives and minimum thresholds.
- 16 d. The Butte Basin Groundwater Model (BBGM) provides insight into stream/aquifer
- 17 dynamics that can help describe a proposed framework for managing this undesirable
- 18 result. The BBGM results can be complemented with the CSUC Big Chico Creek
- 19 Streamflow Study (2020) findings and the Floodplain delineation maps. Based on that
- 20 joint analysis, the technical team found the model is making ~~correct~~ predictions when
- 21 classifying the various streams (gaining or losing) by simulating interactions. Comparing
- 22 the model with the Big Chico Creek field study, it appears that the model is
- 23 underestimating the rate of seepage to groundwater from individual reaches of Big Chico
- 24 Creek and therefore overestimating the flow in Big Chico Creek. For example, the lower
- 25 reaches of Big Chico Creek shown to be dry in the field study are not dry reaches in the
- 26 model. Part of this is from the fact that the BBGM is a regional model, and a finer scale
- 27 of analysis of GW/SW interaction is probably needed.

Commented [A1]: Jim suggested this could be 10% reduction in streamflow. I took this directly from the slides though.

Commented [A2]: We verified this information with the SMC presentation.

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- 1 e. Future model calibrations can be done with stream interaction data stemming from the
- 2 Big Chico Creek study and other similar studies.

3
4 Consulting Team's recommendations:

5 *Upland areas:*

- 6 a. **GDEs:** The groundwater connection to potential GDEs may be "dependent" on whether
- 7 or not there are losses (losing reaches) in the upland portions of some of the streams.
- 8 However, if those streams are in losing conditions, reductions in deeper groundwater
- 9 pumping would not necessarily affect GDEs if they are influenced more by shallow, near-
- 10 surface channel dynamics (flood frequency, hyporheic zone, soil moisture, and riparian
- 11 uptake).
- 12 b. **SMC (TBD):** Groundwater connected to upland areas of streams that are shown to be
- 13 losing along their entirety will not be assigned an MO/MT. Groundwater connected to
- 14 upland streams that are shown to have one or more gaining reache will be assigned
- 15 specific MO/MT values based on site-specific stream/aquifer dynamics. Further
- 16 investigation of near surface stream/GDE dynamics in upland areas is warranted.

17 *Floodplain areas*

- 18 a. **GDEs:** The groundwater connection to potential GDEs may be "dependent" whether or
- 19 not there are gains (gaining reaches) from groundwater, but those gains are less than ten
- 20 percent of the channel flow. Groundwater pumping may be affecting discharge but is less
- 21 than ten percent of the channel flow. GDEs are more likely to be connected to shallow,
- 22 near-surface floodplain dynamics (flood frequency, hyporheic zone, soil moisture, and
- 23 riparian uptake).
- 24 b. **SMC (TBD):** If cumulative groundwater discharge is 10% of streamflow from groundwater
- 25 discharge, it will be assigned specific MO/MT value based on site-specific stream/aquifer
- 26 dynamics • Further investigation of near surface stream/GDE dynamics in floodplain areas
- 27 is warranted, but lower priority than uplands.

28
29 *Framework for Stream/Aquifer Interactions and GDEs*

30 Geosyntec presented a framework for future analysis. This framework starts with a list of

31 ecological factors to consider. From a hydrogeologic standpoint, the GSA would need to know

32 stream conditions and dynamics in the aquifer through field surveys similar to the CSUC Big Chico

33 Creek study. Then, groundwater information in the deeper Tuscan aquifer, shallow alluvium

34 aquifer, the sediments in the floodplain immediately adjacent to the streams is needed. This will

35 establish where there are gaining and losing reaches of surface waters and which aquifers are

36 contributing or receiving water from those reaches. Streamflow profiles along the upland

37 streams is more feasible and developing a streamflow profile for the Sacramento River would be

38 a big endeavor because it would need to account for reservoir releases, inter-basin dynamics,

39 etc.

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41 Discussion:



- 1 a. **Big Chico Creek:** A SHAC member suggested that Big Chico Creek was gaining at its middle
- 2 portion, on campus, interacting with the shallow aquifer. The consulting team stated that
- 3 this is not what the recent results of the CSUC Big Chico Creek flow study by Jeff Davids
- 4 showed and that while groundwater levels may rise when streamflow is higher, it does
- 5 not mean that groundwater and surface water are directly connected, or that increased
- 6 pumping will lead to increased leakage from the streambed. SHAC members suggest this
- 7 issue requires further investigation.
- 8 b. **Intermittent Streams & Fish:** A SHAC member highlighted existing data gaps in
- 9 intermittent streams and emphasized the importance of streamflow timing. They
- 10 mentioned that studies have found that the lower portions of some intermittent streams
- 11 may provide optimal rearing habitat for migrating salmon between December and March.
- 12 Geosyntec shared that current analysis of GDEs are based on The Nature Conservancy's
- 13 dataset which is focused on wetlands and vegetation. The GSA can consider establishing
- 14 additional salmon-bearing streams as GDEs, although many already are included in the
- 15 current dataset. The SHAC member commented that Mud Creek, Pine Creek, Rock Creek,
- 16 and others probably provide essential rearing habitat and that groundwater could help
- 17 maintain fish passage flows. Although these processes are largely driven by the stream
- 18 system runoff from the foothills, may be mostly important in the receding limb of a
- 19 hydrograph and in dry years when irrigation may begin earlier than usual.
- 20 c. **Data Gaps:** The consulting team shared that in the plan, GSAs need to describe an
- 21 established connection between pumping and impact to the GDEs. At this point there is
- 22 not enough information, and the connection is not clear enough to set MT and MO. If the
- 23 stream were clearly losing, then no point of establishing SMC, if it were clearly gaining
- 24 and connected, then the SMC can be defined based on specific creek dynamics.
- 25 Geosyntec's proposed approach is to set up the foundation for implementation,
- 26 describing how and when data gaps would be filled. In the first plan update, the GSA could
- 27 prioritize Big and Little Chico Creeks to confidently define the criteria.
- 28 d. **Historic Conditions:** A member of the public asked if the stream and aquifer have
- 29 historically been disconnected or if conditions have been affected by recent changes.
- 30 Geosyntec explained this question gets to the "natural condition" conundrum. In their
- 31 view, SGMA did not intend to return all systems to natural conditions but rather define
- 32 and maintain sustainable conditions.
- 33 e. **Evapotranspiration (ET) & Creeks:** In response to a SHAC member's question, Geosyntec
- 34 shared that the connection between Evapotranspiration (ET) and drying creeks is
- 35 considered more of a floodplain process than a groundwater process.
- 36 f. **Sacramento River:** Geosyntec observed a gaining condition in the Sacramento River.
- 37 Some well data are available to show groundwater levels and surface water elevation in
- 38 the Sacramento River. The model shows the Sacramento River is gaining, but accounting
- 39 for only approximately 1% of flows. That means that significant pumping reductions in
- 40 Vina would lead to a relatively small percent change in flows. Geosyntec suggested the
- 41 subbasin is not in a position to set a MO/MT and more site-specific investigation is
- 42 warranted. However, the floodplains are a lower priority than the upland areas.

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- 1 g. **Urban & Agricultural Pumping:** A member of the public asked what percent of total water
- 2 pumped corresponds to urban use. Geosyntec explained urban pumping is a very small
- 3 percentage of overall groundwater pumping but represents almost all the pumping in the
- 4 winter. If the management strategy is to target highest water uses, agricultural use
- 5 represents the greater proportion of pumping.
- 6 h. **Shallow vs. Deep Aquifer:** A SHAC member highlighted that previous graphs depicting
- 7 multi-completion monitoring wells show water levels are higher in the deeper aquifer
- 8 than in shallow parts of the system. ~~Geosyntec explained that leakage has to go through~~
- 9 ~~shallow aquifer first before it can interact with surface water.~~
- 10 i. **Valley Oak Woodlands:** A SHAC member requested that valley oaks and urban forests are
- 11 considered in GDE analysis, when setting SMC.
- 12 j. **Framework Concerns:** A SHAC member expressed concern with the suggested
- 13 framework, as it does not illustrate the connection between the alluvium and Tuscan
- 14 aquifers shown in the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) study a few months back. They
- 15 expressed a desire to acknowledge the connection and to maintain the pressure between
- 16 the shallow and deep aquifers in order to avoid the depressurization problems
- 17 experienced in the San Joaquin Valley.

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19 *Degraded Groundwater Quality:*

20 **Suggested approach:** Geosyntec shared that GSAs are only responsible for addressing water
 21 quality problems clearly related to pumping. Thus, the MT and MOs can be tied to the same
 22 criteria, based on salinity as the indicator. The GSA will need to work with other agencies to avoid
 23 mobilizing contaminants or worsening pollution. Geosyntec proposed using deep monitoring
 24 wells as Representative Monitoring Sites (RMS), looking at salinity as the main criteria. Using the
 25 State Water Resources Control Board’s GAMA Program ([Access Here](#)) In terms of salinity, only 4
 26 wells showed salinity concentrations above 900 µS/cm. Three of these wells were sampled in
 27 the 60s and 70s and other wells sampled at later dates did not report levels above 900 µS/cm.
 28 The fourth well located in the southern portion of basin is monitored as part of another
 29 regulatory program associated to irrigated lands. Overall, the consulting team did not see other
 30 degraded conditions in the subbasin from natural occurrences from the GAMA data. Data for the
 31 proposed deep RMS wells obtained from DWR’s Water Data library show good conditions well
 32 below 900 µS/cm.

33
34 **Draft Undesirable Results and Sustainability Criteria**

Undesirable Result Statement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality is below State Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or thresholds for agricultural productivity as a result of groundwater pumping. • Salinity will be used as a proxy for overall water quality. • Other programs and agencies are responsible for enforcing groundwater quality violations. GSA will coordinate with other agencies if water quality degradation is associated with groundwater pumping.



Minimum Threshold (onset of undesirable result) & Measurable Objective (desired condition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Threshold – 1,600 µS/cm–Upper SMCL • Measurable Objective–900 µS/cm–Secondary MCL (SMCL)
Quantitative definition of significant and unreasonable impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 % of representative monitoring locations fall below minimum threshold for 2 consecutive years.

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Discussion:

No comments

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

Approach: Geosyntec proposed setting the Minimum Threshold (MT) based on domestic well depths, with the intent to establish some level of protection for domestic well vulnerability. The team suggested using the 15% percentile as the MT, which would mean 85% of the wells would have depths below the threshold and be “protected”. Geosyntec suggested establishing MOs (the desired state for water levels) based on current and projected water level trends, using existing monitoring data and modeling results. The options for the MO presented were to use 2015 levels (higher) or projections based on historic trends (lower). Projections to 2030 are based on General Plan land use data, projected urban water demands in 2050, and historical hydrology with climate change. Choosing a higher MO would be more protective and require more conservation and more PMA, while a lower MO would be less protective and provide more flexibility. The area between the MT and MO indicates the level of operational flexibility. Dipping below the MO would trigger certain PMAs, so the higher the MO the more aggressive the subbasin has to be with PMAs. This SMC process would apply to each Representative Monitoring Site.

Draft Undesirable Results and Sustainability Criteria

Undesirable Result Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW Levels are unable to satisfy beneficial uses over a sustained period. Specific examples of undesirable results include domestic wells going dry, reduction in pumping capacity, Increase in pumping costs, Potential impacts to GDEs.
Minimum Threshold (onset of undesirable result) & Measurable Objective (desired condition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Threshold – Fall (Sept/Oct) GW level is above the 15th Percentile of all domestic well depths in a given area or sub-area. This means 85% of all domestic wells are completed below the minimum threshold and will be “protected.” • Measurable Objective – Fall 2015 groundwater level (or modeled 2015 groundwater level if no data are available). This means dry cycle minimums are no worse than 1993-2015 minimums.
Quantitative definition of significant and unreasonable impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 % of representative monitoring wells fall below minimum threshold for 2 consecutive years.

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1 The Geosyntec team prepared a table including 20 monitoring wells to show how many wells are
2 vulnerable at the different percentiles [[Access SMC Supporting Materials](#)]. These estimates come
3 from DWR data. The technical team does not know how many of the wells remain in service.
4 Numbers need to be updated as part of implementation as the data is not currently available
5 from DWR. By the first 5-year update, the GSA would refine numbers, recalculate statistics, and
6 potentially reset MT based on better information.

7

8 Discussion:

9 The SHAC held differing views regarding the proposed MT and MO. While some were comfortable
10 with the 15th percentile, others expressed concern. Some advocated for a higher MO to
11 encourage prompt and effective action towards sustainability, while others suggested having a
12 broader range of operational flexibility.

13

14 *SHAC Members*

15 a. A. Dawson (domestic well user) expressed serious concern with setting the MT at the
16 15th-percentile proposal but could live with 10th percentile. In terms of the MO, Anne
17 suggested using the projected slope (2003-2015) to provide more flexibility during dry
18 years. She suggested using interim targets. Lastly, she highlighted the GSA's obligation to
19 provide a safe drinking water source to meet basic human needs to the domestic well
20 owners' whose wells go dry.

21 b. G. Sohnrey (ag well user) shared he would be okay with the 15th percentile, understanding
22 this number would be refined and adjusted in the coming years. Further, he anticipates
23 many of the vulnerable wells are old and perhaps not in use. Vulnerability does not imply
24 these wells will go dry, but rather sets a threshold for management. He inquired about
25 the County's Basin Management Objective program and its alert stages which uses a set
26 level for each well to inform owners when levels were low. P. Gosselin shared that the
27 BMO effort did not take into account all domestic wells. Alert levels were based on
28 historical lows by each specific well; the MT is much lower than any previous historical
29 low.

30 c. C. Madden (Butte College) highlighted the tradeoffs between the options presented. The
31 wider the range between MO and MT, the more time to implement a particular PMA,
32 which would imply less severe consequences and more time to see the results of the
33 PMAs. Pushing out the MO to the 2030 level would lower range and require quicker and
34 more aggressive response. He suggested setting the level at 2015 or interpolating
35 somewhere in between to buy some time.

36 d. D. Kehn (CalWater) stated he would be okay with the 15th percentile, as it represents
37 unreasonable and undesirable conditions, the worst-case scenario. His main concern with
38 setting the MO at 2015 level which would require getting PMAs up and running quickly
39 which could put the subbasin in a difficult position and may not be cost effective.



- 1 e. J. Brobeck (environmental rep) suggested including multi-completion wells in the analysis
- 2 to set up MOs and MTs, focused on the pressurized portion of the aquifer. He believes
- 3 the more conservative the better and trusts the consulting team on their suggestions.
- 4 f. B. Smith (business rep) shared that if the groundwater levels were just dependent on the
- 5 Vina subbasin, he would be comfortable with the proposal. Massive pumping across the
- 6 river in adjacent subbasins will impact water levels. He would like to set up the MO at
- 7 2015 levels because it is based on real data. Further, by setting the number at 2015 levels,
- 8 the subbasin would be set up for greater and faster action and would require neighbors
- 9 to look at screen levels and cross-sections. Looking at snowfall this year, the subbasin
- 10 does not have a lot of time. In terms of the MT, he is not comfortable with 15-percentile,
- 11 10 is better and 5% is preferred. Drying up people’s wells would have a severe impact on
- 12 people’s lives and on the economy.
- 13 g. G. Cole (ag well user) would be ok with the 15% percentile but assumes that the system
- 14 cannot be based on one figure and would include mitigation efforts and other PMAs.
- 15 Besides, he would like to ground truth the numbers to know how many of these wells are
- 16 functional.
- 17 h. C. Chastain (CSU Chico) suggested the 15th percentile was too high and not reasonable.
- 18 She would be more comfortable with the 10th percentile. In terms of MO, she was not
- 19 ready to provide comment at this time.
- 20 i. S. Goepp (domestic well user) was trying to digest all the information. His initial reaction
- 21 was that 15% seems conservative, and the SHAC needs to anticipate the impact growth
- 22 and new development (residential, industrial, and commercial) may have on groundwater
- 23 conditions.
- 24 S. Lewis (ag well user) appreciated other SHAC members’ comments. She is comfortable
- 25 with 15th percentile because it can be revisited and modified with time. She would like
- 26 to base SMCs on the longer dataset and time period to account for cycles and would like
- 27 to include education efforts as part of the PMAs, related to water supply vulnerability
- 28 for future buyers.
- 29

30 *Non-SHAC:*

- 31 a. D. Rice (Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA) shared he has more questions than answers
- 32 at this time. Mitigation efforts for domestic wells at the 15th level may be financially
- 33 viable, but the environmental impacts might be significant. The basin will need to identify
- 34 undesirable results and address them.
- 35 b. A member of the public wanted to emphasize A. Dawson’s point about the Human Right
- 36 to Water. What happens to domestic well owners when they go dry? What are the
- 37 ramifications? Some San Joaquin Valley plans did not even address domestic well impacts.
- 38 Vina can set criteria and PMAs to ensure all people have access to sufficient and adequate
- 39 water. A member of the public shared that while some subbasins in the San Joaquin Valley
- 40 ignored domestic wells, others established mitigation programs or committees to look at
- 41 mitigation efforts to support domestic and agricultural pumpers, emphasizing the



1 importance of achieving a balance. If the MT is too aggressive, the subbasin may reach
2 undesirable and unreasonable conditions in the near future.

3
4 Outcomes & Next Steps | SMC

- 5 a. The technical team will take the SHAC’s insight as they prepare for the SMC Workshop
6 with the Vina and RCRD GSA Boards on February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm. All SHAC members
7 and public participants are welcome to participate. Geosyntec will summarize options,
8 trade-offs, and considerations between 15% and 10% MT. They will also clarify key
9 questions to inform the board and receive input.
- 10 b. Geosyntec shared that all of the considerations mentioned can be incorporated in the
11 plan (shallow aquifer, salmon habitat, domestic well protection, etc.) and addressed
12 during the implementation phase.
- 13 c. SMC chapters will be open for public review in the near term. Further, the SHAC will begin
14 shifting conversations towards PMAs.

15
16 5. PMAs:

17 P. Gosselin provided a brief overview of the PMA materials that the Management Committee
18 prepared for the SHAC and clarified next steps. Materials referenced, but not discussed, included
19 an abridged staff memo discussing legal implications [[Access Here](#)] and a PMA glossary of terms
20 [[Access Here](#)]. The full memo on legal implications was later provided to the SHAC. Unlike many
21 other GSAs, Vina started with a PMA brainstorm early, then transitioned towards setting the
22 SMC, and now will revisit PMAs with a better understanding of what to plan for. The materials
23 aim to move the conversation from hypothetical toward setting up an evaluation process for
24 specific PMAs. The Management Committee is still putting together recharge maps and will share
25 with the SHAC as soon as possible. SHAC members requested adding an in-depth discussion on
26 the legal consequences of artificial recharge during the next meeting.

27
28 Staff is looking to establish a solicitation process to gather PMA ideas. A draft PMA submittal
29 form was included in the materials [[Access Here](#)]. The SHAC can also submit suggestions and
30 options to the form. The Management Committee will bring ideas back to the SHAC for
31 discussion.

32
33 V. Kinkaid (O’Laughlin & Paris LLP) briefly shared that if the subbasin were not on track to meet
34 interim milestones, certain PMAs could be implemented. Other GSAs have struggled with
35 defining authority, specifically who has to do what and when, acknowledging that it takes funds.

36
37 Discussion:

- 38 a. A SHAC member would like to spend more time discussing the legal implications of recharge
39 programs and demand management. He was concerned with the delay in addressing this
40 matter and wants to ensure that PMAs (recharge) will not impact people’s water rights and
41 the environment. The Management Committee assured him that there will be more time to

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1 discuss this after the board SMC workshop. Due to the complexity and depth of the SMC
 2 discussion, there will be a board workshop dedicated to PMAs later in the process.

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 4 **6. Vina GSA Management Committee Reports**

5 a. *Vina GSA Board Updates*: No updates

6 b. *Inter-basin coordination updates*: The most recent summary is available at the website
 7 [[Access Here](#)]. A SHAC member asked for additional details regarding preliminary findings
 8 from model output comparison related to the quantity and direction of cross-boundary flows.
 9 C. Buck shared that flow direction was the same in the model outputs. In relation to the actual
 10 flow estimates, the technical teams are conducting further analysis to better understand
 11 what is driving the differences in model outputs. The facilitation team acknowledged the
 12 SHAC member’s concern for greater transparency and asked for suggestions on how to
 13 improve the process moving forward. The SHAC member suggested finding ways to
 14 communicate the information in a clear and accessible manner for the general public, who
 15 may not have much experience with modeling.

16
 17 **7. Next Steps**

18 The SHAC will meet again via video conference on February 16, 2021 from 9:00-12:00. In addition,
 19 the Vina GSA Board will have a public workshop focused on the SMC on February 10, 2021 at 5:30
 20 pm.

21 **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
David Kehn	California Water Service	Y
Greg Sohnrey	Agricultural well user	Y
James Brobeck	Environmental representative	Y
Sam Goepp	Domestic well user	Y
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

VINA SUBBASIN STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 19, 2021



Participant	Representation/Affiliation	Present
Colin Klinesteker	Mechoopda Indian Tribe	N
Darren Rice	Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA	Y
Technical Consultants		
Joe Turner	Geosyntec	Y
Amer Hussain	Geosyntec	Y
Bob Anderson	Geosyntec	Y
Other Representatives		
Debbie Spangler	CA Department of Water Resources	Y
Valerie Kinkaid	O'Laughlin & Paris LLP	Y
Facilitator		
Tania Carlone	Consensus Building Institute	Y
Mariana Rivera-Torres	Consensus Building Institute	Y

- 1 Approximately ten members of the public attended the meeting.