



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

Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Chico City Council Chamber, Conference Room #1, 421 Main Street, Chico, CA.

Or [Join the Vina GSA SHAC Meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 814 0243 0033

Join via phone: +1 669 900 6833

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MEETING AGENDA

September 23, 2026

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Business from the Floor**

The public and Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) members will have an opportunity to comment on items not on the agenda and that are relevant to SHAC. Committee members and Management Committee staff are not required to respond to any issues raised during the public comment period. Commenters are asked to respect differing perspectives and to keep remarks within three minutes.

3. ***Review and Approval of 07/22/2026 SHAC Meeting Minutes**

Requested Action: Approve the 7/22/2026 meeting minutes.

4. ***Update on the Draft Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments**

Staff will provide an update on the status and anticipated timeline for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments, including information regarding the comment period for the draft documents and key decision-making milestones through January 2027. **(Report - Becky Anderson - Fairbanks, GSA Project Manager)**

Requested Action: Accept as information.

5. ***Drought Resilience Plan Update**

On September 23, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law SB 552 (Hertzberg), which assigned new responsibilities and requirements for the State of California (State) and local agencies to help small water suppliers and rural communities reduce their risks of inadequate water supply amid a water shortage event. SB 552 specifically required all counties to improve drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within a county's jurisdiction by 1) establishing a standing Drought and

Water Shortage Task Force (Drought Task Force) and 2) developing a County Drought Resilience Plan (DRP).

The existing Butte County Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October 2004 (2004 Drought Plan). However, that Plan needed to be updated to comply with SB 552 by incorporating the required drought and water shortage risk assessment, identifying short and long-term response actions that specifically address state small water systems and domestic wells, and other implementation considerations. In addition, the preparation of the County DRP would also reflect other current laws, programs, and activities being conducted by County departments and other local agencies (i.e., Groundwater Sustainability Agencies).

Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation released the Draft Drought Resilience Plan for a 45-day public review period that extended from July 15 through August 28, 2026. Department staff will present an overview of the DRP for informational purposes. **(Report – Kamie Loeser, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation)**

Requested Action: Accept as information.

6. **GSA Program Manager and Management Committee Update** *(Verbal Report - Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager and Management Committee Staff)*

7. **SHAC Future Agenda Requests**

SHAC members may verbally request an item to be agendized at a future meeting. After stating what the item would be, a majority vote of the SHAC is needed in order for the Management Committee to agendize the item. SHAC members may also submit requests in writing to the GSA Program Manager to bring forward to the SHAC for consideration on a future agenda.

8. **Adjournment:**

The Committee will adjourn to their next meeting, **Wednesday, October 28, 2026.**

*Materials included in agenda packet



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Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Chico City Council Chamber, Conference Room #1, 421 Main Street, Chico, CA.

MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2026

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM

Committee Members Present: Samantha Lewis, Holly Swan, Joanne Parsley, Anne Dawson, Susan Schrader, Patrick Riley, and Todd Greene

Committee Members Absent: Greg Sohnrey and Evan Markey

RCRD Representative Present: Bruce McGowan

Staff Present: Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager; Becky Anderson - Fairbanks, GSA Project Manager; Christina Buck, Assistant Director, Butte County Water & Resources Conservation; Kamie Loeser, Director, Butte County Water & Resources Conservation; Brandon Mortimer, City of Chico

2. **Business from the Floor**

The public and Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) members had the opportunity to comment on items not on the agenda and that are relevant to SHAC.

Public Comment(s):

- Jim Graydon
- Tovey Giezantanner

3. **Review and Approval of 6/24/2026 SHAC Meeting Minutes**

Public Comment(s): None

ACTION: Todd Greene made a motion to approve the 6/24/2026 SHAC meeting minutes. That motion was seconded by Susan Schrader.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Update on the Anticipated Timeline for the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments**

Staff provided an update on the status and anticipated timeline for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments, including upcoming decision-making milestones through January 2027. The presentation also highlighted webpages and other resources available to support stakeholder

engagement and public participation, as well as provided an update on remaining Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant projects. **(Report - Becky Anderson - Fairbanks, GSA Project Manager)**

Public Comment(s): Cheetah Tchudi

Action: Accepted as information.

5. Consideration and potential recommendation on topics related to the Vina Periodic Evaluation and potential amendments to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Topics for discussion and potential recommendations include:

- (a) GSP Amendment to remove “non-dry year” language from SMC**
- (b) Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) including Alternatives for the Minimum Threshold**
- (c) Potential new Projects and Management Actions**
- (d) Draft response to Water Quality related Recommended Corrective Action**

Staff presented an overview of each topic based on information provided in the attached staff memos to support SHAC discussion. SHAC discussed and provided recommendations as warranted. **(Report - Christina Buck, Asst. Director Butte County Water and Resource Conservation)**

Public Comment(s):

- Greg Brislain
- Tovey Giezentanner
- Patrizia Hironymous
- Cheetah Tchudi

Actions:

- a) Non-dry year language in SMC:** Provide a recommendation regarding non-dry year language in the SMC

ACTION: Joanne Parsley made a motion to recommend leaving the non-dry year language in the SMC. That motion was seconded by Samantha Lewis.

The motion failed as follows, 2-5-0:

Ayes: Samantha Lewis and Joanne Parsley

Noes: Holly Swan, Anne Dawson, Susan Schrader, Patrick Riley, and Todd Greene

Absent: Greg Sohnrey and Evan Markey

RCRD representative position: Aye

ACTION: Holly Swan made a motion to recommend that the non-dry language be removed from the SMC. That motion was seconded by Todd Greene.

The motion passed as follows, 6-1-0:

Ayes: Holly Swan, Joanne Parsley, Anne Dawson, Susan Schrader, Patrick Riley, and Todd Greene

Noes: Samantha Lewis

Absent: Greg Sohnrey and Evan Markey

RCRD representative position: No

- b) Groundwater Level SMC:** Provide a recommendation regarding the Groundwater Level SMC and whether the change should be made as an amendment to the GSP or only described in the Periodic Evaluation.

ACTION: Joanne Parsley made a motion to recommend Alternative 1 as presented by staff. That motion was seconded by Samantha Lewis.

The motion failed as follows, 2-5-0:

Ayes: Samantha Lewis and Joanne Parsley,

Noes: Holly Swan, Anne Dawson, Susan Schrader, Patrick Riley, and Todd Greene

Absent: Greg Sohnrey and Evan Markey

RCRD representative position: Aye

ACTION: Todd Greene made a motion to recommend Alternative 2 as presented by staff. That motion was seconded by Susan Schrader.

The motion passed as follows, 5-2-0:

Ayes: Holly Swan, Joanne Parsley, Anne Dawson, Susan Schrader, and Todd Greene

Noes: Samantha Lewis and Patrick Riley

Absent: Greg Sohnrey and Evan Markey

RCRD representative position: No

- c) Projects and Management Actions – discuss and provide feedback to staff

General support from the SHAC for the Project and Management Action concepts included in the staff report and presented by staff. Preference was expressed by several members for categorizing them as other projects and not management actions.

- d) Water Quality RCA Response – discuss and provide feedback to staff

General support from the SHAC for the Water Quality RCA response provided in the staff report.

6. GSA Program Manager and Management Committee Update (Verbal Report - Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager and Management Committee Staff)

- Update on SGMA Fees
- Well Ordinance Public Meetings
- Draft Drought Resilience Plan

Public Comment(s): None

7. SHAC Future Agenda Requests

SHAC members may verbally request an item to be agendaized at a future meeting.

No requests received.

8. Adjournment:

Susan Schrader made a motion to adjourn the meeting to their next meeting, Wednesday, August 26, 2026. That motion was seconded by Anne Dawson.

The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Transmittal

Subject: Update on the Draft Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments

Contact: Becky Fairbanks

Phone: (530) 552-3587

Meeting Date: September 23, 2026

Agenda Item: 4

Summary:

Staff will provide an update on the status and anticipated timeline for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments, including information regarding the comment period for the draft documents and key decision-making milestones through January 2027.

Attachments:

1. Staff Memo



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency
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MEMORANDUM

To: Vina GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC)

From: Becky Anderson-Fairbanks, Vina GSA Project Manager, Christina Buck, Asst. Director Butte County Dept. of Water and Resource Conservation (providing technical staff support to the GSA)

Date: September 23, 2026

Subject: Status Update: Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and Draft GSP Plan Amendments – Public Review Timeline

Overview

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Rock Creek Reclamation District (RCRD) GSA are completing the required Periodic Evaluation of the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 28, 2027, five years after the GSP was submitted. As part of this process, the GSAs have also prepared draft amendments to the GSP. This memo provides the Board and public with an updated status and timeline for release of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and Draft GSP Plan Amendments for public review.

Status of the Draft Documents

Release of draft documents. The Draft Periodic Evaluation and Draft Plan Amendments are in final preparation and anticipated to be released for public review by **September 14, 2026**. Release on that date would provide a six-week public review period. Staff emphasizes that these are draft documents, released to solicit public and stakeholder input before being finalized. Public comment is welcome and encouraged and nothing in the drafts is final until the Boards act in December.

Shaping of the Documents' Content

The content of these draft documents is the result of a series of public discussions, workshops, Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC), and GSA Board meetings that have occurred in earnest since March 2026. Community outreach on these topics began in the fall of 2025. Staff has used a “strawman proposal” approach to encourage community input and shaping of the approach and content brought to the SHAC and Boards related to Groundwater Level, Interconnected Surface Water, Land Subsidence, and Water Quality topics. The content of the draft documents are the result of GSA Board direction on each of these topics as they considered different options and alternatives. The content has come to the SHAC and Boards as individual but related pieces over the past several months. Release of the draft documents provides the opportunity for the public to consider and comment on the entire package at once, rather than piece by piece. The Board will then consider the draft documents, public input, SHAC recommendations, and make final decisions by the end of the year.

Staff acknowledges the countless hours community members have spent reviewing, digesting,

engaging, and providing input on the content to date. These topics are complex, interconnected, overwhelming at times, and of great importance. County and GSA staff and the Board appreciate the engagement of the community over the past months.

Public Review Period

The draft documents will be available for public review from September 14 through October 26, 2026, at [GSP Periodic Evaluation & Plan Amendments](http://www.vinagsa.org/gsp-periodic-evaluation-plan-amendments) (www.vinagsa.org/gsp-periodic-evaluation-plan-amendments). Comments may be submitted through the online comment form on the webpage, or directly by email to vinagsa@gmail.com, throughout the review period.

Anticipated Process for Incorporating Public Input

All comments received by October 26 will be compiled and provided to the SHAC at their November 18, 2026 meeting. Staff will identify and summarize comments that could lead to changes to the draft documents. This could include comments that lead to clarifications or corrections to the narrative or comments that provide input on the substance and approach. Commenters are encouraged to provide specific input on what changes to the documents they would like the Board to consider. The SHAC will review the draft documents and public comments and make recommendations to the Board. The Board will consider public input and SHAC recommendations when adopting the final amendments to the GSP and finalizing the PE. Comments received after October 26 will still be forwarded to the SHAC and Boards, but staff may not be able to summarize them in the meeting packets.

Upcoming Public Workshop

Staff will host a public workshop on **September 16, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Chico Masonic Family Center** (1110 W East Ave, Chico, CA 95926) to walk through the draft documents and answer questions from the public.

Draft Local Management Levels

The Draft Plan Amendments and Periodic Evaluation include newly drafted language regarding Local Management Levels (LMLs), a non-regulatory, early-warning tool. LMLs are groundwater elevations set well above the minimum thresholds at a subset of representative monitoring wells. Reaching one would be an early indicator that prompts the Boards to look at what is happening in that area and to consider whether a management response is warranted. LMLs do not change the minimum thresholds or measurable objectives adopted in the GSP. GSA Board direction on August 12, 2026 was to set the LMLs at 20 feet below the measurable objective for 14 (of the 29) representative monitoring wells and to include more prescriptive language as to what would happen if LMLs were reached. This direction set the language reflected in the current draft, but it is not final. Public comment, SHAC input, and further Board discussion in the coming months may still result in changes to the specific LML descriptions in these documents.

Staff anticipates that the SHAC will discuss the LML language and may make a recommendation at its October 28, 2026 meeting, and that the Joint GSA Boards will give staff direction on November 4, 2026. Staff therefore requests that any comments specific to the draft LML language be submitted by October 14, 2026. This earlier deadline allows staff time to compile comments for the SHAC's October meeting packet and gives the SHAC adequate time to review comments ahead of that discussion. This earlier deadline reflects the SHAC's meeting schedule, not a narrower opportunity for input. The LML language is not being finalized ahead of the rest of the draft documents; It will go through the same Board decision in December as every other element of the Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments. The general public review period for the Draft Periodic Evaluation and Draft Plan Amendments remains open through October 26, 2026, and all comments received during the entire public review period will be included in the meeting packets at the November SHAC and December Board meetings.

Proposed Additional Monitoring Wells

In addition, member agency staff from the City of Chico and Butte County have identified two shallow wells within the Chico Management Area for inclusion as Groundwater Level representative monitoring wells, to monitor conditions in relation to the Chico Urban Forest, specifically deep-rooted Valley Oaks. This approach is described in the draft Periodic Evaluation and reflected as draft GSP amendments. It is provided for consideration; the GSA Boards have not yet provided direction on this approach.

Additional Board-Directed Topics for Discussion

At its September 9, 2026 meeting, the Vina GSA Board directed staff to bring back two previously considered topics for further discussion at a future Board meeting: (1) the Groundwater Levels Undesirable Result definition, specifically the two-consecutive-non-dry-year provision, and (2) an alternative Minimum Threshold approach, raised via public and email comment, that would combine additional Local Management Levels with raised Minimum Thresholds.

These topics are not reflected in the current draft documents released for public review, though the Board's discussion could result in future changes. Along with the draft Local Management Levels described above, these topics will be discussed at upcoming SHAC and Board meetings, ahead of final adoption in December. A specific date for this discussion has not yet been set; staff will provide notice once scheduled.

Next Steps and Anticipated Timeline

- **September 14, 2026:** Draft documents released for public review
- **September 16, 2026:** Public workshop, Chico Masonic Family Center, 5:30–7:00 PM – walk through of the draft documents and process for public input and address questions
- **October 14, 2026:** Comments on the draft Local Management Level language are requested by this date so that staff can include them in the materials for the October 28, 2026 SHAC meeting.
- **October 26, 2026:** General public review and comment period closes (not anticipated to change regardless of when draft documents are released)
- **October 28, 2026:** SHAC meeting – consideration and possible recommendation regarding description of Local Management Levels in the draft PE and plan amendments
- **November 4, 2026:** Joint Board meeting – direction on the description of Local Management Levels in the draft PE and plan amendments.
- **November 18, 2026:** Final review and recommendation by the SHAC on the Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments
- **Ongoing:** SHAC and Board discussion of the Undesirable Result definition and the alternative Minimum Threshold approach described above, at upcoming meetings ahead of final adoption
- **December 9, 2026:** Joint GSA Boards' final approval of the Periodic Evaluation and adoption of Plan Amendments
- **January 28, 2027:** Final Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment documents submitted to DWR through the [SGM Portal](#)
- **After submittal:** DWR reviews the submitted documents as part of its periodic review of the GSP. In the meantime, the GSAs continue to implement the GSP and to submit annual reports to DWR each April 1.

Requested Action

Information only. Staff requests the SHAC receive this update on the status and timeline for the Draft Periodic Evaluation and Draft Plan Amendments. No formal action is requested at this time.

Attachment A. Highlights regarding the process and what's required by SGMA

Excerpts from Department of Water Resources' Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: [A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#) (October 2023) - Attachment 1: Frequently Asked Questions for Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluation, and Plan Amendments

18. Is a GSA required to review and respond to public comments received on or prior to developing Periodic Evaluations?

While the GSP Regulations do not have specific requirements with respect to public comments on Periodic Evaluations, a GSA may want to respond to public comments to address and resolve public questions or concerns pertaining to GSP implementation activities. In general, the Department interprets SGMA to foster and, in specific instances, require GSAs to consider all interested parties including the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the establishment and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the agency's GSP (see e.g., Water Code § 10723.2, 10723.8(a)(4)). If a GSA elects to respond to public comments, the Department suggests that copies of those responses be provided to the Department so that they may be available for consideration by the Department, along with the comments themselves, during review of the Periodic Evaluation.

19. Will the Department hold a public comment period after GSAs submit a Periodic Evaluation or Amendment?

The GSP Regulations do not have specific requirements with respect to public comments on a Periodic Evaluation. However, the GSP Amendment process is subject to the same requirements as the initially submitted GSP (under Water Code 10733.4 and 23 CCR § 353.8). Therefore, the Department will provide a public comment period for a GSP Amendment.
public drinking water systems.

8. Will the Department evaluate and assess the Periodic Evaluation? Will the Department issue a determination and recommended corrective actions on submitted GSP Periodic Evaluations?

The Department is required to periodically review an approved GSP and issue an assessment at least every five years. During this process, the Department relies on information and data provided in Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations prepared and submitted by a GSA, and other available information. As part of its Periodic Review, the Department will issue a written assessment that includes a determination of the status of the GSP (i.e., Approved, Incomplete, or Inadequate). The Department's Periodic Reviews may also issue recommended corrective actions to ensure that GSP implementation remains likely to achieve basin sustainability goals on SGMA timelines. Also see [SECTION 3.5](#) of the Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments (including Water Code §§ 10733(a), 10733.8; and 23 CCR § 355.6).

9. Will the Department evaluate and assess the amendments made to a GSP? Will the Department issue a determination and recommended corrective actions on an amended GSP?

Yes, the Department will evaluate the amended portions of an Approved GSP, the accompanying Periodic Evaluation prepared by the GSA, and any new information that is relevant to the amendments or other Plan elements. The Department will issue a written assessment that includes a determination of the status of the amended GSP as Approved, Incomplete, or Inadequate (see 23 CCR 23 § 355.10). For GSPs that the Department has previously found inadequate and have therefore been referred to the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department will conduct assessments of subsequent GSP amendments only when requested by the State Water Resources Control Board under Water Code § 10735.2(b).



Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation & Draft GSP Plan Amendments

**Vina GSA SHAC Meeting
September 23, 2026**

Status Update

- **Once released, these are draft documents.**
- The Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and Draft GSP Plan Amendments are in final preparation and anticipated to be released for public review on September 15, 2026.
- These documents are drafts, released to solicit public and stakeholder input before being finalized. Public comment is welcome and encouraged.
- The Periodic Evaluation is required by SGMA; the Plan Amendments were prepared alongside it.
- Staff will suggest revisions to the draft documents in response to public input for SHAC/Board consideration
- The GSA Boards will consider and approve final documents in December

Periodic Evaluation – Key Findings

Groundwater conditions remained above Measurable Objectives and in compliance with all Minimum Thresholds throughout the evaluation period (WY 2021–2025), and the Subbasin remains on track to meet its sustainability goal by 2042.

20 ft

Above Measurable Objective

Groundwater elevations remained 20 feet above the Measurable Objective (WY 2025).

71 ft

Above Minimum Threshold

Groundwater elevations averaged 71 feet above the Minimum Threshold (WY 2025).

+10,600 AF

Increase in Groundwater Storage

Groundwater storage increased by approximately 80,000 acre-feet (WY 2022–2025).

Plan Amendments – Key Changes

Category	Key Update
Groundwater Levels	Monitoring network expanded from 17 to 29 wells. New Local Management Levels (LMLs) – drafted, not yet finalized – were added for 14 wells.
Land Subsidence	New quantitative Minimum Threshold established: 0.5 foot of cumulative subsidence over a five-year period, based on InSAR satellite monitoring. Monitoring network revised to use InSAR data.
Groundwater Levels (proposed)	<i>Pending Board direction:</i> Two additional shallow wells in the Chico Management Area have been proposed by City of Chico and Butte County staff to monitor conditions near Chico’s Urban Forest (Valley Oaks). Provided for consideration – the Board has not yet given direction on this approach.

Draft Local Management Levels

- **Still being discussed – not yet finalized.**
- Added to the drafts per Board Direction on August 12, 2026
- Local Management Levels (LMLs) are a non-regulatory, early-warning tool
- Drafted for 14 representative monitoring wells, set 20 feet below the Measurable Objective.
- Included in the Draft Plan Amendments, but subject to change based on further review and input.
- The SHAC will discuss the draft LML language and may make a recommendation on October 28, 2026; the Joint Boards will give staff direction on draft language on November 4, 2026.
- Comments specific to the LMLs are requested by October 14, 2026, to allow time for SHAC review.

Additional Topics for Discussion

- **Still being discussed – not reflected in the current drafts.**
- At its September 9, 2026 meeting, the Vina GSA Board directed staff to bring back two previously considered topics for further discussion at a future Board meeting.
 1. Groundwater Levels Undesirable Result definition – specifically the non-dry-year provision.
 2. An alternative Minimum Threshold approach (provided by Dr. Todd Greene via public and email comment) that would combine additional Local Management Levels with raised Minimum Thresholds.
- Along with the draft Local Management Levels, these topics will be discussed at upcoming SHAC and Board meetings.
- Board direction may lead to future changes, ahead of final adoption in December.
- A specific date for this discussion has not yet been set; staff will provide notice once scheduled.

Public Review & Comment

- Draft documents are available for public review through October 26, 2026.
- Documents and the online comment form are posted at the same location: GSP Periodic Evaluation & Plan Amendments (<https://www.vinagsa.org/gsp-periodic-evaluation-plan-amendments>).
- Comments may be submitted through the online comment form, or directly by email to vinagsa@gmail.com, throughout the review period.
- Comments received will be reviewed, combined, and included in meeting packets for SHAC and Board meetings.
- Staff will summarize comments in a memo and present them, along with any proposed revisions to the draft documents, to the SHAC and Joint Boards for their consideration at the November and December meetings.

Public Workshop

- **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 · 5:30–7:00 PM**
- **Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W East Ave, Chico, CA 95926**
- SGMA and groundwater basics, and groundwater conditions in the Vina Subbasin, 2021–2025.
- Proposed Plan amendments, including expanded groundwater level monitoring, local management levels, and changes to land subsidence monitoring and criteria
- Facilitated discussion and open question and answer.
- How to submit a public comment.
- The Boards have not acted on the draft documents; comments received will be considered before any Board decision.

Next Steps

- **September 14, 2026: Draft documents released for public review**
- **September 16, 2026: Public workshop, Chico Masonic Family Center, 5:30–7:00 PM**
- **October 14, 2026: Deadline for comments specific to the draft Local Management Levels**
- **October 26, 2026: General public review and comment period closes**
- **October 28, 2026: SHAC meeting – discussion and possible recommendation on draft LML language**
- **November 4, 2026: Joint Board meeting – direction on draft LML language**
- **November 18, 2026: Final review and recommendation by the SHAC**
- **Ongoing: SHAC and Board discussion of the Undesirable Result definition and the alternative Minimum Threshold approach, at upcoming meetings ahead of final adoption**
- **December 9, 2026: Final review and adoption by the Joint GSA Boards**
- **January 28, 2027: Final Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments due to DWR**

Thank you



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Transmittal

Subject: Drought Resilience Plan Update

Contact: Kamie Loeser

Phone: (530) 552-3595

Meeting Date: September 23, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

Summary:

On September 23, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law SB 552 (Hertzberg), which assigned new responsibilities and requirements for the State of California (State) and local agencies to help small water suppliers and rural communities reduce their risks of inadequate water supply amid a water shortage event. SB 552 specifically required all counties to improve drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within a county's jurisdiction by 1) establishing a standing Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Drought Task Force) and 2) developing a County Drought Resilience Plan (DRP). The existing Butte County Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October 2004 (2004 Drought Plan). However, that Plan needed to be updated to comply with SB 552 by incorporating the required drought and water shortage risk assessment, identifying short and long-term response actions that specifically address state small water systems and domestic wells, and other implementation considerations. In addition, the preparation of the County DRP would also reflect other current laws, programs, and activities being conducted by County departments and other local agencies (i.e., Groundwater Sustainability Agencies).

Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation released the Draft Drought Resilience Plan for a 45-day public review period that extended from July 15 through August 28, 2026. Department staff will present an overview of the DRP for informational purposes.

Requested Action: Accept as information.



Butte County Drought Resilience Plan

Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee

September 23, 2026

Kamie Loeser, Director
Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation

1

Background: Butte County's Drought Planning History



- **2004 Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan**
 - Established a County Drought Task Force to evaluate conditions and coordinate response during drought
 - The Task Force provides regular updates to the Board of Supervisors
- **2026 Drought Resilience Plan**
 - Per new State requirements the County is now updating and expanding the 2004 Plan into a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP)

2

Background: Senate Bill 552



SB 552 (2021) required counties to formally plan for drought and water shortage risk specific to domestic wells and state small water systems (SSWSs)

- Counties must establish a Drought Task Force and
- Prepare a Drought Resilience Plan that considers:
 - Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells
 - Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs
 - Provisions of emergency and interim drinking water solutions
 - Plan implementation and analysis of funding sources
- Follows the Department of Water Resources County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook

3

Background: How the County DRP Is Organized



Butte County's Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) responds to Senate Bill 552 requirements for addressing domestic well and state small water system (SSWS) vulnerabilities.

- Chapter 1 (Introduction) – provides an overview of the DRP; characteristics of Butte County; water supply, uses and providers; water management efforts and actions; applicable County ordinances and agreements; and other plans and resources.
- Chapter 2 (Drought and Water Shortage Task Force) – discusses the Drought Task Force and Subcommittee, Interagency Coordination Group, and Specialized Working Groups.
 - Different groups engage in drought response depending on Drought Phases/Severity

4

Background: How the County DRP Is Organized



- Chapter 3 (Risk Assessment) identifies County areas served by domestic wells and SSWSs that are most susceptible to drought and water shortage
- Chapter 4 (Short-Term Response Actions) addresses immediate health and safety needs for events lasting up to 30 days
- Chapter 5 (Long-Term Mitigation Strategies) aims to reduce the vulnerability of domestic wells and SSWSs so that short-term actions are needed less often

Chapters 4 & 5 were developed by the Drought Task Force Subcommittee through an iterative process, building on activities already underway by County and other partner entities

5

Why This Matters to Groundwater Subbasins



- Guidebook encourages coordination with GSAs:
 - Understand how drinking water users are considered in GSPs
 - How GSAs plan to monitor and manage groundwater levels
 - Collaborate the sharing of data regarding domestic wells
 - Coordination of domestic well mitigation program
- Chapter 4 (Short-Term Response Actions) and Chapter 5 (Long-Term Mitigation Strategies) identify where Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are key partners
- The GSAs play a direct role in some short- and long-term actions supporting domestic well and SSWS communities within their respective Subbasins.

6

Short-Term Response Actions: Voluntary Water Conservation (STRA 03)



- County, in coordination with SSWSs, NGOs, and GSAs maintains communication and engagement and encourages voluntary water conservation during water shortage events
 - Lead: Department of Water and Resource Conservation (DWRC)
 - Partners: Butte County Environmental Health (BCEH), NGOs, and GSAs for the Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Butte Subbasins
- The GSAs may operate voluntary conservation measures to promote sustainable groundwater management that directly support this action

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Long-Term Mitigation Strategies: With GSA Involvement



- Eight Long-Term Mitigation Strategies (LTMSs) in Chapter 5 name GSAs as a partner entity:
 - LTMS 04 – Regional Groundwater Level Monitoring and Communication
 - LTMS 06 – Increased Recharge
 - LTMS 07 – Enhanced SSWS and Domestic Well Vulnerabilities Assessment
 - LTMS 10 – Domestic Well Monitoring
 - LTMS 13 – Well Destruction
 - LTMS 21 – Improve Domestic Well Inventory
 - LTMS 22 – High-Risk Groundwater Contamination Regional Identification

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Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program



SB 552 Guidance

SB 552 Guidance on Well Mitigation

1. Identify impacted wells that may be impacted through water shortage risk assessment
2. Develop mitigation options including, well rehabilitation and other potential strategies
3. Implement community-supported solutions in collaboration with other agencies
4. Coordinate ongoing well monitoring for maintenance, assurance and adaption

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Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program



Draft Periodic Evaluation and Domestic Wells

The GSA is responsible for ensuring its groundwater management actions do not cause undesirable results for domestic well users. The PE / GSP Amendment process resulted in:

- Updated domestic well inventory and identified local management levels to monitor conditions to determine if projects and management actions need to be implemented to minimize impacts to domestic wells
- Completed a domestic well risk assessment and quantified impacts to domestic wells
- Expanded the monitoring network and identified groundwater level monitoring sites representative of domestic wells
- Committed to developing a domestic well mitigation program

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Regional Planning Integration & the Vina Subbasin GSP Timeline



- Vina Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan intersects with the County DRP on:
 - Well inventory and drinking water well mitigation programs
 - Monitoring groundwater level trends
 - Mitigation strategies i.e., voluntary water conservation
- The County reviews the status of relevant planning efforts at annual Drought Task Force meetings to identify opportunities for integration and assign coordination responsibilities

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Partnering with the GSA: Next Steps



How the County will continue working with the GSA

- Continue sharing groundwater level and domestic well monitoring data through GSP Annual Report coordination
- Collaborate on the development of a domestic well mitigation program, if deemed necessary based on future conditions and outcomes
- Support implementation of the Recharge Action Plan within the Subbasin
- Maintain coordination through annual Drought Task Force meetings

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Other Drought-Related Resources



Water and Resource Conservation Department Website

<https://www.buttecounty.net/1195/Well-Owners>

- Well Owner Resources – dry well reporting, how to request a well log
- Current Water Conditions – precipitation data
- Water Conservation – tips to save water
- State Drought Information

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Other Drought-Related Resources



County's Well and Septic Ordinances and Manuals

Butte County Environmental Health Division

<https://www.buttecounty.net/2273/Well-Septic-Ordinance-Updates>

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Next Steps



- October: Drought Task Force Review and Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors
- November: Board of Supervisors Adoption