



**Vina  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Agenda Transmittal**

**Agenda Item: 6.1**

**Subject:** Appointments to the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency Stakeholder Advisory Committee

**Contact:** Kamie Loeser

**Phone:** 530.552.3590

**Meeting Date:** March 13, 2024

**Regular Agenda**

**Department Summary:**

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) receives input and recommendations on groundwater sustainability plan development and implementation from a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC). As memorialized in the SHAC Charter (modified and approved October 11, 2023), the intent for the SHAC is to provide community perspective and participation in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation. The Vina GSA SHAC is comprised of ten (10) members representing the beneficial uses and users of groundwater identified in SGMA. Members must live or work in or represent an organization with a presence in the Vina Subbasin and may not concurrently serve on the GSA Board. The GSA Board appoints at-large members to fill the SHAC seats and interested individuals apply to the GSA.

Six (6) SHAC seats are vacant: two agricultural groundwater users, one domestic well user, one environmental representative, and one business representative. The Vina GSA solicited applications for the vacancies starting September 6, 2023, with applications received on a rolling basis. Four candidates submitted applications: Anne Dawson for the domestic well user seat; Jim Brobeck for the environmental representative; and Greg Sohnrey and Samantha Lewis for the agricultural groundwater user seats. There were no applicants to the business association or non-irrigated/rangeland representatives. Note that the Butte College beneficial user designation has been reassigned as a Non-Irrigated Land/Rangeland User per Vina GSA Board direction.

The Amended SHAC Charter allows a member of an expiring seat to continue to serve until a qualified candidate comes forward. Once filled, the new positions will expire on a staggered timeline, according to the Amended Vina SHAC Charter. Term expiration dates are as follows:

- Domestic Well User seat will serve a two-year term (expiration in 2025)
- Environmental Representative will serve a four-year term (expiration in 2027)
- Business Representative will serve a two-year term (expiration in 2025)
- Agricultural Groundwater Users will serve four-year terms (expiration in 2027)
- Non-Irrigated Rangeland User will serve four-year terms (expiration in 2027)

On October 11, 2023, the Vina GSA Board considered making appointments to the SHAC, however, they directed staff to hold the application period open to solicit additional applicants for all open positions. No additional applications have been received to-date. The Vina GSA Board should consider appointing members to the SHAC or provide direction to the Management Committee.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Staff Recommendation:** 1. Make one appointment to the domestic well user seat with term ending in 2025. 2. Make one appointment to the environmental representative seat with term ending 2027. 3. Make two appointments to the agricultural groundwater user seats with terms ending in 2027.

APPENDIX A

APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE VINA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**From:** [BCWater](#)  
**To:** [Loeser, Kamie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Vina SHAC application  
**Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:03:07 AM

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**From:** Anne Dawson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:52 PM  
**To:** vinagsa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Vina SHAC application

**ATTENTION:** This message originated from outside **Butte County**. Please exercise judgment before opening attachments, clicking on links, or replying.

## Vina SHAC

Application from  
Anne Dawson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I am a resident living within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA

I am applying for the position of Domestic Well User

- 1. Describe how you will represent the interest group indicated above and communicate with other members of these interest groups:** This is challenging because there is no organization representing domestic well users, and the county does not maintain a list of domestic well owners. I reach out to friends and neighbors, let them know of my involvement with SGMA, listen to concerns and feelings, and encourage reporting of well issues to [mydrywatersupply.ca.gov](http://mydrywatersupply.ca.gov).
- 2. Current Occupation:** Retired
- 3. Current license and/or certifications:** I have an active physician's license issued September 2023 and valid until November 2026
- 4. Relevant education/experience:** I graduated from medical school at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1976. I practiced for approximately 38 years prior to retiring. I have been a domestic well representative on the Vina SHAC for the last four years.
- 5. Other relevant Board/Commission/Committees on which you serve/have served:** I served on multiple medical committees at Enloe hospital, including chairmanships of the Cancer committee, and the Institutional Review Board.
- 6. Letters of support:** I am not affiliated with any local organizations or community groups engaged in issues related to water. Individual well owners might be willing to provide letters of support if necessary.

7. **References:** Neither of these referees have relevant affiliations.

1. [REDACTED]

8. **Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you can contribute to the Vina GSA advisory committee:** I have served on the Vina SHAC as a domestic well representative for the past four years. During that time I have learned a great deal about water. It is my opinion that I have a good understanding of how the Vina GSA plan affects domestic well users. I would like to use that depth of knowledge and understanding to continue to advocate for the interests of domestic well users as we move into the next phase of plan implementation which will include developing a domestic well registry and, ultimately, mitigations.

Sent from my iPad



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
VinaGSA@gmail.com

**Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Stakeholder Advisory Committee Application**

*Updated 8/30/2023*

**Date submitted: 9/11/2023**

**First and last name: Jim Brobeck**

**Address, phone number and email address:** [REDACTED], Chico CA, [REDACTED]

**Describe how you meet eligibility (circle one):** *to verify that you are a resident or are employed in the Vina GSA boundaries search the GSA Map View: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>*

- Resident living within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA      YES

**Which at-large seat(s) are you applying for:**

- Environmental Representative (1 position opens 11/14/23)

**1. Describe how you will represent the interest group(s) indicated above and communicate with other members of these interest group(s):** As the sitting Environmental representative on the SHAC I have attended every meeting. I always study the agenda packets and actively participate in the meetings speaking out for protecting the trees, the streams and the groundwater dependent human environment. I have support from the environmental organizations in the Vina sub basin and keep them updated on critical GSP issues.

**2. Current Occupation(s):**  
Retired.

**3. Current License(s) and / or Certifications:**

**4. Relevant Education / Experience:**

**5. Other Relevant Board(s) / Commission(s) / Committee(s) on which you serve / have served (paid or volunteer):**

I served on Board of the Butte County Fire Safe Council for many years. I was nominated to serve on the Butte County Water Advisory Committee by Supervisor Kim Yamaguchi earlier this century. Like the SHAC, these were unpaid positions.

**6. Letters of Support:** I will have representatives from the Butte Environmental Council and the Sierra Club email



Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
VinaGSA@gmail.com

you letters of support before the deadline. I expect that letters of support from the initial term are on file. *For at-large seats, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate support from local organizations and community groups engaged in issues related to the interest that the applicant seeks to represent (i.e. environmental, business, agriculture, rural communities) by attaching letters of support. Submission of letters of support are not required, but are encouraged in order to demonstrate the applicant's ability to represent the interests of the stakeholder seats for which they are applying. Please list the organization, author and date of the letters of support attached here:*

**7. References:**

*List at least two personal and / or professional references. Provide the name, affiliation, title, phone number, and email address of each reference. References remain confidential.*

[Redacted]

**8. Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you can contribute to the Vina GSA Advisory Committee:**

My commitment to attend meetings well-prepared is established and my demeanor is congenial. My awareness of regional and statewide water issues is essential in identifying the parameters of sustainable and balanced groundwater policies.

NOTE: The Agency will keep all applications on file for one year from the date of receipt of the application.

**From:** [Patrizia Hironimus](#)  
**To:** [VinaGSA@gmail.com](mailto:VinaGSA@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Jim Brobeck](#); [Patrizia Hironimus](#)  
**Subject:** BEC letter of recommendation Jim Brobeck for Vina GSA SHAC  
**Date:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:18:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [BEC letter of recommendation Vina GSA SHAC- Jim Brobeck.pdf](#)

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**ATTENTION:** This message originated from outside **Butte County**. Please exercise judgment before opening attachments, clicking on links, or replying.

September 14th, 2023

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC)

308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville CA 95965

530.552.3592

[VinaGSA@gmail.com](mailto:VinaGSA@gmail.com)

Dear valued members of the SHAC,

Jim Brobeck is well suited to represent environmental interests in the Vina sub-basin.

Butte Environmental Council supports Jim's continued presence representing the environmental community on the Vina Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC). Jim has been able to attend and participate in every

SHAC and Vina Board meeting this far and is extremely knowledgeable and capable.

Please contact me directly with any questions.

Thank you,

Patrizia Hironimus

\* Please find the attached letter of recommendation for Jim Brobeck for the VINA GSA- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) next term.

**Patrizia Hironimus**

Pronouns: she/they

*Executive Director* - Butte Environmental Council

313 Walnut Street, Suite 140

Chico, CA 95928-4505

530.891.6424 | [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

*Butte Environmental Council acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of Indigenous people. This message originates from the traditional land of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have and continue to steward it throughout the generations. This calls us to continue to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit. We encourage you to learn which tribal nations are indigenous to the area where you are now living, one excellent source of information is [Native Land](#).*

image.png







**BUTTE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL**

313 Walnut Street,  
#140  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424  
[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

Federal Tax ID  
94-2309829  
CA Charity Number  
018005

**Activities &  
Events**

Park and Creek  
Cleanups  
Urban Forest Program  
Recycling & Rubbish  
Education  
Community Air  
Protection Education  
Oak Way Community  
Garden  
Endangered Earth  
Event  
Community Forum  
Series

**Mission**

To protect the land, air,  
and water of Butte  
County and surrounding  
regions through  
education, advocacy,  
and action!

September 14th, 2023

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC)

308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville CA 95965

530.552.3592

[VinaGSA@gmail.com](mailto:VinaGSA@gmail.com)

Dear valued members of the SHAC,

Jim Brobeck is well suited to represent environmental interests in the Vina sub-basin.

Butte Environmental Council supports Jim's continued presence representing the environmental community on the Vina Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC). Jim has been able to attend and participate in every

SHAC and Vina Board meeting this far and is extremely knowledgeable and capable.

Please contact me directly with any questions.

Thank you,

Patrizia Hironimus

Executive Director, Butte Environmental Council

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [BCWater](#)  
**To:** [Loeser, Kamie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Nominee for Vina Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:48:57 AM

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**From:** GRACE M MARVIN <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** VinaGSA@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Suzette Welch [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Nominee for Vina Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

**ATTENTION:** This message originated from outside **Butte County**. Please exercise judgment before opening attachments, clicking on links, or replying.

Please re-nominate Jim Brobeck to allow him to continue representing so many environmentalists in our community. He is knowledgeable, outspoken, and very important to us in providing a perspective on groundwater that we want to have represented on the Vina Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grace M. Marvin

Conservation Chair

Sierra Club - Blue Oak Group

and member of the Executive and Conservation Committees of the Sierra Club's Mother Lode Chapter

**Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency.**  
**Stakeholder Advisory Committee Application**

Updated 8/30/2023



Date submitted:

First and last name: Greg Sohnrey

Address, phone number and email address: [REDACTED] Durham, Ca [REDACTED] Phone number [REDACTED] email [REDACTED]

Describe how you meet eligibility (circle one): to verify that you are a resident or are employed in the Vina GSA boundaries search the GSA Map View: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>

- Resident living within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA I am a resident and farmer in the Vina GSA
- Employed at an organization with a presence within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA

Which at-large seat(s) are you applying for:

- Agricultural representative (2 positions open on 9/12/23 and 11/14/23) I am applying for the agricultural representative position
- Domestic Well User (1 position opens on 10/10/23)
- Environmental Representative (1 position opens 11/14/23)
- Business Association Representative (1 position opens 11/14/23)
- Non-irrigated/Rangeland Representative (*please note that the Vina GSA Board is currently considering the addition of a non-irrigated/rangeland representative for the SHAC*)
- Describe how you will represent the interest group(s) indicated above and communicate with other members of these interest group(s): I have been on the Vina SHAC in this roll since it was formed
- Current Occupation(s): Farmer and business owner  
*Within the last 12 months*
- Current License(s) and / or Certifications: No licenses or certifications  
*Professional or occupational, date of issues / expiration, including status*

- **Relevant Education / Experience:** I have been involved in the water arena since 1994 in many various capacities including many different committees over that period  
*Applicant may attach resume containing this information and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating the application.*

- **Other Relevant Board(s) / Commission(s) / Committee(s) on which you serve / have served (paid or volunteer):** Member of many different boards from cooperatives to community organizations serving as board presidents of some of them.  
*Please list name of organization, title, and date of service.*

- **Letters of Support:**  
*For at-large seats, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate support from local organizations and community groups engaged in issues related to the interest that the applicant seeks to represent (i.e. environmental, business, agriculture, rural communities) by attaching letters of support. Submission of letters of support are not required, but are encouraged in order to demonstrate the applicant's ability to represent the interests of the stakeholder seats for which they are applying. Please list the organization, author and date of the letters of support attached here:*

- **References:**

List at least two personal and / or professional references. Provide the name, affiliation, title, phone number, and email address of each reference. References remain confidential.

**8. Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you can contribute to the Vina GSA Advisory Committee: I have been serving on this committee and would like to continue and see the process through**

NOTE: The Agency will keep all applications on file for one year from the date of receipt of the application.



**Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Application**

*Updated 8/30/2023*

**Date submitted:** September 5, 2023

**First and last name:** Samantha Lewis

**Address, phone number and email address:** [REDACTED], Chico, CA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Describe how you meet eligibility (circle one):** *to verify that you are a resident or are employed in the Vina GSA boundaries search the GSA Map View: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>*

- Resident living within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA
- Employed at an organization with a presence within the jurisdiction of the Vina GSA

**Which at-large seat(s) are you applying for:**

- Agricultural representative (2 positions open on 9/12/23 and 11/14/23)
- Domestic Well User (1 position opens on 10/10/23)
- Environmental Representative (1 position opens 11/14/23)
- Business Association Representative (1 position opens 11/14/23)
- Non-irrigated/Rangeland Representative (*please note that the Vina GSA Board is currently considering the addition of a non-irrigated/rangeland representative for the SHAC*)

**1. Describe how you will represent the interest group(s) indicated above and communicate with other members of these interest group(s):**

As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Butte County farmer, I have long-established ties to the community. Thru my involvement in groups such as the Butte County Farm Bureau, California Ag Leadership, Blue Diamond Growers, and the Butte County Resource Conservation District, I have access to Ag users throughout Butte County.

**2. Current Occupation(s):**

*Within the last 12 months* Family Farmer

**3. Current License(s) and / or Certifications:**

*Professional or occupational, date of issues / expiration, including status* N/A

**4. Relevant Education / Experience:**



*Applicant may attach resume containing this information and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating the application.*

Johns Hopkins University, B.A. 2002  
California Ag Leadership, Class of 35

**5. Other Relevant Board(s) / Commission(s) / Committee(s) on which you serve / have served (paid or volunteer):**

*Please list name of organization, title, and date of service.*

Vina GSA SHAC, Ag Representative & Chair, 2019-2023  
Butte County Resource Conservation District, Board Member, 2022-Present  
Chico High Sober Grad Night, President 2021-Present  
Chico High PTSA, Executive Vice President 2021-2023  
Butte County Water Advisory Committee, Ag Representative 2015-2020

**6. Letters of Support:**

*For at-large seats, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate support from local organizations and community groups engaged in issues related to the interest that the applicant seeks to represent (i.e. environmental, business, agriculture, rural communities) by attaching letters of support. Submission of letters of support are not required, but are encouraged in order to demonstrate the applicant's ability to represent the interests of the stakeholder seats for which they are applying. Please list the organization, author and date of the letters of support attached here:* N/A

**7. References:**

*List at least two personal and / or professional references. Provide the name, affiliation, title, phone number, and email address of each reference. References remain confidential.*

[Redacted references]

**8. Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you can contribute to the Vina GSA Advisory Committee:**

My family owns/operates a 5<sup>th</sup> generation almond farm in Butte County and I have dedicated a significant amount of time in support of the Vina GSA and water sustainability. From my own farming background, I am an expert on water efficient irrigation practices and pumping plant efficiency. As a board member, I also have a knack for looking at issues from all angles and finding areas of agreement and avenues for compromise.

NOTE: The Agency will keep all applications on file for one year from the date of receipt of the application.