

WaterSolutions

“To manage and conserve water and other resources for the citizens of Butte County”

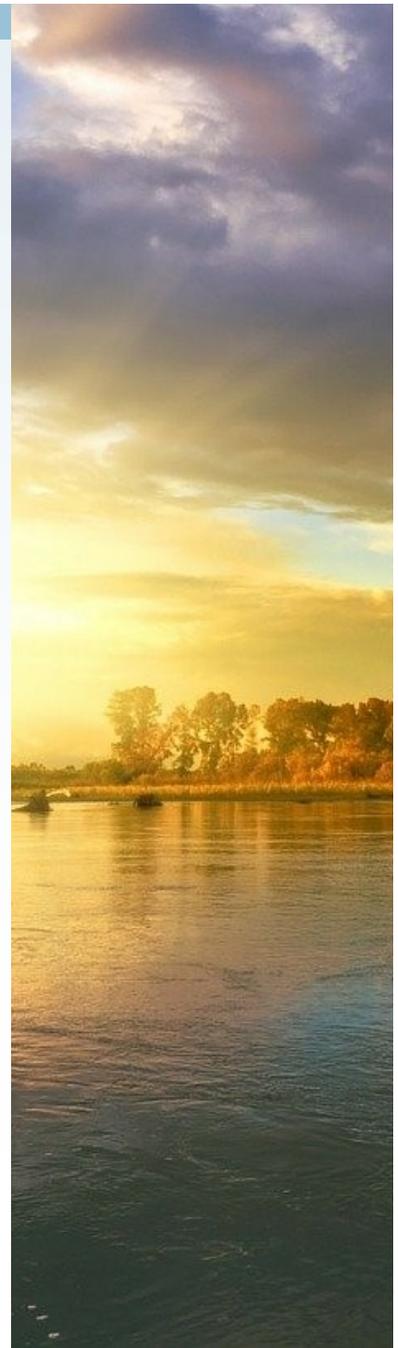
Draft Water Resilience Portfolio

By Paul Gosselin

In July 2020, Governor Newsom released the final 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio (Portfolio). The release of the Portfolio comes after a public comment period that ended in February. In January 2020, the Butte County Board of Supervisors submitted comments on the draft 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio. The 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio was prepared in response to the April 29, 2019, Executive Order N-10-19 issued by Governor Newsom. The Executive Order called upon the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Food and Agriculture to develop a Portfolio of actions to ensure the State's long-term water resilience and ecosystem health. The Portfolio outlines more than 100 recommendations in four broad areas to help regions build water resilience. The four broad areas are:

1. Maintain and diversify water supplies.
2. Protect and enhance natural ecosystems.
3. Build connections.
4. Be prepared for more extreme droughts, floods and hotter temperatures.

The Portfolio offers a number of recommendations that will benefit Butte County. These include support for implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and specifically groundwater recharge. The Portfolio includes support for the use aerial electronic survey methods (AEM). The Department conducted an AEM survey in 2018. The results of the AEM data is nearing completion. The support for AEM may provide additional opportunities to conduct additional AEM surveys in Butte County. The Portfolio supports investment in the upper watershed to protect water quality and supply. Improving the health of the upper watersheds is critical to groundwater recharge, aquatic ecosystems and fire suppression.



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Basin Setting Documents- Public Comment Period Open

By Christina Buck

The public review drafts of the Basin Setting and Monitoring Network Chapters for all three subbasins are available for review and a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period ends on September 8, 2020.

The documents can be found at each of the three subbasins' websites:

Vina: <https://www.vinagsa.org/groundwater-sustainability-plan-gsp-basin-setting-chapters-public-comment-open>

Butte: <https://www.buttebasingsgroundwater.org/gsp-info>

Wyandotte Creek: <https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com/gw-sustainability-plan>

To better organize public comments, we are requesting that commenters use a comment tracking sheet (available with the draft documents). If you will be reviewing documents from multiple subbasins, please note they should be submitted to the subbasin specific email address provided on the website and below. Therefore, a separate tracking sheet per subbasin is best.

We look forward to your thoughts on the Basin Setting and Monitoring Network Chapters. This is a significant step in developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) in these subbasins.

Please contact Christina Buck with questions.

Comment Submission Instructions

1. Download the PDF chapter document files
2. Download the comment tracking sheet (Excel table) and rename it with your name or entity abbreviation
3. Compile your comments in the Excel table. Please reference your comment to the report section with line numbers for easier editing and tracking of comments.
- 4. Please submit comments by September 8, 2020.**

You can send your comments in a few ways:

- Fill out the comment tracking sheet in Excel with your comments/suggested edits/questions and email it by September 8, 2020.
- You can also create your own table in Word or other document-based software taking care to refer any comments/edits/questions in the text to the numbered line references in the draft Chapters or figure numbers
- You can also email your comments directly as a list, taking care to refer any non-general comments/edits/questions in the text to the numbered line references in the draft Chapters

Send comments to:

Vina: VinaGSA@gmail.com

Butte: info@buttebasingsgroundwater.org

Wyandotte Creek: WyandotteGSA@gmail.com

Or by mail to: Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation, Attn: Christina Buck, 308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965

Thank you!



Vina GSA Board Update

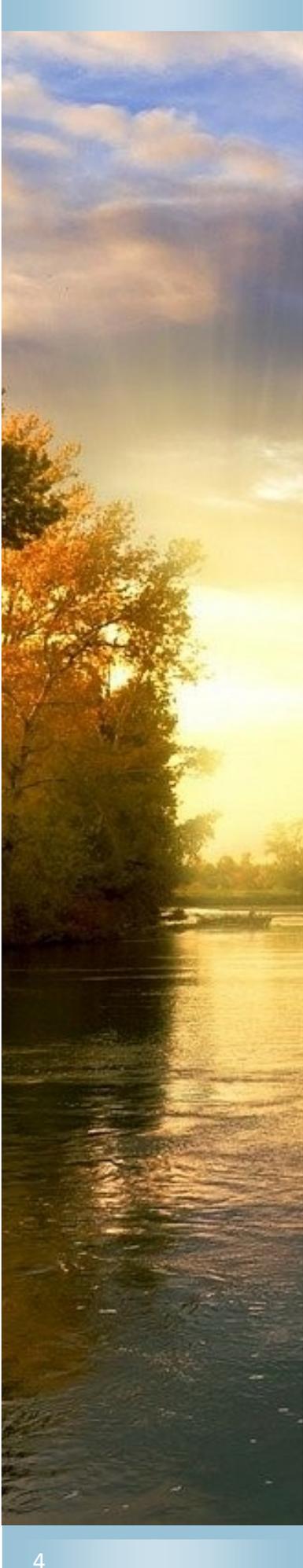
By Kelly Peterson

For the first time since March of this year, the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board met on August 12, 2020. The meeting in June was cancelled due to COVID setbacks, however; at the most recent meeting, they decided to go back to meeting on a monthly basis into 2021. They will continue to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in an online format, which will allow for live public comment.

At the August meeting the Board approved a calendar of meetings and the annual budget. They received updates on the status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) progress and a proposed process for developing the Projects and Management Actions portion of the GSP. Staff presented the GSA financial reports and gave an update on the status of the MOU with the Rock Creek Reclamation District, which is currently under consideration by the district. Staff explained the pending status of the Artificial Recharge Evaluation policy, which is on hold due to budgetary constraints for the time being. Staff provided written updates on the Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC), which has met twice since February, in an online format. All detailed SHAC meeting summaries, agendas and the recording of the meetings are available online on the GSAs website: <http://www.vinagsa.org>.

The next meeting of the Vina GSA will be September 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in an online format. Meeting information will be available soon on the Vina GSA website at <http://www.vinagsa.org>.





Wyandotte Creek

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY

Wyandotte Creek GSA Board Update

By Kelly Peterson

The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board has not met since February of this year. The May meeting was cancelled due to COVID setbacks, and the next GSA Board meeting will be held August 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in an online/in-person hybrid format. At the August meeting the Board will consider meeting on a monthly basis into 2021.

Following the methods the City of Oroville has in place, the meeting will be live-streamed on YouTube and staff and Board members will have the option of attending in-person or online. The public may participate in two ways; either by emailing comments before the meeting or attending outside the council chambers to speak during the public comment sections using the microphone provided. An audio broadcast of the meeting will be available outside of the chambers as well. All meeting details are available on the agenda posted on the Wyandotte Creek GSA website at <http://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com>.

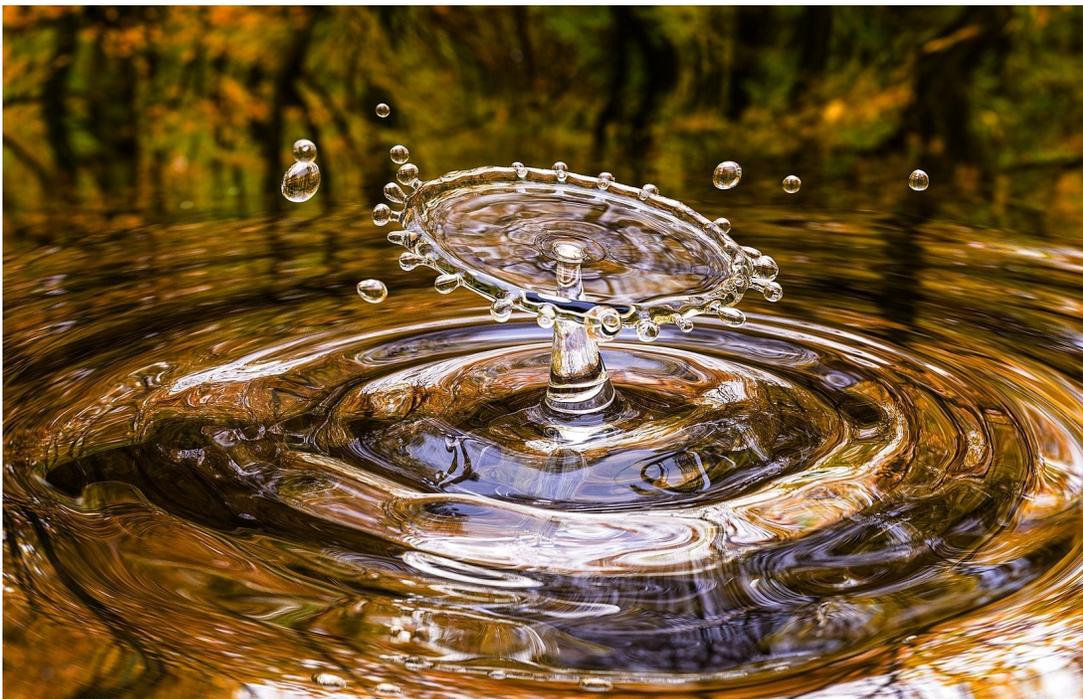
The Board will be considering their meeting calendar and the annual GSA budget. The Board will receive updates from staff on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) progress and a proposed process for developing the Projects and Management Actions portion of the GSP. The Board will also be considering the potential restructuring of the Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee, given the lack of public participation from at-large members in the current committee.

>>>Water Resilience (continued)

Unfortunately, the Portfolio did not specifically address the devastating impacts from wildland fires. The Board of Supervisors recommended that the draft Portfolio include a reference to efforts to reduce fire risk in the upper watershed and to develop a state strategy to monitor and mitigate toxic runoff from wildfire incidents. Unfortunately, the Portfolio did not include the County's recommendation. The Portfolio referenced Governor Newsom's commitment to support Voluntary Agreements with water right holders in the Sacramento Valley as part of the State Water Resources Control Board's Bay Delta Water Quality Plan.

The Board supported many of the recommendations, but noted that there were a number of recommendations that are contrary to County interests. One recommendation calls for streamlining the process for interbasin water transfers. This recommendation runs counter to the recommendation that urban and agricultural water suppliers report on how they intend to reduce their reliance on the Delta. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 (SB1X 1, Simitian) created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to resolve California's water challenges through the coequal goals of "providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem". The Delta Reform Act also established that agencies must reduce their reliance on the Delta. For nearly a decade, water suppliers have ignored the implications of this policy. The Portfolio supported the "single tunnel" Delta Conveyance Project as directed by Governor Newsom. The Board of Supervisors cautioned the Administration to avoid the past, failed approach of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and California WaterFix Project.

The 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio is an ambitious attempt by the state to set a comprehensive strategy. More information on the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio can be found at <http://waterresilience.ca.gov/>.



Want to
know more
about Butte
County's
water?

We want to
make it easy...

Text

BCWATER

to **22828**

to get
started.

Message and data
rates may apply.

Meeting Schedules

Water Commission

9/2/2020, 1:30 p.m.
ONLINE ONLY

www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/water-commission/Water-Commission-2019

Board of Supervisors

9/15/2020, 9:00 a.m.
ONLINE ONLY

<http://www.buttecounty.net/boardofsupervisors/boardmeetings>

9/29/2020, 9:00 a.m.
ONLINE ONLY

<http://www.buttecounty.net/boardofsupervisors/boardmeetings>



Butte Subbasin Advisory Board Meeting

September 24, 2020—1:00 pm, **Online only**

<https://www.buttebasingroundwater.org/meetings>

Vina GSA Board Meeting

September 9, 2020— 5:30 pm, **Online only**

<https://www.vinagsa.org/meetings>

Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

September 15, 2020—9:00 am, **Online only**

<https://www.vinagsa.org/meetings>

Wyandotte Creek GSA Board Meeting

To be determined, **Online only**

<https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com/meetings>

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Water Commission

- Mark Grover
- Richard Harriman
- DC Jones
- Tod Kimmelshue, Vice-Chair
- George Nicolaus
- Mauny Roethler
- David Skinner, Chair
- Matthew Tennis
- Vacant

