



## Groundwater Monitoring Network Enhancements

### CALL FOR STAKEHOLDER REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT

*Public Review Period: November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024*

*Send comments to: [vinagsa@gmail.com](mailto:vinagsa@gmail.com)*

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## Introduction

The Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Vina GSA) is committed to advancing sustainable groundwater management within the Vina Subbasin. A critical component of this effort is enhancing the monitoring network, which encompasses groundwater levels, water quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water systems.

Data gaps in the current network, as outlined in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) assessment of the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), highlight the need for additional monitoring sites and increased measurement frequency. To support these objectives, the Vina GSA received grant funds to plan and implement monitoring network improvements aimed at filling gaps in our understanding of the Subbasin. Project tasks include installing new monitoring sites, creating a domestic well inventory, and enhancing the understanding of basin hydrogeology to support groundwater sustainability.

To ensure the monitoring network meets the needs of the Vina Subbasin community, we invite stakeholders to participate in a **30-day public review and comment period, beginning on November 1, 2024**, for this document and the accompanying Technical Memorandum (TM) provided as *Attachment A*. Stakeholder feedback and collaboration is invaluable in helping shape the final strategy for monitoring network enhancement implementation.

The following sections of this document outline the proposed monitoring network vision, the criteria for its development, and the prioritization approach for rolling out these improvements. We encourage stakeholders to provide input on each of these elements to ensure that this network reflects community priorities and aligns with long-term groundwater sustainability goals.

## Best-Case Monitoring Network Vision

The Vina GSA's best-case vision for the groundwater monitoring network seeks to address critical data gaps identified in the GSP, the DWR Determination Letter, and stakeholder input. This network is designed to improve monitoring across all user sectors, including agricultural areas, urban areas, groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), domestic well users, and interconnected surface water (ISWs).

Maps in *Attachment A* identify new shallow groundwater monitoring sites, focusing on major waterways, ISWs/GDEs, and potential recharge areas. These locations include Big Chico Creek, Butte Creek, and Little Chico Creek, as well as sites within agricultural and urban areas to ensure comprehensive spatial coverage of the Subbasin. Current grant funding includes the anticipated installation of nine new shallow wells, one multi-completion well, three new stream gages, and monitoring equipment for eight domestic wells. Funding through the California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CaSIP) may be available to install additional stream gages within the Subbasin. For a more detailed view of proposed sites and areas of focus, review the maps in *Attachment A*.

The draft monitoring network has been developed collaboratively with GSA staff, consultants, and local stakeholders. The goal was to design a comprehensive network that addresses current data gaps, supports potential recharge projects, facilitates flood management, and enables targeted habitat restoration projects. We are seeking another round of stakeholder feedback to ensure the upgraded monitoring network is robust to handle community needs. We welcome input on the placement of stream gages and monitoring wells across the Subbasin. Stakeholder perspectives on where and how this monitoring network should be expanded are essential to ensure it serves the diverse environmental, agricultural, and urban needs within the Vina Subbasin.

## Criteria and Rollout Prioritization

The Vina GSA best-case monitoring network is designed to address critical data gaps, support sustainable groundwater management, and meet diverse subbasin needs. This strategy includes clear criteria for site selection and a phased rollout to ensure resources are allocated where they will have the greatest impact. Key criteria guiding this approach are described below.

### Urgency of Data Gaps

High-priority areas include sites where immediate data is essential, such as those impacting domestic wells, GDEs, and ISWs. These priority data gaps, highlighted in the Vina GSP and DWR's Determination Letter, are crucial for a responsive and effective monitoring network that enables timely, science-based management actions.

### Hydrogeological Significance and Spatial Coverage

Monitoring locations are strategically selected to capture varied hydrogeological conditions across the Subbasin. Priority is given to high-connectivity areas between shallow groundwater and surface water to enhance our understanding of water movement and aquifer dynamics.

### Cost-Effectiveness and Use of Existing Infrastructure

For cost-efficiency, initial phases of implementation will leverage existing infrastructure where possible, such as reactivating inactive stream gages or using existing shallow monitoring wells. New wells will be placed along public easements where feasible, which helps minimize setup costs and reserve resources for more complex installations in later phases of implementation.

### Multi-Benefit Potential

Sites with potential for multi-benefit outcomes, such as flood management, recharge, or habitat restoration, are prioritized to add additional value to data collection. Aligning the monitoring network with broader community and environmental needs positions the Vina Subbasin to respond effectively to future water management challenges.

Vina GSA invites stakeholders to provide feedback on the monitoring network's criteria and rollout prioritization. Your input on aligning these priorities with the subbasin's sustainability goals is essential to refining the strategy and ensuring the monitoring network is comprehensive, flexible, and reflective of community groundwater management needs.

## Call for Stakeholder Input and Next Steps

Vina GSA seeks active participation from all stakeholders to refine and strengthen the proposed monitoring network. **We invite stakeholders to provide detailed feedback on the monitoring network's best-case vision, criteria for site selection, and rollout prioritization to ensure the network effectively serves the diverse needs of the Vina Subbasin.** For a deeper understanding of the technical analyses and proposed site locations, please refer to Attachment A. Your insights are essential to achieving a comprehensive monitoring system that supports sustainable groundwater management, protects community water resources, and informs future projects.

The public comment period will begin on **November 1, 2024**, and continue through **November 30, 2024**. During this period, stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments, suggestions, and questions regarding monitoring network vision, site selection criteria, and implementation priorities. Input may be submitted via the Vina GSA website, email at **vinagsa@gmail.com**, or written letters addressed to the Vina GSA Management Committee at **308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965**. All feedback will be reviewed, and a final monitoring network strategy will be submitted to the Vina GSA Board for approval on December 11, 2024.

## Attachment A: Technical Memorandum for Groundwater Monitoring Network Enhancements