



General Manager Report

Board of Directors Meeting | Item 5

October 21, 2026 | Tovey Giezentanner, General Manager

Records request and County treasury

Public Records request

The first batch of records went to the Biochar Coalition on October 9, sent by download link, with no fee.

The next (and hopefully last) batch will be sent by **November 13**.

County treasury

Met October 13 with Troy Kidd, County Treasurer-Tax Collector, about moving District funds from NorCal National Bank to the County. He thinks the rates and fees would be comparable to CAMP.

I'll meet with staff later this month. If it's worth it as an alternative, it comes back to the Board in November. Otherwise, funds move to CAMP as directed last month.

South Vina Extension

Phase 1 draft

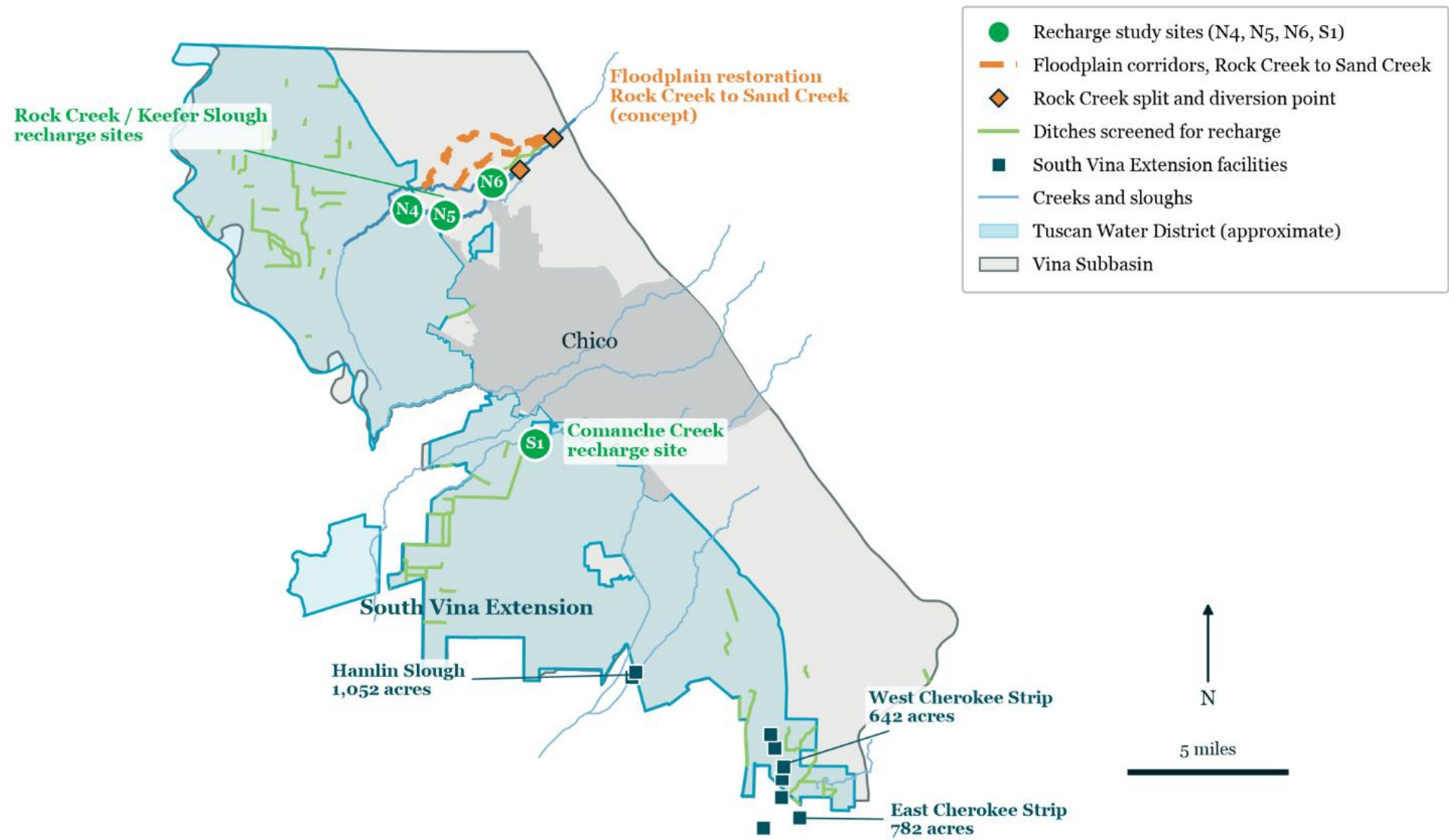
Water and Land Solutions has delivered the draft scoping and feasibility memo. We asked WLS and Provost & Pritchard to:

- Find ways to lower the cost per acre-foot
- Recommend a permitting path at the Cottonwood Creek crossing
- Line the project up for Prop 4
- Draft a Phase 2 scope of work

NEXT

The final memo and the Phase 2 scope of work come to the Board in November.

Projects under study in the Vina Subbasin



Sources: Vina Subbasin, TWD (2018 proposed alignment, approximate) and stream lines from DWR/NHD; recharge sites from the Component 5 recharge feasibility report, Tables 3-4; corridors from the Rock Creek concept KML (May 2026); ditches from the AGUBC ditch screening (green tier); South Vina Extension facilities and acreages from the Vina Surface Water Feasibility Analysis (Mar 4, 2026), Geosyntec Table 1 and Figure 2. Property outlines are not shown: no GIS file exists for them.

Keefer Slough cleanout, north Chico



Work trucks line up along Hicks Lane

Oct. 6, 2026 | Photos: Jake Hutchison / Chico Enterprise-Record

The work

County Public Works crews started in early October at the five bridges over the slough, including Garner Lane, Keefer Road, Hicks Lane and Sycamore Valley Road. They are removing sediment and brush and placing rock to protect the crossings.

Cost: \$36,000

Done by County crews under a maintenance agreement with Fish and Wildlife. The County will watch the slough and maintain it afterward.

Why it matters

Park Fire sediment keeps washing down, and some neighbors have bought their own pumps to keep the slough from spilling over. The County expects more flooding and sediment and is working separately on longer-term fixes. I've been in those conversations and will have more to report soon.

SWEEP and a recharge-ready tool

SWEEP

Full application submitted August 18 with the Butte County Farm Bureau and the Sutter County RCD.

No award notice from CDFA as of October 20.

Recharge-ready web tool

Looking for grant money to pay for a TWD “recharge ready” website for landowners, like Glenn County RCD’s Glenn County Recharge Ready: a parcel map of recharge suitability, a step-by-step decision guide, and a handbook.

Glenn’s tool was paid for by USDA NRCS through fiscal year 2023 Community Project Funding.

5C GRANTS: UPDATES & STATUS

Prop 4 funding research

Staff is currently exploring Prop 4 funding for these possible projects and programs in the Subbasin.
I'll have more to report in November.

Recharge along Rock Creek at 3 sites

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

Drain improvement concept

Recharge and/or land repurposing along Comanche Creek

Floodplain restoration on property north of Rock Creek, in the Sand Creek watershed

Watershed grant

South Vina Extension

Vina GSA hires Davids Engineering

Contract

On October 14 the Vina GSA Board approved a master agreement with Davids Engineering of Chico for ongoing SGMA work, chosen from three proposals.

Jeff Davids is technical lead; Brandon Ertis is project manager. The agreement runs through February 15, 2032.

Funding

About \$5.5 million in DWR grants has paid for groundwater plan work since 2021. That money ends this December.

Annual reports, monitoring, the next five-year evaluation and grant work will now be paid mostly from the GSA's own fees. Butte County's water department did much of this work before.

Cost

The agreement sets no total. Each task order carries its own not-to-exceed amount.

The GSA's program manager can sign task orders that fit the adopted budget.

Consistency determinations for TWD projects

On October 14 the GSA Board discussed how it will decide whether a TWD project is consistent with the Vina GSA's GSP.

THE REQUIREMENT

The GSA staff report says LAFCo Condition 18 requires TWD to get that determination before approving a plan activity “that could cause a physical change in the environment.”

WHAT CONDITION 18 STATES:

“The GSA shall determine that the project is consistent with the GSP if the project is (1) a type of project or action or within the scope of a project or action identified in the GSP as a planned or potential project or management action, or (2) consistent and compatible with the goals, objectives, purposes, and policies in the GSP.”

Consistency: what the GSA Board heard

Board member request

One director asked GSA staff for more clarification on the GSA's process for evaluating future consistency determination submissions from TWD, including a request that the GSA complete the following before considering future consistency determination requests:

- The GSA's legal memo on recharge, still being drafted
- A ranking of projects by cost
- An appeal process

GSA counsel

Valerie Kincaid described Condition 18 and the MOU as TWD explaining its relationship with the GSA to LAFCo.

She said the GSA cannot approve or disapprove projects, especially surface water projects, but can say whether a project is consistent and what would make it more consistent.

She urged caution about the GSA taking on an approval role.

NCS Solar Project and the Butte County RCD

The project

Cenergy Power proposes a 250 MW solar and 120 MW battery storage project on up to 1,200 acres along Skyway, east of Highway 99.

Cenergy plans to file with the California Energy Commission under AB 205 in October 2026. It says its studies will be posted on the CEC docket.

BCRCD SPECIAL MEETING

Friday, October 23, 9:00 a.m.

BCRCD office, 641 Entler Ave., Suite 47, Chico, and by Zoom.

Action item 6a: “Consideration of Community Benefits Agreement Proposal from Cenergy related to NCS Solar Project.”

5D ISSUE MANAGEMENT

Our water questions to Cenergy

On October 20 I sent Cenergy questions about the water answer (Question Six) on its project website.

We asked about:

The groundwater studies, including drawdown at neighboring wells and cumulative effects

Construction water: how much, for how long, from what source

How much rain soaks into the site today, and after construction

The data behind the subbasin storage statement

Results from the test well drilled in August 2026

Ground cover, grading and stormwater basins after construction

Effects on Butte Creek

Sharing water levels from the permanent well

5E COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing new this month.