

Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee (WAC)

Date: Thursday, November 05, 2026

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Location:

Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWSD)
410 Grand Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

2. Business from the Floor

The public and WAC members will have an opportunity to comment on items not on the agenda and that are relevant to the WAC. 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 Approve the June 4, 2026 WAC Meeting Minutes

Requested Action: Approve the meeting minutes.

4. *Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments (Report – Becky Fairbanks, Interim GSA Program Manager & Ryan Fulton, Larry Walker Associates)

Staff will provide the WAC with an overview of the content in the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation (PE) and proposed Plan Amendments. The Board of Directors will take formal action on the PE and Plan Amendments, at their December meeting and submit the documents to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prior to the January 28, 2027 deadline.

Requested Action: Recommend that the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board of Directors approve the Periodic Evaluation and identified Plan Amendments.

Links: [Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments](#)

5. GSA PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT (Report – Becky Anderson-Fairbanks, Interim GSA Program Manager)

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee will adjourn to their next meeting in 2027, date to be determined.

*Materials included in agenda packet

Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee (WAC)

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Location: Butte County Department of Public Health
202 Mira Loma Drive, Truckee Room, Oroville, CA 95965

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Advisory Committee Members Present: Joe Gleason and Jacob Weinzing.

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Duke Sherwood, Jace Rash, Colleen Duncan, Gretchen Clinkingbeard, Skipper Clark, and Loni Lind.

Staff Present: Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager; Becky Anderson-Fairbanks, GSA Project Manager.

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Public Comments: None

3. *GROUNDWATER LEVELS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA (Report – Becky Fairbanks, SGM Grant Project Manager & Ryan Fulton, Larry Walker Associates)

Public Comments: None

Action: Members present reached consensus to recommend that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Groundwater Level Measurable Objectives (MOs), establishing MOs equal to the average groundwater levels observed between October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2025, and to the Groundwater Level Interim Milestones (IMs), establishing IMs equal to the respective MO.

4. GSA PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT (Verbal Report – Dillon McGregor, GSA Program Manager)

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 10:00 AM to their next meeting on Thursday, August 6th, 2026.

*Materials included in agenda packet



Agenda Transmittal

Subject: GSP Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments

Contact:

Becky Anderson

Phone:

(530) 552-3587

Meeting Date:

11/5/26

Agenda Item: 5

Summary:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) undergo a Periodic Evaluation (PE) at least every five years. A PE is a comprehensive evaluation and written assessment of the GSP's implementation and effectiveness. The Wyandotte Creek Subbasin's was released for public review on August 25, 2026 through September 30, 2026. The PE covers Water Years 2021 through 2025 and is due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2027. It incorporates information collected over the past five years and summarizes the data analysis presented in the five Annual Reports submitted to DWR during the evaluation period.

Fiscal Impact: None

Requested Action: Recommend that the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board of Directors approve the Periodic Evaluation and identified Plan Amendments.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wyandotte Creek GSA

From: Larry Walker Associates

Date: November 5, 2026

Subject: Wyandotte Creek Subbasin: 2027 GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments Public Comments Summary

1 Background

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must periodically review and update their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) as needed. The Wyandotte Creek GSA's Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments were posted for a 30-day public review period which ended on September 30, 2026. This technical memorandum summarizes the comments.

2 Overview of Comments

The GSA received comment from one member of the public. Nearly all comments centered on Ruddy Creek, a waterway flowing from the Thermalito Forebay to the Feather River, and the claim that it is being omitted or under-documented as an Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) / Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) in the Wyandotte Creek GSA's Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments. Ruddy Creek is shown on Figures 6-5 and 4-4 of the Period Evaluation and Plan Amendments, respectively. Specific comments included:

- Install a stream gage in Ruddy Creek near the intersection of Feather Ave and Biggs Ave.
- Conduct in-person, multi-season field studies for GDE determination along Ruddy Creek.
- Include Ruddy Creek on official GSA maps.
- Incorporate USFWS / Army Corps of Engineers data.
- Disclose water-demand impacts from nearby new subdivisions and industrial projects.
- Evaluate water quality after sediment / runoff events near Ruddy Creek.
- Increase public engagement by changing meeting times and through additional outreach.

- Provide equal monitoring priority for Wyandotte Creek Subbasin compared to other Butte County basins.

A copy of the public comments are provided in Attachment A.

3 Requested WAC Recommendations

It is requested that the WAC provide a recommendation to the GSA Board of Directors to proceed with the adoption and submittal of the 2027 Plan Amendments and Periodic Evaluation.

**Attachment A: 2027 Periodic Evaluation and GSP Amendments
Public Comments**

View results

Respondent

1

Anonymous

08:17

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Please add this to the public comment of the Wyandotte GSA information collection. There has been outreach for public comment and ongoing stakeholder input on the GSA in Butte County, CA. Ruddy Creek flows from the Thermalito Forebay to the Feather River, it hosts a variety of aquatic plants and oak trees and wildlife.

As you can see from these photos of Monkey flowers growing right now in real time in the waterway of Ruddy Creek that there need to be further in person scientific studies of Ruddy Creek as the "likely not a GDE" is very concerning when one is properly documenting GSA waterways of Butte County. A quick internet search came up with this result : In Butte County do monkey flowers grow in groundwater dependent ecosystem streams?

Yes, monkey flowers absolutely grow in groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) streams and are very common in Butte County.

The specific variety you are looking for is the Seep Monkey Flower (*Erythranthe guttata*, formerly *Mimulus guttatus*). This bright yellow wildflower thrives exactly where groundwater discharges directly into the land surface, such as creek banks, wetlands, and the understory of riparian areas. Because GDEs rely on a steady supply of shallow groundwater to sustain their plant communities, they offer the perfect, constantly moist environment that Seep Monkey Flowers require. They are highly widespread throughout California's waterways, including the streams flowing down from the foothills into the Sacramento Valley in Butte County.

I wonder if the ESA staff need to do a physical walk of Ruddy Creek as it flows through the Wyandotte GSA rather than remote desktop research alone. A field study through all the seasons in 2026 is warranted to update data on this waterway. I believe Ruddy Creek is a GDE of the Wyandotte GSA and it must be recorded properly to fill any current data gaps that exist. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff may also have data on Ruddy Creek as well as the Army Corp of Engineers. I look forward to the accurate maps documenting Ruddy Creek as it flows within the Wyandotte GSA that I have heard are forthcoming. Thank you for your time.

Kathy

image001.jpg

image002.jpg

image003.jpg

View results

Respondent

2

Anonymous

02:51

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

I am submitting this as I do not know if it was accepted as public comment previously

I am forwarding this public comment for the Wyandotte Board GSA meeting to assure it is received because I am not sure why comments to the Wyandotte GSA are now directed to the City of Oroville ?

KB

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Brazil <fewzil@att.net>

Date: September 24, 2025 at 9:23:34 AM PDT

To: publiccomment@cityoforoville.org

Subject: Public Comment Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board Meeting Agenda Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025

Reply-To: Kathy Brazil <fewzil@att.net>

I am writing a public comment to address the agenda item 3.2 Wyandotte GSA data gaps. As a member of the public I have been communicating in the Wyandotte GSA meetings since 2021 and I have submitted information and documentation about Ruddy Creek that flows within the Wyandotte GSA sub basin.

I have asked for Ruddy Creek to be included in the maps of the Wyandotte GSA and I believe there are Data Gaps in relation to the GSA/County knowledge of Ruddy Creek and it's interconnectedness to the groundwater of the Wyandotte GSA sub basin.

I am asking that the Ruddy Creek be a part of the efforts to address the data gaps by putting stream gages in Ruddy Creek, specifically between Feather Ave and at the Biggs Ave bridge in Thermalito.

I also see the statement in the paragraph below in your reports stating engage the public, well yes, I am the public and I have been trying to be engaged with the Wyandotte GSA meetings. I would also consider myself an interested party, yet I'm not sure what that means? Let's address the data gaps in 2025 about Ruddy Creek and it's role in the Wyandotte GSA as it flows through a FEMA floodplain within the Wynadotte GSA and floodplains are also known to replenish groundwater sub basins. In your efforts to address data gaps, please put in stream gages in Ruddy Creek, but be prepared to find them after it floods.

K Brazil

3.2. *Consideration of Amendment No. 2 to Sub-recipient Agreement with Butte County for Grant Administration, Project Management, and Technical Assistance

COMPONENT 2: DATA GAPS AND REFINEMENTS –

Component 2 consists of installing monitoring sites and dedicated monitoring equipment to expand the understanding of basin conditions and address data gaps related to groundwater conditions, shallow monitoring and stream gages, domestic well database, and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs). Activities will be coordinated with neighboring subbasins. Tasks also include modifying the GSP in response to the DWR Determination letter, refining and developing an approach to the interconnected surface water SMC, completing the Periodic

Evaluation and conducting an Outreach Program through the GSA to engage the public and stakeholders as the GSP is amended, data gaps are filled, and projects and management actions progress. Component progress will be shared with the public and stakeholders through meetings of the Wyandotte Creek GSA and communications to the subbasin's interested parties list

Amendment to contract Greater Than \$25,000.00 Butte County General Services Department Rev.
4-29-22 Page 4 of 9

View results

Respondent

3

Anonymous

05:23

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy B

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

I sent this as a previous public comment, yet I am not sure what comments were actually recorded as addresses to send public comments have not been consistent.

I am writing a public comment to address the agenda item 3.2 Wyandotte GSA data gaps.

As a member of the public I have been communicating in the Wyandotte GSA meetings since 2021 and I have submitted information and documentation about Ruddy Creek that flows within the Wyandotte GSA sub basin.

I have asked for Ruddy Creek to be included in the maps of the Wyandotte GSA and I believe there are Data Gaps in relation to the GSA/County knowledge of Ruddy Creek and it's interconnectedness to the groundwater of the Wyandotte GSA sub basin.

I am asking that the Ruddy Creek be a part of the efforts to address the data gaps by putting stream gages in Ruddy Creek, specifically between Feather Ave and at the Biggs Ave bridge in Thermalito.

I also see the statement in the paragraph below in your reports stating engage the public, well yes, I am the public and I have been trying to be engaged with the Wyandotte GSA meetings. I would also consider myself an interested party, yet I'm not sure what that means? Let's address the data gaps in 2025 about Ruddy Creek and it's role in the Wyandotte GSA as it flows through a FEMA floodplain within the Wynadotte GSA and floodplains are also known to replenish groundwater sub basins. In your efforts to address data gaps, please put in stream gages in Ruddy Creek, but be prepared to find them after it floods.

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View results

Respondent

4

Anonymous

03:19

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy B

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

I am looking for the correct mapping of the Wyandotte GSA that includes and shows Ruddy Creek as it flows from the Thermalito Forebay to the Feather River. I have submitted documentation of Ruddy Creek as a part of the Wyandotte Creek GSA and I have yet to see it on the map on your website

[View results](#)

Respondent

5

Anonymous

01:32

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

September 28 2026

Here are my Public Comments in bold for the
The Wyandotte Creek GSA's Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments

WYANDOTTE CREEK SUBBASIN
Periodic Evaluation/Draft

Page 9

installing new stream gages;

Public Comment: Has a stream gage been installed in the interconnected surface waters of Ruddy Creek that flows in a FEMA floodplain through the Wynadotte Creek GSA from the Thermalito Forebay to the Feather River (albeit underground ie: aquifer)

Page 12

positive trend is influenced by the wet and above normal

Hydrologic conditions experienced in WY 2023 to 2025, which resulted in increased natural recharge,

Public Comment: Yes the flows of Ruddy Creek create natural recharge as a GDE in a floodplain

Page 13

1.5.1 Stakeholder and Public Engagement

- Outline stakeholder engagement efforts.

- Provide a high-level summary of public comments received during Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation and PE preparation.

Public Comment: Where are the public comments included in this draft?

page 15

Updated Groundwater

Dependent Ecosystem Desktop

Analysis

Public Comment: Is the Environmental Science Associates the only agency that conducted the GDE determination? Why? Was it solely on desktop analysis and not year round field studies i.e.: Ruddy Creek flows? Has the US Fish and Wildlife Dept. data been collected to determine GDE within this area?

page 16

Water Quality Sampling from

North Region Office Collected

January 2025

Public Comment: Was water quality samples taken from the interconnected surface waters of Ruddy Creek when sediment new development runoff waters entered the creek in Spring 2026 within the Wyandotte Creek GSA? (see previously submitted photo)

Page 21

The 2027-2032 implementation period will continue to collect data for improved

characterization of GDEs and ISWs. The 2032 PE will assess if the current groundwater level

SMCs are protective of GDEs and ISWs

Public Comment: Asking again if more in person environmental staff field studies & agencies are being utilized to accurately determine GDE, i.e.: Ruddy Creek

page 22

Current conditions of water quality are limited to results collected over the evaluation period, between WY 2022 to WY 2025 (February 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025).

Public Comment: "Limited results" it seems that this water quality analysis needs to be expanded to include more time and include inter-connected surface waters of creeks & streams that provide natural recharge to the Wyandotte Creek GSA subbasin.

Page 25

source contaminants are managed and regulated through a variety of other programs by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, DTSC, and the EPA. Through coordination with existing agencies, the Wyandotte Creek GSA will know if existing regulations are being met,...

The GSA will continue to track and communicate as needed to stay engaged with these other regulatory programs to monitor any groundwater quality issues and any

Public Comment: I question if the recent Spring 2026 sediment contamination of the waters of Ruddy Creek within the Wyandotte Creek GSA subbasin by a City of Oroville approved development has been addressed by the Wyandotte Creek GSA and what actions were taken. (see previously submitted photo)

Salinity is the only water quality constituent for which sustainable management criteria are set

Public Comment: I wonder why this states it is the only water quality sustainable criteria.

upwelling from deep portions of the aquifer, where sediment has an ancient marine origin.

Public Comment: This is a very important point worthy of further study and discussion by the Wyandotte Creek GSA and outside environmental agencies.

View results

Respondent

6

Anonymous

01:30

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Page 26

In the amended GSP, the network uses a select group of groundwater level wells and satellite-based InSAR data. SMCs are based on the InSAR data and groundwater level data is used to determine if any observation of subsidence is natural or from groundwater pumping within the Subbasin.

Public Comment: Again to achieve full sustainability efforts the consideration of projected water needs must be included as new subdivision developments and industrial projects i.e.: Biomass Plants are planned within and adjacent to the Wyandotte Creek GSA this subbasin.

The Subbasin continues to experience no significant subsidence (Error! Reference source not found.).

Public Comment: Hmmm? Where is the source for this statement?

Page 29

Should subsidence occur, the InSAR data is compared to the nearby groundwater level data to assess for any trends.

Public Comment: I ask if subsidence does occur what is the sustainable action plan.

page 32

The GSA has expanded its network of stream gages and groundwater wells near streams but needs additional time to collect data to further characterize the system and address data gaps. The GSA intends to further evaluate this SMC for the next periodic evaluation to avoid undesirable results to aquatic ecosystems and in-stream GDEs.

Public Comment: With the Wyandotte Creek GSA public outreach effort, have the submitted public comments and previously submitted photos since 2021 of the waterway of inter connected surface GDE of Ruddy Creek been included yet in this five year periodic evaluation? Has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek as it flows through a FEMA floodplain within the Wyandotte Creek GSA.

Reference point of the flows of Ruddy Creek

"Key Hydrologic Functions

- Water Storage: Floodplains act as natural sponges or reservoirs that slow down and store excess water during heavy rains.
- Groundwater Recharge: Standing and moving water on the floodplain sinks into the ground, raising the local water table and feeding the stream during dry periods.
- Energy Reduction: Flat surfaces and native plants slow down fast-moving floodwaters, which protects downstream areas from severe erosion.
- Natural Filtration: Soils and plants trap harmful nutrients, sediments, and pollutants before water flows back into the main channel"

Page 33

The streamflow gage network has also been expanded through collaboration with neighboring agencies and installing new gages with SGM Implementation Grant Program funding. New data and monitoring sites have been incorporated into Sections 3.8, 4.6, 3.3, and 4.2 of the amended GSP. Additionally, new ISW results from the Butte Basin Groundwater Model (BBGM) have been added to Section 2.2.6 of the amended GSP. An update of groundwater dependent ecosystem delineations has been added Section 2.2.7 of the amended GSP

Public Comment: Again has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek and have multiple outside agencies with in person field studies been involved in determining the GDEs that are

within the Wyandotte Creek GSA?

Corrective Action 5c: Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area. GSA Response: The GSA is collaborating with the County, DWR, Northern California Water Association, neighboring subbasins, and stakeholders regarding beneficial uses and users. Public meetings have been held to discuss the perspective of all beneficial users and uses. In addition, GSAs in the region are coordinating in the Northern Sacramento Valley on best approaches to evaluate ISWs in streams along shared boundaries, including the Feather River. GSA staff and their technical consultants have worked across subbasins to develop a workplan for regional coordination and collaboration to address the depletions of interconnected surface

View results

Respondent

7

Anonymous

02:30

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Page 33

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Public Comment: Again has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek and have multiple outside agencies with in person field studies been involved in determining the GDEs that are within the Wyandotte Creek GSA?

Corrective Action 5c: Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area. GSA Response: The GSA is collaborating with the County, DWR, Northern California Water Association, neighboring subbasins, and stakeholders regarding beneficial uses and users. Public meetings have been held to discuss the perspective of all beneficial users and uses. In addition, GSAs in the region are coordinating in the Northern Sacramento Valley on best approaches to evaluate ISWs in streams along shared boundaries, including the Feather River. GSA staff and their technical consultants have worked across subbasins to develop a workplan for regional coordination and collaboration to address the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicator in the Sacramento Valley (ISW Workplan).

Public Comment: Have new subdivision and industrial businesses water needs been evaluated and disclosed in this Periodic Evaluation report as many plans are in place since the Wyandotte Creek GSA was formed?

As for public meetings the Wyandotte Creek GSA meetings have minimal public participants.

Since the Feather River is included, in depth studies need to be completed. There seems to be less Butte County focus/priority since this Wyandotte Creek GSA is joined with the Yuba County into the Feather River Corridor.

Page 36

Contribution to Achieving Sustainability: The TWSD increased the capacity of the water treatment plant serving the city of Oroville and surrounding area. By treating a greater volume of water for the area, the amount of groundwater pumped for drinking water decreased.

Public Comment: This Water Treatment plant (Ruddy Creek Pump Station/Ruddy Creek Lift Station) directly correlates to the waterway of Ruddy Creek so the omission of the data of Ruddy Creek and water hydrology of Ruddy Creek in the reports of the Wyandotte Creek GSA and this Periodic Evaluation is concerning. Why is the TWSD Treatment plant not called by its name in these reports? <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/2025030160>

Page 36

4.3.1 Residential Water Conservation Project Realized Benefits To Date: Conservation programs have resulted in reductions in urban pumping to the order of 50.5 AF in 2022, 100 AF in 2023, and 0.2 AF in 2024. Annual water savings compared to 2021 water usage equate to roughly 150 AFY. Expected Benefits: As groundwater is the primary source of water for the region, these various conservation projects will reduce groundwater demand, allowing groundwater levels and overall storage to recover. Benefits and Impacts to Beneficial Users: Water Conservation/Efficiency, Reduction in Groundwater Demand/Reduced Pumping Contribution to Achieving Sustainability: Reduction in groundwater pumping will increase groundwater storage and reduce potential overdraft.

Public Comment: Have new subdivision and industrial businesses water needs been evaluated and disclosed in this Periodic Evaluation report, where?

View results

Respondent

8

Anonymous

00:58

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Page 37

4.4 Potential Projects This section fulfills the requirements of GSP Emergency Regulations §356.4(b): For projects and management actions that have yet to begin or are still conceptual, assess the need for those based on the current conditions and expected outcomes of the existing projects and management actions. Describe the potential timeline to get those projects and management actions implemented or what may be needed to take them from the conceptual or as-needed phase to the "shovel ready" phase.

Public Comment: And if the projects are adjacent to and will impact current residents in the Wyandotte Creek GSA what is the emergency plans to address and protect residents from increased flooding?

Page 41

The Subbasin is not in overdraft as of December 2026, therefore the GSA will continue to evaluate measures to mitigate overdraft as needed

Public Comment: Have new subdivision and industrial businesses water needs been evaluated and disclosed in this Periodic Evaluation report

representative aquifer crosssection, respectively. In general, monitoring wells screened in the Laguna Formation are representative of the shallow (or upper) aquifer zone and wells screened in the Lone Formation are representative of the deeper aquifer zone. Table 4-1 in the Amended GSP identifies which aquifer zone each monitoring well is screened within (e.g., Shallow, Deep, or Both).

Public Comment: And has the depth of the aquifer that Ruddy Creek flows through been analyzed to fill interconnected surface waters and GDE data gaps of the Wyandotte Creek GSA?

page 44

groundwater dependent ecosystems were identified as an area with significant data gaps. To address the data gap, a new desktop analysis was performed as described in the report titled "Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Analysis" conducted by Environmental Science Associates (February 2026). The GDE desktop analysis indicated that likely GDEs within Subbasin

Public Comment: Is the Environmental Science Associates the only agency that conducted the GDE determination? Why? Was it solely on desktop analysis and not year round field studies i.e.: Ruddy Creek flows? Has the US Fish and Wildlife Dept. data been collected to determine GDE within this area? Have the submitted public comments and photos submitted since 2021 of the waterway of inter connected surface GDE of Ruddy Creek been included yet in this five year periodic evaluation? Has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek it seems the stream gages are heavy on only one side of the Wyandotte Creek subbasin, why?

View results

Respondent

9

Anonymous

00:32

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

page 45

Table 5-1

Recharge Rivers and Streams..

Public Comment: Yes! The seasonal flooding and flows of Ruddy Creek affect the Wyandotte Creek GSA recharge

page 53

Improve the network to understand Interconnected Surface Water and impacts on GDEs - There is limited data to analyze interaction of streams

Public Comment:

If data is solely from desktop analysis and not year round field physical ground studies i.e.: Ruddy Creek flows how can it be real time and accurate. Has the US Fish and Wildlife Dept. and many other outside agencies data been collected to determine GDEs within the Wyandotte Creek GSA? Have the submitted public comments and photos submitted since 2021 of the waterway of interconnected surface GDE of Ruddy Creek been included yet in this five year periodic evaluation?

Page 54

Figure 6-1. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Tributaries in Relation..to wells

Public Comment: Likely and Not Likely is a vague term from an environmental scientific perspective and why is the determination only in relation to wells, why not to the interconnected waters of creeks and rivers within the Wyandotte Creek GSA? Is the Environmental Science Associates the only agency that conducted the GDE determination via desktop analysis? Why?

page 58

6.4.1 Overview of Existing Monitoring Network The Butte County Water & Resource Conservation monitors water quality across Butte County including within Wyandotte Creek Subbasin

Public Comment: And what actions are taken if water quality is found to be poor?

Page 65

with additional stream gages, to a total of twelve stream gages

Public Comment: and has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek?

five stream gages have been installed in 2026 to address this data gap, prioritizing areas near surface waters. The locations of the newly installed wells and gages were selected to: • Better monitor surface bodies with known connections to the water table, such as the Feather River and Honcut Creek, Wyman Ravine, and Wyandotte Creek. • Assess benefits of SGMA project implementation in critical watersheds, such as Wyman Ravine.

Public Comment: I do not understand why the water way of Ruddy Creek is omitted from being considered a critical watershed. Has a stream gage been installed in Ruddy Creek

View results

Respondent

10

Anonymous

00:47

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Page 66

Table 6-4. Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Surface Water Stream Gauges.

Public Comment: Again no mention of Ruddy Creek that flows from the Thermalito Forebay to the depths of the aquifer of the Feather River

Page 69

In WY 2023, the GSA adopted a property-related service fee to fund its operations and implementation costs to comply with SGMA. Additional information is available on the GSA website

Public Comment: As a Butte County taxpayer having fees go towards this Wyandotte Creek GSA I ask why the public focus is less on this subbasin then the Butte and Vina GSAs when the Wyandotte Creek GSA also lies within Butte County. As a tax payer I am concerned how my fees are benefiting this subbasin.

Page 70

8.1 Outreach and Engagement

Public Comment: The public meetings I have attended have minimal participation from actual members of the public and often happen in the middle of a week day so they make it difficult to include working people

Page 72

8.1.1 Comments and Responses

Public Comment: where the public comments included in this Periodic Evaluation and from what years are included? Are public comments from the formation of the Wyandotte Creek GSA included?

View results

Respondent

11

Anonymous

02:08

Time to complete

1. Name *

Kathy Brazil

2. Email

Fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

Page 75

Recommended Corrective Action 5: The ISW well and stream gage network has been revised and expanded. The BBGM has been updated and provided new ISW results. Updated groundwater ecosystem delineations.

Public Comment: a stream gage in Ruddy Creek is needed and other environmental outside agencies are needed to accurately determine GDEs within the Wyandotte Creek GSA

Page 76

Section 2 - Basin Setting: Sections in the Basin Setting chapter have been amended with new data from the implementation period. □ The groundwater quality section (Section 2.2.4) has been revised to reflect updated groundwater monitoring and revised description of contamination plumes in the Subbasin.

Public Comment: With the proximity to the Feather River this is a critical issue of the Wyandotte Creek GSA i.e.: contamination past and future is a critical issue, especially with proposals by the City of Oroville to allow an industrial Biomass plant(s)

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Attachment A. Hydrographs for ten groundwater level RMS wells

Public Comment: The study of interconnected surface waterways of creeks, streams and the Feather River need equal focus of hydrology data and studies and monitoring.

Thank you for the work you are doing to assure we do not create a depleted aquifer/groundwater issue in Butte County.

Sincerely,

K Brazil

A concerned community member

The online form does not allow a long public comment submission so I sent my public comment in multiple submissions

View results

Respondent

12

Anonymous

21:29

Time to complete

1. Name *

K Brazil

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

I am asking as the periodic evaluation for the Wyandotte Creek GSA public comment, when and where are the comments from the Wyandotte Creek GSA about the Villages at Ruddy Creek as it's development is currently underway in 2026 within the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin and this agenda clearly states the Wyandotte Creek GSA will be asked. Are these comments included in current reports as part of the overall five year evaluation and amendment process?

From the 2020 City of Oroville agenda for the Villages at Ruddy Creek subdivision it states:

"Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency: Email: WyandotteGSA@gmail.com
Phone: (530) 552-3591 Address: 308 Nelson Ave. Oroville, CA 95965 The agency is responsible for sustainable groundwater within its region and will be asked to comment on the environmental document.

.Sewerage Commission Oroville Region – Sewer collection and treatment services for TSWD and City of Oroville.

City of Oroville: General Plan Amendment, Prezone, Annexation (reorganization); Tentative Subdivision

Map and related Improvement Plans, Tree Removal, Architectural Review for Home Designs, Grading,

Encroachment Permits, Building Permits, Landscape Plans,

11. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The 28-acre (+/-) site is located at the southeast corner of 18th St and Feather Avenue in the Thermalito

area of western Oroville. The project area includes two parcels, both owned by the project applicant. The

project area also includes adjacent developed roadways, which are owned and maintained by Butte

County. Elevations on-site range from approximately 202 feet above mean sea level, near the intersection

of 18th St. and Feather Avenue, to approximately 162 feet above sea level, near Ruddy Creek. The site

topography slopes approximately 2-3% across most of site, except that slopes up to 25% are found along

an embankment that forms the floodway for Ruddy Creek along the eastern portion of the site.

The site

contains grasslands, oak woodlands, and wetlands reflective of this area"

The City of Oroville references the waterway and environment of Ruddy Creek from its 2020 documents, prior to annexing the property to develop from Butte County.

The data gaps in the Wyandotte Creek GSA 2026 reports regarding Ruddy Creek as an interconnected surface water way and GDE are concerning especially since it's floodwaters recharge the groundwater and both the US Fish and Wildlife and US Army Corp of Engineers have data on Ruddy Creek that flows within the Wyandotte Creek GSA Subbasin.

View results

Respondent

13

Anonymous

05:21

Time to complete

1. Name *

K Brazil

2. Email

fewzil@att.net

3. Comment About Periodic Evaluation *

I would like to add this as a public comment when researching the waterways within the Wyandotte Creek GSA I searched looking to help provide information for the data gaps and found this when I asked: "are seasonal creeks in butte county, ca like Ruddy Creek and its floodplains interconnected surface waterways and gde" The answer I found said:

"Yes, seasonal and ephemeral creeks in Butte County, California—including Ruddy Creek and its associated floodplains—function as both interconnected surface waters (ISWs) and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) under California environmental and water management frameworks. How they map into these categories involves specific hydrogeologic interactions and regulatory definitions:

1. Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Floodplain Dynamics

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), surface waters are considered interconnected if they have a hydraulic link to an underlying aquifer.

- **The Hydraulic Connection:** Creeks like Ruddy Creek in Thermalito are ephemeral/seasonal. They flow primarily during winter rainfall and early spring. Even when dry on the surface, these channels sit directly atop local shallow aquifers.
- **Natural Recharge:** During wet periods, these creeks and their FEMA-mapped floodplains act as vital natural conduits for groundwater recharge. Water filters down through the porous creek beds to replenish the underlying basin.
- **Regional Context:** Regional groundwater-surface water modeling across Northern Sacramento Valley subbasins (such as the Wyandotte Creek GSA and Vina subbasin) actively tracks these streamflow-aquifer exchanges. Groundwater pumping can draw water away from these channels, meaning even seasonal creeks are tightly managed within ISW frameworks.

2. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)

Even though Ruddy Creek may look completely dry for months out of the year, its ecosystem qualifies as a GDE because the plant and animal life there relies on shallow groundwater table access.

- **Vegetation and Habitat:** The floodplains and banks of seasonal creeks support unique riparian vegetation, wetlands, and vernal pool habitats. These plant communities depend on a high water table to survive the dry summer months.
- **Jurisdictional Oversight:** Local regulatory bodies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), maintain regulatory jurisdiction over these seasonal waterways. They protect them as active ecological habitats regardless of whether they have a year-round surface flow.

Summary of Environmental Concerns

Because of their sensitive status as both floodways and ecological conduits, developments impacting seasonal creeks (such as the proposed Villages at Ruddy Creek subdivision near 18th and Feather Avenue in Oroville) draw heavy scrutiny from agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USFWS, and local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) due to the risk of altering natural recharge and degrading GDE habitat."

November 5, 2026

Wyandotte Creek Subbasin: Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments

Prepared by:

The LWA Team in coordination with the Wyandotte Creek GSA

Funding provided by the California Department of Water Resources



**Luhdorff &
Scalmanini**
Consulting Engineers

Wyandotte Creek
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY



1

Agenda

- Timeline
- Review Public Comments
- Submittal / DWR Review Process
- **Requested WAC Recommendation**



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Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment Timeline

- ✓ **2026 August** – Post draft Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments for public comments
- ❑ **2026 November**– Review public comments and finalize Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments; to be adopted by BOD in December
- ❑ **2027 January** – GSP Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendments are due to DWR (must address DWR's Recommended Corrective Actions - show progress)

Critical Dates for the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Subbasin

2022	By January 31, submit GSP to Department of Water Resources (DWR)
2027	Evaluate GSP and amend
2032	Evaluate GSP and amend, if warranted
2037	Evaluate GSP and amend, if warranted
2042	Achieve sustainability for the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin

lwa

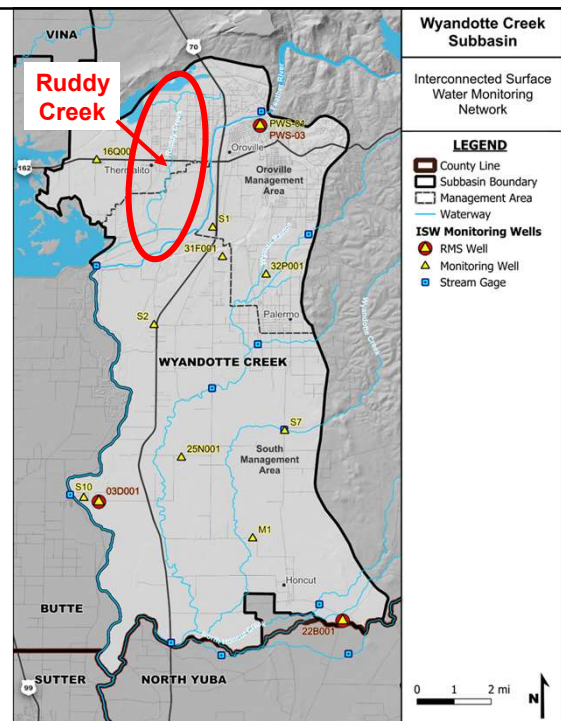
3

Public Comments

- 1 comment letter submitted
- Nearly all concerns centered on Ruddy Creek, a waterway flowing from the Thermalito Forebay to the Feather River, and the claim that it is being omitted or under-documented as an Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) / Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE)

**Comments further described in staff memo

lwa



4

Submittal / DWR Review Process

- Submittal Timeline – January 31, 2027
- DWR's technical review will be based on evaluation criteria in the GSP regulations and DWR determination letter
- GSPs will be designated as **approved, incomplete or inadequate**
 - Approved:** GSAs with approved plans will continue to implement their plan. GSAs will provide annual reports and five-year updates to DWR.
 - Incomplete:** GSAs with incomplete plans are given up to 180 days to revise and resubmit to DWR. If GSP deemed Incomplete, DWR recommends Corrective Actions, which may include items such as:
 - Define criteria representing conditions that would lead to an undesirable result
 - Items to reassess before the next five-year assessment
 - Expand and describe methodologies for various assessments
 - Inadequate:** Plans designated as inadequate will be referred to the State Water Board to consider intervention.

lwa

5

Requested WAC Recommendations

1. Recommend the BOD adopt and submit the 2027 Plan Amendments and Periodic Evaluation

lwa

6



Thank You

lwa
LARRY WALKER
ASSOCIATES