The Rock Creek Reclamation District (RCRD) provides flood control and groundwater sustainability services to approximately 4,625 acres of agricultural and single-family residential parcels in northern Butte County. The District is located in the Big Chico Creek and Pine Creek Watersheds. RCRD is governed by a 7-member Board of Trustees elected by the landowners to staggered 4-year terms. RCRD holds its regular meetings at 5130 Anita Rd. Chico, CA 95973. The Board of Trustees conducts its regular meetings quarterly, and holds special meetings as needed. Board meetings are open to the public and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act. Members of the public regularly attend meetings virtually or in-person. RCRD regularly contracts with a District Counsel and a Secretary to the Board, who provide professional services (legal and secretarial, respectively) at the discretion of and as directed by the Board of Trustees. Most other RCRD services, including reclamation and flood control work, are performed by contracted parties on a seasonal or ad-hoc basis at the direction of the the Board of Trustees.

Initially formed in 1985 under the State Reclamation Act (California Water Code Section 50000 et seq.) and Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 85-167, RCRD has a long track record of undertaking flood projects for the benefit of its landowners and will continue to provide services and benefits to the community in this area. In 2018, RCRD expanded its Sphere of Influence to approximately 19,027 acres (total 23,652 acres).

RCRD provides for repair, maintenance, and improvement of natural channel water conveyance and flood protection facilities within the area. RCRD is empowered to construct, maintain, and operate drains, canals, sluices, bulkheads, watergates, levees, embankments, pumping plants, dams, diversion, or irrigation works, and all other facilities reasonably necessary or convenient to accomplish District purposes.

As a local agency with water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within the Vina subbasin, RCRD is authorized to become a GSA over the Vina subbasin, pursuant to Water Code sections 10723 and 10721(n). On October 18, 2016, RCRD elected to become a GSA over its boundaries, in accordance with the notice and hearing requirements of Water Code section 10723 and Government Code section 6066. On or around October 26, 2016, the RCRD GSA sent notice to DWR of its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management, pursuant to Water Code sections 10723(d) and 10723.8. RCRD became the exclusive GSA over its jurisdictional boundaries, and is one of two exclusive GSAs in the Vina subbasin, together with the Vina GSA.

The RCRD GSA is granted the statutory powers of a GSA and may implement the GSP for the Vina Subbasin, consistent with SGMA. Water Code section 10720 *et. seq.* The GSP for the Vina Subbasin is a single Plan developed and implemented in cooperation between the Vina GSA and RCRD GSA. Water Code section 10727(b)(2). Upon adoption and submission of the GSP, the RCRD GSA may exercise the powers found in SGMA, Chapter 5 in addition to, and not as a limitation on, powers under other existing authority. Water Code section 10725(b).

The RCRD GSA is managed by the Board of Trustees of RCRD during RCRD’s meetings conducted in accordance with the Brown Act. The RCRD GSA formed an ad-hoc SGMA Committee to provide assistance to the RCRD Board of Trustees on development of the Plan. The ad-hoc committee consists of two RCRD trustees. The RCRD GSA’s SGMA committee members are uncompensated and assist the Board of Trustees with in-kind contributions of time and resources. All GSA powers are retained and exercised by the Board of Trustees of RCRD. Upon formation, and as of 2021, the committee is staffed by RCRD’s Chair, Hal Crain, and RCRD’s Vice-Chair, Darren Rice. The function of the ad-hoc committee is to provide input and make recommendations to the RCRD Board of Trustees on development of the Plan, and to serve as the point of contact between the Vina GSA and RCRD GSA. A member of the committee attends Vina GSA meetings and Vina GSA Stakeholder Advisory committee meetings. Additionally, several joint meetings of the boards of Vina GSA and RCRD GSA were held during the development of the GSP.

Development and implementation of the Plan is funded primarily by a DWR grant administered by Butte County on behalf of the GSAs and pursuant to a Cooperation Agreement between the Vina GSA and RCRD GSA. RCRD GSA additionally provides in-kind contributions of its SGMA committee members’ time and resources. Other incidental RCRD GSA costs are funded by RCRD’s annual special assessment. RCRD GSA’s implementation of the Plan will be funded by these sources and any additional sources of revenue or funding that the Board of Trustees of RCRD deems proper and consistent with applicable law and its obligations as a GSA and Reclamation District.