

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129**

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYdTlBTUJhA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

Meeting ID:

878 4723 5864

Passcode:

647657

By Phone:

+1 (669) 900-9128

Board of Directors

**Einen Grandi, Chairman
Paul Roen, Vice-Chairman
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Matt Kilmurray, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director**

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Ceresola, Ramelli

Directors absent: Kilmurray

Also present: Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert, Laura Foglia

Via Zoom: Betsy Elzufon, Steve Reich, Joel Barnard

2) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors at this time.

There were no public comments.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on September 4. He reported that none of the levels were unexpected for this late in the summer. The August ag pumping total came to 1,980 acre-feet, bringing the running total for this water year to 7,203 acre-feet.

Director Roen made a motion to amend the agenda to address items 4B and 4C, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

B. Outreach and Engagement Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, provided the Board with an update on the stakeholder outreach booth at the fair. The booth was staffed by Talbot and Betsy Elzufon of LWA also attended for one day. Talbot used the same map as the previous year to ask people where they were from. She found that there were a lot of people from the region that didn't go last year and that the booth had more visitors this year. She also used the same kid activities as last year since the fishing pool was so popular. This year's booth had different informational materials though as the focus cut back on SGMA and instead transitioned to projects and management actions. Talbot shared that people were very interested in looking at the pictures and learning about project details and noted that they acknowledged the efforts the District is taking.

Talbot is now pursuing local outreach opportunities, so she will have a booth at the Sierra Valley Art + Ag Trail on September 19. She suggested more outreach at local events next year instead of a fair booth because the focus will be on the Periodic Evaluation.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, reported on the progress of the periodic evaluation, which is due every five years. This will be the first periodic evaluation submitted by the SVGMD, which is due in January 2027. This report will focus on how the District has addressed DWR's 2023 recommended corrective actions. The Periodic Evaluation also requires GSAs to report on new data information that has been collected, groundwater conditions related to Sustainable Management Criteria, and Projects and Management Actions. A Plan amendment is a separate, more involved process required only for fundamental changes to the GSP, but the District's Plan doesn't require an amendment at this time.

Foglia said that most of the Periodic Evaluation has already been drafted and the core technical content is substantially developed. It combines technical analyses, annual reports, various deliverable documents, and materials presented to the Board during the evaluation period. Remaining work includes finalizing Water Year 2026 data, completing several figures and tables, closing out a number of tracked open items, and formatting and consistency reviews. She doesn't feel there will be an issue addressing any of DWR's recommended corrective actions. There were no undesirable results at any point during the evaluation period (WY2021 – WY2025) and the basin experienced a full drought-to-recovery cycle: it was critically dry in WY21 and WY22, followed by a wet WY23 recovery, then there was stabilization. The cumulative change in storage through the evaluation period (2021-2025) was -4,962 acre-feet, but the cumulative change in storage between 2015 and 2025 was +15,364 acre-feet.

The UCCE conducted groundwater quality monitoring once in 2021 and again in 2025. They tested for nitrate, total dissolved solids, boron, and arsenic. LWA also did water quality testing in January 2026 before the recharge project, and then again in February 2026 after the recharge season to show any changes that might have happen. The sites were tested for TDS, nitrate, boron, arsenic, iron, manganese, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and trace metals. Iron and manganese exceeded objectives at most wells, but not in the creek, which points to a natural soil source and not an effect of recharge. There were no nitrate or TDS exceedances, and no arsenic exceedances in the three wells tested both times.

Foglia shared that progress made in Plan implementation includes: expanded groundwater monitoring; expanded and improved basin-wide well inventory/database; irrigation efficiency upgrades at 15 of the 17 local irrigator sites, with an estimated 400-470 acre-ft/year reduction in groundwater pumping; ~130 acre-feet recharged across four Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) pilot sites in 2025/26; and new in-lieu recharge programs at three properties that are expected to add ~400 acre-feet/year once they are fully operational.

The Periodic Evaluation timeline is as follows: update provided to the Board today; a rough draft will be sent to the Directors in early October and discussed at the October Board meeting; a final draft will be discussed at the December Board meeting; it will be submitted to DWR in January 2027.

Foglia also reported on an email DWR sent about missing groundwater data from wells in WY2024 and WY2025. She recommends the District install pressure transducers in a few wells that Huebert cannot reach in the winter as a way to address DWR's concerns to get the data consistently.

D. Stetson Team Project Update – Steve Reich

Joel Barnard, Stetson Environmental Associate, obtained a quote to make modifications to existing soil moisture stations. The existing soil moisture stations were installed at a low elevation with the purpose of measuring irrigation water. Barnard said this is no longer necessary and is detrimental to their long-term maintenance as they are prone to getting damaged. He recommends raising the stations from 18-24 inches off the ground to 5-7 feet off the ground to increase their visibility and minimize damage from cattle and wildlife. Raising the stations up higher will also allow the hay to be cut closer to the posts. Seasonally, he recommends surrounding the posts with three fence panels, but it would work best to remove them during the growing season. There are four stations in Sierra County and eleven stations in Plumas County. To raise the sensors and add surrounding fencing at all 15 stations, the quote came to \$21,000. The Directors said the landowners should be responsible for providing fencing for protection since they are responsible for damages. The Board directed Barnard to bring a quote to the next meeting for conduit for the wires and raising the sensors, but not for fencing.

Barnard shared the public access website for the regional weather stations installed at three Sierra Valley ranches (Goodwin Ranch in Beckwourth, Bar One in Loyalton, and Grissom in Sierraville):

<https://hub.neatmon.com/login>

Username: svgmd@sierravalleygmd.org

Password: Sierravalleygmd!

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review (if any)

There were no new well applications.

B. Your H2O Pro Est. 1625 for \$3,553.57 for Goodwin Ranch Pipe Repair

Huebert shared that the two meters at Goodwin's were sent to TechnoFlo for repairs, but they were working fine when they checked them. Huebert has talked about it with TechnoFlo and Your H2O Pro and thinks the problem is that the pipe isn't filling up with water enough to turn the prop to run the meter. He suggested replacing the current pipe with an 8" pipe to provide a full pipe of water to give the meter reading. The quote is for the project installation and welding.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Your H2O Pro estimate #1625, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. TechnoFlo Quote TFQQ39016 for \$2,897.60 for 8" AG3000 Meter

For the Goodwin project discussed in agenda item 4B, Huebert provided a quote from TechnoFlo for a new mag meter. He said another option that would be less expensive is for him to use an 8" prop meter the District already has with a new flow straightener. The Board directed Huebert to use the 8" prop meter and to get a flow straightener for this setup instead of purchasing a new mag meter.

D. Ordinance 26-03 - Enacting a Large-Capacity Well Management Charge for FY26-27

Director Roen made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-03 as presented, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Grandi, Ramelli, Goicoechea, and Roberti all in favor.

E. Ordinance 26-02 – Setting Date, Time, and Place for Regular Meetings

At the previous meeting the Directors voted to change the date of regular SVGMD meetings to the second Monday of each month, but it was later brought to the Board's attention that the new schedule conflicts with the Resource Conservation District's monthly meetings.

Director Ramelli made a motion to rescind the amended Ordinance 26-02 and return to holding regular meetings on the third Monday of each month, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Judie Talbot Quote for Stakeholder Outreach at the Sierra Valley Art + Ag Trail

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Talbot's stakeholder outreach proposal for \$1,500, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. SVGMD/Plumas County MOU for GSP Implementation

The MOU between the District and Plumas County as co-GSAs for GSP implementation requires a five-year assessment per Periodic Evaluation regulations. The Board did not have any suggested changes, but asked that Tracey Ferguson review the MOU and then send it to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

H. Plumas Watershed Grant:

1. Roberti Ranch Ditch Pump at Pivot 14 - In-Lieu Pump Station Equipment

Director Roen made a motion to approve Isaacs quote 40926A for \$49,388.20, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Grandi, Ramelli, and Goicoechea voted in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

2. Roberti Ranch Ditch Pump at Pivot 14 - In-Lieu Pump Station Installation

The quote for this project was not provided in time for this meeting.

3. Bar One Pipeline

Quotes for this project were not provided in time for this meeting.

4. Irrigation Efficiency Projects

Barnard provided an update to the Board about remaining funds and project proposals for the Plumas Watershed grant. The District has \$467,790 remaining, with \$254,000 of that allocated to projects with

provisional Board approval. Those projects include \$89,000 for an in-lieu recharge project at Roberti Ranch, \$32,000 for conjunctive use monitoring at D&S Ranch, \$85,000 for a pipeline project at Bar One, and \$48,000 for four pivot sprinkler packages.

Recommended projects for Board consideration (\$118,000):

Bar One west side pipeline project for \$70,000
Goodwin wheel line high-efficiency sprinkler conversion for \$6,000
Bar One pivot high-efficiency sprinkler conversion for \$21,000
Soil moisture station modifications for \$21,000

Low-priority options for Board consideration (\$48,000):

Bar One pipeline expansion for \$30,000
Goodwin pivot high-efficiency sprinkler conversion for \$12,000
Bar One/Dotta pivot modification for \$6,000

Additional options for Board consideration (\$95,000):

MAR and in-lieu monitoring
Technical reporting
SGMA compliance reporting

Chairman Grandi asked why all of these projects are being presented just three months before the end of the grant? He thought some of the projects seem like good ideas, but wonders if there is time to be able to get them done? Talbot responded that it took some time to get to this point because there were geology and feasibility issues with the recharge projects proposed earlier on.

The Board directed Barnard to get quotes to the ad hoc committee for review if they are under the purchasing policy limit, otherwise quotes will need come to the Board next month. The Board also directed Barnard to get quotes for a few telemetry systems for wells with missing data.

I. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26010893B for Water Quality Testing (\$23,836.50)

J. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26020866B for Water Quality Testing (\$7,464.86)

K. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26020867C for Water Quality Testing (\$15,891.00)

For agenda items I, J, and K Foglia shared that water quality testing was required in order to have a baseline test before the recharge event, and then a second test was done afterwards to see if there were any changes. The original quote was for \$27,000, but there was a miscommunication with the lab which resulted in an extra \$20,000 worth of tests. There were also several invoice revisions required, which lead to in the invoices not being billed to the DWR grant. Betsy Elzufon asked Rob Thorman if Plumas Watershed grant funds could be used for these tests and he said yes as it was a basin baseline test. Foglia asked the Board if they would use their Plumas Watershed funds to pay these invoices. Talbot shared that since the quotes did not come before the Board for approval, the Board could not pay an invoice over \$10,000 or it would be subject to formal competitive bid procedures.

Director Roen made a motion to approve item J, Western Environmental Testing Laboratory Invoice #26020866B under the Plumas Watershed grant for \$7,464.86, Director Goicoechea 2nd, roll call: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Ramelli, and Goicoechea voted in favor. Directors Grandi and Roberti voted no.

5) CONSENT CALENDAR

All items on the Consent Calendar shall be considered routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action. Any item removed from the consent calendar will be considered after the regular business items.

A. Approval of The Minutes as Read/Distributed for 8/10/26

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

Director Roen made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk