

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYATeR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Roberti, Ceresola,
Directors absent: Kilmurray, Roen
Also present: Judie Talbot, Brent Helm, Dana McGowen
Via Zoom: Tracey Ferguson, Jay Huebert, Joel Barnard, Steve Reich, Kristi Jameson,

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 July 4. He reported the levels are typical for July. He said D&S W5 is not down as much as usual, but he thinks D&S Ranch and Roberti Ranch are using more surface water this year. The pumping total for June was 1,902 acre-feet, which brings the running total to 3,285 acre-feet. Huebert also shared that a few 12" McCrometer prop meters need to be sent to Technoflo for repair, including one from Goodwin's that was replaced last year but needs to be fixed again.

Chairman Grandi said he talked to Brian Williams, who shared that his ditch pump is working great. Huebert said he also talked to Williams and shared that one of his ag wells is no longer operable. Williams asked about registering his well as inactive, but the Board recommends Williams continue to pay the \$100 annual fee to keep his well registered as active. The Board needs to work with District Counsel to create a policy on moving a well from active to registered inactive and vice versa.

B. Stetson Team Project Update – Steve Reich

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, reported that the Stetson team is continuing to collect data for the Plumas Watershed grant's demonstration project. They recently had to repair a soil moisture sensor being used for the demo project. They are working on a manual for the soil moisture sensors, which will be ready in the next few weeks. They are also coordinating with LWA on upcoming recharge and irrigation efficiency projects for the Plumas Watershed grant.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well applications.

B. Sierra Valley Restoration Project, Westervelt Ecological Services – Brent Helm

Brent Helm, Ecological Director with Westervelt Ecological Services, presented a restoration project they are working on in Sierraville for Grissom Family Land and Cattle. The ranch has a full pivot and a half pivot that they are proposing to remove in order to restore the fields to their native state (based on historic ariel photos). This would return seasonal wetlands to the fields and not use any additional water. The current well will be used for the first year or two for seeding the restoration project, then likely registered as inactive. They are working with Sierra County on obtaining a grading permit, but the County first wants approval from other agencies, including the SVGMD.

Director Goicoechea asked what the motivation is for this project and the eventual outcome. Helm replied the motivation is mitigation and habitat restoration by bringing back the waters that have been impacted by development. They will place a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity. They have talked to the Water Master and he said they cannot retain the water, so it will be a very seasonal wetland as a direct result of rainfall. They've also had hydrologist involved in the study. There will be no net loss or gain for surface water, it will just allow for the natural flow of water. Director Ceresola asked that they talk to the neighbors in the vicinity about the project.

Director Ramelli made a motion for the SVGMD to send a letter to Sierra County in support of this project, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Plumas-Sierra County Fair Outreach Booth – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, presented draft Projects and Management Actions fact sheets for the Board to review before distributing them at the outreach booth at the fair. The ag irrigation efficiency sheet includes information from last year's handout, as well as new information from the results of implementation projects. The second sheet shares information about managed groundwater recharge. She will also have another map this year for people to pin where they are from. Based on input from the Directors, Talbot will work with Stetson and the Board Chair to update and finalize the fact sheets.

Talbot has also been working with Tracey Ferguson on the MOU to transfer the well sounders to Plumas County and Sierra County. They will have a meeting with the two environmental health departments before sending it to District Counsel for review.

D. Ordinance 26-01 – Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-01, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, and Roberti in favor.

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

The Board clerk shared that SVGMD meetings used to be held on the second Monday of each month, but due to a previous District Counsel's schedule the meetings were changed to the third Monday of each month in 2019. However, the third Monday in January and third Monday in February are always federal holidays (MLK, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day). Also, the Plumas-Sierra County Fair is the third week in July and, as a result, the SVGMD July meeting has been rescheduled for the past two years. Ordinance 26-02 moves the regular Board meetings back to the second Monday of each month. They will continue to be held at 6 p.m. at the Sierra Christian Church in Beckwourth.

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-02, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, and Roberti in favor.

F. Resolution 26-03 – Requesting Collection of Charges on Tax Roll

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

G. Resolution 26-04 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Imposition of a Large Capacity Well Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 26-04, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

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 6/15/26

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

1. Agri-Lines #163797 for \$3,135 for Bar One sprinkler package installation

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk