SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYaTErR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09

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

Vice-Chair Roen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roen, Ceresola, Ramelli, Kilmurray
Directors absent: Grandi, Roberti
Also present: Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert, Laura Foglia, Bruce Troedson, Chris Taylor, Laura Foglia, Dwight Smith, Chad Smith, Joel Barnard
Via Zoom: Einen Grandi, Betsy Elzufon, Steve Reich, Debbie Spangler, Kerri, Sharon Johnson, Tracey Ferguson, Ben Volk

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.

Debbie Spangler shared that DWR will be taking spring and fall measurements next week.

Let the minutes note Director Roberti joined the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on October 1. He reported that the levels are typical for October and that most of the wells will be in recovery mode now, except for a few that will continue to drop until late winter before coming back up. The total pumping for ag wells in September was 923 acre-feet, which brings the total for this water year (October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026) to 8,126 acre-feet. He will get the municipal numbers soon and provide a pumping total at next month's meeting.

Director Roberti made a motion to amend the agenda to address item 4C, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor

B. Outreach and Engagement Update – Judie Talbot

Talbot provided the Board with an outreach summary from the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail booth. The event was held on September 19th and Talbot's booth was set up at the Roberti Ranch. She reported that about 50 people circulated through, with ~30 casual conversations and ~20 in-depth conversations. She said it was a great event for local conversations as 26 of them were from the Sierra Valley and another 10 were from nearby areas. Many shared that they had seen implementation projects being installed and were interested and impressed by the estimated savings to groundwater pumping. Talbot thinks having a booth at the event again next year would be a good opportunity to present the Periodic Evaluation to the public. She also proposed holding a public workshop or having a dedicated agenda item at an upcoming Board meeting to provide an update to the public on the Periodic Evaluation. Director Goicoechea thanked Talbot for her time and noted that her work is producing results.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, presented a Periodic Evaluation draft to the Board. She asked that they read through the executive summary and provide comments at next month's meeting. The final draft needs to be approved in December so that it can be submitted in January 2027. A map has been made to show the locations of GSP implementation projects for recharge, irrigation efficiency, and in-lieu recharge. Foglia reported that the recharge projects resulted in ~130 acre-feet of diverted water in the 2025/26 recharge season, and the irrigation efficiency and in-lieu recharge projects resulted in ~400-470 acre-feet reduced groundwater pumping in 2026.

They are now focused on getting ready for the next diversion season to hopefully take advantage of a wet winter. Director Goicoechea commented that it is important to pass out the executive summary as it is well written and highlights a lot of the Board's accomplishments. Chairman Grandi noted that the Board needs to look at the back pages of the executive summary to see areas still requiring attention. He asked if one of those needs is to reduce groundwater pumping to 6,000 acre-feet per year? Foglia said that number was an estimate, and if groundwater levels stay stable at an annual pumping rate of 7,000 or 8,000 acre-feet then it can be updated in a couple of years after documenting the impact of implementation projects.

D. Stetson Team Project Update – Steve Reich

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, shared that all of the data has been downloaded to complete the Plumas Watershed irrigation efficiency project reports. The assessment will use this data to compare the efficiency of MESA systems to LEPA/LESA systems. The demonstration sites were at D&S Ranch, Roberti Ranch, and Bar One.

Joel Barnard, Stetson Environmental Associate, reported that a draft guide for the utilization of soil moisture stations has been sent to Chairman Grandi and Director Roberti for review and feedback. Once it is finalized a copy will be provided to all landowners with a sensor.

Barnard provided an update on the remaining $467,000 budget for Plumas Watershed grant projects: projects that already have Board approval ($358k); project estimates presented tonight ($61k); and the remaining available budget ($48k). Options for the remaining amount include a rainfall runoff report to determine recharge feasibility at Goodwin's; data loggers with telemetry for monitoring wells with weather restrictions during the winter; and elevation surveying at the subsidence monuments.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

1. MW1s – Tom Dotta

Chairman Grandi told the Board that Tom Dotta would like to put a stock water pump in his shallow monitoring well. Grandi had some concerns, so LWA studied it and determined that shouldn't be a problem. Grandi thinks the only concern will be if a water level reading is taken while the pump is on. Director Roen recommended the District get a signed agreement from Dotta that he will coordinate with Huebert and turn off the pump for the monthly reading. Director Goicoechea cautioned that the District is still in the developmental stage of GSP implementation and he doesn't want to confound the data. He recommended allowing the stock water pump to be installed, but to monitor the levels for any negative effects.

Director Ceresola made a motion to authorize the stock water pump so long as it is monitored correctly, and if there are detrimental effects during the first two years the Board will reevaluate the approval, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

2. Sierra County Waterworks District No. 1

An application was submitted to the Board from Sierra County Waterworks District No. 1 for a new large-capacity municipal well in Calpine. Hydrogeologist Dwight Smith shared that this is not an expansion well, but a potential replacement for the other two municipal wells that are ~40 years old. Chairman Grandi noted that they will need to pay the annual large-capacity well management fee. Director Roen said they monitor their own wells and provide pumping data to Huebert each year.

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the well application, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

3. Frenchman Dam Trailer Park – Chris Taylor

An application was submitted to the Board to reactivate a well in Chilcoot that was drilled in 1989. There is a lack of records for the inactive well, but a second well at the site is on record as having been destroyed. Director Goicoechea asked if this well was part of the notification list to be on the active or inactive well lists? The clerk responded no, due to the lack of records. Director Roberti commented that it will not pump over 100 gallons per minute, so it wouldn't have been required to be registered as inactive. Taylor shared that the well was previously used for a trailer park, restaurant, and laundromat, but there will be a decrease in previous use because there will be no restaurant or laundromat. It will be a transient community RV park and will be licensed for public water based on the number of connections. Chairman Grandi asked if there should be a well evaluation done to determine potential impact to neighboring wells? Smith said historically there hasn't been any effect. The clerk read language from SVGMD Ordinance 18-01 Section 3:

(a) High-capacity wells are defined as those that pump more than 2 acre-feet per year (~1,800 gallons per day) or constructed with casings larger than a seven (7) inch outside diameter (OD).

(c) Applications for new high-capacity wells outside the prohibition area will require the hydrologic evaluation and information listed in the SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures, attached to this ordinance as Exhibit B.

Director Roberti noted that this is an existing well and the Ordinance is for new well applications. The Board discussed the definition of high-capacity wells and whether this well should be charged the annual large-capacity well management fee as it will pump more than 2 acre-feet per year, but pumps less than 100 gallons per minute.

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve the well application and not require a well evaluation because it is an existing well, but it needs to be metered within one year, be monitored, and will be charged the annual large-capacity well management fee. Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Roberti voted no.

B. Revisions to the SVGMD Well Application – Rescinded Executive Order N-7-22

The Board clerk shared that Executive Order N-7-22 has been rescinded by the California Governor, but it is still included in the District's well application. Director Roen directed staff to work with District Counsel to amend the application and bring it back to the Board for review.

C. D&S Ranch Well 10 (DMS 16) Repairs

Huebert reported that the meter at DMS 16 is no longer working. He tried reprogramming it, but that didn't work, so he got a quote from TechnoFlo. If the meter isn't still under warranty a replacement will cost ~$3,000. Huebert didn't receive an installation quote yet, but estimates it will be ~$5,000. Director Roberti asked about putting a McCrometer meter on, but Barnard said a prop meter won't fit at this site and would require more installation work. The Board directed Huebert to get a quote from Your H20 Pro before approving installation work. Chairman Grandi recommended first changing the battery to see if it resets. Dwight Smith shared that when those meters were purchased, they came with a free replacement battery. Huebert will replace the battery and bring back quotes next month.

D. Western Surety Company – Dishonesty Bond Renewal Premium $929.18

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the dishonesty bond renewal premium of $929.18, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

E. US Geomatics Proposal: Elevation Surveying for Sierra Valley Land Subsidence Monuments

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the US Geomatics estimate for $5,500 if it will be covered by the Plumas Watershed grant, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Ramelli voted no.

F. Recharge Project Diversion Management

Chairman Grandi said landowners with recharge projects on their property have reached out to him with concerns about who will be taking care of the diversions and recharge dams this winter. Foglia responded that last year the landowners were compensated for their work under the DWR grant. The consultants will be going out at the end of this month to check on the projects and will present a plan at next month's meeting. She also said that last year was a trial period and this year they hope to be more proactive with storms.

G. neatMon Est#3453 for $6,686.55 for Soil Station Installation Improvements

Barnard shared that the concept of modifying the soil station installations was to help protect them from damage. The Board's direction last month was to bring back a quote to raise the stations higher, but to put the responsibility of providing protective fencing around the stations on the landowners. This quote is for the soil stations located within Plumas County and does not include wheel line stations.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve neatMon Estimate #3453 for $6,686.55, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, and Ramelli voted yes. Directors Roberti and Kilmurray abstained.

H. PSREC WO#2026-0914 for $4,330.76 for Roberti Ranch In-Lieu Electrical Service

Barnard said the priority of this project was to utilize grant money for in-lieu recharge to offset groundwater pumping. The materials were approved at the last meeting, this is the electrical service, and agenda item 4I is for the installation.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve PSREC work order #2026-0914 for $4,330.76, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Roberti abstained.

I. Your H2O Pro Roberti Ranch In-Lieu Pump Installation

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve Your H20 Pro Estimate #1653 for $25,675, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Roberti abstained.

J. Isaacs Q#40994 for $51,375.87 for Bar One SW Quad Field Pipeline Materials

Director Ceresola moved to approve Isaacs Quote #40994 for $51,375.87, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

K. Your H2O Pro Bar One SW Quad Field Pipeline Installation

The quote for this project was not available by the time of this meeting, but Barnard estimated it will be $36,000 for the installation work. He said Bar One has offered to do the earth work for this project, which helps assure this project will get finished.

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve project installation up to $36,000 if the quote comes at or under that amount, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

L. Isaacs Q#40993 for $38,152.21 for Bar One Well 7 East Field Pipeline Materials

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve Isaacs Quote #40993 for $38,152.21, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

M. Isaacs Q#40995 for $11,338.20 for Bar One Well 7 Pipeline Well Connection Materials

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve Isaacs Quote #40995 for $11,338.20, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

N. Your H2O Pro Bar One Well 7 East Field Pipeline Installation

The quote for this project was not available by the time of this meeting, but Barnard estimated it will be $20,500 for the installation work.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve project installation up to $20,500 if the quote comes at or under that amount, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

O. Isaacs Q#41004 for $9,059.20 for Roberti Pivot 16 Well Sand Separator

Barnard reported that this has been removed from the project list.

P. Isaacs Q#40999 for $29,363.89 for Bar One HQ Pivot Well VFD

Director Roberti made a motion to approve Isaacs Quote #40999 for $29,363.89, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

Q. Rainfall-Runoff Relationship Proposal for Plumas Watershed Recharge Projects

1. Task 4 MAR Design and Permitting Budget Amendment

Barnard shared that Stetson is looking at options to utilize the remaining $48,000 of the Plumas Watershed grant. One idea is to measure the availability of water from surface runoff to Goodwin pivots by documenting the amount of rainfall. The monitoring equipment and flume will remain at the site and be turned over to the landowner. The Board had several concerns about the project. Foglia said that she received the telemetry quote today.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to add telemetry data loggers to the agenda as an emergency item due to time sensitivity, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

Foglia shared the estimate with the Board and noted that the same instrumentation will be used that is installed at the other telemetry sites. The data will go into an existing database, which will be beneficial for data collection. The quote includes the equipment, installation, and calibration of the wells. Huebert will not need to go to the wells as everything will be in the database.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve LWA's telemetry estimate with a not to exceed amount of $25,486, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

The Board also directed Foglia to bring back a new quote for more telemetry if there is remaining grant money.

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 9/14/26

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

1. **Judie Talbot #2026.A for $1,500 for Art + Ag Trail Outreach Booth**
2. **TechnoFlo #56323 for $163.22 for Goodwin #62 Cross Vane**
3. **PSREC #201386 for $250.00 for Service Upgrade for Roberti Ag Pump**
4. **Western Environmental #26020866B for $7,464.86 for Water Quality Testing**

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Roen, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Roen adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk