

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, August 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director
Tom Rowson, Director
Michael Sanchez, Director
Don Wallace, Director

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Directors present: Roberti, Rowson, Wallace, Sanchez, Roen, Ramelli

Directors absent: None

2) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

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.

Kristi Jamason thanked the Board for their volunteer service. She recognizes that it has become an increasingly complex job and she appreciates their work.

3) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Establishing Requirements Pertaining to New Water Well Permits

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to adopt new requirements pertaining to water well permits for new high-capacity wells.

Brooks Mitchell gave the Board a proposed amendment to Ordinance 17-02, Section 5 (Exemptions):

a) no change

b) no change

c) no change

d) Small community water system wells, defined as wells pumping water to storage tanks for domestic use with engineered pumping capacity of not more than 650 gallons per minute.

Rebekah Perez introduced herself, Don Sintek, and Alyssa Loubet as members of the Sierra Brooks Property Owner's Association Board. Their concern is that the ordinance restrictions will affect potential new wells within Sierra Brooks. They understand the importance of the ordinance to protect Sierra Valley water for future generations, but would like an exemption amendment for the existing communities.

Mark Marin commented that the City of Loyalton might use ~750 gallons on a hard weekend and that there are plans to drill two more wells to replace/backup the existing wells.

Don Sintek questioned why the zone map boundaries go up Smithneck beyond the entrance to Sierra Brooks as there is really no need for deep wells in that area. Grandi responded that the map was created by a geohydrologist and that the map is based on groundwater level concerns.

Brooks Mitchell asked if the Basin is currently in overdraft? Grandi responded that yes, the Basin is currently using double its pumping capacity and that the District must reach sustainability by 2022 or the state of California (DWR) will step in. Director Roen shared that the Board's intention is to create temporary restrictions going forward. Director Sanchez commented that this Board is responsible for reaching sustainability and that documented land subsidence within the Sierra Valley Subbasin plays a large part in triggering this ordinance.

Rick Roberti questioned whether local landowner Trent McCuen would have his recently approved well permit revoked should this ordinance pass? David Prentice, Sierra County Counsel, responded that he has proposed an amendment to the JPA and that it will be 60 to 90 days before the amendment goes into effect. McCuen's permit cannot be taken away without due process. Jerry Sipe observed that, should the ordinance be passed, District legislation states it will go into effect immediately, but that the well permit was issued prior to the ordinance passing.

Kristi Jamason recommended that the Board make any ordinance exceptions specific enough that they only include existing municipalities and not future potential development areas.

Rebecca Perez stated that a miniscule amount of water is pumped from Loyalton and Sierra Brooks compared to local agriculture pumping. There is a strong possibility that another well will need to be drilled in Sierra Brooks to meet the needs of residents.

Grandi acknowledged that the existing communities are where the local population live, and that it's not the intent of the Board to restrict their water. David Prentice recommended adding a specific municipal well amendment at a future date as that would be a substantial change to the ordinance and it is not on this meeting's agenda.

Katie Tanner shared that she sent a letter of support for this ordinance to the Directors for the last public hearing.

Chairman Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:35 PM.

Proposed Actions

- A.** Determine the Ordinance is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines and direct the Clerk to file a Notice of Exemptions in both Plumas and Sierra County

Director Roen shared that both County Counsels are studying the District's founding legislation, which might alleviate the need for this ordinance because the power of the District Board is written into the legislation. Kristi Jamason commented that the Board passing this ordinance would make the restrictions clear to everyone involved.

Director Sanchez suggested the zone map could become an internal document for the District, which could be used as a tool for determining proposed locations for new wells. He also shared that both Counties will be sending all well permit applications (located within District boundaries) to the Board for approval. David Prentice told the Board that the adoption of the new the JPA amendment is where the District and Counties will agree that all permits come to the District for approval. Sanchez noted the JPA expires in December of 2019, so it's not guaranteed to continue and that it is important to have it reviewed and repassed. Director Rowson asked if the JPA amendment and the ordinance are a duplication? Prentice responded that the amendment provides administrative procedure.

Director Grandi does not think the ordinance needs to be passed at this time. Sanchez suggested there is value to the ordinance, especially if it's modified. He proposed to not table it for a long period of time and would like to have it on the next meeting agenda. Roen wants a JPA working group between both Counties and Counsels to meet before the next board meeting.

Director Roen made a motion not to pass the ordinance in its current form, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary