

Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Art + Ag Tour: Outreach Summary

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 am – 4 pm



As part of the outreach and engagement efforts for the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (SVGSP), the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District and Plumas County) hosted an informational table at the Roberti Ranch during the September 19, 2026 Art + Ag Tour.

The SVGSP facilitator staffed the table from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Roberti Ranch was one of 11 featured sites for the self-guided tour across Sierra Valley.

Foot Traffic and Number of Visitors

The level of foot traffic ebbed and flowed throughout the day, tied to the timing of ranch tours.

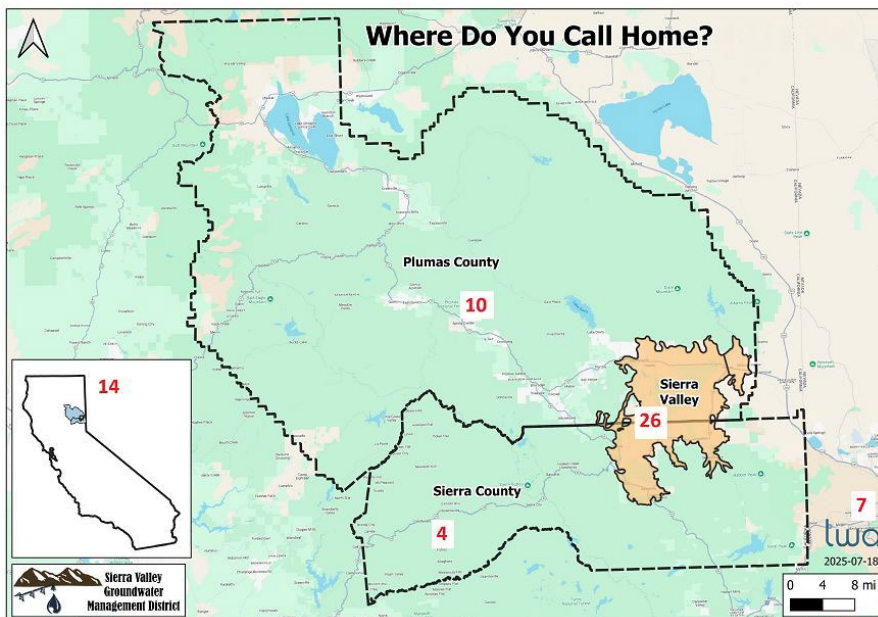
- Approximately 50 people stopped by the table,
- resulting in about 30 casual conversations,
- with approximately 20 in-depth discussions.

The number of extended conversations was comparable to, or exceeded, the attendance at previous SVGSP public workshops. However, not all the participants were from Sierra Valley.

Geographic Representation of Attendees

The local area was well represented by attendees. For the people who indicated where they were from, the results were as follows:

- Sierra Valley – 26
- Other Plumas County – 10 (Portola, Clio, Portola)
- Other Sierra County – 4 (Downieville, Sierra City)
- Truckee/No. Cal – 10
- No. Nevada – 7
- Other areas – 17

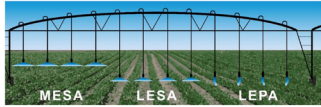


Signs and Table Materials

A sign with visuals and text highlighted SVGSP Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).

Integrated Groundwater Management



MESA LESA LEPA

Lowering sprinkler heads (LESA & LEPA) and modifying sprinkler heads (LEPA) can generate water savings of up to 15% by reducing water losses to evaporation and wind drift.

Ag Irrigation Efficiency

During high flow winter events, excess flows are slowed by concrete retaining blocks. This provides more time for water to seep into the ground and be stored in the aquifer.



Managed Aquifer Recharge



"Dry" wells at the bottom of the retention area can enhance infiltration




Conjunctive use (also called in-lieu recharge) involves the coordinated use of surface water and groundwater.

During average-to-wet years, growers use existing water rights to irrigate crops with surface water.

During dry years, crops are irrigated with groundwater (instead of drawing from reduced surface water supplies).

Conjunctive Use

Fact sheets and brochures

This year's materials highlighted on-the ground projects to advance sustainable groundwater management in Sierra Valley. Fact sheets described the details specific to each PMA (see attached).

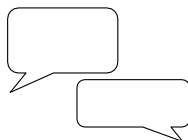


- Sustainable Groundwater Management in Sierra Valley
- Sustainability Indicators
- Groundwater Recharge Projects in Sierra Valley
- Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Projects in Sierra Valley
- Conjunctive Use Projects in Sierra Valley

Activities for kids featured a “fishing pond” and coloring materials (a “Water Fun” coloring and activity booklet from the American Water Works Association and a 4-pack of crayons). Modified fact included”

- A Kids Activity Handout: How is Water Important to You?
- The Water Cycle & Water Budget

What We Heard



People are very interested in learning about the projects:

- Many visitors had seen some of the projects as they were being implemented.
- The work of the Sierra Valley GSAs was appreciated in developing these projects now, to avoid the level of impact seen in other parts of the State.
- There was genuine interest in understanding how the projects worked and what the level of benefit was to groundwater supplies.

Assessment of Public Outreach at the Art+Ag Tour

The outreach opportunity provided by the Art + Ag Tour reached residents located primarily in the Sierra Valley and neighboring Plumas County towns. Local events, such as Art + Ag Tour, are effective in engaging the nearby community.

Next year, the key information about the SVGSP will focus on the Periodic Evaluation. Targeted outreach will need to reach those within the Sierra Valley groundwater basin itself. Participating in the 2027 Art + Ag Tour could be coupled with newsletters or email blasts and perhaps a public workshop scheduled in conjunction with an SVGSP Board Meeting.