

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYdTlR1BUtjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

**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 6:04 PM  
Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ceresola, Ramelli, Kilmurray  
Directors absent: Roen  
Also present: Judie Talbot, Joel Barnard, Steve Reich, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon, Chris Hutton  
Via Zoom: Ben Volk, Debbie Spangler, Tracey Ferguson, Gus Tolley, Kyle Mattingly, Rebecca Smith

**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 readings on March 7, but was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Grandi said he thought the monthly report levels looked good.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

Debbie Spangler shared that DWR plans to be in the Sierra Valley next week to take spring well measurements. DWR recently released Best Management Practices for Subsidence and would like to meet with the SVGMD to discuss implementation at the local level. The next round of grant funding will come from Prop 4 and it's anticipated that grant solicitations will be in the first half of 2027.

**C. GSP Facilitator Update – Judie Talbot**

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, reported that last month she joined a call with the Drought Contingency Plan committees for Plumas and Sierra Counties, which are focused on areas that might have water supply vulnerability. They would like to coordinate with the SVGMD. Specifically, they are looking for resources for domestic well users. Talbot told them about the loaner program for the well sounders the District recently obtained, and they were interested in those. Director Ceresola is concerned about the liability and accuracy of the well sounders being used by the public, as well as the District's involvement with domestic wells. Elzufon replied that the sounders are a public outreach requirement of the GSP. Chairman Grandi replied that he does not have a problem with the outreach portion, but wonders if problems will emerge a result of the well sounders. Director Goicoechea suggested giving one well sounder to each County for them to coordinate use with the public. The Board directed staff to include this discussion on the next agenda.

Talbot also told the Board that at the stakeholder outreach booth at last year’s Plumas-Sierra County Fair, she talked to a couple of teachers who shared that 6<sup>th</sup> grade studies focus on “the year of the water shed.” Talbot asked the Board if there was any interest in hosting a field trip to demonstrate the District’s recent irrigation efficiency and recharge projects. The Directors had concerns about liability and private land access. Talbot said she will reach out to Tahoe National Forest contacts to see if they have any interest in hosting a field trip for the upper watershed.

**D. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia**

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, stated the big thing right now is that the District has reached the end of the DWR grant period. Chairman Grandi said good job and thanked LWA and Stetson for their work. Foglia said that the SVGMD is probably the GSA that got the most real, concrete projects from this grant. She said DWR wants to see data that progress is being made, not that it’s been resolved. LWA will be suggesting language for lessening the restrictions for diversion requirements.

Foglia shared that a new federal waterSMART grant opportunity just came out last week from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of the Interior. The grant requires a 50% co-share, but the District would be able to use CDFW and Plumas Watershed grant funds to meet that match requirement. The Board directed staff to put the waterSMART grant on the next agenda to discuss.

**E. Stetson & DRI Team Project Update – Steve Reich/Jim Thomas**

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, shared that he has appreciated the opportunity to work with a great team these last couple of years. In his presentation, he reported the following:

## Equipment Purchased and Installed

>\$1 Million of Expenditures – All of 4(c) and 4(d)

Facility	Number of Facilities Recommended in Farm Assessment Reports	Facilities Installed Through Grant
High Efficiency Sprinkler Package	49	37
Sand Separator	6	3
Ditch Pump Intake Screens	7	6
Variable Frequency Drive Controls	2	2
Wheel Line Improvements	41	17
Pipeline Replacement/Construction	14	6
Weather Stations (Basinwide)	4	3
Soil Moisture Stations	38	11

## Groundwater Savings Summary

Summary of Groundwater Savings

- **From Equipment installed through Component 4 of Grant (2024-2026)**
  - Approximately 470 AFY during an Average Hydrologic Year (i.e., 2022)
- **Basin-Wide Savings from Complete Conversion to High-Efficiency Sprinklers**
  - Results in approximately 90 AFY to 710 AFY during wet to dry hydrologic conditions, respectively, based on conversion of 12 remaining pivots
- **Improved Un-Quantified Groundwater Savings from Improved Irrigation Management**
  - Improved Distribution Uniformity from Sand Separators, VFDs, Ditch Pumps
  - Reduced groundwater use through use of Soil Moisture sensors (i.e., beginning of year, end of year, after each cutting)
  - Utilization of Forecasts and Observed Conditions to inform irrigation decisions
  - On the ground Soil Moisture Sensors and Climate Data
  - Forecasting Tools – weather and forecasted ET

# Recommendations

## Opportunities for Continued Efficiency Improvements

- **Other Irrigation System Recommendations**
  - Field irrigation system conversions (Wheel line to Center Pivots/Lateral Move Systems)
  - Remaining pivot sprinkler conversions
  - Laser level field – improve surface distribution uniformity
  - Conveyance improvements – Ditch conversions/Rehab, pipelines
- **Irrigation Management Techniques – Utilization of Forecasts and Observed Conditions to inform irrigation decisions**
  - On the ground Soil Moisture Sensors and Climate Data
  - Forecasting Tools – weather and forecasted ET
  - Soil Reservoir Monitoring and Management
- **Lake Davis Transfer**
  - LCCWD consulted with and agreed to no impacts to senior rights through 2 cfs transfer
  - Assess economic impact of 375 AFY at \$143 per AF
  - Costs to be negotiated with Plumas County

Reich said there are still unquantified numbers from several improvement projects and how they will affect groundwater savings. The Stetson/DRI team are interested in holding another workshop that's beneficial to irrigators on how to use the available data. Chairman Grandi shared that early on the Board had discussed recharge possibilities from clearing overgrown forests. Foglia said Butte Valley is doing a lot of that clearing right now and that there are grants available for that work. Joel Barnard suggested the tree farm off of Maddalena Road.

## 4) **DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

### **B. Land Lease Compensation Agreements**

Chairman Grandi reported that the two land lease compensation agreements (Griffin and Potter) were agreed to and executed under a 15-year term for \$60,000 (total) per landowner.

Director Goicoechea moved to accept the Griffin land lease compensation agreement as amended, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, Kilmurray, and Ceresola all voted yes.

Director Ceresola moved to accept the Potter land lease compensation agreement as amended, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, Kilmurray, and Ceresola all voted yes.

### **C. GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2025 – Gus Tolley**

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, shared the final report with the Board for Water Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025). Tracey Ferguson provided some comments to Tolley on the draft report.

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve the submission of the Annual Report once corrections have been approved by the Board Chair, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 2/9/26**

**B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports**

- 1. Isaacs #57147 for \$1,809.77 for Roberti Ranch VFD install equip**
- 2. Isaacs #57148 for \$3,035.49 for Goicoechea monitoring equip**
- 3. neatMon #1349 for \$2,215.37 for Bar One installation**
- 4. neatMon #1362 for \$2,215.37 for Grissom installation**
- 5. neatMon #1364 for \$3,067.35 for Grissom installation**
- 6. neatMon #1366 for \$2,215.37 for Goodwin installation**
- 7. neatMon #1368 for \$3,067.35 for Goodwin installation**
- 8. Your H2O Pro #6987 for \$31,496.50 for Bar One pipeline**
- 9. Your H2O Pro #6996 for \$39,496 for Bar One pipeline**
- 10. Your H2O Pro #7007 for \$26,214.33 for Goodwin sand separator**
- 11. Your H2O Pro #7008 for \$83,700 for D&S pipeline**
- 12. Your H2O Pro #7020 for \$56,244 for Goicoechea pipeline**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Items B3 through B11 on the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, Kilmurray, and Ceresola all voted yes.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Items B1 on the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, Kilmurray, and Ceresola all voted yes. Director Roberti abstained.

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve Items B2 and B12 on the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Kilmurray, and Ceresola all voted yes. Director Goicoechea abstained.

**6) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk