

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129**

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 3:30 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
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director**

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Vice-Chair Roberti called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roen, Ceresola, Kilmurray
Directors absent: Ramelli and Grandi
Also present: Laura Foglia and Andrew Calderwood
Via Zoom: Tracey Ferguson, Gus Tolley, Carl Butz, and Debbie Spangler

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 was no public comment.

3) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

**A. Considerations on Potential Policies and Procedures for Active and Inactive
Large-Capacity Wells**

Director Kilmurray shared that Don Wallace has asked if the Board will handle well decisions based on location, such as whether a well is in or out of the moratorium zone?

Director Roen noted that that's a fair discussion point and Director Roberti agreed that if there isn't a problem in an area they shouldn't be penalized.

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, said that the approach should be the same inside or outside of the moratorium because it's all located in the basin.

The Board clerk read the inactive well registry letters sent in 2017 and 2018 (attached).

Let the minutes note Chairman Grandi joined the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Director Ceresola commented that the District asked for the information and those that responded should be able to activate their wells.

Director Goicoechea said if the Board was judging the situation by those letters only that's true, but now there are new considerations like the Governor's executive order that will affect whether the Board should authorize a new well or reactivation and what the effect would be on sustainability goals.

Chairman Grandi stated that a lot of the registered inactive wells are 20 to 30 years old. He talked to legal counsel (Jack Rice) about the issue of these inactive wells. Rice recommended having a process in place that requires a well evaluation because it will require a hydrologist to determine what the impact will be. He said that is what most other basins are doing. He also recommended the Board treat the drilling of a new well or activating an old well the same and to handle well applications on an individual basis. The Board has a responsibility to protect current wells that are active.

Let the minutes note Director Ramelli joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Director Roen agreed an evaluation should be required, but that the Board should decide on a case-by-case basis and use other determining factors such as location and proximity to other wells.

Foglia shared that other basins are almost all using hydrogeologist reports on a case-by-case basis. Discussions are focusing on how to monitor whether domestic wells are pumping less than 2 acre-feet per year and how to ensure irrigators aren't over pumping. The District's GSP says there isn't room for increasing pumping. Another idea to help out with costs is to use the model to create preliminary conditions of areas where new wells are okay or not -- like if it would be too close to another well or is in an overdraft area. Her sense is that DWR is becoming extremely strict. If they see groundwater levels going down, they don't care about the reason (such as no precipitation). The Board does not want DWR or the State Water Board coming in. The safest approach is requiring a hydrology report in consensus with the GSP.

Chairman Grandi noted that Jack Rice also recommended creating zones within the basin such as overdraft, no overdraft, etc. Rice said what will probably end up happening in the next several years is adjudicated groundwater rights, similar to surface water rights. He read through the senate bill that founded the SVGMD and noted how important it is. The bill includes things the GSA doesn't do, though he noted the two don't trump each other, but work together. Rice's office compiled the original bill and the amendments into one document and he encourages the Board to read through it and know what rights the District has. Grandi said it sounds like the Board is in agreement that applications need to be handled on a case-by-case basis, but there needs to be guidelines.

Director Roen recommended having an ordinance that clarifies the activation process, noting that if things stabilize the process could change.

Director Goicoechea agreed that the Board could say "not at this time, but maybe in the future" to an activation request. If the Board can show they are adhering to the Governor's edicts and DWR's policies, the District has a reasonable expectation of prevailing.

Foglia said that a cheaper first step could be to use a pump test instead of a hydrologist report.

The Board clerk asked if the Directors want to have another inactive well registry.

Director Roen responded no, the first letters were clear enough and new land owners should have done their due diligence in gathering well information when purchasing the property.

Chairman Grandi asked if someone reactivates an inactive well, will they be eligible to drill a replacement well? How will past pumping capability be determined? How are new wells and inactive wells different?

Director Roen suggested using well records or conducting a pump test. Then the Board can determine whether that pumping volume will adversely affect sustainability.

Director Roberti would like the evaluation to require a 24-hour minimum pump test for wells that pump 100+ gpm.

Chairman Grandi and the Board clerk will work together on amending Ordinance 18-01 and will bring a draft to the next meeting.

B. Revisions to the SVGMD Well Application

Chairman Grandi and the Board clerk made amendments to the District's well application based on the discussion at last month's meeting.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the application as presented, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Kilmurray, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, Ramelli, and Roen in favor.

4) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk



P.O. Box 88
Chilcoat, CA 96105
(530) 428-5002
sierravalleygmd@sbcglobal.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Vice Chairman
Greg Ramelli
Paul Roen
Jim Roberti
Tom Rowson
Michael Sanchez

September 25, 2017

Dear Property Owner,

In an effort to continue the preservation of Sierra Valley groundwater and to maintain local control of this valuable resource, the SVGMD Directors passed Ordinance 17-03, which allows for the 2017 large-capacity management charge of \$200 for each metered well capable of pumping 100+ gallons per minute. Enacting this charge last year has provided the District with sufficient funding to purchase spare meters and to repair broken meters during this past pumping season.

The Board is pleased to announce that SVGMD has successfully been enacted as the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Sierra Valley Basin under the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The next step within SGMA is for the District to create a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022, which must include measurable goals and objectives, and implementation actions to achieve and maintain Basin sustainability. The Sierra Valley has known groundwater overdraft and land subsidence, which DWR will require the District to form solutions for within the GSP. The Board is taking the necessary steps to avoid the State placing the Basin in probationary status, which would impose mandatory annual reporting and a dramatic fee increase.

Now that the GSA has been formed, the Directors are focusing their attention on methods of sustainability. As a property owner and groundwater user, the District would greatly appreciate your input and ideas in the upcoming months. The decided first step has been to determine the number of all large-capacity wells located within the Basin so that the District has accurate records and can make GSP decisions based on well-defined data.

The attached invoice notes the District's record of the metered large-capacity wells located on your property. If there are any inaccuracies, please note them below. We now need your help in identifying inactive, non-metered large-capacity wells located on your property (any well with a casing of 7" outside diameter or larger AND/OR capable of pumping 100+ gpm). Please fill out the portion below and send it back with your invoice payment.

Sincerely,

Einen Grandi
Chairman, SVGMD

PLEASE DETACH AND SEND TO THE DISTRICT

Number of large-capacity wells located on your property that *are* currently metered: _____

Number of large-capacity wells located on your property that *are not* currently metered: _____

Name: _____

Preferred way to contact you for future SVGMD meeting dates regarding inactive well discussions and decisions:

() mailing address: _____

() email: _____



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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**P.O. Box 88
Chilcoat, CA 96105
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sierravalleygmd@sbcglobal.net**

May 30, 2018

TO: High-Capacity Well Owners
FROM: Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District
SUBJECT: Reporting of High-Capacity Inactive Wells

The California Department of Water Resources has directed all groundwater districts to develop a sustainability plan over the next few years that addresses groundwater levels, groundwater quality, surface water interaction and more. In an effort to meet the mandates of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (SVGMD) Board of Directors has been working on ordinances and policies that will satisfy the requirements of the law.

The SVGMD is responsible for measuring actual and potential groundwater extraction by municipal and agricultural high-capacity wells. In pursuit of that goal, the Board has identified a need to create a report describing the number of high-capacity inactive wells and the location of those wells to assist in the calculation of groundwater extraction capabilities in the Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin.

The Board of Directors has adopted an ordinance requiring registration of all high-capacity inactive wells. The District will plot the GPS location and record your estimate of its pumping capacity. The definition of a high-capacity well and the process for activating an inactive well is explained in the attached SVGMD Ordinance No. 18-01.

Failure to register all high-capacity inactive wells on your property within the District may result in the loss of your ability to activate an inactive well for future use.

Please contact the SVGMD Chairman if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,
Einen Grandi
SVGMD Chairman



Inventory No. _____
(District Use Only)

Inactive High-Capacity Well Inventory Form

SVGMD P.O. Box 88 Chilcoot, CA 96105

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Current Owner

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

A high-capacity inactive well is defined in Ordinance 18-01 per section 3(a) and section 4(a) "as those capable of pumping 100 gallons per minute or more or constructed with casings larger than a seven (7) inch outside diameter (OD), and unmetered."

II. WELL INFORMATION

A. Number of Inactive High-Capacity Wells Being Registered _____

B. Estimated pumping capacity: _____

C. Well casing diameter: _____

Is the site accessible to vehicles? YES _____ **NO** _____

A designee of SVGMD will contact you after you return this registration form and set up a convenient time for the District to plot the GPS coordinates of your inactive well(s).

NOTE: YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR INACTIVE WELL(S) BY JULY 1, 2018. FAILURE TO REGISTER ALL HIGH-CAPACITY WELLS ON YOUR PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF YOUR ABILITY TO ACTIVATE AN INACTIVE WELL FOR FUTURE USE.