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

Monday, August 10, 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

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Kilmurray
Directors absent: Roen, Ceresola, Ramelli
Also present: Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert
Via Zoom: Tracey Ferguson, Joel Barnard, Steve Reich, Betsy Elzufon, Debbie Spangler

2) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix a large capacity well management charge for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the purpose of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing all of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized, fixed at $100.00 per well per year.

Chairman Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.
There were no public comments.
Chairman Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

3) 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.

4) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on August 4. He reported that the monitoring well levels are what's to be expected for the beginning of August. Well 5 at D&S Ranch is only down a foot and a half from last month, which he said is good news and is probably due to D&S and Roberti Ranch using surface water this year, as well as Green Gulch not pumping from their well in that area. The ag pumping total for July was 1,939 acre-feet, bringing the running total for water year 2025/26 to 5,224 acre-feet.

Huebert showed the Board pictures of well 62 at Goodwin Ranch where a sand separator was installed last year. This year the meter hasn't been working, so he sent it to Technoflo for repair, but they couldn't find anything wrong. Director Roberti said it might not be working because the pipe isn't full. Huebert will work with Your H20 Pro on the problem.

Let the minutes note Director Ramelli joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

B. Outreach and Engagement Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, shared that there was a good turnout at the fair outreach booth. The fact sheets and presentation will be posted on the District's website and shared with the stakeholders' email list. Of the booth visitors, she thinks around 30 people were from the Sierra Valley, so she has been trying to think of a way to do more local outreach. Director Roberti suggested putting the information in *The Sierra Booster.* Talbot mentioned the possibility of having a booth at the Sierra Valley Art + Ag Trail in September. The Board agreed to that idea, with Chairman Grandi noting that the Plumas Watershed grant has public outreach requirements and funding available.

Talbot reported that the Prop 4 guidelines came out last week, which is the funding that the Small GSA Coalition has been advocating for funds from for small GSAs that pump under 10,000 acre-feet annually. It is non-competitive, so the funds will be divided equally to whoever applies. There are close to 30 small GSAs, so each would receive $115,000 if they all apply. The funds can be used for administration, the periodic evaluation, monitoring, and implementation/recharge projects. There will be another funding release next year for disadvantaged communities, but that will be a competitive process.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Betsy Elzufon, LWA Associate, shared that in addition to the Prop 4 funding the Small GSA Coalition has advocated for, the Coalition is also trying to help with easing diversion permit requirements. The SWEEP grant concept proposal was accepted, so LWA is now working on submitting a full proposal next week. Sierra County and Plumas County are going to provide letters of support, and there is a Board resolution on this agenda in support of this project. The SWEEP grant would primarily support more in-lieu recharge projects and irrigation efficiency projects. This will expand a little outside of the Sierra Valley and can provide to others in Plumas and Sierra counties, but the Board will have control over the distribution. Joel Barnard noted that the SWEEP grant has an expanded scope to encompass more on-farm water resource management, as well as energy efficiency.

D. Stetson Team Project Update – Steve Reich

An update from Stetson will be given under agenda item 5B.

5) <u>DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS</u>

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

There were no new well applications.

B. Plumas Watershed Grant Projects

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, presented Plumas Watershed grant project proposals to the Board.

Recharge project proposals (Task 5 MAR Construction funds):

1) Roberti Ranch in-lieu recharge project: $89,000 to install river intake screen, pump, controls, and incidental piping to optimize use of surface water in lieu of pumping groundwater at pivots 10 through 15.
2) Diamond G in-lieu recharge project: $211,000 to install river screen, pipeline, pump, controls, and minor earth work to utilize surface water discharged from existing ponds on unnamed streams.

The Board was concerned over the lack of water supply for the Diamond G project. They did not want to spend that amount on a project that might not deliver consistent results. Chairman Grandi asked about alternative project ideas and Barnard responded that there is an opportunity on the Simon property, but the issue is the diversion is washed out and there's no pipeline or power. There are also potential in-lieu recharge pipeline projects at D&S Ranch.

Let the minutes note Director Ramelli left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

The Board directed Stetson to move forward bringing quotes for the Roberti project to the next meeting. They would need more information on the Diamond G project before moving forward. The Board clerk will ask if the Plumas Watershed grant can provide an end date extension, or if recharge funds can be moved to irrigation efficiency projects.

Recharge monitoring proposal (Task 6 MAR Monitoring funds):
1) D&S Ranch conjunctive use monitoring: $32,000 to install four independent water meters to monitor existing surface water use to quantify existing in-lieu recharge.

Pivot conversion/pipeline project proposals (Task 7 Irrigation Efficiency funds):
1) Goodwin pivot 6 for $12,000
2) Simon pivot for $12,000
3) Goodwin pivot 3 for $12,000
4) Goodwin pivot 4 for $12,000
5) Bar One SW field pipeline irrigation: $85,000 to replace an unlimited open-ditch conveyance facility with a 10-inch pipeline. The reduction in ditch losses and evaporation will result in improved irrigation efficiency.

The Board directed Stetson to move forward with the Task 6 and Task 7 projects, as well as to move forward with getting soil moisture probes working and protected from cattle.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the proposed Task 6 and Task 7 projects, as long as the quotes are at or below the above estimated costs, Director Kilmurray 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Resolution 26-05 - SWEEP Grant Application

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 26-05, Director Kilmurray 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Pacific Policy Group Inv. #2847 for $5,000 for 2026-2027 Small GSA Coalition

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Pacific Policy Group invoice #2847, Director Kilmurray 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26010893B for Water Quality Testing ($24,847.96)

F. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26020866B for Water Quality Testing ($8,542.84)

G. Western Env. Testing Lab Inv. #26020867C for Water Quality Testing ($16,584.64)

The Board postponed the discussion on agenda items E, F and G until the September meeting.

6) <u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

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 7/13/26

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

1. **Agri-Lines #167206 for $3,900 for D&S Ranch sprinkler package installation**
2. **Vantage Sierra Cascade #0738181 for $848.29 for Bar One soil probe repairs**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Kilmurray 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

7) <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk