

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, November 21, 2022 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
Don Wallace, Vice-Chair
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, and Wallace
Directors absent: Ceresola, Roen
Also present: Dwight Smith, Judie Talbot, Tracey Ferguson, and Doug Lawler
Via Zoom: Kristi Jamason, Debbie Spangler, Gus Tolley, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon, John Rickman, Jay Huebert, and Carl Butz

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 well readings on November 1 and reported that the monitoring well levels are typical for November and water levels are on the rise. There are a couple that will continue to drop until early spring before beginning to recover, but most are higher than they were at this time last year. The monthly pumping total for agriculture wells from October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022 came to 11,316 acre feet. The municipal well pumping total for that same time frame came to 718 acre/feet. The 2021-2022 water year pumping total came to 12,077 acre/feet.

The Board directed Huebert to take well measurements every month so that the District will have all available data to use moving forward with the GSP.

The new magmeter was installed on DMS 12 at Green Gulch, which completes the meter standardization project.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that the implementation grant application deadline has been extended to December 16, 2022. DWR is continuing to review GSPs. The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey data hasn't been posted yet.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on November 3 to discuss the data management and reporting tool, category d deliverables, and implementation priorities for GSP projects and management action. The committee would like to review the processes conducted during the last few years in order to evaluate what went well and what should be done differently moving forward.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

1. Meadow Edge Park (Vinton) Special Use Permit

Doug Lawler, managing partner for Meadow Edge Park, attended the meeting to discuss the project proposal with the Board. Lawler explained that water samples are taken frequently and the findings conclude there is high quality water there. At this time he is unable to provide pumping or monitoring data as they hadn't been required to take those measurements up to this point. They will be getting a water feasibility study done for max flow and usage. Currently the park has four six inch wells, but they recently upgraded one and mainly use that one now. In the future they may upgrade the other three and not need any new wells. The project proposal includes an environmentally friendly water treatment center.

Director Grandi shared that the District is in place to ensure groundwater levels are sustainable, especially now that there is legislation in place regarding the Basin's groundwater management. The Board's concern is that the eastern half of the valley is already in overdraft and the District is responsible for correcting that problem. If this special use permit is approved by Plumas County the District would enact metering and monitoring requirements on the park's wells. The comment to be submitted to Plumas County from the SVGMD on this current application is that the Board is waiting on the results from the water feasibility study to provide further information.

B. Large-Capacity Well Inventory

The board clerk reached out to County Counsel for his input on what constitutes a "taking" when it comes to the pumping rights of inactive wells. His response was that "a 'taking' is a condemnation of property which renders the property with no economic use of the land. Also, it is not a taking if done to preserve natural resources. The taking of well does not render the land as economically useless, farmers and ranchers routinely close wells and continue the viable use of the property. Moreover, here the non-regulation is specifically to preserve the natural resource of water, the mission of the District and the reason for its existence."

Ferguson read the language from SVGMD Ordinance 18-01:

Section 4. Adopting Requirements for Reporting High Capacity Inactive Wells.

- (a) High-capacity wells, as defined in Section 3 (a), are inactive if unmetered. These wells shall be known as high-capacity inactive wells.*
- (b) High-capacity inactive wells must be registered with the District, including the following information:*
 - a. The pumping capacity of the well.*
 - b. The location of the well.*
 - c. The distance from existing operating wells.*
 - d. A description of any intent to activate the well.*
- (c) High-capacity inactive wells shall not be metered and activated without application for and receipt of a permit from the District. The District shall consider all information provided in subsection (b) and issue authorization to activate the inactive well if such activation does not increase impact to the groundwater basin.*
- (d) No high-capacity inactive well will be considered by the District for an activation permit in the absence of the information required in subsection (b) above.*
- (e) The process for activation of a high-capacity inactive well is as follows:*
 - a. Written application submitted to the Board of Directors of the District which application shall include the following information:*
 - i. the intended use of the well.*
 - ii. the location of the well within the basin*
 - iii. the projected pumping capacity upon re-activation*
 - iv. the wells proximity to other wells*
 - v. the applicant's intent regarding the inactivation of other wells*
 - vi. a description of the equipment to be installed to effect activation.*
 - b. Upon approval by the District, the well may be activated following a site inspection by the District prior to going live.*
 - c. No high-capacity inactive well shall be destroyed prior to the issuance of a permit by the County for such destruction and upon notice to the District.*

The Chairman and board clerk will meet with County Counsel to draft an amendment to Ordinance 18-01 that addresses the following questions:

What happens if an active well owner stops paying the annual fee?

What happens if land with an active/inactive well sells?

Should there be another registry notifying wells that inactive wells might lose pumping rights should they not become active and pay the annual fee?

What happens when an inactive well owner wants the well to become active?

What happens if an active well goes inactive and they want to become active again?

Should there be a third category, such as idle-active (an active well that's not being pumped)? Maybe the annual fee is lower?

Director Goicoechea made a motion to table this item and discuss it further at the next meeting, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

1. Land Subsidence Network

2. Green Gulch DMS 12 Meter Standardization

3. GDE Monitoring Network

4. Irrigation Review & LEPA Irrigation Efficiency Demonstration Program

5. Surface Water Management, Recharge & Pumping Reduction Assessment

6. Monitoring Networks Expansion O&M Manual

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, issued a draft O&M Plan and would like to get a copy to Huebert for his review. The O&M Plan includes details about the flow meters the District has, passcode information for the meter technician, GDE access information, and will include DMS data upload information. Currently there are no instructions on water quality sampling, but that could be added. As this has private landowner information, this will be an internal document for the District. Any comments or suggestions need to be submitted to Smith within the next week so that the document can be finalized by the last day of the month, which is when category d grant funding ends.

Let the minutes note Director Roberti left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

D. SGMA Implementation Grant Application

1. Resolution 22-08 – Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

SGMA Implementation

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that this resolution is required by DWR to submit the implementation grant application. The key components for the Sierra Valley implementation grant are:

Component 1 – GRANT ADMINISTRATION

10% of total budget (~\$500,000)

Component 2 GSP UPDATES (monitoring and data gaps; model updates; annual reports; progress towards 5-year update; stakeholder outreach):

Budget: \$1,300,000

Component 3 IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY AND WATER CONSERVATION (ranch assessments; identification of locations for further pilot projects; pilot installation; monitoring to demonstrate benefit and water savings; stakeholder outreach)

Budget: \$2,180,000

Component 4 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (2023-04/2026) (build on preliminary feasibility study; analyze/monitor contribution from the watershed into the groundwater basin; diversion permits and design pilot projects for the Smithneck/Badenaugh creek site; monitor and demonstrate small scale project/design full scale project; evaluate future implementation locations; stakeholder outreach)

Budget: \$1,340,000

Component 5 WELL INVENTORY (2023-2025) (collect missing database information; well inventory including all wells within a ¼ mile from any high-capacity wells; monitor groundwater elevation at these wells)
Budget: \$200,000

Director Wallace made a motion to approve Resolution 22-08, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. GSP Annual Report for 2023

Foglia shared that work needs to begin on the annual report due to DWR by April 1, 2023. The cost for these annual reports is included in the implementation grant application. The tasks included in the scope of work submitted by LWA are: data collection, compilation and analysis; prepare the annual report; meetings; and project management. The tasks will be conducted for a cost not to exceed \$25,000 on a time and materials basis.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the 2023 GSP Annual Report scope of work from LWA, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

6) 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 10/17/22

B. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk