

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, August 21, 2023 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 6:02 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Ceresola, Ramelli
Directors absent: Wallace, Roen
Also present: Jim Swann, Dwight Smith, Ben Volk, Debbie Spangler, Laura Foglia
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Tracey Ferguson, Betsy Elzufon, Jay Huebert, Tiffany Hutton

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.

Jim Swann wondered why pivots are not dripping water to the roots instead of using sprinklers if the purpose is to grow as much as possible.

3) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 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 \$200.00 per well per year.

Chairman Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.
There was no public comment.
Chairman Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

4) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on August 4. He reported that the readings are always down at the beginning of August, but this year the levels are not as far down as they have been in the past few years. Every time wells are shut off the levels come back up quickly, and there are at least 15 wells that are not being pumped since they are still pumping ditch water. The ag pumping total for July was 2,293 acre/feet, which brings the total to 3,567 a/f for this water year so far. DMS 63 at Goodwin's was replaced, but Technoflo does not want the failed meter shipped back. Huebert also has all of the McCrometer meters that were replaced last year during the well standardization project and Technoflo does not want those either. In total, Huebert has 25 spares at the moment. He will see if there's any interest from other GSAs that might like to buy them for GSP implementation.

B. Sierra Valley GSP Determination – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared the exciting news that the Sierra Valley GSP has been approved by DWR! DWR provided suggested corrective actions, but none of them are major issues and there is time to work on them before the GSP needs to be updated in 2027. Chairman Grandi asked Foglia to give a presentation on the suggested actions at the next Board meeting. The next step will be to begin implementation with available grant funding.

C. Grant Funding Opportunities – Laura Foglia

Foglia reported that a full proposal was submitted to the Plumas Watershed Forum at the end of July. The Forum received only two applications, so LWA reduced the requested funding amount so that the two application requests matched the available funding amount. If awarded, the grant would be used to fund irrigation efficiency improvements and a groundwater recharge project from Frenchman Lake. The CA Department of Food and Ag (CDFA) awards for farm improvements will hopefully be announced this month. DWR will be announcing their final awards soon; the SVGMD's draft award was fully funded (\$5.4 million), but that amount might be reduced after the public comment period.

D. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler stated the highlight of her updated would be the approval of the Sierra Valley GSP. DWR's final funding recommendations will be released soon, and then agreements will be drafted. The approved monitoring well for the District is pending, depending on the recharge project location.

E. GSP Subsidence Monitoring – Debbie Spangler

Spangler reported that DWR has secured funding for the installation of continuous GPS subsidence monitoring stations. The Sierra Valley was identified as a location for the first round of installations if the District is interested. Subsidence is complicated to study, but on the ground continuous data will be helpful in determining the water level that triggers subsidence. This provides one spot monitoring, so a key location must be selected. The location should be chosen based on subsidence, not on a monitoring well. Dwight Smith shared that currently there are subsidence markers on Roberti Ranch and D&S Ranch. He will bring back location recommendations at the next meeting.

F. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on August 3. Pursuant to the Board's selection of qualified vendors, the website will be updated with a summary of firms who were selected and the overall selection process. Changes will be made to the District's purchasing policy to streamline hiring consultants once funding has been received and related scopes of work have been developed.

The Sierra Valley GSP was approved and had recommended corrective actions. Per the summary from the DWR GSP Determination: *Department staff recommend approval of the Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP. The GSAs have identified areas for improvement of their Plan (e.g. filling data gaps related to interconnected surface water and the monitoring network). Department staff concur that those items are important and recommend the GSAs address them as soon as possible. Department staff have also identified additional recommended corrective actions within this assessment that the GSAs should consider addressing by the first periodic evaluation of the Plan. [e.g., in four years]*

The corrective actions are consistent with the proposed approach, described in the Sierra Valley GSP, for addressing data gaps. The areas of corrective actions include:

- 1) Further characterization the principal aquifer(s)
- 2) Revisiting data considerations for Chilcoot Subbasin
- 3) Refining the undesirable results for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- 4) Explaining why 2021 was selected for baseline water quality conditions
- 5) Refining the undesirable results for land subsidence and developing sustainable management criteria based on land elevation changes
- 6) Evaluation of impacts, of groundwater pumping, on interconnected surface waters. Continued filling of data gaps and coordinating with others on beneficial uses and users of interconnected surface water that may be impacted by groundwater pumping
- 7) Updates to the monitoring network

An email update will go out to the interest parties list with this item.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

B. CDFW: Wetlands and Mountain Meadows Sierra Valley Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Project Grant Agreement

1. Resolution 23-05 – Authorizing the SVGMD to Enter into a Grant Agreement with CDFW

Chairman Grandi shared that the CDFW grant subcommittee met twice since last month's Board meeting. They worked on the agreement language with Foglia and Smith and will be sending it back to CDFW for their review. Director Goicoechea thanked Foglia and Smith for their help.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to authorize the Chairman to approve the grant agreement and Resolution 23-05 if CDFW accepts the updated grant agreement language approved by the subcommittee, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Roberti all in favor.

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 7/17/23

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

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk