

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, May 19, 2025 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

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Ceresola, Roen

Directors absent: Kilmurray

Also present: Judie Talbot, Laura Foglia, Ben Volk

Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Christian Dunkerly, Drew Myers, Carl Butz, Matt Bromley, Jay Huebert, Steve Reich

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 May 2. He shared that while the monitoring well readings were still increasing, that would soon change now that pumping has begun. The repairs were completed at DMS 12 in late April.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler was unable to attend the meeting; no update.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Foglia reported that LWA is working on a 5-year diversion permit application so that one doesn't have to be submitted annually. To minimize costs, the application needs to be submitted by August 1. It would be for winter recharge only and will include multiple sites to provide flexibility and the ability to continue recharge after the grants end. She reminded the Board that the CDFW grant was awarded for phase one (feasibility and design), and that a phase two award would provide funding for the construction of recharge projects.

Ben Volk, Vice-President of J-U-B Engineers, shared that the LLCC recharge project plan was to divert water from one of Bryan Williams' existing gravity dams, go under the road, and pump up the water about 200 feet. There is three phase power at the location, but it is not sized for the correct size pump (~1,500 gpm). The cost to upgrade the power with three new transformers and poles will cost ~\$18,000, a new electrical panel will cost ~\$20,000, and the electrical cost would be ~\$300/day (~\$10,000 per month). The bid to purchase the pipe was ~\$92,000, plus prevailing wage rates and bonds. This totals ~\$400,000 for one year. The District would own the pipe, but the electricity and labor would be annual costs. Director Ceresola is concerned about the pond not being lined, because even if the bottom is clay the water can still seep out the sides. That would just put water into the shallow aquifer instead of the deep aquifer that the project is aiming for. The Board does not see this project as sustainable for the District.

When asked about the possibility of using an injection well for recharge, Volk replied that the only injection wells being used in California are not for deep aquifer recharge and those in use are required to have a water treatment system

that is up to drinking water standards (which is very costly). Director Ceresola suggested forest service/BLM land up the canyon toward Frenchman Lake as a possible recharge site because it would be a gravity fed location and would not require pumping.

Folgia visited shallow wells on the west side of the valley and reported high water levels, which will fulfill the interconnected surface water portion of the 2027 GSP report. LWA can now begin writing that section of the periodic evaluation, as well as the sections on the Staverville recharge project and irrigation efficiency projects.

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

Steve Reich, Principal of Stetson Engineers, reported that three more farm assessments are finished and ready to be delivered to the irrigators. The Stetson team is recommending at least one soil moisture monitoring station per ranch and per irrigation type. There are analog stations as well as remote access stations, which require an annual subscription fee. The Board is concerned about providing equipment that would not be of benefit if irrigators chose not to pay the annual fee after the grants end. Director Roen would like land owners to sign an agreement saying they will commit to using the monitoring stations and will pay the annual subscription fee. The Board would like Counsel's input on whether the District or the irrigators would own the equipment, who would be responsible for equipment maintenance, and what would the time frame be for those expectations.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well applications.

B. Resolution 25-02 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing re: Management Charge

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 25-02, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. DMS 12 Meter Replacement - Your H2O Pro Invoice #6417

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Your H2O Pro invoice #6417, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Goodwin Ranch High-Efficiency Sprinkler Packages for Circle #2 and Circle #5

1. Isaacs & Associates Invoice #56494

Director Roen made a motion to approve Isaacs & Associates invoice #56494, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. Informal Competitive Bids for Laboratory Soil Analysis

1. Fruit Growers Lab

2. IAS Laboratories

3. Ward Laboratories

The soil analyses will be conducted at every moisture meter location to calibrate the sensors. The Stetson team will be collecting the samples.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the Ward Laboratories bid, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. LLCC Recharge Project

This item was discussed under agenda item C when the LWA update was given.

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 4/21/25

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk