

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYdTlR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

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

Directors absent: Roen

Also present: Judie Talbot, Joel Barnard, Steve Reich, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon, Jim Thomas, Jim Swann, Ben Volk, Chris Hutton, Sue McIlravy, Tracey Ferguson, Gus Tolley, Matt Bromley, Bill Copren

Via Zoom: Jay Huebert, Carl Butz, Rebecca Smith

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 February 1. He reported the levels are typical of a dry winter and that some well levels are still dropping, but the rest are beginning to come up a little. He has finished the irrigation efficiency installation inspections for the DWR grant.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler did not attend the meeting – no update.

C. GSP Facilitator Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, reported on the TAC and community meeting that took place today. The focus was on GSP Implementation and covered SGMA requirements, the development of the GSP, and the Project and Management Actions (e.g. recharge and irrigation efficiency projects) that were completed under the DWR implementation grant. Chairman Grandi commented that he hadn't realized a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) map had been compiled around the Loyaltan area. Foglia responded that it is a GSP requirement and that this was an updated map to one that was previously compiled by Chico State in 2021.

D. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, reported that she will provide an outline of the Periodic Evaluation in March. It will be submitted in January 2027, but they're doing as much as they can on it now with available funding from the DWR grant. The Annual Report will also be presented at the March meeting, which is due to DWR on April 1. Usually that is presented in February, but since last month's meeting date was moved up it wasn't ready yet.

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

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, reported that all of the irrigation efficiency improvements made under the DWR grant have been documented, and the completion report will be submitted to DWR with the final invoice in March. They have been working with Jay Huebert to complete the irrigation efficiency installation inspections and working with LWA to finish the in-lieu recharge projects.

Joel Barnard, Stetson Environmental Associate, shared that one Bar One pipeline was completed today and now Your H2O Pro is working on the second one. The only remaining projects include installing water meters and the Goicoechea surface water project. Barnard is also finalizing the landowner equipment agreements.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

Chairman Grandi shared that he met with Joy Markum, Vice-Mayor of Loyalton City Council, to discuss well options in Loyalton. Markum said the City hopes to use the existing well near LHS, but they need to determine land ownership first. Grandi would like the Council to provide a letter to the SVGMD stating Doug Lawler is the City's representative for municipal well discussions.

B. Results from DWR Component 4: Improvements to Irrigation Efficiencies

Barnard shared a summary of the presentation given at the TAC/community meeting. He reported that about a million dollars of the DWR implementation grant was spent on the equipment and installation of irrigation efficiency projects. Of the 17 local irrigators, one chose not to participate and one was so small it wasn't needed (Loyalton High School). The other 15 irrigators all received farm assessments. The estimated savings in groundwater pumping due to these projects is ~400-465 acre/feet per year, with higher numbers in dry years and lower numbers in wet years.

Matt Bromley, Research Scientist with DRI, reported that eight soil moisture sensors were installed in the Sierra Valley. They were used by irrigators to determine their soil moisture profile. The DRI team also developed a tool farmers can use for irrigation efficiency data.

C. Griffin Land Lease Compensation Agreement

D. Potter Land Lease Compensation Agreement

Agenda items C and D were discussed together.

Betsy Elzufon, LWA Associate, shared a land lease compensation agreement template with the Board. It has been approved by District Counsel and will be the versions sent to Griffin and Potter this week. The 15-year term is a requirement of DWR.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the Land Lease Compensation Agreement template and authorized the Board Chair to sign the agreement following landowner agreement, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes.

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 1/19/26

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

- 1. Isaacs #56979 for \$38,442.49 for Goicoechea Recharge**
- 2. Isaacs #57051 for \$1,891.10 for D&S Pivot Sprinkler Equipment**
- 3. Isaacs #57052 for \$68,367.84 for Bar One Piping Equipment**
- 4. Your H2O Pro #6930 for \$5,850 for Williams Pivot Sprinkler Install**
- 5. Your H2O Pro #6970 for \$41,200 for Goodwin Sand Separator Install**

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ceresola, Grandi, Ramelli, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Goicoechea abstained.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk