

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, September 18, 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 6:03 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Ceresola, Ramelli, Roen, Wallace
Directors absent: none
Also present: Dwight Smith, Laura Foglia, Ryan Fulton
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Betsy Elzufon, Jay Huebert, Carl Butz, Ben Volk, Debbie Spangler

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 was no public comment.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on September 2. The monitoring wells are showing some recovery from the first part of August, which is typical for this time of year. The readings from MW1d, MW6d, and Well 5 are at their highest levels in ten years. The ag pumping total for August was 1,602 acre/feet, which brings the total to 5,169 a/f for this water year so far. New magmeters have replaced one at Goodwin's and one at Potter's. A meter at Grandi's and one at Lafoon's have been reset.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler congratulated the District on the \$5.4 million final funding recommendation for DWR's implementation grant. It is great news for the SVGMD to have an approved GSP and grant funding for implementation. As soon as she has more details on the grant agreement she will make sure to go over the details with the Board to ensure everything they want to do is incorporated.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on September 7. Topics covered during the meeting included: amendments that need to be made to the District's purchasing policy regarding on-call list procurement; grant application updates; upcoming technical activities for the Sierra Valley GSP (temporary permits for diversion of excess winter flows, new location for the DWR monitoring well, and preparing the annual report for the 2023 water year); and an update to interested parties on the status of the GSP and Round 2 funding awards.

D. Grant Funding Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared the grant summary table with the Board. The CDFW accepted all of the SVGMD changes to the grant agreement discussed at the last meeting and signatures are being finalized. The District should receive notification from the Plumas Watershed Forum in November. The CDFA sent a notification that the SVGMD was not selected for funding. Foglia said the CDFA received many applications and were awarding big grant amounts (~\$5M), so they didn't have the capacity to fund too many. This was the first round, so there should be more opportunities in the future.

DWR announced final funding recommendations and has awarded the District \$5,445,000. Next summer the District can look at applying for grants that require matching funds.

FUNDER AND GRANT TITLE	SCOPE	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Drought, Climate and Nature-based Solutions	The focus is on the Badenaugh-Smithneck recharge proposal. There is a discussion on the benefits to shallow groundwater and streamflow and wetlands. There may also be benefits for shallow and domestic wells. There may also be benefits for shallow and domestic wells. It covers a 2.5-year period for implementation. Anticipated award: September - Final agreement is being finalized.	\$1,342,577	Conceptual proposal submitted on March 16, 2023. Notice of Award issued June 19, 2023 for \$809,076 to fund planning and permitting activities required for the pilot projects. This includes planning, CEQA compliance, feasibility studies and other actions that must be completed prior to implementing the actual on-the-ground projects. Additional funding for construction can be applied for once planning elements are completed.
Plumas Watershed Forum: Watershed Forum Concept Proposal	The focus is on agricultural irrigation efficiency and a pilot recharge project. Anticipated award: November 2023	\$1,547,000	Concept proposal submitted on March 24, 2023. Full proposal submitted July 28, 2023 with supplemental information provided on August 2, 2023. Submitted proposals are under review and decision on award is expected in November 2023
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CFDA): State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)	Funding available for on-farm irrigation water and energy use efficiency standards, evaluation, and implementation of efficient practices. Proposal submitted June 19, 2023. Notice that SVGMD application was not selected on September 12, 2023	TBD	Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District submitted an application with UCCE (statewide and local offices) as the technical advisors on June 19, 2023. The maximum award for on-farm SWEET projects is \$200,00 to each agricultural operation. The District received notice on September 12, 2023 that the application was not selected for funding.
California Department of Water Resources (DWR): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Round 2	Funding request to assist with all aspects of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation including data collection and data management, annual reports, five-year updates to the GSP, projects and management actions, and grant administration. Notice of Award: Award of full funding received September 12, 2023. Anticipated contract: Nov 23 – Jan 24	\$5,450,000	Final award announcements were issued September 12, 2023 and SVGMD was awarded full funding. It is expected that agreements will be signed by January 2024.
CDFA: Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program	<i>Awaiting determinations on 2023 grant applications to assess fit with creating multiple benefits while keeping land in production.</i>		

F. DWR Recommended Actions for the Sierra Valley GSP– Laura Foglia

Foglia provided a more detailed summary of DWR's recommended actions for the Sierra Valley GSP. Of 119 submitted GSPs, 46 have been approved, 23 were deemed inadequate, 4 are incomplete, and 46 are still under review. According to DWR's determination, the "Sierra Valley Subbasin GSP satisfies the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and substantially complies with the GSP Regulations. Implementation of the GSP will likely achieve the sustainability goal for the Sierra Valley Subbasin." The recommended corrective actions proposed by DWR are meant to "enhance the GSP and facilitate future evaluation". The five year report, due to DWR in 2027, will need to include how the recommended actions are being addressed. The recommended corrective actions for the Sierra Valley GSP are:

- 1) Investigate basin fill and bedrock units and identify the appropriate principal aquifer(s) for the Subbasin.
- 2) Provide more information about how data from the adjacent Chilcoot Subbasin will be utilized by the GSA during plan implementation.
- 3) Amending the definition of undesirable results for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.
- 4) Amending the definition of undesirable results for land subsidence and establishing sustainable management criteria based on groundwater surface elevation changes.
- 5) Provide a rationale for why water quality conditions in 2021 were selected.

- 6) Continue to fill data gaps, collecting additional monitoring data, coordinating with resources agencies and interested parties to understand beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by depletions of interconnected surface water caused by groundwater pumping, and potentially refining sustainable management criteria.
- 7) Provided additional information on the monitoring networks for sustainability indicators in the Plan area.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

An application for a domestic well in Beckwourth was approved.

1. SVGMD Well Permit Application Revisions

Chairman Grandi wanted Board input on the potential need to revise the SVGMD well application. Currently the three categories for "Proposed Gallons Per Minute" are: 0-25 GPM, 26-99 GPM, and 100+ GPM. Does the application need to change and/or define those categories? California de minimus domestic pumping is 2 acre/feet. Foglia shared that a California executive order pertaining to this topic was approved in 2022 and revised in 2023. She will bring more information to the next Board meeting.

No changes will be made to the District's application at this time. The Board directed staff to approve applications for domestic wells marked 0-25 GPM, but all other applications must come before the Board for review. The District application needs to be included with the Counties' applications and be filled out by well applicants, not by County staff.

B. GSP Subsidence Monitoring – Dwight Smith

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, reported that DWR has funding available to install and maintain GPS continuous subsidence monitoring stations in Sierra Valley. This will provide more real-time data than the subsidence monuments installed last year. Smith showed the Board a color coded map (based on INSAR data from 2016-2021), which marked the location of the four new subsidence monuments as well as the suggested location for a new monitoring station, just south of Highway 70.

Director Roen made a motion to approved the proposed location for a subsidence monitoring station on the condition of landowner agreement, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

The four subsidence monuments installed last fall were surveyed on October 27, 2022. Smith will arrange for them to be surveyed again close to that date for this year's reading.

Director Ramelli made a motion to get the four subsidence monuments surveyed in October 2023, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. LWA Proposal for GSP Implementation of DWR Monitoring Well Location Identification and Recharge Permitting

Foglia shared an LWA proposal for GSP implementation work to identify a new location for the approved DWR monitoring well, and to begin the permitting process for the CDFW recharge project. This proposal had originally been presented to the Board at the July 2023 meeting, but was tabled until the CDFW grant agreement was finalized. Foglia went out with Chairman Grandi and Director Goicoechea today to look at potential drainage and recharge locations.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the LWA work proposal as it was identified in the field on September 18, 2023 and subject to the approval of the landowner agreements, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Ordinance 23-03 - Enacting a Large-Capacity Well Management Charge for FY23-24

Director Roen made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-03, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

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 8/21/23

B. Approve payment of bills

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk