

Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District

Post Office Box 936
Benton, CA. 93512

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Ann Mitchell, Chairperson

Phil West, Vice-Chairperson

Marion Dunn, Secretary

Richard Moss

Dr. Dave Doonan

Geri Bassett

Matt Doonan

Rhonda Duggan, Mono County District 2 Supervisor (Ex-Officio Member)

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

April 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

TELE/VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY – NO PHYSICAL LOCATION

Important Notices to the Public Regarding COVID-19

In observance of recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), the California Department of Public Health (CDCP), and local Public Health Officials related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Please note that this meeting will be conducted remotely via tele-video conferencing services. As authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order, N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, members of the Board may attend and participate in this meeting from separate remote locations.

To Join by Computer Video or Audio:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83978853930?pwd=NDVXN0ozVTFiWkwRIdpMm9ReEc1dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 7885 3930

Passcode: 646809

One tap mobile

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 839 7885 3930
Passcode: 646809
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kQ51DFo2W>

AGENDA

Roll Call

1. Public Comment (on any matter)
2. Approval of March 24 and April 7, 2021 meeting minutes (Attachment A)
3. Brief Report of Director Activities
4. Discussion and possible action on status of draft OVGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Survey (Attachment B)
5. Discussion and possible action of Department of Water Resources response to TVGMD Groundwater Sustainability Agency application (Attachment C)
6. Discuss Owens Valley Groundwater Management Authority decision to submit groundwater model project for the Tri-Valley area to the IRWG project list to maintain eligibility of the project for future grant funding.
7. Discuss a future planning workshop separate from the regular meeting, including planning for the next six months of District activities, financing, advisory board, groundwater management and other topics.
8. Discussion of future meetings at the Benton or Chalfant Community Centers.
9. Public Comment on any matter
10. Adjournment

MINUTES

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Regular Meeting

March 24, 2021 at 6:30 Continued to

April 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meetings

A regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 24, 2021. This was a teleconference meeting via zoom. Directors Mitchell, Dunn, Doonan, D., Bassett, Doonan, M. Duggan and West were in attendance Director Moss was absent.

1. Public Comment: Dennis Murphy asked a question regarding the advisory board.
2. Approval of minutes for 2/24/2021: Director Doonan made the suggestion to change the spelling of OVGA Mr. Steinwald's first name to Aaron. A motion was made by Director Doonan to accept as corrected. Director Bassett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with the Directors present. Director Moss was absent.
3. Approval of Warrant: (attachment to agenda): A motion was made by Director Bassett to pay Director West for the Web hosting fee of \$ 109.99, and \$15.99 for email for the District's web page. The motion was seconded by Director Dunn. The motion was carried unianimously by those Directors present. Director Moss is absent,
4. Brief Report of Directors Activities: District 2 Supervisor reported on Transportation needs in the Tri-Valley and Postal Service RPAC meetings.

The zoom meeting was bombed at 11 minutes after roll call with offensive language and obscene picture. The Chair ended and adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes of the April 7 2021 (continued from March 24, 2021)

The meeting adjourned on March 24 was continued to April 7, 2021. The items not addressed due to the zomb bomb were to be discussed. The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. This was a teleconference meeting via zoom. Directors Duggan, Mitchell, Dunn, Doonan, D., Bassett, Doonan, M. and West were in attendance. Director Moss was absent.

1. Public Comment on any matter): Resident Spike Jackson addressed a concern over a 8 inch well recently constructed near his property. Mr. Jackson was troubled by size of the well

and the possibility of drawdown to his well. Mr. Peter Stickell make comment and recommended that TVGMD start having in-person meetings at the county community centers. The county has not made a decision to open centers yet.

2. Brief Report of Directors: Nothing to report
3. Mono County Counsel: Stacey Simon reviewed the Ralph M Brown Act, Gov't Code Section 54950. She outlined requirements for the Board to maintain compliance for doing the public's business in public. She cautioned the Board on meeting or discussing groundwater issues with a quorum of Directors (4). Discussion ensued regarding communication of information to Board members since the District Board are all volunteers.
4. Further discussion and possible request by Director Doonan to change the Districts' enabling legislation to allow for leaseholders of property in the Tri-Valley area to hold office on Board of Directors. The District has only a limited pool of residents in the area who are eligible to hold Director B seats. A proposal was offered by Director West to allow "the leaseholder to hold a temporary 1 year term with a 4 years sunset provision". Public comment was given during Board discussion by several area residents. Peter Stickell spoke in favor of allowing leaseholders to serve and recommended a current leaseholder for the Board. Carol Mitchell clarified there was no open seat on the Board currently. 2022 will be the next election cycle. Several residents spoke in opposition to having the leaseholders hold office. Discussion ensued that the Director B is not necessarily an agriculture seat but others capable of pumping 100 gallons/minute could also serve. A vote was taken. Director Mitchell no, Director West no, Director Dunn no, Director Bassett no, Director D. Doonan yes, Director M. Doonan yes, Director Moss was absent. Motion was not carried.
5. Posting notice of Advisory Board vacancies: A subcommittee was formed with Phil West, Geri Bassett, and Carol Ann Mitchell to study the issue and report back.
6. Report from Director Bassett on OVGA meeting and activities. The OVGA left the management areas the same and did not take the Tri-Valley request to separate Fish Slough from Tri-Valley in their groundwater sustainability plan. Mono County staff gave an update on submitting the Tri-Valley for a groundwater modeling project to the IRWM for consideration of projects in the future. A discussion ensued and it was left that it was too early to enter into a grant request.
7. Michael Draper gave a report of the OVGA GSA survey. Discussion ensued on the proposed survey. The Board felt the survey needs to be reworked - it is leading towards the sustainability of 'FISH SLOUGH', not the sustainability of Tri-Valley domestic and Ag users.
8. Discuss a future planning workshop in April separate from the regular meeting: This matter was tabled.
9. Schedule next regular meeting, 4/28/2021 6:30 p.m.,
10. Public comment on any matter: None
11. Adjournment: Director Dunn made a motion to adjourn. Director West seconded the motion. All Directors voted yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

DRAFT Tri-Valley survey mailer**The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority:**

In 2014, the California Legislature enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which requires local public agencies overlying groundwater basins that are designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as high- and medium-priority basins (as opposed to low or very low-priority basins) to form separate legal entities known as “groundwater sustainability agencies” (GSAs) and to prepare “groundwater sustainability plans.” If local public agencies in high- and medium-priority basins fail to satisfy these requirements, the state may intervene resulting in the preparation and enforcement of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by the State Water Resources Control Board. Low- and very low-priority basins are not subject to state intervention. SGMA does not regulate households that pump less than 2 ac-ft/year for domestic purposes, but all beneficial users of groundwater in a basin are encouraged to participate in the development of a GSP.

In 2015, DWR designated the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin), which includes the Tri-Valley region in Mono County, as a medium-priority basin, requiring a GSA to be formed and a GSP to be prepared or else risk state intervention. In 2018, the multi-agency Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) was formed as the GSA and was awarded a state grant to prepare a GSP.

In early 2019, DWR reclassified the Basin as low priority. A GSA and GSP were no longer required for the Basin. Several OVGA members dropped out, including the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District, but Mono County remained and the OVGA continued to prepare the GSP because grant funds had been awarded.

Question:

- | | <u>Circle one</u> | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| | YES | NO |
| 1. Is internet connectivity poor or not available to you? | | |
| 2. Have you viewed the Owens Valley Groundwater Association’s webpage? https://ovga.us/ | YES | NO |
| 3. Would you like to receive more information about SGMA, the OVGA, or be placed on the OVGA’s email list? | YES | NO |
| 4. Would you like OVGA staff to contact you directly by phone or email for a discussion about SGMA, the OVGA, the GSP, or any other groundwater | YES | NO |

management issues in the Tri-Valley area?

If answering "Yes" to question 1, 2, or 3, please provide your contact information:

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

*Staff will contact you to discuss upon receiving this request.

The remainder of the survey is about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Please provide us with your input to ensure Tri-Valley interests are recognized!

A. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

The OVGA's mission is to safeguard the sustainability of the Basin through locally tailored management of groundwater resources to protect and sustain the environment, local residents and communities, agriculture, and the economy.

The OVGA's duty is to develop a GSP that provides a detailed road map to ensure sustainable groundwater conditions in the basin are maintained or attained by 2042, as defined by the OVGA with public input. The GSP will first describe the groundwater basin's physical environment and overall hydrology including the movement, distribution, supply, and use of groundwater. The first section divides the basin into Management Areas that will be used for specific goals and management actions. The Tri-Valley is one of the Management Areas.

Next, the GSP will set Sustainability Criteria (SMC) by defining Undesirable Results and establishing goals for six indicators mandated by SIGMA specific to the Management Area (two of the SIGMA indicators are irrelevant to the Tri Valley; seawater intrusion and degraded groundwater quality). Staff and the consultant have drafted Undesirable Results and goals, however more input from the public is needed before the OVGA considers adopting the plan. To measure progress towards these goals and/or Undesirable Results, the GSP will need to identify measurable objectives and develop a monitoring plan for them.

Last, the GSP needs to include projects and management actions that are realistic and sufficient to achieve sustainability. The projects and actions do not need to be designed before the GSP is adopted but should include a timeframe and general cost. Supplemental plans and actions to address future uncertainties also need to be included.

pumping on springs in Fish Slough or groundwater dependent vegetation in Fish Slough, Benton, Hammil, or Chalfant valleys?

YES NO

Draft Undesirable Results

Indicator	Undesirable Results	Metric	Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective
Lowering of Groundwater Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased pumping costs Drying out shallow domestic wells Loss of existing monitoring wells 	GW elevation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels from domestic well vulnerability assessment (in progress) Bottom depth of monitoring wells 	Jan 1st, 2015 water levels (SGMA benchmark date)
Reduction of Groundwater Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased ability to maintain status quo pumping during extended drought periods 	GW elevation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels from domestic well vulnerability assessment (in progress) 	Jan 1st, 2015 water levels
Surface-water Depletion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of groundwater discharged to the surface resulting in impairment of GDEs 	Spring Flow/GW elevation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 cfs instantaneous flow <i>(to protect springs and ponds in Fish Slough)</i> 	0.5 cfs instantaneous flow <i>(to protect springs and ponds in Fish Slough)</i>
Land Subsidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure damage 	InSAR GW elevation <i>(satellite based measurement)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowest GW elevation estimated to result in 0.3 ft of subsidence in a single year or over 5 years -OR- 0.3 ft of subsidence within a single year or over 5 years 	Average GW elevation from WY 2001-2010 -OR- Average GW elevation for most recent 10 years AND 0 ft of subsidence

Question:

Staff and consultants have suggested the Undesirable Results to the OVGA shown in the table above. Would you add any

Circle one

YES NO

undesirable results from pumping for the indicators or state any of those listed differently?

If YES, what would you like added?

C. Setting Goals Step 2. Set Sustainability Indicators

Minimum threshold - A quantitative value for each Sustainability Criteria (SMC) that defines undesirable results. It is set by OVGA but cannot be an arbitrary number.

Question:

Circle one

C1. Do you consider the thresholds proposed in the table above to represent undesirable results that should be avoided?

YES NO

C2. Would you like additional information from the OVGA to evaluate the proposed thresholds? Measurable Objective – A specified quantifiable goal for the maintenance or improvement of groundwater conditions. Included in the GSP to document if the basin is sustainable. Set by OVGA but must comply with SGMA

YES NO

C3. Recognizing that values for some objectives are set by SGMA, do you consider the objectives proposed in the table above to represent sustainable conditions?

YES NO

C4. Would you like additional information from the OVGA to evaluate the proposed objectives?

YES NO

D. Timeline: The goal is to have a final draft of the GSP by October 2021.

Question:

Circle one

D1. Can you volunteer your well to be used by staff for monitoring purposes?

Yes No

D2. Would you be interested in cooperating for ongoing water level monitoring?

Yes No

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Mailing address:



Attachment C

Carol Ann Mitchell <rick.and.carol.ann@gmail.com>

Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District GSA Notice

6 messages

Carol Ann Mitchell <rick.and.carol.ann@gmail.com>
To: Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Fri, Apr 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Dear Mr. Norberg:

I just wanted to check in on the status of the GSA formation notice filed on February 24, 2021 for the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District. There were issues with overlap and I am checking on the status of that issue for my Board.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (760) 873-8648. Thanks you for your assistance.

Carol Ann Mitchell, Chair
Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District
P.O, Box 936
Benton, CA. 93512
(760) 873-8648
www.tvgmd.org

Nordberg, Mark@DWR <Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov>

Fri, Apr 9, 2021 at 3:38 PM

To: Carol Ann Mitchell <rick.and.carol.ann@gmail.com>

Cc: Aaron Steinwand <asteinwand@inyocounty.us>, "jcvallejo@inyocounty.us" <jcvallejo@inyocounty.us>, "Ross, Timothy@DWR" <Timothy.Ross@water.ca.gov>, "Wong, Jennifer@DWR" <Jennifer.Wong@water.ca.gov>

Hello Ms. Mitchell,

Thank you for following up with me about the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District GSA notice. In the email I sent to you on February 24, 2021, I stated the following:

"Last week on February 17, 2021, DWR received a GSA notification indicating that the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District had withdrawn from being a member of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) and desired to become its own GSA again for those portions of its statutory boundary within the Owens Valley and Fish Slough subbasins. DWR has a statutory role of posting complete notifications within 15 days. While DWR staff have determined that this GSA notice is complete for the purposes of posting to the SGMA Portal, DWR cannot post this notice until modifications are made to the GSA boundary already identified as "exclusive" to the OVGA GSA - posting both notices would create an unintended overlap."

Department staff met with representatives of the OVGA GSA on March 3, 2021, to determine whether the OVGA GSA intended to modify its exclusive GSA boundaries. Aaron Steinwand informed the Department that the OVGA GSA would not be modifying its exclusive GSA boundaries since Mono County was still a signatory member of the JPA and Mono County has land use responsibilities throughout that portion of the Owens Valley Subbasin. As such, until the

exclusive OVGA GSA boundaries are modified by OVGA, the Department cannot post your re-submitted GSA formation notice as that would create service area overlap, which is not permitted by SGMA pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8(d).

At this point I suggest that you contact the OVGA GSA and coordinate with them as the groundwater sustainability plan for the Owens Valley Subbasin is developed, adopted, and implemented. If you would like to discuss this further with Department staff, feel free to contact me or Tim Ross in our Southern Region Office. I have copied on this email the OVGA staff that were part of the March 3rd meeting as well as staff from our Southern Region Office.

Thank you,

Mark Nordberg
GSA Formation Project Manager

John-Carl Vallejo <jcvallejo@inyocounty.us>

Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 9:20 AM

To: "Nordberg, Mark@DWR" <Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov>, Carol Ann Mitchell <Carol.Ann.Mitchell@water.ca.gov>

Cc: Aaron Steinwand <asteinwand@inyocounty.us>, "Ross, Timothy@DWR" <Timothy.Ross@water.ca.gov>, "Wong, Jennifer@DWR" <Jennifer.Wong@water.ca.gov>

Mr. Nordberg,

Thank you for including us on your email. In an effort to be crystal clear with everyone on this email thread, I would like to re-iterate that the potential modification of the OVGA boundaries is an OVGA Board decision, not an OVGA staff decision. Our Board discussed this general issue at multiple prior board meetings before and after the conversation with DWR staff, and clearly decided that the OVGA will prepare a GSP for the entire basin. There were a number of reasons explained by the Board members leading to that decision.

Thanks.

John-Carl Vallejo

Assistant County Counsel

County of Inyo

760.878.0229

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