

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**123B Valley Road**  
**Chalfant, California 93514**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

, Chairperson  
Phil West, Vice-Chairperson/Acting Chairperson  
Geri Bassett, Secretary  
Carol Ann Mitchell  
Greg Allen  
Ed Parkinson  
Don Moss  
Vacant (from Andy Puhvel's resignation)  
Rhonda Duggan, Mono County District 2 Supervisor (Ex-Officio Member)

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Chalfant Community Center**  
**123 Valley Rd., Chalfant, CA 93514**

*Mission: The mission of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District is to comply with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)\* of 2014 and other applicable laws (government code, water code etc.) as the law pertains to the District.  
Core Vision: To preserve the groundwater within the boundaries of the District (Chapter 844 of 1989 California Statutes).*

- 1. Advisory Board Report.**
  - A. Review and possible approval of March Newsletter.**
  - B. Appointment of Jarret Phillips to Advisory Board, representing Benton, for a 1-year term**
- 2. Public Comment.**
- 3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the January 24, 2024 meeting. (Attachment item #3)**
- 4. Discussion and possible nominations for the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Secretary/Treasurer seats.**
- 5. Board Vacancy for an At-Large Director with a term of office to end November 30, 2026:**
  - A. Letter of interest from Curtis Milliron. (Attachment item #5A)**
  - B. Letter of interest from Jarret Phillips. (Attachment item #5B)**
  - C. Letter of interest from Josh Rhodes. (Attachment item #5C)**
  - D. Interviews, discussion and possible action on Board vacancy and appointment.**
- 6. Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Project update.**
- 7. Board of Directors reports.**
- 8. Adjournment to Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Comm. Center.**

# Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District

## Newsletter

### Spring 2024

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**TVGMD Core Vision:** To preserve the groundwater within the boundaries of the District (Chapter 844 of 1989 California Statutes.)

**Mission Statement:** To comply with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014) and other applicable laws (government code, water code, etc.) as the law pertains to the District.

Join DWR as they celebrate the 10th Anniversary of SGMA during

## Groundwater Awareness Week

**March 10-16, 2024**

Online events March 11 - 15th.

For example:

**Monday, March 11, 11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.** Hear about the progress made over the first 10 years of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). State-local partnerships and innovative projects are putting more water into the ground and are helping to ensure current and long-term water supply resiliency for communities, businesses and environmental habitats that are dependent on groundwater. Speakers include DWR Director, Karla Nemeth and SGMO Deputy Director, Paul Gosselin

*The Tuesday and Wednesday workshop days are focused on providing an interactive environment for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to learn outreach and engagement techniques to assist with community engagement. The week will round out with two additional webinars covering reporting and planning ahead as we continue SGMA implementation in the future. [From DWR Bulletin](#)*

For more information [check out their flyer](#) and [subscribe to DWR news.](#)

For questions contact: [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov)

## Volunteer Corner

TVGMD is an all volunteer organization and has been since its creation by the legislature in January 1990. TVGMD has many opportunities for volunteer service.

**"The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good." – Ivan Scheier**

## More Groundwater Awareness & Conservation Ideas

[Tips to conserve water](#)

[Yard transformation rebate!](#) Check out this link to see if you qualify.

*This information is from the [Save Our Water](#) website from the State of California.*



## Progress on the Groundwater Model Grant

There was a kick-off meeting on February 12, 2024. Mono County project manager Brent Calloway, Inyo County Water Department (ICWD) employees Holly Alpert and Tim Moore, Mono County Assistant County Counsel Chris Beck, and TVGMD Secretary/Treasurer Geri Bassett were in attendance.

The ICWD is working on a draft Request for Proposal (RFP). TVGMD will be selecting a point of contact to work with ICWD and Mono County on this project. ICWD is planning on attending the Feb. 28, 2024 TVGMD meeting to give an update on the project and be notified who the TVGMD point of contact will be.

## How Well Is Your Well?

Are you interested in knowing how your well water is faring regarding biological and chemical health? It's pretty simple and inexpensive to have your water tested.

1. **Mono County Environmental Health** can test your water for microorganisms (760) 924-1830.
2. **Nevada State Health Laboratory at the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine** is able to test for arsenic and uranium, as recommended for our area by Mono County Environmental Health. The cost is minimal. 775-688-1335.

## Next TVGMD Board Meeting

March 20, 2024

6:30 PM

Benton Community Hall

## High Desert Gardening Part 5, Water Wise

### Salvias! *Harold McDonald, Inyo/Mono Master Gardener*

With the coldest nights behind us, I've noticed a few hummingbirds cruising the yard, looking in vain for something in bloom. For now, all I can offer them is a feeder (1 part sugar: 4 parts water), but by the time the hummer numbers start to climb in March and April, the garden should see its first blooms of the hummingbird favorite—the sages.

Living here as we do in the Great Basin, the term “sage” can be a bit ambiguous. Sagebrush is actually not a sage at all, but is in the genus *Artemisia*, a large group in the sunflower family (Asteraceae). The true sages are the largest genus (*Salvia*) in the mint family (Lamiaceae). Nearly all of us are familiar with the common sage of our pantries (*Salvia officinalis*), but there are nearly 1,000 other species of *Salvia* distributed worldwide, with the highest concentration in Central and South America. The tubular flowers in the mint family have bilateral symmetry (an imaginary vertical line would divide the flower into two identical halves). Many of us have probably seen nature videos that show bees or other insects feeding on flowers of the mint family. As the insect's weight pushes down on the lower lip of the flower, the upper lip comes down and stamps the plant's pollen on the insect's back, to be carried to another flower.



*Yellow gaillardia (from the sunflower family) with foliage of kitchen sage behind. Contrast its radial symmetry with the flowers of *Salvia nemorosa* (below).*

During the growing season, hummingbirds are busy harvesting nectar from salvias in my garden from sunrise to sunset. I probably have a couple dozen different salvia in the yard, and I'd like to highlight just a few of my favorites here.

*Salvia greggii* or autumn sage hails from the desert mountains of southwest Texas and northern Mexico, so is perfectly adapted to our high, dry environment. This species has dozens of cultivars in shades of pink, red, purple, blue and more. You can find *S. greggii* cultivars (and hybrids with *Salvia microphylla*) at nearly any garden store in the western United States. They are woody perennials 1-3 feet in height and width that bloom continually from spring right through fall.



*Salvia chamaedryoides* (germander sage) is another native of the mountains of northern Mexico. It is much harder to find, but I have seen it on occasion at local nurseries. With its heavenly blue flowers and fuzzy blue-gray foliage, this vigorous grower is a real standout. It's about the same size as autumn sage, but it likes a little bit more water than its cousin.



Cleveland sage (*S. clevelandii*) is native to the mountains of Southern California and northern Baja. Another common name for this plant is fragrant sage, and it is apropos—whenever I walk by my Cleveland sage, I try to brush against it! The flowers are arranged in whorls like the annual chia (*S. columbariae*) that is common along roadsides in much of Inyo County (easy to spot in May along the road up to Glacier Lodge in Big Pine).

Closer to home, we have *Salvia dorrii*, the purple sage found mainly in the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. You can find great displays of this local native along the road to the Baxter Pass trailhead in Independence and

along the Methuselah Trail in the Bristlecone Pine Forest. Our local Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society normally offers this at their native plant sale in August.

These are just a few representatives of the wonderful world of sages. Pretty much any salvia will thrive in our area during the summer, but check the USDA climate zones. Sages from Europe and Asia—for example, the smaller and excellent woodland sage (*Salvia nemorosa*)—are much more cold-hardy, while those from Central and South America may be killed by our long cold season.

## Tentative TVGMD Board Meeting Dates 2024 6:30 PM

March 20th Benton (Changed for Easter Week)  
April 24th Chalfant  
May 29th Benton (Changed for Mule Days)  
June 26th Chalfant (may be changed)  
July 24th Benton  
August 28th Chalfant  
September 25th Benton  
October 23 d Chalfant  
November 20th Benton (Changed for Thanksgiving)  
December 18th Chalfant (Changed for Christmas)

### Links to Previous Newsletters

[Winter 2024](#)

[September 2023](#)

[June 2023](#)

[February 2023](#)

[November 2022](#)

### Contacts and Links

[TVGMD Website](#) for more information

For meeting reminders, etc. email: [secretary@tvgmd.org](mailto:secretary@tvgmd.org)

#### Links

[California Department of Water Resources \(DWR\)](#)

[Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Overview](#)

[SGMA Best Practices Website](#)

[CASGEM](#)--site where well monitoring data is input and available

[California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)

[UC Davis re Alfalfa Production](#) (lots of different articles)

#### TVGMD Board of Directors

DIRECTOR A—Domestic Well

- Carol Ann Mitchell term expires 11/30/2026
- Vacant, term expires 11/30/2026
- Geri Bassett term expires 11/30/2024
- Donald Moss, term expires 11/30/2024

DIRECTOR B—Resident/(Agricultural/100 GPM Well)

- Edward Parkinson term expires 11/30/2026
- Phil West term expires 11/30/2024
- Greg Allen term expires 11/30/2024

DIRECTOR EX-OFFICIO

- Mono County District 2 Supervisor Rhonda Duggan

**Advisory Board Members**

**Chalfant**

Gina Barsi

Betsy McDonald

Amy Saladin

**Benton**

Janet Barth

**Hammil**

Dennis Murphy

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**DRAFT  
MINUTES**

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Regular Meeting of  
January 24, 2024 6:30 P.M.  
Benton Community Center**

Due to the absence of Acting Chairperson/Vice-chairperson West, Secretary/Treasurer Bassett called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M. on January 24, 2024. The meeting was held in person.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, Moss, Duggan, and Bassett.

Directors Absent: West (excused, family health issue).

Advisory Board present: Gina Cleland, Amy Shelton Saladin.

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance:

Assistant County Counsel (A.C.C.) Chris Beck

**1. Discuss and elect interim Chairperson for tonight's meeting.**

A.C.C. Beck explained that, since Director West, who is currently both the Acting Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson, was absent, someone would need to be elected as an interim chairperson at least for tonight's meeting.

After minimal discussion, a motion to appoint Director Allen to Chairperson for the night was made by Director Bassett and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director West.

**2. Advisory Board Report.**

A.B. Barsi reported that Amy and she were the only A.B. members in attendance. She had received an email from A.B. Murphy saying that he would not be able to attend tonight. She reported that the A.B. had not had a meeting and that she knew they had some business to attend to.

Director Bassett commented that she had also received an email from A.B. Murphy about 2:00 this afternoon. He said something had come up and he would not be able to attend this meeting. He added that they would schedule an A.B. meeting as soon as possible.

**3. Public Comment.**

**Josh Rhodes** (Chalfant) I just heard there was a vacancy on the Board, submitted a letter of interest and want to introduce myself to whoever didn't know who I was. My background a little bit, I'm an hydrographer for 15 years, mostly with Edison, a few years with DWP now; measuring a lot of surface water and groundwater volume and storage capacity. I submitted a letter of interest for when the vacancy becomes open.

Director Allen suggested that Josh also submit a letter of interest to the Advisory Board; that his knowledge would be very welcome.



## DRAFT

**Rick Napoles** (Bishop) Good evening. I'm Rick Napoles from the Bishop Paiute tribe, also a member of the Environmental Board there. And I just wanted to talk a little bit and make some comments about the groundwater pumping and how it's affecting the Fish Slough area. And just that we all benefit from Fish Slough existing. And that all of us have been on this land for, the people that I know, my families and stuff, but also your people too. And that I believe that the pumping of the water in the Tri-Valley is affecting that resource and I think we all want to have that resource and not only that resource but your own groundwater around for a long, long time. We want to pass that on to our kids and our grandkids. It's in our benefit to work together to try to keep that going. And there's some studies going on that are starting up and I would like to ask that the high water users self-impose a moratorium on the water that they're pumping from the aquifer until some of the studies start to come in, some of the science is there. Besides the science though, the Fish Slough was home to the Paiute people for a long time and there are people buried there, there are home sites there. There's petroglyphs there. There is a place for food sources, the current animals that exist there, of course, the pupfish, but there's deer and bobcat, mountain lions. There's lots of other animals and stuff that dwell there now. These places that exist there, it's like the only place that exists there in the whole world. That brand of pupfish is the only kind there is. All the other ones are different, genetically different. So it's a high value area that's private. And I think if people just be cautious in the beginning until we see what all the testing does and what all the analysis does and have a better idea to make a better judgment on what kind of use the resource is going to give us. I think all of you on this Board and all the members here have a great respect for this land. You know you've lived here a while. Your livelihood comes from it. My livelihood comes from it too. I worked for the Forest Service in wildland fire for 36 years. I've seen a lot of ecosystems across this country burn, be destroyed. I don't want to see Fish Slough destroyed. I think it's a pretty unique area. But also so is Benton, so is Chalfant, so is Hammil, so is Old Benton. It just looked like desert to some people, but they actually supported a lot of people, a lot of people's lives. We're coming into a new time. There's definitely more and more tourists coming through this area now. And some of the economy is kind of changing around them. And I know that the Paiute People in Bishop and Benton, they're very resilient people. They survived the invasion, you know of 1800's. And they're still here. And I know all of you are probably as resilient too. And just maybe to think about things in a different way about resources, about how to take care of it. These are my thoughts here, I'm on my own time. I'm not getting paid by the Tribe to be here. I just wanted to be here because I missed a couple of meetings with the holidays and all that jazz. And, thank you.

#### **4. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting.**

See attachment item #4.

Director Duggan requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that she was in attendance at the Dec. 20, 2023 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes with that correction was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director West.

Abstain – Director Allen.

# DRAFT

## 5. Director Puhvel's resignation.

### A. Review and discuss Board acceptance of notice.

See attachment item #5A.

Director Puhvel's resignation letter, effective January 9, 2024, was accepted by the Board.

### B. Discuss and possible vote on direction for posting and filling of vacancy.

See attachment item #5B – 1 and #5B – 2.

A.C.C. Beck reminded the Board that they have a 60-day window from the effective date of resignation to appoint someone to the vacancy. The appointment needs to be put on the February 28, 2024 agenda.

After minimal discussion, a motion to put the appointment on the February 28, 2024 agenda and, if for some reason the appointment isn't done at that meeting, to hold a special meeting as soon as possible thereafter to get the appointment done within the 60-day window was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Mithcell.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director West.

Director Mitchell requested that the February agenda included time for the Directors to ask questions of the applicants.

Director Bassett handed out a draft of the vacancy posting. After reviewing it, it was decided that Director Bassett would send the Word version of the draft to A.C.C. Beck. He will review it and also have Queenie, the M.C. Clerk – Recorder – Registrar, review it for the necessary requirements, which include being a registered voter.

A.C.C. Beck read from the statute, section 401(a)2 - Four members shall be residents of the District who are the owners of record of real property located within the district. These members shall be elected at large from the district, except as provided in subdivision (d).

The Board moved on to item #6 and later in the meeting returned to item #5B. At that time, a motion to allow Director Bassett to spend the necessary funds to put the vacancy posting in the papers, etc. was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director West.

## 6. Discussion on Director West's Board status returning to a Director A (domestic well) position.

Due to Director West's absence, a motion to table this item was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director West.

# DRAFT

## 7. Update on Aerial Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey.

Director Bassett commented that, according to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) newsletter that she had forwarded to the Board (this was the 12/29/2023 newsletter), the AEM survey is done and they are compiling their data and preparing reports. She commented that this information should be made available for whoever does the groundwater model project. The report and related information are available at:

[https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and

[https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem/resource/29c4478d-fc34-44ab-a373-7d484afa38e8?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem/resource/29c4478d-fc34-44ab-a373-7d484afa38e8?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## 8. Update on the funding request to Mono County for 2024.

See attachment item #8.

Director Bassett reported that the \$5000, approved by the M.C. Board of Supervisors for the TVGMD for 2023/2024, has been moved into the TVGMD account. She has not yet seen the ledger report for January 2024, but, has seen the transaction detail. Per Janet Dutcher, M.C. Director of Finance, to set up a petty cash fund, the Finance Department will need a Board resolution directing the fund and the fund amount. Director Bassett will work with A.C.C. Beck to prepare a draft resolution for the February meeting. She will also prepare a draft list of expenditures to be paid with petty cash funds for the Board to review and pre-approve. She will also work with Finance Director Dutcher and her assistant to determine the process and paperwork necessary for that fund.

## 9. Update and possible action on the Director's insurance project.

Director Allen reported that, after much research, he saw quotes ranging from \$29 to as high as \$1700 a month for directors' insurance. None of the types of insurance policies were really appropriate for the TVGMD Board. The insurance would add a layer of protection to the Board in the case of a lawsuit. He will continue to reach out to Jay Sloan, at M.C. Risk Management, to see what he recommends. He hopes to have more information on this next month.

## 10. Report from the committee to recommend possible changes to the District statutes regarding the domestic and 100 gpm seats on the Board of Directors.

### A. Appoint a Board member to fill Andy Puhvel's position as head of this committee.

Director Allen reported that the committee had not met. He questioned if it was even reasonable to pursue this issue.

A.C.C. Beck replied that statute changes have been done before; if the Board is still interested in making changes in the statute to clarify the members, his office can assist with that process.

Director Bassett commented that, at the Dec. 20, 2023 meeting, a vote was taken to proceed with potential language changes in the statute to clarify membership.

Discussion followed regarding:

- The stakeholder groups that are listed in the code.
- The process that would be involved after the Board determines recommended changes.
- The need for a public hearing on the proposed changes.

## DRAFT

Director Mitchell noted that she would be able to head the committee if the work could wait until March.

Director Allen suggested talking to more Board and Advisory Board members at future meetings to see who else might be interested in being on the committee.

A motion to table item #10 until the March 2024 meeting was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Mithcell.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett, Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nays – none.

Absent – Director West.

The Board proceeded with #11 and then was requested by A.C.C. Beck to come back to #10. He requested that water code 10723.2 be put in the records for future reference.

WATER CODE - WAT

DIVISION 6. CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND UTILIZATION OF STATE WATER RESOURCES [10000 - 12999] ( Heading of Division 6 amended by Stats. 1957, Ch. 1932)

PART 2.74. Sustainable Groundwater Management [10720 - 10738]

( Part 2.74 added by Stats. 2014, Ch. 346, Sec. 3. )

CHAPTER 4. Establishing Groundwater Sustainability Agencies [10723 - 10724]

(Chapter 4 added by Stats. 2014, Ch. 346, Sec. 3.)

10723.2.

The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users, including farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals.

(2) Domestic well owners.

(b) Municipal well operators.

(c) Public water systems.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

(h) California Native American tribes.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 67, Sec. 1. (AB 321) Effective January 1, 2018.)

Also, see attachment item #10

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=10723.2.&nodeTreePath=7.13.4&lawCode=WAT](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=10723.2.&nodeTreePath=7.13.4&lawCode=WAT)

# DRAFT

## 11. Update on the Groundwater Model Project.

Director Bassett reported that in December 2023 we had heard that the project was being contracted out to Inyo County, since Holly Alpert, who was instrumental in getting the project approved, was now head of the Inyo County Water Department. We had also heard that Holly would most likely be attending our meeting in January or February 2024. Director Bassett added that she had sent the proposed and confirmed TVGMD meeting dates and locations to M.C.'s Brent Calloway, the project manager. She had asked him specifically if Holly would be attending this January 24, 2024 meeting. She has not yet heard back from Brent and will continue to make contact with him and/or Holly Alpert.

Director Mitchell asked that the Board be able to get status reports on the project – how much money is being spent, what is being worked on, etc. A.C.C. Beck and Director Duggan suggested contacting Community Development and/or Holly Alpert to request that.

## 12. Update on proposed groundwater monitoring wells in Hammil Valley.

See attachment item # 12.

Director Bassett reported that she had received an email from BLM, via Director Duggan, indicating that the comment period on this project had closed with 9 letters of support. BLM has signed the decision and it's on their e-planning website. The project is moving forward.

## 13. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution for AB 2449/AB 557, setting up a Zoom account, and having someone to run the computer needed for video requirements.

See attachments item # 13-1 and # 13-2

A.C.C. Beck reported that:

- He's working with M.C. to see if we have any surplus equipment that could be provided to Tri-Valley, such as a laptop and projector.
- He's asking to see if TVGMD can be added to the M.C. zoom account, since a M.C. BOS member serves on this Board.
- He should have an update by the February meeting.
- This would be beneficial both when Board members are unable to make a meeting, if there's a natural disaster or emergency that somebody has, but also for members of the public who can't get off work in time to drive to the meeting.
- We would need someone to run that equipment. A.B. McDonald had previously indicated that she might be able to do that. We'll need to check with her on that.

Director Mitchell commented that it might be nice if we could sometime in the future expand our website to be able to put recordings of the meetings on it. We would need more storage capability on the website.

## 14. Update on the proposed TVGMD meeting schedule for the 2024 calendar year.

See attachment item #14

Director Bassett reported that all of the proposed dates had been approved at their respective locations. Those are now confirmed dates/locations and Director West has them posted on the [tvgmd.org](http://tvgmd.org) website.

## DRAFT

### 15. Board of Directors reports.

Director Bassett reported that:

- She and A.B. Shelton Saladin did another reading on the Chalfant monitoring well on January 12, 2024. The reading was 71.68 feet, which is up 7.8 inches from October 15, 2023 and is within ¼ inch of the reading that was taken on April 8, 2022, which is the most recent closest reading.
- She and A.B. Murphy did another reading on the Benton monitoring well on January 13, 2024. The reading was 130.97 feet, which is up 9 inches from October 11, 2023 and is within an inch of the reading that was taken on April 12, 2022, which is the most recent closest reading.
- We received an email from Robert Cima, from MLJ Environmental, letting us know about his business in case we intended to do a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The reply sent to him was that we were not currently doing a GSP but would keep his information on file. See attachment # 15-1.
- We received from M.C. Community Development, a notice of public hearing for Apogee Farms, which is a proposed cannabis growing plant for just South of Benton. The hearing was on January 16, 2024. See attachment # 15-2.
- She has received Sexual Harassment and Ethics Training certificates from most Board and Advisory Board members. She still needs the Sexual Har. certificate from A.B. Shelton Saladin, the Ethics certificate from A.B. Barth, and both certificates from A.B. Murphy.

Director Mitchell inquired about the total depth of the Chalfant monitoring well. Director Bassett will get that information for her. (The well was dug in August of 1990. It was 79 feet deep and water was originally hit at 59 feet).

It was confirmed by A.C.C. Beck that the person appointed to fill the current vacancy would need to take the Sexual Harassment and Ethics trainings right away.

Director Bassett reminded the Board that elections for Board positions were on the February 28, 2024 agenda. She mentioned the idea of electing the people to fill the seats and then the following year having the Vice-chairperson rotate into the Chairperson seat and electing a new Vice-chairperson. This would allow for increased continuity with Board business and would potentially lessen the workload that the Chairperson has typically carried. People might be more likely to accept the Chairperson position if they knew they wouldn't be stuck in it for years.

Director Allen agreed that this would be a good idea but suggested not rotating the Secretary/Treasurer position.

A.C.C. Beck confirmed that this could be done within the current statutes.

## **DRAFT**

Director Duggan reported that:

- The Apogee Farms public hearing was for a change in land use designation.
- The change was approved by the M.C. BOS.
- The next step for that project to go forward is for the project proponents to bring operational permit applications to the BOS. This would potentially involve many conditions for approval. These could include security, lighting, odor control, control of seeds, long-term or in perpetuity monitoring of water usage/pumping, etc.
- No operations can go forward until all of the permits are approved.
- The property is two forty acre parcels (80 acres total).
- There is still plenty of time for public comment on the project. Comments should be sent to M.C. Community Development.
- There are several other cannabis production facilities in Mono County.
- Community Development does code compliance. But, realistically, just responds to complaints.

Director Duggan encouraged the Board, as a future agenda item, to develop policies regarding new operations coming in, especially when a change in land use designation is requested. Under SB1084 the Board has the ability to stop unreasonable uses of water that affect groundwater supplies within the District, but, must have policies in place beforehand.

**16. Adjournment to Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

**The next meeting is Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Chalfant Community Center.**

**Geri Bassett, Secretary, TVGMD**

Letter of Interest  
For Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District, Director

attachment  
item #5A

OCCUPATION: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Program Manager, retired

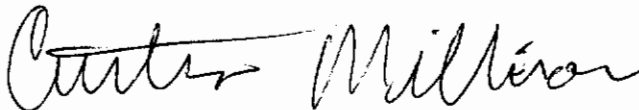
EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

It has been our pleasure to live and raise our family in Chalfant for the past 35 years. During this time, I worked as a Fisheries Biologist studying and managing fisheries and aquatic resources throughout California. My professional experience that directly relates to the TVGMD Director position includes serving as the Department's representative on the Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee. During its founding years the Committee focused on hydrothermal groundwater management. This experience required an in-depth study of the interactions between cold and thermal groundwater aquifers and their influences on surface water resources - like Hot Creek and the nearby hatchery. My focus back then was on the protection of fish and wildlife resources and the habitats on which they depend. Now, as a long-time resident of the Tri-Valley area, I am deeply concerned about aquifer depletion. This issue could have costly impacts for all Tri-Valley residents, as well as adverse effects on agriculture and ecosystems - like Fish Slough. I have a strong commitment to assure that groundwater sustainability is a high priority for the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District. As a TVGMD Director, I will seek a balance between residential well protection, environmental sustainability, and economic stability - as supported by agriculture.

Management of groundwater is not an easy task. It will require a working understanding of historic use practices, past and current monitoring data, and new information developed as proposed studies and new monitoring wells are completed. A mathematical model of our groundwater resource may be developed to aid in the drafting of a local groundwater management plan. Models can be only as good as the data upon which they are based. I am a proponent of gaining accurate resource knowledge that will aid the Water Board in the tasks ahead.

Thank you for considering this Letter of Interest for the open TVGMD Director position.

Sincerely,



Curtis Milliron

received 2-19-2024 about 3:30pm  
to Bassett



**Board position**

attachment item  
# 5B

From: Jarret Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
Date: 01/18/2024 09:45  
To: secretary@tvgmd.org

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Good morning

My name is Jarret Phillips. I am an alfalfa and cattle producer in Benton. I am interested in becoming a board member on the Tri valley ground water management district. I operate an Ag well yearly that has a 1200 gpm capacity. My domestic water source is a spring.

Thank you,  
Jarret Phillips  
Sent from my iPhone

## Board Vacancy Letter of Interest

attachment item  
#5C

From: Josh Rhodes <[REDACTED]>  
Date: 01/30/2024 08:23  
To: secretary@tvgmd.org

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Hello,

My name is Josh Rhodes. I am interested in the vacant board member position. I am able to attend monthly meetings and work with other board members on agenda items. I'm usually available during the week for emails and phone calls if necessary.

A little about my background, I grew up in Chalfant and after high school lived in Bishop for a few years before buying a home and moving back to Chalfant in 2007. I currently live at 339 Hunter Ave and have a rental property at 61 Piute lane. Both property's have domestic wells.

I have worked as a hydrographer for the past 15 years. I was employed at Southern California Edison from 2009 to 2021. From 2021 till present I have been employed with LADWP. As a hydrographer my primary role is to measure and monitor surface water (i.e. reservoir level and capacity, stream flow, precipitation, snow water equivalent, ground water level, and pumped well water volume.

With my employment I believe I would be an asset to the board. I will be attending the next board meeting on February 28 in Chalfant.

Thanks,  
Josh Rhodes