

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Greg Allen, Chairperson  
Don Moss, Vice-Chairperson  
Geri Bassett, Secretary  
Carol Ann Mitchell  
Ed Parkinson  
Josh Rhodes  
Vacant (from Phil West's resignation)

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

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Benton Community Center**  
**Hwy 120, Benton, CA 93512**

*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.**
- 2. Public Comment.**
- 3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the February 28, 2024 meeting.  
See attachment # 3**
- 4. Director West's resignation.**
  - A. Discussion and approval for posting and filling of vacancy. See attachment # 4A.**
  - B. Discuss and approval for cost of vacancy posting.**
  - C. Change in website and email address.**
- 5. Update on the Groundwater Model Project.**
- 6. Update on the funding request to Mono County for 2024.**
  - A. Review and possible approval of Resolution 24-01, to establish a petty cash fund.  
See attachment # 6A**
  - B. Review and possible approval of pre-approved list of expenses to be paid using petty cash fund. See attachment # 6B**
- 7. Update and possible action on the Director's insurance project.**

8. 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.
  - B. Appoint other Board or Advisory Board members to committee.
  
9. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution for AB2449/AB 557
  - A. Setting up a Zoom account.
  - B. Having someone to run the computer needed for video requirements.
  - C. Equipment needed - computer, microphones, etc.
  
10. Board of Directors reports.
  
11. Adjournment to Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.

**DRAFT  
MINUTES**

attachment  
item #3

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Regular Meeting of February 28, 2024 6:30 P.M.  
Chalfant Community Center**

Acting Chairperson West called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. The meeting was held in person.

**Roll Call:**

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

Director Duggan was delayed in attending due to time conflicts with another meeting.

Directors Absent: None; one vacancy.

Advisory Board (A.B.) present: Murphy, McDonald, Barsi, Shelton Saladin, Barth.

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance: Assistant County Counsel (A.C.C.) Chris Beck

**1. Advisory Board Report.**

A.B. Murphy reported that the A.B. met on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024. The entire A.B. was in attendance, as were 6 additional members of the community. Discussion included:

- The open Board and A.B. positions and the potential candidates.
- Mission and vision of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District (TVGMD) and how the A.B. could support the goals.
- Sustainability is the essential purpose of both Boards; increased amounts of data is crucial to determining if we are in a sustainable status.
- Nominating Jarret Phillips for Board appointment to the A.B., representing Benton.
- The need for the Board to update the 2023 Strategic Plan, listing progress made on the goals set and determining any changes needed for 2024.
- Newsletter topics, including site visits to local ranches and natural resources.
- Board statutes and the need to revise the statute on Board members.

**A.B. McDonald added:**

- She had a slight revision to the March Newsletter, the addition of the costs for water testing for arsenic (\$17) and uranium (\$20).
- Three reasons that groundwater sustainability is important – domestic wells, agriculture and Ag family livelihood, and water for Fish Slough.
- Studies show that there is likely a link between the aquifer in Tri-Valley and Fish slough, especially the north-east spring.
- She would like to see a question put to the Board vacancy candidates regarding their knowledge of and advocacy for Fish Slough as an important part of the T.V. GSA.

**A. Review and possible approval of March Newsletter.**

As mentioned above, A.B. McDonald had an update on the costs of the water testing mentioned in the newsletter. The arsenic test is \$17 and the uranium test is \$20.

A motion to approve the March Newsletter with that update was made by Director Bassett and seconded by Director Mitchell.

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Vote – ayes – all Directors present except Director West.

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Director West.

### **B. Appointment of Jarret Phillips to Advisory Board, representing Benton, for a 1-year term.**

After minimal discussion, a motion to appoint Jarret Phillips to the A.B. for a one-year term was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – all Directors present except Director West.

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Director West.

### **2. Public Comment.**

None at this time.

### **3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the January 24, 2024 meeting. (Attachment item #3)**

A motion to approve the draft minutes for January 24, 2024 was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Parkinson.

Vote – ayes – all Directors present except Director West.

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Director West.

### **4. Discussion and possible nominations for the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary/Treasurer seats.**

Discussion included the Chair and Vice-Chair positions being rotated every year, two years, etc., as mentioned during the January 24, 2024 meeting. The Secretary seat was deemed not ideal for this frequent of a rotation. Board statutes require an annual review of the positions.

It was decided to elect Directors to the seats and see how things go for a one-year appointment. It is estimated that a two or three-year rotation will be more ideal for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Chairperson** - A motion to nominate Director Allen to Chairperson was made by Director Bassett and seconded by Director Parkinson.

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

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Directors West and Allen.

**Vice-Chairperson** – Director West declined the nomination for Vice-Chair, as did Director Parkinson. A motion to nominate Director Moss to Vice-Chairperson was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Parkinson.

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

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Directors West and Moss.

**Secretary/Treasurer** – A motion to nominate Director Bassett to Secretary/Treasurer was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Parkinson.

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

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Director West.

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### **5. Board Vacancy for an At-Large Director with a term of office to end November 30, 2026:**

Jarret Phillips apologized for the confusion of his letters of interest. He is interested in being on the A.B. at this time and filling a 100 gallon per minute (GPM) position when one opens up. He is not interested in the current domestic well representative Board vacancy.

#### **A. Letter of interest from Curtis Milliron. (Attachment item #5A)**

Curtis Milliron was asked if he wanted to address the Board and attending public. His comments and answers to Board/public questions included:

**Curtis Milliron** – Worked for the California Department of Fish and Game, now called the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, for 35 years. Retired and has lived here in Chalfant since 1989, raising his family here. Was a scientist with the Department, started off as a Fishery Biologist, became an Environmental Scientist, then a Senior Environmental Scientist, and then a program manager over the fisheries programs in the 9 northern counties of California, with a staff of over 100 permanent employees and up to a couple of hundred contract and temporary employees. Served on several different Boards. State representative on the Trinity River Management Council, managing 20 to \$30 million a year for river restoration work. Early work here was as Environmental Scientist and Biologist, doing mostly field work, managing studies, doing research and applying that to the management of our natural resources under the purview of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In that early time, he was responsible for researching the geothermal development in and around Long Valley, much of which had a rather large impact on Hot Creek Hatchery and Hot Creek itself and continued to dry up surface waters that had a thermal component. That required an understanding of groundwater resources, both thermal and non-thermal. Was the state representative on the Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee. A lot of discussion around the future management of this geothermal resource and the effects on surface water, similar to the kind of work that this Board has before it to understand the science behind groundwater management and how these various aquifers interact with each other; how pressure can propagate through another ground system, how molecules of water flow, but also how pressure is transmitted; very different forces affecting groundwater management. Have been here long enough to see numerous wells needing to be redrilled. There's a good argument that some of those wells were probably just old and faulty, just went bad. But there's also a pretty well-established trend that our groundwater is declining, it's lowering. Some of those shallower wells have really just run out of water. Eventually, if the trend continues, and this trend is 20 to 30 years well established in our Tri-Valley district, then there'll be more wells that will go dry and that's a concern; we're concerned about our wells. We're also concerned about agriculture. There's been some recent well drilling that has allowed agriculture to go deeper and access even greater volumes at deeper levels, that's got to be an expensive endeavor to meet that need. We have a real lack of information and that is a serious issue that needs to come to the forefront of the discussions of this Board. That information, especially in Hamill Valley, where most of the agricultural operations are going on, is especially not available. We've had one indicator of declining groundwater that was brought forth to the discussion, and we've seen the graphs where it's declining around 3 feet a year for that particular individual. Based on conversations with others in the Valley, other places are seeing that or more or less. And so it's not just one. You can't just look at one or two sites and get a really good picture. We need to have a good monitoring network set up so that we really understand the complexity of this resource so that we can manage it based on science, which is his background and approach. We need to know and then we need to understand and act. His promise to this Board is to look for every possible way for achieving sustainability without doing the kind of impacts that many in the farming community are fearful of, a draconian change of of pumping. That could happen if this Board (GSA) was reprioritized to a

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medium or high priority basin. Right now, we're prioritized at a low level, even though we're 100% dependent on wells. There isn't anybody in this community that's not drinking well water, or at least using well water for their home or their farm or their business. That alone would prop up the mid level to high level concern by the State Water Resources Control Board and by the Department of Water Resources, but we're at a low level, because we were initially associated with the Owens Valley Groundwater Management District. That Groundwater Management District is largely affected by its relationship with Department of Water and Power from LA. They've been working for decades on a groundwater management plan. When the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources looked at that planning effort that they've had, they said you guys are doing the right thing, keep doing it and they classified us in a low priority. The Tri-Valley area was included in that at the time. We were part of the Owens Valley. So the whole thing got classified as a low priority. Then Mono County decided to break off and do our own management authority. So, for about a year and a half now we have the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management authority for our own entity. We're no longer associated with the Owens Valley, and yet we still have the same designation of low priority because these State agencies have a lot of work to do and they don't want to just keep going after the same targets; they have management plans they have to approve and a lot of work on the table. We've heard from them that they're not going to reprioritize us immediately, so at a low priority, we don't have to do anything. But, in reality, we're not a low priority. We're 100% dependent on ground water. When they take another look at us, they'll bump us immediately into a priority status that will require action by this Board. And my position is, let's get ready for that. Because if we're held, if we're caught without being prepared for that, they're going to say what have you guys been doing? And why haven't you got the data that you need to manage this resource that you're charged to manage? Why aren't you doing the things that you're supposed to be doing knowing that you're probably going to be reprioritized as a mid-level or higher priority. We cannot hide from that forever. It's going to happen and if we don't take control, if this Board doesn't act on its own, then we will be told. And if we think we're even longer than that and try to stall and not get anything done, then the State Water Resources Control Board, the ultimate authority, in this case, can be very draconian about how they come in and deal with this and that's what they have done in several places in the Central Valley where they have cut back drastically water producers. And I don't think that's the scenario we want to see here. So if I'm on this Board, I will nudge the Board to get the information, understand the information, understand the science, pursue the science and pursue management. That's our charge, to manage this resource for sustainability and not doing that is not going to cut it. So that would be my promise to the Board is to work with the Board to meet that goal. And I think I have the background to help do that. Thank you.

**Greg Allen** - Curtis, you're basically an aquatic biologist; it basically was your main profession with Fish and Game. My question, this one answer puzzles me a little bit, maybe it's just the way it's worded; I will seek a balance between residential well protection and environmental sustainability and economic stability as supported by agriculture. I don't understand the "as supported by agriculture".

**Curtis Milliron** - Well, our economic stability in this and as far as business that's actually in the Valley, many of us work in Bishop or elsewhere, but the actual economic engine for in-Valley resources is agriculture. Recognizing that, I think it's important that we support that and maintain it.

**Greg Allen** - But basically, you're giving enough, looking at it saying these are the things that I'm looking at, environmental stability, economic stability, also what can we do to make stable the agricultural side of it.

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**Curtis Milliron** – Absolutely.

**Greg Allen** - So and then knowing that you were an aquatic biologist, ran the program, all of those things, the question I would have was do you feel that that would have any influence on your decisions outside of scientific data for the Board? I mean looking at it unbiasedly saying these are the data we've got, this is the information we've been given, this is what we have to do for what

**Curtis Milliron** - Are you saying that? Can you hit me with that again? I'm not sure what you're asking.

**Greg Allen** - So basically we've asked people, when you come to this Board, are you coming basically with a biased opinion or an unbiased opinion?

**Curtis Milliron** - I don't know of anybody in the world that doesn't have some kind of biased opinion, and it's hard to get away from that, act on that. I think we have to recognize it. And the experiences I've had with other Boards and conditions and other avenues, to be effective, you've got to start looking through the other. You got to have empathy. You've got to look through the other person's shoes. You wear their shoes, look through their eyes, however you want to put it. Otherwise, you don't communicate. I think I would say, be able to state my opinion, but I think at the end of the day, we've got to find common ground to make some progress. And so that's really the key to it. And like I said, I've been doing this sort of thing and various permutations and avenues for 35 years and I can tell you I wasn't that great at it at one time and I got a little better over time and I think by the end of my career with hundreds of employees and a lot of issues on a daily basis. You've got to get pretty good at being able to find common ground and communicate in order to make progress.

**Greg Allen** - We all learn as we go. What I'm getting out of you is, we all, everybody in this room has a personal bias and personal opinion. But your willing to sit down with this Board, look at it with open eyes, look at everything and move forward for the direction that the Board is charged with.

**Curtis Milliron** – Yes, I agree with that too.

**Don Moss** - You said that everyone's using well water as domestic water.

**Curtis Milliron** - Well, I changed that a little bit. I said that everyone's using well water in some way. Obviously some people drink bottled water, or maybe some other

**Don Moss** – There's some surface water also.

**Curtis Milliron** - And surface water. Sure, the lucky few.

**Geri Bassett** - Just a clarification, and I may have misunderstood what you said, when we split off from OVGGA and became our own GSA, we are still considered part of the Owens Valley Basin, even though we're our own GSA still or again. If we were to have to do a GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan), there would need to be some interaction with OVGGA also, because we're still considered part of their basin. A lot of people don't understand that.

**Curtis Milliron** - This is something I read about in the Central Valley where they don't have nice basin demarcation. So land kind of just continues almost indefinitely in different directions and they had to artificially place boundaries. And so the conflict there was, how do you get along with your

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neighbor when your management might not be in line with the person, the agency directly next to you, when you're really sharing exactly the same resource. So there's an interesting reading on that and I'm not sure how that would end up down the line but I get what your point is.

**Brett Wiley** - What matters on the federal level when you have Bureau of Land Management. They did a land trade South of us, for private land that was in Fish Slough. So we did a land trade decades ago so that they could basically take control of the Fish Slough drainage on all the series of ponds and as a wildlife zone. So there's a Federal presence there because they did this land trade. What is their connection to our Tri-Valley and basically restoring that, if we're losing that North pond, that's been drying up. And what is Bureau of Land Management's responsibility because they're a Federal agency, not State and County and the State is, they own the water in California, legally, it's California State that has the water rights. So where's the Federal government's roll in that?

**Curtis Milliron** - As I understand it, the Feds and other entities that would be recognized could have input in the GSP process, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which is a requirement of all GSA's, groundwater management authorities and districts once they get up to the mid-level or higher priority, they have to create a plan and that plan has to go through DWR, Department of Water Resource. And it's open to comment and they have to approve it as part of the process of moving forward and through this whole SGMA process. I believe the feds have an opportunity to, have a substantial opportunity, to comment on the plans. I don't know that there's a requirement that they have authority to change or demand certain aspects of it, but they do have an opportunity to have input on the sustainability plans. That would affect how are you going to manage this resource for sustainability, how's that going to affect them?

**Brett Wiley** - Along with that then obviously when they did this land exchange, they probably did an environmental impact report. They had to. They had to justify that exchange and determine that there was good cause for doing this. So they've done that. Then why wouldn't they have a great response?

**Phil West** - We're getting into technical aspects of too tight of what the general intent of this discussion is. So we're going to move on to Josh Rhodes. Would you like to make a statement?

### **B. Letter of interest from Jarret Phillips. (Attachment item #5B)**

See comment at start of item #5.

### **C. Letter of interest from Josh Rhodes. (Attachment item #5C)**

Josh Rhodes was asked if he wanted to address the Board and attending public. His comments and answers to Board questions included:

**Josh Rhodes** - I've grown up in the Owens Valley, 1988/89. Lived here my whole life since I was 6. Moved away for a few years and back, bought our own house in 2007. I've been here ever since. In 2009, I started with Edison as a hydrographer. In that role, we measure the full water cycle from precipitation, snow melt, stream flow, reservoir volume storage, all the way down to groundwater elevation or level.

In 2021, I switched over to LADWP as a hydrographer. A lot of the same work, a lot more groundwater monitoring with the LADWP. We do snow surveys, I was on one today. So we measure snow water equivalent in mountains, measure stream flow as it comes down, measure rain, just kind of the general full water cycle; been doing that till present, about 16 years. That's my background



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with water. And as far as my desire to be on the Board, I would like, being here since the late 80's, I would like to have our water be sustainable and not have our water dry up. Along with agriculture, I'd like to have that around as well. Our community uses alfalfa for growing their own food and for domestic horses. But I think we can work along with Ag and domestic users and become sustainable and, hopefully, with the groundwater model plan, we can figure out what the rights for ag. With LADWP, we monitor, I don't recall how many are in the whole Owens Valley. I'm based out of the Owen's Lake. We have around 200 sites, most of those are groundwater monitoring wells. Some artesian and then some, but we just monitor pressure on artesian, those are not flowing artesian wells.

**Greg Allen** - So basically, you kind of live and breathe groundwater and monitoring and so forth. And the same question that I asked Curtis, coming on to the Board, is it something that you look at as being able to look at the duties of what the Board is looking for. Obviously, with your skill set, you know, I'll exclude Don from this, have a greater knowledge of this the rest of us. So being able to come at this objectively for what the Board needs and what we're looking at trying to develop this plan that we're working on, trying to develop this whole groundwater agency to be able to have solid scientific data out there.

**Josh Rhodes** - I believe we need higher quality data to have a good result. If we use low quality data, you know, I know we need more monitoring wells that comes obviously at a high expense. But to have high quality data, unfortunately we need more monitoring wells in the area throughout the Tri-Valley. And yeah, I would be able to look at it unobjectively.

**Greg Allen** - So in a sense, wouldn't even monitoring wells, which allot of times we look at as kind of an evil thing, you're looking at it saying, you know this is what we have to have, we want the data. We want the scientific information. This is a necessity that needs to be done.

**CA Mitchell** - Do you monitor the DWP wells in Chalfant and Hammil?

**Josh Rhodes** – No. The only thing I do north of the Owens Lake, well, with this past year's large amount of runoff, they had us scattered all over the valley, but me it was mainly measuring surface water, stream flow, spreading conversions where they're spreading water out to go back into the aquifers. My day-to-day, normal day-to-day, is out of Owens Lake.

**CA Mitchell** - And what would you recommend the Board do to have more monitoring wells. Because they cost a lot of money.

**Josh Rhodes** - They do cost a lot of money, that's the unfortunate part. I know there's some grants available. So I would recommend, hopefully, we can get, it would be a large amount of grant money to obviously do all at once, but maybe pick the priority areas you know. There seems to be a lot of pressure around Hammil. So maybe that needs a monitoring well, and when I say monitoring well, I mean a well that's not being pumped out of, because you have data that's not accurate and if you have inaccurate data then we have an inaccurate model potential.

**Don Moss** - That's what I was going to ask, was whether the monitoring wells are strictly monitoring wells, they're not production wells.

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**Josh Rhodes** – Just monitoring wells, no production wells. They do monitor the water level in the well itself, but that's not used for the groundwater level. That's for the well itself.

**Greg Allen** - So I did have somebody make a comment to me and I said I don't have an answer because I don't really know Josh. His mom used to come in when I was in feed store, his dad, every once in a while. I don't know your family well. Somebody made the comment, you work for DWP now, isn't that like having the enemy on your Board? So probably not it or maybe just being candid. Knowing what, not knowing your family well, what I get out of that is you probably wouldn't survive your Dad anyway with that. You know, just that comment being made, do you have any kind of response to that?

**Josh Rhodes** - Yeah, I know DWP owns several pieces of property, at least around Chalfant, I'm not sure around Hammil or Benton. They export no water from the Tri-Valley area. For instance, the High Hydro lease up here, that's LADWP property, but all that water is used for irrigation for those grass pastures. As far as a conflict of interest, I contacted the FPPC. And they, I have their response printed out, but, essentially, they said there's no conflict of interest. I can read it if you'd like.

**Greg Allen** - I did read the statutes recently on this. Thank you for looking into it. No other questions.

**CA Mitchell** - Do you have any experience with or have you worked on any groundwater models or do you have any opinion on groundwater models?

**Josh Rhodes** - I haven't worked on ground water models. I know DWR had that electromagnetic survey done. Hopefully that can give us some good quality data to know more about our groundwater, where we're at, I mentioned this in a previous meeting. I know here our water for monitoring wells, is around 70 feet. A friend of mine lives at the Wafford subdivision and his water is at 130 feet. So there is some separation in aquifer, I mean within a few miles of here, we're a completely separate aquifer.

### **D. Interviews, discussion and possible action on Board vacancy and appointment.**

Director Moss asked about the advertisement for this vacancy being different than when he ran for a domestic well representative position.

A.C.C. Beck responded that the seat was an "at-large" seat.

Director Bassett added that the current advertisement had more Legal oversight than the previous ad. The seat is "at-large" but it has historically been a domestic well representative position.

A.C.C. Beck explained that "at-large" means anyone within the District; still needs to be a resident and property owner of record and a registered voter.

A motion to nominate Josh Rhodes to the vacant seat was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Moss.

A motion to nominate Curtis Milliron to the vacant seat was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Bassett. Per Roberts rules, the alternate motion is voted on first.

Vote – ayes – Directors Bassett and Mitchell.

Nayes – Directors Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Abstain – Director West.

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Vote for the motion to nominate Josh Rhodes to the vacant seat.

Ayes – Directors Bassett, Allen, Parkinson, and Moss.

Nayes – Director Mitchell.

Abstain – Director West.

Motion carried. Josh was congratulated on the appointment to the vacant seat. Director Bassett will work with the Clerk/Recorder/Registrar Office, Queenie Barnard, to get the Oath of Office administered.

Director Mitchell commented that the community was very lucky to have two very qualified people willing to be on the Board.

### **6. Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Project update.**

Holly Alpert, Director of the Inyo County Water Department, and Tim Moore, hydrologist from the Inyo County Water Department, were introduced. Holly explained that they were going to go over the proposed process for the groundwater model project, ask for input and feedback, and that Mono County, who holds the project grant, contracted with the Inyo County Water Department to oversee the project, basically be the project manager. There was a kick-off meeting on February 12, 2024 to work out some of the logistics for managing the project. The next step is to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the model consultant. Tim Moore is in charge of that, hoping to have a draft ready for the March 20 TVGMD meeting. The contract will be between Mono County and the consultant. Inyo County, the Tri-Valley Board, and Mono County will be involved in the selection process, with Mono County ultimately making the selection. The selection process could include scoring criteria and interviews.

Holly asked that a decision be made on which TVGMD Board member will be their main point of contact during the project.

She added that the project budget included either Tim or her being at TVGMD Board meetings to give general progress updates as appropriate.

Tim Moore handed out an information sheet (attachment item # 6). In his initial information and response to Board and public questions, he explained that:

- He is working on the RFP, using the project work plan as a guide for the initial language.
- He believes that the project budget is a little lean.
- There is language in the initial work plan to do an isotope study, to add to the information from the study done in 2019. This could give some interesting information, but, the data that comes out of it would not be a direct input to the actual model calibration.
- The original work plan did not include a third party peer review of the model.
- His suggestion is to wait and do the isotope study at a later date and to use those funds to pay for the peer review and add to the overall project.
- He is not yet sure how much the peer review would cost.
- The model involves a hydrogeological conceptual model, which looks at different sources of data and trying to figure out how we think groundwater moves through the system, as well as the numerical groundwater flow model, which is the actual computer code. An isotope study would help to get an understanding from a conceptual perspective how we think water is moving through the system.
- The isotope study could help with determining future ideal locations of monitoring wells.
- The Andy Zdon paper showed there was some connection between the water in Fish Slough and the water in Hammil Valley but didn't give percentages of where the Fish Slough water comes from.
- There will be public meetings during the model process, as outlined in the handout.

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- Just because a well is within the cone of influence of a producing well, doesn't mean that data from it isn't useful.
- Schedules for the project will be submitted by the potential consultants when submitting their RFP quotes. The project will most likely take a year or so to complete.

Holly explained that a work plan change would require an amendment, but that is not difficult. There is not an option for just going back and asking for more money for this project, which is funded entirely by the State of California.

Director Mitchell commented that she would really like to continue with the isotope study. She believes that M.C. Counsel suggested the study. She asked for A.C.C. Beck's input. He was not here at the time and will need to check with C.C. Stacey Simon.

Director Parkinson asked how much information we would gain or lose by the isotope study. Tim replied that isotopes can work like fingerprints. Sometimes they give good signatures and you can figure out water pathways. Other times the answers are ambiguous. There is value in doing the study, but just not right now as part of the current groundwater model project. The \$30,000 should be enough for the isotope study, but would be better spent on the peer review and adding to the overall project fund. Groundwater models need to be updated periodically. The isotope study information could be added to a future update, as could additional groundwater level data that has been acquired. A different project (funding) would be needed to update the groundwater model in the future.

Director Mitchell asked that an independent party do the peer review; someone that hasn't already been involved in the history of groundwater in Inyo and Mono Counties. Tim replied that that would cost more.

There was also a question from the public about what BLM is doing to manage Fish slough, since the land is under their responsibility. Why aren't they doing more?

Director Bassett was designated as the point of contact for the TVGMD Board.

### **7. Board of Directors reports.**

Director Allen commented that he is still waiting for a reply from M.C. Risk Management on the Directors insurance.

Director Mitchell suggested that we resume looking into procuring microphones for the Board and one for the public. A.C.C. Beck will check with M.C. I.T. on the possibility of equipment being available from M.C.. Director Mitchell said she will research prices.

Director West announced that this will be his last meeting on the TVGMD Board of Directors. He is resigning for personal reasons. He is in a 100gpm seat. He will email his letter of resignation to Queenie Barnard by tomorrow morning. See attachment item # 7. The Board has 15 calendar days to notify the Clerk/recorder/Registrar Office (Queenie) and 60 calendar days to appoint someone to his vacancy.

## **DRAFT**

- 8. Adjournment to Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Community Center.**  
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Allen.  
Vote – ayes – Directors Mitchell, Allen, Parkinson, Moss, and Bassett.  
Nays – none.  
Abstain – Director West.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

**The next meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Benton Community Center.**

**Geri Bassett, Secretary, TVGMD**

**DRAFT**

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

123B Valley Rd.  
Chalfant, CA 93514

[www.tvgmd.org](http://www.tvgmd.org)

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/tri-valley-groundwater>

*Attachment  
item #4A*

**Notice of Vacancy on the Board of Directors**

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District and that the Board of Directors intends to fill this vacancy by appointment at the regular Board meeting on April 24, 2024, at 6:30 P.M., to be held at 123B Valley Road, Chalfant, CA 93514. This is an at large seat position. Persons interested in being considered for this appointment to the Board of Directors must be a resident and owner of record of real property located within the District, and on which property there are extraction facilities capable of pumping at least 100 gallons per minute, exclusive of domestic use. Persons interested must also be a registered voter and need to be willing to participate in monthly meetings involving groundwater issues within the District, come to meetings prepared to participate in agenda items, respond to emails from other Directors, and be willing to accept additional assignments on occasion. Interested persons are encouraged to provide a letter of interest to the Secretary of the Board of Directors via U.S. mail at the above address or via email to [elections@mono.ca.gov](mailto:elections@mono.ca.gov) to be received no later than 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Questions concerning this appointment may be addressed to the Mono County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar Office at 760-932-5537.

**DRAFT**  
**Resolution 24-01**

attachment item # 6 A

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH A PETTY CASH FUND FOR PAYMENT AND/OR REIMBURSEMENT OF TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as established by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District has been approved by the Mono County Board of Supervisors to receive \$5,000 of Mono County revenue for the 2023/2024 fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District wishes to minimize Mono County and TVGMD Board staff time managing the \$5,000 for payment and/or reimbursement to Board members of Board expenses for individual items less than \$60; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District does hereby approve the formation of a petty cash fund to be managed by the TVGMD Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer under the guidance of the Mono County Finance Director and Assistant Director.

**SECTION ONE:** The Secretary of the Board of Directors is hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary under Mono County Finance Department policies/procedures to establish the petty cash fund for the amount of \$500.

**SECTION TWO:** The Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District is hereby directed to manage the petty cash fund in accordance with and under the direction of the Mono County Finance Department.

**SECTION THREE:** The Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District does hereby pre-approve the attached list of expenses to be paid for with the petty cash fund.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this [redacted] day of [redacted], 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

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Greg Allen, Chairperson  
Tri-Valley Groundwater  
Management District Board of  
Directors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Counsel



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

123B Valley Road  
Chalfant, CA 93514  
www.tvgmd.org

*attachment  
item #6B*

**Expenses pre-approved to be covered by the TVGMD petty cash fund**

Misc. office supplies

Copy/print paper

Ink cartridges

Copy/scan/printing charges

Publication/Advertising costs for vacancies and elections

Website name

2/2024