

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
Matt Doonan

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 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.

A. Report.

B. Resignation of Betsy McDonald from the Advisory Board. (See attachment #1B)

1. Newsletter.

2. MailChimp email address group.

2. Public Comment.

3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the February 26, 2025 meeting and the March 26, 2025 meeting. (See attachments # 3A and #3B)

4. Discussion and possible approval of the draft Strategic Plan. (See attachment #4)

5. Board of Directors reports.

6. Adjournment to Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.

From: Betsy McDonald <betsymcdonald19@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 3:36 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Resignation from TVGMD Advisory Board

TVGMD Board and Advisory Board:

I was originally appointed to the TVGMD advisory board on March 23, 2022. I was reappointed May 17, 2023 and again on May 29, 2024. I do not wish to be reappointed this year, and since there is not a board meeting until June, I resign as of April 23, 2025. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Betsy McDonald

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Attachment #3A

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of February 26, 2025 6:30 P.M.
Chalfant Community Center**

Chairperson Allen called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The meeting was held in person.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Directors Absent: Parkinson, Doonan, and Duggan (at an out-of-state meeting).

Advisory Board (A.B.) present: Barsi and Phillips.

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance: none.

1. Advisory Board.

A. Report.

A.B. Barsi reported that they had had a meeting but that she didn't have any minutes or a report to read. She wanted to make sure the Board did items 1B and 1C.

B. Recommendation and possible action on renewing term of office for one year for Jarret Phillips.

After confirmation from A.B. Phillips that he was agreeable to the renewal of his term, a motion to renew his term for another year was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Moss.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nays – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

C. Review and possible approval of Spring 2025 TVGMD Newsletter. (See attachment # 1C)

After some discussion, it was decided to make the following changes to the newsletter:

- Page 1, second sentence under "Groundwater Awareness Week March 9 – 15, 2025" – change "All of us here in the Tri-Valley" to "Most of us here in the Tri-Valley".
- Delete the draft Strategic Plan as a whole from the newsletter, but, add in a comment that the Board is continuing to work with Mono County to implement hybrid option/zoom meetings for the public to attend the Board meetings.
- Page 2, 4th line under "From CDFW" on the "Update on Monitoring Wells Chalfant, Hammil, Fish Slough" – remove the (USGA drill team) text. Also, add well completion dates, if available.

A motion to make the changes listed above and to have the revised newsletter sent to the Chairperson and Secretary for review and approval if the changes were done was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Allen. This would enable A.B. McDonald to send the newsletter in a timely manner rather than waiting for the next regular meeting, which is in June.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nays – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

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2. Public Comment.

Lynn Boulton commented that she had received an error notice when trying to get into the TVGMD.org website. Director Rhodes (webmaster) replied that he was aware of the issue, it is sporadic and seems to be a hosting issue, and that he has notified the host (hughes.net) each time he has encountered the issue. Upon notification, the issue is usually resolved quickly. Anyone encountering the issue should contact Director Bassett at secretary@tvgmd.org and she will pass the information on to Director Rhodes.

3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the January 22, 2025 meeting. (See attachment # 3)

Director Bassett pointed out the bold text, in item #7, indicating the error that had been made in water level comparisons to previous years.

A motion to approve the January 22, 2025 draft minutes with the correction noted was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Moss.

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

Nayes – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

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

After minimal discussion and the current officers noting that they were agreeable to the suggestion, a motion to nominate the three current officers to their respective positions for 2025 was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Rhodes.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

5. Update on the Strategic Plan. (See attachment # 5)

Removing #5 from the “Enhance Groundwater Monitoring and Data Collection” was suggested.

Director Bassett suggested that the 2 Board members (Directors Mitchell and Rhodes) that are on the current Strategic Plan Committee meet with one other Board member and finish up the draft version. To Chairperson Allen’s questions, she replied that she would be willing to meet with the 2 Directors and bring a revised draft to our next regular meeting.

It was decided that this would be how the Plan is handled at this point.

During a public comment section at the end of the meeting, Lynn Boulton mentioned that she felt the Strategic Plan should include information on how the Board was going to protect groundwater levels, thresholds for groundwater levels, what will be done if a threshold is reached, how the groundwater model would be updated, and how to find a balance between Ag and domestic well users and still try to keep water levels in Fish Slough at least at the current levels.

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6. Conflict of Interest Code

A. Review of proposed update and related appendices. (See Attachment # 6 A)

Director Bassett explained who the COI Code applied to, what changes had been made for the update, the process to date on the update, and the process for completion of the update.

B. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 25-01, updating Conflict of Interest Code. (See attachment # 6 B)

Based on the attachments and the information presented in 6A, a motion to approve the draft COI Code, the related attachments, and Resolution 25-01 was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Rhodes.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

7. Review, discussion, and possible action on Board Rules from January 26, 2022 regarding frequency and dates of regular meetings. (See attachment # 7)

Director Bassett explained the need to review and possibly change section 104A and 104B of the TVGMD Rules that had last been changed in January of 2022. The possible changes would allow for less than monthly meetings and would give flexibility to meeting dates as needed to help ensure a quorum. She presented the suggestion of the following changes:

104 A. - The Board shall meet at least 4 times per year, usually once per quarter. Additional meetings and/or Special meetings may be scheduled as needed to conduct Board business. Meetings shall be held within the District, usually at the Chalfant or Benton Community Center. Special meetings may be held outside the District at the discretion of the Board.

104 B. - Meetings shall be held at 6:30 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month except as needed to accommodate community center schedules and better ensure a quorum. The meeting schedule shall be voted on annually at the end of the current year for the upcoming year and may be adjusted as needed to conduct Board business.

After some discussion, a motion to adopt the above changes to section 104A and 104B, leave section 104C as is, and to not change any of the rest of the Mono County TVGMD Rules at this time was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Moss.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

Director Bassett will send a copy of the revised Rules to the Board as soon as possible. She will include a revision date and indicate what the revision involved.

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8. Board of Directors reports.

Chairperson Allen mentioned that he had received the invoices from Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) and that the Directors Insurance was now in place. The invoices have been given to Director Bassett to process for payment. In response to Director Mitchell's question, he said that he had not heard anything new from the Bishop Tribe regarding setting up a meeting.

Director Bassett gave reminders that:

- Form 700's for the Board are due on April 1, 2025. All Directors should have received an email on that by now.
- The Audio/Visual equipment training put on by Mono County I.T. is Thursday, February 27, 2025, 10 A.M. to noon, at the Crowley Lake Community Center and Thursday, March 6, 1:00 P.M., in Bridgeport.
- There is an OVGA meeting Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. At least one agenda topic relates to the District.

She also noted that she will be contacting Aaron Johnson, from CDFW, to get the completion report for the third monitoring well recently installed in the Hammil Valley area.

Director Rhodes noted that during the meeting he checked the TVGMD.org website and it was back up. Anyone experiencing problems with the website can contact the Board Secretary, who will notify him of the issue.

9. Adjourn to Special Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.

A motion to adjourn the meeting and notice a special meeting on March 26, 2025 was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Moss.

Vote - ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Directors Parkinson and Doonan.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

**The next meeting is a Special Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Chalfant Community Center.**

**The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Benton Community Center.**

Geri Bassett, Secretary, TVGMD

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Attachment #3B

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Special Meeting of March 26, 2025 6:30 P.M.
Chalfant Community Center**

Chairperson Allen called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. The meeting was held in person.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes

Directors Absent: Bassett, Parkinson, Doonan and Duggan

Advisory Board (A.B.) present: McDonald

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance: Chris Beck, County Council

1. Advisory Board.

A. Report

A.B. McDonald reported that no meeting had been held, and there was no report.

2. Public Comment.

Rick Napoles - Comments on historical significance of Fish Slough

Noah Williams, Bishop Tribe - Comments on historical significance of Fish Slough

3. Update on the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Project.

Presentation by Gus Tolley of DBS&A

Some comments by Tim Moore, Inyo County Water Department

Presentation followed the Power Point slide presentation provided in the 3-26-2025 TVGMD agenda package.

4. Adjournment to Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Community Center.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Rhodes.

Vote – ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Rhodes

Nayes – none.

Absent – Bassett, Parkinson, Doonan and Duggan

TVGMD Strategic Plan July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Attachment #4

Introduction—Groundwater in the Tri-Valley area is likely thousands of years old owing to low precipitation amounts and the slow recharge rate in our desert environment. This precious resource supports both residential and agricultural wells.

This strategic plan provides a roadmap for TVGMD to ensure responsible management of groundwater resources, emphasizing community involvement and education throughout the process.

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).

The Board of Directors may review this plan on a semi-annual basis and amend as needed. An end-of-year summary of accomplishments/challenges will be developed at the start of each new year.

Enhance Groundwater Monitoring and Data Collection

1. Continue to monitor the wells at the Benton and Chalfant landfills and enter this data into CASGEM.
2. Continue to work with the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) to proceed with the well transducer placements in domestic wells in the Tri-Valley.
3. Working with the appropriate agencies, track progress on the installation of 2 monitoring wells being constructed on BLM land in Hammil Valley and the monitoring well in Fish Slough if that is within the TVGMD GSA boundaries.
 - a. Determine where this data will be logged and ensure that the TVGMD Board has access to the data.
 - b. Appoint a Board member to monitor this data.
4. Continue to work with Mono and Inyo Counties and the designated consultant on the Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Project. Assist with data/information as needed.

Promote Education and Awareness via Community Involvement

Improve communication with Tri-Valley Communities by:

1. Whenever feasible, advertise Board of Directors meetings by announcing in the Community Calendar of the Inyo Register newspaper, on KIBS/KBOV radio, and KMMT radio.
2. Work towards offering meeting attendance for the public via Zoom on a regular basis.
3. Determine contact names and email addresses for representatives of the Bishop Paiute Tribe and Benton Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe and send meeting agenda packets to those contacts.
4. Ask each Board member to suggest topics for newsletters and the website.
5. Every two years, advertise and hold workshop-style meetings with County Counsel giving a review/update of SGMA.

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- a. Alternate the meetings between Benton and Chalfant.
 - b. Include maps of the District at the meetings.
6. Once the Groundwater Model is complete and adopted by Mono County and the TVGMD, hold public meetings to communicate the results and significance of the model.

Promote Sustainable Groundwater Practices

1. Encourage and provide resources for more efficient irrigation practices/technologies.
 - a. Along with the Advisory Board, research funding opportunities/grants for securing more efficient irrigation technologies.

Budget Considerations

Work with County Counsel to discuss feasible methods of generating revenue for the District.

May 2025