



Tehama County
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 8:30 AM
Groundwater Commission
Meeting Minutes

Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Chambers
727 Oak Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
<https://tehamacounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

8:30 AM

Commissioners: Elijah Stanley, City of Corning; Jeff Godwin, City of Red Bluff; Hal Crain, City of Tehama; Kris Lamkin, El Camino Irrigation District; Todd Hamer, Los Molinos Community Services District; Martha Slack, Rio Alto Water District; Liz Merry District 1; Adam Englehardt, District 2; Seth Lawrence, District 3; Michael Ward, District 4; David Lester, District 5;

Justin Jenson, Flood Control/Water Resources Manager; Lena Sequeira, Administration

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Introductions

Rollcall

Present Commissioner Todd Hamer, Commissioner Martha Slack, Commissioner Kris Lamkin, Commissioner Michael Ward, Commissioner Seth Lawrence, Commissioner Hal Crain, Commissioner Adam Englehardt, Commissioner David Lester, Commissioner Liz Merry, and Commissioner Jeff Godwin
Commissioner Elijah Stanley

Public Comment

A resident shared their opinion on the budget, revenue, and billing processes.

1. Selection of New Chair and Vice Chair

26-0173

Todd Hamer was nominated for Chair and Seth Lawrence was nominated for Vice Chair.

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: David Lester
SECONDER: Hal Crain
AYES: Commissioner Hamer, Commissioner Slack, Commissioner Lamkin, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Lawrence, Commissioner Crain, Commissioner Englehardt, Commissioner Lester, Commissioner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 8th 2025

26-0171

a) Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held 10/8/2025

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Martha Slack
SECONDER: Seth Lawrence
AYES: Commissioner Hamer, Commissioner Slack, Commissioner Lamkin, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Lawrence, Commissioner Crain, Commissioner Englehardt, Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Merry, Commissioner Elijah Stanley and Commissioner Godwin

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 15th 2025

26-0172

a) Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held 10/15/2025

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: David Lester
SECONDER: Martha Slack
AYES: Commissioner Hamer, Commissioner Slack, Commissioner Lamkin, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Lawrence, Commissioner Crain, Commissioner Englehardt, Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Merry, Commissioner Elijah Stanley and Commissioner Godwin

4. Fees Update

26-0174

Jenson gave an update on the fee setting process, noting that fee structures are currently being reviewed by rate setting consultants. They are preparing a draft fee study to present at the March meeting. Final fee structures will be voted on in April and will include four options: two for Administrative Fees and two for PMA fees.

A resident asked about a contract.

Jenson answered that the contract was completed through grant funding.

5. Demand Management Update

26-0175

Jenson stated that at the last meeting it was decided to bring on a consultant to provide legal advice and help address outstanding issues. He noted that calendar requests for upcoming meetings should be sent soon.

Merry asked Jenson to clarify who the legal consultant is.

Jenson stated the consultant is Joe Hughes, a long-time professional who works with agencies in Southern California.

Merry asked if he was the individual who wrote the Farm Bureau's plan.

Jenson confirmed he assisted with it.

Lawrence stated he would like members of the Commission to be updated on Demand Management Working Group meetings to avoid surprises or disagreements. He expressed concern about being blindsided.

Jenson agreed and said he would do his best to make that request.

6. Outreach Ad Hoc Update

26-0176

Jenson stated that the group held its first meeting and is developing outreach materials to provide updates in different areas and reach the public. He noted that members agreed to conduct individualized outreach to increase public understanding.

Slack asked what individualized outreach entails.

Jenson explained that members will share information through meetings with industry groups and other affiliated public groups. He added that Commissioner Merry was asked to assist with outreach through social media.

Slack asked if the shared information would be agreed upon by the group.

Jenson confirmed that outreach materials will consist of specific flyers approved by the group.

Hamer asked if the information would also be distributed via email.

Jenson stated that it would, and that information will also be posted on Facebook. He noted that website updates are in progress to improve public access to information.

Slack asked who would be responsible for responding to Facebook comments from residents.

Discussion followed regarding Facebook comments and responses.

7. Standing Agenda Items

26-0178

Groundwater Recharge

Kevin with the RCD provided a project update, noting this is a multi-agency effort funded by DWR focused on irrigation efficiency upgrades. Four projects in the Red Bluff Subbasin have been approved and are under contract, with three currently in construction. A brief status update on each project was provided.

Ward asked what the water savings would look like.

Kevin stated they are hoping to conduct a case study to determine actual water savings.

Jenson noted that the PMA section is being used to evaluate savings as part of the pilot effort. He stated the data shows promising results and that the groundwater-based projects are expected to reduce pumping.

Kevin stated that the funding for these projects was required to be used by March 30 and expressed interest in expanding similar efforts in the future.

Slack asked if the PowerPoint could be distributed.

Kevin stated that it could be shared.

Jenson discussed updating the website to help distribute this information.

Will Anderson with LSCE provided an update on recharge projects, including Los Molinos, Deer Creek ASR, and stormwater recharge efforts. He reviewed current progress, next steps, and the implementation process.

Crain asked about the timeline.

Anderson stated they expect to have the flood safety plan finalized within the next month, after which it will be submitted for approval.

Jenson noted he would like to bring it to the Board in March.

Anderson provided an update for the Red Bluff Subbasin, noting that Kevin with the RCD had covered some project progress. He also provided updates on the five-year permits for Elder Creek and the Marengo Ranch project, including next steps.

Ward asked Anderson to elaborate on the water quality elements.

Anderson explained the process of recharging water directly into the aquifer and discussed potential risks. He noted that the project includes collecting surface water data, recharging it into the ground, and sampling groundwater to evaluate impacts.

Lester asked if any of the wells being used were dry wells.

Anderson stated that dry wells are not being used and continued providing updates on the Thomes Creek recharge projects, including their current status in the permitting process.

Ward referenced comments from DWR.

Anderson responded by addressing the concerns and noted that a response letter with objections to the comments had been submitted. He reviewed the monitoring program, stating it is consistent with standard practices across the state.

He went on to provide an update on projects in the Red Bluff subbasin noting that the draft reports were completed for the storm water recharge and that they were currently working on the flood safety plan.

Anderson provided an update on the projects going on in the Corning Subbasin highlighting

that the pilot project on Simpson Rd was successful. He provided an update on the five year temporary permit, the Thomes Creek Wolfe Ranch recharge project and the Brannin Creek project.

Ward asked for options on water availability.

Anderson answered that they plan to obtain water from the Corning Water District but are working on funding components.

Jenson commented that he had a conversation with the engineers about making a spot that catches natural and applied flow noting the benefits of applying the purchased water.

Anderson provided an update on the California Olive Ranch project and went over next steps. He talked about the Stony Creek recharge project giving updates on the diversion sites. He went over the Task 5 surface connection projects noting that they had signed landowner agreements for most of the projects. Once the work was completed they would submit for reimbursement.

Ward asked how many projects there were.

Anderson clarified.

Hamer asked if the surface water connection projects are to connect new properties to the Corning Water District.

Anderson said it is for three different districts for properties that are irrigated with groundwater. These projects are to upgrade systems to have access to surface water over groundwater. Jenson answered that the ag people are committed to using all allocated surface water before groundwater use.

Crain asked about the Thomes Creek projects and limitations regarding permits. He asked how far behind getting installation going would happen after the permits are issued.

Anderson answered that each property would vary with the earliest being within the next two weeks and the latest 4-5 weeks, it all depends on fabrication timelines.

Crain asked about water rights and water testing to get the projects live.

Anderson confirmed.

A resident asked for more information on recharge and if the Sikes Reservoir would have a negative impact on the aquifer. They asked about injection wells and stated their opinion on them.

Jenson answered that the water right holder is the District and explained the process.

A resident inquired on grant status.

Grant Status

Eddy Teasdale with LSCE notified the group that Jacques DeBra would be calling in to present on Grant Status.

DeBra commented that he would be providing an update on Grant Status by subbasin noting that they were on track to meet objectives minus the gap between budget and schedule in the Red Bluff subbasin. Funds are set to expire by end of March.

Jenson added that the timeline for reimbursement for grants has been a challenge noting that they just received a larger than one million dollar reimbursement from DWR which will be good for funding health. He highlighted that there is more money in the reimbursement queue than we have a deficit and we are waiting on the time to get reimbursed, it is not the fact that the billing has not been done.

DeBra continued talking about the Red Bluff subbasin noting that funds must be allocated by March so they have spent time expensing funds for construction.

He went over the construction activities for the Red Bluff Subbasin, talked about the surface water connections and noted that the Proberta Water District was originally considered but chose not to participate.

Ward asked about the Proberta Water District.

DeBra answered that the Proberta Water District was provided to participate however their board took action to not participate which is why there was no investment there.

He continued talking about the construction funding outline, the investment profile and where the funding was allocated highlighting the potential benefits and efficiencies for the described projects with the RCD partnership. He went over the remaining construction schedule for Red Bluff.

He then went over Corning subbasin and DWR components associated. He talked about the multi completion wells added to help with monitoring networks which will be added to the monitoring plans and are equipped with transducers to track water conditions. He continued talking about the completion of projects in the Corning subbasin

Jenson noted DeBra comments about amendments from the state noting that another state agency which is the financial division is responsible to approve and they have not received a response. He added that they would be reaching out to them and explained the importance of receiving the amendment.

A resident asked for information on recharge projects and shared their concerns.

Jenson addressed the residents concerns and clarified their questions.

Crain commented that it might be a good idea to educate the supervisors of the projects.

Ward agreed.

Hamer added that the pilot projects ensure the system will work.

A resident asked about the Proberta Water District and why they did not want to proceed.

Teasdale answered that it was a matter of getting constituents on board.

He talked about the deliverables and where to find them noting that some are available for viewing on the website. They have to provide updates to DWR every quarter.

Jenson noted that the website updates coming would also help to make finding these things more user friendly.

Ward asked about the GDE study.

Teasdale responded that it is due by March first so they will hopefully have an update at the next meeting.

Demand Management

Covered earlier in the meeting.

Annual Report Status

Teasdale stated that the Annual Reports were due to DWR April first and that they would have a draft of the annual report for all subbasins at the end of the month with a more final draft to present at the March meeting noting that today he would be giving a brief update on what they have so far.

He went over the highlights for the Corning subbasin talking about MOs, MTs and numbers related to changes in storage. He provided details on exceedings, additional items DWR wanted to see in the reports, data tables and he talked about fixing data gaps with increasing monitoring capabilities.

Jenson stated that they are planning on taking over monitoring within The District that has typically been done by DWR highlighting that Sacramento DWR has made it clear that monitoring is our responsibility and we cannot rely on them. They are in the process of getting trained on the location of these wells to self monitor.

Teasdale added that when individuals got on the monitoring well program they were not aware of the wells pumping near by and a benefit of the transducer data is that they can see if levels fluctuate during pumping.

He went over the exceedances and the affects of the exceedances in the Red Bluff Subbasin again noting how collecting transducer data will help them with collecting data. He went over storage changes and MTs highlighting there were no exceedances in 2024 or 2025. He clarified DWRs comments and requested revisions

Teasdale went over the updates in the Bowman, Antelope and Los Molinos Subbasins and noted subsidence trends highlighting they are not seeing subsidence in Antelope, Bowman or Los Molinos. He said there could be possible subsidence in Corning but it is not significant.

Discussion followed on subsidence.

Teasdale concluded his report presentation letting the group know they would have more information in March.

Outreach

Covered earlier in the meeting.

8. Commission Matters

Jenson let the group know he would be out for a couple of weeks in March, during that time Adriana would be the point of contact.

Adjourn

10:19AM