



Tehama County
Thursday, May 28, 2026 10:00 AM
Flood Control and Water Conservation
District
Meeting Minutes

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

10:00 AM

Chairperson: Tom Walker Vice-Chairperson: Greg Jones
Directors: Steve Zane, Rob Burroughs, Matt Hansen

Tom Provine, Interim Director of Public Works; Lena Sequeira,
Administration

Present Director Matt Hansen, Vice Chair Greg Jones, Director Rob
Burroughs, Chairperson Tom Walker, and Director Steve Zane

Public Comment

A resident raised concerns regarding budget information, fee notices, records, and agency processes.

A resident commented on the Garst appeal and shared their views regarding the County's arguments, well regulation, and the case overall.

A resident commented on well registration and requested a copy of the ordinance.

Walker stated that the ordinance is available online. Klausner added that a printed copy could be provided from upstairs.

A resident commented on a pamphlet received in the mail and expressed concerns regarding the wording related to wells.

A resident commented on the Garst appeal and shared concerns regarding potential financial impacts if the appeal is unsuccessful.

A resident commented on receiving a well registration notice, shared concerns regarding water use on their property, and asked about potential fees.

Provine stated that well registration flyers have been distributed and that staff are receiving more calls than they can currently handle. He noted that staff will respond as they work through the backlog.

Discussion followed regarding the tax roll timeline and the appeal process.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Flood Control BOD 3/26/26

26-0852

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Matt Hansen
SECONDER: Greg Jones
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, and Chairperson Walker
NAYS: Director Burroughs
ABSTAINED: Director Zane

2. Accept March 2026 - April 2026 GSA Claims (603)

26-0854

A resident discussed countywide charges and questioned allocation to the GSA. Walker stated he was not seeing the referenced item, and the resident clarified it was related to Tehama County Public Works.

A resident expressed concern about lack of clarity on how collected funds are used, referencing the well registration fee and prior difficulties obtaining clear information even through public records requests.

A resident commented on GSA claims, noting most funds appear to go to consultants and expressing concern about the effectiveness of the work performed.

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Greg Jones
SECONDER: Matt Hansen
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane
NAYS: Director Burroughs

3. Accept March 2026 Flood Claims (604)

26-0857

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Matt Hansen
SECONDER: Greg Jones
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Director Burroughs, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane

4. Budget Overview Presentation, Discussion and Approval for 26/27

26-0866

Fiscal Year

1. Approve Fiscal Year 2026/2027 operating budget for account 604 flood control.
2. Approve Fiscal Year 2026/2027 operating budget for account 603 water conservation.
3. Authorize Executive Director or designee to submit the approved budgets to the County and make any necessary administrative or technical adjustments consistent with the approved budget totals.

Part 1:

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Greg Jones
SECONDER: Matt Hansen

AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane

NAYS: Director Burroughs

Provine presented a PowerPoint reviewing the proposed budget for fiscal year 26/27.

Hansen asked where the budgets associated with the ordinance would be shown if it is approved, noting that the current budget only reflects operational department costs, and asked when the related budget details would be available for review.

Jones asked what the special department expenses category is used for.

Tiffany Jensen with accounting explained that special department expenses (account 53280) are for non-routine, department-specific costs and are kept as a reduced contingency for unexpected needs.

Walker asked how revenue collected from the subbasins would be distributed and whether funds would remain within each subbasin or be shared equally for administrative costs.

Jensen explained that GSP implementation funds are tracked through individual project numbers and coded into a special account, with each subbasin or project maintained under its own accounting designation.

Zane asked whether the funds are only used within the specific subbasin. Tiffany responded yes and explained that this structure helps ensure clear tracking and accountability.

Burroughs questioned Sikes Reservoir benefits to Tehama County unless water is piped north and suggested further discussion. Provine said it is part of a broader project they support to evaluate overall potential benefits.

Public Comment

A resident commented on property tax revenue, grant reimbursements, and funds collected in the Corning Subbasin, and shared their interpretation of the fees, budget, and potential additional funding.

A resident commented on the 603 budget, questioned how GSA and water conservation claims are categorized, and raised concerns about budget approval authority and process.

Provine explained that grants are reimbursement-based, with expenditures sometimes occurring before revenue is received, which can result in timing differences and occasional negative balances.

Discussion followed regarding funding sources and cost-sharing allocations between Flood and GSA.

Part 2:

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Greg Jones
SECONDER: Matt Hansen
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane
NAYS: Director Burroughs

Part 3:

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Greg Jones
SECONDER: Matt Hansen
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane
NAYS: Director Burroughs

5. Notice of Exemption for Los Molinos ASR well pilot program

26-0860

Provine explained the NOE.

Walker asked about the Los Molinos Irrigation District.

Provine stated they are a partner and water is coming from a creek.

Hansen asked if the well was existing, and discussion confirmed consensus that it is an existing well.

A resident expressed concerns about groundwater quality, aquifer chemistry changes, and potential risks, and stated the purpose of the well is not changing.

Jones commented on the costs associated with ongoing efforts and stated it is a worthwhile attempt to evaluate whether the approach could be one of the solutions.

Hansen emphasized exploring all options, understanding risks and benefits, and responsibly supporting agricultural communities while moving forward.

Jones stated that declining groundwater levels create risks in taking no action.

Provine responded that there are no nearby residential wells per DWR requirements, but acknowledged it as a valid concern.

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Matt Hansen
SECONDER: Greg Jones
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Director Burroughs, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane

6. Water Extraction Fees Ordinance 2026-2

26-0850

Provine introduced the ordinance.

Hansen requested clarification on Section 2, Item I, and read the section aloud for discussion.

Klausner explained the difference between administrative remedies and court proceedings, noting that administrative actions include a hearing and final decision that can be challenged in superior court.

Walker stated there was a request to read the full ordinance, noting there was not enough time and questioning the need. Hansen said it was available if desired, Jones agreed, and they confirmed the Clerk had copies available.

Public Comment

A resident questioned a section designation and raised concerns about administrative fees, GSA administrative revenue, grant reimbursements, and overall budget workflow.

Resident was called to speak thanked Zane for requesting the reading, no redline presented. Talked about a section in the ordinance and their opinion of it.

Walker stated that the physical redline process was completed in the chambers.

A resident commented on a section of the ordinance and the Garst case, discussing potential fee credits for future water use and de minimis use considerations.

Hansen stated there is no board-established de minimis threshold and referenced the state definition. He explained that fees are primarily borne by large groundwater users but are partially distributed across all beneficial users and expressed the need to support agriculture where possible. He added he had no objection to leaving the ordinance as written.

Walker agreed and commented on the second part of the resident's remarks.

A resident urged close review of the language, specifically the distinction between are exempt and may be exempt.

A resident shared concerns regarding potential litigation costs, water regulation authority, and expressed concerns on the matter.

A resident stated the ordinance is being rushed and emphasized the need to get it right the first time.

A resident commented on the establishment of a de minimis threshold and the budget.

Hansen stated the groundwater situation is a concern identified by the State. He noted that while wells may go dry due to natural conditions, regulation has focused on industries with impacts, and he continued sharing his thoughts on the matter.

Walker agreed, stating they do not want to take this action but that if the County does not, the State will step in. He expressed concern that inaction could lead to more wells going dry and continued sharing his thoughts.

Jones shared his thoughts, empathized with the resident, and stated that overdrafters impose costs, with efforts focused on protecting homeowners.

Zane stated these are among the toughest decisions the board will face in the near future. He noted the impacts may be harder on smaller users but expressed a goal of reducing costs over time, and continued sharing his thoughts on the item.

Burroughs commented on use in Bowman by users and referenced the annual report. He expressed concerns about consistency in Bowman, described the item as taxation without representation, and stated they would vote no.

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Matt Hansen
SECONDER: Greg Jones
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane
NAYS: Director Burroughs

7. Reset Public Hearing date for fees

26-0861

Provine stated the public hearing had been previously set, but the printer facility notified staff the day before that materials could not be printed. He proposed resetting the hearing for July 20th at 10 a.m. for the administrative fee and 1 p.m. for the PMA fee.

A resident asked about the flyer timeline and how the protest process works, including the protest formula.

Provine provided clarification regarding the questions raised.

A resident questioned the flyer timeline, protest process, and when the full list of affected parcels would be available.

A resident referenced prior comments and questioned the connection between de minimis users and the majority protest process.

RESULT: APPROVE
MOVER: Greg Jones
SECONDER: Steve Zane
AYES: Director Hansen, Vice Chair Jones, Chairperson Walker, and Director Zane
NAYS: Director Burroughs

8. Board Matters

Zane stated FEMA has designated the Hogsback area as a floodplain requiring flood insurance. Walker requested a staff report, and Provine noted the Building Department is the appropriate source for that information.

Adjourn

11:23AM