



Tehama County  
Monday, May 19, 2025 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>

Chairperson: Matt Hansen Vice-Chairperson: Pati Nolen  
Directors: Greg Jones, Rob Burroughs, Tom Walker

Justin Jenson, Deputy Director of Public Works-Water Resources; Lena Sequeira,  
Administration

1. **10:00 AM Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Introductions**
2. **Public Comment**

Resident Liz Merry provided a tax document regarding the \$0.29 well registration fee and discussed her opinion. She also talked about a records request inquiring on where the money had been going and was told there are no records. She expressed that she would like to see more information on the agendas as well as back up.

Deputy Director Jenson stated that there is a separate account for well registration funds.

There was discussion about the PR request.

3. **Approval of March 10, 2025 Minutes** **25-0853**

a) Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held 3/10/2025

**RESULT:** APPROVE

**MOVER:** Director Walker

**SECONDER:** Director Nolen

**AYES:** Chairperson Hansen, Vice Chair Nolen, Director Jones, and Director Walker

**NAYS:**

**4. Accept September 2024 - April 2025 GSA Claims 25-0852**

Request acceptance of the Tehama County Groundwater Sustainability Agency claims paid from September 2024 through April 2025 in the amount of \$2,391,269.93.

Deputy Director Jenson emphasized the importance of reviewing the claims, noting that the number is higher than usual. He explained that there has been a significant gap since claims were last presented to the board. This delay was due to a period with no staff available to complete the work, followed by the onboarding of new staff who needed time to learn how to compile the required materials. He noted that the majority of the claims are for reimbursable grants, where consultants were paid and the expenses were later reimbursed by DWR.

Director Walker asked if any were for specific subbasins.

Jenson says the outgoing total from our funds is small since it was mostly reimbursed grant dollars.

Walker asked if the numbers vary by subbasin due to different tasks being performed.

Jenson stated yes, each subbasin we were awarded funds for has a select group of tasks associated with that grant. So, it is literally billing against those tasks and being reimbursed.

**RESULT:** APPROVE  
**MOVER:** Director Walker  
**SECONDER:** Director Jones

**AYES:** Chairperson Hansen, Vice Chair Nolen, Director Jones, and Director Walker

**NAYS:** Director Burroughs

**5. Accept September 2024 - April 2025 Flood Claims 25-0851**

Request acceptance of Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District claims paid from September 2024 through April 2025 in the amount of \$22,599.68.

Jenson clarified that almost half of this money is for staff time. He also stated that they had to buy a very large chainsaw for fallen trees that were by far the biggest they have had to remove from the levee.

Walker asked if they anticipate that being a problem in the future not having the trees to hold the dirt on the banks.

Jenson stated yes and no, it could be a problem and a benefit.

Walker asked if the roots were left after the trees are removed.

Jenson responds saying generally speaking no, they are cutting them up when they remove the trees.

Jenson explained that the KSN Program helps make sure levees meet SNUFF standards. This means that in an emergency, there is money available for a quick response. He said the KSN Program got the levees back up to standard so the area could qualify for funding.

There were technical difficulties recording the vote. This item was moved by Director Walker and Second by Director Jones. All were in favor of this item.

**RESULT:** APPROVE  
**MOVER:** Director Walker  
**SECONDER:** Director Jones

**AYES:** Chairperson Hansen, Vice Chair Nolen, Director Jones, and Director Walker

**NAYS:**

**6. Resolution 2-2025 - Authorizing The Groundwater Commission to Approve Notices of Exemption Related to in-kind Replacement of a Groundwater Well 25-0876**

Jensen stated there are two resolutions today related to in-kind well replacement, each following a different approval path. He explained that this one is slightly more complex, but helps speed up the process to avoid delays that could affect farmers' access to water and damage crops. The NOE is a standard document, and in-kind replacement qualifies as a standard exemption from CEQA, allowing the well to be replaced in the same capacity. This would make the process faster and simpler.

Director Walker asked what would happen if there is not a lot of info on the well.

Jenson stated that well registration does not require the reporting of information that is not available. However, if a letter from the well driller with the well specifications is accessible, the process can proceed in a straightforward manner using the rubber stamp method.

**Public comment**

A resident expressed that he is happy to see this going forward as well as their thoughts on the resolution. They explained their opinion on the specific language being used and their thoughts on the process.

A resident concurred with the remarks of the preceding speaker and raised a question regarding the authority of the Groundwater Commission to grant approval on these exemptions.

Director Burroughs stated that this falls in line under CEQA. If it is the same strata, size and flow we are not affecting something else in that area. He talked about the trust

we must put into the professionals that handle the drilling since they are licensed to do it.

Further discussion took place, presenting various viewpoints and continued questions regarding the Groundwater Commission's authority. There is talk about the legal review and what would happen if the claim is denied.

A resident stated this has been in the works for years and feels it just needs to get passed.

There was discussion on how the process would move getting an in kind replacement down the road and how it would help the farmers to prevent them from losing crops.

Director Hansen questioned advisory vs authority and suggested cleaning the language up so it is less confusing. Maybe the by-laws need to be modified, so it is not muddy.

Jenson stated that we can bring them forward at any time for review.

A resident recommended tabling the item to allow for further legal review of the ordinance and to clarify the scope of the Commission's authority. Burroughs asked for clarification on which specific authority the resident was referring to.

Additional discussion followed, focusing on the process, related concerns, and The Commission's role.

Jenson reiterated the county's policy, emphasizing that addressing the matter beforehand, rather than afterward, helps streamline the process.

Jones expressed his support for the item.

A resident referenced Ordinance 2023-1 and expressed concern that the proposed resolution may contradict it.

Jenson responded, clarifying that the resolution aligns with the criteria set by Environmental Health.

Burroughs inquired whether CEQA defines wells as a facility.

Jenson confirmed, explaining that CEQA uses that terminology, which is why their language is applied in this context.

**RESULT:** APPROVE  
**MOVER:** Director Walker  
**SECONDER:** Director Jones  
**AYES:** Chairperson Hansen, Vice Chair Nolen, Director Jones, and Director Walker  
**NAYS:**

**7. Resolution 3-2025 - Authorization The Director of Public Works to Approve Exemptions to Well Screening and Sealing Depth**

**25-0878**

Jenson referred to the process as the “checklist method,” explaining that if a well replacement meets specific, pre-established criteria, it does not require review by a governing body. He provided an overview of those requirements and how they help streamline the process.

Walker asked whether a permit is needed to demolish an existing well.

Jenson confirmed that such a permit is required and is issued by Environmental Health.

Walker emphasized the importance of proper oversight, particularly for larger properties with significant elevation changes.

Jenson explained that technical decisions, such as the placement of a new well, will be determined by qualified professionals; engineers, hydrologists, or licensed well drillers. In most cases, wells will be replaced near the original location, with additional review required only in exceptional circumstances.

Burroughs added that Environmental Health holds well drillers to a high standard to ensure quality and regulatory compliance.

**Public comment**

A resident requested for the process to be as clear as possible. They questioned different aspects of the process and asked for clarity.

Hansen stated that it makes sense to replace a well in its existing location, particularly in areas near the river where water quality is good. He noted that these are legacy wells, not new installations, and that this approach allows farmers in those legacy areas to streamline the replacement process.

**RESULT:** APPROVE

**MOVER:** Director Jones

**SECONDER:** Director Nolen

**AYES:** Chairperson Hansen, Vice Chair Nolen, Director Jones, and  
Director Walker

**NAYS:**

**Well Mitigation**

Jenson reported that both the Well Mitigation Ad Hoc and working groups have been formed, though they have not yet held their first joint meeting. The Ad Hoc group is currently working to organize all necessary components before moving forward.

A draft program outline has been developed, and collaboration has begun with Glenn County's Ad Hoc group. A follow-up meeting is scheduled. Efforts are being made to align the programs as closely as possible. There is strong confidence that the program will be ready before the end of the year. The project remains on track and moving toward implementation.

**Groundwater Recharge**

The initial set of meetings for recharge have been scheduled. Several grant-funded projects have already been tested in the field, but some were found to be unviable and will not move forward. A list of viable projects have been compiled, and the group will now work to establish a scoring system to prioritize which projects will be implemented first.

**Demand Management**

Progress on these meetings has been slow, but the group has reached an agreement on the direction moving forward. Jenson is currently developing a STRAW proposal, which will serve as the baseline for future efforts. He noted that he now has a better understanding of the group's expectations across the various categories.

Walker asked about the deadline for completion.

Jenson responded that the goal is to have it completed by January 1st. He acknowledged the challenge, stating that while it won't be easy, he believes a workable solution can be developed. He also pointed out that many existing programs rely on water-use restriction models, which are not favored in this county.

Hansen requested that he and Jones be added to the Ad Hoc group.

Jenson replied that he would look into it but would need to consult with legal counsel before confirming.

## **9. Board Matters**

Burroughs asked when the resolutions would go into effect.

Jenson confirmed that they take effect immediately upon passage. He will provide an update to Tia at Environmental Health. He also noted that the in-kind replacement applications will primarily follow a checklist format.

The group held a brief discussion on the annual report and the importance of reviewing the associated data.

Further discussion was held regarding the bylaws. It was agreed that the bylaws will be brought to the next meeting for review.

## **Adjourn**

11:08 AM