



Tehama County
Wednesday, January 14, 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: Martin Spannaus, 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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Introductions

8:30AM

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Demand Management Program AD HOC

26-0036

The Chair recommended Adam Englehardt as an additional member of the Demand Management Ad Hoc. Liz Merry also requested to be considered and was approved by the Chair.

4. Demand Management Update

26-0037

Jenson stated that at the next meeting they will begin with the first item for discussion.

Englehardt shared his thoughts on addressing one item at a time and asked if the committee should present findings to the Commission as each item is completed.

Merry agreed that this was a good idea.

Hamer agreed that the approach would be useful, even if the item is not an action item.

Jenson commented that it would help prevent items from backsliding.

Englehardt asked if, after the April deadline, the group should be restructured from an Ad Hoc to a standing committee.

Jenson suggested creating a committee once a formal procedure is in place.

5. Standing Agenda Items

26-0038

Groundwater Recharge

Grant Status

Demand Management Plan Working Group Update

Well Mitigation Plan Working Group Update

Annual Report Status

Outreach

Groundwater Recharge

Jenson stated that they have begun developing a text notification system to alert independent floodwater diverters when they are permitted to divert during flood conditions. He noted they are working toward a permanent implementation plan.

Hamer asked if the county sets the diversion thresholds.

Jenson confirmed and said they expect thresholds to be established by the end of next week. He added that the State Water Board has shown support for ASR.

Crain asked when infrastructure improvements would begin.

Jenson said he hopes that process can start immediately.

Englehardt suggested it would be helpful to explain to the Board that some funds are being retained for permitting.

Demand Management Plan Working Group Update

Covered earlier in the meeting.

Well Mitigation Plan Working Group Update

None

Annual Report Status

Jenson stated that he has reviewed the first draft of the Annual Report and noted that some monitoring information will not be included. He added that, moving forward, the county may take on a larger role in monitoring wells.

Englehardt asked about the process for the annual report and whether it is appropriate to present the draft to the Commission.

Jenson confirmed that it is and said he hopes to present it in February.

Outreach

Jenson stated that outreach meetings are planned for February/March regarding recharge-type projects and that the meeting schedule will be advertised soon.

Englehardt asked if outreach could target water boards that seem out of sync with GSA actions.

Jenson responded that it may be more efficient for committee members with connections to small water districts to assist with outreach.

Englehardt asked about forming an outreach committee.

Jenson said it could be beneficial if the Commission chooses to do so.

Merry asked if the outreach committee would also focus on the general public.

Englehardt confirmed that it would.

Jenson stated that the Chair has the ability to form a committee with consensus.

Hamer noted that similar efforts have been tried before but it was difficult to generate interest, and he asked for volunteers.

A resident and Farm Bureau member said they had many questions and asked if there could be a way to track projects for accountability.

Jenson asked how long it had been since they last received a response.

The resident replied that it had been one year.

Daniel Klausner stated that Ad Hoc members must be committee members and less than a quorum.

A resident shared their opinion on creating plans within an Ad Hoc.

Merry asked about the timeframe for posting recordings.

Jenson said he would follow up with the consultant responsible for posting recordings.

Englehardt asked if grant funds expiring in March could be used for the outreach group.

Jenson said more assistance is needed to engage water districts.

Englehardt noted it would be helpful to find ways to increase the GSA's public visibility.

Hamer revisited County Counsel's question about whether the group should be an Ad Hoc,

standing committee, or working group.

Klausner explained that if the outreach is for a specific task, an Ad Hoc is appropriate, but if it is broader or ongoing, a standing committee would be more suitable.

Jenson recommended starting with an Ad Hoc and transitioning to a standing committee if it proves effective.

Hamer agreed, stating they would form an Ad Hoc, noted that Adam and Liz volunteered, and asked for additional participants.

Klausner stated that only two members are needed at minimum.

Hamer confirmed they would proceed with the two volunteers.

Ward asked about grant status and whether documentation from GDE and recharge feasibility would be available.

Jenson provided an update on the expected documentation.

6. Commission Matters

Merry commented that she wanted to talk about meeting in March.

Jenson confirmed he would be there for that meeting.

7. Adjourn

9:19 AM