

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, March 25, 2026 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.**
- 2. Public Comment.**
- 3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the January 28, 2026 meeting.**
(See attachment # 3)
- 4. Update on the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Project.**
- 5. Board of Directors reports.**
- 6. Adjournment to Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary (760) 937-1496 or gmb29515@gmail.com . Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the TVGMD to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (See 42 USCS 12132, 28CFR 35.130).

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

Attachment #3

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Meeting of January 28, 2026 6:30 P.M.
Chalfant Community Center**

Chairperson Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The meeting was held in person.

Roll Call:

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

Directors Absent: Doonan.

Advisory Board (A.B.) present: Bill Cook (late).

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance: Assistant County Counsel (A.C.C.) Emily Fox.

1. Advisory Board.

A. Report.

None.

2. Public Comment.

Betsy McDonald (Chalfant) - I wanted to let the Board know and others know, that Janet Barth, one of our past Advisory Board members, is in Reno at Renown on life support. Yeah, after suffering a stroke while driving, and it's not clear whether she will recover. I want to take a moment to honor her work, because she's been on the Advisory Board here. She would come to every Advisory Board meeting and most of the Board meetings as the Benton representative. She would print out our newsletter on her own dime, so that people in Benton without internet could get information about the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District. JB has worked not just for the health of our Tri-Valley, but for so many other places throughout the Eastern Sierra, and not just for our generation, but for the generations to come. So this shocking news about JB is another reminder that we as humans are impermanent. We are here for a short while. It's important to take care of this planet and particularly the water of this planet, which the Tri-Valley Board is charged with preserving here in our little beautiful part of this earth. Like all life, we are nothing without water. Our bodies are about 60% water. Much of our culture has come to think of water as a commodity, but the reality is that water is sacred. It's a shared resource that's in danger all over this planet. I know that JB would agree that water is shared not just by humans, but by all life on the planet. Fish Slough is a particularly special place to JB. How can we be good stewards of this unique desert wetland that's home to creatures and plants unique in all the world? Like a spring snail that's been here since the last ice age. The endangered Owens Valley pupfish, the Fish Slough milk vetch and more. The Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District is charged with preserving water in your district, in our district, and that includes the springs of Fish Slough, one of which is now periodically not flowing. I call on the Tri-Valley Board to request an update on the water status of Fish Slough from the Fish and Wildlife Service. And Rhonda, I think Mono County Board of Supervisors would be another good place for this update. Thank you. I'm a resident of Chalfant and I care about my well and the wells of our neighbors. And I care about the farming and ranching community too. But honestly, I'm more concerned about the next generations of residents and producers and about the future of Fish Slough. We are only here for a moment in time. And that comes to, you know, it comes into your heart when you have loss like this, you know, and we've, our family has experienced a lot of loss this year and it becomes more and more clear that we are just a speck here. Please keep JB in your thoughts and prayers. If we're lucky, she will return and continue to do the work of protecting vulnerable places and waters. And if not, my resolve is to continue this work in her honor. So thank you very much for your time.

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Chairperson Allen added that he had heard about the accident that Janet was in but had not had a confirmation of the name of the person involved. He asked for a moment of silence for Janet.

Joseph Saulque (Benton) - When I was a little baby on that property up there on the end of the hill, on the end of the valley with the trees around up there. That's a public domain Indian allotment. And when I was a little guy, I got a picture of me sitting next to a little creek that was running the water down along from the spring that was up above. But that spring has dried up. And that's not because of farmers, or anybody else, that's because of the climate. And that's because there's not enough water coming down that canyon or whatever in the underground aquifers or underground streams to provide water to come out of that spring. There's still water underground. We go up there and test it. You can see there's water in certain places. But we'd have to put a well down to get the water. The lower spring still has water coming out of it. But I just want to make a comment that at one time there was sufficient water that those springs were running. Now there isn't and that's not because of over usage of the groundwater down here. That's something else up above.

It was added that the springs Joseph is referring to are above Chalfant at about 5500 feet elevation.

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

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Rhodes.

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

Nayes – none.

Abstain – Director Parkinson (was absent)

Absent – Director Doonan.

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

After some discussion, it was decided to leave the seats as they are, extending the rotation for another 2 years. This would leave Greg Allen as Chairperson, Don Moss as Vice-chairperson, and Geri Bassett as Secretary/Treasurer.

The motion was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Mitchell.

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

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director Doonan.

Note – per the Rules of the TVGMD Board, Chapter 1, 106A, the seat elections still need to be done annually at the first meeting of each year. Officers serve a one-year term and may be reelected.

5. Brown Act review presentation.

M.C. A.C.C. Emily Fox gave a refresher/update on the Brown Act. SB 707 is new. AB 2449 has been modified. ADA accommodation information is now required to be on each agenda.

See attached slide presentation.

Betsy McDonald mentioned that the agenda is not necessarily being emailed consistently to the people that have signed up on the M.C. TVGMD web page to receive it.

Discussion included that some people are not getting it and some are getting it twice. Director Duggan mentioned that M.C. is revising some of their email groups via new software. She and Chairperson Allen suggested that those not getting the emails should go back to the web page and sign up again. Director Duggan will follow up on this issue and let Queenie Barnard, Clerk of the Board, know about the issue.

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6. Board of Directors reports.

Director Rhodes mentioned that he is still working on the “newsletter” email address group; making some progress but still needs some troubleshooting.

Director Bassett reported that:

- Director Allen and she took a reading on the Benton monitoring well on January 14, 2026. The reading was 130.94 feet; up 6.48” from October 15, 2025 and down 1.08” from January 9, 2025.
- Director Mitchell and she took a reading on the Chalfant monitoring well on January 16, 2026. The reading was 70.61 feet; up 7.08” from October 17, 2025 and up 6.0” from January 10, 2025.
- We our due for our Sexual Harassment and Ethics Trainings. She is still waiting for information on those trainings from Clerk/Recorder/Registrar Queenie Barnard and will send it out to the Boards when she receives it.
Director Duggan added that she believes the new provider for the trainings is supposed to be set up around April (of this year).
The trainings are required for the Board and the Advisory Board.
- Gina Barsi’s term on the Advisory Board is expired and Jarret Phillips’ term will be expired on Feb. 26, 2026. The Advisory Board needs to meet to decide if the terms should be extended for another year and to request that the item be put on the Board’s agenda if they are to be extended. The Board would approve or deny the extension.
- Form 700 filing notification emails have been sent out. This is for the 2025 year. The deadline to file is April 1, 2026.

7. Adjournment to Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Community Center.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Moss.

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

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director Doonan.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

**The next regular meeting is Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Benton Community Center.**

Geri Bassett, Secretary, TVGMD