



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 17, 2026, Convenes at 2:00 p.m.

<http://www.portervilleid.org> / PIDGSA@ocsnet.net

22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257

Web Meeting Attendance Available for Interested Parties:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84319138554>

Meeting ID: 843 1913 8554

Passcode: Hu9n5p

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AGENDA

Action items are listed in **bold**.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call, Flag Salute

All items on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may consider agenda items in any order. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Porterville Irrigation District, 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257, during regular business hours.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to provide comments at the time the Board considers the item. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes, or at the Chairman's discretion. At all times, please state your name for the record.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Notice from the State Water Board Regarding GEARS Reporting Annual Fee Invoice Mailing for Tule Subbasin.
- b. Status of Extraction Fee Billing
- c. Status of PID GSP Review

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Consideration and Approval of August 20, 2026, GSA Board Meeting Minutes (Action).**

5. ADMINISTRATION

- a. No Items for Discussion.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- a. Provide a report to Board Members on meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress.

7. CLOSED SESSION:

- 1. **Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.**

8. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

- a. Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 may request that the PIDGSA provide a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in any public meeting. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the GSA. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, facsimile, or written correspondence to the General Manager of the Porterville Irrigation District GSA at (559) 782-6321, at least 48 hours before a public meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Staff Report to the Porterville Irrigation District GSA Board of Directors

Subject: CONSENT CALENDAR / Consideration and approval of August 20, 2026, GSA Board Minutes (Action).

Submitted By: General Manager

The logo for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) features the letters "GSA" in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below "GSA", the words "GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue background. Above the blue background, there is a green area with a pattern of radiating lines, suggesting a sun or a stylized landscape.

President Eric Borba called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Flag salute: Michael Knight

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Borba opened the floor for public comment on matters not appearing on the agenda. Staff advised that comments concerning the proposed groundwater extraction fee would be received during the scheduled public hearing.

No public comments were received.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Notice from the State Water Board Regarding GEARS Reporting Annual Fee Invoice Mailing for Tule Subbasin.

The GSA General Manager provided an update regarding Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS) annual fee invoices being mailed by the State Water Resources Control Board beginning August 6, 2026.

Staff advised that questions had arisen regarding reported groundwater extraction that may have included extraction of previously recharged surface water. The State Water Board had acknowledged a petition-for-reconsideration process for groundwater users who believed their reported extraction or resulting invoice was inaccurate.

Affected groundwater users generally have 30 days from receipt of their invoice to submit a petition for reconsideration. Staff reported that PID GSA has begun assisting groundwater users with questions about invoices and the petition process and encouraged affected individuals to contact the District office for assistance.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration and Approval of August 11, 2026, GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes (Action).

The Board considered approval of the August 11, 2026, GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Motion by Director McCowan, seconded by Vice President Gisler, to approve the August 11, 2026, GSA Special Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried without opposition.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Staff Report on Groundwater Extraction Fee

The GSA General Manager presented the staff report on establishing a groundwater extraction fee to fund PID GSA operations and implementation of the Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Staff explained that PID GSA is responsible for implementing SGMA and groundwater sustainability activities within its jurisdiction, including GSA administration, groundwater monitoring and accounting, technical analysis, compliance and enforcement, professional services, data management, public outreach, and implementation of groundwater sustainability programs.

Staff reported that the proposed 2026 PID GSA budget identified approximately \$785,343 in anticipated GSA operational and groundwater sustainability costs.

To calculate the proposed fee, PID GSA identified approximately 15,500 acres and a Native Sustainable Yield allocation of 0.15 acre-foot per acre, resulting in approximately 2,325 acre-feet of Native Sustainable Yield.

The proposed fee was calculated as follows:
 $\$785,343 \div 2,325 \text{ acre-feet} = \$337.78 \text{ per acre-foot}$

Applied to the Native Sustainable Yield allocation:
 $1 \text{ acre} \times 0.15 \text{ AF/acre} \times \$337.78/\text{AF} = \$50.67 \text{ per acre}$

Staff explained that fee revenues would be restricted to reasonable and necessary PID GSA groundwater-management and SGMA implementation costs.

Staff further reported that approximately 417 notices had been mailed to property owners within the District at least 45 days prior to the hearing. Staff also published notice in the Porterville Recorder on July 24 and August 7, 2026, and made supporting budget and rate information available for public review.

Staff explained that the Board would receive oral testimony and timely written protests. Following closure of the public hearing, written protests would be tabulated. If a majority protest existed, the Board could not impose the proposed fee. If no majority protest existed, the Board could consider adopting a resolution establishing the fee.

- b. Public Hearing on Groundwater Extraction Fee. Written protests by individuals will be accepted up until the end of the Hearing. Protests submitted after the Hearing has concluded will not be considered.

President Borba opened the duly noticed public hearing regarding the proposed PID GSA groundwater extraction fee at 2:10 p.m.

Members of the public had an opportunity to address the Board regarding the proposed fee, and the Board received written protests submitted in accordance with the Proposition 218 process for consideration.

The Board received public testimony and discussed the proposed groundwater extraction

fee, the basis for the fee calculation, PID GSA operating costs, groundwater accounting, and SGMA implementation within the PID GSA.

The Board invited any remaining written protests before closing the public hearing.

Hearing no additional testimony and after providing a final opportunity to submit written protests, President Borba closed the public hearing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The Board recessed briefly to allow staff to complete the protest tabulation.

c. Close Public Hearing, report on Status of Written Protest.

Following the recess, President Borba called the meeting back to order at 2:45 p.m.

Staff reported that, of approximately 15,500 acres subject to the proposed fee, written protests had been received representing 13 Assessor's Parcel Numbers totaling 65.43 acres.

Staff determined that the protests did not constitute a majority protest. Accordingly, the Board was authorized to consider adoption of the proposed groundwater extraction fee.

d. Consider Approval of Draft Resolution 2026-08-01, setting Groundwater Extraction Fee (Action).

Following completion of the public hearing and protest-tabulation process, staff recommended that the Board consider adoption of Resolution No. 2026-08-01, establishing the PID GSA groundwater extraction fee.

The fee was established at \$337.78 per acre-foot, applied to the Native Sustainable Yield allocation of 0.15 AF/acre, resulting in an annual equivalent charge of approximately \$50.67 per acre.

Action: Motion by Director McCowan, seconded by Vice President Gisler, to approve Resolution No. 2026-08-01, establishing the PID GSA groundwater extraction fee as presented. Motion carried without opposition.

6. ADMINISTRATION

a. No Items for Discussion.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a. Provide a report to Committee Members on meetings conducted to facilitate the Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA efforts and progress.

The GSA General Manager provided an update regarding ongoing Tule Subbasin Multi-GSA coordination and development of the single Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Staff reported that work continued on the Basin Setting and integrated surface-water information, including analysis of sustainable yield and updates to Basin Setting figures. The updated Basin Setting information was anticipated to be available by the end of the month.

Staff also reported continued progress on Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). Staff identified approximately 138 projects throughout the Tule Subbasin. The consultant team compiled and organized the project information, identified data gaps, and found opportunities to consolidate individual GSA projects.

Work also continued on development of the Tule Subbasin land-subsidence framework, including model calibration, monitoring-network evaluation, critical-infrastructure information, subsidence tolerances, aquifer layering, and development of additional modeling scenarios.

The Board discussed ongoing technical and policy issues associated with protection of the Friant-Kern Canal and the potential State Water Board Interim Plan. Staff reported that the Tule Subbasin GSAs continued working cooperatively to develop a locally managed alternative to a potential State-imposed groundwater pumping moratorium.

Discussion included the need for technically defensible information regarding groundwater pumping, aquifer depth, critical-head elevations, land subsidence, sustainable yield, and the extraction of previously recharged surface water.

The Board expressed concern regarding a potential zero-pumping requirement or blanket pumping moratorium and emphasized the importance of distinguishing groundwater conditions within PID GSA from conditions elsewhere in the Tule Subbasin.

Particular discussion focused on PID's comparatively shallow groundwater conditions, well depths, historical groundwater levels, surface-water supplies, and groundwater recharge activities. The Board emphasized that any management program should recognize and appropriately account for the extraction of legally stored or recharged surface water.

The Board also discussed the need for additional technical information regarding the distinction between upper and lower aquifers and the relationship between pumping depth and land subsidence. Staff was directed to develop technical questions for the District's hydrogeologic consultant regarding aquifer conditions, critical head, allowable pumping, recharge-water recovery, and the technical basis for potential pumping restrictions.

Staff reported that groundwater-level information and well-construction data were being compiled and provided to the District's consultants to improve the technical understanding of conditions within PID GSA.

The Board further discussed the importance of ensuring that PID-specific groundwater, well, recharge, and surface-water information is accurately incorporated into Tule Subbasin technical analyses before management decisions are made.

No formal action was taken under this item.

8. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board did not convene into or adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to:

1. Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.

9. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

1. Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation: One (1) case.

- a. Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

There was no reportable action pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting of the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Borba adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Knight, GSA General Manager