PORTERVILLE
IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GSA
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 5, 2026, Convenes at 10:00 a.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
One tap mobile
+16694449171,,6707587901#,,,,*478530# US
+17207072699,,6707587901#,,,,*478530# US

----------**AGENDA**----------

Action items are listed in **bold**.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Roll Call
   Flag Salute

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 Committee at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to provide comments at the time the Committee considers the item. Any person addressing the Committee 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.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Consider Approval of October 1, 2026, Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes (Action).

5. POLICY DISCUSSION

a. Committee Discussion on Timing of Extraction Bill for 2025/2026 Due Date.

b. Committee Discussion on Proposed Components of a Friant Kern Canal Management Plan - Mandatory Metering.

6. REPORTS

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

7. OTHER MATTERS

a. Future discussion items.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. Next Regular Stakeholder Committee Meeting - **Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 may request the PIDGSA to provide a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in any public meeting. This assistance includes suitable alternative formats for agendas and agenda packets used in public meetings of the GSA Committee. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and packets should be made in person, by phone, fax, 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.

Agenda Item 4.a

CONSENT CALENDAR

Staff Report to the Porterville Irrigation District GSA Stakeholder Committee

Subject: CONSENT CALENDAR / Consider Approval of October 1, 2026, Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes (Action).

Submitted By: General Manager

MINUTES OF THE
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 1, 2026

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on October 1, 2026, at the Porterville Irrigation District Board Room, Chairman Brett McCowan called to order the meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("PIDGSA"). The meeting was also conducted remotely for members of the public.

Members Present:	Brett McCowan		Jason Guthrie
	Matt Kidder		Adam Mendoza
	Nick Gatti		Brandon Sargent
	Michael DePaoli		Bill Wallace
	Blake Wallace		Seth Bowser
	Terry Schuler		
Members Absent:	Dyson Schneider	David Payne	Michael George
	Robert Alvarez		
Others Present:	Michael Knight, *GSA Manager*		
	Sean Geivet, *District Manager*		
	Jeff Row, *District Secretary-Treasurer*		
	List of signed-in attendees:		

1. CALL TO ORDER

   Chairman Brett McCowan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
   Flag salute, Michael Knight.

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2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brett McCowan opened the floor for public comments.

Public comments addressed the potential effects of pumping restrictions near the Friant-Kern Canal on agricultural production, employment, land values, and the local economy. Commenters requested greater consideration of economic impacts and clearer information about Subbasin coordination and proposed restrictions.

A participant described a tool that uses well completion reports and artificial intelligence to map subsurface geology and help distinguish upper and lower aquifers. The Chairman deferred broader discussion of coordination efforts to the report items. No action was taken.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The GSA Manager reported receiving notice of the upcoming GEARS reporting cycle and a managers' webinar expected in mid-October. Staff understood that the upcoming reporting deadline would be February 1 rather than May. Additional notices and outreach information would be distributed when available.

b. Status of Extraction Fee

Staff anticipated mailing the annual extraction fee bills in mid-October, after reviewing parcel information and differences between the irrigation district and GSA boundaries. In response to questions about future billing, staff discussed an April–May timeframe following budget review. A Committee member requested a consistent year-end billing schedule. Staff explained that the fee was annual, that no specific billing date had been established, and agreed to review scheduling considering financial needs. No billing schedule change was approved.

No formal action was taken.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Consider Approval of June 4, 2026, Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes

The Committee considered approval of the June 4, 2026, Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action:
Stakeholder Committee Member Seth Bowser made a motion, seconded by Stakeholder Committee Member Jason Guthrie, to approve the June 4, 2026, Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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5. POLICY DISCUSSION

a. Committee Discussion on Draft Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The GSA Manager reviewed the purpose and status of PID GSA's Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The District continued preparing its individual plan while participating in the Tule Subbasin effort to develop a single GSP for multiple GSAs. Staff described the PID plan as a current framework documenting local management efforts, with components intended for incorporation into the unified plan. Technical studies, groundwater accounting, subsidence management, and well mitigation work remained in progress.

There was a request to clarify the water budget, including subsurface inflows and outflows and how banked water is treated. The discussion addressed differences between earlier and current budget presentations and whether future recovery or export of banked water was adequately reflected. Staff agreed to review the issue with the consultant and provide clarification rather than assume that the accounting was complete or incorrect.

The Committee also requested a more complete map of recharge facilities, including landowner basins and banking operations. Staff discussed the need to collect locations and other supporting information and agreed to review improvements to the graphic so that it more fully represents recharge activities.

The Committee reviewed subsidence mapping and discussed differences north and south of the Tule River. Staff distinguished the broader restrictions the State is considering from more geographically focused local proposals. The Committee discussed well depth, aquifer characteristics, groundwater levels, and critical head as information needed to support management decisions. Staff emphasized that technical evaluations and proposed management boundaries were still under review.

Staff reported continued well registration outreach and review of County records and driller's logs to improve the well inventory and identify aquifer conditions. The ongoing effort identified approximately 380 wells. Staff stated that no well registration penalty had been established and that voluntary compliance was progressing.

During the discussion, a remote participant described a method of organizing and evaluating well logs to correlate clay layers and other subsurface features. Chairman McCowan requested coordination of a future presentation at a GSA or District Board meeting for a broader audience.

There was also a request to clarify how City of Porterville pumping, imported surface water, recharge, and return flows were represented in the water budget. Discussion

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highlighted differences between District and GSA boundaries. Staff agreed to verify the accounting with the consultant and correct any identified inconsistencies.

Staff also discussed questions concerning critical head, groundwater-level minimum thresholds, and potential pumping caps. Staff were still evaluating critical head values.

The Chairman and staff emphasized that the recharge recovery percentages and annual caps circulating in discussions were concepts rather than adopted requirements and reiterated the importance of recognizing stored surface water and protecting its recovery.

The GSA Manager asked whether the Committee had concerns with advancing the GSP to the Board for consideration, subject to addressing comments. Committee Member Bill Wallace stated that he could not recommend approval without clarification of the issues he raised.

Staff acknowledged that position and agreed to present the concerns to the Board and work with the consultant on responses. The Chairman encouraged additional comments, with section references or marked excerpts, as soon as possible before the upcoming Board meeting. No formal action was taken on this item.

b. Committee Discussion on Proposed Components of a Friant Kern Canal Management Plan.

The GSA Manager requested input on mandatory well metering and a pumping-based accounting methodology as potential components of a local canal management plan. Staff explained that well-specific pumping data, combined with registration and well construction information, could support technical analysis, management zones, and an alternative to broad pumping restrictions.

Committee Member Bill Wallace expressed a preference for evapotranspiration (ET) accounting and raised concerns that metered pumping alone could overstate consumptive use during frost protection or other applications that result in return flow. Discussion addressed irrigation efficiency and the distinction between pumping from deeper aquifers and return flows that may remain in shallower zones.

Participants discussed alternatives including metering based on well depth or management zone, meter reading responsibilities, and using meter data together with ET. Staff reported discussions with Basinsafe concerning a possible combined methodology using metered extraction and ET-based crop demand to evaluate efficiency and return flows. Staff emphasized that this approach remained conceptual and required further development. The Committee did not recommend a mandatory metering policy, accounting change, or pumping cap, and did not formally recommend one.

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6. REPORTS

a. Report out to the Stakeholder Committee discussion from August 6, 2026 (We did not have a quorum).

The GSA Manager reported on the August 6 discussion, which occurred without a quorum. Topics included amendments to the Rules and Regulations to incorporate de minimis users into groundwater accounting and change precipitation accounting from a rolling-average allocation to actual precipitation credited for the applicable period. Staff reported that Basinsafe had been adjusted to support actual precipitation accounting. No action was taken on this report.

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

The GSA Manager summarized September coordination meetings and the written report provided in the agenda packet. Topics included the unified GSP, sustainable-yield and allocation definitions, well inventory and aquifer data, groundwater modeling, projects and management actions, domestic well mitigation, groundwater quality, consultant budgets, and the Friant-Kern Canal urgency plan.

Staff reported that updated groundwater-flow model results were expected in late October or early November and would support forecasted water budgets, pumping scenarios, sustainable management criteria, and critical head analysis. Additional subsidence study work would continue into the following year. Staff presented the domestic well and water quality mitigation proposal to State Water Board staff on September 30, with feedback pending.

Staff described the goal of developing a local urgency plan before the State's anticipated January release of a draft Phase One interim plan, with potential State implementation in the spring. PID's ongoing concerns included recognizing surface water recharge and recovery and opposing a fixed annual recharge recovery cap. Staff identified model completion, technical criteria, mitigation feedback, and timely development of the canal management approach as the principal outstanding tasks. No action was taken.

7. OTHER MATTERS

a. Future discussion items.

No additional matters were raised under this item. Follow-up identified during the meeting included consultant responses to GSP comments, improvements to recharge mapping, continued evaluation of metering and accounting methods, and coordination of a well-log mapping presentation.

No formal action was taken.

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8. NEXT MEETING DATE

   a. Next Regular Stakeholder Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

   There being no further business before the Stakeholder Committee, Chairman Brett McCowan adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Knight, GSA General Manager

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