

January 21, 2026

The Stakeholders Committee of the Saucelito Irrigation District GSA met on this day in a regular session. The office is located at 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kisling called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ATTENDANCE

STAKEHOLDERS MEMBERS

Present:

Parker Rous

Joan Whelan

Mike George

Nick Gatti

David Evans

James Jongsma

ZOOM:

STAKEHOLDERS MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Margaret Orandi, Lukas Kisling, Nader Malaken

GSA DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Steven Kisling - Chair

GSA DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Mark Merritt – Vice Chair

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sean P. Geivet, General Manager

Nick Keller – Engineer

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer

Terren L. Brown – Assistant General Manager, GSA

GUEST:

Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches

Adam Mendoza – Full Circle Farming

AGENDA – The Manager reported that the agenda is in order and has been posted as required.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Chair Kisling opened the public comment by asking if anyone from the public wished to comment. With no public input, Chair Kisling stated that if there are no further comments, we will move on to minutes. David Evans offered comments regarding the district's GSA and the breakup of the old ETGSA, and pointed out how his business plan changed as a result of most of the land being in the subsidence zone. Evans also wanted to encourage the representative on the Tule Basin Committee to solve a problem based on scientific data.

MINUTES – Chair Kisling asked whether everyone had read the minutes from the first meeting and invited a motion to approve them.

M/S/U, George, Rous – to approve the minutes from the stakeholders meeting held on November 11, 2025, with a spelling correction.

AYE: George, Jongsma, Rous, Whelan, Evans, Gatti

NAY: None

ABSENT: L. Kisling, Orandi, Malaken,

POLICY ISSUES –

WELL MONITORING PROGRAM – Chair Kisling requested that Marisol deliver a presentation to the Stakeholders Committee findings related to grower-owned meters installed on wells within the District. The provided packet included several handouts covering Seametrics and McCrometer meters, options and costs for battery replacement, and calibration procedures. Marisol reviewed the Seametrics meter, noting that it features five different screens through which growers might have reported usage; moving forward, forward flow will be used as the standard measurement of usage. It is important to note that the Seametrics AG 2000 model is no longer in production and replacement parts are unavailable, so it must be replaced if it fails. Additionally, there are inconsistencies among meters in displaying readings in gallons per minute and acre-feet for total delivery. The Manager denoted that the program is in its early stages and may require the implementation of a fee to support the battery replacement initiative. The Manager also suggested that district staff conduct monthly well meter readings to verify both well activity and meter functionality. Participation in the District's well monitoring program does not exempt growers from State Board reporting requirements, including well, meter reading, or ET extraction data. The Subbasin is required to submit a report to the State Board by April.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW SECTIONS OF GSP FROM L & S – The Manager reported that the district water budget is now available online in a shared file and is currently under review. It is the same water budget that was submitted to the State Board to support the district's request to end probation status. Information from L & S will be made available at next month's Stakeholders meeting. Keller and Geivet are holding weekly meetings with L & S.

Due to time constraints, L & S was unable to complete a comprehensive water budget for this year's allocation; therefore, the district opted to use the 4-Creeks water budget based on the Thomas Harder & Company Report for the Tule Subbasin for one year. Once L & S finalizes the water budget, it may incorporate a different methodology. The Manager will distribute the budget to stakeholders by the end of this week. Further discussion followed.

4-CREEKS TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM – 2026 ALLOCATION ET vs. PUMP EXTRACTION

The relevant documents were included in the packet, which contained Thomas Harder & Company's proposed scope of work and cost estimate for hydrogeological services in the Tule Subbasin for calendar year 2026. These documents were made available for review by the Stakeholders. Keller noted that an update to the subbasin-wide model is required. The Manager provided an overview of the information from 4-Creeks to the Stakeholders and described the two extraction methods available for growers to utilize during the GSA water year. The Board declared its intention to implement the 4-Creeks Water budget for this year, provided by technical data provided by Thomas Harder & Company pertaining to the Tule Subbasin.

RULES & REGULATIONS - Chair Kisling noted a recent change specifies that precipitation cannot be relocated. Keller explained that the State Board has informed several GSAs that only native yield is transferable; precipitation remains stationary. The Manager explained that the Rules and Regulations are currently evolving as the GSA and GSP processes progress.

Additionally, the Water Policy Rules and Regulations contain pertinent information regarding the GSA.

GSA BUDGET - Chair Kisling pointed out the need to establish a GSA Budget. Management stated the GSA costs are being covered by District reserves and will need to be replaced.

1. GSA extraction fee.
2. 218 elections for the GSA.

The Manager stated a need to work on a GSA budget, possibly a land-based fee, or extraction fee for next month. Stakeholders on budget. For next month's meeting.

LAND FALLOW PROGRAM – Chair Kisling stated the SID GSA needs to brainstorm as to what a Land Fallow Program would look like. The Stakeholders were given several examples of land-fallowing programs to review, some of which required a funding source, others took a different approach. The Manager wants to establish a land-fallowing program. Discussion ensued.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE: Chair Kisling is attending the meetings and representing the SID GSA at the Tule Basin meeting.

Budget meeting and land fallow meeting with staff. Before the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE – The next Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Kisling adjourned the meeting at 10:34 AM.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary