

October 15, 2025

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

Nick Gatti

ZOOM:

David Evans

Lukas Kisling

James Jongsma

Mike George

STAKEHOLDERS MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Nader Malakan, Margaret Orandi

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

Elijah Merritt – Merritt Farms

ZOOM:

Doug Jackson – Water and Land Solutions

Michael Knight – PID GSA Manager

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 announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

MINUTES - Chair Kisling asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the first stakeholders committee meeting and would entertain a motion for approval.

M/S/U, George, Gatti – to approve the minutes from the stakeholders meeting held on September 24, 2025.

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

NAY: None
ABSENT: Malakan, Orandi

POLICY ISSUES -

TRANSITIONAL PUMPING CREDITS IN SID GSA: The purpose is to assess whether the transitional pumping credits accumulated thus far should be allocated to SID GSA accounts. Manager Geivet advised against transferring these transitional pumping credits to SID GSA. Discussion followed

Chair Kisling asked for a consensus from the Stakeholders committee members and began the discussion around the table. Parker stated he was not in favor of eliminating all transitional pumping credits; he believed there should be limits on the number of credits in any one year, with a limit to when they would expire, possibly in 2029.

Manager Geivet stated the district has recharge credit in its account that could be allocated out to growers in lieu of allowing Transitional pumping credits.

Steve raised the question of whether the growers should assume the additional responsibility of modifying their water priorities or if this should rest with the district. It was determined that the district will assume this responsibility. Manager Geivet recommended that water use priorities be established in the following order: rainfall, native yield, surface water, and finally recharge or groundwater credits. Surface water and recharge are categorized as landowner groundwater credits.

Mike George asked about hydrology in the subbasin. What is sustainable pumping alone? What is the idea of no pumping in a certain area?

Nick Keller spoke on the Measurable Objective (MO) and Minimum Threshold (MT), and mentioned that one can't pump from below the MT.

Lucas Kisling asked about transitional pumping and growers replacing it due to overuse by back-filling. In wet years, when we are recharging, we still get charged a small amount of ET on our basins.

Nick Keller stated that growers will not be able to recharge until water is replaced.

Discussion around whether 1 acre foot of Transitional pumping is allowed, and if so, when it would expire.

Sean informed the committee that LTRID is discontinuing its transitional pumping. Additionally, Porterville ID and Terra Bella ID have voted to eliminate their transitional water allocations.

Question: Mike George: What are the legal implications if we permit transitional pumping?

Sean: For a period of three years, while the transitional water remains available, we would be unable to take legal action. After this transitional period ends and the water is depleted, we could then pursue legal action to demonstrate we are sustainable.

David Evans emphasized the importance of water recharge during available years and detailed how his organization has reduced its farm operations to reserve water for dry periods and enable recharge in wetter years. His proposal to extract water from the canal using a siphon

system is currently pending approval. Additionally, he has offered 50 acres of land for the district's use in water recharge efforts.

Sean Geivet stated we need a policy to replace water lost due to over-pumping and to recharge on behalf of everyone.

Nick Keller explained the process of how water flows within the canal and described the process of coloring up to Class 1 water usage to satisfy irrigation requirements, as well as the resulting discontinuation of recharge when water is colored up. In 2023, the district effectively utilized its entire allocation of Class 2 water, which had never been done previously. The development of the new canal districts south of SID has enhanced their capacity to use more of their supply, thereby reducing available space in the canal for SID to access 215 water and other allocations when they are offered. Although SID has contributed financially to the canal, it currently receives reduced capacity. The district still requires four pumping stations on the new canal, which will allow increased head pressure for both pumped and gravity-fed lines.

The committee discussed how growers who have done the right thing should not be penalized for growers who have not put in a recharge basin.

Chair Kisling wanted to recap the differences between the program options.

1. Sustainable water allocation and to add one acre-foot of recharge water from SID's supply.
2. Sustainable water allocation: One acre-foot of SID recharge water will be allotted to the grower, along with one acre-foot of replacement supply. The replacement supply would be valid for three years in total, not per year. An additional fee of \$500.00 will apply if used along with any additional costs to replenish. This water may be accessed only after all other sources have been exhausted and must be used before it expires in 2028.

Chair Kisling stated that the hard truth is that we have to be sustainable. Kisling asked for a motion as to which option the stakeholders would adopt.

M/S/U, P. Rous, L. Kisling – to adopt options 2.

AYE: Evans, Gatti, George, Jongsma, Kisling, Rous, Whelan
NAY: None
ABSENT: Malakan, Orandi

Chair Kisling asked about other items for the next meeting. Stakeholders should have parts of the GSP to review, and the Coordination agreement needs to be updated and signed.

NEXT MEETING DATE – The next Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Kisling adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary