

September 24, 2025

The Stakeholders Committee of the Saucelito Irrigation District GSA met 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                      Lukas Kisling  
Joan Whelan                      James Jongsma  
Nick Gatti                      Mike George  
David Evans  
ZOOM: Margaret Orandi

STAKEHOLDERS MEMBERS ABSENT: Nader Malakan

GSA DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steven Kisling - Chair                      Mark Merritt – Vice Chair  
GSA DIRECTORS ABSENT: None  
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, General Manager  
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney  
Nick Keller – Engineer  
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Terren L. Brown - Foreman

GUEST:  
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches  
Adam Mendoza – Full Circle Farming  
Seath Merritt – Merritt Farms  
ZOOM: Doug Jackson – Water and Land Solutions  
Robin Smith -  
Lisa Hansen McEwen –  
Elijah Merritt – Merritt Farms

**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, Jongsma, George – to approve the minutes from the stakeholders meeting held on August 19, 2025.

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

**WELCOME STAKEHOLDERS** - Chair Kisling welcomed the stakeholders committee and thanked them for taking the time to serve. Chair Kisling emphasized the necessity of the Stakeholders committee and noted their recommendations will go to the GSA Board for final approval. Chair Kisling asked each member of the Committee to introduce themselves to the group.

Members were given a copy of the approved Bylaws for the Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

## **POLICY ISSUES –**

**TRANSITIONAL PUMPING CREDITS IN SID GSA –** The goal is to decide whether or not to bring across the transitional pumping credits to date.

Manager Geivet's recommendation is not to allow any Tier 1 Transitional pumping credit to move from ETGSA to SID GSA. Currently, there is over 60,000 acre-feet, which equals more than 3 acre-feet per acre of Tier 1 credit in ETGSA allocated to SID growers. The Manager foresees two options: 1. Growers with Tier 1 should consider using Tier 1 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter consumption prior to November 14, which would allow them to not use surface water and recharge credits, which can be moved to SID GSA. 2. Growers should consider moving Tier 1 credits to their white area lands or to other white area growers. This recommendation could be the best solution for the SID GSA to get its GSP approved. Discussion ensued.

It was recommended that a notice be sent to SID growers ahead of the ETGSA 4th quarter ET consumption, informing growers with Tier 1 Transitional water that they may want to use or transfer to other white area lands prior to November 14, 2025.

Growers in the land subsidence management area stated that the ETGSA would not allow them to use Tier 1 until they had used up other water allocations in their account. The Manager stated that we need to check on Tier 1 Transitional pumping credits usage for growers in the land subsidence area.

Chair Kisling stated that currently, there is 612 acre-feet of Tier 1 transitional water that was prepurchased, which is an item that needs to be addressed on how to handle it.

Chair Kisling expressed his thanks to the stakeholders for their time to serve on the committee and reported that the GSA Board accepted their recommendation and adopted the rules and regulations as recommended, with both ET or Groundwater extraction.

The discussion continued regarding how growers would farm without transitional pumping credit.

How much water will farmers be able to use for farming? Irrigation, Recharge, ET, or Groundwater Extraction.

The Manager stated that Growers will need to maximize recharge water when available to add to their accounts for dry years. Growers need to consider installing their own recharge basins on their property to utilize as much water as possible when available. Growers may need to reduce the total number of farmable acres to have enough water and achieve sustainability.

Question about the Tule Basin and how the State Water Boards will be approval of the GSA's GSP. The goal is to become sustainable.

Does the Tule Basin have a Coordination Committee composed of Growers, similar to other subbasins, that makes recommendations to bring the Tule Basin into compliance? An example is Kern Basin.

Discussing what other GSAs within the Tule Basin are allocating and how it will impact the SID GSA?

What impact is the Land Subsidence plan going to have on Growers?

Penalties for overpumping will be \$ 500.00 per acre-foot. Keller explained that any overpumping will be required to be replaced by recharged water back into the ground and will be the first water replenished before any of the SID Growers can begin using recharge water when available.

The Manager said Evans has built Basin in the Land Subsidence area for recharge and is waiting for USBR permit approval to construct over-bank water extraction from the canal. This project has also eliminated pumping from several deep wells in the area that were used to irrigate the land, which is now the basin.

Chair Kisling asked the Stakeholders to review the letter from Full Circle Farming, which has some good ideas as a model for going forward.

The Manager reported that he is having a meeting with Luhdorff and Scalmanini this afternoon and is hopeful of starting to receive sections of the GSP to make available for the Stakeholders committee at the next meeting.

Following all of the discussions and input from the committee members, they agreed to continue the discussion on transitional water until the next meeting. Chair Kisling asked the group if we could go around the table and get a consensus on transitional water.

Three stakeholders agreed not to allow transitional water to move to SID GSA, Four were undecided.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE –**

The next Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kisling adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.

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Diane M. Ennis, Secretary

