

A meeting of the GFWD Board was opened in person and telephonically on August 19, 2024 at 1:33 PM.

PRESENT: In person: Seth Kirk, Paul Stewart, Michael Naito, Diane Kirk, Don Roberts
CALL-IN: Tom Campagne, Garth Pecchenino - QK Consulting, Keasha Blew - QK Consulting
ABSENT: Nick Davis
PUBLIC: None
PUBLIC CALL-IN: None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by P Stewart and a second by M Naito, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 15, 2024 were unanimously approved as emailed.
3. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: No potential conflicts were identified.
4. GSA/GSP (SGMA):
Garth reviewed the attached report
 - (a) See report
 - (b) Coordination Agreement - The Board agreed this approach is best for the basin.
 - (c) Interconnected Surface Water - The Board is concerned about this "new" issue by DWR and what does it mean and how will the "guidance" be interpreted.
 - (d) WaterSmart Grant - Application submitted.
5. PROP "218":
 - (a) See Garth's report - Page 2
 - (b) Don advised a memo dated July 16th was mailed to all landowners and was sent to all growers and interested parties on the email list advising the results of the 2024 Prop "218" Election and Board actions relating thereto.
The District provided a hand-delivered letter on July 23rd to the following Madera County Officers: Assessor, Auditor-Controller, and Tax Collector
 - (c) Don also advised that the District's auditor provided the Auditor-Controller the necessary data for collection of the Stand by Assessments for 2024-2025. Garth advised (also in his report) that QK provided the Auditor-Controller with the necessary data for collection of the 2024-2025 Prop "218" Assessments.
6. WATER SUPPLY 2024: Friant Reservoir is at 275,800 AF, and the Friant users are on a pro-rata allotment for deliveries. The Restoration Target for the GF Recorder is 190 cfs with an actual flow of 203 cfs and the amount at Sach Dam is 100 cfs.
7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE: Don advised that the District's Conflict of Interest Code was revised in 2022. Don recommended that unless there had been statutory action that required changes, no action would be needed.
Upon a motion by P Stewart and a second by D Kirk, the Board voted unanimously to make no changes to the District's conflict of Interest Code in 2024.
Don will provide Madera County with the appropriate notification prior to the October 1, 2024 deadline.
8. WEB SITE: Paul advised that the Board Members and Officers on the Web Site need to be updated. Don will review all the items that may need to be updated and advise our Web Master.

9. DISTRICT'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE MODIFICATION AND ANNEXATION REQUEST:

(a) See Garth's report - Page 2

(b) Don advised that the proponents for this item have requested this item be deferred to the October meeting. They wish to evaluate the District's concerns and see if there are conditions that would be beneficial to all parties.

This item was tabled until the October meeting.

10. MADERA REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP: July Meeting - Items of interest:

- Update on projects
- Aug meeting items include Hidden Lakes Water Storage Tanks Project and YSL Park application to rejoin the group

11. SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING: The September Board meeting scheduled for September 16, 2024. Upon a motion by P Stewart and a second by M Naito the Board voted unanimously to cancel the September 16, 2024 meeting with the stipulation that if items requiring action arise, a special meeting will be scheduled.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT: (a) The Board was presented with a summary of the August 19, 2024 bills, the August 19, 2024 summary of the District's Temporary Investments and the August 2024 Income & Expenses for the year, along with the monthly totals of Temporary Investments for 2022, 2023 and 2024. On a motion by M Naito and a second by P Stewart, the Board voted unanimously to approve payment of the August bills in the amount of \$48,393.04.
(b) Authorization to pay September bills with the September Board meeting being cancelled. After discussion and upon a motion by P Stewart and a second by D Kirk, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the payment of the September bills by the appropriate September 16, 2024 date.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Letter from Bureau of Reclamation on financial accounting of payments from October 1, 2022 to September 20, 2023. The accounting indicates the District is eligible for a refund of surplus water payments up to \$206,000. District will be requesting a refund.

The letter also advised that there would be a delay in receipt of any refund due to the Bureau's change in their financial system

(b) Copy of a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the Friant Water Authority's application to appropriate water from the upper SJ River Watershed in Fresno County. The letter stated that the original application was filed in 2013 and several extensions had been requested. However FWA has yet to provide any response to the SWRCB request for information in 2014. The Board has imposed a 30 day period for FWA to respond.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT: Don advised that the Bureau will be conducting a Contract Compliance Review for the 2023 Water year for Gravelly Ford on August 21, 2024 at the District Office.

15. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting declared adjourned at 2:05 PM by Pres. S Kirk.

With the cancellation of the September 16, 2024 meeting, the next scheduled meeting will be October 21, 2024 at 1:30 PM at O'Neill Farm Management Office. It is anticipated the meeting will be in person attendance with telephone call-in option.



MEMO

Date: August 15, 2024
To: Gravelly Ford WD
From: Garth Pecchenino
Subject: Board meeting - GSA/GSP SGMA
cc: Name or delete

Project No.: 180035

4. GSA/GSP (SGMA)

- a.) We have continued with our Technical Group meetings to set out a schedule and topics for review and discussion on how to best address the comments in the State letter. This again being the main topics; Domestic wells, subsidence, groundwater levels and interconnected surface water.

We have had discussions on subsidence and the water model to determine what the benchmarks will be for the interim milestones and minimum thresholds. WE have provided the well data and the subsidence survey completed in the past for their model, in a couple weeks they are to have draft hydrographs for each GSA, we will forward those and other information as this starts to pull together from the analysis of the data.

The Domestic well program will be the first item to resolve and then the subsidence, both will most likely have the Board sign onto an MOU for the actions to put the steps in place to reach the goals for the GSP.

This will represent the areas for the 5-year update and the periodic review documents to be submitted to the State.

We will need to conduct water quality samples this year for the report.

We will need to determine which of the 24 wells to survey for the subsidence measurements.

- b.) Coordination Agreement – The other agencies have also agreed with the approach to extend out the final date to 2040 to end the agreement.
- c.) Interconnected Surface Water – This is growing as a topic and a potential issue, we are doing more research and the DWR has put out a guidance document and they have put out one of three, the first one is out and we will review it and the following documents.
- d.) WaterSMART Grant – Grant application Submitted on July 8th. Waiting for a response, estimate maybe by the end of the year.



MEMO

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5. Prop 218 Assessment Report

Report has been filed with the County and the acreages have been verified with the County.

9. Sphere of Influence/Annexation

I have attached my previous response to this annexation for reference.

Other:

Water Purchases:

Infrastructure:

Need a list of the existing District facilities; length of canal, pipelines, control structures, turnouts?
Do we know if or how many meters are on existing Ag wells?

Can we get an updated Crop survey for the District; Tree type, grapes, fallow ground?

End of Report

GAP

Item 9

Monday - August 19, 2024

NEWMAN~ROMANO

A California Limited Liability Company

1034 12th Street
Modesto, California 95354
Phone: (209) 521-9521
Fax: (209) 521-4968

June 28, 2024

Gravelly Ford Water District
Board of Directors
c/o Don Roberts
18811 Road 27
Madera, CA 93639

U.S. Mail & Email

Re: **Sphere of Influence Modification and Annexation of Ripperdan Ranch**

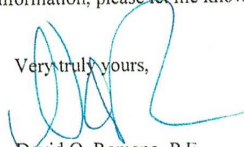
President and Boardmembers:

G3 Enterprises, Inc. ("G3") desires to annex into the Gravelly Ford Water District ("GFWD") the approximately 813-acre portion of its Ripperdan Ranch, Madera County APNs 040-055-001 and 040-056-012, that is not currently within the boundaries of the GFWD. This property is located just east of Road 20 and south of Avenue 7 and is immediately adjacent to the GFWD on its eastern boundary. The Ripperdan Ranch consists of a total of approximately 2,616 acres of planted ground, of which approximately 1,803 acres are already annexed into the GFWD.

We understand that to accomplish this annexation, we need to be included into the GFWD sphere of influence (SOI) and can then annex into the District. We hope the District looks favorably on this request. We are prepared to take any necessary actions to move this project forward as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



David O. Romano, P.E.

DOR: sdr
Cc: Parm Dhaliwal, GVI (via email)



MEMO

Date: November 15, 2022

Project No.: 180035 / /Task
Ph
ase

To: Gravelly Ford WD Board

From: Garth Pecchenino

Subject: Annexation – Gallo APN's 040-055-001 & 012

cc: Name or delete

Ripperdan (Gallo) Annexation:

The proposed two parcels have a total of 773 acres, the following provides information on each parcel.

Parcel #APN 040-055-001 630.58 Acres-Owners G3 Enterprises
6 wells – Owner provided well information on 5 of the 6 wells, location of wells on a map
Crop – grapes
Irrigation system drip with ability to flood
Delivery system, has lift pump in Gravelly Ford Canal, would deliver through existing pipelines on owners property to the west of proposed annexation parcel

Parcel #APN 040-055-012 181.19 Acres-Owners G3 Enterprises
2 wells – Owner did not provide any information other than location on a map
Crop – grapes
Irrigation system drip with ability to flood
Delivery system, has lift pump in Gravelly Ford Canal, would deliver through existing pipelines on owners property to the west of proposed annexation parcel

Note these two parcels are adjacent to the District boundary of GFWD, one of the fundamental requirements of LAFCO for annexation, continuous and adjacent.

Also, in a previous annexation the District required that the land to be annexed have a surface water supply, owner did not provide any information on this item.

The property appears to have the water supply from groundwater pumping, this would be an additional draft of groundwater to the GFWD GSA area if annexed into the district and during none or limited surface water availability the pumping of groundwater would add to the deficit for the water budget of the GFWD GSA basin, these lands should be accounted for in the County wide GSA currently.

The owner stated that existing facilities could receive surface water from GFWD existing facilities, by extending a pipeline and improving the lift pumps.



MEMO

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If the annexation was advanced LAFCO could make findings that the proposed parcels are adjacent, have the ability to connect to District facilities and have similar land use as is within the current district boundary.

What I put in my Memo to the Board for the September 2022 meeting still would apply;

1.) Does the annexation of the property help the District?

From the standpoint of additional ground, it could be looked on as a positive like a city adding additional lands for development, as stated in the previous annexation in 2007 the property will need to bring an existing surface supply. This would bring additional water into the District for those lands but could be used for recharge depending on the guidelines or conditions of those waters. Additionally, those lands were required to cover the costs associated with the necessary infrastructure to provide water delivery to the parcels of land.

2.) Does the annexation hurt the District?

Having additional ground could be a detriment to the District as it could limit the allocation of surface water to the existing lands in the District when surface waters are available. This would increase the acreage for the GSA and in the GSP report so the volume of waters for recharge and pumping would increase by the crop demand of the annexed acreage.

3.) How does annexation relate to GSA, concerns.

An annexation to the GSA would require the following:

1. Update to GSA boundary, filing with State
2. Revisions to the GSP for the acreage, crop demand, pumping and water balance of the GSA area.

Assuming the crop pattern is similar to the existing acreage in the District the average annual water demand per acre would remain the same. The additional land would increase the overdraft of the basin in drought years.

The Agricultural well(s) on the property would need to be surveyed and the standing water levels measured and put into the GSP report and a determination as to the impact to the average groundwater levels for the GSA as a whole to meet the thresholds and measurable objectives set in the GSP report. If the lands bring in surface water for recharge, then depending on the amount of recharge it could offset the pumping on the annexation lands, fall short of that volume or exceed the volume and provide a net positive.

The change in the storage sustainability indicator is the key, the measurements on the groundwater levels and the subsidence measurements will need to continue to show that the GSA for GFWD has met the measurable objectives and not reached a threshold for the storage sustainability indicator.

GAP