

**Lower Tule River Irrigation District and
Lower Tule River ID Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board of Directors Meeting**

Minutes - June 9, 2026

Location: 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Sitting as the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Board of Directors and, where indicated, as the Governing Body of the Lower Tule River ID Groundwater Sustainability Agency

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Barcellos.

Roll Call:

Director Div. 1 Alex Garcia
Director Div. 2 Louie Tristao
Director Div. 3 Tom Barcellos
Director Div. 4 Frank Mendonsa
Director Div. 5 Josh Pitigliano

District Staff:

Alex Peltzer, General Manager
Travis Millwee, Resources Manager
Mark Greenall, Controller
John Michael Domondon, Operations Manager
Jack Lopez, Field Superintendent
Kirk Masters, Water Resources Superintendent
Jim Koontz, General Counsel

Landowners and Public:

Brian Hauss, Aaron Henderson, Andrew Brazil, Armando Leal, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Justin Murray, Mike Kroes, Mark Larsen, Douglas Jackson, Christian Tulen, Mark Hoffman, Jordan Martinez, Jack Susank, Trey Koetsier, Art Van Beek, and Mike Faria

2. Public Comment and Agenda Approval.
 - a. Public Comment: During this item, members of the public will be afforded an opportunity to address the Board on any matter within the jurisdiction of the District at the beginning of the session or before the Board's consideration of an agenda item regarding that item. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person,

unless otherwise indicated by the Board President, with a maximum of 30 minutes for public comments overall. Cal. Gov. Code § 54954.3.

Geoff Vanhen Heuvel provided a positive comment regarding the change in the Agenda structure, more concise.

- b. Agenda Approval (GSA and District Combined) – **Action Item**
On a motion by Director Mendonsa, seconded by Director Pitigliano and unanimously approved, the combined GSA and District agenda was approved as presented.

Sitting as the Governing Body of the Lower Tule River ID Groundwater Sustainability Agency

3. GSA Administration

- a. Minutes of May 12, 2026 GSA Meeting – **Action Item – Attachment**
On a motion by Director Tristao, seconded by Director Garcia, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of May 12, 2026, GSA Meeting were approved as presented.
- b. Minutes of May 22, 2026, Special GSA Meeting – **Action Item – Attachment**
On a motion by Director Tristao, seconded by Director Garcia, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of May 22, 2026, Special GSA Meeting were approved as presented.

4. GSP Implementation

- a. April 2026 Groundwater Usage Report – **Attachment**
General Manager Peltzer reviewed the April 2026 Groundwater Usage Report. No action was taken.
- b. Subbasin Probationary Status - Tule Subbasin Coordination
 - i. Tule Subbasin Policy Group Updates
General Manager Peltzer gave an update on the ongoing effort to coordinate a single GSP among the GSAs in the Tule Subbasin. Peltzer also reported that the overall goal is to have the GSAs coordinate on a technical basis to have a successful Coordination Agreement, even if there are multiple GSPs in the Subbasin.
 - ii. Tule Subbasin Single GSP Cost Share MOU and Scope of Work – **Action Item – Attachment**

Public Comment Received from Geoff Vanden Heuvel regarding that this action item is not an easy decision.

General Manager Peltzer presented the cost share MOU for single GSP/Coordination Agreement SOW budget summary. After Board

discussion, on motion by Director GARCIA, seconded by Director Tristao and unanimously approved the following motion:

“I move to approve the Tule Subbasin Unified GSP Cost Share MOU and either cost share scenario for the GSP development Scope of Work.”

c. Subsidence Management Plan Updates

General Manager Peltzer provided an update on the subsidence management plan, including a brief update on elements of the Early Action Plan. Quarter one data will be available at the next board meeting. No action was taken.

d. GSA Projects

i. Kaweah/Tule Exchange Project Investigation

General Manager Peltzer provided an update on the ongoing meetings with partners and consultants to explore the feasibility of a joint banking project. No action was taken.

ii. ERA Economics Tule Subbasin Economic Analysis – **Action Item** – *Attachment*

General Manager Peltzer and Millwee reviewed the ERA Economics Tule Subbasin Economic Analysis. On motion by Director Mendonsa, seconded by Director Pitigliano, and unanimously approved the following Motion:

“I move to approve LTRID GSA’s participation in the ERA Economics Tule Subbasin Land Repurposing Economic Analysis and authorize funding in the mount of \$11,333.33 as LTRID GSA’s share of the project cost.”

Public Comment was received from Rod Steifvater, the result of the study caused by SGMA.

Sitting as the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Board of Directors

5. General Administration.

a. Minutes of May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting – **Action Item** – *Attachment*

On motion by Director Garcia, seconded by Director Tristao, and unanimously approved, the Regular Minutes of May 12, 2026, were approved as presented.

b. Minutes of May 22, 2026, Special Meeting – **Action Item** – *Attachment*

On motion by Director Gracia, seconded by Director Tristao, and unanimously approved, the Special Minutes of May 12, 2026, were approved as presented.

6. Water Resources.

a. Current Declaration/Water Supply Update

General Manager Peltzer updated the Board on Millerton operations, the current Class 1 allocation is 100%; however, due to the heat, the 100% allocation may change.

i. Monthly Water Delivery Report – *Attachment*

No Update.

ii. Current Water Run/Rates

General Manager Peltzer reviewed the Current Water Run. After the discussion, the direction from the board is the following: Allow conversion of allocation to Landowner Developed Credits on the following terms: 50% of unused allocation to be paid by the Landowner in exchange for allocation as LDC; the remaining 50% goes to the District Groundwater Credits, but the District will retire that amount. Unused allocation will physically be delivered as lost water or delivered to other landowners as surplus. Surplus water is the same price, and it does not offset ET.

iii. CVC Water Deliveries

Resources Coordinator Millwee provided an allocation update. CVC allocation is currently at 25%. No action item.

7. District Operations

a. Updates

No additional Update.

b. Construction/Operations/Maintenance

Operations Manager Domondon reviewed construction projects, canal maintenance activities, and safety meetings. As well as the Tea Pot Dome, Pioneer, Vandalia, and SPP operations and Maintenance. It was also reported that JPIA inspection is scheduled, and electrical lights need replacement. The Board directed staff to fix the light fixture not to exceed \$6,000. No action was taken.

c. Cal Trans Hwy 190/Rd 208

Domondon updated the Board on the construction schedule for relocating the Poplar Pipeline. No action was taken.

d. Administrative

i. Resolution 2026-6-1 – USBR WaterSMART Grant – *Action Item – Attachment*

General Manager Peltzer reviewed the Resolution 2026-6-1 – USBR WaterSMART Grant. On motion by Director Mendonsa, seconded by Director Tristao, and unanimously approved, the following Motion:

“I move to adopt Resolution No. 2026-6-1 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the United States Bureau of

Reclamation WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Program for the SCADA Improvement Project and authorizing the General Manager to execute all necessary grant documents if awarded.”

ii. List of Officers and Appointments – GM Peltzer Addition – **Action Item – Attachment**

Staff presented a staff report, and following discussion, Director Mendonsa offered the following motion:

“I move to appoint Alex Peltzer to all positions listed in the Agenda Staff Report, effective immediately.”

Motion was seconded by Director Pitigliano and adopted by unanimous vote.

iii. Consolidation of Elections – November General Election – Resolution 2026-6-2 – **Action Item – Attachment**

General Manager Peltzer presented a staff report and reviewed the Consolidation Elections – November General Election – Resolution 2026-6-2. Director Pitigliano offered the following motion:

“I make a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-6-2, Ordering Board of Directors Election; Consolidation of Elections; Specifications of the Election Order; and Specific Services Rendered to the District.”

Motion was seconded by Director Mendonsa and adopted by unanimous vote.

iv. County Assessment Collection Agreement. Resolution 2026-6-3: Resolution Certifying to the County of Tulare the Validity of the legal process used to place charges on the secured tax roll; Compliance Certification and Hold Harmless Statement – **Action Item – Attachment**
General Manager Peltzer presented a staff report and reviewed the County Assessment Collection Agreement Resolution 2026-6-3. Director Pitigliano offered the following motion:

“I make a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-6-3, certifying to the County of Tulare the validity of the legal process used to place charges on the secured tax roll, and authorizing staff to submit the required documentation to the County.”

Motion was seconded by Director Garcia and adopted by unanimous vote.

v. Bank Signatory – **Action Item – Attachment**

General Manager Peltzer presented a staff report and reviewed the Bank Signatory. Director Garcia offered the following motion:

“I move that the Board hereby authorize and direct: 1) removal of Eric Limas as an authorized signatory for all District bank accounts; and 2) addition of Alex Peltzer, General

Manager/Secretary/Treasurer, as an authorized signatory for all District bank accounts.”

Motion was seconded by Director Tristao and adopted by unanimous vote.

vi. Financial Statements – **Action Item**

Controller Greenall reviewed the May financial reports and statements. On motion by Director Garcia, seconded by Director Tristao, and unanimously approved, the Financial Statements were approved as presented.

vii. Accounts Payable – **Action Item**– *Attachment*

1. Approve the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of May bills.

The Board reviewed the May bills paid. On motion by Director Mendonsa, seconded by Director Garcia, and unanimously approved, the accounts payable for May were approved.

8. Friant Water Authority

a. Friant Kern Canal General and O&M activity updates

General Manager Peltzer updated the Board on the efforts of the Friant Water Authority Staff to combat the spread of Golden Mussels, as well as the recent announcement of \$200 million in non-reimbursable funding allocated to finishing Phase 1 and the start of Phase 2 of the Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project.

9. Tule River Association.

a. SREP Update

General Manager Peltzer gave an update on the Success Reservoir Enlargement Project, relocations, and efforts to ensure funding for the remaining amounts needed for the project remain in place and spent according to the project budget. Any funding provided through the appropriations will be subject to the original Project Cost Agreement cost share structure and will take time to reconcile with the USACE once the project is deemed complete.

Adjourn to Closed Session sitting as the Lower Tule River ID GSA Governing Body

10. GSA Closed Session Items.

a. Litigation

- i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(b): (two potential matters)

Adjourn to Closed Session sitting as the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Board

11. District Closed Session Items.

a. Litigation

- ii. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(b): (one potential matter)
- iii. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION (Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of GC Section 54956.9): (7 Cases)
 - Name of case: Richard A Jones Jr. v. Lower Tule River Irrigation District, Tul. Co. Sup. Ct. Case No. VCU 329566
 - Sierra Range Construction v. Lower Tule River ID, Tul. Co. Sup. Ct. Case No. VCU 330462
 - Name of case: NRDC v. United States
 - Name of case: Rosedale Water Storage District et. al. v. Kern County Water Agency et. al.
 - Center for Biological Diversity, et. al. v. United States Bureau of Reclamation, et. al.
 - North Coast Rivers Alliance v. United States Bureau of Reclamation, et. al.
 - Haag v. LTRID
- b. Real Property – Real property negotiations and related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
 - i. Water Contract Transactions
 - Description of Property: CVP contract water
 - Agency Negotiator: Alex Peltzer, General Manager
 - Under Negotiations: Terms and Conditions of Water Purchase
 - ii. SREP Property Acquisitions
 - Various Parcels in Project Area for. Success Reservoir Enlargement Project: APNs:284-670-001,284-670-003,284-030-013,284-450-020,284-450-025,284-450-043,284-130-006,284-020-001,284-020-014,284-440-006,284-440-057,284-560-007,284-670-013,284-341-001,284-670-005,284-670-004,284-770-004
 - District Negotiator: General Counsel
 - Under Negotiations: Terms and Conditions of Water Purchase

Adjourn To Open Session

- 12. Report from Closed Session (If Any)
No reportable action from closed session.
- 13. Next District/GSA Board of Directors Meeting: July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272
- 14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at **12:00 p.m.** by President Barcellos

CERTIFICATION: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING AND GROUND SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY WAS POSTED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY 9 AM, JUNE 5, 2026.

IF ANYONE WANTS COPIES OF ANY OF THE REFERENCED BOARD MATERIALS THEY MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CINTHIA CANALES AT 559-686-4716 OR BY EMAIL CCANALES@LTRID.ORG

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Peltzer
Board Secretary