
State Water Resources Control Board

Notice of Temporary Permit Application T033506

Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (SVGMD) filed a temporary permit application with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights, pursuant to Water Code section 1433.3 et seq. The project associated with the application is located in Sierra and Plumas Counties and would divert water from Little Last Chance Creek, Staverville Creek, the Griffin Drainage, the Potter Drainage, and Smithneck Creek. The Applicant requests authorization to appropriate surface water for underground storage as described below.

Summary of Temporary Permit Application T033506

Type of Temporary Permit: 5-year Temporary Permit

Date of Filing: The application was filed with the State Water Board on June 25, 2025.

Sources of Water: The sources of water are Little Last Chance Creek, Staverville Creek, the Griffin Drainage, the Potter Drainage, and Smithneck Creek which are tributary to the Middle Fork Feather River, thence the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Amount: The maximum combined amount of water requested for diversion is 913 acre-feet per year (afy), which would be diverted at a combined maximum rate not to exceed 6.58 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Seasons of Diversion: The season for diversion of water from Little Last Chance Creek would be from January 1 to March 31 of each season, beginning January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2031; the season for diversion of water from Staverville Creek would be from December 1 to March 14, beginning December 1, 2025 through March 14, 2031; the season for diversion of water from the Griffin Drainage would be from December 1 to March 14, beginning December 1, 2025 through March 14, 2031; the season for diversion of water from the Potter Drainage would be from December 1 to March 14, beginning December 1, 2025 through March 14, 2031; the season for diversion of water from Smithneck Creek would be from January 1 to March 14 of each season, beginning December 1, 2025 through March 14, 2031.

Points of Diversion (POD): The application proposes using up to 28 points of diversion as described below and on maps provided in the application.

Little Last Chance Creek (combined rate of up to 3 cfs and up to 416 afy)

(POD 1) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,822,734 feet and East 7,073,333 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 7) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,832,922 feet and East 7,079,738 feet, Section 14, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 8) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,827,859 feet and East 7,079,380 feet, Section 23, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 9) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,824,887 feet and East 7,078,251 feet, Section 23, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 10) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,823,871 feet and East 7,076,252 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 11) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,823,707 feet and East 7,074,114 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 12) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,823,336 feet and East 7,073,579 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 13) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,822,283 feet and East 7,072,956 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 14) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,821,066 feet and East 7,072,368 feet, Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 15) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,819,122 feet and East 7,071,176 feet, Section 33, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 16) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,818,286 feet and East 7,066,662 feet, Section 32, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 17) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,817,249 feet and East 7,055,072 feet, Section 36, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 18) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,817,220 feet and East 7,048,302 feet, Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 19) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,817,239 feet and East 7,045,074 feet, Section 34, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 20) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,817,079 feet and East 7,043,404 feet, Section 34, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 21) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,816,267 feet and East 7,041,284 feet, Section 34, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 22) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,816,679 feet and East 7,037,494 feet, Section 33, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 23) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,816,679 feet and East 7,037,494 feet, Section 24, Township 23 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 24) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,829,274 feet and East 7,035,321 feet, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 25) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 1, North 1,829,811 feet and East 7,038,176 feet, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Staverville Creek (combined rate of up to 0.5 cfs and up to 69 afy)

(POD 2) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,376,557 feet and East 7,065,127 feet, Section 17, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 26) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,380,025 feet and East 7,064,675 feet, Section 8, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 27) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,380,258 feet and East 7,064,674 feet, Section 8, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 28) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,380,961 feet and East 7,064,671 feet, Section 8, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Griffin Drainage (combined rate of up to 0.26 cfs and up to 36 afy)

(POD 3) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,374,971 feet and East 7,061,670 feet, Section 18, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(POD 5) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,375,170 feet and East 7,061,209 feet, Section 18, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Potter Drainage (combined rate of up to 0.82 cfs and up to 114 afy)

(POD 4) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,372,283 feet and East 7,063,003 feet, Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Smithneck Creek (combined rate of up to 2 cfs and up to 278 afy)

(POD 6) By California Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 2, North 2,365,949 feet and East 7,063,658 feet, Section 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Purposes of Use: The primary purpose of use for water is domestic and irrigation as well as fish and wildlife enhancement and protection. Incidental uses would include irrigation, domestic and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement.

Place of Use: The water would be used within the Sierra Valley groundwater basin.

Location and Type of Infiltration: Water would be delivered to on-farm recharge areas for infiltration to underground storage. Refer to maps contained in attachments to application submittal.

Use Accounting: The water stored underground would serve domestic wells and up to 300 residences within Loyalton. Additionally, for fish and wildlife and enhancement and protection, 80 percent of the water used for this purpose would be used by 17,581 acres of the local groundwater dependent ecosystem, the Wetland Meadow Complex; 10 percent would be incidentally used to supplement shallow domestic wells in disadvantaged communities, and the final 10 percent would incidentally infiltrate as

leakage to the deeper groundwater aquifer where it would be used for irrigation. All diverted water would be used within the calendar year of the diversion.

Water Rights Records Database

Documentation related to temporary permit applications were previously available through the State Water Board's electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS) database, but that system is currently unavailable. For access to the application documents, please contact Benjamin McCovery at (916) 327-8683 or Benjamin.McCovery@waterboards.ca.gov (email is the preferred means of communication).

Procedure for Filing Objections

Pursuant to Water Code section 1433.3, any interested person may file an objection against the approval of the subject application. Objections should be submitted via email to the staff and applicant contact listed below but may also be submitted via regular mail or hand delivered. If objections are sent by mail or hand delivered, please provide a courtesy email to the contact listed below.

Objections must be received by the Division of Water Rights or postmarked by **August 9, 2025**, with copy provided to the applicant. The State Water Board may, for good cause shown, allow additional time to file an objection.

Contact Information

Please direct all requests and inquiries regarding this notice to Benjamin McCovery at (916) 327-8683 or Benjamin.McCovery@waterboards.ca.gov (email is the preferred means of communication). Written correspondence should be addressed to:

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights
Attn: Benjamin McCovery
P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

All correspondence directed to the applicant should be emailed to Jenny Gant at svgmd@sierravalleygmd.org, or mailed to:

Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District
Attn: Jenny Gant
P.O. Box 88, Chilcoat, CA 96105

Date of Notice: The date that this public notice was issued is **July 10, 2025**.