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**From:** Rhonda Duggan <rduggan@mono.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:01 AM  
**To:** Russell Keeney <rgk@schat.net>  
**Cc:** Queenie Barnard <qbarnard@mono.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update

Thank you, Russell, for your comments. I will pass this along to the Clerk for the record.

Regards,

Rhonda

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2022, at 6:09 AM, Russell Keeney <[rgk@schat.net](mailto:rgk@schat.net)> wrote:

You don't often get email from [rgk@schat.net](mailto:rgk@schat.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Dear Supervisor Duggan,

I want to let you know that I am 100% in agreement with the Board of Supervisors vote of Dec. 12, 2020 to withdraw from the OVGA JPA. Further I support the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management Districts effort to regain its status as the exclusive GSA for the Tri-Valley area.

Regards,

Russ Keeney  
227 Dawson Ranch Rd  
Hammil Valley, Ca  
[rgk@schat.net](mailto:rgk@schat.net)

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**From:** Betsy McDonald <[betsymcdonald19@gmail.com](mailto:betsymcdonald19@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** Wendy Sugimura <[wsugimura@mono.ca.gov](mailto:wsugimura@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public comment for Tuesday's board meeting

You don't often get email from [betsymcdonald19@gmail.com](mailto:betsymcdonald19@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hi Wendy, hope this is not too late. Just realized this is on the agenda for a vote. I sent the same letter to my representative, Rhonda Duggan. I hope to be on for the meeting, but in case I'm not I'd like this to be read aloud and entered into the public record. Thank you so much!!

**Public Comment**

I live on the far west side of Chalfant. Right over the hill from our home is Fish Slough. I think about this magical and unique place often when I water, shower, etc. I shorten my showers and use eco-friendly ways to water our one acre, including drip systems on timers, so that we are not watering during the heat of the day.

As you know, the Mono County Board of Supervisors will be voting Tuesday about withdrawing from the Owens Valley Groundwater Association (OVGA). The OVGA just completed a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) that includes the Tri-Valley area of Mono County. If Mono County withdraws from the OVGA, I fear that the protections provided by the GSP will no longer apply. I fear that my beloved Fish Slough will be in danger of drying up due to excessive pumping in the Tri-Valley area. Losing the springs and slough will impact so many species, including, of course, the endangered Owens Valley pupfish. Studies show that our personal wells are also in danger.

I have so many questions but little information. I would venture to guess that most of the residents, the non-ranchers in the Tri-Valley area, have no idea about what's going on with this tremendously important water issue.

Some of my questions are:

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- How will Fish Slough and all the species that depend on it be protected if Mono County withdraws from the OVGA?
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- How will personal property owners be assured that their wells will not run dry?
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- 
- 
- What does the California Department of Fish and Wildlife think about Mono County withdrawing from the OVGA?
- 

I want to know more. I want Fish Slough, my well and the wells of fellow Tri-Valley citizens to be considered. I want all of us, including the ranchers, to be looking to the future, to the health of this land and water, to consider the next seven generations. I envision a future where we all work together to protect the waters of this

beautiful valley, ranchers and homeowners together. Let's be a model of cooperation and compromise. We need the support of Mono County for this. And we need to know more.

Mono County needs to educate the residents of the Tri-Valley area about this complex decision. We need to talk more about this. I ask that you request this vote be tabled until you can hold a virtual Town Hall meeting to educate and inform the populace about the impacts of this vote.

With respect,  
Betsy McDonald  
Retired Educator

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**From:** Wendy Sugimura <wsugimura@mono.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** Robert Lawton <rlawton@mono.ca.gov>; Stacey Simon <ssimon@mono.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Michael Draper <mdraper@mono.ca.gov>; Queenie Barnard <qbarnard@mono.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: for January 11 Board of Supervisors meeting, agenda item 7D

Dear Board (by bcc) and staff:

Please see the public comment below regarding Mono County's membership in the OVGA.

Thanks,

*Wendy Sugimura*

Community Development Director  
760.924.1814

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**From:** Harold McDonald <[hmcDonald19@icloud.com](mailto:hmcDonald19@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:56 PM  
**To:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>; Wendy Sugimura <[wsugimura@mono.ca.gov](mailto:wsugimura@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** for January 11 Board of Supervisors meeting, agenda item 7D

You don't often get email from [hmcDonald19@icloud.com](mailto:hmcDonald19@icloud.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

January 10, 2022

Supervisor Duggan

I apologize that I have come a little bit late to this issue. I have heard some discussion about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) second-or third-hand before, but have not kept myself well informed. However, I have read the staff report dated January 11, 2022, and I would like to express my concern about the Board's intention to withdraw from the Owens Valley Groundwater Agency (OVGA).

While I certainly understand the desire to retain local control, I fear that thinking so provincially could have serious consequences down the road for ranchers, residents and wildlife. Aquifers and drainages are not restricted by artificial boundaries. What happens in one basin or groundwater jurisdiction affects and is affected by adjacent regions. Water is a precious resource for all citizens, so I think regional control and cooperation is imperative.

The staff report states that "the District (Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District) has expressed an intent to begin taking a more active planning and regulatory role with respect to groundwater management." An intention is a good place to start, but intentions alone will not stop the lowering of groundwater tables in the Tri Valley area (nor in Fish Slough, where shrinking water supplies present yet another obstacle for the endangered Owens Valley pupfish).

The staff report also states that following the County's withdrawal from the OVGA "if the Basin is re-rated to a medium priority or higher in the future...then the Mono County portions of the Basin would not be covered by the recently completed GSP or any GSA authority." Why would we choose to not protect our water resources?

I urge the Board to put off a vote on this issue and to instead work to inform the citizens of the Tri-Valley area regarding the pros and cons of the proposed action.

Thank you

Harold McDonald  
Chalfant, CA

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**From:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:32 AM  
**To:** Queenie Barnard <[qbarnard@mono.ca.gov](mailto:qbarnard@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: District 2 Update >> support for Mono County withdrawal from OVGA

Fyi

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**From:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 8, 2022 8:34:00 PM  
**To:** Toni Richards <[toni@schat.net](mailto:toni@schat.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update >> support for Mono County withdrawal from OVGA

Thank you!

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**From:** Toni Richards <[toni@schat.net](mailto:toni@schat.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 8, 2022 8:33:39 PM  
**To:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update >> support for Mono County withdrawal from OVGA

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Yes, of course.

On Jan 8, 2022, at 8:30 PM, Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, Toni, for the feedback. May I submit this as part of the record?

Rhonda

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**From:** Toni Richards <[toni@schat.net](mailto:toni@schat.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 8, 2022 8:29:37 PM  
**To:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update >> support for Mono County withdrawal from OVGA

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hello again Rhonda,

As one of your constituents and a resident of Hammil Valley, I fully support Mono County's withdrawal from OVGA.

Thank you for passing on this important information.

Toni

Toni Richards  
227 Dawson Ranch Rd  
Hammil Valley, CA  
760 933 2468

On Jan 8, 2022, at 4:29 PM, Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Toni,

Here is a PDF of the item. It's rather large, I hope you can access it.

Rhonda Duggan  
Mono County Supervisor  
District 2  
P.O. Box 715  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)

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**From:** Toni Richards <[toni@schat.net](mailto:toni@schat.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 5:23 PM  
**To:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Thanks! we'll take a look.

On Jan 7, 2022, at 5:22 PM, Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)> wrote:

Here is the link to the packet - item 7D. There should be a legend in the top left corner with a drop down that takes you right to the item.

[01 jan 11 2022 agenda packet.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

Rhonda Duggan  
Mono County Supervisor  
District 2  
P.O. Box 715  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)

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**From:** Toni Richards <[toni@schat.net](mailto:toni@schat.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 5:18 PM

**To:** Rhonda Duggan <[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: District 2 Update

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hi Rhonda,

Happy New Year.

Your e-mail mentions a **staff report** regarding the OVGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (underlined in your e-mail, below).

Can you please send me this report?

Thanks  
Toni

On Jan 7, 2022, at 4:36 PM, Rhonda Duggan  
<[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)> wrote:

Happy New Year, Everyone!

I hope this finds you all safe and healthy. The holidays brought many challenges that I don't need to list, and the weather forecast looks like more is on the way. I want to share that I am in ongoing discussions with representatives from SCE, AmeriGas, Race Communications, Caltrans, and Mono County Administration to address issues that hit District 2 particularly hard. Thanks for looking out for your neighbors, and special thanks to Long Valley Fire Department and Sheriff Braun for their help during the Long Valley Power outage.

- Our first Board of Supervisors meeting saw the election of Supervisor Bob Gardner (D3) as Board Chair, myself as Vice-Chair (D2), and Supervisor John Peters (D4) as Chair Pro Tempore. The Board also recognized outgoing Chair Jennifer Kreitz for her leadership and service during the past year. As Vice-Chair, I have been asked to serve as the Board liaison to communicate community and staff recognitions and retirements, along with notable personnel changes amongst our partner agencies. I welcome any information you might have - just send me an email. This will be a great way to learn more about our Eastern Sierra Family!



- The January 11 BOS meeting agenda item #7D is to consider OVGA membership options; if withdrawing, approve the draft letter (Attachment 1) notifying the Owens Valley Groundwater Agency (OVGA) of the County's intention to withdraw from the OVGA Joint Powers Agency pursuant to Article VI, Section 1.1 of the joint powers agreement and authorize the Board Chair to sign. OVGA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been adopted and submitted to the Department of Water Resources. **The staff report has a thorough review of Mono County's participation and background on the item, with a recommended action.** There will be an opportunity for public comment at Tuesday's meeting (or submit written comment in advance), and Mono County Community Development staff are available if you would like more information. Please contact me or Michael Draper.
- Public Health is adding more vaccine and testing clinics to their schedule as needed. For the latest information, please visit [Mono County Coronavirus Response \(ca.gov\)](#)

I have attached the last two District 2 Board Reports for more meeting information and updates. I am also working directly with Public Works and the Road Department on ongoing issues with services and facilities throughout the district to be sure projects and work is proceeding as scheduled.

Stay safe,

Rhonda Duggan  
Mono County Supervisor  
District 2  
P.O. Box 715  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
[rduggan@mono.ca.gov](mailto:rduggan@mono.ca.gov)

<Item #7D - OVGA Withdrawal.pdf>

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**From:** dave doonan <[bxdmcr@gmail.com](mailto:bxdmcr@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:15 AM  
**To:** Scheereen Dedman <[sdedman@mono.ca.gov](mailto:sdedman@mono.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** OVGA Withdrawal

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Dear Honorable Board,

I would like to be on record as supporting Mono County in the **Withdrawal** from The Owens Valley Groundwater Agency. The Tri Valley Groundwater Management District has been and is still the only legislated body with groundwater management authority. The only reason they joined the OVGA was the misclassification of the Basin as a High Priority Basin. Since the reclassification to the appropriate Low Priority, there was no need to be a part of OVGA. As a member of the OVGA, I voted for our withdrawal and return the GSA status to TVGMD. TVGMD was allowed to withdraw but they were not supported in the return of the GSA status. This is due to the misguided attempt to allow OVGA to control water resources in Mono County.

Mono County BOS has previously voted to remove themselves from the OVGA at their December 15, 2020 meeting. This was to retain the management capacity over its own resources and not allow a different County that right. I am including a copy of the agenda item and vote and I would strongly urge the Board to fulfill their promise to withdraw.

Sincerely

Dave Doonan  
Hammil Valley

*Reconvened: 1:16 PM*

**G. Update on Owens Valley Groundwater from Tri-Valley Groundwater Management Withdraw from the OVGA**

Departments: Community Development, C  
(Wendy Sugimura, Michael Draper, Stace  
Update on Owens Valley Groundwater Au  
Groundwater Management District Activiti  
Management District Request for the Cou  
Valley Groundwater Management District.

**Action:** Remain an OVGA member and w  
Sustainability Plan is complete.

**Stump motion; Corless seconded.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 1 no**

Roll call:

Corless: Y

Gardner: Y

Kreitz: N

Peters: Y

Stump: Y

**M20-250**