



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: September 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3Av: General Manager's Report

Overview

The following report from the General Manager covers highlights for the period of August 12, 2026, to September 9, 2026.

Purpose: Monthly overview of management priorities, progress, representation, and emerging issues

MANAGEMENT FOCUS

Fire-service sustainability; completion of major water planning; advancement of trail and property-transfer work; future grant positioning; and active review of late-session state legislation affecting special districts.

Executive Overview

Management attention during August was concentrated on several long-range issues that will shape GCSB's service capacity and financial position: evaluating realistic fire-service options following the failed assessment, moving the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan toward adoption, advancing environmental and property work for major community projects, and positioning the District for future grant opportunities.

The month also included substantial intergovernmental and policy work. GCSB's infrastructure program and growth-support role were presented to regional business and real-estate leaders, workforce-support opportunities were developed with Mother Lode Job Training, and CSDA policy teams worked through rapidly changing wildfire-liability legislation and other regulatory proposals.

Several matters remain in active development rather than complete. The report therefore distinguishes concrete progress from next steps, particularly for fire alternatives, the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail environmental process, the Hetch Hetchy parcel transfer, and future fuels-reduction funding.

Major Activities and Accomplishments

Fire Service Sustainability and Advisory Committee Support

Evaluated comparable local fire-service models and obtained City of Sonoma, Los Osos CSD and Twain Harte CSD's fire budget, staffing structure, apparatus strategy, volunteer-intern model, revenue-reserve approach, and ISO information. This provides factual comparison material for the Citizens Advisory Committee's review of locally controlled alternatives.

The comparison reinforced two realities: firefighter recruitment is increasingly competitive, and successful locally staffed models rely on long-term financial planning, reserve discipline, apparatus replacement planning, and a dependable pipeline of qualified personnel.

Continued focusing the fire discussion on options that are operationally credible and financially sustainable, while preserving the District's commitment to fully evaluate available paths before considering any loss of local control.

Water Supply, Planning, and Customer Service

Completed management review and comment resolution for the Draft 2025 Urban Water Management Plan. The revised plan, response-to-comments document, public-hearing notice, presentation, staff report, and resolutions were advanced for the September 9 Board hearing.

Confirmed the public-notice schedule and agency mailings needed to preserve the September adoption timetable.

Reviewed electronic-payment options for variable metered water bills. The vendor's current automated-payment model remains oriented toward fixed charges, although variable auto-pay is under development; no commitment was made.

Capital Projects, Property, Parks, and Grants

Advanced the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail federal environmental process. A revised Biological Assessment and related documents were submitted to Caltrans on August 21; cultural-resource documentation remained the principal forthcoming component.

Continued title, survey, and legal-description coordination for the proposed Hetch Hetchy parcel transfer. Work focused on cleaning title-report legal descriptions, resolving survey comments, preparing a legal description for Parcel 440, and completing the final Groveland Transfer Map.

Initiated a systemwide fuels-reduction planning approach intended to establish recurring maintenance priorities for District properties and easements, beginning with Jones Hill and water easements. Staff will monitor CAL FIRE and Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding cycles so the District is prepared for the next Prop. 4-supported opportunity.

Reviewed State Parks' Prop. 4 climate-bond public-comment materials and a watershed-resilience pilot presentation for lessons applicable to future park, trail, water, and regional-resilience funding.

Regional Infrastructure and Workforce Partnerships

Presented GCSD's infrastructure and responsible-growth program to the Tuolumne County Business Council and Association of Realtors. The core message was that water, sewer, fire-flow, resilience, and transportation infrastructure should be treated as early economic-development tools rather than late-stage project obstacles.

Highlighted the District's grant-funded delivery record, restored wastewater capacity, Big Oak Flat water and fire-flow improvements, redundant emergency water supply, upcoming system modeling, housing challenges, and the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail connection.

Established a promising connection with Mother Lode Job Training for recruitment, on-the-job wage reimbursement, work-experience placements, incumbent-worker training, Employment Training Panel funding, and HR support. A follow-up visit with GCSD staff is being coordinated.

Legislative, Regulatory, and CSDA Policy Work

Wildfire liability proposal / SB 492. Participated in CSDA's rapid review of the Governor's late-session wildfire-liability proposal. CSDA's principal objectives were to prevent restrictions on public-agency recovery for damaged infrastructure, emergency response and mutual aid, insurance subrogation, and lost property-tax revenue. The introduced omnibus language omitted the provisions of greatest concern, allowing CSDA to move from opposition to neutral. Post-month update: the Legislature adjourned without taking up SB 492; the measure is dead for 2026, but the issue is expected to return.

FPPC Regulation 18723.1. Reviewed proposed changes affecting Statements of Economic Interests filed by officials serving in multiple positions. The key concern is whether streamlined filing could shift verification and monitoring burdens from individual filers to local agencies and make compliance harder to confirm.

SB 328 - CEQA and surplus land. Reviewed late amendments and working-group feedback. The provisions appeared narrowly tied to redevelopment of the Concord Naval Weapons Station and did not present a direct GCSD or statewide special-district impact warranting a position change; continued WATCH was appropriate.

CSDA governance and fiscal leadership. Continued participation in CSDA policy and fiscal work, including preparation for the September 11 Fiscal Committee meeting and review of matters with potential operational or compliance effects on special districts.

Issues Receiving Significant Management Attention

Building a fact-based fire-service options process that recognizes the District's structural revenue shortfall, minimum staffing realities, recruitment conditions, apparatus needs, and the January 2028 staffing requirement.

Keeping the Urban Water Management Plan on schedule while ensuring the Board receives enough context to understand its long-term supply and planning implications.

Coordinating multiple agencies and consultants through the remaining environmental, title, survey, and legal steps for the trail and Hetch Hetchy property-transfer efforts.

Turning one-time grant opportunities into adopted, repeatable programs - particularly fuels reduction, system resilience, parks, trails, and watershed-scale planning.

Representing GCSD in regional and statewide discussions so District interests are considered before policy, funding, or development decisions become fixed.

Notable Results

RESULT	BOARD-LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE
UWMP adoption package advanced	Management comments were incorporated and the September 9 public-hearing process was placed on schedule.
Trail environmental work moved forward	The revised Biological Assessment package was submitted to Caltrans; cultural review remains underway.
Fire alternatives review strengthened	Comparable budget, staffing, reserve, apparatus, and ISO information was obtained from a successful neighboring model.

RESULT	BOARD-LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE
Workforce resources identified	GCSD opened access to potential wage reimbursement, training funding, recruitment assistance, and HR support.
Special-district protections preserved	The wildfire omnibus measure ultimately excluded CSDA's most significant cost-recovery concerns and then failed to advance.

Looking Ahead - Next 30 to 60 Days

Present the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan for public hearing and Board consideration on September 9.

Continue supporting the Fire Citizens Advisory Committee with verified financial, staffing, governance, and service-model information.

Advance Caltrans review of the trail Biological Assessment and remaining cultural-resource documents; monitor schedule implications for final NEPA clearance.

Resolve Parcel 440 and remaining legal-description issues, then complete the Groveland Transfer Map and property-transfer documentation.

Develop the outline, priorities, and sustainable maintenance cycle for a Board-recognized fuels-reduction program and track the next suitable CAL FIRE/Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding round.

Meet with Mother Lode Job Training to match available hiring and training programs with GCSD's workforce needs.

Participate in the CSDA Fiscal Committee meeting and continue monitoring wildfire liability, FPPC filing changes, climate-bond programs, and other late-developing state actions.

GCSD is building the foundation for what this community wants to become.