



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: October 14, 2026

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

MANAGEMENT FOCUS

Adoption of the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan; fire-service options and public transparency; year-end financial review; water-supply reliability; Hetch Hetchy trail and land-transfer work; winter-storm preparedness; and regional and statewide policy leadership.

1. Executive Overview

September produced a major water-planning milestone. Following the September 9 public hearing, the District completed and submitted its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan to the California Department of Water Resources. Management also continued evaluating long-term water-supply agreements, water rights and transfers, metering technology, and additional ways to strengthen emergency firefighting water access.

Fire-service sustainability remained a major commitment. The Fire Citizens Advisory Committee continued its review of finances and service options, and management supplied the current County-GCSD co-location agreement so the committee could evaluate the second engine arrangement from the source documents. The September financial workshop also closed the year with a detailed review of operating results, grant reimbursements, capital spending, and the continuing structural pressures in the Fire and Park funds.

Management also moved the District into early winter-storm preparation following the statewide El Nino emergency proclamation, advanced the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail environmental and land-transfer work, coordinated a joint rural-agency response on Proposition 4 watershed-resilience funding, and continued public-information, records-management, staff-development, and statewide special-district leadership activities.

2. Major Activities and Accomplishments

Water Supply Planning and Infrastructure

- **Completed and submitted the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.** The Board conducted the public hearing and adopted the plan on September 9, and the final plan and resolutions were submitted to the California Department of Water Resources on September 10. The plan establishes the District's current demand, supply, conservation, and reliability framework for future infrastructure and service decisions.
- **Continued long-term water-supply planning** through a September 29 water-rights and transfers meeting. Work remains focused on the future City and County of San Francisco water-supply agreement and a dependable long-term emergency water-supply arrangement with Pine Mountain Lake.

- **Documented the public-safety value** of recently completed water projects. The Harper Road and Highway 120 pipeline projects installed or replaced 20 fire hydrants while improving distribution reliability and fire-flow coverage.
- **Began evaluating additional operating technology** and emergency-water options. Management arranged next-step evaluation of an advanced metering system using field signal testing and reviewed a remote-hydrant concept that could move water from suitable static sources to roadside apparatus access points.

Fire Service Sustainability and Emergency Preparedness

- **Supported the Fire Citizens Advisory Committee's September 8 financial review** and related agenda preparation and follow-up. At a member's request, staff distributed the current County-GCSD co-location and cost-share agreement governing the second engine at Station 78 so the committee could evaluate the arrangement from the governing documents.
- **Maintained a fact-based options process** that recognizes the District's structural revenue shortfall, minimum staffing requirements, apparatus needs, and the January 2028 CAL FIRE staffing change. Committee work is now moving from common background information toward evaluation of funding and service alternatives.
- **Initiated District-wide preparation** for the potentially severe 2026-27 El Nino season. Following the Governor's September 21 emergency proclamation and the Tuolumne County operational-area briefing, management directed staff to update emergency plans and contacts, complete required training and field inspections, identify vulnerable sites, and develop practical preventative measures.

Capital Projects Property Parks and Grants

- **Advanced the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail environmental process.** Caltrans completed another review of the revised Biological Assessment on September 18 and identified remaining comments. The project team reassigned the lead consultant contact, corrected the submittal path, and continued revisions for resubmittal; cultural-resource work remains outstanding.
- **Moved the Hetch Hetchy land-transfer package forward.** September coordination produced the Parcel 440 legal description and updated the 14-sheet Groveland Land Transfer Map. The right-of-way team confirmed that the principal requested map corrections had been addressed, with permit references and final title-report details remaining for completion.
- **Advanced regional water and watershed funding.** GCSD joined Tuolumne Utilities District, Twain Harte Community Services District, and Jamestown Sanitary District in urging DWR to make the 2026 Watershed Resilience Grant Program workable for rural agencies. Management also participated in the September 16 IRWM Authority meeting and its support for a WaterSMART regional-restoration grant application.

Finance Administration and Public Service

- **Completed management review of the FY 2025-26 fourth-quarter financial report** for the September 16 Board workshop. Water operating revenues finished above budget, sewer revenues were near budget, and operating expenses generally finished below budget. The review also documented \$9.69 million in combined capital outlay and the continuing revenue limitations in the Park Fund.

- **Responded to a broad public-records request** and worked with the requester to clarify the records sought. Management identified existing budgets and independent audits available online, explained where requested comparisons would require new compilation, and offered additional assistance to identify responsive records.
- **Expanded staff-development planning** through targeted CSDA courses and selection of an operations employee for the SDRMA Safety Certificate Specialist program.

3. Significant Meetings and District Representation

AREA	SIGNIFICANT SEPTEMBER ENGAGEMENT
District governance and finance	September 9 Board meeting; September 16 quarterly financial workshop; finance review; administrative staff meetings; and internal progress meetings.
Water and capital projects	Waterline coordination; capital-improvement progress review; recurring Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail check-ins; and water-rights and transfers planning.
Fire-service planning	Citizens Advisory Committee agenda preparation, September 8 meeting, post-meeting debrief, and CAL FIRE prescribed-burn coordination.
Regional and emergency coordination	Tuolumne County operational-area briefing; County natural-resources committee; IRWM Authority meeting; and winter-storm preparedness follow-up.
Public information	Social-media coordination; public candidate meet-and-greet logistics; records-management work; and response to a detailed public-records request.
Statewide leadership	CSDA Fiscal Committee; Housing and Development Policy Principles Working Group; FPPC regulatory review; and 2027 governance-calendar planning.

4. Legislative, Regulatory, and CSDA Policy Work

CSDA housing and development policy principles. Participated in the September 9 working-group review of CSDA's emerging principles for housing, development, and permit streamlining. The work is intended to ensure that statewide housing policy recognizes infrastructure capacity, service-provider coordination, and the operating realities of special districts.

FPPC Regulation 18723.1. Completed review of the proposed Statement of Economic Interests amendments. After reviewing the FPPC staff analysis and related regulations, CSDA concluded that the changes were technical and clarifying rather than substantive and did not submit an opposition letter.

CSDA fiscal leadership. Participated in the September 11 Fiscal Committee meeting and continued reviewing statewide fiscal and governance matters that may affect special-district operations, compliance, insurance, and long-term financial planning.

Watershed resilience grant policy. Helped advance a joint Tuolumne County agency letter urging DWR to make Proposition 4 watershed-resilience funding workable for small rural agencies and to reward infrastructure protection, redundancy, regional benefits, and project readiness.

5. Issues Receiving Significant Management Attention

- **Defining the legal, operational, financial, and reliability framework** for updated water-supply arrangements with the City and County of San Francisco and Pine Mountain Lake.

- **Guiding the Fire Citizens Advisory Committee** from background education into evaluation of realistic funding, staffing, governance, and service alternatives while keeping the process transparent and fact-based.
- **Preparing District facilities, utilities, personnel, and communications** for potentially severe winter storms, flooding, debris, power interruptions, and access limitations associated with the developing El Nino event.
- **Coordinating Caltrans**, biological and cultural consultants, surveyors, title professionals, right-of-way specialists, and San Francisco representatives through the remaining trail and land-transfer steps.
- **Balancing long-term asset and technology planning** with the Park Fund's continuing revenue limitations and the need for accurate, timely public information.

6. Notable Results

RESULT	BOARD-LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE
Urban Water Management Plan completed	The Board adopted the 2025 plan on September 9, and the final document was submitted to DWR the following day.
Year-end financial review completed	Management and the Board reviewed operating performance, grant activity, and \$9.69 million in FY 2025-26 capital outlay.
Fire committee transparency strengthened	The committee received the current County-GCSD engine co-location agreement and continued its detailed financial review.
Water-system public safety documented	The Harper Road and Highway 120 pipeline projects installed or replaced 20 fire hydrants while strengthening system reliability.
Land-transfer map advanced	Parcel 440 was incorporated and the major requested revisions to the 14-sheet Groveland Land Transfer Map were completed.
Regional grant advocacy coordinated	Four Tuolumne County districts jointly recommended practical Proposition 4 funding rules for rural infrastructure and resilience projects.

7. Looking Ahead - Next 30 to 60 Days

- **Establish the evaluation framework** and begin coordinated legal, technical, operational, and financial review of the City and County of San Francisco water-supply contract and a long-term Pine Mountain Lake emergency water-supply agreement.
- **Support the Fire Citizens Advisory Committee's October evaluation** of funding and service options, including review of member-submitted materials and verification of legal, financial, and operational assumptions.
- **Complete the initial El Nino preparedness plan**, prioritize vulnerable facilities and access points, verify emergency contacts and training, and begin practical mitigation work before the winter storm season.
- **Advance the Hetch Hetchy trail and land-transfer work**: resubmit the corrected Biological Assessment, complete the cultural-studies scope, update the financial plan, and finish the remaining map, title, appraisal, and right-of-way items. A \$65,000 CMAQ allocation from TCTC was approved for the remaining technical work.

- **Conduct field evaluation of advanced metering technology** in difficult signal areas, determine whether a remote-hydrant demonstration would add value, and provide updated service-area information to the State Water Resources Control Board.
- **Develop options for the Park Fund deficit** and continue distinguishing ongoing operating needs from grant-supported capital improvements.
- **Continue CSDA policy and fiscal leadership** and monitor final Proposition 4 watershed-resilience guidelines for opportunities that fit GCSD's next generation of projects.

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