

Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee,
Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, and
Central Delta-Mendota GSA

Thursday, August 26th, 2021, 10:00 AM

[Click here to join Zoom meeting](#)
Call-in Number: +1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 854 2754 4345
Passcode: 367929

SLDMWA Boardroom, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA

Management Committee and Central GSA Members and Alternates Present

Northern DM Region Management Committee

Anthea Hansen, Member/Alternate – Del Puerto and Oak Flat Water Districts
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District
Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District
Walt Ward, Member – Stanislaus County County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson

Central DM Region Management Committee

Randy Miles*, Alternate – Eagle Field Water District
Danny Wade*, Member/Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District/Tranquillity Irrigation District
Juan Cadena*, Alternate – Mercy Springs Water District
Aaron Barcellos*, Member – Pacheco Water District
Michael Linneman*, Member – Panoche Water District
Mike Wood*, Member – San Luis Water District
Steve Stadler*, Alternate – San Luis Water District
Augie Ramirez*, Alternate – Fresno County
Damian Aragona, Member – Widren Water District

*Indicates representative, alternate, or 2nd alternate of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Representatives Present

John Brodie
Joyce Machado
Stewart Davis
Claire Howard – Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc.
Joe Hopkins – Provost & Pritchard
Gabriel Delgado – Baker Manock & Jensen

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Committees to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No corrections or additions were made to the agenda of items.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment was received.

4. Committees to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Barcellos

- a. Minutes for the July 29th, 2021 Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees and Central Delta-Mendota GSA
- b. June 2021 Budget to Actual Report

No comments were shared on the July 29th meeting minutes. Joyce Machado/SLDMWA reviewed the June 2021 budget to actual report. Joyce shared that Funds 64 and 65 for the Northern and Central Regions, respectively, are trending positive. She also noted that a preliminary unaudited budget to actual report for Fiscal Year 2021 is included in the meeting materials. Joyce explained that once the Fiscal Year 2021 audit is complete, the audited summaries for Funds 64 and 65 will be used during the Fiscal Year 2023 budget preparation process.

The Committees considered approval of the consent calendar. Vince Lucchesi/PID provided the motion for the Northern Management Committee and Maria Encinas/Patterson seconded. The Northern Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. Augie Ramirez/Fresno provided the motion for the Central Management Committee and Steve Stadler/SLWD seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. Committees to Authorize Submittal of Comment Letter on Draft Tracy Subbasin GSP and Formalize Process for Addressing Future Draft GSP Comment Letters, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the Tracy Subbasin, which borders the northern end of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, released a draft version of their GSP. The public comment period for this draft GSP closes September 9th. John noted that another comment period will be available once the final GSP is submitted to DWR's SGMA Portal by the January 31, 2022 deadline. The Committees provided direction for John to develop a draft comment letter to share for feedback via email in compliance with the Brown Act. The Committees will provide input and confirmation on a final version prior to Bobby Pierce/WSID and Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco providing signatures as the Northern and Central Management Committee chairs.

6. GSP Group Representatives Report from Subbasin Technical Working Group and Coordination Committee Meeting on August 11, 2021, Brodie/Lucchesi

John Brodie/SLDMWA and Vince Lucchesi/PID provided a summary from the recent Technical Working Group and Coordination Committee meeting held on August 11th. This meeting was held with representatives from USBR and USGS to review recent progress on the Central Valley Hydrologic Model 2 – San Joaquin Basin (CVHM2-SJB) groundwater model. John and Vince

explained that this meeting provided an opportunity for Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives to share feedback with USBR and USGS teams on data and processes used in the model development so far. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled with Subbasin representatives to review surface water diversion and reuse data used in the GSP development process that may refine the CVHM2-SJB model.

7. Committees to Discuss DWR Review of Sustainable Management Criteria (SGMA Portal), Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA provided an update on recent Subbasin data reporting. Each GSP Group uploaded sustainable management criteria (SMC) data to the SGMA Portal along with spring water level data for representative monitoring sites. DWR responded with some clarification regarding uploaded SMC data to ensure consistency between data in each GSP and the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module. SLDMWA staff will continue to coordinate between DWR staff and GSP Group representatives to finalize this monitoring information.

8. Committees to Discuss Recent Requests for Input/Data, Brodie
a. California Water Commission Survey: Water Trading
b. DWR Survey: GSP Funding Requests

John Brodie/SLDMWA thanked the Committee members for sharing responses requested for recent surveys from the California Water Commission and DWR. He noted that input received was incorporated into the final survey responses.

c. Water Levels from "Supplemental" Wells to Support Aquifer Contours (Annual Report)

Leslie Dumas/W&C explained that the Committee members will receive a request to share water level data from supplemental monitoring sites. These data will be incorporated into the Water Year 2021 Annual Report. Leslie also requested input from the Committee members on the water level contour map process. Leslie noted that Ken D. Schmidt & Associates (KDSA) has supported the contour map process for the past two Annual Reports. Leslie requested input from the Committee members regarding future contour map development. The Committees expressed interest in maintaining continuity in the contour development process, and continuing to work with the KDSA team. Leslie noted that she will also confirm this approach with the Coordination Committee at the next meeting.

d. OPTI Database (Project Descriptions) to Support Funding Requests

John reminded the Committee members to update project descriptions and detail in the Opti database (<https://opti.woodardcurran.com/irwm/wsj/login.php>), which will be used to gather project information when preparing for upcoming grant funding opportunities.

9. Well Permit Review Process, Howard/County Representatives

Walt Ward/Stanislaus shared that Stanislaus County is awaiting review from their legal team for the proposed well permitting process. Walt also noted that he is working with DM-II GSA and Central California Irrigation District to review new well permit applications received in those areas. Anthea Hansen/DPWD expressed concern regarding placing this responsibility on GSAs. She noted that for the time being, the DM-II GSA is proceeding cautiously. Steve Stadler/SLWD echoed Anthea's concerns regarding GSA involvement in this process.

Walt also noted that the California State Supreme Court decision on discretionary and ministerial well permitting processes may affect CEQA requirements for new wells.

10. Committees to Discuss 2021 GSP Implementation

a. Three-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton

Anona Dutton/EKI reviewed the three-month look-ahead schedule and noted new letters recently released by SWRCB on several GSPs. Anona clarified that these are different from the assessment letters that DWR will release, but that SWRCB has authority over SGMA enforcement.

Anona also noted that early 2022 will keep the Committee members busy with Annual Report development, anticipated responses to DWR comments on the submitted GSP, and new grant applications for the SGMA and IRWM programs.

b. Tracking Tools, Dutton

Anona reminded the Committees to complete the latest Tracking Tools for their GSA or member agency. Tracking Tool check-in meetings will be scheduled with Committee members to review monitoring and implementation efforts and to discuss experiences with the current dry year conditions.

c. Water Quality Monitoring Activities and Status, Dumas

Leslie Dumas/W&C reminded the Committees that the water quality monitoring window closes August 31st. Leslie requested that representatives share sample results with SLDMWA and Woodard & Curran staff once the agency receives the laboratory report.

d. Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network Development, Dumas

The Committees discussed identifying new sites for interconnected surface water monitoring, including the option of using future SGMA or IRWM funding to identify potential sites for nested well construction. Leslie noted that Technical Support Services (TSS) funding was used for one nested well site in the Central GSA, but that the TSS timing is delayed relative to the Northern and Central Regions' need for expanding the monitoring network. Leslie will coordinate with Vince Lucchesi/PID, Bobby Pierce/WSID, and Walt Ward/Stanslaus to identify potential sites for construction of new nested wells.

II. Committees to Discuss Special Projects

a. Well Census and Inventory Project, Howard/O'Leary

Claire Howard/P&P noted that final check-in meetings with GSAs and member agencies in the Northern and Central Regions are being scheduled to review well location and construction data compiled by Gavin O'Leary.

b. Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study and Project Feasibility Determination, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA reminded the Committees that the GSI Environmental, Inc. (GSI) team leading the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study has requested any available pumping data, particularly from wells screened in the lower aquifer, to bolster their subsidence review.

12. **Committees to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Update, Brodie/Montgomery/Lucchesi**
a. **Report on August 6th and 20th 2021 Meetings**

Vince Lucchesi/PID and John Brodie/SLDMWA shared updates from recent Facilitation Support Services (FSS) inter-basin coordination meetings held with representatives from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins and facilitated by a Stantec team. The regional area of focus for subsidence between these subbasins' borders is being finalized. Vince noted that Madera and Chowchilla Subbasins are taking a wait-and-see approach with subsidence, rather than proactively anticipating and addressing subsidence concerns. Representatives from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin are concerned about this approach because of potential ongoing regional subsidence impacts. Vince noted that the Northern and Central Regions can be used as an example for a potential path forward for the Chowchilla and Madera Subbasins for the Regions' efforts identifying well locations and extent of subsidence.

The next inter-basin coordination meetings are scheduled for September 1st and 15th.

13. **Committees to Discuss Potential Funding Opportunities, Brodie**

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared a summary of upcoming funding opportunities:

- DWR is offering a non-competitive funding program for critically-overdrafted subbasins. This program is anticipated to open early 2022.
- DWR is also offering a Small Community Drought Program, which is open for applications until December 29, 2023.
- Proposition 1 - Round 2 grant funding for the IRWM program will open in Spring 2022.
- USBR grants including the Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG) and Environmental Water Resources (EWR) are open until later this fall. WEEG requires a 50% match and the application deadline is November 3, 2021. The EWR grant requires a 25% match and is open until December 9, 2021.

John requested that Committee members add and update prospective projects in the Opti database.

14. **Next Steps**

- The Committees provided direction to John Brodie/SLDMWA to develop a draft comment letter in response to the Tracy Subbasin's draft GSP for submission by the September 9th comment window deadline. John will circulate the draft letter for feedback and confirmation with the Committees prior to the Committee chairs signing the letter.
- Committee members are requested to update project details in the Opti database (<https://opti.woodardcurran.com/irwm/ws/login.php>)
- Committee members are requested to complete their agency's Tracking Tool and provide availability to schedule a Tracking Tool check-in meeting.
- The water quality monitoring window closes August 31st. Committee representatives are reminded to share laboratory reports and chain of custody documentation once received.
- Additional meetings are being scheduled with agency representatives and Gavin O'Leary/P&P to review well census data results.
- The next inter-basin coordination meetings are scheduled for September 1st and 15th.

15. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No topics were discussed under this item.

16. **Future Meetings**

- a. Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- b. Thursday, October 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- c. November & December, 2021 (TBD)

17. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**

The Committees will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph (1), Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 [Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge].

18. **Report Out of Closed Session**

No reportable action was taken in closed session.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 12:12 PM.