

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

Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, 10:00 AM

[Click here to join Zoom meeting](#)
Call-in Number: +1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 890 5182 1804
Passcode: 033090

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
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson
Walt Ward, Member – Stanislaus County
Robert Kostlivi, Alternate – Stanislaus County
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County

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
Chase Hurley*, Alternate – Pacheco Water District
Michael Linneman*, Member – Panoche Water District
Mike Wood*, Member – San Luis Water District
Steve Stadler*, Alternate – San Luis Water District
Amy Montgomery*, Member – Santa Nella County Water District
Augie Ramirez*, Alternate – Fresno County
Lacey McBride*, Member – Merced 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
Scott Petersen
Claire Howard – Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc.
Joe Hopkins – Provost & Pritchard
Kait Palys Bautista – Provost & Pritchard
Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Amy Montgomery/SNCWD called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 shared.

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

- a. Minutes for the August 26th, 2021 Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees and Central Delta-Mendota GSA

- b. July 2021 Budget to Actual Report

Joyce Machado/SLDMWA reviewed the budget to actual report. Joyce explained that both Fund 64 (Northern Region) and Fund 65 (Central Region) are trending positive through July 2021. The Committees considered approval of the consent calendar as presented. Vince Lucchesi/PID provided the motion for the Northern Management Committee and Adam Scheuber/DPWD seconded. The Northern Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. Mike Wood/SLWD provided the motion for the Central Management Committee and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. Committees to Authorize Northern and Central Regions' Cost Share for the Full Budget Amount of \$88,760 for Completion of Subsidence Characterization Study, Brodie

The Committees discussed the cost share for funding the \$88,760 cost of the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study, which is a fully grant-reimbursable project supported by the Subbasin's Proposition 68 grant. This expense was originally included in the Coordination Committee's Fund 63 budget for collection in the second-half dues for the current Fiscal Year 2022, but the cost share between GSP Groups had not been determined. The Coordination Committee met in early September and discussed this cost share and cash flow process. The Coordination Committee provided direction for the Northern and Central Regions to cover cash flow for this study cost. Vince Lucchesi/PID noted that the Northern and Central representatives abstained during the Coordination Committee's vote on this action item.

The Management Committees discussed this recommendation from the Coordination Committee and potential options for managing cash flow in advance of receiving grant reimbursement from DWR. The Committees also discussed the subsidence study's area of focus within the Subbasin. The study is focusing on identifying subsidence causation and impacts to critical infrastructure in the Subbasin, which includes the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). Scott Petersen/SLDMWA noted the very northern area of the Subbasin, the Panoche fan, and Tranquillity had been highlighted as areas of focus for subsidence along the DMC. The Committees discussed their concern of fully covering the cost share for the project, and if this financial support would be interpreted as suggesting that all subsidence in the Subbasin is the result of pumping in the Northern and Central Regions. Anthea Hansen/DPWD shared this concern based on a recent SLDMWA Board meeting regarding subsidence causation and project

cost support. Scott clarified that the Coordination Committee discussion and recommendation to the Northern and Central Regions was not about assigning responsibility.

Joyce Machado/SLDMWA shared that the first- and second-half dues have already been collected from the Northern (Fund 64) and Central (Fund 65) Regions for the current Fiscal Year 2022. She explained that the subsidence study project cost can be retained in the fund balance for the Coordination Committee (Fund 63), so that no additional dues need to be collected. Joyce explained that since this project is fully reimbursable, this is an alternative to the present cash flow question.

The Committees agreed to this proposed approach. No additional dues will be collected for the subsidence characterization study. This cost will be retained in the Fund 63 fund balance at the end of the year, and Proposition 68 grant reimbursement will cover the full cost of the project. Future grant processes will include establishing cost share and cash flow detail prior to project initiation. Anthea and Bobby Pierce/WSID will hold discussions offline regarding subsidence causation with their neighboring agencies.

6. Committees to Consider Directing Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regional Representatives to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee to Authorize Revision of Subbasin Coordination Agreement for GSP Implementation, Brodie

a. Discussion and action on accountability for GSP implementation and addressing comments from DWR/SWRCB

The Committees discussed approaches for preparing for anticipated comments from DWR in response to the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region GSP (NCDM GSP). DWR's statutory deadline for providing evaluation of the NCDM GSP is January 2022. Based on review of DWR's comments on other GSPs, Leslie Dumas/W&C noted that additional detail for minimum threshold and measureable objective data will likely be requested. Leslie explained that this detail is available, and can be provided if requested.

Laure Layne/BMJ noted the challenge of not knowing where to focus GSP review until comments are received from DWR and/or SWRCB. Without this detail, the agencies may end up paying more to cover costs for review preparation. Anona Dutton/EKI noted the additional challenge of anticipated several parallel activities in early 2022: Annual Report development, grant applications, and ongoing coordination with other GSP Groups. Anona shared that DWR has encouraged GSPs to begin review and to anticipate comment topics based on the letters released to date. The Committees expressed interest in discussing the anticipated level of effort for developing analyzing sections of the NCDM GSP and potential topics that DWR may address in comment letters. Anthea Hansen/DPWD also expressed concern of the Committee members' already-high workload, noting that significant effort without clear direction from DWR may not be worthwhile.

Multiple Committee members expressed concern regarding the level of effort and lack of clear direction regarding anticipated comments from DWR/SWRCB at this time. The Committees decided to wait until comments are received from DWR until any preparation or additional GSP review begins.

b. Discussion and action on changes to the Coordination Agreement moving forward into implementation

The Committees discussed revisiting the Subbasin's Coordination Agreement to support ongoing implementation efforts and provide for mutual accountability between GSP Groups. The Coordination Committee also discussed this topic in the early-September meeting. Each GSP

IRWM funding. Projects in the Opti database will be reviewed for eligibility for this funding as well as for upcoming SGMA funding.

10. Well Permit Review Process, Howard/County Representatives

Robert Kostlivy/Stanislaus provided an update on well permitting status for Stanislaus County. Robert shared that Stanislaus County will continue to work with GSAs on the well permitting review process, including on anticipated changes to the CEQA analysis process.

Lacey McBride/Merced shared that Merced County is anticipating holding a public workshop in October focused on well permitting in the County. Details for this meeting will be shared once the date is confirmed.

11. Committees to Discuss Tracy Subbasin GSP Comment Letter, Howard

Claire Howard/P&P shared that the Northern and Central Regions' comment letter was submitted during the Tracy Subbasin's public comment period. Tracy representatives have expressed interest in scheduling future inter-basin coordination meetings to support data and monitoring coordination.

12. Committees to Discuss 2021 GSP Implementation

a. Three-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton

Anona Dutton/EKI reviewed the three-month look-ahead schedule and highlighted the fall water level monitoring period for representative monitoring sites. This window is September 1st - October 31st.

b. Tracking Tools, Dutton

The SLDMWA and consultant teams are coordinating Tracking Tool review meetings with individual member agency representatives to discuss monitoring and implementation efforts completed in the most recent two quarters.

c. GSP Implementation Monitoring Activities and Status, Dumas

Leslie Dumas/W&C noted that some water quality data are still needed for the monitoring completed this summer.

d. Inter-Connected Surface Water Monitoring Network Development, Dumas

Leslie is working with Bobby Pierce/WSID, Vince Lucchesi/PID, and Walt Ward/Stanislaus to identify locations for interconnected surface water monitoring sites along the San Joaquin River.

e. Annual Report: Water Level Data and Water Surface Elevation Maps, Dumas

Leslie reminded the Committees to share water level data for incorporation into the water surface elevation maps being developed for the Water Year 2021 Annual Report.

13. Committees to Discuss Special Projects

a. Well Census and Inventory Project, Howard

Gavin O'Leary/P&P is continuing to meet with member agency representatives to review well location and construction information identified through the well census effort to date. These meetings have provided agency representatives the opportunity to share additional context on location data and supplemental construction details. Gavin will meet with Central GSA representatives this coming month.

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

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the GSI Environmental, Inc. team leading the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study will present on the study progress in late October. This meeting will be noticed as a joint Coordination Committee and Technical Working Group meeting for interested members to attend.

14. Committees to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Update, Brodie/Montgomery/Lucchesi

a. Report on September 1st, 2021 Meeting

The most recent inter-basin coordination meeting provided Northern and Central Region representatives the opportunity to highlight efforts on the well census and inventory process, using this effort as an example for neighboring subbasins seeking to gather additional context on groundwater use and subsidence data. Amy Montgomery/SNCWD and Vince Lucchesi/PID shared context from the most recent meeting. They noted the ongoing challenge of successful coordination between the various subbasin representatives at these meetings. Vince Lucchesi/PID shared that he plans to speak with Stephanie Anagnoson/Madera soon to describe the Northern and Central Regions' well census process.

15. Committees to Discuss Upcoming Budget Development Process, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that a draft budget for the Northern and Central Regions will be developed for review at the next Management Committees meeting. The SLDMWA Board of Directors will hold their annual budget review meeting in mid-December, so staff will seek input on draft budgets for the Northern and Central Regions to present at that meeting. John asked if members of the Finance and Technical Working Group members wanted to participate in the development process, but no members expressed initial interest. Amy Montgomery/SNCWD shared that she wants to see the preliminary draft budget at the October 28th meeting before participating in separate review meetings. SLDMWA staff will prepare a draft budget for review at the October 28th meeting.

16. Committees to Discuss Potential Funding Opportunities, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA explained that an upcoming funding opportunity will be available for critically overdrafted subbasins. The draft guidelines and proposal solicitation package (PSP) are anticipated to be released on October 1st. One application can be submitted per subbasin, so input from the other GSP Groups will support coordination on identifying eligible projects. This funding opportunity will be discussed at future meetings once more information is available on the grant schedule and requirements. The Committees requested SLDMWA staff present a list of eligible projects for this funding opportunity.

17. Next Steps

- No additional dues will be collected for the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study. The study cost will be retained in the Coordination Committee's Fund 63 fund balance at the end of the year, and Proposition 68 grant reimbursement will cover the full cost of the

- project. Future grant processes will include establishing cost share and cash flow detail prior to project initiation.
- The Committees decided to wait until comments are received on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's GSPs from DWR until any preparation or additional GSP review begins.
 - Lauren Layne/BMJ will share the current Coordination Agreement and Cost Share Agreement for the Committees to review and share feedback in the context of GSP implementation and shared accountability.
 - DWR Draft Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies webinar scheduled for Sept. 23, 12-1:30 PM. Public comments are due to SLDMWA by Oct. 4, 1:00 PM for compilation and submission by the Oct. 7, 5:00 PM comment deadline.
 - Committee members are encouraged to update the Opti database with new or revised project detail for eligibility for future SGMA and IRWM grant funding.
 - Gavin O'Leary continues to coordinate with member agency representatives to review location and construction detail for the well census project.
 - A joint Technical Working Group and Coordination Committee meeting will be held in late October with the GSI Environmental, Inc. team to discuss progress on the subsidence characterization study.
 - SLDMWA staff will prepare a preliminary draft budget for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Management Committees' review at the October meeting.
 - The Committees will discuss future grant funding opportunities and eligible projects at upcoming meetings.

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

No topics were discussed under this item.

19. Future Meetings

- a. Thursday October 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- b. Tuesday November 16th, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- c. Thursday December 16th, 2021 at 10:00 AM

20. 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].

21. Report Out of Closed Session

No closed session was held.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Bobby Pierce/WSID adjourned the meeting at 12:07 PM.