



Subbasin Announcements

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee recommended in July that all Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) adopt the single Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Once adopted by all 23 GSAs, the single GSP will replace the six previous GSPs deemed “inadequate” by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). For more information on the single GSP, please see page two of this newsletter.

The next step is for each of the GSAs to individually adopt this new plan over the next few weeks. If you would like to be involved in that process, please contact your GSA for more information on the meeting. Not sure what GSA you are in? The state provides a GSA finder [HERE](#).

GSP Review Process

Under Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provisions, GSAs must begin implementing the new GSP once adopted. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will determine whether the single GSP meets the requirements of the law. If not, the Basin can be placed on probation until the SWRCB determines the GSP meets legal requirements and will achieve sustainability in the Basin once implemented.

The most recent tentative schedule released by SWRCB staff indicates a probationary hearing for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin will be held during the

Spring of 2025. Despite the single GSP now being implemented, SWRCB staff members are compiling a draft report on the six GSPs designated as “inadequate” by DWR for the probationary hearing.

Water Leadership Institute

Twenty-five people from different parts of the San Joaquin Valley graduated from the Water Leadership Institute latest cohort. Sessions were held at the Bird Ranch in Gustine and featured representatives from GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin as speakers. The Institute is an education and training program that teaches valley residents about water issues, and included a “train the trainer” component so participants can transfer knowledge and skills gained to others within their communities. Discussions are underway to hold another Institute in the Delta-Mendota Region in 2025.

Monitoring Schedule

Implementation of the single GSP for the Delta-Mendota region will mean an increase in various groundwater monitoring categories. Groundwater level monitoring will increase to four times annually from twice. Groundwater quality monitoring will increase to twice annually, and the number of constituents monitored increases from two to six. More frequent monitoring will occur in areas where minimum threshold exceedances occur.

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

Coordination Committee

Second Monday
1:00 PM SLDMWA Boardroom*

Northern Management Committee

First Wednesday
1:00 PM Patterson City Hall

Central Management Committee

Fourth Thursday
10:00 AM SLDMWA Boardroom*

Questions? Contact your local GSA or
Send an email to dmsgma@sldmwa.org

Visit deltmendota.org for current and
upcoming meeting information

*Confirm room location with dmsgma@sldmwa.org

GSA'S SHARE THE NEW SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin's 23 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) have been sharing their recently completed, draft, single [Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) (GSP). In addition to briefings at their agency Board meetings, three additional subbasin wide events were held to help spread the word about what's in the new plan. A 4th one is now scheduled for [August 27](#).

If you are not already familiar with it, the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires local agencies to form GSAs. The GSAs then must manage groundwater sustainably. They accomplish this through implementation of GSPs. Those GSPs must contain certain elements, the most significant of which include:

- Sustainability Goal
- Description of the area covered by the GSP
- Description of the Basin, including a water budget, a hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM), and historical and current groundwater conditions
- Locally defined Sustainable Management Criteria
- Monitoring networks and protocols for monitoring each applicable Sustainability Indicator
- Description of the projects and/or management actions (P/MAs) that will be implemented to achieve or maintain sustainability

Importantly SGMA also requires that the GSAs conduct active **stakeholder outreach**. This is to ensure that beneficial uses and users of groundwater can provide input into the GSP development and implementation process. During a **May 10 Webinar Briefing** attendees learned about the overall plan development process and received an overview of the Draft GSP and a detailed description of the first half of the document. **A June 7 Webinar Briefing** provided information on the remaining GSP chapters.

On **June 18**, a number of people ventured to the Los Banos Community Center to receive an **in-person** overview of the full GSP and ask questions of the technical team as well as members of the GSA Coordinating Committee that had provided leadership and policy direction.



The upcoming, lunch time, [August 27 Webinar Briefing](#) will provide an overview of the final version of the GSP as it's been adjusted based on public comments.

Register now at <https://tinyurl.com/3h7jnpsd>.

Maintaining Local Control

Beyond active engagement and consideration of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, two key tenets of SGMA are the preservation of **local control** and the use of **best available data and science**.

In attempting to meet the 2014 SGMA requirements the Delta Mendota GSAs have twice prepared a set of coordinated but separate GSPs for submission to state regulators. The state found those submissions inadequate and placed the subbasin into probation and under the oversight of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The new, single GSP seeks to resolve the state's concerns and return full control of groundwater sustainability planning to the local GSAs.

Good News and Tough Choices

Using best available data and science, the plan's technical team, led by EKI's Anona Dutton, and supported by the contributions from many multi-disciplinary firms that have supported the subbasin's groundwater management over the years, has produced a plan that achieves regulatory requirements for groundwater sustainability at 2015 levels.

A Coordinating Committee, composed of designated leaders from GSAs, provided leadership in evaluating the options and sometimes tough choices that achieving sustainability requires. This includes some pumping reduction, subsidence mitigation, and investments to increase supply such as recharge, recycled water, stormwater capture, construction of new surface water storage, and water exchange, transfers, and purchases. It will also require adaptive management based on conditions in the basin including pumping reduction, subsidence mitigation, and groundwater allocation. The Plan also includes a domestic well mitigation plan to provide eligible applicants with assistance if a well fails due to a decline in groundwater levels.

Help Maintain Local Control

You can help maintain local control by supporting adoption of the new plan and letting community members know the actions GSAs are taking to support long-term sustainability. Community support is a key to success.

See the Delta Mendota SGMA [website](#) to learn more about the new plan.