

Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

**Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present**

Anthea Hansen, Member – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)

Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)

Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson

**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Representative Present**

Scott Petersen

**Others Present**

Caleb Stearns – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)

**Others Present via Zoom**

Lacey McBride – Merced County (remote attendance due to family illness - just cause circumstances)

Kaitlin Burse – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)

Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro

John Brodie – Water and Land Solutions

Amir Mani – EKI Environment & Water (EKI)

Meredith Durant – EKI

Natalie Cochran – Woodard & Curran (W&C)

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Vince Lucchesi/PID called the meeting to order at 1:29 PM.

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

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda of items.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Lucchesi**

a. Minutes for the November 27, 2024 Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

b. Budget-to-Actual Report

Maria Encinas/City of Patterson provided the motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Anthea Hansen/DPWD seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**5. Committee to Consider Staff Recommendation to Adopt the 2025 Regular Meeting Calendar for the Northern Delta-Mendota Management Committee, Petersen/Lucchesi**

The proposed date for the Committee meeting in December 2025 was revised to Wednesday December 10, 2025. Subject to this revision, Maria Encinas provided the motion to approve the 2025 Regular Meeting Calendar and Anthea Hansen seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**6. Committee to Consider Approval of the Draft FY 2026 Northern Delta-Mendota Region Budget (Fund 64), Petersen**

Scott Petersen/SLDMWA described revisions to the draft FY2026 budget made after it was previously presented to the Committee. The SLDMWA Board is scheduled to adopt the budgets at its meeting on January 9, 2025.

Anthea Hansen provided the motion to approve the draft FY2026 budget for the Northern Delta-Mendota region, and Maria Encinas seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**7. Committee to Consider Staff Recommendation to Revise Exhibit “C” of the Second Amendment to the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Activity Agreement, Petersen**

Scott Petersen explained the rationale for revision of the current cost allocation formula, noting that it will be simpler to administer, but will result in small changes in the cost allocation percentages between the participating agencies.

Maria Encinas provided the motion to approve the revision to Exhibit C, and Anthea Hansen seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present. Committee members requested that staff develop a letter agreement to formalize the Exhibit “C” revision.

**8. Committee to Consider Authorizing its Representative to the Coordination Committee to Approve the Draft FY2026 Coordinated Budget (Fund 63), Petersen/Pierce**

Scott Petersen explained that, as requested, the draft FY2026 coordinated budget was revised to include an additional \$100K to fund the first year of the Domestic Well Mitigation Fund. Due to contracting issues, the planned expenditures for installation of the interconnected surface water monitoring wells were also extended from FY2025 to FY2026.

The Committee discussed the status of the FY2025 budget and invoicing. There may be outstanding invoices that SLDMWA needs to transmit to the member agencies. There are multiple complexities in the allocation of expenses that exacerbate this process. Anthea Hansen requested near-term clarification from SLDMWA regarding the FY2025 budget status, and whether a credit will be issued.

Anthea Hansen provided the motion to authorize its representative to the Coordination Committee to approve the draft FY2026 Coordinated Budget and Maria Encinas seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**9. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee, Lucchesi/Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that topics addressed during the December 2024 Coordination Committee meeting included the proposed draft FY2026 budget, the need for program management services, and addition of \$100K to the FY 2026 budget to initiate funding of the well mitigation program. The meeting also included a report regarding technical engagement with the

SWRCB staff and status reports from individual Subbasin regions regarding their Pumping Reduction Plans.

**10. Report on Technical Meetings with SWRCB Staff, Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that the technical meeting between Subbasin representatives and SWRCB staff occurred on December 11, 2024. SWRCB staff's primary concerns were regarding water quality and the well mitigation plans. SWRCB staff want the plans to address mitigation for domestic water supply wells with water quality impacts. Additional SWRCB staff concerns were regarding tribal outreach and interaction/coordination with the Irrigated Lands water quality monitoring program. An additional meeting with SWRCB staff will be scheduled. At this time, there is no formal update regarding the schedule for the SWRCB probationary hearing for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP.

**11. Committee to Discuss Recital Clarification in the Amended and Restated Cost Share Agreement for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, Burse/Petersen**

Kaitlin Bursey/BMJ explained that in December 2024, Madera County requested a revision to the Amended and Restated Cost Share Agreement to state the Parties' desire to amend, restate and replace the prior Cost Sharing Agreement with the Amended and Restated Cost Share Agreement. As this is a clarifying change and not a substantive amendment, formal action is not required, but the respective member agencies could readopt it if they were so inclined. These revisions altered the formatting of the Amended and Restated Cost Share Agreement's signature block pages and will require the respective member agencies to re-sign.

**12. Committee to Discuss Request for Proposals for Program Management Support Services, Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that he has obtained several example Requests for Proposals (RFPs). He hopes that a draft RFP for Program Management Services will be circulated for review by the Subbasin GSAs by January 13, 2025. The plan is to release the RFP by the end of January, and to retain a firm or firms by the start of the next fiscal year (i.e., March 2025). The RFP will be issued to the existing pool of Subbasin consultants as well as other recommended firms. Consultants will be able to submit proposals for any, or all, of the three Committee/GSA groups (i.e., Central, Northern, and Coordinated).

**13. Committee to Discuss GSP Implementation, Dumas**

- a. Status of WY2024 Annual Report
- b. Update on Modifications of SGMA Round 1 Grant Funding Program
- c. Update on ISW Monitoring Well Construction Contracting, Petersen

a. Natalie Cochran/W&C thanked the Northern Delta-Mendota GSAs for submitting their annual water use data for inclusion in the Subbasin WY2024 Annual Report. The water quality and water level monitoring data were also received and posted to the Subbasin Data Management System (DMS). Water surface elevation maps have been prepared using the water level data and circulated for review. The maps will be provided to Ken Schmidt & Associates for preparation of contours.

An estimate of the change in groundwater storage within the Subbasin is being prepared and the draft Annual Report will be available for review in March.

b. Natalie Cochran reported that Amendment No. 2 to the SGMA Round 1 grant is currently being processed by DWR and should be received shortly.

- c. Scott Petersen reported that construction of the Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) monitoring wells has been delayed by the contractor procurement processes and ownership responsibilities. Responsibility for contractor procurement is being transferred to the governing jurisdiction of the area in which the proposed ISW well is located. Obtaining the required easements is also complicated. The ISW well construction schedule may be delayed for a few months, while recognizing the completion date of April 2026 for SGMA Round 1 grant reimbursement is unchanged.

**14. Committee to Discuss Potential Additional Funding Opportunities, Petersen**

No written summary was provided. Scott Petersen noted the availability of some grant opportunities pertaining to environmental justice.

**15. Next Steps**

- Scott Petersen will communicate to the Committee whether the unspent funds from the current fiscal year will be recognized as a credit or a refund.
- SLDMWA Accounting staff to provide additional explanation regarding the FY2025 budget and SLDMWA agency invoice status.
- Program staff will draft a Letter Agreement regarding the revision of the cost allocation from Agenda Item 7 above.

**16. The Committee will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel on significant exposure to anticipated litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case)**

No Closed Session was held due to lack of a quorum.

**17. Report from Closed Session**

No Closed Session was held.

**18. Future Meetings**

**a. Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee**

- i. Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM

**b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee**

- i. Monday, January 13, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Monday, February 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM

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

No reports were discussed under this item.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Vince Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 1, 2024 - FEBRUARY 28, 2025**  
**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
**ACTIVITY AGREEMENTS BUDGET TO ACTUAL**  
**NORTHERN DELTA-MENDOTA REGION (FUND 64)**

**Report Period 3/1/24 - 12/31/24**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	Annual Budget	Paid/ Expense	Amount Remaining	% of Amt Remaining	Expenses Through
<u>Legal:</u>					
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 27,600	\$ 20,590	\$ 7,010	25%	12/4/24
<u>Other Professional Services:</u>					
Contracts	\$ 352,066	\$ 176,886	\$ 175,180	50%	12/12/24
<u>Other:</u>					
Executive Director	\$ 456	\$ -	\$ 456	100%	
General Counsel	\$ 6,696	\$ 41	\$ 6,655	99%	9/30/24
Water Policy Director	\$ 9,802	\$ 3,220	\$ 6,582	67%	12/31/24
Water Resources Program Manager	\$ 51,629	\$ 44,126	\$ 7,503	15%	11/30/24
Accounting	\$ 4,576	\$ 418	\$ 4,158	91%	11/30/24
Hydrotech 3	\$ 23,712	\$ 13,911	\$ 9,801	41%	12/31/24
License & Continuing Education	\$ 250		\$ 250	100%	
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,250	100%	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,500	\$ 345	\$ 2,155	86%	
Group Meetings	\$ 500		\$ 500	100%	
Telephone	\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250	100%	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 482,287</b>	<b>\$ 259,537</b>	<b>\$ 222,750</b>	<b>46%</b>	