

**Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**Board Room, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority**

**842 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA**

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

Aaron Barcellos\*, Member – Pacheco Water District

Augustine Ramirez\*, Member – Fresno County

Amy Montgomery\*, Member – Santa Nella County Water District (SNCWD)

Danny Wade\*, Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District & Member – Tranquillity Irrigation District (FSWD/TQID)

Palmer McCoy\*, Member – Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD)

Wayne Western\*, Member – Panoche Water District

Randy Miles\*, Member – Eagle Field Water District (EFWD)

Lon Martin\*, Alternate – San Luis Water District (SLWD)

Damian Aragona, Member – Widren Water District (WWD)

\*Indicates representative, alternate, or second alternate of Central Delta-Mendota GSA

**Absent**

Merced County

Oro Loma Water District

**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Representatives Present Via Zoom**

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Lauren Viers, Accounting

**Others Present**

Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)

Hugh Bennett – Eagle Field Water District

Patrick McGowan – Panoche Water District

Chase Hurley – Water & Land Solutions

**Others Present Via Zoom**

Meredith Durant – EKI Environment & Water (EKI)

Amir Mani – EKI

A Ortiz – County of Fresno

Leta Spencer – Silvertip

John Brodie – Water & Land Solutions

Joe Hopkins – Provost & Pritchard

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran (W&C)

Natalie Cochran – W&C

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

Central Delta-Mendota GSA Secretary, Amy Montgomery, swore in Palmer McCoy of MSWD as a member of the Central GSA and Central Delta-Mendota Management Committee.

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco Water District called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**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

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Barcellos/Petersen**

- a. Minutes for the January 23, 2025 Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota GSA
- b. Budget-to-Actual Report

Augustine Ramirez/Fresno County made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar for the Management Committee and Amy Montgomery/SNCWD seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**5. GSA to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Barcellos/Montgomery/Petersen**

- a. Minutes for the January 23, 2025 Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota GSA

Augustine Ramirez made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar for the GSA and Wayne Western/Panoche Water District seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the GSA members present.

**6. Committee to Consider Approval of the Draft FY 2026 Central Delta-Mendota Region Budget (Fund 65) and Potential Modification to Cost Allocation, Petersen**

Item 6 was discussed with Item 7, as described below.

**7. Committee to Consider Ratification of the Delta-Mendota Coordination Committee Approval of the Draft FY2026 Coordinated Budget (Fund 63) and Potential Modification to Cost Allocation, Petersen/Barcellos**

Agenda Items 6 and 7 were discussed together. Scott Petersen/SLDMWA discussed the information included in the meeting materials. As requested SLDWMA Accounting staff prepared a true-up of past membership costs as allocated in accordance with the Second Amendment to the Central Delta-Mendota Activity Agreement. Scott Petersen noted that there is currently a positive balance for Fund 65, with the balance greater than the estimated budget for FY 2026.

Lon Martin/SLWD made a motion to approve a third option for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which was not presented in the agenda packet, and allowed for the allocation of past management costs as invoiced to date (with no changes), but moving forward (including the funds currently held by SLDMWA) there would be an equal split of 88% of costs between the 10 member agencies of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA and the remaining 12% would be split between Widren Water

District and Oro Loma Water District (6% each). This will apply to both the Central Management Committee portion of Coordinated costs under SLDMWA Fund 63 and the Central Management Committee costs under Fund 65. However, the parties would continue to discuss the allocation formula for future SGMA response costs based on well pumping data with a 50/50 cost split between: (i) well pumping, and (ii) a flat fee per agency at a future time. Amy Montgomery seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

**8. GSA to Consider Approval of Draft Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending February 28, 2026, Montgomery**

Amy Montgomery noted that costs for development of the website are now included in the GSA/JPA budget. Budgets for future years will include costs for maintenance of the website. Augustine Ramirez made a motion to approve the draft Operating Budget for the GSA and Lon Martin seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the GSA members present.

**9. GSA to Consider Approval of Pumping Reduction Plan for the Central GSA, Hurley**

Chase Hurley/Water & Land Solutions explained that the Central GSA Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) was intentionally developed to be consistent with those prepared by other groups in the Subbasin. Amy Montgomery requested inclusion of a note in the PRP allowing continued groundwater pumping from designated municipal water supply wells, even if water level criteria triggering pumping reductions are met, and that had been incorporated into the draft PRP.

Randy Miles/EFWD made a motion to approve the Central GSA Pumping Reduction Plan and Wayne Western seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the GSA members present.

**10. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee, Hurley**

Chase Hurley reported that the Subbasin representatives had met with Water Board staff and discussed four issues. Three of these issues can be addressed, but the fourth issue pertaining to commitments in the Subbasin Well Mitigation Plan in response to remediation for legacy water quality issues is unresolved. This issue was discussed by Water Board staff and a Subbasin representative, and a response from the Water Board is still anticipated.

John Brodie/Water & Land Solutions reported that the Coordination Committee also discussed locations for installation of continuous GPS devices for subsidence monitoring. One location in the northern portion of the Subbasin is important, and suggestions for potential locations in the central portion of the Subbasin are welcome. John Brodie noted that installation of these devices will be funded by the DWR SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant, and therefore the work must be completed by early 2026, with invoices and documentation submitted to DWR by April 2026.

Chase Hurley noted that the Water Board schedule for a Probationary Hearing on the Subbasin's Single GSP has likely been delayed at least until early autumn. As of the previous meeting, the Water Board staff had not yet initiated preparation of their staff report on the Subbasin's GSP.

**11. Committee to Discuss Request for Proposals for Program Management Support Services, Barcellos/Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that two proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals issued by SLDMWA on behalf of the Subbasin. Provost & Pritchard submitted a proposal to provide program management services for the Central Delta-Mendota region. The Hallmark Group teamed with Intera submitted a proposal to provide program management services to the entire Subbasin. Scott Petersen has requested clarification from the Hallmark Group on their cost allocation and anticipates receiving a revised proposal by March 5, 2025. Additional discussion of this topic will occur at the March Committee meeting.

12. Committee/GSA to Discuss GSP Implementation, Duma
  - a. Status of WY 2024 Annual Report
  - b. Update on Modifications of SGMA Round 1 Grant Funding Program
  - c. Evaluation of Water Level Data Relative to MTs
  - a. Leslie Dumas/W&C reported that reminders regarding submittal of water level data have been transmitted via email. The water surface elevation maps have been circulated for review and comment. These maps will be used to calculate change in groundwater storage. The draft Annual Report should be available for member review by March 10, 2025.
  - b. Leslie Dumas reported on the status of the Subbasin's SGMA Round 1 Grant and reminded the recipients about the procedural requirements for reimbursement of activities performed.
  - c. Assuming that the February water level data are submitted by the agencies, an evaluation relative to the objectives in the approved PRP can be prepared by April.
13. Next Steps
  - SLDMWA will proceed with managing the approved SGMA budgets for FY 2026.
  - The next Committee meeting will include a discussion topic item regarding the future cost allocation formula.
  - Agencies should submit their water level monitoring data to the DMS, so that groundwater management relative to the PRP can be evaluated.
  - SLWD will provide the approved PRP to W&C for inclusion in the Annual Report.
14. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

There were no reports.
15. Future Meetings
  - a. Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
    - i. Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM
    - ii. Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM
  - b. Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency
    - i. Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM
  - c. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
    - i. Monday, March 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM
16. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (1 case).

The Committee went into closed session at 11:24 AM to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph 1 of 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, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-01691.

**17. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1 case)**

The Committee met in closed session to confer with legal counsel on significant exposure to anticipated litigation.

**18. Report Out of Closed Session**

The Committee concluded the Closed Session at 11:33 AM with no reportable action taken.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

Aaron Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 11:33 AM.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 1, 2024 - FEBRUARY 28, 2025**  
**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
**ACTIVITY AGREEMENTS BUDGET TO ACTUAL**  
**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA REGION (FUND 65)**

**Report Period 3/1/24 - 01/31/25**

**Central DM Meeting 03.27.25**

**EXPENDITURES**

Legal:

Baker Manock & Jensen

Annual Budget	Paid/ Expense	Amount Remaining	% of Amt Remaining	Expenses Through
\$ 27,600	\$ 31,021	\$ (3,421)	-12%	1/3/25

Other Professional Services:

Contracts

\$ 352,066	\$ 92,378	\$ 259,688	74%	1/16/25
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Other:

Executive Director

\$ 456	\$ -	\$ 456	100%	
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General Counsel

\$ 6,696	\$ 41	\$ 6,655	99%	10/31/24
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Water Policy Director

\$ 9,802	\$ 1,507	\$ 8,295	85%	1/31/25
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Water Resources Program Manager

\$ 51,629	\$ 36,180	\$ 15,449	30%	11/30/24
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Accounting

\$ 4,576	\$ 269	\$ 4,307	94%	1/31/25
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Hydrotech 3.

\$ 23,712	\$ 14,745	\$ 8,967	38%	1/31/25
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License & Continuing Education

\$ 250	\$	\$ 250	100%	
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Conferences & Training

\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,250	100%	
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Travel/Mileage

\$ 2,500	\$ 229	\$ 2,271	91%	
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Group Meetings

\$ 500		\$ 500	100%	
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Telephone

\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250	100%	
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**Total Expenditures**

\$ 482,287	\$ 176,370	\$ 305,917	63%	
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NORTHERN

DELTA-  
MENDOTA

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: March 27, 2025

RE: Committee to Consider Authorizing its Representative to the Coordination Committee to Authorize \$78,000 line-item budget adjustment in the Coordinated Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (Fund 63) and to authorize execution of a task order for these services

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### BACKGROUND

In February, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee approved the Fund 63 and Fund 65 budgets, respectively. After budget approval, updated Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the following groundwater subbasins with boundaries adjacent to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin were released for review: Chowchilla, Westside, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Eastern San Joaquin.

The Coordination Committee directed EKI Environment and Water to review the adjacent Groundwater Sustainability Plans and to perform technical support to provide letters detailing any concerns with adjacent subbasin approach to groundwater management that could influence the D-M Subbasin's ability to meet the goals in the adopted Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The scope and fee for the technical review is \$78,000 and staff is recommending that a line-item budget adjustment is made to accommodate the expenses, however, the SLDMWA procurement policy will require this action to go to the SLDMWA Board, as it is a contract amendment greater than 10 percent of the underlying EKI Environment and Water contract value.

Service	Consultant	Total Proposed Budget	Adopted FY26 Budget	Variance
Staff Augmentation Support	Water and Land Solutions	\$30,000	\$200,000	-\$192,760
	Hallmark Group	\$247,760		
	EKI Environment and Water (approved)	\$115,000		
	Woodard & Curran (annual report)	\$149,675	\$149,675	
Technical Support – GSP Review	EKI Environment and Water (approved)	\$78,000	\$--	-\$78,000
SGMA Round 1 Grant Administration	Woodard & Curran	\$175,015	\$83,470	-\$91,545
<b>Total:</b>				<b>-\$362,305</b>

Specifically, the FY 26 approved budget for Fund 63 includes \$596,000 for Component 8 – Data Gaps, which was originally scheduled for collections to cover construction of Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Wells and Continuous GPS stations that will not be able to be installed by SLDMWA. As a result, staff is recommending that this line item be allocated to cover these services to minimize the need for a budget adjustment.

#### ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Management Committee should authorize its representative to the Coordination Committee to approve a \$78,000 line-item budget adjustment in the Coordinated Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (Fund 63) and to authorize execution of a task order for these services.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorization to support additional contract scope and fee.

5 February 2025

J. Scott Petersen  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

**Subject: Proposal to provide technical review of updated and revised groundwater sustainability plans for neighboring Subbasins**

Dear Mr. Petersen:

EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI) is pleased to submit this proposal to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA; Client) for the technical review of updated and revised Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) submitted by neighboring subbasins. Per previous discussion, this review will assess the technical aspects of these GSPs to identify any conflicting information or actions that could impact the approval and implementation of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP (DM GSP) or the ability of the DM Subbasin to achieve its Sustainability Goal. EKI will collaborate with the Basin's legal counsel to develop subbasin-specific comment letters, which will be submitted during the public comment period, based on feedback and direction from the Basin's Coordination Committee (Committee).

This proposal covers the review of GSPs submitted by the Chowchilla, Westside, Kings (six coordinated GSPs), Madera (four coordinated GSPs), Merced, and Eastern San Joaquin subbasins. The Modesto and Turlock Subbasin GSPs are not included due to their different timeline. EKI plans to complete these reviews and associated comment letters within each subbasin's public comment period, with all work finalized by the end of April 2025.

## **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

### **Task 1 – Review and Comment on Neighboring Basin's GSPs**

EKI will conduct a technical review of the updated and revised GSPs from the adjacent subbasins identified above. EKI's review will focus on the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs), Groundwater Conditions and Water Budget, Sustainability Goal and Sustainable Yield, Projects and Management Actions, and GSP Implementation sections.

As part of this review, EKI will assess potential conflicts in data, methodologies, SMCs, and management actions that could affect the DM Subbasin's ability to achieve the Sustainability Goal. Particular attention will be given to inconsistencies in groundwater modeling, estimated historical and projected water budgets, sustainable yield estimates, and cross-boundary impacts related to groundwater levels, storage, and subsidence.

EKI will also evaluate the coherence and consistency of SMCs set by adjacent subbasins, their projected sustainable conditions, and their pathways to sustainability to determine potential impacts on the DM Subbasin's own sustainability trajectory.

Based on the findings, EKI will develop draft subbasin-specific comment letters. These letters will be refined in collaboration with the Basin's legal counsel and in coordination with the Committee to ensure alignment with their feedback and direction.

*Deliverables:*

- (1) One consolidated draft and final comment letter per Subbasin (six total), and
- (2) Presentation of findings at one Committee meeting.

*Assumptions:*

- Meetings will be held remotely.
- No technical analysis or modeling will be done to confirm or validate the analysis provided in GSPs for adjacent subbasins. EKI will rely on data and results provided in the GSPs for comparison and evaluation.
- Additional meetings with stakeholders or neighboring subbasins are not covered under this scope of work.
- Commenting periods are different for the six subbasins covered (April 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> except for Chowchilla Subbasin). EKI assumes the Client will organize a Committee meeting in early April to provide final feedback for timely submission of comment letters.

**SCHEDULE**

EKI will begin executing the scope of services described above upon receipt of authorization to proceed from Client. We anticipate that this Scope of Work will be completed by April 2025.

**COMPENSATION**

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort to complete the as-needed services cannot be exactly identified at this time, we propose that compensation for consulting services by EKI be on a time and expense reimbursement basis in accordance with the attached current Schedule of Charges. Efforts related to this Project are anticipated to be within a not-to-exceed amount of \$78,000 (see below). EKI will alert the Client if the level of effort is greater than anticipated herein.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Task 1 – Review and Comment on Neighboring Basin’s GSPs	
<i>Chowchilla</i>	\$12,000
<i>Westside</i>	\$12,000
<i>Kings (six coordinated GSPs)</i>	\$15,000
<i>Madera (four coordinated GSPs)</i>	\$15,000
<i>Merced</i>	\$8,000
<i>Eastern San Joaquin</i>	\$8,000
<i>Coordination and Meetings</i>	\$6,000
<i>Project Management</i>	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

All work performed by EKI under this proposal will be pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of our existing Agreement with Client.

If this Agreement meets with your approval, please sign where noted below and return a fully executed copy to our office to confirm your authorization to proceed. We look forward to working with you on this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We look forward to working with you on this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

EKI Environment & Water, Inc.



Vice President / Principal-In-Charge

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

San Luis & Delta Mendota Authority

By \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attachment

Attachment A EKI 2025 Schedule of Charges

## ATTACHMENT A

### EKI 2025 Schedule of Charges

#### SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

1 January 2025

<u>Personnel Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	355
Principal Engineer-Scientist	343
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	333
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	319
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	306
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	295
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	283
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	267
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	248
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	234
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	215
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	193
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	170
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	148
Project Assistant	139
Technician	133
Senior GIS / Database Analyst	175
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	152
Senior Administrative Assistant	167
Administrative Assistant	132
Secretary	111

#### Direct Expenses

Reimbursement for direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work will be at cost plus fifteen percent (15%) for items such as:

- a. Maps, photographs, reproductions, printing, equipment rental, and special supplies related to the work.
- b. Consultants, soils engineers, surveyors, drillers, laboratories, and contractors.
- c. Rented vehicles, local public transportation and taxis, travel, and subsistence.
- d. Special fees, insurance, permits, and licenses applicable to the work.
- e. Outside computer processing, computation, and proprietary programs purchased for the work.

A Communication charge for e-mail access, web conferencing, cellphone calls, messaging and data access, file sharing, local and long distance telephone calls and conferences, facsimile transmittals, standard delivery U.S. postage, and incidental in-house copying will be charged at a rate of 4% of labor charges. Large volume copying of project documents, e.g., bound reports for distribution or project-specific reference files, will be charged as a project expense as described above.

Reimbursement for company-owned automobiles, except trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, used in connection with the work will be at the rate of sixty cents (\$0.60) per mile. The rate for company-owned trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles will be seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per mile. There will be an additional charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day for vehicles used for field work. Reimbursement for use of personal vehicles will be at the federally allowed rate plus fifteen percent (15%).

CADD and other specialized software computer time will be charged at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour. In-house material and equipment charges will be in accordance with the current rate schedule or special quotation. Excise taxes, if any, will be added as a direct expense.

Rate for professional staff for legal proceedings or as expert witnesses will be at a rate of one and one-half times the Hourly Rates specified above.

The foregoing Schedule of Charges is incorporated into the Agreement for the Services of EKI Environment & Water, Inc. and may be updated annually.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026**  
**SGMA ACTIVITIES - COORDINATED COST-SHARE AGREEMENT**  
**COORDINATED (FUND 63)**

<b>FY25 Projections &amp; FY26 Budget Draft Draft 2</b>	<b>FY25 Budget 3/1/24 - 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY25 Projected Actual @ 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY26 Budget 3/1/25 - 2/28/26</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Legal:</b>				
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 33,120	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	
<b>Other Professional Services:</b>				
GSP Implementation Contracts				
Coordinated Annual Report Activities (Common Chapter, Water Level Contouring)	\$ 151,627	\$ 120,000	\$ 149,675	
DMS Hosting, Augmentation and Support	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	
Staff Augmentation Support (EKI)	\$ 71,040	\$ 80,000	\$ 200,000	
DAC Outreach and Coordination	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	
SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 SPA (A9)	\$ 73,330	\$ 90,000	\$ 83,470	1
Inadequate Determination Response (EKI)		\$ 65,000	\$ 55,000	
Interconnected Determination Response (EKI)	\$ 616,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 596,000	
Single GSP Development (EKI)	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	
Domestic Well Mitigation Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	2
<b>Other:</b>				
Executive Director	\$ 2,736	\$ 750	\$ 750	
General Counsel	\$ 4,836	\$ 650	\$ 1,000	
Water Policy Director	\$ 8,450	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	
Water Resources Program Manager	\$ 82,607	\$ 70,000	\$ -	
Accounting	\$ 4,752	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
License & Continuing Education	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
Group Meetings	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	
Software	\$ 780	\$ 780	\$ -	
Equipment and Tools	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,650	\$ 2,000	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,830</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Fund Balance	\$ (286,024)	\$ (432,864)	\$ -	
Collections for Single GSP Development	\$ 750,000	* \$ 763,654	\$ -	
<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,452</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,456</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,719,246</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	

<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>				
End of FY 24 (Budget Estimated)	\$ (286,024)			
End of FY 24 (Unaudited)		\$ (432,864)		
End of FY 25 (Budget Estimated)	\$ -			
End of FY 25 (Estimated)			\$ 658,416	
Resesrved			\$ (658,416)	
End of FY 26 (Estimated)			\$ -	
Available/(Required)			\$ -	

<b>PRIOR YEAR:</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 282,831</b>	<b>\$ 525,332</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>
<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (UNAUDITED)</b>	<b>\$ 338,081</b>	<b>\$ 1,516,083</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,830</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	<b>\$ 298,079</b>	<b>\$ 725,353</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,452</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>

**FY26 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 1 - Allocation persuiant to Special Projects Agreement.
- 2 - Funds for Domestic Well Mitigation Program to be collected \$100,000 per year for 3 years. Funds to be reserved until policy implementation.



NORTHERN

DELTA-  
MENDOTA

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: March 27, 2025

RE: Committee to Authorize Execution of Agreement and Task Order to Provide Program Management Support Services for the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Related Expenses

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### BACKGROUND

In February, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee approved the Fund 63 and Fund 65 budgets, respectively. After budget approval, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) staff released a Request for Proposal to Provide Program Management Support Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

Two firms provided proposals in response to the RFP, with Hallmark Group proposing to provide services for the Central, Northern and Coordination Committees, and Provost & Pritchard proposing to provide services to the Central Region only.

The adopted Fund 65 budget is included as Attachment A to this memo and the two proposals are attached as Attachment B.

The two proposals have different cost exposures related to the approved FY26 budget for the Central Region (Fund 65), as well as different qualifications and personnel. The two responsive proposals are attached as Attachment A to this memo for the Committee's review.

Staff has prepared the following table detailing impacts on the adopted FY26 budget, depending on the Committee's direction:

Service	Consultant	Total Proposed Budget	Adopted FY26 Budget	Variance
Staff Augmentation Support – Hallmark Option	Hallmark Group	\$140,515	\$150,000	<b>\$-62,715</b>
	EKI Environment and Water (approved)	\$72,200		
	Woodard & Curran (annual report)	\$203,028	\$203,028	
Staff Augmentation Support – Provost & Pritchard Option	Provost & Pritchard	\$67,181	\$150,000	<b>\$10,619</b>
	EKI Environment & Water (approved)	\$72,200		
	Woodard & Curran (annual report)	\$203,028	\$203,028	

Importantly, Woodard & Curran has prepared the annual report for the Central D-M Region for approximately \$100,000-125,000 each year in Fund 65 billings.

### ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee should authorize execution of a contract with Hallmark Group or Provost & Pritchard for Program Management Support Services and take action on related expenses, as necessary.

### ANALYSIS

Both firms are qualified to provide Program Management support services and are providing services on a time and materials basis, with varying teams and levels of experience throughout California practice in SGMA management.

#### Current Consultants

Current consultants working in the subbasin include Woodard & Curran for annual report preparation and grant management, EKI Environment and Water providing technical support for Single GSP implementation and Pumping Reduction Plans, as well as technical support for engagement with the State Water Resources Control Board. There is likely cost efficiency that could be generated in the provision of services by transitioning to a reduced number of consultants working in the subbasin that could be explored as the FY27 budget is developed and the fiscal and administrative support for GSP Implementation is transitioned away from SLDMWA.

Questions

Whether the Committee desires to have a single consultant performing Program Management for the Subbasin to streamline program delivery across the various management committees and regions?

What is the impact of the potential budget difference on the members and would the Committee prefer to authorize staff to execute a contract and gauge the budget exposure through the year to determine if a budget adjustment is needed?

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff has no recommendation and is seeking Committee input and action.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026**  
**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA REGION (FUND 65)**

<b>FY25 Projections &amp; FY26 Budget Draft Draft 3</b>	<b>FY25 Budget 3/1/24 - 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY25 Projected Actual @ 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY26 Budget 3/1/25 - 2/28/26</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>Legal:</b>			
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 27,600	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000
<b>Other Professional Services:</b>			
Contracts	\$ 352,066	\$ 270,000	\$ 363,028
<b>Other:</b>			
Executive Director	\$ 456	\$ -	\$ 500
General Counsel	\$ 6,696	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
Water Policy Director	\$ 9,802	\$ 7,500	\$ 20,000
Water Resources Program Manager	\$ 51,629	\$ 45,000	\$ -
In-House Staff	\$ 4,576	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Hydrotech 3	\$ 23,712	\$ 23,712	\$ 24,423
License & Continuing Education	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,000
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000
Group Meetings	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Telephone	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 500
Total Expenditures	<b>\$ 482,287</b>	<b>\$ 380,462</b>	<b>\$ 451,451</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Fund Balance	\$ 415,893	\$ 912,554	\$ 502,541
Other Revenues	\$ -	\$ 4,053	\$ -
<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$ 66,394</b>	<b>\$ 66,396</b>	<b>\$ (51,090)</b>
Total Revenues	<b>\$ 482,287</b>	<b>\$ 983,003</b>	<b>\$ 451,451</b>

<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>			
End of FY 24 (Budget Estimated)	\$ 415,893		
End of FY 24 (Unaudited)		\$ 912,554	
End of FY 25 (Budget Estimated)	\$ -		
End of FY 25 (Estimated)			\$ 602,541
Reserved for 5 year update on GSP			\$ 100,000
End of FY 26 (Estimated)			\$ -
		Available/(Required)	<b>\$ 502,541</b>

<b>PRIOR YEAR:</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 779,145</b>	<b>\$ 562,382</b>	<b>\$ 482,287</b>	<b>\$ 451,451</b>
<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (UNAUDITED)</b>	<b>\$ 219,475</b>	<b>\$ 258,314</b>	<b>\$ 380,462</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	<b>\$ 156,369</b>	<b>\$ (86,014)</b>	<b>\$ 66,394</b>	<b>\$ (51,090)</b>

# ➤ PROPOSAL FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

For the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

February 21, 2025

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February 21, 2025

Dear Selection Panel Members,

The Hallmark Group enthusiastically presents our proposal for Program Management Support Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation. Our qualifications provide an approach tailored to meet the unique needs of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and exceed all requirements outlined in the Request for Proposals.

**Our team's expertise in administration and water resources management have benefitted many State Water Projects, Central Valley Water Projects, and groundwater sustainability agencies throughout California, including the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Eastside Water Management Area, County of San Luis Obispo, East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Tule Subbasin, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and other relevant programs as detailed in this proposal. Additionally, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin can draw technical expertise as needed from our staff with decades of experience serving as general managers of the largest water agencies in the state.**

Adding depth and breadth to our team, we have strategically partnered with INTERA, a respected international water resources consulting firm with a proven track record in groundwater management and agency administration within California. INTERA has served in a technical and program management capacity, supporting Groundwater Sustainability Agencies throughout the state.

We understand that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is undergoing a transition from management under Authority staff to consultant support for ongoing administration needs. Hallmark has assumed these roles in previous projects and is well-versed in the process and challenges associated with transition. Our proposal contemplates this transitional period in addition to time that will be required to manage the probationary period with the State Water Resources Control Board. Our approach for this upcoming year is to establish processes and roles by clearly defining and delegating tasks to the most qualified and cost-effective team member, allowing the policy and technical-level team to focus their time only for matters requiring their unique expertise.

The Hallmark-INTERA Team will only be proposing on Program Management Support Services for the coordinated effort as scope was not clearly understood for the management of the additional regions. However, we would be open to developing a comprehensive cost proposal to support those additional areas.



You will find that we have arrayed an immensely talented team specifically selected to serve as Program Management Support and ensure smooth transition to management of overall administration, implementation, communication and coordination, financial management, and outreach activities.

We thank you for the opportunity to propose on this important effort and we look forward to providing the requested services.

Please contact me below should you have any questions.



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Gardner, Jr.".

Charles R. Gardner, Jr.  
President and CEO of Hallmark Group

**HALLMARK GROUP GENERAL FIRM INFORMATION, NO CONFLICTS, AND ADDENDA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

***Hallmark Group has received all issued addenda and verify that we have no personal or organizational conflicts of interest, as prohibited by law.***

CONTACT PERSON	Charles R. Gardner, Jr.
MAILING & PHYSICAL ADDRESS	500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350, Sacramento, CA 95814
LOCAL OFFICE	4900 California Avenue, Tower B Second Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93309
YEARS IN BUSINESS	Founded in 2001, 24 years in business
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	15
EMAIL ADDRESS	cgardner@hgcpm.com
CONTACT TELEPHONE	(916) 708-8767
FIRM TELEPHONE	(916) 923-1500
SBE/DVBE	Yes
FIRM WEBSITE	www.hgcpm.com

## PAST PERFORMANCE

Based upon our experience and qualifications, the Hallmark-INTERA Team is best suited to provide the Program Management Services requested by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin because of our:

- ✓ Technical knowledge to support the Delta-Mendota Subbasin
- ✓ Understanding of operations and management of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- ✓ In-depth experience with regional water resources management and stakeholders
- ✓ Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and project management experience for public agencies
- ✓ A nimble approach to task implementation and staffing that focuses on obtaining results quickly and efficiently
- ✓ Demonstrated fiscal management and consultant oversight
- ✓ Fostered effective working relationships with the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources
- ✓ Experienced in successful preparation for and participation at State Water Resources Control Board Probationary Hearings

**Hallmark Group Capital Program Management** has been an established provider of program management services for over 20 years since its founding in 2001 further concentrating our expertise on water resources management and development. Excelling in the leadership and management of complex programs for both government and private clients, our areas of focus include water resources management, administration, new water development, supply modeling, funding, risk management, project controls, organizational development, strategic implementation, environmental planning management, design and engineering management, and construction management.

With decades of experience in California water resource issues Hallmark Group has planned, managed, and held long-standing strategic and implementation positions for public agencies throughout the state.

Our team's expertise in water resources management and administration has been sharpened by a substantiated record of success in program management for public agencies serving as the owner's representative. The team has held leadership roles for large California water agencies and are uniquely familiar with the needs of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin as related to the proposed scope. Our demonstrated program management capability, and history of relationships within California water management, make our team exceptionally qualified to fulfill this role.



**INTERA**, founded in 1974, has been a leader of SGMA implementation in California. Its proven water resources expertise is highlighted through its GSP development and implementation in the Kaweah Subbasin and will support the Hallmark Team in the planning, development, management, and protection of the Subbasin's groundwater resources from staff based in Fresno.

The programs that follow are representative of the capabilities the Hallmark-INTERA Team can provide for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. In addition to being fully compliant with qualification requirements, our team's experience clearly demonstrates that our team has successfully managed programs of similar complexity.



## Representative Projects Demonstrating Project Scope Experience in Program Management Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

	CUYAMA BASIN GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA	SGMA CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES KAWEAH SUBBASIN AND EAST KAWEAH GSA, CALIFORNIA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES EASTSIDE WATER MANAGEMENT AREA, CALIFORNIA
<b>General Program Management:</b> Board and Committee Coordination, Facilitation of Brown Act Meetings, Packet Development, Schedule Management, GSA Administration.	●	●	●
<b>Inter-Basin and Intra-Basin Coordination:</b> Technical Consultant Coordination, Annual Report Management, Inquiry Management.	●	●	●
<b>Outreach Education and Communication:</b> Interested Party Coordination, Outreach & Education Support, Public Meeting Management, Website Support.	●	●	●
<b>Consultant Management:</b> Procurement Management, RFP/RFQ Development, Agreement and Contracting Management, Invoice Review.	●	●	●
<b>Fiscal Management:</b> Annual Budget Development and Tracking, Grant Funding Coordination, Consultant Budget Management.	●	●	●
<b>Grant Administration and Management:</b> Quarterly Financial and Progress Reporting, Consultant Reporting Coordination.	●	●	●
<b>Other:</b> Expert Level Application of Virtual Meeting Platforms, Microsoft Suite, and Wordpress.	●	●	●

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (2017-PRESENT)

Hallmark Group was retained by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) to provide support services to the agency, including all Board reporting and facilitation, accounting, financial management, budget development and tracking, schedule management, consultant and contract management, outreach, and coordination of grant administration and reporting. The CBGSA was formed in 2017 pursuant to the Groundwater Sustainability Act (SGMA) to develop and implement the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The CBGSA is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors and includes representatives from the four counties that intersect the Basin (Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura), the Cuyama Community Services District, and the Cuyama Basin Water District).



<b>SCOPE</b>	Hallmark Group provides the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Director Services. Activities include Board reporting and facilitation, project controls, fiscal management services, meter requirement implementation, budget development and tracking, groundwater extraction fees implementation, groundwater allocation implementation, schedule management, consultant management, contract management, stakeholder outreach facilitation, website updates, and coordination of grant administration and reporting.
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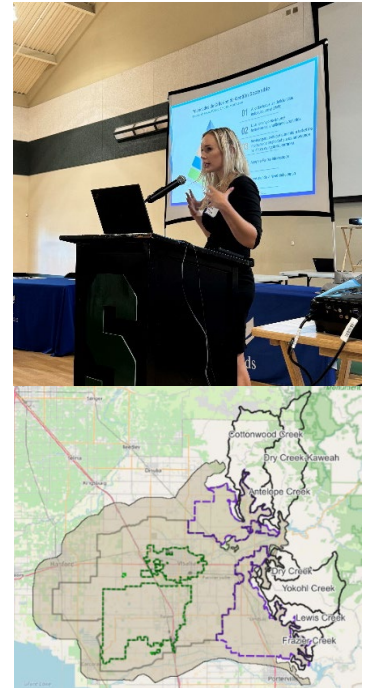
<b>OUTCOME</b>	All GSA objectives are being met. Hallmark has managed the development of the GSP which has been approved by the California Department of Water Resources. The team continues to manage the GSP implementation effort and has done so on budget and on time. Within a short timeframe the Hallmark team managed the proposal review and selection of key consultants for the program, developed annual and program budgets, and facilitated negotiations for program cost allocation among participants, created the program schedule, and implemented executive level Board reporting. The team also established processes, procedures, and policies for newly created organizations in a timely and affordable manner. Ongoing project management is currently in progress and tracking the goal of achieving groundwater sustainability by 2040.
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<b>CONTRACT &amp; REFERENCE</b>	<p>Hallmark's role has been ongoing since 2017 remaining on schedule. The first partial contract year of \$163,750 and current cumulative contract amount of \$2,054,289 is reflective of eight budgeted years of continued support. Hallmark has no problems nor corrective actions with our performance.</p> <p><b>Client Reference:</b> Cory Bantilan, Board Chair (805) 680-2226 <a href="mailto:cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org">cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org</a></p> <p>Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency 4900 California Avenue, Ste B, Bakersfield, CA 93309</p>
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## SGMA CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES KAWEAH SUBBASIN AND EAST KAWEAH GSA (2023-PRESENT)

Following the Kaweah Subbasin receiving their Groundwater Sustainability Plans' (GSP) inadequacy determination from the Department of Water Resources, INTERA managed SGMA-related technical services, engagement activities, and mitigation program development. The primary objectives of this project have been to (1) address and clearly communicate how EKGSA and the Kaweah Subbasin are addressing the deficiencies, and (2) review and provide support for the subbasin-wide groundwater flow model.

In addition to supporting these two objectives, INTERA served as the lead coordinator between the GSAs and their respective technical teams. This includes coordinating the GSAs' technical teams analyses and deliverables, schedule tracking and maintenance, scheduling all Subbasin-wide meetings (including technical meetings and stakeholder workshops), coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, developing standardized stakeholder outreach materials to be used across the Subbasin GSAs, and weekly emails indicating the action items, responsible parties, meetings, and priorities for each week during GSP development and implementation.



### SCOPE

GSP improvements have been addressed by INTERA leading the subbasin-wide dry well susceptibility analysis, mitigation cost estimate tool, the subbasin-wide Mitigation Program and templates for the GSA-specific Mitigation Plans, and subbasin-wide coordination administration. As part of the Mitigation Program development, INTERA is leading the approach documentation and partnership coordination on mapping out the Subbasin's next steps on a 'Well Registration Program' and a 'Proactive Program to Protect Small Community Water Systems', which includes engagement, contingency planning, and as-needed, site-specific demand management protocols to protect the more vulnerable systems within the Kaweah Subbasin. INTERA has supported the Subbasin-wide subsidence revision through reviews, technical input, and identifying resources to best analyze impacts on all forms of critical infrastructure. Outside of the technical elements of GSP revisions, INTERA has taken the lead on outreach through monthly stakeholder and technical advisory committee meetings, and Technical Workshops for drinking water well advocates and groundwater-dependent growers.

### OUTCOME

In December of 2024, the Kaweah Subbasin's Probationary Hearing was cancelled by the State Water Resources Control Board in acknowledgement that the submitted GSPs had demonstrably addressed all DWR and State Water Resources Control Board deficiencies. At this time, the State Water Resources Control Board's staff are completing their detailed review with the plan to transition the Kaweah Subbasin out of state intervention and back into DWR's purview.

### CONTRACT & REFERENCE

INTERA's role has been ongoing since 2023 remaining on schedule. Initial contract of \$1,323,000 for March 2023 through January 2025, ending at \$1,875,000 including contracted work for February 2025-July 2025 (\$552,000). INTERA has no problems nor corrective actions with their performance.

**Client Reference:** Mike Hagman, General Manager (559) 303-4150 [mhagman@lindmoreid.com](mailto:mhagman@lindmoreid.com)  
Lindmore Irrigation District/East Kaweah GSA, 315 E Lindmore St, Lindsay, CA 93247

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES EASTSIDE WATER MANAGEMENT AREA (2018-PRESENT)

The Eastside Water Management Area (EWMA) is comprised of forty-six landowners covering over 38,000 acres. The EWMA is a non-profit organization governed by a 7-member Board and is an associate member of the Kern Non-District Land Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (KNDLA). The EWMA's primary purpose is to comply with the regulations and requirements of SGMA.



### SCOPE

Hallmark Group provides Executive Director Services to the EWMA. Hallmark Group guided the formation of the EWMA which currently has 46 members who own approximately 38,000 acres. The services provided by Hallmark Group include budget development, administration, project controls, schedule management, contract management, outreach, facilitation of Board of Directors meetings, and coordination with the Kern Non-District Land Authority.

### OUTCOME

All GSA objectives are being met. Hallmark Group oversaw the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and is working with basin stakeholders to amend the GSP. The Hallmark Group provides effective management and representation at the Kern Non-District Land Authority GSA and basin coordination meetings. The team's in-depth policy experience has guided technical groundwater management strategies, and our years of administrative support provide successful coordination with neighboring water districts on water management strategies. Ongoing project implementation is currently in progress and on track to achieving the goal of groundwater sustainability by 2040.

### CONTRACT & REFERENCE

Hallmark's role has been ongoing since 2018 remaining on schedule. The first partial year contract at of \$116,300 and current cumulative contract amount of \$812,402 is reflective of seven budgeted years of continued support. Hallmark has no problems nor corrective actions with our performance.

**Client Reference:** Chad Hathaway, Board Chair (661) 201-7716 [chathaway@hathawayllc.com](mailto:chathaway@hathawayllc.com)  
Eastside Water Management Area 4205 Atlas Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

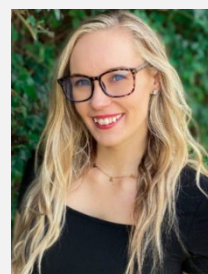
## KEY PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE

Our Project Team members are the leaders who will ensure the Delta-Mendota Subbasin is effectively administered and operated. The Hallmark-INTERA Team offers both historical and current regional context along with the technical knowledge to complete the scope and achieve Delta-Mendota Subbasin goals. In addition to the proposed staff, our firm can draw from a deep bench of industry expertise, if requested. **Detailed resumes for the Project Team are included in the Attachments section of this proposal.**



**PRINCIPAL & GSP PLAN MANAGER - Taylor Blakslee (Hallmark Group)** brings nearly 20 years of water resources management experience. Taylor manages to the Cuyama Basin GSA, the Eastside Water Management Area, and serves as SGMA support for the County of San Luis Obispo. Taylor brings a unique understanding of the requirements of public agencies, Brown Act, regulatory reporting, consultant management, grant management, and Board and stakeholder engagement. Taylor will be supported by **Grace Bianchi** through facilitation and management of public meetings, materials development, and presentations.

**SECRETARY FOR THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN COORDINATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin Palys (INTERA)** has been dedicated to SGMA compliance through scientific analyses, technical writing, coordination facilitation, stakeholder outreach, data processing, data analysis, communications and engagement planning and execution, data management, and water budget calculations for GSP development and implementation. Her leadership and successful GSP management have been demonstrated in the Kaweah Subbasin, Tule Subbasin, Kern Subbasin, and Delta-Mendota Subbasin, among others. Kaitlin will be supported by **Karina Redding** for schedule management and meeting coordination.










**CONTROLS & ACCOUNTING - Jacqueline Harris, CPA (Hallmark Group)** is a certified public accountant with over 30 years of fiscal management expertise. She develops agency budgets and financial reports for public agencies, watermasters, and GSAs which provide the information necessary to monitor current performance and forecast future performance. She manages grant funding and serves in a financial accounting role for the Cuyama Basin GSA and major infrastructure Joint Powers Authorities throughout California. Jacqueline will be supported by **Kaleen Hamrick** for budget tracking and contract administration.

**TECHNICAL TEAM LEAD – Ibrahim Khadam PhD, PE, PMP (Hallmark Group)** brings extensive experience in groundwater sustainability planning, and stakeholder-driven solutions, with a deep understanding of California water policies. Ibrahim has led the development of GSPs and conjunctive use implementation initiatives in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, Big Valley Basin, and Yuba Basin. Skilled in decision-support tools and adaptive management, ensuring practical, data-driven solutions that balance the needs of water users, agriculture, and the environment, Ibrahim will provide technical team coordination in support of the SWRCB probationary resolution process.



The proposed **Hallmark-INTERA Team** will work collaboratively to meet the needs of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The team, with breadth of knowledge and expertise, will support and ensure smooth transition to management of overall administration, project implementation, communication and coordination, financial management, and public engagement activities. Hallmark-INTERA Team commits that the Key Personnel as identified in this proposal will be utilized for work on this contract, if awarded. The matrix below outlines the roles and responsibilities of our proposed team and how we will execute the scope of work, **L: Lead, S: Support** roles.

## RESPONSIBILITIES MATRIX

	Taylor Blakslee	Kaitlin Palys	Jacqueline Harris	Ibrahim Khadam	Support Team: Grace Bianchi, Kaleen Hamrick, Karina Redding
 <b>General Program Management:</b> Board and Committee Coordination, Facilitation of Brown Act Meetings, Packet Development, Schedule Management, GSA Administration.	S	L		S	S
 <b>Inter-Basin and Intra-Basin Coordination:</b> Technical Consultant Coordination, Annual Report Management, Inquiry Management.	L	S		S	
 <b>Outreach Education and Communication:</b> Interested Party Coordination, Outreach & Education Support, Public Meeting Management, Website Support.	S	L		S	S
 <b>Consultant Management:</b> Procurement Management, RFP/RFQ Development, Agreement and Contracting Management, Invoice Review.	S		L		S
 <b>Fiscal Management:</b> Annual Budget Development and Tracking, Grant Funding Coordination, Consultant Budget Management.	S		L		S
 <b>Grant Administration and Management:</b> Quarterly Financial and Progress Reporting, Consultant Reporting Coordination.		S	L		S
 <b>Other:</b> Expert Level Application of Virtual Meeting Platforms, Microsoft Suite, and WordPress.		L			S

## ATTACHMENTS: KEY PERSONNEL RESUMES



#### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in  
Business Administration  
Finance Concentration,

California State University  
Bakersfield

#### INDUSTRY TENURE

20 years

## TAYLOR BLAKSLEE

### GSP PLAN MANAGER

Taylor Blakslee brings nearly two decades of relevant water management experience to his clients. Mr. Blakslee serves as the Assistant Executive Director of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Eastside Water Management Area in the Kern subbasin and brings a strong understanding of GSP implementation and management of the public process including Board interaction, stakeholder engagement, and Brown Act compliance. Notably, his in-depth experience and understanding of Board processes and interaction with Directors and senior-level management has made him an effective communicator and able to resolve issues that arise. Mr. Blakslee's skills include project management, consultant management, Board reporting, budget/cash flow development, and regulatory compliance. Mr. Blakslee is service-oriented and enjoys working with clients to deliver exceptional results.

#### SELECT RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

##### **County of San Luis Obispo SGMA and Administrative Support** Project Manager – 2022 to Present

Taylor provides management support to the County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Department (GSD) including preparation of Board of Supervisor updates, SGMA policy and compliance strategy, SGMA updates, coordinating compliance with Fair Political Practices Commission filings, coordination for both the County GSAs and basin management committees. Mr. Blakslee also conducts general administration tasks such as outreach, meeting preparation and facilitation, stakeholder coordination, web-posting management, County department coordination, budget development, and grant funding and administration.

##### **Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency** Project Manager - 2018 to Present

Mr. Blakslee provides policy support, project management, and financial management service for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors. His responsibilities include preparing for and facilitating regular project management meetings with technical consultant teams to track tasks and monitor schedule issues; managing the Board meeting process, including materials development, memo creation, budget development and financial reporting; coordinating various information requests that arise from Board members and public stakeholders; coordinating grant administration and performing document control.

**Eastside Water Management Area****Assistant Executive Director – 2018 to Present**

Mr. Blakslee provides Assistant Executive Director services to the Eastside Water Management Area (EWMA) including administrative and policy support, technical consultant management, and representation at regional Groundwater Sustainability Agency meetings. The Kern Sub-basin of the Tulare Basin has been identified as a high priority Basin by DWR, which is subject to conditions of critical overdraft. Non-district landowners contracted with in the eastern portion of Kern County contracted with the Hallmark Group to develop and implement its GSP. The EWMA membership currently includes 46 members who own approximately 38,000 acres.

**California WaterFix****KCWA Administrative Assistant – 2007 to 2018**

Taylor supported Kern County Water Agency through their involvement in the development and planning phase of the California WaterFix (formerly the Bay Delta Conservation Plan), a \$17 billion program to provide a more reliable water supply to over 25 million California residents. Taylor coordinated with the Board, stakeholders, and other agencies to provide project updates and to support development of the Kern County implementation strategy.

**Kern County Water Agency****Administrative Assistant - 2006 to 2018**

Mr. Blakslee's time at KCWA equipped him to interact effectively with Board members and the public. He coordinated with KCWA's Public Education and Outreach consultant on all public and media inquiries. His duties included coordinating KCWA's vehicle procurement program, creating PowerPoints for educational and technical purposes, managing specific cost centers in KCWA's budget, and tracking departmental tasks.



## CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Public Accountant

Chartered Global  
Management Accountant

## AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of  
Certified Public Accountants

California Society of  
Certified Public Accountants

## EDUCATION

Executive Education,  
Harvard Business School  
Driving Corporate  
Performance & Strategic  
Financial Analysis

Bachelor of Science,  
Accounting and Finance  
University of La Verne

INDUSTRY TENURE  
30+ years

# JACQUELINE HARRIS, CPA, CGMA

## CONTROLS & ACCOUNTING

Jacqueline has more than 30 years' experience in the fields of finance, strategic planning and risk management. Jacqueline spent 10 years in public accounting serving the financial, tax and business planning needs of clients in the fields of construction and public housing prior to joining Hallmark Group.

Jacqueline is responsible for the evaluation of short and long term strategic financial goals, developing, analyzing and reporting on financial data, advising stakeholders on the financial implications of business activities, preparation and management of budgets and forecasts, risk management, developing and implementing internal controls, performing internal audits, ensuring compliance with regulatory agencies, and managing contracts. Jacqueline's years of experience, personal integrity, and dedication has consistently demonstrated that she is a highly competent and trusted financial leader to the clients she serves.

## SELECT RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project (Sisk)** Project Controls - 2022 to Present

The Hallmark team serves as the Project Manager for the Sisk Project which seeks to increase storage capacity in San Luis Reservoir by adding 10-foot above the 12-foot embankment raise under development by the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams (SOD) Modification Project. Jacqueline and the Hallmark team are working with Reclamation and the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority to develop an Operations Plan, negotiate and execute the Cost Share Agreement, and develop an RFP for final project design. Jacqueline provides financial modeling analysis to inform allocation costs among investors, develops cash flow projections to inform project funding needs, and provides ad hoc reporting for members to support business case development.

### **Storage Treatment Aquifer Recharge (STAR) Program** Project Controls – 2021 to Present

The STAR Program was conceptualized and is being designed and implemented by the Hallmark Group as a comprehensive program to optimize water resources for Westlands Water District. Program design is a multi-facility approach which includes upper aquifer water treatment, surface storage, and incorporation of groundwater storage and recovery wells for additional storage and added flexibility. Upon completion, the STAR Program is anticipated to yield an additional 1.9 million acre-feet of water over the next 30 years to further client goals of providing timely, reliable, and affordable water.

**LeGrand Athlone Water District (LGAWD) Intertie Project****Project Controls - 2021 to Present**

Hallmark Group provides project management support, grant administration, and construction management for the LGAWD Intertie Project which will provide surface water for irrigation or recharge and provide direct benefits to Underrepresented Communities. The Intertie Project will capture floodwaters via the construction of a canal and groundwater recharge basin in Le Grand. The canal will have multiple turnouts to provide approximately 6,750 acre/feet per year (AFY) of groundwater recharge through Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and approximately 1,350 AFY of groundwater recharge through the Bona Vista Recharge Basin.

**Confidential Private Equity Due Diligence****Consultant - 2019 to Present**

Jacqueline and the Hallmark team have been engaged by private equity and legal firms to provide due diligence analyses for potential water asset investments including financial analysis, valuation, agreements, feasibility, and associated risks. These analyses resulted in investors making informed decisions regarding potential opportunities.

**Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency****Project Controls – 2017 to Present**

The Hallmark Group serves as the Executive Director for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) that was formed by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement by multiple agencies and districts under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Cuyama Groundwater Basin has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a high priority basin and subject to conditions of critical overdraft. The CBGSA has developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that prevents undesirable results and have identified and implemented actions and projects to reach its sustainability goal and bring the basin in balance by 2040. Jacqueline's key responsibilities for the CBGSA consist of development of internal controls, financial accounting and reporting, and assisting with the annual audit and budget preparation.

**Lower Yolo Restoration Project****Project Controls - 2016 to Present**

The Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project is located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The project restored 3,400 acres on a site which has historically been used for pasture and cattle grazing. Jacqueline works with project owners and consultants to maintain the project budget, ensure contract compliance and perfect regulatory filings.

**California WaterFix Planning Program Management****Project Controls - 2009 to 2018**

Jacqueline oversaw Hallmark's Program Controls team responsible for establishing program controls processes and procedures including establishing a baseline budget, developing a robust Project Change Management System to analyze and track changes to the baseline. Jacqueline drafted project control plans including the cost control plan, schedule control plan and the document control plan. She coordinated with the State of California to administer over 40 consultant contracts and reporting for the WaterFix.

**University of California, Merced****Project Controls - 2005 to 2009**

In 2002, prior to permit completion, the Hallmark Group was selected as the project's program manager and tasked with establishing budgetary, schedule, and quality-control measures that would ensure the timely opening of the University of California (UC) Merced campus at a constructed value of \$500M. Jacqueline assisted Hallmark Group's President and key management staff with the implementation of project and document controls, cost management, and financial reporting.



## EDUCATION

PhD, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Utah State University

MS, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Utah State University

BS, Civil Engineering, University of Khartoum, Sudan

## CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Engineer (Civil) – CA #72496

Project Management Professional – PMI #1555357

## IBRAHIM KHADAM, PhD, PE, PMP TECHNICAL TEAM LEAD

Ibrahim is a highly accomplished water resources expert with over 20 years of experience in groundwater sustainability, integrated water resources management, and strategic planning. His expertise spans groundwater modeling, technical analyses, stakeholder coordination, and leadership in complex water management projects. He has led the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans and conjunctive use initiatives, leveraging his extensive experience in groundwater sustainability planning and understanding of California water policies to deliver stakeholder-driven solutions.

As a recognized expert in groundwater and surface-water interaction modeling, Ibrahim has extensive experience applying models to evaluate conjunctive use, groundwater banking, and climate resilience strategies. He is adept at translating complex modeling results into actionable policies, supporting effective groundwater management and decision-making. His ability to collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies, and environmental organizations has helped build consensus on operational strategies and long-term planning goals. He has successfully led large, diverse teams across technical, environmental, and policy domains to deliver high-impact projects with a focus on quality, efficiency, and stakeholder alignment.

## SELECT RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Big Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Lake County, CA** Technical Lead – 2021 to 2022

The Big Valley Basin, a predominantly agricultural region bordering Clear Lake (California's largest freshwater lake), required extensive collaboration with farmers, tribal representatives, disadvantaged communities, and environmental groups. Ibrahim served as the technical lead for the development of the Big Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Specifically, he led the preparation of the hydrogeologic conceptual model, assessment of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, formulation of sustainability criteria and thresholds, and identification of management actions and implementation strategies. He developed and implemented a technical delivery strategy, successfully completing the GSP within a record 9-month timeframe, during which over 40 public meetings were held.

### **Yuba Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Yuba County Water Agency, CA** **Technical Coordinator – 2017 to 2022**

As technical coordinator for the development of the Yuba Basin GSP, Ibrahim ensured compliance with SGMA and oversaw the technical delivery strategy and stakeholder engagement process, ensuring alignment with the study timeline and budget while balancing diverse stakeholder expectations. He coordinated the integration of technical findings into the GSP's formulation, synthesizing hydrologic data for effective stakeholder communication. He provided oversight of execution efficiency and quality, ensuring the plan's successful completion.

### **Sacramento Regional Water Bank Development Support, Regional Water Authority, CA** **Technical Lead – 2022 to Present**

The Sacramento Regional Water Bank (SRWB) is a groundwater banking program designed to enhance regional water supply reliability and resilience to climate change. The SRWB aimed to expand conjunctive use activities, develop partnerships for water transfers, implement a governance structure, and establish a water accounting system. Ibrahim served as the technical lead for the development of the SRWB and led modeling efforts ensuring technical accuracy and alignment with policy and community priorities. He oversaw strategic alignment and technical consistency across modeling studies, environmental analyses, and stakeholder engagement efforts. His coordination and execution of modeling teams, provided independent peer review of modeling outputs, and contributed to the development of institutional arrangements for SRWB governance and management.

### **Yuba County Conjunctive Water Use Pilot Project & Implementation Program, Yuba County Water Agency, CA** **Technical Lead – 2006 to 2010**

The Yuba County Conjunctive Use Pilot Project integrated groundwater storage with existing surface water systems on the Yuba River to enhance drought supply reliability and meet environmental and fisheries requirements. Ibrahim led the development of a groundwater management plan, a public education and outreach program, and a hydrogeologic assessment report. He oversaw the expansion of the regional monitoring well network, implementation of an inelastic land subsidence monitoring system, and deployment of a centralized data management platform. He also developed the Groundwater Adaptive Management Tool, a user-friendly, quantitative planning tool to support groundwater substitution transfers.

### **Investment Strategy for the Water Management Goal, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Bureau of Reclamation** **Technical Lead – 2013 to 2015**

The Water Management Goal of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program was to reduce or mitigate water supply impacts on Central Valley Project Friant Division contractors through water management activities and infrastructure investments. Ibrahim served as the technical lead for the Investment Strategy to achieve the Water Management Goal by developing a data-driven framework to identify, evaluate, and prioritize funding projects, incorporating both structural (new or modified facilities) and non-structural solutions (operational adjustments). He established decision-making criteria for evaluating project feasibility, securing Reclamation funding, and advancing implementation efforts.

### **Sacramento Regional Water Bank Water Management Operations Pilot, Bureau of Reclamation, Region 10, California-Great Basin (Reclamation)** **Technical Lead – 2022 to 2024**

The SRWB Water Management Operations Pilot aimed to develop mutually beneficial operational criteria for a federally recognized Water Bank and demonstrate its effectiveness. As the technical lead, Ibrahim developed the pilot project

to establish a Water Bank under Reclamation's Water Banking Guidelines, as authorized by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. He led the formulation of operational alternatives, overseeing the development of CalSim 3 modeling studies, and developed a standalone spreadsheet tool to simulate water bank operations, enabling trade-off and sensitivity analyses. Additionally, he coordinated the development of tools linking CalSim 3 with the IWFM groundwater model for the North and South American groundwater subbasins.

### **Integrated Surface Water and Groundwater Banking and Exchange Study, Dry Creek, Sacramento County**

#### **Technical Lead – 2006 to 2006**

Ibrahim led the groundwater recharge feasibility study for a groundwater banking and exchange program in Sacramento County, which evaluated the feasibility of recharge basins to enhance groundwater storage and optimize water availability. He assessed and developed planning and conceptual cost estimates for infrastructure to replace groundwater withdrawals with recycled water (tertiary treated wastewater) in parks and recreational facilities.



## Kait Palys

### Senior Water Resources Scientist



**Years of Experience:** 9

#### Education:

- BS, 2016, Environmental Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

#### Professional History:

2023 – Present	Senior Water Resources Scientist – INTERA Incorporated, Torrance, CA
2016 – 2023	Water Resources Specialist – Provost & Consulting Group, Fresno, CA
2014 – 2016	Lab Assistant – Virginia Tech Soil Remediation Lab, Blacksburg, VA
2013	Intern – Willard Agri-Service, Frederick, MD
2012	Intern – National Institutes of Health Biometry Research Group, Bethesda, MD

Kait Palys is a Senior Water Resources Scientist at INTERA with a BS degree in environmental science and eight years of experience dedicating her career to the nexus between technical analyses and policy implication related to California's water resources planning and management. Ms. Palys has a strong understanding of the physical sciences and their respective regulatory hurdles. Specifically, her most applied experience includes work involved with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance through scientific analyses, technical writing, coordination facilitation, stakeholder outreach, data processing, data analysis, communications and engagement planning and execution, data management, and water budget calculations for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and implementation. Ms. Palys is also experienced in the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, wetland science, grant writing, Agricultural Water Management Plan development, and project management. Ms. Palys prioritizes building and maintaining positive relationships with diverse stakeholders through transparent and regular communication.

#### Project Experience – Water Resources

##### **Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update, East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Tulare County, CA. 2023 – Present.**

*Assistant Project Manager and Subbasin Coordinator.* Serves as lead coordinator for the Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), technical staff, and stakeholder communications. Developed Subbasin-wide standardized advisory committee presentations and presentation content for coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board. Led the Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program and East Kaweah GSA Mitigation Plan development, cost estimates, and partnership facilitation with Self-Help Enterprises. Served as lead communicator at GSA Board meetings, Technical Advisory Committee meetings, [Stakeholder] Advisory Committee meetings, and Subbasin-wide consultant Core Teams, and Subbasin-wide Management Committee meetings. Led internal coordination as Assistant Project Manager.

##### **Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Tulare County, CA. 2023 – Present.**

*Technical/Policy Support and Stakeholder Engagement Lead.* Developed the revised Communications and Engagement Plan for Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District (DEID) GSA. Arranged and implemented outreach efforts with diverse stakeholder groups. Developed the revised DEID GSA's Mitigation Plan which includes a partnership with Self-Help Enterprises. Performed project management activities such as action item tracking and coordination as well as technical support activities such as amended GSP revisions and Annual Reporting.

##### **Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update, Kern County, CA. 2024 – Present.**

*Technical/Policy/Stakeholder Engagement Support to develop the Mitigation Program* Lead development of the Kern Subbasin Well Mitigation Program, which included extensive stakeholder and state

agency engagement, coordination and presentations among the Kern County Subbasin's 20 GSAs and their respective legal, technical, and managerial representation, as well as supporting relationship building between Self-Help Enterprises and the Kern County Subbasin GSAs.

**Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Aliso Water District, Madera County, CA, 2018 – 2023. Technical Support.** Developed Aliso Water District GSA GSP's plan area, sustainable management criteria development, groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) evaluation, water budget, and implementation sections. Represented GSA at Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination and Technical Committee meetings. Supported implementation efforts such as annual reporting and monitoring. Aliso Water District GSA has had successful submittal of GSP and annual reports. Client representation at Subbasin-level meetings resulted in improvements to the GSP and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's common chapter.

**Adjudicated Basin Reporting and Data Management, Cucamonga Basin, San Bernadino County, CA, 2022 – 2023. Technical and Policy Support.** Led data request and processing effort. Engaged in direct coordination with clients to gather the stories and nuance behind the data. Developed the 2022 Water Year adjudicated basin annual report. Developed a trusting relationship with the clients founded on transparency of process and data use.

**Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Grassland Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Merced County, CA, 2019 – 2023. Project Manager.** Engaged in direct coordination with clients to gather insight on a dynamic groundwater management situation. Served as data liaison for client and Delta-Mendota Subbasin coordination. Developed and supported all chapters of the Grassland GSP. Responsible for inventory, ongoing District management changes, and developing annual reports. Coordinated with stakeholders and David's Engineering on the development of a statewide wetland water budget. Managed and oversaw design and environmental phases of the SGMA grant-funded groundwater basin project. Grew and maintained a positive relationship with the client through regular involvement in decision making. Successfully submitted the GSP and annual reports. Promoted internal team growth through shadowing and intentional training. Managed the project under budget for all years of project management involvement (2019 - 2023).

**Kings Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, CA, 2019 – 2022. Technical Support.** Developed water budget and informed sustainable management criteria with water budget findings. Completed the Kings River East Water Budget and trained new staff on two-dimensional (2D) water budget methodology.

**Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, New Stone Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Madera County, CA, 2022 – 2023. Technical and Policy Support.** Assisted with project management and met with clients to support SGMA involvement. Developed the annual report. After meeting with the client to highlight the benefits of SGMA compliance, New Stone Water District GSA proceeded to coordinate with the Madera Basin instead of their original plan to allow state intervention.

**Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Program Region, Eight Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Fresno, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties, CA, 2018 – 2023. Project Manager.** Responsible for project management as a subconsultant to Woodard & Curran. Led data coordination among eight GSAs, performed change in storage hydrologic analyses for upper and lower aquifer, and served as the client data liaison. Successfully submitted the GSP and annual reports and managed the project under budget for all years of project management involvement (2019 - 2023).

**Madera Subbasin, Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development. Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Madera County, CA, 2022 – 2023. Technical and Policy Support.** Assisted Project Management, trained new staff on SGMA annual reporting and Root Creek Water District, and developed the 2022 Water Year annual report.

**San Geronio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, San Geronio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Riverside County, CA, 2019 – 2023. Assistant Project Manager.** Assisted Project Management; facilitated client, subconsultant, and internal logistics and coordination; and developed GSP and annual reports. Also facilitated coordination among three GSAs and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized tribe. Delivered effective coordination despite the hurdles of regulatory differences amongst these parties.

**Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority and Kaweah Subbasin Water Quality Association, Kern and Tulare Counties, CA, 2016 – 2018. Technical and Policy Support.** Responsible for coordinating monthly water quality sampling, developing quarterly surface water reporting, developing the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan template, and data

management and processing. Supported Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association (Tulare County, CA) and the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (Kern County, CA) in successful compliance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

**Virginia Coastal and Appalachian Soil Remediation, Virginia Tech – Soil Remediation Lab, Blacksburg, VA. 2014 – 2016. Lab Assistant.** Sampled groundwater and soils for research regarding agricultural productivity and coal and surface mining environmental impacts. Served as primary lab assistant regarding Iluka's heavy metal surface mining remediation efforts. Key responsibilities included preparing soil samples for analysis; performing physical analyses of soil samples; hand augering groundwater monitoring wells at Iluka's surface mining sites in Petersburg, VA; and sampling groundwater from shallow monitoring wells. Findings from the monitoring and lab analyses were used to inform Iluka's surface mining operation of their successful avoidance of significant impacts to groundwater.

**Eastern Shore Crop Health Monitoring, Willard Agri-Service, Frederick, MD. 2013. Intern.** Monitored soybean, corn, and alfalfa health across the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware via field visits and crop, soil, and water sampling. Key responsibilities included sampling crop, soil, and irrigation water for lab analyses; visiting various sized growing operations to evaluate crop health; and coordinating with staff on the field and lab results. Identified slug damage and nutrient deficiencies that supported informed changes in crop management for numerous growers.

**Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials Review, National Institutes of Health - National Cancer Institute, Biometry Research Group, Bethesda, MD. 2012. Intern.** Worked under the guidance of a senior Biometry Research Statistician to review randomized controlled clinical trial research publications and identify areas of improvement for statistical analyses used. Key responsibilities included reviewing randomized clinical trial research papers and meta-analyses' statistical methodology; identifying areas of improvement in methodology; drafting "Letter(s) to the Editor" and coordinated internal review; and submitting "Letter(s) to the Editor" for publication.

## Publications, Presentations, and Reports

Palys, K. (2025). Presentation: "10 Years of SGMA: Lessons Learned and How We Can Apply Them", California Groundwater Conference. American Ground Water Trust, Association of Ground Water Agencies.

Palys, K. (2024). Presentation: "Building a SGMA Mitigation Program Workshop", San Joaquin Valley Branch of the California Groundwater Resources Association of California.

Palys, K. (2023). Presentation: "Voices of the San Joaquin Valley: SGMA's Effects on the Most Vulnerable Stakeholders", Western Groundwater Congress. Groundwater Resources Association of California.

Palys K, Porta L, Singh A. (2023). "Summarizing Technical Aspects of Inadequacies in 2023 DWR Determination on Re-Submitted 2020 GSPs", Hydrovisions

Palys K, Berger, VW (2012). "A Note on the Jadad Score as an Efficient Tool for Measuring Trial Quality", Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

Palys K, Berger VW, Grant, W (2012). "Unequal Allocation and Allocation Concealment", Statistics in Medicine.

Berger VW, Palys K (2012). "Medical Research: What Is Wrong with This Picture", International Journal for Person-Centered Medicine.



# ➤ COST PROPOSAL FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

For the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

March 7, 2025

## RATES

HALLMARK CLASSIFICATION	RATE
Program Manager, Principal, Director, and Strategic Advisor	\$362 /hr
Senior Project Manager <i>Ibrahim Khadam</i>	\$285 /hr
Project Controls Manager <i>Jacqueline Harris</i>	\$260 /hr
Senior Project Controls <i>Kaleen Hamrick</i>	\$210 /hr
Project Manager III <i>Taylor Blakslee</i>	\$235 /hr
Project Manager II	\$210 /hr
Project Manager I	\$195 /hr
Project Analyst	\$195 /hr
Project Coordinator II <i>Grace Bianchi</i>	\$185 /hr
Project Coordinator I	\$155 /hr
Project Controls Coordinator	\$155 /hr
Project Administrator	\$130 /hr

Hourly rates are inclusive of all overhead and administrative expenses. Travel and other incidental expenses, not included in the contract, shall be reimbursed at cost. Mileage expenses shall be reimbursed at the current IRS rate. Upon request, Hallmark Group will provide a cost proposal for additional staff that may be required to support the client. Other costs will be determined upon final scope requirements and approved by the client.

This rate schedule shall be escalated annually as mutually agreed to by Hallmark Group and the client and will incorporate year-over-year increases per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Cost Index for Professional and Business Services.

INTERA CLASSIFICATION	RATE
Senior Engineer/Scientist IV <i>Kaitlin Palys</i>	\$223 /hr
Engineer/Scientist II <i>Karina Redding</i>	\$195 /hr

## COST PROPOSAL

Assumes April 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026

		COST (11 MONTHS)	LABOR HOURS
Task 1	Coordination Committee	\$ 292,199.20	1,308
	1.1 Meeting Preparation, Materials Development, and Facilitation	\$ 77,831.00	371
	1.2 Targeted Outreach, Technical Team Coordination, and Inquiry	\$ 110,013.20	462
	1.3 Invoicing Support, Budget Development, and Grant Support	\$ 55,272.00	244
	1.4 SWRCB Support	\$ 49,083.00	231
Task 2	Central Region Management Committee	\$ 133,998.00	618
	2.1 Meeting Preparation, Materials Development, and Facilitation	\$ 54,780.00	264
	2.2 Inquiry Management	\$ 28,292.00	132
	2.3 Invoicing Support, and Budget Development	\$ 50,926.00	222
Task 3	Northern Region Management Committee	\$ 136,451.00	629
	3.1 Meeting Preparation, Materials Development, and Facilitation	\$ 57,233.00	275
	3.2 Inquiry Management	\$ 28,292.00	132
	3.3 Invoicing Support, and Budget Development	\$ 50,926.00	222
Total Estimated Hours			2,555
Total Travel		\$ 3,850.00	
	Coordination Committee Mileage	\$ 1,155.00	
	Central Region Management Committee Mileage	\$ 1,155.00	
	Northern Region Management Committee Mileage	\$ 1,540.00	
Total Other Direct Costs		\$ 20,337.98	
	Coordination Committee Printing	\$ 2,200.00	
	Coordination Committee Markup 8% (ODC, Subconsultants)	\$ 7,218.46	
	Central Region Management Committee Printing	\$ 2,200.00	
	Central Region Management Committee Markup 8% (ODC, Subconsultants)	\$ 3,161.64	
	Northern Region Management Committee Printing	\$ 2,200.00	
	Northern Region Management Committee Markup 8% (ODC, Subconsultants)	\$ 3,357.88	
Total Fee Coordination Committee		\$ 302,772.66	
Total Fee Central Region Management Committee		\$ 140,514.64	
Total Fee Northern Region Management Committee		\$ 143,548.88	
Total Fee Proposal		\$ 586,836.18	
Optional Tasks		\$ 27,534.00	
	Outreach, Education, Communications	\$ 23,500.00	108
	1-RFP/RFQ	\$ 4,034.00	18

## COST PROPOSAL ASSUMPTIONS

### Coordination Committee

1. In-person meetings occur once per month per Committee (2-hour meetings) with one in-person attendee and additional Hallmark-INTERA Team support participating virtually.
2. Virtual 1-hour meetings with Subbasin GSAs and/or their respective technical teams occur once per month with 2 Hallmark-INTERA team attendees.
3. Virtual 4-hour meetings with the State Water Resources Control Board staff occurs once per-month with two attendees from the Hallmark-INTERA team.
4. Virtual 1-hour POC meetings occur quarterly with two attendees from the Hallmark-INTERA team.
5. In-person Delta-Mendota Subbasin Probationary Hearing will require three-days of travel for one attendee from the Hallmark-INTERA team.
6. All requested materials, decisions, and feedback from GSAs, technical consultants, committees, GSP Region leads, will be provided in a timely manner with deadlines expressed by the Hallmark Group-INTERA team.

### Central Region Management Committee

1. In-person meetings occur once per month per Committee (2-hour meetings) with one in-person attendee and additional Hallmark-INTERA Team support participating virtually.

### Northern Region Management Committee

1. In-person meetings occur once per month per Committee (2-hour meetings) with one in-person attendee and additional Hallmark-INTERA Team support participating virtually.

### Optional Tasks

1. Outreach, Education, Communications includes one quarterly public presentation, monthly article development, and monthly web updates.
2. Estimate includes development of 1-RFP/RFQ with a total of 4 proposals to review.



PROPOSAL

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
**DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN**  
**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**  
**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

February 21, 2025

J. Scott Petersen, P.E., Water Policy Director  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
1331 Garden Highway, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Via email: scott.petersen@sldmwa.org

**RE: Proposal for Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation  
Central Delta-Mendota Management Region Program Management Support Services**

Mr. Petersen,

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard/P&P) is pleased to submit this proposal to provide Program Management Support Services for the Central Delta-Mendota Management Region for Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation. Our team brings extensive experience in groundwater management, water resource planning, and stakeholder coordination, positioning us to support the Central Delta-Mendota Management Region (Central Delta) in achieving their sustainable groundwater management goals. You will find included in our response a marked up scope of work structured to the Central Delta-Mendota Management Region to coincide with our understanding of the scope of work to be accomplished. Corresponding to this scope is an estimate of cost. While challenging to estimate the demands and associated hours and cost to provide these services, you will see we estimate the majority of time to be spent on general program management and coordination with an hourly rate slightly higher than Sam Cunningham's rate of \$148/hr.

Our proposed team includes Principal Engineer Brian Ehlers, PE, who has more than 40 years of experience in groundwater recharge and banking projects and water supply investigations. His expertise in program management, feasibility studies, and technical review of groundwater projects will be invaluable in overseeing the implementation of the GSP. Associate Water Resources Specialist Sam Cunningham will provide technical and administrative support, drawing from his background in groundwater sustainability planning, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement. Mr. Cunningham's experience in coordinating with affected agencies, facilitating water resource programs, and managing Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance will help him deliver on seamless collaboration with the Central Delta-Mendota Regional Management Committee, the San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and other key stakeholders.

Our company was founded in 1968 on providing technical expertise on water resource issues experienced by our clients in the San Joaquin Valley. As we have grown, our commitment and experience on water resource issues is unmatched. Our team has a strong track record of working with water agencies across California to develop and implement sustainable water management strategies. We understand the complexity of intra- and inter-basin coordination, grant administration, and outreach efforts necessary for the success of the Central Delta-Mendota Management region and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP. We are committed to providing dedicated and knowledgeable support to Central Delta throughout this engagement.

With more than 57 years of experience providing water resources consulting services to California's Central Valley agriculture community, we look forward to the possibility of contributing to the ongoing success of Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP implementation. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,



Brian Ehlers, PE  
Principal Engineer, CA PE #40655

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

# **DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

## **Proposal**

February 21, 2025

**Prepared for:**

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
1331 Garden Highway, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
scott.petersen@sldmwa.org

**Submitted by:**

**PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP**  
455 W Fir Ave  
Clovis, CA 93611  
Phone: (559) 449-2700

[www.provostandpritchard.com](http://www.provostandpritchard.com)

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## PROPOSAL FORM

Proposals will be received, in writing, up to the hour of **5:00 pm on Friday, February 21, 2025** at 1331 Garden Highway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California, 95833, in the following format:

Scott Petersen  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
1331 Garden Highway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Scott Petersen:

The undersigned agrees to perform the following work on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES in strict conformity with the Contract Documents (Notice to Vendors, Agreement for Services, and Scope of Services) attached hereto, at the unit prices listed and date shown on the attached Proposal Schedule.

The undersigned has checked carefully all of the prices quoted and understands that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority will not be responsible for any errors or omissions on the part of the undersigned in making up this Proposal Schedule.

All items are complete and Proposal Amount includes sales tax, other applicable taxes and fees.

Vendor's name, address, telephone number:

Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. (dba Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group)

Name

455 W Fir Ave

Address

Clovis, CA 93611

City, State Zip Code

(559) 449-2700

Phone No.

Signed by:



(Signature)

Name: Brian Ehlers, PE

(Type or Print)

Title: Principal Engineer

Date signed: February 20, 2025

Enclosures

# **SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**

## **PROPOSAL SCHEDULE**

(MUST BE SIGNED BY VENDOR)

Proposals will be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025, at the Water Policy Director's Office at 1331 Garden Highway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95833, or via email at [scott.petersen@sldmwa.org](mailto:scott.petersen@sldmwa.org).

The undersigned hereby proposes and agrees to furnish any and all required labor, material, equipment transportation, and services for

Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Program Management Support Services

for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Los Banos Admin Office,

P.O Box 2157, 842 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA 93635.

The work is to be done in strict conformity with the Contract Documents, at the following Hourly Rate:

<b>TOTAL ALL INCLUSIVE MAXIMUM PRICE FOR FY2026 SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ \$67,181</b>
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Total ALL INCLUSIVE MAXIMUM PRICE FOR FY 2026 SERVICES listed above shall be (spell out): **Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty One** Dollars.  
(All Federal, State and local taxes are included in the Total Proposal Amount.)

A Rate Schedule that is the basis for the proposed proposal amount shall be attached.

If awarded the Contract, the undersigned shall execute said Contract and furnish the insurance certifications within ten (10) calendar days after the Notice of Award of said Contract and begin work as set forth in the written Notice to Proceed from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (hereinafter referred to as the "SLDMWA") to Contractor.

In determining the amount proposal by each Vendor, the SLDMWA shall disregard mathematical errors in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division that appear obvious on the face of the Proposal. When such a mathematical error appears on the Proposal, the SLDMWA shall have the right to correct such error and to compute the total amount proposal by said Vendor on the basis of the corrected figure or figures.

When an item price is required to be set forth in the Proposal, and the total for the item set forth separately does not agree with a figure which is derived by multiplying the item price times the Engineer's estimate of the quantity of work to be performed for said item, the item price shall prevail over the sum set forth as the total for the item unless, in the sole discretion of the SLDMWA, such a procedure would be inconsistent with the policy of the proposal procedure. The total paid for each such item of work shall be based upon the item price and not the total price. Should the Proposal contain only a total price for the item and the

item price is omitted, the SLDMWA shall determine the item price by dividing the total price for the item by Engineer's estimate of the estimated quantities of work to be performed as items of work.

If the Proposal contains neither the item price nor the total price for the item, then it shall be deemed incomplete and the Proposal shall be disregarded.

The undersigned represents and warrants that the undersigned has examined the location of the proposed work and is familiar with the local conditions at the place where the work is to be done, and the undersigned has reviewed and understands the plans, specifications and other Contract Documents, and the undersigned is satisfied with all conditions for the performance of the work.

The undersigned has checked carefully all of the above figures and understands that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority will not be responsible for any errors or omissions on the part of the undersigned in making up this Proposal.

The Vendor shall initial below that it has received the appropriate addenda and has incorporated the addenda into its Proposal.

Addenda Received and Acknowledged

- No. 1 [\*Provost & Pritchard acknowledges the memorandum issued by Scott Petersen, Water\*](#)
- No. 2 [\*Policy Director, dated February 14, 2025 titled, "Responses to Questions on the Delta-\*](#)
- No. 3 [\*Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Program\*](#)  
[\*Management Support Services."\*](#)

## AGREEMENT

It is understood and agreed that if written notice of the SLDMWA's acceptance of this Proposal is mailed, emailed, or delivered to the undersigned Vendor after the opening of the proposal, and within the time set in the Notice to Vendors or at any time thereafter before this Proposal is withdrawn, the undersigned Vendor will execute and deliver to the SLDMWA the Agreement for Services in accordance with the Proposal as accepted, within ten (10) days after receipt of notification of award, and that the Work under the Contract shall be commenced by the undersigned Vendor, if awarded the Contract, on the date to be stated in a Notice to Proceed and shall be completed in the time specified in the Contract Documents.

The undersigned Vendor agrees that the information and representations provided herein are made under penalty of perjury.


NOTE: If Vendor is a corporation, the legal name of the corporation shall be set forth below, together with the signatures of authorized officers or agents and the document shall bear the corporate seal; if Vendor is a partnership, the true name of the firm shall be set forth below together with the signature of the partner or partners authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the partnership; and if Vendor is an individual, his/her signature shall be placed below.

NAME OF VENDOR:

Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. (dba Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group)

*Affix Corporate*

*Seal Here*

BY: Signature   
Brian Ehlers, PE  
Type/Print Name  
Principal Engineer  
Title

DATE: February 21, 2025

## CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA MANAGEMENT REGION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## RATE SCHEDULE

Task No.	Task	Associate Specialist IV	Principal Engineer VI	Senior Project Administrator I	Labor Totals	Sub-consultant Fee	Sub-cons. Fee	Miles Traveled	Expenses, Fees	Mileage/ Reimb. Costs	Total
		Cunningham_S	Ehlers_B	Sales_L						Markup: 15%	
	Hourly Rate:	\$148	\$277	\$128				Rate: \$0.70			
<b>1</b>	<b>General Program Management</b>										
1.1	Prepare Agendas, minutes, board packets	96		12	\$15,744		\$0	1,920		\$1,546	\$17,290
1.2	Schedule and reserve meeting space	24			\$3,552		\$0			\$0	\$3,552
1.3	Schedule and operate remote meeting platforms	24			\$3,552		\$0			\$0	\$3,552
1.4	Respond to inquiries from DWR and SWRCB	24			\$3,552						\$3,552
1.5	Respond to inquiries from Contractor Representatives regarding GSP	24			\$3,552						\$3,552
1.6	Monitor and Track GSP implementation including Projects and Management Actions. Track Monitoring and reporting data	48	5		\$8,489						\$8,489
1.7	Maintain a calendar of implementation activities and deadlines	12			\$1,776						\$1,776
		252	5	12							
<b>Task 1 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$37,296	\$1,385	\$1,536	\$40,217	\$0	\$0	1,920	\$0	\$1,546	\$41,763
<b>2</b>	<b>Intra and Inter Basin Coordination</b>										
2.1	Track monitoring of Sustainability indicators and notify GSA reps of exceedances	16	2		\$2,922		\$0			\$0	\$2,922
2.2	Coordinate with GSAs and their tech consultants	16			\$2,368		\$0			\$0	\$2,368
2.3	Coordinate with GSAs and their tech consultants on timely review of annual report	2			\$296		\$0			\$0	\$296
2.4	Review Data for Sustainability indicators data in annual reports of neighboring subbasins	4			\$592		\$0			\$0	\$592
2.5	Respond to external inquiries from both intra and inter basin stakeholders	4			\$592						\$592
2.6	Participate in quarterly POC meetings with DWE and other POCs from the SJV	12			\$1,776						\$1,776
		54	2	0							
<b>Task 2 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$7,992	\$554	\$0	\$8,546	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$8,546
<b>3</b>	<b>Outreach, Education and Communication</b>										
3.1	Direct press inquiries to Committee leadership	4			\$592		\$0			\$0	\$592
3.2	Provide information for and/or write informational articles for subbasin newsletter	8			\$1,184		\$0			\$0	\$1,184
3.3	Prepare and/or give presentations at public meetings (including webinars) on aspects of the GSP or GSP implementation for the Region.	12			\$1,776						\$1,776
3.4	As directed, update the Region website with relevant information	8			\$1,184		\$0			\$0	\$1,184
		32	0	0							
<b>Task 3 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$4,736	\$0	\$0	\$4,736	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$4,736
<b>4</b>	<b>Consultant Management</b>										
4.1	In consultation with Region Leadership, Develop R	24			\$3,552		\$0			\$0	\$3,552
4.2	Manage existing agreements with Technical consultants, including task and timeline tracking	8			\$1,184						\$1,184
4.3	Review consultant invoices for accuracy	8			\$1,184		\$0			\$0	\$1,184
		40	0	0							
<b>Task 4 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$5,920	\$0	\$0	\$5,920	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$5,920
<b>5</b>	<b>Fiscal Management</b>										
5.1	Track Annual budget	2			\$296		\$0			\$0	\$296
5.2	Review grant agreements	4			\$592						\$592
5.3	Review budgetary impacts of pending GSP implementation actions	4			\$592		\$0			\$0	\$592
		10	0	0							
<b>Task 5 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$1,480	\$0	\$0	\$1,480	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$1,480
<b>6</b>	<b>Grant Administrations and Management</b>										
6.1	Grant Administrations and Management	12			\$1,776		\$0			\$0	\$1,776
6.2	Assist as liaison for GSAs with granting agency(s) and consultants.	12			\$1,776						\$1,776
		24	0	0							
<b>Task 6 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$3,552	\$0	\$0	\$3,552	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$3,552
<b>7</b>	<b>Other</b>										
7.1	Other skills / Word, Excel	8			\$1,184		\$0			\$0	\$1,184
		8	0	0							
<b>Task 7 Fee Subtotal</b>		\$1,184	\$0	\$0	\$1,184	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$1,184
<b>Project Hour Subtotals</b>		<b>420</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>439</b>						
<b>Project Fee Subtotals</b>		<b>\$62,160</b>	<b>\$1,939</b>	<b>\$1,536</b>	<b>\$65,635</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,546</b>	<b>\$67,181</b>

# PAST PERFORMANCE AND KEY PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE

## PAST PERFORMANCE

### DISTRICT ENGINEER/WATER RESOURCES CONSULTING, TRANQUILLITY IRRIGATION DISTRICT FRESNO COUNTY, CA

P&P has served as the District Engineer and provided long-term engineering and consulting services to Tranquillity Irrigation District since 1990, supporting its water management, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure planning needs. Our key contributions include:

- **District Engineering Services:** As the District Engineer, our staff provide ongoing technical consultation on municipal and agricultural water supply issues, capital improvements, and water conservation programs.
- **SGMA Compliance & Data Management:** P&P developed the Annual Report and Data Management System to streamline reporting and track SGMA implementation progress for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.
- **Financial Planning & Cost Recovery:** P&P prepared a Proposition 218 Engineer's Report and Fee Study to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for district operations and water supply costs.
- **Regulatory & Grant Support:** P&P has successfully secured grant funding and provided regulatory review on behalf of the District, including reviewing and commenting on iterations of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota GSPs.

Our experience with Tranquillity Irrigation District aligns closely with the program management, intra-basin coordination, and fiscal management services required for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP Implementation.

**Original Scheduled Completion Time and Date:** Initiated 1990 – continues to the present

**Actual Completion Date and Duration:** NA

**Owner Information:**

**Tranquillity Irrigation District**

25390 W Silvera Ave, Tranquillity, CA 93668  
(559) 698-7225

**Contract Amount:**

**Initial Contract Amount:** Varies by year

**Final Contract Amount (including modifications):** N/A

**Challenges and Solutions:**

To perform work to enable the cost for water to the agricultural and municipal users as low as possible and affordable.

**Reference Contact Information:**

**Danny Wade**

(559) 698-7225

danny@trqid.com



### LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO WATER RESOURCE ISSUES IN THE REGION

Our company was founded in 1968 on providing technical expertise on water resource issues experienced by our clients in the San Joaquin Valley. As we have grown, our commitment and experience on water resource issues is unmatched. Our team has a strong track record of working with water agencies across California to develop and implement sustainable water management strategies. We understand the complexity of intra- and inter-basin coordination, grant administration, and outreach efforts necessary for the success of the Central Delta-Mendota Management Region and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP.

## WATER RESOURCES CONSULTING, ROOT CREEK WATER DISTRICT AND ROOT CREEK WATER DISTRICT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

### MADERA COUNTY, CA

Since formation of the District in 1996, P&P has served as the District Engineer for Root Creek Water District, providing comprehensive water management, infrastructure planning, and financial analysis to support the District's long-term sustainability. Our work has included district formation, planning for long term water sustainability, negotiation of water supply contracts, planning and implementation of infrastructure, managing water deliveries and coordinating with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, as well as securing funding for critical groundwater studies and overseeing major infrastructure improvements. Following the passage of SGMA, P&P has provided consulting services for the Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (RCWDGSA) which serves as the exclusive GSA for the Root Creek Water District service area, in the Madera Subbasin. Our key contributions include:

- **District Engineering Services:** Our team designed and managed the implementation of a three-mile, 48-inch pressure pipeline to deliver surface water to over 3,000 acres of irrigated agriculture within the District. P&P also led the preliminary design and permitting of rehabilitation efforts for three miles of Root Creek, to improve the physical condition and ecosystem components of the waterway.
- **SGMA Planning & Coordination:** P&P developed the RCWDGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) through coordination with other agencies within the Madera Subbasin, which has included updates to the GSP, the preparation and submittal of Annual Reports, and the preparation and submittal of a Periodic Evaluation. Through the ongoing coordination between the Madera Subbasin GSAs and their respective GSPs, the Madera Subbasin GSPs were approved by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2023. In January 2025, the revised GSPs were submitted to the DWR in response to the Department's Corrective Actions.
- **Project & Management Action Implementation:** P&P continues to support the RCWDGSA in its implementation of projects and management actions outlined in the GSP which has greatly improved advancements towards achieving sustainability.
- **Financial Planning & Cost Recovery:** P&P, in partnership with Bartle Wells Associates and more recently Lechowicz & Teng Municipal Consultants, prepared Proposition 218 Engineer's Reports and Fee Study to establish an assessment structure that enabled the District to fund imported surface water supplies to support the long-term sustainability of the urban and agricultural water demands within the District.

Through our ongoing work, P&P continues to provide strategic guidance, technical expertise, and financial solutions to help Root Creek Water District and RCWDGSA navigate evolving water management challenges. Our multidisciplinary approach positions the Agency's infrastructure and resources to effectively support the needs of both agricultural and municipal stakeholders, now and into the future.

**Original Scheduled Completion Time and Date:** 1996 to present

**Actual Completion Date and Duration:** N/A

#### Owner Information:

**Root Creek Water District | GSA**

PO Box 27950, Fresno, CA 93729

Telephone Number: (559) 255-2305

**Contract Amount:** Varies by year.

**Initial Contract Amount:** N/A

**Final Contract Amount (including modifications):**

Has varied from \$250,000 to \$2.5 million.

**Challenges and Solutions:** The District is evolving from solely agricultural to meet both municipal and agricultural needs. Madera Subbasin SGMA coordination activities as well as water supply delivery have been the most challenging subjects.

#### Reference Contact Information:

**Julia Berry**

(559) 255-2305

julia@rootcreekwd.com

## FACILITATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT, SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)

### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CA

P&P provides facilitation and research support services to the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP). The CAP is a coalition of over 70 leaders from agriculture, water agencies, environmental justice organizations, academia, and State and local agencies. The CAP is actively involved in supporting efforts related to the implementation of SGMA, the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP), and other initiatives across the San Joaquin Valley to overcome barriers and accelerate action that benefits all interests. The CAP is organized into various caucuses, workgroups, and the overall Plenary Group, which lead discussions and efforts to advance action items through the CAP decision making process. Our key contributions include:

- **Workgroup Coordination:** Our team attends and documents the outcomes of the various workgroups within the CAP. This includes preparing meeting summaries and related deliverables that pertain to the discussions and desired actions of the workgroups.
- **Research & Documentation:** P&P conducts research related to topics of interest to prepare reference materials, policy papers, and other technical documentation to support the ongoing efforts of the CAP. This documentation is used for internal education and communication to external partners and entities who are engaged through the CAP process.
- **Preparation of Documents:** Our team is largely responsible for preparing the materials for which the CAP is a contributing author or source. This included the “One Water” chapter of the Sierra San Joaquin Jobs (S2J2) Investment Plan.
- **Facilitation Support:** We provide facilitation support services to the lead facilitator of the CAP, to organize and lead effective meetings with caucus, workgroup, and plenary group meetings. We are responsible for reviewing, collating, and addressing comments on documents as they are reviewed and edited by various members of the CAP. This involves attending meetings, communicating with specific members, and working to advance reaching consensus on the issues being discussed.

P&P remains engaged with the CAP to help advance the vision for the San Joaquin Valley that includes healthy communities, a vibrant economy, and a robust environment. The implementation of SGMA has been a driving force behind the CAP’s efforts to achieve these goals. We continue to provide our expertise in groundwater management, water resource planning, and stakeholder engagement to assist and facilitate the discussions of the various groups within the CAP.

**Original Scheduled Completion Time and Date:** June 30, 2025

**Actual Completion Date and Duration:** N/A

#### Owner Information:

##### Resources Legacy Fund (Fiscal Agent)

400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2150  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 442-5057

#### Contract Amount:

**Initial Contract Amount:** \$131,000

**Final Contract Amount (including modifications):** N/A

**Challenges and Solutions:** The CAP relies on consensus decision making to advance actions, where no action can be moved forward if there is opposition from a caucus. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the CAP, providing education and opportunities for discussion, in addition to recognizing and being responsive to the sensitivities of certain interests is crucial in making meaningful advancements.

#### Reference Contact Information:

**Jim Kramer**  
(206) 841-2145  
jim@jkramer.co

## KEY PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE

### BRIAN EHLERS, PE – PRINCIPAL ENGINEER PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE

**Assigned tasks:** Principal-in-Charge – Brian will oversee the major tasks and be available as needed by the Central Delta-Mendota Region. It is planned that Sam Cunningham will be the principal staff primarily performing the designated work activities. Brian will also provide management, coordination, communications, fiscal management, grant administration, and other services as needed.

Brian Ehlers has more than 43 years of professional experience, currently serving as Principal Engineer. His experience includes planning, design and construction management of water supply and distribution systems for cities and water districts throughout the State. Mr. Ehlers' is also skilled in feasibility studies, groundwater studies, and technical review of conveyance and pumping facilities for both agricultural and domestic water systems. Additionally, his areas of expertise include managing and performing hydrologic, hydraulic, soil and rock stability, and flood inundation studies, as well as computer modeling associated with such analyses.

See below for a complete resume including professional registration, education, and project experience relevant to Mr. Ehlers' identified tasks.

### SAM CUNNINGHAM – ASSOCIATE WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST PROGRAM MANAGER

**Assigned tasks:** General Program Management, Intra- and Inter-basin Coordination, Outreach, Education, and Communications, Consultant Management, Fiscal Management, Grant Administration and Management, Other Tasks as Necessary.

Sam Cunningham has more than six years of professional experience, currently serving as Associate Water Resources Specialist. Mr. Cunningham holds a Master of Science in Water Resource Management from California State University, Fresno, and a Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. His professional background includes roles as a Water Resources Specialist at the Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources, where he implemented groundwater sustainability and flood control policies, performed outreach, and managed grants for groundwater recharge and flood control projects. Additionally, he served as an Environmental Specialist providing environmental services, which included interpreting policies, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and preparing technical documentation. Mr. Cunningham's leadership involvement extends to the San Joaquin Valley Branch of the Groundwater Resources Association of California, where he serves as Vice President, and the California Flood-MAR Coordinating Committee, where he provides advice on statewide Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge program implementation.

See below for a complete resume including professional registration, education, and project experience relevant to Mr. Cunningham's identified tasks.



### EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP IN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Our proposed team includes Principal Engineer Brian Ehlers, PE, who has more than 40 years of experience in groundwater recharge and banking projects and water supply investigations. His expertise in program management, feasibility studies, and technical review of groundwater projects will be invaluable in overseeing the implementation of the GSP. Associate Water Resources Specialist Sam Cunningham will provide technical and administrative support, drawing from his background in groundwater sustainability planning, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement.



## Brian Ehlers, PE

### Principal Engineer

43 years of experience

Office Location: Clovis

PROVOST &  
PRITCHARD

#### EDUCATION

B.S. Civil Engineering, California State University, Fresno

M.S. Civil Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson

#### REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATIONS

Civil Engineer, California #40655

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Safety of Dams

Major Conveyance Facility Construction and Operations

Groundwater Banking

Water/Irrigation District Engineering

Water Supply Investigations

#### AFFILIATIONS

Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRAC)

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

United States of Committee on Irrigation & Drainage (USCID)

#### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Brian Ehlers has more than 43 years of professional experience, currently serving as Principal Engineer. His experience includes planning, design and construction management of water supply and distribution systems for cities and water districts throughout the state. Mr. Ehlers' is also skilled in feasibility studies, groundwater studies, and technical review of conveyance and pumping facilities for both agricultural and domestic water systems. Additionally, his areas of expertise include managing and performing hydrologic, hydraulic, soil and rock stability, and flood inundation studies, as well as computer modeling associated with such analyses.

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

##### **Groundwater Sustainability Plan – 2025 Update, Root Creek Water District, Madera County, California, Project Manager**

Mr. Ehlers was responsible for representing the Root Creek Water District GSA in working with other GSA technical representatives to update the adopted multiple plans within the Subbasin to comply with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Corrective Actions. The Corrective Actions consisted of remedies to groundwater levels and associated management objectives and minimum thresholds, water quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water. Through discussion with other technical staff revisions were made to the multiple approved plans and resubmitted to the DWR. Additionally, Periodic evaluations and annual reports were developed into a single plan for submission to the DWR.

##### **Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2020, Root Creek Water District, Madera County, California, Project Manager**

Mr. Ehlers was responsible for working with the other GSAs in the Madera Subbasin to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for submission to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Critical to the process was development and execution of a Coordination Agreement. Mr. Ehlers was responsible for leading a team of technical staff in performing the technical studies and evaluations required, writing the draft document and coordinating with other GSAs in the Subbasin to assure that the plans were coordinated and met the objectives of the legislation.

##### **Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Consolidated Irrigation District, Fresno County, California, Project Manager**

Mr. Ehlers was responsible for working with the other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan that was structurally the same as the other plans for the multiple GSAs within the Subbasin. The Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CKGSA) has some very unique characteristics including: • Located geographically at the

head of the Kings Alluvial fan • Groundwater flows out of the GSA on all sides within the Subbasin • Surface soils conducive to surface recharge • The South Kings GSA is wholly within the CKGSA boundaries • The Consolidated Irrigation District has significant surface water resources Due to the above, the CKGSA developed a plan for implementation based on implementation of projects to comply with SGMA. Mr. Ehlers was responsible for leading a team of technical staff in performing the technical studies and evaluations required, writing the draft document and coordinating with other GSAs in the Subbasin to assure that the plans were coordinated and met the objectives of the legislation.

**Tulare Lake Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Kings County Water District, Kings County, California, Project Manager**

Mr. Ehlers was responsible for managing Provost & Pritchard staff as a consultant to Amec Foster Wheeler (Amec) for development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Mr. Ehlers, working in concert with Amec staff, gathered data and met with the representatives of the five GSAs in the Subbasin to develop a draft plan and submitted to the Department of Water Resources. This Subbasin has significant issues regarding the geologic formation underlying the differ GSAs as well as vary different surface water resources. Compounding issues consists of the Tulare Lake lakebed geologic feature, the terminus of the Kings, Tule, White, and Kern Rivers as well as Deer and Pos Creeks, the California State Aqueduct as well as the planned route for the High-Speed Rail. Mr. Ehlers was responsible for leading a team of technical staff in performing the technical studies and evaluations required, writing the draft document and coordinating with other GSAs in the Subbasin to assure that the plan was coordinated amongst the members.

**Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Pleasant Valley Water District, Fresno County, California, Principal-in-Charge**

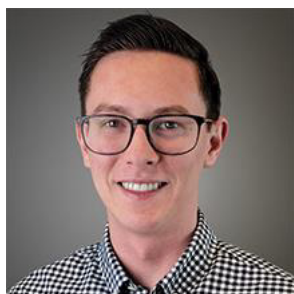
The Pleasant Valley area was initially identified as being low and not responsible for development of a plan. In 2022, the Department of Water Resources reevaluated the Subbasins in the State and the area became subject to the law. Mr. Ehlers was responsible for working with the local farmers and helped to form the Groundwater Sustainability agency. After formation Mr. Ehlers was responsible for developing information to support a grant from the State and development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Mr. Ehlers was responsible for leading a team of technical staff in performing the technical studies and evaluations required, writing the draft document and coordinating with adjacent GSAs in order to determine boundary conditions with the neighboring Westside GSA.

**District Engineer, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Madera County, California**

Mr. Ehlers served as the District Engineer for the district from 1990 to about 2015. During this time, Mr. Ehlers directed staff to perform studies and investigations, as well as performed detailed designs on project improvements for the District. His responsibilities included water supply planning, water conservation programs, and capital improvements on an ongoing basis. Projects have consisted of irrigation improvements consisting of metering, piping and lining of canals, design and installation of control structure, regulating reservoirs, and improvements to the drinking water system including new wells and a 1-million-gallon storage tank. Mr. Ehlers was instrumental in looking for grant funds to fund many of the District's projects.

**Water Resources Consulting, Cuyama Basin Water District, Kern and Ventura County, California, Principal-in-Charge**

After formation of the District in 2017, Mr. Ehlers worked with other staff and attorney to perform investigations, and a Proposition 218 election to fund the newly formed agency. Since that time, the District has been involved in the Subbasin to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.



## Samuel Cunningham

### Associate Water Resources Specialist

6 years of experience

Office Location: Clovis

PROVOST &  
PRITCHARD

#### EDUCATION

B.S. City and Regional Planning, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

M.S. Water Resource Management with Distinction, California State University, Fresno

#### AFFILIATIONS

California Flood-MAR Network Coordinating Committee

California Farm Bureau Federation, Associate Member

Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRAC), Vice President, San Joaquin Valley Branch

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Water Resource Management

Groundwater Recharge

Flow Measurement

Water Rights

Water Resource Data

#### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Sam Cunningham has more than six years of professional experience, currently serving as Associate Water Resources Specialist. Mr. Cunningham holds a Master of Science in Water Resource Management from California State University, Fresno, and a Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. His professional background includes roles as a Water Resources Specialist at the Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources, where he implemented policies, performed outreach, and managed grants for groundwater recharge and flood control projects. Additionally, he served as an Environmental Specialist providing environmental services, which included interpreting policies, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and preparing technical documentation. Mr. Cunningham's leadership involvement extends to the San Joaquin Valley Branch of the Groundwater Resources Association of California, where he serves as Vice President, and the California Flood-MAR Coordinating Committee, where he provides advice on statewide Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge program implementation.

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

##### **San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program Support, Confidential Client, California, Water Resources Specialist**

Mr. Cunningham provides facilitation and technical support services to the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP). Mr. Cunningham provides support to the lead facilitator of the CAP with his technical background in water resource management and experience in San Joaquin Valley water issues. In this role he regularly attends meetings and prepares summaries and work products for review by workgroup members. He also conducts research and performs literature reviews to support the development of position papers or other informational written materials. This project involves regular communication with participating entities and implementing collaborative efforts to advance meaningful work products and position papers.

##### **General Consulting, Root Creek Water District GSA, Madera County, California, Water Resources Specialist**

Mr. Cunningham provides ongoing support and consulting services for the Root Creek Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in Madera County, California. Most recently this included the development of an updated Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and Periodic Evaluation in conjunction with the other subbasin GSAs. This included consultation to finalize an updated coordination agreement and a memorandum of understanding for ongoing work to assess interconnected surface water. General ongoing services include the implementation of the GSP, coordination with neighboring and partner agencies, drafting and submitting annual reports, and other services as needed.

### **Private Landowner SGMA Compliance Consulting Services, Confidential Client, California, Water Resources Specialist**

Mr. Cunningham provides support for SGMA compliance consulting services throughout California, for multiple clients in several subbasins. These services include consultation with the relevant local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and their respective policies, including registering groundwater wells and flowmeters, reporting groundwater extraction data, documenting the use of surface water supplies in-lieu of groundwater pumping, and the development of recharge suitability studies. Mr. Cunningham is well versed in interpreting and applying local policies including groundwater allocations, well registration requirements, recharge credit development, land repurposing, and water budgeting. His experience with local government is instrumental in his ability to navigate SGMA compliance and local ordinances and provide insight to advise clients on strategies to adapt to new groundwater pumping allocation structures and recharge policies.

### **Water Right Services, Confidential Client, California, Water Resources Specialist**

Mr. Cunningham provides support for water right related services throughout California, for over 20 clients at Provost & Pritchard. These services include consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Water Rights (D/WR) processes, specifically the development, submittal, and ongoing consultation for temporary and/or standard water right applications for the appropriation of surface water supplies for beneficial use. He continues to support the navigation of water right related policy in California as it relates to the implementation of SGMA and development of surface water assets, including the diversion of flood flow water supplies for groundwater recharge and later recovery. He is well-versed in water measurement, specifically as it relates to SB 88, and has completed training to be a Qualified Individual, through the University of California Cooperative Extension. In addition, Mr. Cunningham provides support for historical water right research related to riparian and/or pre-1914 water right claims, review of chain of title, and support for submittal of Initial Statements of Water Diversion and Use to document these claims. He is also an instrumental part of the Provost & Pritchard water right team that completes hundreds of annual water right reports to the SWRCB D/WR and local agencies to satisfy regulatory reporting requirements.

### **Confidential Client, Madera County, California, Water Resources Specialist**

During his tenure as a Water Resources Specialist with the County of Madera, Mr. Cunningham played a pivotal role in implementing policies related to sustainable groundwater management and flood control. Mr. Cunningham led the development of a pathway for growers to report groundwater extraction via flowmeter and provided technical support to the establishment of an allocation program based on remotely sensed evapotranspiration data. To this end, Mr. Cunningham also played a crucial role in the development of landowner water budgets based on the adopted policies of the agency. He also developed outreach materials pertaining to programs and regulations, ensuring clear and concise written communication for growers and other stakeholders. His responsibilities extended to grant management for groundwater recharge projects and flood control infrastructure. He adeptly interpreted and applied various legal codes and technical memoranda across diverse project types, demonstrating a strong grasp of relevant regulations.

## REFERENCES

### PHIL DESATOFF

#### GENERAL MANAGER, CENTRAL KINGS GSA

(559) 896-1660

##### Projects include:

- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Reporting
- Kings Basin SGMA Coordination
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program Administration
- Kings Basin Data Gap Studies

### DENNIS MILLS

#### FORMER GENERAL MANAGER, MID-KINGS RIVER GSA

(559) 584-6412

##### Projects include:

- Ongoing GSA Consulting
- Water Budget
- GSP Preparation and Implementation
- Proposition 218 Election Services
- SGMA Planning Grant Preparation
- Tulare Lake Basin GSP Annual Report

### CHAD WEGLEY

#### MANAGER, KINGS RIVER EAST GSA

(559) 471-9852

##### Projects include:

- Ongoing GSA Consulting
- Water Budget
- Proposition 218 Election Services
- Kings Basin SGMA Coordination
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program Administration
- Ongoing Website Management

We encourage you to call our references to hear more about their experience with P&P including:



#### PROVEN PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SGMA COMPLIANCE

Our team has provided long-term engineering and consulting services for multiple water management agencies, supporting regulatory compliance, infrastructure planning, and groundwater sustainability efforts. Key contributions include developing Annual Reports and Data Management Systems to streamline reporting and track SGMA implementation progress for subbasins across California.



#### STRONG INTRA- AND INTER-BASIN COORDINATION EXPERIENCE

Our team has successfully developed and implemented multiple GSPs through coordination with various agencies across key subbasins. This work has included preparing and submitting Annual Reports, conducting periodic evaluations, and ensuring compliance with state regulatory requirements. Through ongoing collaboration among GSAs and technical teams, these efforts have contributed to achieving regulatory approval and advancing sustainable groundwater management.



#### FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTISE

Our team has extensive experience in financial planning and cost recovery strategies for water management agencies. We have prepared Proposition 218 Engineer's Reports and Fee Studies to establish sustainable funding structures, ensuring long-term financial viability for water supply and groundwater management projects. Additionally, we have supported agencies in securing and administering grant funding to implement critical infrastructure and water resource initiatives.

# PROVOST&PRITCHARD

## CONSULTING GROUP



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: March 27, 2025

RE: Committee to Authorize its Representative to the Coordination Committee to Authorize Execution of Agreement and Task Order to Provide Program Management Support Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee and Related Expenses

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### BACKGROUND

In February, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee approved the Fund 63 and Fund 65 budgets, respectively. After budget approval, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) staff released a Request for Proposal to Provide Program Management Support Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

Two firms provided proposals in response to the RFP, with Hallmark Group proposing to provide services for the Central, Northern and Coordination Committees, and Provost & Pritchard proposing to provide services to the Central Region only.

The adopted Fund 63 budget is included as Attachment A to this memo and the responsive proposal is attached as Attachment B.

The scope and fee for the Program Management Support services are \$247,760 and staff is recommending that a line-item budget adjustment is made to accommodate the expenses, however, the SLDMWA procurement policy will require this action to go to the SLDMWA Board, as the total contract will exceed \$200,000.

Specifically, the FY 26 approved budget for Fund 63 includes \$596,000 for Component 8 – Data Gaps, which was originally scheduled for collections to cover construction of Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Wells and Continuous GPS stations that will not be able to be installed by SLDMWA. As a result, staff is recommending that this line item be allocated to cover these services to minimize the need for a budget adjustment.

Staff has prepared the following table detailing impacts on the adopted FY26 budget:

Service	Consultant	Total Proposed Budget	Adopted FY26 Budget	Variance
Staff Augmentation Support	Water and Land Solutions	\$30,000	\$200,000	-\$192,760
	Hallmark Group	\$247,760		
	EKI Environment and Water (approved)	\$115,000		
	Woodard & Curran (annual report)	\$149,675	\$149,675	
Technical Support – GSP Review	EKI Environment and Water (approved)	\$78,000	\$--	-\$78,000
SGMA Round 1 Grant Administration	Woodard & Curran	\$175,015	\$83,470	-\$91,545
<b>Total:</b>				<b>-\$362,305</b>

### ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee should authorize its representative to the Coordination Committee to authorize execution of an agreement and task order with Hallmark for Program Management Support Services for the Coordination Committee and take action on related expenses with a recommended line-item budget adjustment, as necessary.

### ANALYSIS

Hallmark Group is qualified to provide Program Management support services and are providing services on a time and materials basis.

#### Current Consultants

Current consultants working in the subbasin include Woodard & Curran for annual report preparation and grant management, EKI Environment and Water providing technical support for Single GSP implementation and Pumping Reduction Plans, as well as technical support for engagement with the State Water Resources Control Board. There is likely cost efficiency that could be generated in the provision of services by transitioning to a reduced number of consultants working in the subbasin that could be explored as the FY27 budget is developed and the fiscal and administrative support for GSP Implementation is transitioned away from SLDMWA.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Committee authorize its representative to authorize execution of a contract with Hallmark Group for Program Management Support services and associated line-item budget adjustment for the Fund 63 budget.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026**  
**SGMA ACTIVITIES - COORDINATED COST-SHARE AGREEMENT**  
**COORDINATED (FUND 63)**

<b>FY25 Projections &amp; FY26 Budget Draft Draft 2</b>	<b>FY25 Budget 3/1/24 - 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY25 Projected Actual @ 2/28/25</b>	<b>FY26 Budget 3/1/25 - 2/28/26</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Legal:</b>				
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 33,120	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	
<b>Other Professional Services:</b>				
GSP Implementation Contracts				
Coordinated Annual Report Activities (Common Chapter, Water Level Contouring)	\$ 151,627	\$ 120,000	\$ 149,675	
DMS Hosting, Augmentation and Support	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	
Staff Augmentation Support (EKI)	\$ 71,040	\$ 80,000	\$ 200,000	
DAC Outreach and Coordination	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	
SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 SPA (A9)	\$ 73,330	\$ 90,000	\$ 83,470	1
Inadequate Determination Response (EKI)		\$ 65,000	\$ 55,000	
Interconnected Determination Response (EKI)	\$ 616,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 596,000	
Single GSP Development (EKI)	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	
Domestic Well Mitigation Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	2
<b>Other:</b>				
Executive Director	\$ 2,736	\$ 750	\$ 750	
General Counsel	\$ 4,836	\$ 650	\$ 1,000	
Water Policy Director	\$ 8,450	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	
Water Resources Program Manager	\$ 82,607	\$ 70,000	\$ -	
Accounting	\$ 4,752	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
License & Continuing Education	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
Group Meetings	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	
Software	\$ 780	\$ 780	\$ -	
Equipment and Tools	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,650	\$ 2,000	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,830</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Fund Balance	\$ (286,024)	\$ (432,864)	\$ -	
Collections for Single GSP Development	\$ 750,000	* \$ 763,654	\$ -	
<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,452</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,456</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,719,246</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>	

<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>				
End of FY 24 (Budget Estimated)	\$ (286,024)			
End of FY 24 (Unaudited)		\$ (432,864)		
End of FY 25 (Budget Estimated)	\$ -			
End of FY 25 (Estimated)			\$ 658,416	
Resesrved			\$ (658,416)	
End of FY 26 (Estimated)			\$ -	
Available/(Required)			\$ -	

<b>PRIOR YEAR:</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 282,831</b>	<b>\$ 525,332</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,428</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>
<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (UNAUDITED)</b>	<b>\$ 338,081</b>	<b>\$ 1,516,083</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,830</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	<b>\$ 298,079</b>	<b>\$ 725,353</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,452</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,895</b>

**FY26 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 1 - Allocation persuiant to Special Projects Agreement.
- 2 - Funds for Domestic Well Mitigation Program to be collected \$100,000 per year for 3 years. Funds to be reserved until policy implementation.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE AND  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES IN THE DELTA MENDOTA SUBBASIN**

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Valley Water Collaborative (VWC) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation created to maintain and improve the quality of life within the Modesto, Turlock, Delta-Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, Madera and Yolo groundwater basins/subbasins (collectively referred to as “Region”) located within the Central Valley by providing groundwater testing and free drinking water to residents in the Region who are impacted by nitrate contamination;

WHEREAS, the VWC also seeks to improve the quality of life in the Region by identifying long-term drinking water needs for those in the Region that are impacted by nitrate contamination;

WHEREAS, starting on or about May 8, 2021, the VWC began implementing an Early Action Plan for the Modesto and Turlock subbasins, which advertises widely across the subbasins of the VWC’s willingness to test domestic wells for nitrate, and if the well exceeds the nitrate drinking water standard of 10 mg/L, then the VWC will provide alternative drinking water supplies;

WHEREAS, starting on or about January 1, 2022, the VWC began testing domestic wells in the Modesto and Turlock subbasins for additional contaminants and providing drinking water subject to the terms of an agreement between VWC and the State Water Resources Control Board to administer a Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) grant to assist private domestic well owners;

WHEREAS, starting on or about February 28, 2025, VWC expanded its efforts to also implement Early Action Plans in the Delta-Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, Madera and Yolo groundwater basins/subbasins and expanded implementation of the SAFER grant to these additional basins/subbasins;

WHEREAS, the VWC’s Early Action Plan efforts in the Delta-Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, Madera and Yolo groundwater basins/subbasins offer free domestic well testing to measure nitrate and other contaminant levels in such wells and offers to provide replacement water to those whose wells that exceed the state’s primary maximum contaminant levels for the constituents tested;

WHEREAS, under the VWC’s administrative umbrella there exists a Delta-Mendota Subbasin Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, there are 23 individual Groundwater Sustainability Agencies<sup>1</sup> formed under and pursuant to the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (Wat. Code, § 10720 et seq.) that are required to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan that meets the requirements of SGMA;

WHEREAS, the individual GSAs have worked cooperatively to prepare a single GSP that covers the entirety of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin;

WHEREAS, the single GSP finalized in 2024 addresses deficiencies identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in March of 2023 for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin;

WHEREAS, DWR's determination of inadequacy resulted in transferring primary jurisdiction for review of the single GSP to the State Water Board;

WHEREAS, the 23 GSAs have a shared interest to satisfy the requirements of SGMA and the State Water Board's potentially alleged deficiencies regarding GSP implementation;

WHEREAS, the parties acknowledge and understand that there are legacy groundwater quality issues in the Delta Mendota Subbasin, which already exist and occur independent of the actions of the VWC, the 23 GSAs and implementation of the single GSP or the Management Zone Implementation Plan;

WHEREAS, as part of GSP implementation, the 23 GSAs desire to mitigate the effects that may be felt by domestic water users whose wells are negatively impacted as a result of groundwater levels dropping due to groundwater management in the Delta Mendota Subbasin;

WHEREAS, the 23 GSAs have agreed to implement the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy; and

WHEREAS, the VWC's Delta-Mendota Advisory Committee and the 23 GSAs desire to coordinate efforts related to testing groundwater quality in domestic wells and for providing replacement water as determined necessary and appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, the VWC and the 23 GSAs agree as follows:

#### **AGREEMENT TERMS**

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<sup>1</sup> The 23 GSAs include the following agencies: Aliso Water District GSA, Central Delta-Mendota GSA, City of Dos Palos GSA, City of Firebaugh GSA, City of Gustine GSA, City of Los Banos GSA, City of Mendota GSA, City of Newman GSA, City of Patterson GSA, County of Madera-3 GSA, DM-II GSA, Farmers Water District GSA, Fresno County Management Area A GSA, Fresno County Management Area B GSA, Grassland GSA, Merced County Delta-Mendota GSA, Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA, Oro Loma Water District GSA, Patterson Irrigation District GSA, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA, Turner Island Water District-2 GSA, West Stanislaus Irrigation District GSA 1, and Widren Water District GSA.

1. VWC and the 23 GSAs agree to work collaboratively to avoid duplication of efforts in their respective administration of their programs, including but not limited to: 1) compilation and assessment of groundwater data; 2) groundwater monitoring; 3) testing domestic wells for drinking water constituents of concern; 4) mitigating dry wells; and, 5) providing replacement drinking water.
2. The VWC and the 23 GSAs agree that it is in their mutual interest to ensure that all residents in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin have access to an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water.
3. VWC agrees, consistent with its Early Action Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin as approved by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) Executive Officer on February 25, 2025 , to conduct outreach to residents within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to offer free domestic well testing for nitrate and other contaminants and will provide replacement water to residents if the domestic well exceeds the primary contaminate level for nitrate, and may provide replacement water to residents based on eligibility if the domestic well exceeds primary drinking water standards for other contaminants but not nitrate.
4. VWC agrees that as part of its Early Action Plan outreach efforts, VWC will provide residents throughout the Delta-Mendota Subbasin with information regarding the 23 GSAs Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy as long as such information is provided to the VWC for dissemination.
5. The 23 GSAs agree to identify a single point of contact for the VWC for cooperation and collaboration associated with its Domestic Well Mitigation Policy.
6. VWC agrees that if VWC, during the normal course of implementing its Early Action Plan in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, encounters a dry well that may be eligible for mitigation under the 23 GSAs Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, VWC will notify the contact person identified by the 23 GSAs of the dry well and will provide the resident with referral information from the 23 GSAs of the resident's options for seeking mitigation under the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Policy.
7. The 23 GSAs agree that if a domestic well is eligible for mitigation pursuant to their Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, the 23 GSAs, in accordance with their Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, will take all reasonable efforts to install a replacement well that is perforated at a level where groundwater meets primary drinking water standards if installation of a replacement well is the chosen mitigation measure.
8. The 23 GSAs agree that if a replacement well is provided through the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, the GSAs will test water from the well to determine if it exceeds drinking water standards. If the well exceeds the nitrate drinking water standard, the identified

single point of contact will work with the VWC to ensure that replacement water is provided to the residents that rely on the well in question.

9. The VWC and the 23 GSAs agree that it is their intent to develop a future agreement, or amendments to this agreement, whereby the 23 GSAs may contribute annually to the VWC to provide funding to the VWC to cover costs incurred specifically within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin for well testing and replacement water that may be associated with implementation of the single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.
10. The 23 GSAs agree to provide the VWC with groundwater well data and information compiled by the GSAs to assist the VWC in its development of a Preliminary Management Zone Implementation Plan, and future plans as appropriate and applicable.
11. The VWC and the 23 GSAs agree to work collaboratively in the development of their monitoring well networks to ensure that there are not duplicative monitoring efforts and to share monitoring results of wells monitored so that each program enhances the other's well monitoring program rather than duplicating such programs.

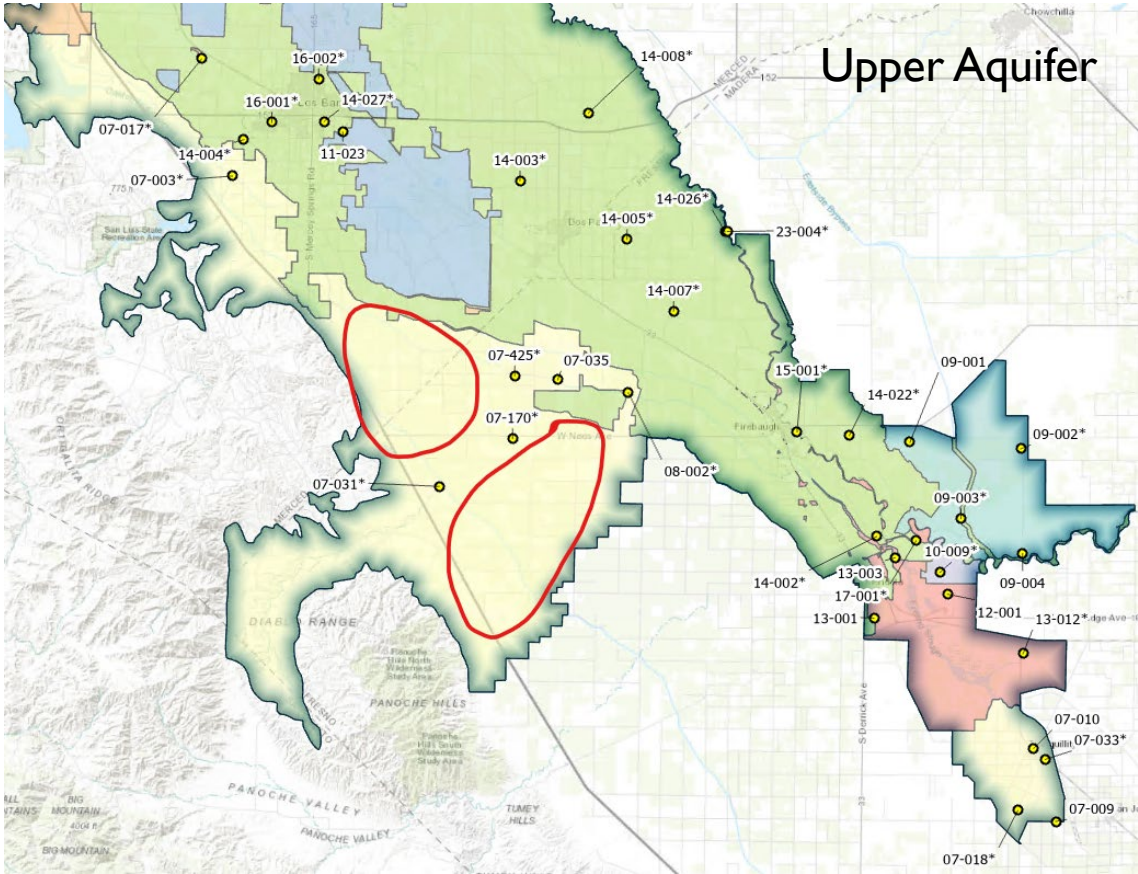


# **CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GSA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PUMPING REDUCTION PLAN**

**27 MARCH 2025**

# MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION PLAN

- Regular monitoring network(s) assessment
  - Upper aquifer has gap areas, primarily where the upper aquifer is less utilized and shallow. Needs ideally two wells to maintain 4 wells per 100 square miles.
  - EKI provided a list of wells with missing information
- Conduct Monitoring:
  - Quarterly groundwater level monitoring
  - Semiannual water quality monitoring
- Well registration policy
- Well metering policy
- Well extraction reporting policy
- Provide well construction information for all monitoring wells
- Replacing composite/production wells in the monitoring network with dedicated monitoring wells by 2030



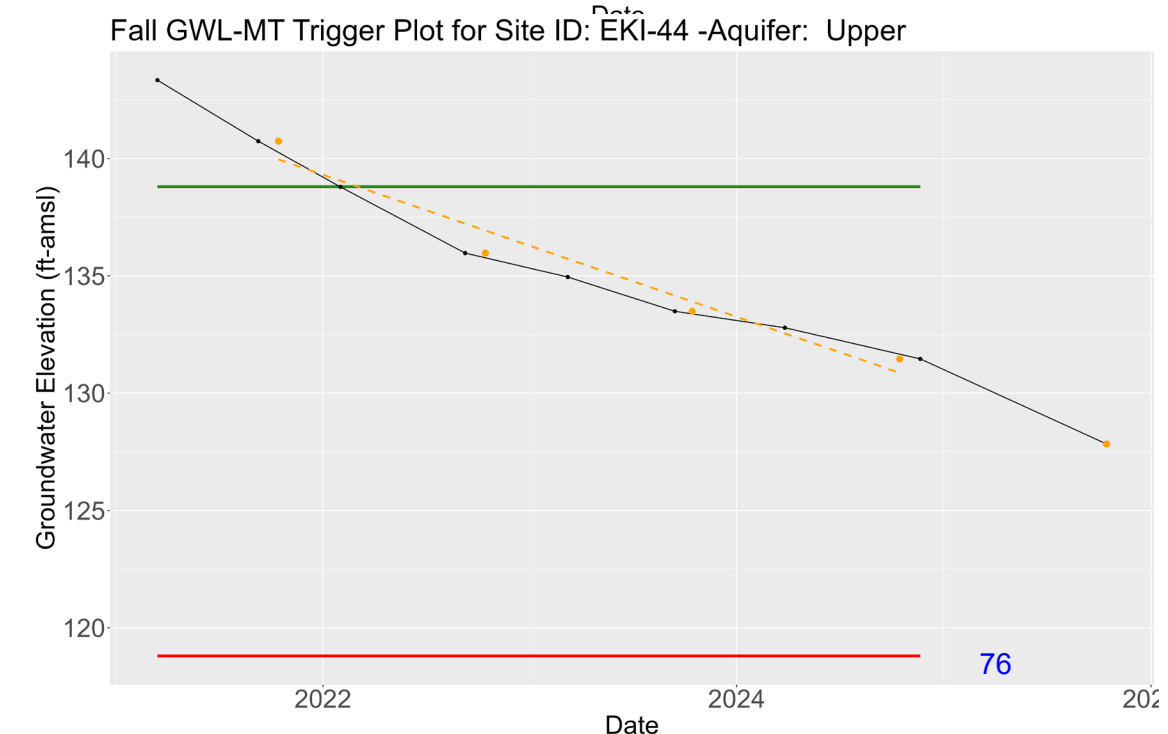
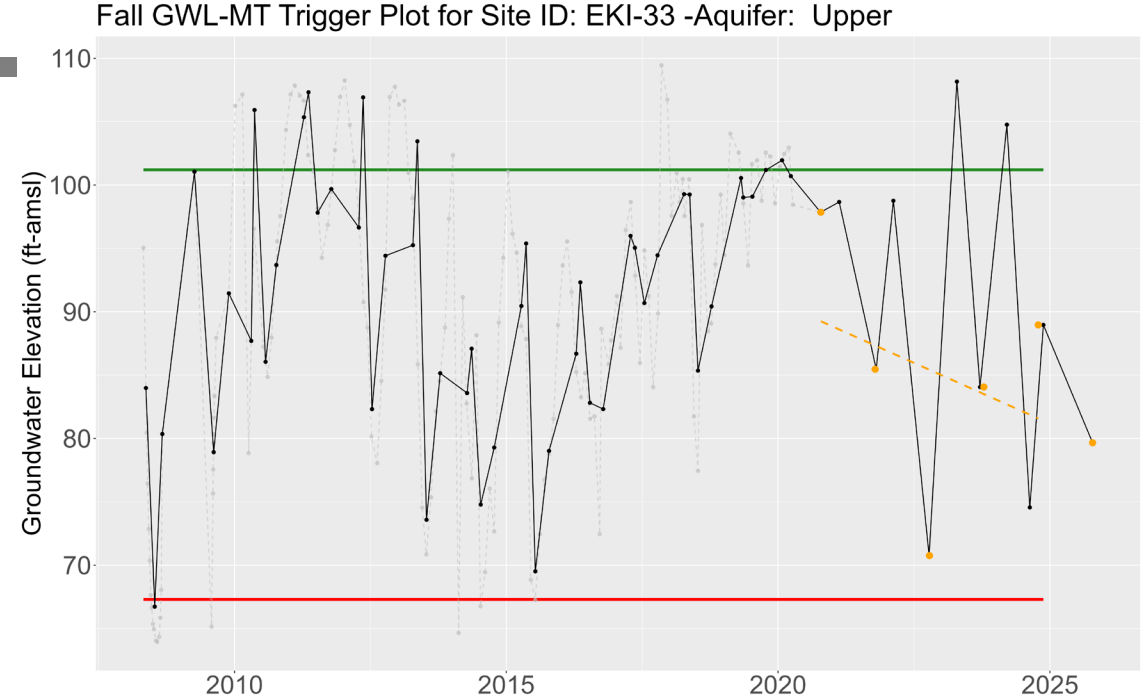
# OVERDRAFT MITIGATION PLAN

- Annual 20% reduction in pumping for all GSAs is required from WY 2026.
- No actions required for this year.
- Recommendation:
  - Measure reductions under Subsidence policy implemented this year.
  - Prepare for next year’s reduction under dry scenarios.
  - Gather and process extraction data to inform your plan.

WY	Upper Aquifer Annual Pumping Reduction (AFY)	Lower Aquifer Annual Pumping Reduction (AFY)
2025	0	0
2026	261	3,488

# GWL-MT AVOIDANCE

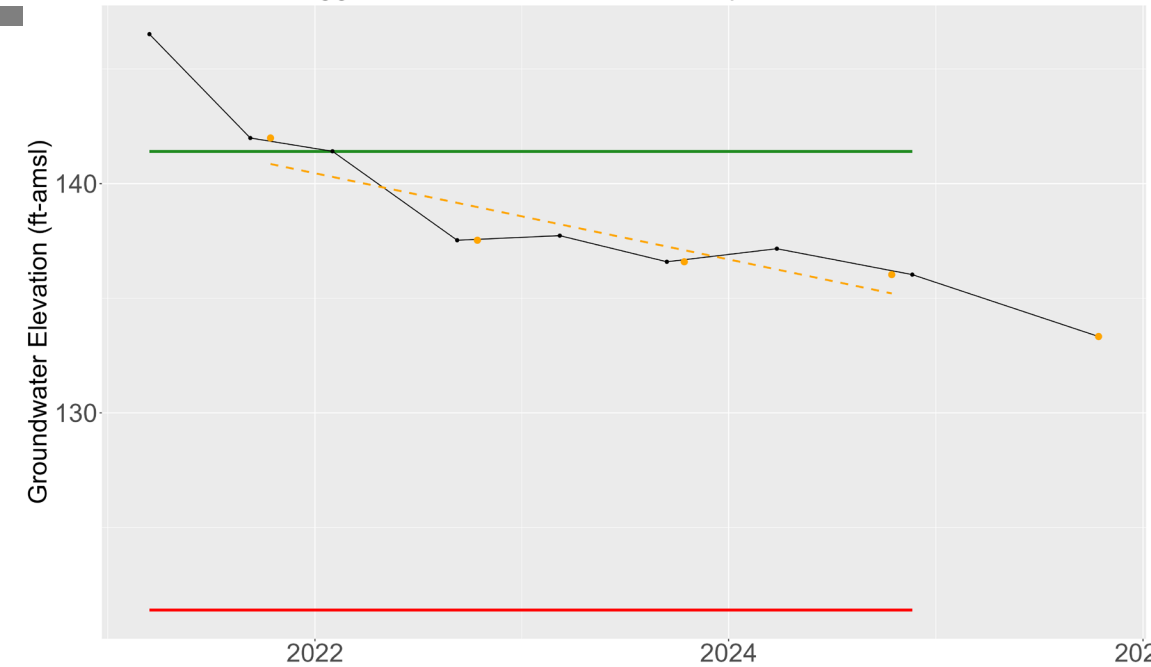
- No wells in either aquifer require immediate action for this year: PRP not triggered.
- Four wells show declining trends:
  - Upper Aquifer:
    - 07-010 (EKI-33)
    - 07-031 (EKI-44)
  - Lower Aquifer:
    - 07-032 (EKI-45)
    - 07-028 (EKI-41)



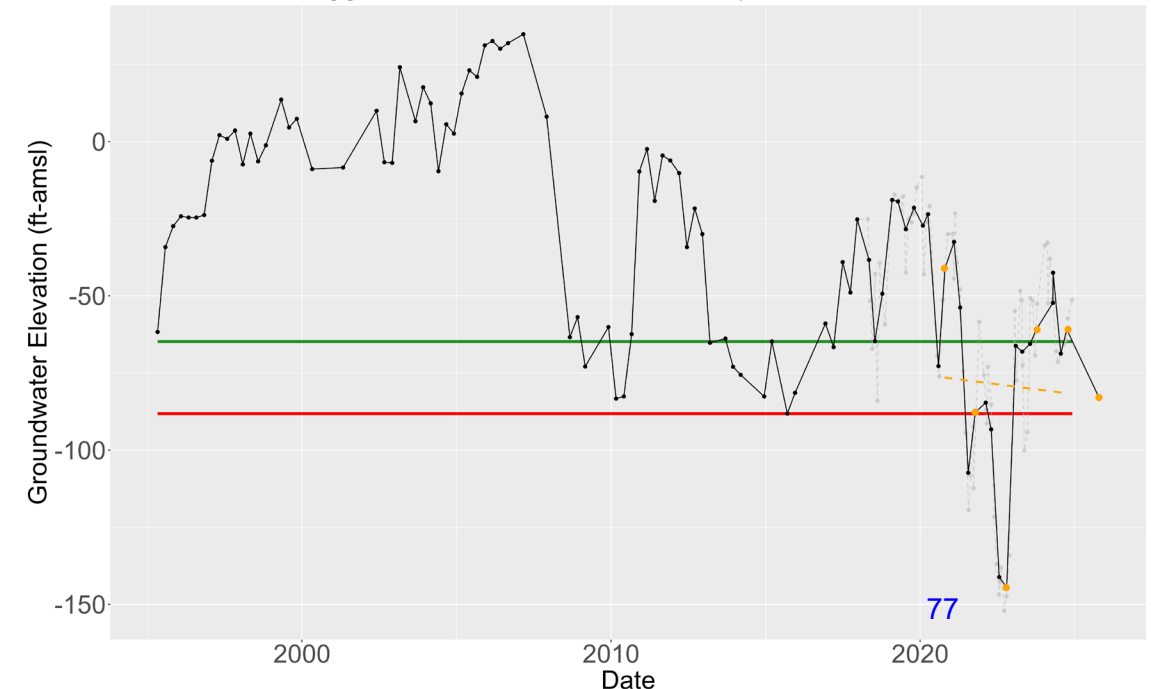
# GWL-MT AVOIDANCE (CONT.)

- No wells in either aquifer require immediate action for this year: PRP not triggered.
- Four wells show declining trends:
  - Upper Aquifer:
    - 07-010 (EKI-33)
    - 07-031 (EKI-44)
  - Lower Aquifer:
    - 07-032 (EKI-45)
    - 07-028 (EKI-41)

Fall GWL-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: EKI-45 -Aquifer: Lower



Fall GWL-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: EKI-41 -Aquifer: Lower



# GWL-MT AVOIDANCE

- No actions required per PRP currently and based on available WY 2024 Fall levels.
- Recommendations:
  - 07-010, 07-031, 07-032, and 07-028 should be watched for spring levels to determine if any actions are required.
  - We recommend more frequent GWL measurements at these three wells in the meantime, but it is not required. Confirmation monitoring and verifying construction information may be helpful.

# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

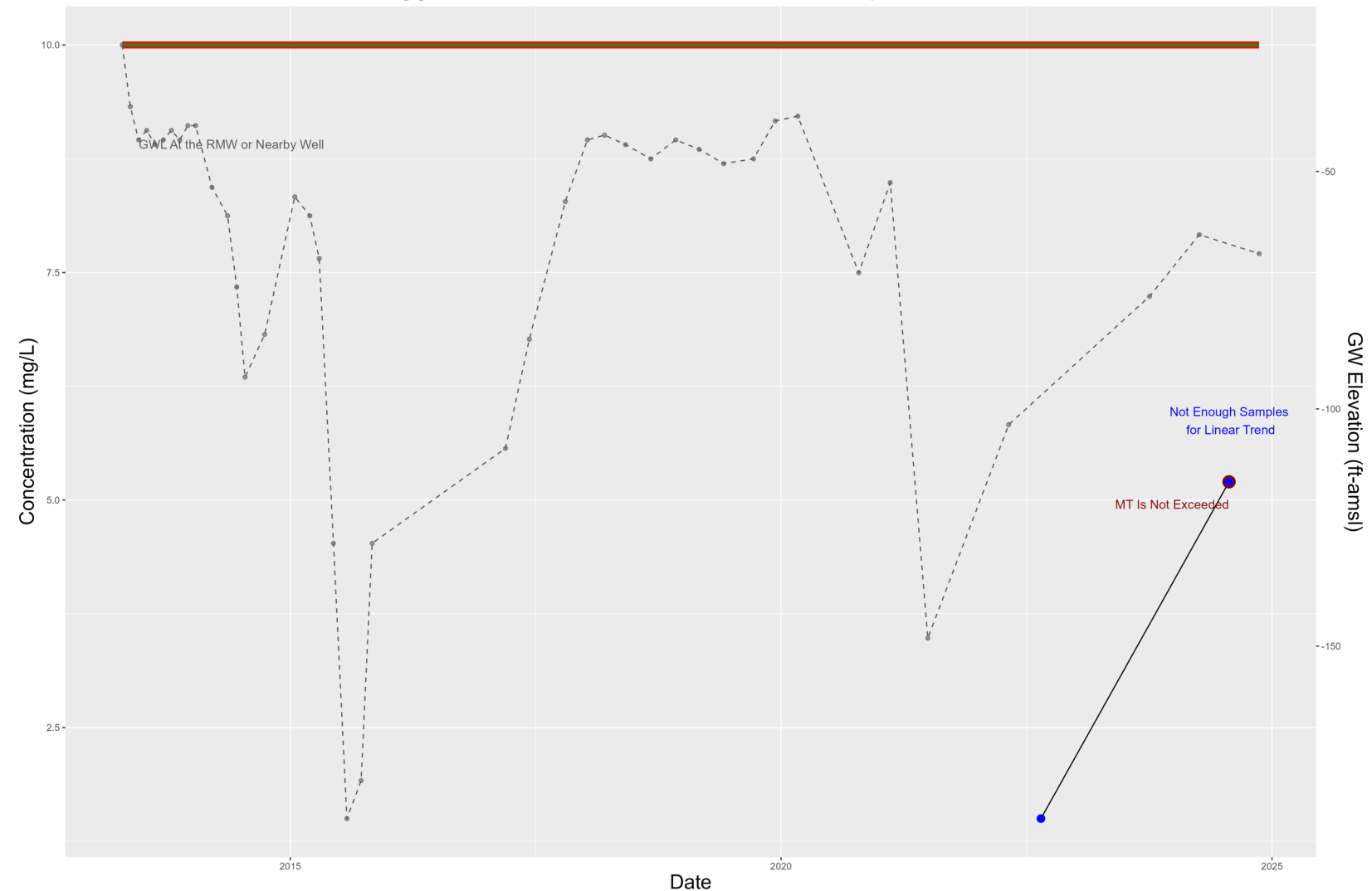
- Data gaps still exist that hinder PRP analysis and setting MTs/MOs at some wells.
- No well with recent monitoring data met PRP criteria for further actions.
- There are exceedances of MT already occurring within the GSA for TDS.
- COCs except for Nitrate and TDS do not have enough data.
- Recommendation:
  - Continue monitoring at all wells as scheduled.
  - Increase monitoring, voluntarily and if feasible, at the wells included in the watchlist.

## Watchlist

DMS_Site Name	Constituent
07-036	Nitrate
07-034	TDS
07-018	TDS
07-028	TDS
07-031	TDS
07-032	TDS
07-036	TDS

# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

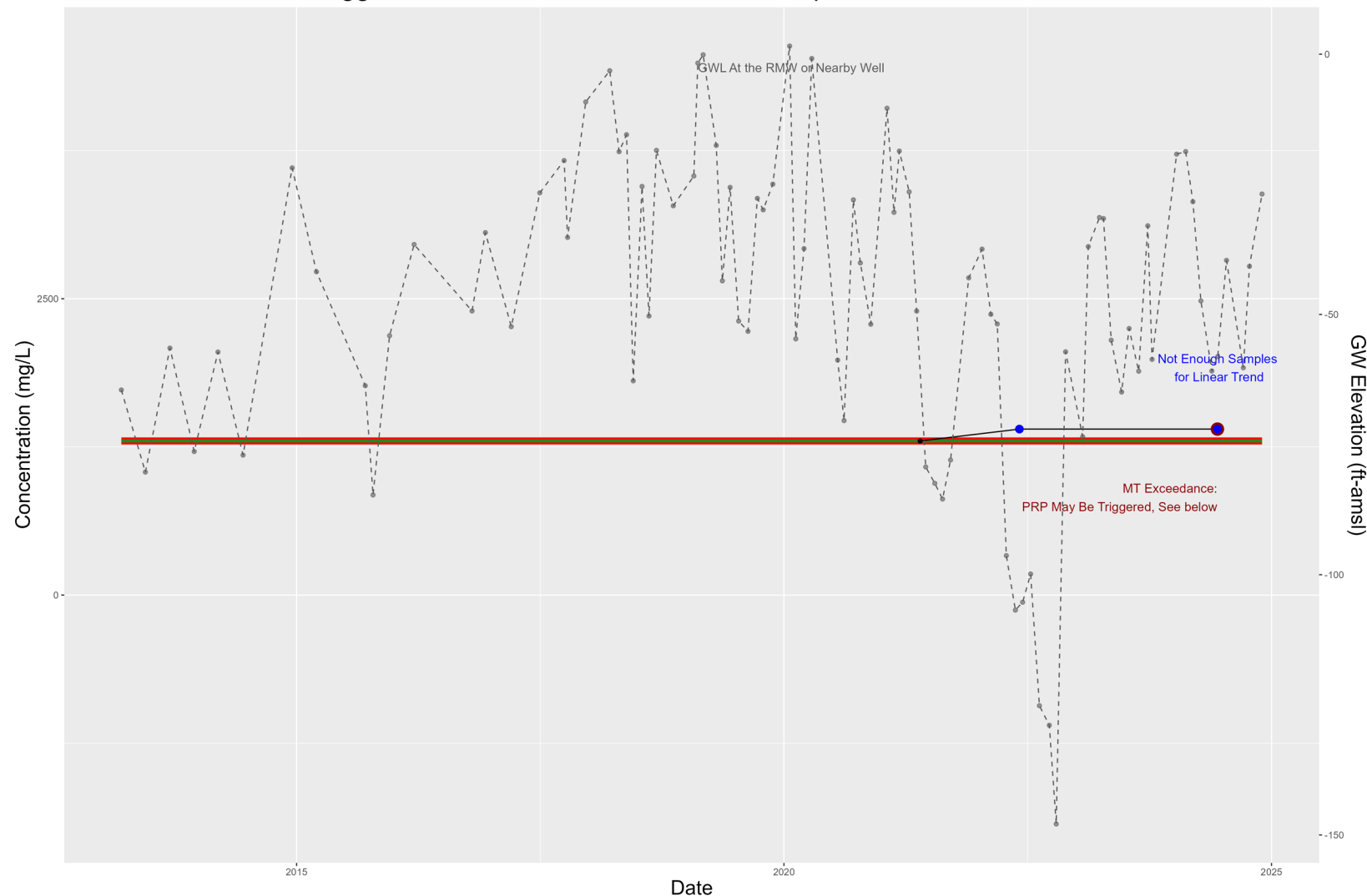
Fall NITRATE GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-036 in Lower Aquifer:



Not Enough Samples to Establish Correlation Between GWL and GWQ

# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

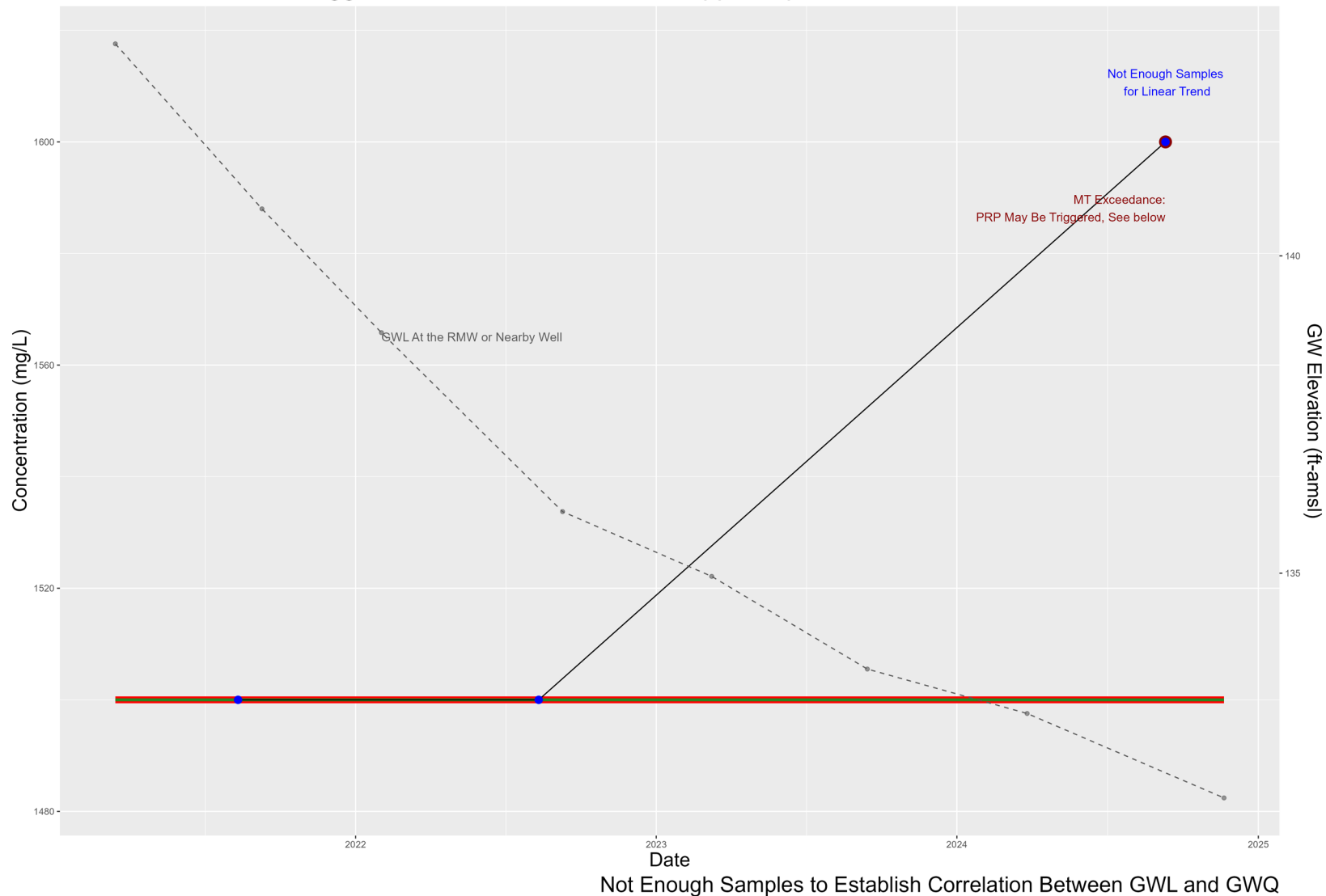
Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-034 in Lower Aquifer:



Not Enough Samples to Establish Correlation Between GWL and GWQ

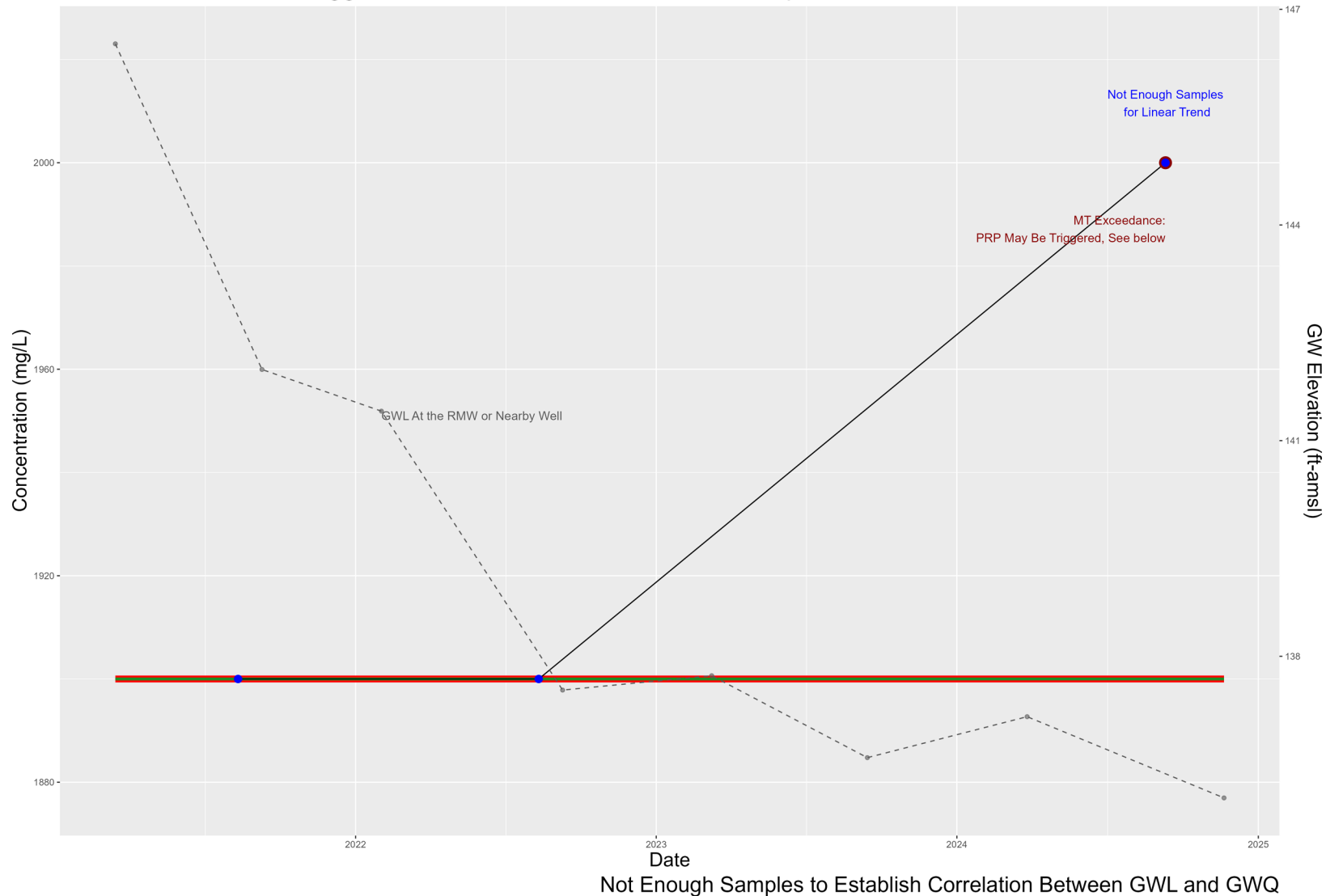
# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-031 in Upper Aquifer:



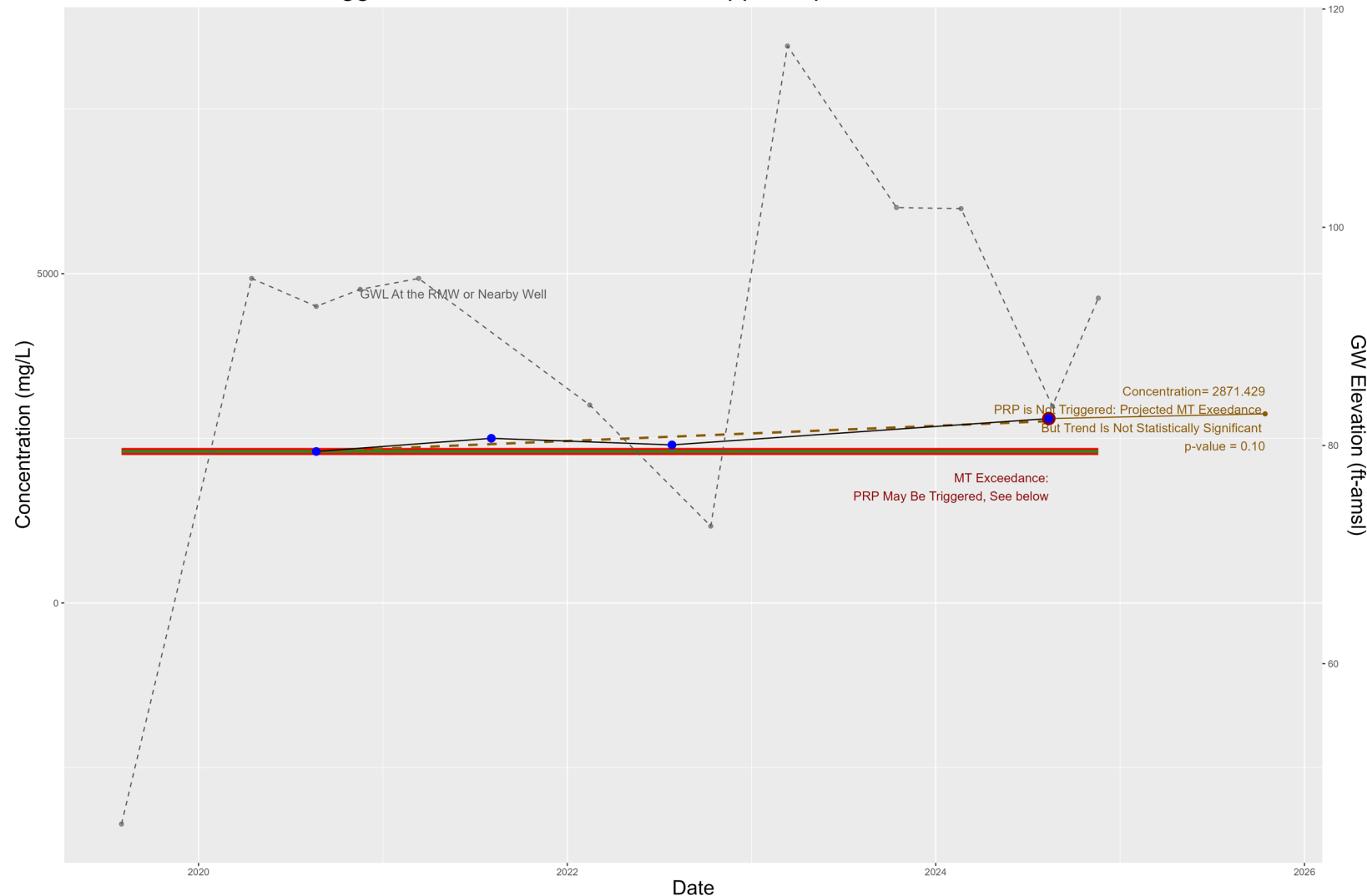
# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-032 in Lower Aquifer:



# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

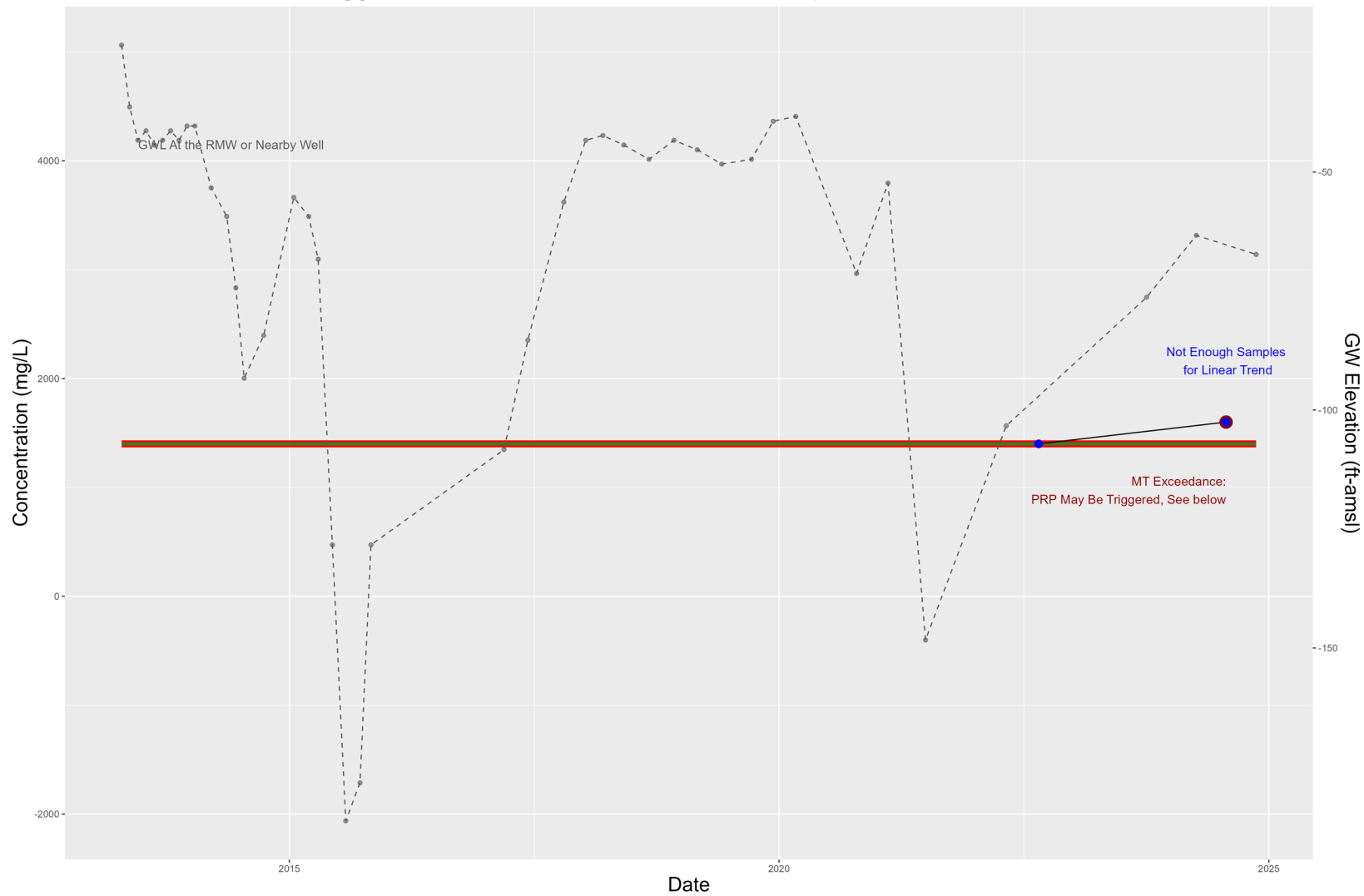
Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-018 in Upper Aquifer:



Not Enough Samples to Establish Correlation Between GWL and GWQ

# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

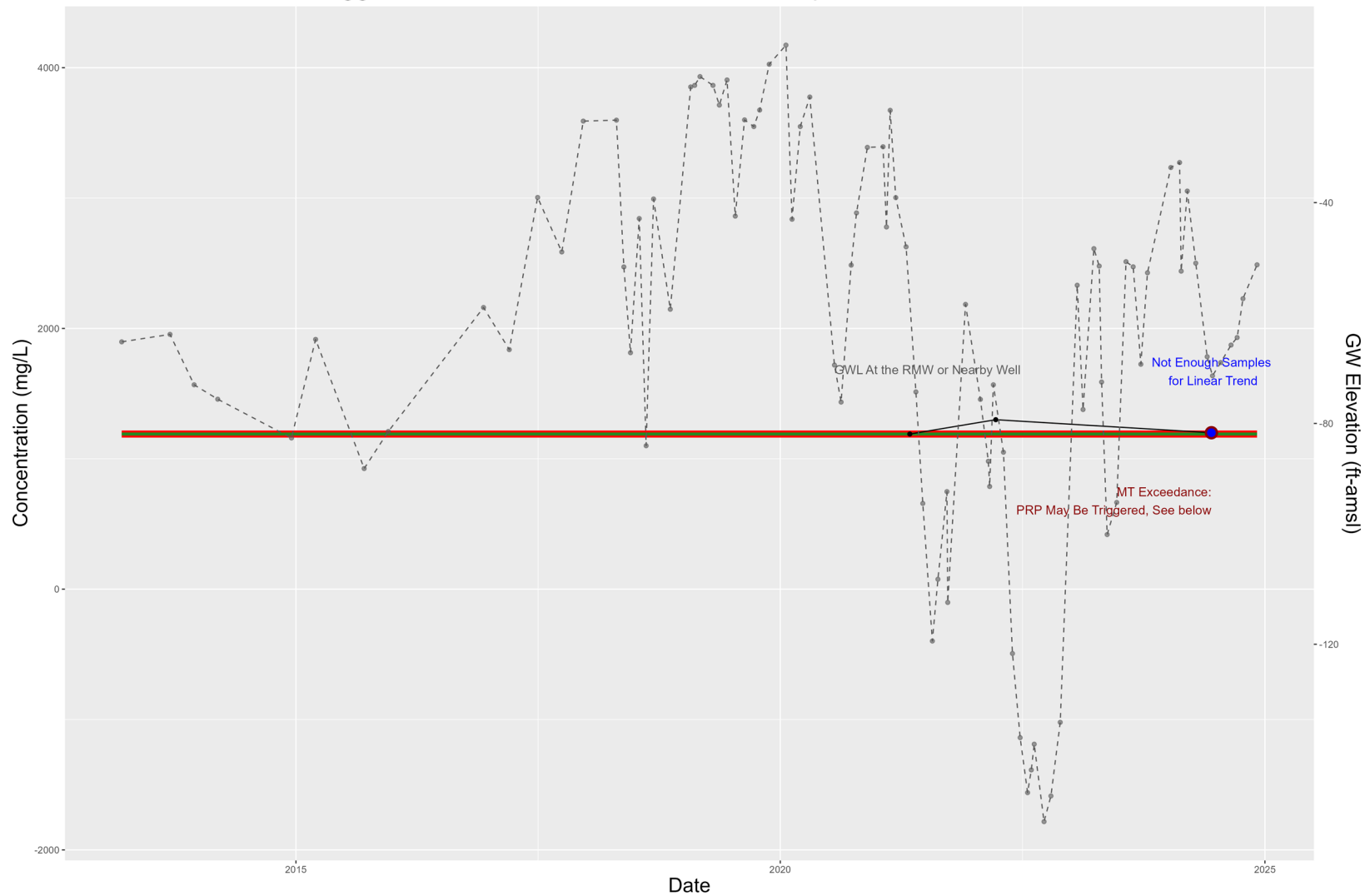
Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-036 in Lower Aquifer:



Not Enough Samples to Establish Correlation Between GWL and GWQ

# WQ-MT AVOIDANCE

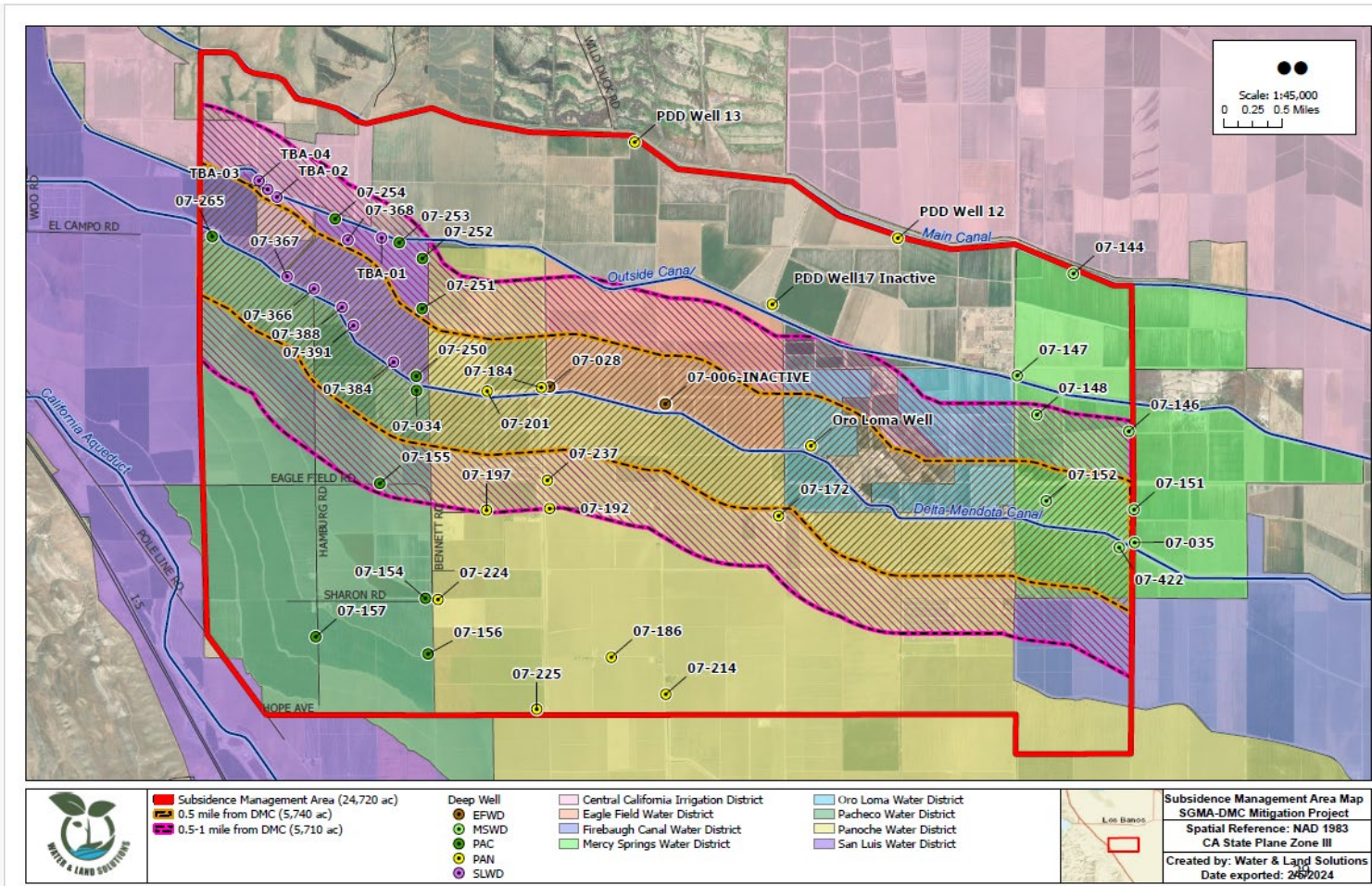
Fall TDS GWQ-MT Trigger Plot for Site ID: 07-028 in Lower Aquifer:



Not Enough Samples to Establish Correlation Between GWL and GWQ

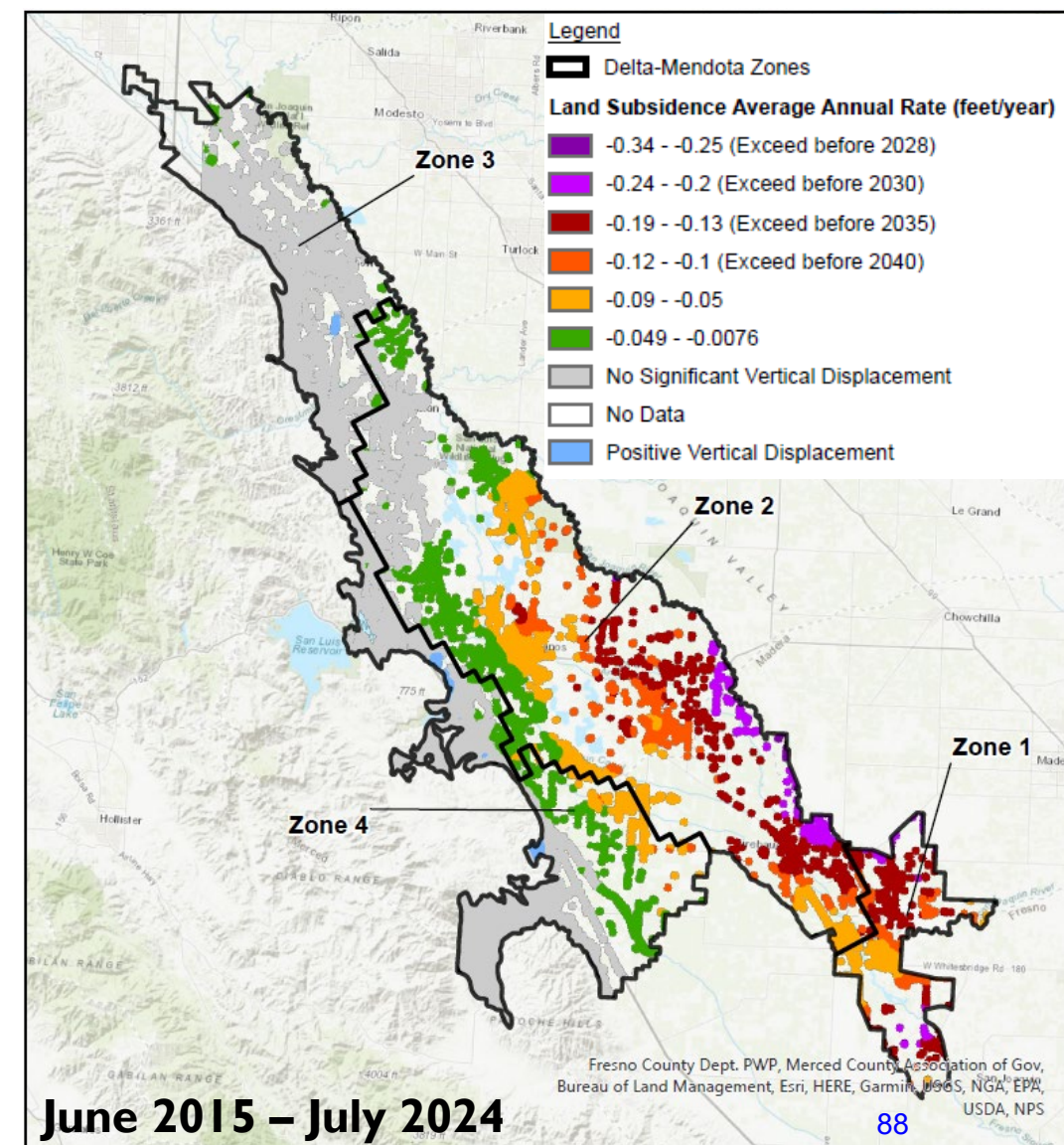
# SUBSIDENCE AVOIDANCE PLAN: SSMA

- DMC SSMA Policy is in effect this year.
- Construction of new wells below Corcoran Clay is now prohibited within SSMA.
- EKI is seeking clarity on its triggers and will provide further information at the next meeting.



# SUBSIDENCE AVOIDANCE PLAN: OUTSIDE SSMA

- Within 0.5 miles of DMC (Outside SSMA) and CA Aqueduct, 3-year average annual subsidence rate needs to be lower than 0.2 ft and 0.15 ft, respectively.
  - Pumping reduction, if needed, starts at 0.5 AFY/acre.
- Anywhere else, 5-year average subsidence trend should lead to <2 ft subsidence by 2040, or 0.5 ft by 2030.
  - Pumping reduction, if needed, starts at 0.5 AFY/acre, within 0.5 miles of the area.
- EKI will provide subsidence analysis at the next meeting upon review of released InSAR and local subsidence data.



# GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION BACKSTOP

- Activated if GSA(s) do not meet their obligations under Overdraft Mitigation, GWL-MT, GWQ-MT, or Subsidence Avoidance Plan.
- Not applicable to WY 2025 unless needed SSMA subsidence actions are not implemented as planned.
  - No further action needed per PRP at the moment.

Questions?