



**Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Thursday, March 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m. PST**

**In Person:**

Santa Nella County Water District  
12931 CA-33, Gustine, CA 95322

**Zoom Webinar Link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/95879549220>

Webinar ID: 958 7954 9220

**Call In:**

+16694449171,,95879549220# US

+16699006833,,95879549220# US (San Jose)

March 26, 2026

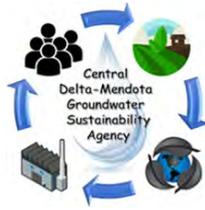
**TO:** Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Alternates, and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

**RE:** MEETING OF THE CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
**THURSDAY, March 26, 2026, 10:00 AM**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been called for **Thursday, March 26, 2026, 10:00 AM**, on items listed on the attached agenda, which is incorporated by reference and made a part hereof.

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Karlee Liddy or Amy Montgomery at the Santa Nella County Water District Office, 12931 CA-33, Gustine, CA 95322, via telephone at (916) 767-4287, or via email at [kliddy@hgcpm.com](mailto:kliddy@hgcpm.com) or [amontgomery@sncwd.com](mailto:amontgomery@sncwd.com). Requests should be made as far in advance as possible before the meeting date, preferably 3 days in advance of regular meetings or 1 day in advance of special meetings/workshops.



**Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Thursday, March 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m. PST**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call ([Barcellos](#))
2. Pledge of Allegiance ([Barcellos](#))
3. Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq. ([Layne](#))
4. Opportunity for Public Comment ([Barcellos](#))
5. Election of Officers – Review and Take Action to Elect Officers ([Layne](#))
  - a. Chair
  - b. Vice Chair
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer

**Consent Calendar**

6. Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar ([Barcellos](#))
  - a. Minutes for the February 26, 2026, Special Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA
  - b. Budget to Actual Report

**Action Items**

7. Authorize Executing an Engagement Agreement with Baker Manock & Jensen ([Layne](#)) – *Verbal*
8. Rescind the Special Project Agreement between the Central DM GSA and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority and Authorizing Consultant Contracts with the Hallmark Group and EKI as Previously Approved ([Layne](#)) – *Verbal*
9. Approve the Combined Central Delta-Mendota GSA JPA Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and Authorize an Initial Cash Call of 1/12 of All Costs ([Montgomery/Blakslee](#))
10. Review and Take Action to Approve the DM Subbasin Model Calibration and Costs Associated Therein ([Blakslee](#))
11. Review and Take Action to Approve the Bank Resolution and Authorize Signatories on the Bank Account ([Blakslee](#))
12. Review and Take Action to Update and Adopt the Following Policies: ([Layne](#))
  - a. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Well Census and Registration Policy and Provide Direction on Updates to the Fee Schedule
  - b. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Well Metering and Reporting Policy
  - c. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Policy Regarding Implementation of the Pumping Reduction Plan

**Report Items**

13. Report from the Central DM GSA Representative to the DM JPA Board ([Hurley](#))
14. Update from the March 19, 2026 Technical Ad Hoc Meeting ([Xie](#))
15. Update on GSP Implementation
  - a. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation and PRP Dashboard Reporting ([Mani](#))
  - b. Q1 Water Level and Quality Monitoring Event and DMS Upload ([Blakslee/Mani](#))
16. Program Management Report ([Blakslee](#))
17. Next Steps ([Blakslee](#))

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

**Closed Session**

19. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1 case) (Layne)  
*The GSA will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel on significant exposure to anticipated litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case).*

**Open Session**

20. Report from Closed Session (Layne)
21. Future Meetings (Barcellos)
  - a. Central Delta-Mendota GSA
    - i. Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. PST (Santa Nella County Water District)
  - b. Special Joint Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors and Coordination Committee
    - i. Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. PST (Grassland Water District)
  - c. Joint Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors and Coordination Committee
    - i. Monday April 13, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. PST (Grassland Water District)
22. Adjournment (Barcellos)



TO: Board of Directors  
Agenda Item No. 6

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar

**Recommendation**

Approve the consent calendar.

**Discussion**

The documents below are included in the consent calendar for consideration of approval:

- a. Minutes of the February 26, 2026, Special Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA (**Attachment 1**)
- b. Budget to Actual Report through February 2026 (**Attachment 2**)
- c. Statement of Income and Expenses (**Attachment 3**)

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 AM

Board Room, Santa Nella County Water District

12931 CA-33, Gustine, CA 95322

**Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Members and Alternates Present**

Amy Montgomery, Member – Santa Nella County Water District  
Augie Ramirez, Alternate – Fresno County  
Brian Silva, Alternate – San Luis Water District  
Randall Miles, Member – Eagle Field Water District (EFWD)  
Danny Wade, Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District & Member – Tranquillity Irrigation District (FSWD/TQID)  
Palmer McCoy, Member – Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD)  
Patrick McGowan, Alternate – Panoche Water District  
Damian Aragona, Member – Widren Water District (WWD)

**Absent**

Oro Loma Water District  
Pacheco Water District  
Merced County

**Others Present**

Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)  
Sam Cunningham – Provost & Pritchard (P&P)

**Others Present Via Zoom**

Amir Mani – EKI  
Brian Ehlers – Provost & Pritchard (P&P)  
Hannah Dickenson – P&P  
Hugh Bennett – Eagle Field Water District  
Joe Hopkins – P&P  
Juan Cadena – Panoche Water District  
Karlee Liddy – Hallmark Group  
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran  
Steve Stadler – San Luis Water District  
Sarah Boogay – DWR  
Susan Xie – EKI

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

Vice Chair Amy Montgomery/SNCWD called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

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

Patrick McGowan/Panoche Water District suggested that the pledge of allegiance be added to future meeting agendas, to which the Board agreed.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar (Barcellos)**

- a. Minutes for the January 22, 2026 Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota GSA
- b. Budget-to-Actual Report

There was no Budget-to-Actual Report for approval and that item was pulled. Palmer McCoy noted that his agency was incorrectly listed as “Merced County” and should be revised to state “Mercy Springs Water District.” With that correction, Patrick McGowan/Panoche Water District made the motion to approve the Minutes for January 22, 2026 special meeting. Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Review and Consider Taking Action to Ratify the Delta-Mendota GSAs Joint Powers Authority representative and alternate on behalf of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA**

Lauren Layne/BMJ noted that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM JPA”) had their initial board meeting. This action would be to ratify the appointment of Chase Hurley as the Central Delta-Mendota GSA representative to the DM JPA and Lacey McBride as the alternate. Randy Miles/EFWD made the motion to ratify the appointments and Patrick McGowan/Panoche WD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Review and Consider Taking Action to Approve the Proposed Central Delta-Mendota GSA JPA Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Montgomery)**

Amy Montgomery/SNCWD introduced the draft Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget for the Central Delta-Mendota GSA JPA. This budget is for only the administrative tasks associated with the GSA. Amy Montgomery noted that the cost is less expensive than previous years following the addition of Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District into the Central Delta-Mendota GSA. Palmer McCoy/MSWD made the motion to approve the draft budget and authorize invoices going out in March, and Brian Silva/SLWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. Review and Consider Taking Action to enter into the Revised and Restated Memorandum of Agreement Among the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Layne)**

Lauren Layne/BMJ introduced the item and stated that the revised and restated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is similar to the MOA that was presented to the group in the fall of 2025. Due to the transition away from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and formation of the Delta Mendota Subbasin GSAs JPA, the revised and restated MOA addresses that a Coordination Committee is no longer needed, that there is a single GSP, and that contracting will be with the DM JPA. Danny Wade/TID made the motion to enter into the revised and restated MOA and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. Review and Consider Adopting the 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar for the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Cunningham)**

Sam Cunningham/P&P presented the proposed 2026 regular meeting calendar for the Central Delta-Mendota GSA, noting that it keeps the meeting date for the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, with the dates for November and December moved up for holidays. Meetings will now

be held at the Santa Nella County Water District office. Randy Miles/EFWD made the motion to approve the regular meeting calendar and Brian Silva/SLWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Review and Consider Approval of the Termination of the Activity Agreement with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Authorize the Chairman to Sign the Notice of Termination of Activity Agreement Letter)**

Lauren Layne/BMJ introduced this item and stated that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is no longer intending to contract on behalf of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA, now that the DM JPA is in place. This termination letter needs to be authorized and signed by the Central Delta-Mendota GSA. Lauren Layne also noted that the member agencies of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA must delegate the authority to the Central Delta-Mendota GSA to sign on their behalf. None of the member agencies present expressed concern and legal counsel will follow up with those who are not present. Palmer McCoy/MSWD made the motion to approve the termination letter and authorize the chair to sign, and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **Review and Consider Authorizing Execution of Agreements with Relevant Consultants for FY2027 Program Administration Support and Technical Support for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support Services (Layne)**

Lauren Layne/BMJ introduced the item and noted that the board tabled the item at the January meeting to be reconsidered at this meeting. A decision must be made as all consultant contracts terminate at the end of February. Lauren Layne further noted that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs JPA Board / Coordination Committee voted to authorize the execution of agreements with the Hallmark Group for program administration support services, EKI for technical support services, and Houston Engineering for the DMS. The Central Delta-Mendota GSA is being asked to decide on a consultant for program administration support and technical support services specific to the Central Delta-Mendota GSA.

The Board sought clarification on if these contracts would be executed with the DM JPA on behalf of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA, or if contracts would be executed with the Central Delta-Mendota GSA directly. Lauren Layne noted that the board can decide which option to pursue, but the Special Project Agreement presented as Agenda Item 11 would be required if contracting is done through the DM JPA.

The Board noted that an ad hoc committee reviewed the proposals and recommended that the Central Delta-Mendota GSA select Hallmark Group for program administration services and EKI for technical support services. The Board further expressed a desire to reduce the amount of consultants working in the subbasin and the potential cost savings that reduced coordination would provide.

After discussion, Augie Ramirez/Fresno County made the motion to select the Hallmark Group for program administration services and EKI for technical support services, and Palmer McCoy seconded. The motion carried with 6 members voting in favor and 3 opposed.

- Aye: Director Montgomery, Director Ramirez, Director Silva, Director Aragona, Director McCoy, Director McGowan
- No: Director Wade (TID), Director Wade (FSWD), Director Miles

Palmer McCoy/MSWD made the motion for contracts to be issues through the DM JPA and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**11. Review and Consider Taking Action to Authorize Entering into the Special Project Agreement between the Central DM GSA and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (Layne)**

Lauren Layne/BMJ introduced this item and noted that this Special Project Agreement would be required for the DM JPA to enter into contracts on behalf of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA. A similar agreement was completed for the Northern Management Region. Palmer McCoy/MSWD made the motion to authorize entering into the Special Project Agreement and Augie Ramirez/Fresno County seconded. The motion carried unanimously, with Randy Miles/EFWD having left the meeting.

**12. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee**

In Chase Hurley's absence, Augie Ramirez/Fresno County reported that the DM JPA held its initial meeting to seat the board and elect officers. Other administrative actions were completed for Hallmark Group to begin program administration. Augie Ramirez also reported that the group anticipates that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin will have a hearing before the State Water Resources Control Board in May or June, to consider returning the subbasin to DWR oversight. In addition, Taylor Blakslee with the Hallmark Group was appointed as the basin Point-of-Contact.

**13. GSA to Discuss Implementation of Policies and Give Direction to Legal Counsel Regarding Preparation of Rules and Regulations and a Prop 26 Fee Schedule (Layne)**

Lauren Layne/BMJ reported that the administrative policies of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA are outdated and the enforcement has been unclear. Legal counsel sought direction to review and update the policies for review by the Board. The board directed counsel to review and provide updated policies and reiterated a desire to enforce these policies to implement a volumetric cost share component.

**14. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation**

- a. Committee/GSA to Discuss Implementation of Pumping Reduction Plans (Mani)
- b. Committee/GSA to Discuss PRP Dashboard Reporting

Susan Xie/EKI provided a reminder that well registration and well meter deadlines, per the PRP, are January 2026. Updates on implementation should be included in the annual report. Additionally, composite wells that are used as representative monitoring wells must be replaced by 2030. The Central Delta-Mendota GSA is also required to reduce pumping from both aquifers starting in water year 2026, focused on areas of concern for groundwater level MTs and subsidence. The reduction target in the lower aquifer is 3,488 AF in 2026. The Central Delta-Mendota GSA should be considering how this reduction will be made. Susan Xie also reviewed the water quality watchlist wells and where SMCs are still in development. Slides from the presentation will be provided.

**15. Discuss QI Water Level and Quality Monitoring Event and DMS Upload (Dumas)**

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran stated that Woodard & Curran will meet with the relevant consultants to provide an overview of how data should be submitted to the DMS.

**16. Committee/GSA to Discuss 2025 Annual Report Preparation (Dumas)**

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran stated that the draft Annual Report will be provided by Monday March 2, for review. The deadline for comments will be March 13, 2026. The Board noted that Chase Hurley has authority to vote in favor of submitting the Annual Report at the special DM JPA meeting, unless unforeseen issues arise that require the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Board to reconvene prior to the DM JPA meeting.

**17. Committee/GSA to Discuss SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant Activities (Dumas)**

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran shared that DWR notified them that an extension would be granted to March 31, 2027. DWR has requested a revision to Amendment 6. Lauren Layne/BMJ noted that no Central Delta-Mendota GSA members have funding remaining.

**18. Next Steps**

- a. Lauren Layne/BMJ will review and provide revised policies for consideration.
- b. Special Project Agreement will be put on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs JPA agenda for March 9.
- c. Meeting invites will be sent to participants based on the adopted schedule.

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

There were no reports provided.

**20. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (1 case).**

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.

Lauren Layne/BMJ reported no need to meet in closed session.

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

**22. Report Out of Closed Session**

There was no closed session.

**23. Future Meetings**

- a. Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and GSA
  - i. Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Santa Nella County Water District)
- b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
  - i. Monday March 9, 2026 at 10:00 am (Grassland Water District)

**24. ADJOURNMENT**

Amy Montgomery/SNCWD adjourned the meeting at 11:49 AM.

**Attachment 2**

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

Report Period 3/1/25 - 2/28/26

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	Annual Budget	Paid/ Expense	Amount Remaining	% of Amt Remaining	Expenses Through
<b><u>Legal:</u></b>					
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 35,000	\$ 47,105	\$ (12,105)	-35%	2/28/26
<b><u>Other Professional Services:</u></b>					
Contracts	\$ 363,028	\$ 137,974	\$ 225,054	62%	1/31/26
<b><u>Other:</u></b>					
Executive Director	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	100%	
General Counsel	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	100%	
Water Policy Director	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,937	\$ 14,063	70%	2/28/26
In-House Staff	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,406	\$ 94	4%	2/28/26
Hydrotech 3	\$ 24,423	\$ 15,250	\$ 9,173	38%	2/28/26
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	100%	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,000	\$ 15	\$ 1,985	99%	4/24/25
Group Meetings	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	100%	
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	100%	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 451,451</b>	<b>\$ 208,688</b>	<b>\$ 242,763</b>	<b>54%</b>	

**Attachment 3**

Central Delta-Mendota GSA  
Statement of Income and Expenses

Adopted Budget Fiscal Year 2025-26 <i>Budget to Actual</i>	4th Qtr December, January, February			Remaining Budget
	Budget	2025-26	FYTD	
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
4000 Member Contributions	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	-
4100 Interest Income	-	-	6.22	(6.22)
4300 Other Income	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Revenues	40,000.00	-	40,006.22	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<i>Administration:</i>				
5275 Bank Fees	50.00	-	-	50.00
5300 Office Supplies	400.00	-	-	400.00
5325 Regularatory Fees	250.00	-	-	250.00
5500 Insurance Expense	500.00	-	-	500.00
5510 Website Domain	90.00	-	-	90.00
5520 Website & Marketing	300.00	-	174.00	126.00
5530 Website Support	-	-	869.41	(869.41)
Total Administration Expenses	1,590.00	-	1,043.41	
<i>Professional Services:</i>				
5425 Auditor Fees	9,750.00	-	9,750.00	-
5450 Legal Fees/District	18,000.00	-	9,464.88	8,535.12
5475 Consultant Fee (SLDMWA)	8,000.00	-	-	8,000.00
Total Professional Services	35,750.00	-	19,214.88	
6000 Website Set Up	2,000.00	-	1,604.87	
Total Operating Expenses	39,340.00	-	21,863.16	
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 18,143.06	

Central Delta-Mendota GSA  
Investment Report

**4rd Quarter FY 2025-26**

**December, January, February**

Current Assets		4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	% Change
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
1000-00	Wells Fargo Checking Account	\$ 53,669.18	\$ 54,454.86	-1.46%
Total Current Assets		<u>\$ 53,669.18</u>	<u>\$ 54,454.86</u>	-1.46%

*The Central Delta-Mendota GSA will meet operational expenditure requirements for the next six months.*

*\*Government Code Section 66006(a): If a local agency requires the payment of a fee specified in subdivision (c) in connection with the approval of a development project, the local agency receiving the fee shall deposit it with the other fees for the improvement in a separate capital facilities account or fund in a manner to avoid any comingling of the fees with other revenues and funds of the local agency, except for temporary investments, and expend those fees solely for the purpose for which the fee was collected. Any interest income earned by the moneys in the capital facilities account or fund shall also be deposited in that account or fund and shall be expended only for the purpose for which the fee was originally collected.*



TO: Board of Directors  
Agenda Item No. 9

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve the Combined Central Delta-Mendota GSA JPA Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and Authorize an Initial Cash Call of 1/12 of All Costs

**Recommendation**

Adopt the revised, combined Fiscal Year 2027 budget and authorize the initial cash call for 1/12<sup>th</sup> of costs to all 12 Central DM GSAs.

**Discussion**

*Direction on Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Adoption*

On November 20, 2025, the Central DM GSA and Region Management Committee approved and recommended that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water (SLDMWA) Resources Committee and Board of Directors approve the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget for the Central Delta-Mendota Management Region Activity Agreement (Fund 65), and SLDMWA approved this budget on January 8, 2026.

With the establishment of the Central Delta-Mendota GSAs Joint Powers Authority (Central DM GSA JPA), a draft FY 27 Central DM GSA JPA operating budget was presented and approved by the Board on February 26, 2026. Staff combined the two budgets (Fund 65 and the Operating budget developed by Ms. Montgomery) and made minor corrections which are listed in the notes section of the revised budget provided as **Attachment 1** for Board consideration of approval.

Previously Coordination Committee costs were billed directly to participating members on a 1/7<sup>th</sup> basis, however, to present a complete budgeting picture, the revised budget includes the Central DM’s 1/7<sup>th</sup> share of the DM Subbasin GSAs Fiscal Year 2027 Budget totaling \$1,597,700 (which includes \$525,000 for model calibration).

Previously Approved Fund 65 and Operating Budget	Revised, Combined Budget (without Subbasin 1/7 <sup>th</sup> cost share)	Revised, Combined Budget (with Subbasin 1/7 <sup>th</sup> cost share)
\$462,240	\$446,960	\$675,203

Initial Cash Call

The initial cash call to cover 6 months of Central DM GSA JPA operations, including the Central DM’s 1/7<sup>th</sup> share of the full DM Subbasin GSA FY 2027 budget costs, are shown in Table 1 below.

**Staff is asking Board feedback on:**

1. The amount to collect (include model calibration?)
2. The timing (staff assumes two cash calls, one in April, and the other in July or August depending on cash flow.

1	Total Central DM Budget	\$675,203
2	6-Month of Costs	\$337,602
3	<b>Member Split (1/12<sup>th</sup>) – Cash call 1 of 2</b>	<b>\$28,133</b>

**Table 1:** Initial cash call for 6 months of Central DM GSA JPA operations.

No.	GSA Name	Cost Share (1/12)
1	Eagle Field	\$28,133
2	Fresno County	\$28,133
3	Fresno Slough WD	\$28,133
4	Merced County	\$28,133
5	Mercy Springs	\$28,133
6	Oro Loma WD	\$28,133
7	Pacheco WD	\$28,133
8	Panoche WD	\$28,133
9	San Luis WD	\$28,133
10	Santa Nella County WD	\$28,133
11	Tranquility ID	\$28,133
12	Widren WD	\$28,133
	<b>Total (Revised, Combined Budget, 6 months)</b>	<b>\$337,602</b>

# Attachment 1

## Central Delta-Mendota Region Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

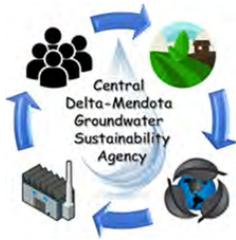
March 1, 2026 - February 28, 2027

**Black text** is from the SIDMWA prepared Fund 65 FY 2027 budget approved on 11/20/2025.

**Blue text** is from the Operating Budget previously managed by Amy Montgomery.

**Green text** is the revised, combined budget for consideration of approval and for purposes of cash calls.

Budget Item	Approved 11/20/2025		Approved 2/26/2026		Presented 3/26/2026		Notes
	Fund 65 Budget	Operating Budget	Revised	Combined Budget			
1 Cost Share of DM Subbasin GSAs JPA FY 2027 Budget (1/7th)							
2 General Counsel (Baker Manock & Jensen)	\$	27,500	\$	228,243	\$	35,000	Includes \$525,000 for model calibration.
3 Program Manager/Executive Director (Hallmark Group)	\$	75,000	\$	109,390	\$	109,390	Moved \$7k from row 19 per legal counsel.
4 Technical Consultant (EKI)	\$	80,000	\$	80,000	\$	80,000	Amount updated to reflect successful proposal, HG Contract for \$109,390 approved on 2/26/26
5 Annual Report - Data Coordination	\$	75,000	\$	75,000	\$	75,000	
6 Reserved Funds for GSP Update	\$	100,000	\$	100,000	\$	100,000	
7 Contingency	\$	25,000	\$	25,000	\$	-	
8 Water Policy Director	\$	7,500	\$	-	\$	-	SIDMWA no longer providing administrative support.
9 In-House Staff	\$	5,000	\$	-	\$	-	SIDMWA no longer providing administrative support.
10 Hydrotech 3	\$	25,000	\$	-	\$	-	Direction to remove on 11/20/2026
11 Bank Fees (Wellis Fargo)	\$	50	\$	50	\$	2,400	Only incurred if balance is below \$15,000. Will manage to keep balance above this threshold.
12 Office Supplies	\$	400	\$	250	\$	-	Printing estimated at ~\$200 per meeting, 12 meetings.
13 Regulatory Fees	\$	250	\$	-	\$	-	Undefined; not needed.
14 Directors and Officers Insurance	\$	500	\$	6,000	\$	170	Based on quote from HUB through DM JPA effort.
15 Website Domain & Hosting	\$	170	\$	500	\$	500	Annual fee
16 Website: Marketing & SSL Cert	\$	500	\$	1,000	\$	2,000	\$80/month.
17 Website: Email/Support	\$	1,000	\$	2,870	\$	10,500	
18 Incidental Office and Administrative Costs	\$	2,870	\$	18,000	\$	8,000	
19 Auditor	\$	10,500	\$	-	\$	-	Under current 3-year contract with auditors.
20 Legal	\$	18,000	\$	8,000	\$	-	Reduced by \$11,000, moved \$7,000 to existing legal budget category (row 1) totaling \$35k.
21 Consultant - SIDMWA	\$	8,000	\$	-	\$	-	SIDMWA no longer providing administrative support.
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>42,240</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>675,203</b>	



TO: Board of Directors  
Agenda Item No. 10

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Review and Take Action to Approve the DM Subbasin Model Calibration and Costs Associated Therein

### **Recommendation**

Consider authorizing EKI to perform the model calibration this fiscal year.

### **Discussion**

On February 4, 2026, the DM JPA Board ratified the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and authorized an initial cash call to the GSA Groups for 6-months of costs totaling \$536,350. During this meeting, the Board authorized the execution of a contract with EKI for technical support services with the condition that sections 3.2 “Model Calibration” and 5.2 “(Optional) Monitor and sample all wells in the Representative Monitoring Network” be discussed with the technical ad hoc prior to further Board review.

On February 9, 2026, EKI confirmed that the Board needed to decide by the end of March if the model calibration should be performed this Fiscal Year to allow for adequate time to perform the work. On March 9, 2026, the DM JPA Board received a technical presentation on the model calibration, held a robust discussion and decided to provide a final decision at the April 13, 2026 meeting.

On February 26, 2026, and again on March 19, 2026, the technical ad hoc committee met to discuss the model calibration. A summary of those discussions was presented at the March 9, 2026 DM Subbasin GSAs Board meeting and are provided as **Attachment 1** for reference.

**Staff is seeking Board direction on whether to recommend the model calibration be performed during Fiscal Year 2027.**

*For discussion purposes only*

# MEETING ATTENDANCE

- Hallmark – Taylor Blakslee
- EKI – Anona Dutton, Amir Mani, Susan Xie
- Committee members
  - Jim Stillwell
  - LSCE (Will Halligan, Andrew Francis)
  - P&P (Joe Hopkins, Rick Iger, Ethan Andrews)
  - John Wiersma
  - Jarrett Martin
  - Adam Scheuber
  - W&C (Leslie Dumas, Natalie Cochran)

# MODEL CALIBRATION

- Tech ad-hoc committee met on 26 Feb 2026 to discuss whether to proceed with model calibration in 2026
  - Approximately half the attendees support proceeding this year
  - Approximately half support delaying one year to collect more data\*

## Drivers for Calibration

GSP commitment to refine and calibrate model  
PRP compliance tied to “subsidence caused by basin”

Need to evaluate ISW depletion and MT attribution

Overestimation of subsidence and storage loss in current model

Large portion of Basin under PRP subsidence hotspot trigger

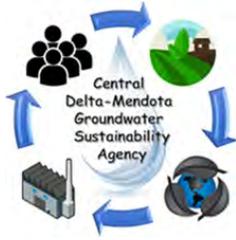
Almost all other basins in the southern central valley have calibrated model

**\*The only data that would materially change the calibration is the well location, construction and metering information that can be used to help improve the representation of aquifer-specific pumping.**

# MODEL CALIBRATION

- Core decision: The question is not whether to calibrate the model, but whether to proceed in 2026 or defer to 2027.
- Option 1 - Calibrate Now (2026)
  - Improves model defensibility for WY 2026 Annual Report.
  - Addresses attribution questions sooner at the GSA-level, supports overdraft mitigation and PRP implementation
  - Reduces subsidence overestimation
  - An additional year of GWL data is unlikely to materially improve subsidence calibration performance
  - Future data can be incorporated through incremental updates during Annual Report extensions.
- Option 2 - Delay one year (2027)
  - **Requires firm commitment from ALL GSAs to provide complete, high-quality data within the year (Detailed well registration, pumping, and surface water delivery data) to meaningfully improve the model’s estimation of aquifer-specific pumping relative to Option 1.**
  - Provides an additional year of water level data as validation period
  - Extends uncertainty, maintains the current model limitations, and overestimation of subsidence
  - May prompt additional DWR / third party inquiries and related discussions





TO: Board of Directors  
Agenda Item No. 11

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Review and Take Action to Approve the Bank Resolution and Authorize Signatories on the Bank Account

**Recommendation**

Adopt Resolution No. 2026-1 to establish a bank account, ACH transactions and assign signatories.

**Discussion**

The Central Delta-Mendota GSA Joint Powers Authority requires its own dedicated bank account to manage funds, including member contributions, grants, administrative expenses, and Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation costs. To establish a bank account, a Board resolution is required, and draft Resolution No. 2026-1 is provided as **Attachment 1** for consideration of approval that addresses the components below.

	<b>Resolution Component</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
1	Bank Account	Authorizes staff to select a bank and establish an account for the CDMGSA JPA	Chase Bank
2	ACH (Automated Clearing House)	Enables secure, low-cost electronic payments and transfers, reduce manual processing errors and staff time on check printing/mailing/deposits, and provide faster settlement (1–2 business days) while ensuring a clear audit trail for compliance with fiscal transparency laws like the Brown Act and California Government Code requirements.	Authorize use of ACH transactions
3	Signatories	Designates specific authorized signatories for the bank account. The process for ACH payments will require prior approval by an authorized signatory.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board Member (TBD)</li> <li>2. Board Member (TBD)</li> <li>3. Chuck Gardner, Hallmark Group President/CEO</li> </ol>

CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GSA JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2026-1

RESOLUTION TO OPEN BANK ACCOUNT

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Joint Powers Authority (Central DM GSA) determined to open one or more bank accounts for the purposes of conducting the Central DM GSA's business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL DM GSA JPA:**

1. The Board Chair authorizes the Treasurer, or designee, to close out the current bank account with Wells Fargo and to open a bank account with Chase Bank.
2. The Board Chair Authorizes the Treasurer, or designee to establish ACH transaction for monthly payments to vendors and consultants. The bank selected by the Treasurer, or designee, is hereby authorized to honor the deposits of the Central DM GSA, and checks and ACH transactions drawn against such deposits.
3. Signatories for the bank account shall be (1) \_\_\_\_\_, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and (3) Charles Gardner, Hallmark Group President/CEO.

**THE UNDERSIGNED** hereby certifies that he/she is the duly elected, qualified and acting managing member of the Central DM GSA and that the foregoing resolution was submitted to and approved and adopted by the members at the Board meeting held on March 26, 2026, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect without modification or recession as permitted under the Central DM GSA and in accordance with the provisions of state law under which the Central DM GSA was created.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand effective this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



TO: Board of Directors  
 Agenda Item No. 12

FROM: Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Review and Take Action to Update and Adopt CDM GSA Policies

**Recommendation**

Approve the policies for the CDM GSA JPA.

**Discussion**

Since the Central Delta-Mendota GSAs Joint Powers Authority has been established, staff has drafted and is recommending the below policies for the Board consideration of approval by the end of March 2026. The number of the policy coincides with the **Attachment** number in the amended packet.

<p><b>Policies recommended to be adopted</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Well Census and Registration Policy and Provide Direction on Updates to the Fee Schedule.</li> <li>2. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Well Metering and Reporting Policy.</li> <li>3. Central Delta-Mendota GSA Policy Regarding Implementation of the Pumping Reduction Plan.</li> </ol>
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TO: Board of Directors  
 Agenda Item No. 15

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: GSP Implementation Updates

**Recommendation**

None; information only.

**Discussion**

**a. Pumping Reduction Plan Implementation and PRP Dashboard Reporting**

An update on PRP and GSP Implementation Tracking and Exceedance Reporting is provided as **Attachment 1**. Maps of the MT exceedance status for the DM Representative Monitoring Wells in the Lower and Upper aquifer are provided as **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**, respectively.

**b. Q1 Water Level and Quality Monitoring Event and DMS Upload**

The single DM Subbasin GSP indicates groundwater levels will be monitored on a quarterly basis and groundwater quality will be monitored on a biannual basis. The target months for monitoring are below:

Groundwater Level Monitoring	Groundwater Quality Monitoring
February	February
May	August
August	
November	*Constituents: arsenic; nitrate; 1,2,3-TCP; gross alpha radioactivity; TDS; and hexavalent chromium.

GSA's are required to collect at least one measurement/sample during each target month at each representative monitoring site. Please provide your February monitoring data by **March 31, 2026**.

*For discussion purposes only*

## GSP IMPLEMENTATION REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- Conduct seasonal high WQ / WL sampling (3/1-5/31) and upload relevant data to DMS
- Continue with any pending investigation or required actions:
  - Submit your actions and investigations to the PRP Dashboard in a timely manner
  - Conduct required higher frequency monitoring for WQ Exceedance Mitigation based on last fall samples, unless investigation resulted in finding of no GSA cause

# PRP REMINDER #1: FUTURE DEADLINES

## ■ Component #1: Monitoring & Reporting

- Well registration and Well Metering deadline is January 2026 → *Needs to be tracked and submitted to Dashboard and be included in the Annual Report*
- Need to replace composite or production wells used as RMWs by 2030.

## ■ Component #2: Overdraft Reduction

- Zones are required to reduce pumping by the totals provided as part of the PRP → *GSA's need to track this efforts. GSA reported total pumping amount should be checked against high-level water budget*
- Baseline for comparison used to calculate the overdraft reduction was the projected average annual pumping under CC-2030 scenario.
- GSA's committed to achieving the reduction through a uniform 20% of the reduction cut.
  - EKI will provide a discussion item in April on reduction approach.

## ■ Components #3 & #4: SMC Update for RMW-WQ and Revision by 2025 Annual Report

Projected Baseline Pumping with P/MAs

	Upper Aquifer (AFY)	Lower Aquifer (AFY)
Zone 1	-93,120	-18,947
Zone 2	-152,995	-20,609
Zone 3	-29,650	-59,242
Zone 4	-33,901	-114,501
<b>Basin</b>	<b>-309,666</b>	<b>-213,299</b>

Required Reduction for Overdraft Mitigation

	Upper Aquifer Reduction (AFY)	Lower Aquifer Reduction (AFY)
Zone 1	2,798	2,886
Zone 2	4,619	3,139
Zone 3	803	9,023
Zone 4	1,303	17,440
<b>Basin</b>	<b>9,523</b>	<b>32,487</b>

