



**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

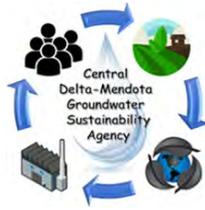
**TO:** Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Alternates, and Interested Parties

**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**)

# Attachment 1

## 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

EXPENDITURES	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	\$	-	Only incurred if balance is below \$15,000. Will manage to keep balance above this threshold.
12 Office Supplies	\$	400	\$	2,400	\$	2,400	Printing estimated at ~\$200 per meeting, 12 meetings.
13 Regulatory Fees	\$	250	\$	-	\$	-	Undefined; not needed.
14 Directors and Officers Insurance	\$	500	\$	6,000	\$	1,700	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	\$	1,000	Annual fee
17 Website: Email/Support	\$	1,000	\$	2,870	\$	2,000	\$80/month.
18 Incidental Office and Administrative Costs	\$	2,870	\$	10,500	\$	10,500	Under current 3-year contract with auditors.
19 Auditor	\$	18,000	\$	18,000	\$	-	Reduced by \$11,000, moved \$7,000 to existing legal budget category (row 1) totaling \$35k.
20 Legal	\$	8,000	\$	8,000	\$	-	SIDMWA no longer providing administrative support.
21 Consultant - SIDMWA	\$	420,000	\$	42,240	\$	675,203	
<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

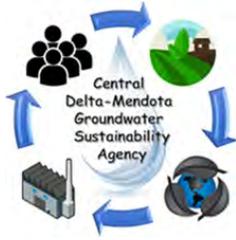
Large portion of Basin under PRP subsidence hotspot trigger

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 2026-01

RESOLUTION TO OPEN BANK ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Joint Powers Authority (Central DM GSA) determines 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:

1. The Board Chair authorizes the Treasurer, or designee, to open a bank account and 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.
2. Signatories for the bank account shall be (1) \_\_\_\_\_, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and (3) Charles Gardner, Hallmark Group President/CEO.
3. The Central DM GSA Treasurer or his/her designee may take all actions authorized by law to implement the intent of this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Aaron Barcellos, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name], Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY**

I, [Name], do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary

Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency



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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**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 02**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED  
CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER ONE  
WELL CENSUS AND REGISTRATION**

A. **WHEREAS**, effective August 28, 2019, certain entities whose boundaries overlie a portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin number 5-22.07 of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin identified in the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) Bulletin 118, formed a joint powers authority known as the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CDMGSA”), which replaced a prior multi-agency groundwater sustainability agency. In 2026, two additional agencies joined the CDMGSA. The current 12 members of the CDMGSA are: Eagle Field Water District, Fresno Slough Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Panoche Water District, San Luis Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Widren Water District, the County of Fresno, and the County of Merced (each a “Member Agency”); and

B. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA is a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) formed pursuant to the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Agreement, as amended, and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) within the Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (“Subbasin”); and

C. **WHEREAS**, in March 2023, DWR determined the revised Subbasin GSPs to be inadequate and the GSAs in the Subbasin subsequently developed a single, unified Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP (“D-M Subbasin GSP”), which was finalized in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior GSPs; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the D-M Subbasin GSP incorporates a Domestic Well Mitigation Program to address potential impacts to domestic and small community wells resulting from the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, requiring accurate registration and characterization of all wells within the Subbasin, including within the CDMGSA boundary; and

E. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA has the authority under the California Water Code, including but not limited to sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and the Joint Powers Agreement forming the CDMGSA, to adopt rules, regulations, and administrative policies, require registration of groundwater extraction facilities, regulate groundwater extractions, impose fees and penalties, and take any necessary and proper actions to implement SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP; and

F. **WHEREAS**, to effectively manage groundwater and implement the D-M Subbasin GSP, it is necessary for the CDMGSA to obtain accurate, consistent, and comprehensive well data through registration of all existing and new wells within its jurisdiction, including information regarding well type, location, and usage; and

G. **WHEREAS**, CDMGSA previously conducted a voluntary well registration effort and will continue to maintain and update well records to support the D-M Subbasin GSP, including monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program; and

H. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA may require inspections, metering, and reporting of groundwater use as necessary to ensure compliance with SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP, and may establish fees and penalties for non-compliance in accordance with applicable law; and

I. **WHEREAS**, on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA adopted Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration, and is now updating such policy to better establish and achieve an accurate and comprehensive well census of all wells within its boundaries, require and enforce the registration of such wells, and allow for the imposition of fees and penalties for non-compliance; and

J. **WHEREAS**, on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA, at a public hearing held in compliance with the California Water Code section 10730, adopted the fees identified as Exhibit “A” to the Administrative Policy Number One Well Census and Registration, which delineates the fees and penalties to be imposed upon landowners for non-compliance with the Well Census and Registration Policy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency finds as follows:

1. The facts stated in the Recitals above are true and correct and the Board of Directors so finds, orders, and determines.

2. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the updated Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration (“Policy”), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “1”** and incorporated herein by this reference. The Policy supersedes any prior well registration or census policies, including those associated with the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions GSP.

3. The Policy applies to all groundwater wells located within the CDMGSA boundary, including active, inactive, abandoned, monitoring, and production wells. The Policy establishes requirements for registration, inspection, and reporting of wells, as well as fees and penalties for non-compliance.

4. The CDMGSA’s staff, consultants, and legal counsel are authorized and directed to implement the Policy in accordance with SGMA, the D-M Subbasin GSP, and all applicable legal requirements, including establishing forms, schedules, fees, and procedures necessary for administration and enforcement.

5. The CDMGSA may take all actions authorized by law, including but not limited to administrative enforcement, civil penalties, and legal action, to ensure compliance with the Policy, consistent with the authorities granted under SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP.

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6. If any provision of this Resolution or the Policy is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution or Policy, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Barcellos, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

**CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY**

I, [Name], do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, held on the 26th day of March, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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[Name], Secretary  
Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency

DRAFT

**EXHIBIT “1”**

**Well Census and Registration Policy**

DRAFT

**CENTRAL  
DELTA-MENDOTA  
GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY**



Eagle Field WD ♦ Fresno County ♦ Fresno Slough WD ♦ Merced County ♦ Mercy Springs WD ♦ Oro Loma WD ♦ Pacheco WD  
♦ Panoche WD ♦ San Luis WD ♦ Santa Nella County WD ♦ Tranquillity I.D. ♦ Wdren WD

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY**

**NUMBER ONE**

**WELL CENSUS AND REGISTRATION**

Adopted: January 25, 2021  
Revised: March 26, 2026

**POLICY STATEMENT**

In order for the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CDMGSA”) to effectively administer and implement the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“D-M Subbasin GSP”) within its area, it is necessary for the CDMGSA to understand groundwater conditions and usage within its boundaries. To gain a better understanding, the CDMGSA must obtain and maintain accurate and comprehensive information from all users of groundwater wells within the CDMGSA’s boundaries.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish and achieve an accurate and comprehensive well census of all wells located within the CDMGSA boundary. As of March 1, 2026, all existing wells should be registered with the CDMGSA, using the form approved by the CDMGSA. Any new wells constructed after March 1, 2026, shall be registered with the CDMGSA within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities.

To provide constructive notice to the public and to ensure adoption and enforcement of this Policy is within the authorities provided by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”), and any amendment thereto, the CDMGSA shall adopt a resolution prior to any revisions to this Policy becoming effective.

This Policy applies to all groundwater wells, including those that are active and non-active and those that are used solely for monitoring. This Policy outlines definitions of well types, the well registration process, timing for compliance and registration, and fees for non-compliance. This Policy further supports implementation of the Domestic Well Mitigation

Program adopted as part of the D-M Subbasin GSP and requires accurate well information to evaluate and respond to impacts associated with the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

**AUTHORITY:**

This Policy is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the CDMGSA by the California Water Code, including but not limited to Sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and through the Joint Powers Agreement that formed the CDMGSA, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a three-bill legislative package (AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319), collectively known as SGMA. SGMA required those subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) publication, Bulletin 118, as being medium to high priority to form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSAs”) by June 1, 2017, and then adopt and submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (“GSP”) to DWR by January 31, 2020.

The CDMGSA is located within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin number 5-022.07), a high priority subbasin (the “Subbasin”). The CDMGSA is one of 21<sup>1</sup> separate GSAs in the Subbasin that initially developed and coordinated six independent GSPs to cover the entire Subbasin. In March 2023, DWR determined the revised GSPs to be inadequate, prompting the GSAs to develop a single, unified GSP for the Subbasin. The single D-M Subbasin GSP was fully adopted by all GSAs in the Subbasin in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior coordinated GSPs.

In addition, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs have adopted regional Pumping Reduction Plans (each a “PRP”) as part of the single D-M Subbasin GSP. The Central Delta-Mendota PRP (“Central PRP”) establishes temporary and permanent reductions in groundwater extractions during periods and in locations where groundwater levels are projected to decline below sustainability thresholds, particularly in areas identified as at risk for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels (“CLGWL”). The Central PRP is designed to be implemented in coordination with the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and relies on well registration and extraction data to identify affected wells and ensure sustainable groundwater management.

Although not required by SGMA, to support Subbasin-wide coordination, the GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”), replacing the prior Coordination Agreement. Effective December 1, 2025, the GSAs also formed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”) to provide coordinated administrative, financial, and technical support for SGMA implementation. Concurrently,

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<sup>1</sup> All 12 members of the CDMGSA each individually elected to have the powers of a GSA. Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District each joined the CDMGSA in January and February 2026, respectively. So, you could also state that there are 32 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

prior agreements with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“SLDMWA”), including the Activity Agreement and its amendments, were terminated.

Originally formed by 10 member agencies, effective August 28, 2019, the CDMGSA has expanded its membership and now consists of 12 member agencies. The CDMGSA participates in Subbasin-wide coordination through a single GSP and the DM Authority, but remains responsible for implementing SGMA within its jurisdiction.

As part of implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP, the CDMGSA is committed to developing accurate information regarding groundwater extraction, water levels above and below the Corcoran clay, and evaluating the relationship between the Subbasin and the San Joaquin River. The D-M Subbasin GSP includes a Domestic Well Mitigation Program to address impacts to domestic and small community wells caused by the chronic lowering of groundwater levels. Implementation of this program requires accurate identification, location, and characterization of wells throughout the CDMGSA.

To provide specific solutions that are not overly burdensome, the CDMGSA needs to accurately assess the condition of the aquifers and identify those areas that may be considered Undesirable Results. In order to avoid a one-size-fits-all GSA-wide solution and to reduce dependence on assumptions in calculating groundwater balance, the CDMGSA needs to obtain accurate information. This information will be used to make area-specific determinations to resolve concerns about potential Undesirable Results, such as overdraft and subsidence, in order to achieve sustainability. Use of real-time groundwater use data will reduce or eliminate the reliance on potentially conservative estimations of groundwater use and lead to more accurate groundwater modeling.

#### **PURPOSE & PROCEDURES:**

The purpose of this Policy is to obtain accurate and consistent well data information by requiring all wells within its boundaries be registered with the CDMGSA. If deemed necessary by the CDMGSA, an inspection of a registered well may be required to verify data. Previously registered wells shall remain registered; however, the CDMGSA may require updated or additional information as necessary to support implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP and Domestic Well Mitigation Program. Owners of remaining unregistered or new wells will need to comply with the following procedures.

The CDMGSA will follow these procedures to ensure adequate information is collected for all groundwater extractions as a commitment to evaluate and develop accurate data to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP.

- 1) **Well Types** (Definitions) - With regard to groundwater well types, registration is to include all existing wells and new wells, as defined by the following:
  - Domestic Well – A well primarily used to supply water for the domestic needs of a single-family homeowner for private utilization and consumption. Domestic wells will be considered a De-Minimis extractor under SGMA if the following conditions are met:

- a. Not more than one domestic well per parcel equal to or less than 5 acres in size, or the ratio of number of domestic wells per parcel size does not exceed 1 well per 5 acres for parcels larger than 5 acres in size.
- b. The pump discharge orifice at the well head does not exceed 2 inches in diameter.
- c. Domestic well is not capable of producing a flow rate exceeding 10 gallons per minute.
- d. Domestic well's casing size does not exceed 6 inches in diameter, as identified in the well's completion report.
- e. The owner submits the well's Well Completion Report, which indicates the well type as a domestic well.

If a domestic well does not meet the above criteria, the well owner may petition the Board of Directors of the CDMGSA to designate the well as De-Minimis, based on information provided by the well owner, using reliable and verifiable metered records, that the well does not exceed two acre-feet per year of total extraction.

- Production Well – A well that is not considered a De-Minimis Well, nor a Monitoring Well, nor a Cathodic Protection Well, shall be considered a Production Well, including non-De-Minimis Domestic Wells.
  - Monitoring Well – A well that is used to (a) monitor the fluctuations in groundwater levels, (b) monitor the quality of underground waters, (c) monitor the presence or concentration of contaminants in subsurface soil and water, or (d) monitor vapors. Monitoring wells include remediation wells. Any well with a casing diameter greater than four inches will be considered a domestic or production well, unless designated as a monitoring well under the discretion of the CDMGSA.
  - Inactive or Standby Well – A well that is not routinely operated, but capable of being made operable with the placement of a pump or other appurtenances.
  - Abandoned Well – A well that has not been in use for a period of one year, unless the owner demonstrates in writing his/her/its intention to use the well again for a water supply.
  - Cathodic Protection Wells – Groundwater wells specified as cathodic protection wells on their well completion report and exclusively utilized for the purpose of providing cathodic protection will not be required to register and will not be considered by the CDMGSA for the purposes of SGMA.
- 2) **Use of Data** – Data collected through well registration and reporting will also be used to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the Central PRP. The CDMGSA will identify wells subject to temporary or permanent extraction reductions and may coordinate with well owners to ensure compliance with extraction limits established under the Central PRP.

- 3) **Registration** – The owner of any groundwater well within the CDMGSA must register the well with the CDMGSA.
  - a. Registration of existing wells shall be completed within 30 days of the date this Policy is revised.
  - b. Registration of new wells shall be completed within 30 days of the completion of the drilling of such a well.
  - c. Registration of any well shall be done on a form provided by the CDMGSA.
- 4) **Notification** – The CDMGSA will provide notice of its adoption of this Policy as required by law.
- 5) **Meter Requirement** – Pursuant to the CDMGSA Well Metering Policy adopted January 23, 2023, and the Central PRP, all wells must contain a CDMGSA-approved meter installed no later than December 31, 2023. New wells are required to be registered within 30 days and have an approved meter installed prior to use. These requirements enable accurate assessment of groundwater use and the application of PRP measures in accordance with the D-M Subbasin GSP.
- 6) **Fees and Penalties for Non-Compliance** – The CDMGSA has established a fee schedule and penalty process for non-compliance. Non-compliance includes two separate penalties: (a) failing to register a well using the CDMGSA form, and (b) operating a well that has not been registered.

Fees for failure to register a well in the prescribed time will result in a quarterly fee until such time as the well is registered. Penalties for activities such as operating an unregistered well could include legal action taken to cease and desist the use. In addition, the CDMGSA may impose administrative, civil, or other remedies authorized under SGMA, including but not limited to penalties pursuant to Water Code section 10732 and collection remedies pursuant to Water Code section 10730.6. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2021-01 on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA adopted the attached fee schedule, included herein as **Exhibit “A.”**
- 7) **GSA Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance** – The CDMGSA will issue a notice of Non-Compliance to a well owner and, where appropriate, the applicable Member Agency for any non-compliant well that has been out of compliance for more than one quarter.
- 8) **Request for Additional Time; Penalty Waiver** – Requests for extensions shall be submitted within the compliance timeframe established by the CDMGSA. The chairman of the CDMGSA Board of Directors may grant the extension if a finding of good cause can be made. For purposes of this Policy, good causes include, but are not limited to, (a) a demonstrated undue financial hardship, or (b) factors outside the control of the owner.
- 9) **Amendment** – This Policy is subject to changes in the regular operation of the CDMGSA, as it may be revised from time to time by the Board of Directors.

- 10) **Policy Review** – This Policy shall be reviewed by the CDMGSA regularly, but in no event less than once every five (5) years or as necessary to ensure consistency with the D-M Subbasin GSP, SGMA, and applicable agreements, including the Subbasin MOA.

DRAFT

**EXHIBIT A**

**Well Registration Policy Fee Schedule**

Domestic/Monitoring Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$100 per well; first day of each quarter
Non-Operational Production Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$500 per well; first day of each quarter
Non-Operational Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$500 per well; first day of each quarter
Operational Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$1,000 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$90 per day; beginning 2nd quarter
Maximum per day	\$1,800 daily fee 100% each quarter
<p>A well owner may petition the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Board of Directors to reduce the fee if a pump test performed by a third party, demonstrates maximum flow rate using the following formula: <math>\\$900 \times \text{max (cfs)} \times \text{days late} \times \text{quarters}/10</math></p>	



**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 03**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED  
CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER TWO WELL METERING AND REPORTING**

A. **WHEREAS**, effective August 28, 2019, certain entities whose boundaries overlie a portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin number 5-22.07 of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin identified in the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) Bulletin 118, formed a joint powers authority known as the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CDMGSA”), which replaced a prior multi-agency groundwater sustainability agency. In 2026, two additional agencies joined the CDMGSA. The current 12 members of the CDMGSA are: Eagle Field Water District, Fresno Slough Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Panoche Water District, San Luis Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Widren Water District, the County of Fresno, and the County of Merced (each a “Member Agency”); and

B. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA is a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) formed pursuant to the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Agreement, as amended, and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) within the Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (“Subbasin”); and

C. **WHEREAS**, in March 2023, DWR determined the Subbasin’s prior Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) to be inadequate, and the GSAs subsequently developed and adopted a single Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“D-M Subbasin GSP”), which was finalized in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior GSPs; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) to coordinate Subbasin-wide implementation and, effective December 1, 2025, formed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”) to provide administrative, financial, and technical coordination for implementation of SGMA within the Subbasin; and

E. **WHEREAS**, the D-M Subbasin GSP includes management actions and programs, including a Domestic Well Mitigation Program and regional Pumping Reduction Plans (“PRPs”), including a Central PRP, which require accurate and reliable measurement and reporting of groundwater extractions; and

F. **WHEREAS**, accurate groundwater extraction data is necessary to evaluate basin conditions, prevent undesirable results such as chronic lowering of groundwater levels, and implement management actions, including pumping reductions and mitigation measures; and

G. **WHEREAS**, on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA adopted Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration to establish a comprehensive inventory of

groundwater wells within its jurisdiction. On March 26, 2026, the CDMGSA adopted revisions to Policy Number One; and

H. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA now seeks to update and adopt Administrative Policy Number Two – Well Metering and Reporting (“Policy”) to establish requirements for measurement and reporting of groundwater extractions consistent with SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP; and

I. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA has authority under California Water Code, including but not limited to sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and its Joint Powers Agreement, to require measurement and reporting of groundwater extractions, regulate groundwater use, impose fees and penalties, and take all necessary and proper actions to implement SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP; and

J. **WHEREAS**, adoption of the Policy will provide public notice, ensure transparency, and establish a consistent framework for metering, reporting, and enforcement necessary to achieve sustainable groundwater management.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency finds as follows:

1. The facts stated in the Recitals above are true and correct and the Board of Directors so finds, orders, and determines.
2. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the updated Administrative Policy Number Two – Well Metering and Reporting (“Policy”), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “1”** and incorporated herein by this reference. The Policy supersedes any prior well metering and reporting policies, including those associated with the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions GSP.
3. The Policy applies to groundwater extraction wells within the CDMGSA boundary, as specified therein, and establishes requirements for measurement, reporting, and verification of groundwater extractions necessary to implement SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the Central PRP and the Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program.
4. The CDMGSA staff, consultants, and legal counsel are authorized and directed to implement and administer the Policy in accordance with SGMA, including developing forms, procedures, schedules, and technical requirements for metering and reporting, consistent with applicable law.
5. The CDMGSA may take all actions authorized by law to enforce the Policy, including but not limited to administrative enforcement, imposition of fees and penalties, and legal action, to ensure compliance with the Policy, consistent with SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP.
6. If any provision of this Resolution or the Policy is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution or Policy, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Barcellos, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

**CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY**

I, [Name], do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, held on the 26th day of March, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary  
Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency

DRAFT

**EXHIBIT “1”**

**Well Metering and Reporting Policy**

DRAFT

**CENTRAL  
DELTA-MENDOTA  
GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY**



Eagle Field WD ♦ Fresno County ♦ Fresno Slough WD ♦ Merced County ♦ Mercy Springs WD ♦ Oro Loma WD ♦ Pacheco WD  
♦ Panoche WD ♦ San Luis WD ♦ Santa Nella County WD ♦ Tranquillity I.D. ♦ Wdren WD

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**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY**

**NUMBER TWO**

**WELL METERING AND REPORTING**

Adopted: January 23, 2023

Revised: March 26, 2026

**POLICY STATEMENT**

In order for the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CDMGSA”) to effectively administer and implement the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“D-M Subbasin GSP”) within its area, it is necessary for the CDMGSA to monitor and understand groundwater conditions and usage, including groundwater extractions, within its boundaries.

To gain this better understanding, the CDMGSA Board of Directors (“Board”) adopted CDMGSA’s Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration (“Well Registration Policy”) to obtain specific information from all users of groundwater wells and require that all wells be registered in accordance with timelines established by the CDMGSA.

The purpose of this Well Metering and Reporting Policy (“Well Metering Policy”) is to build upon the Well Registration Policy by establishing a requirement for the measurement of groundwater extractions from all wells located within the CDMGSA boundary, with certain exceptions. Therefore, the CDMGSA requires meters, reporting, or other reasonable methods of determining groundwater extraction, as necessary to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP. Any new wells constructed after the effective date of this Well Metering Policy shall be registered with the CDMGSA within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities and have a CDMGSA-approved meter installed prior to use of the well.

This Well Metering Policy further supports implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and the regional Pumping Reduction Plan (“PRP”), specifically the Central PRP, which rely on accurate groundwater extraction data to identify impacts, evaluate conditions, and ensure compliance with sustainability objectives.

To provide constructive notice to the public and to ensure adoption and enforcement of this Well Metering Policy is within the authorities provided by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”), and any amendment thereto, the CDMGSA shall adopt a resolution prior to this Well Metering Policy becoming effective.

This Well Metering Policy applies to all wells used for groundwater extraction, including those that are inactive, except for *de minimus* wells, as defined below. This Well Metering Policy outlines the well metering and reporting process, timing for compliance, and actions for non-compliance.

#### **AUTHORITY:**

This Well Metering Policy is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the CDMGSA by California Water Code, including but not limited to sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.4, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and through the Joint Powers Agreement that formed the CDMGSA, as amended, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act. These provisions authorize the CDMGSA to require measurement and reporting of groundwater extractions, regulate groundwater use, implement sustainability programs (including pumping reductions), impose fees and penalties, and take all actions necessary or proper to carry out SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a three-bill legislative package (AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319), collectively known as SGMA. SGMA required those subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) publication Bulletin 118 as being medium to high priority to form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSAs”) by June 1, 2017, and then adopt and submit Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) to DWR by January 31, 2020.

The CDMGSA is located within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin number 5-022.07), a high priority subbasin (the “Subbasin”). The CDMGSA is one of 21<sup>1</sup> separate GSAs in the Subbasin that initially developed and coordinated six independent GSPs to cover the entire Subbasin. In March 2023, DWR determined the revised GSPs to be inadequate, prompting the GSAs to develop a single, unified GSP for the Subbasin. The single D-M Subbasin GSP was fully adopted by all GSAs in the Subbasin in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior coordinated GSPs.

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<sup>1</sup> All 12 members of the CDMGSA each individually elected to have the powers of a GSA. Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District each joined the CDMGSA in January and February 2026, respectively. So, you could also state that there are 32 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

Although not required by SGMA, to support Subbasin-wide coordination, the GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”), replacing the prior Coordination Agreement. Effective December 1, 2025, the GSAs formed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”) to provide coordinated administrative, financial, and technical support for SGMA implementation. Concurrently, prior agreements with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“SLDMWA”), including the Activity Agreement and its amendments, were terminated.

Originally formed by 10 member agencies, effective August 28, 2019, the CDMGSA has expanded its membership and now consists of 12 member agencies. The CDMGSA participates in Subbasin-wide coordination through a single GSP and the DM Authority, but remains responsible for implementing SGMA within its jurisdiction.

As part of implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP, the CDMGSA is committed to developing accurate information regarding groundwater extraction, water levels above and below the Corcoran clay, and evaluating the relationship between the Subbasin and the San Joaquin River. The D-M Subbasin GSP includes a Domestic Well Mitigation Program to address impacts caused by the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, as well as regional PRPs to reduce groundwater extractions in areas and periods where sustainability thresholds may be exceeded. These programs require accurate and reliable extraction data obtained through metering, reporting, or other reasonable methods.

To provide specific solutions that are not overly burdensome, the CDMGSA needs to accurately assess the condition of the aquifers and identify those areas showing impacts that may be considered Undesirable Results. In order to avoid a one-size-fits-all GSA-wide solution and to reduce dependence on assumptions in calculating groundwater balance, the CDMGSA needs to obtain accurate information. This information will be used to make area-specific determinations to resolve concerns about potential Undesirable Results, such as overdraft and subsidence, in order to achieve sustainability. Use of real-time groundwater use data will reduce or eliminate the reliance on potentially conservative estimations of groundwater use and lead to more accurate groundwater modeling.

### **PURPOSE & PROCEDURES:**

The purpose of this Well Metering Policy is to obtain accurate and consistent well data information by requiring all wells to have a meter installed and that data from the meter be available for review and reported to CDMGSA no less than annually.

Data collected under this Well Metering Policy will be used to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the Central PRP and the Domestic Well Mitigation Program, and to evaluate compliance with groundwater extraction limits or other management actions.

The CDMGSA will follow these procedures to ensure adequate information is collected for all groundwater extractions as a commitment to evaluate and develop accurate data to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP.

- 1) **Definitions** – Unless indicated otherwise, all capitalized terms herein shall have the same meaning as the definitions in the Well Registration Policy.
- 2) **Meter Requirement** – CDMGSA requires an approved meter to be installed on existing or new Production (including Inactive or Standby) Wells (collectively, “Production Wells”) within CDMGSA’s boundaries. This Well Metering Policy shall not apply to *De-Minimus* Domestic Wells (as defined in SGMA), Abandoned Wells, solely Monitoring Wells, or Cathodic Production Wells, as defined in the Well Registration Policy. The CDMGSA may prioritize metering requirements and enforcement for wells located in areas subject to a PRP or identified as contributing to Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels.
- 3) **Meter Installation** – The owner of any Production Well within the CDMGSA (“Well Owner”) shall install a CDMGSA-approved meter at Well Owner’s sole cost and expense. Meters shall be installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with CDMGSA requirements and may be supplemented by alternative measurement methods approved by the CDMGSA pursuant to Water Code section 10725.8. The meter must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Be a flowmeter consistent with in-line meters meeting AWWA<sup>2</sup> C700 series standards. Totalizers shall read in 0.00 acre-feet (“af”), in cubic feet (“cf”) or in gallons (“gal”).
  - ii. Data must be able to be readily accessible and viewable by CDMGSA-authorized agents; and
  - iii. Be calibrated according to manufacturer’s specifications at installation and calibrated no less than once every five (5) years thereafter.
- 4) **Reporting Requirements** – The Well Owner shall be required to provide the following information to the CDMGSA:
  - a. At Installation: When a meter is installed by the Well Owner, the following information shall be provided to the CDMGSA, no later than thirty (30) days after installation:
    - i. Manufacturer and model of flowmeter;
    - ii. Date flow meter installed;
    - iii. Nominal diameter of pipe, pipe material, wall thickness of pipe, and size of flow meter;
    - iv. Name and business (if applicable) of person installing and calibrating flowmeter;
    - v. Pictures of flowmeter to verify installed correctly;
    - vi. Location of well (including County, Assessor’s Parcel Number(s) [“APN”], and latitude/longitude or map of locations);

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<sup>2</sup> American Water Works Association.

- vii. Type of crop, age of crop, irrigation methodology (e.g., flood, drip, sprinkler) for the irrigated acres served by the applicable Production Well; and
    - viii. A statement signed by the Well Owner granting access to the CDMGSA to the property to verify the installation, operation, and/or readings of the meter(s).
  - b. **Annual Reporting:** The Well Owner shall be required to report the quantity of groundwater extraction by month for the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 to the CDMGSA, by no later than October 31 of each year following the applicable year ("Annual Reports"). Well Owners shall report any changes to the information described above (e.g., well abandonment, new flowmeter, different crops) in such Annual Report. Annual Reports shall be in Microsoft Excel format and e-mailed to CDMGSA at [administration@cdm-gsa.com](mailto:administration@cdm-gsa.com). Fillable Excel forms can be found on the **CDMGSA website**.
  - c. The CDMGSA may require more frequent reporting, additional data, or alternative reporting formats for wells subject to a PRP or other GSP management actions.
- 5) **CDMGSA Right to Inspect** – Under the authority granted by SGMA, including but not limited to Water Code sections 10725.2, 10725.4, and 10725.8, the CDMGSA or its agents may conduct an inspection of a well to verify data, compliance with this Policy, or applicability of this Policy to a particular well.
- 6) **Timing for Compliance** – The owner of any well used for groundwater extraction within the CDMGSA must install a CDMGSA-approved meter pursuant to section 3 above as follows:
  - a. Installation of meters on existing wells shall be completed by December 31, 2023.
  - b. Meters must be installed on new wells shall be completed prior to use of the well.
  - c. Wells with existing meters that do not comply with the requirements of this Well Metering Policy shall become compliant by December 31, 2023 by replacing any existing meter with a meter that is compliant with this Well Metering Policy.
  - d. Additional deadlines may be established by the CDMGSA based on implementation needs of the D-M Subbasin GSP.
- 7) **Costs, Fees and Penalties:**
  - a. The Well Owner shall be responsible for all costs for purchasing, installing, maintaining, record-keeping, and calibrating the meter on any of its groundwater wells that it installs.
  - b. The CDMGSA shall not impose any fees for field reviews, collection and recordation of data, landowner communication, and related activities.

- c. The CDMGSA may establish fees, charges, or penalties associated with metering, reporting, or non-compliance, consistent with SGMA and applicable law.
  - d. Failure to comply with metering or reporting requirements may also constitute non-compliance with the PRP and may result in enforcement actions, including penalties pursuant to Water Code section 10732 or collection remedies under section 10730.6.
- 8) **Notification** – The CDMGSA will provide notice of its adoption of this Well Metering Policy as required by law.
  - 9) **GSA Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance** – The CDMGSA will issue a notice of Non-Compliance to the Well Owner and, where appropriate, the applicable Member Agency for any non-compliant Production Well that has been out of compliance for more than one quarter. The Non-Compliance notification will serve as an official request of the local member agency to enact its powers of enforcement for non-compliance.
  - 10) **Request for Additional Time; Penalty Waiver** – The Well Owner may submit a written request to CDMGSA for a single extension of time to comply with Section 3 above. A request for an extension of time must be submitted within the compliance timeframe established by the CDMGSA to avoid penalties as described in Section 6 above and a grant of an extension of time, in total, shall not exceed a period of six (6) months. The Board of Directors of the CDMGSA may grant the extension if a finding of good cause can be made. For purposes of this Well Metering Policy, good cause includes, but is not limited to, (a) a demonstrated undue financial hardship, (b) factors outside the control of the Well Owner, or (c) proof that the Well Owner was not properly notified of the requirement.
  - 11) **Amendment** – This Well Metering Policy is subject to changes in the regular operation of the CDMGSA, as it may be revised from time to time by the Board.
  - 12) **Policy Review** – This Well Metering Policy shall be reviewed by the CDMGSA regularly, but in no event less than once every five (5) years or as necessary to maintain consistency with the D-M Subbasin GSP, PRP, Domestic Well Mitigation Program, and applicable agreements, including the MOA.

**CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 04**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE  
POLICY NUMBER THREE  
SURFACE WATER PRIORITIZATION AND  
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION MANAGEMENT**

A. **WHEREAS**, effective August 28, 2019, certain entities whose boundaries overlie a portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin number 5-22.07 of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin identified in the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) Bulletin 118, formed a joint powers authority known as the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CDMGSA”), which replaced a prior multi-agency groundwater sustainability agency. In 2026, two additional agencies joined the CDMGSA. The current 12 members of the CDMGSA are: Eagle Field Water District, Fresno Slough Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Panoche Water District, San Luis Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Widren Water District, the County of Fresno, and the County of Merced (each a “Member Agency”); and

B. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA is a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) formed pursuant to the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Agreement, as amended, and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) within the Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (“Subbasin”); and

C. **WHEREAS**, in March 2023, DWR determined the revised Subbasin GSPs to be inadequate and the GSAs in the Subbasin subsequently developed a single, unified Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP (“D-M Subbasin GSP”), which was finalized in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior GSPs; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the D-M Subbasin GSP includes management actions and programs, including regional Pumping Reduction Plans (“PRPs”), which require reductions in groundwater extraction and increased reliance on alternative water supplies, including surface water; and

E. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA has previously adopted Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration and Administrative Policy Number Two – Well Metering and Reporting, which, inter alia, establish the framework for identifying wells and measuring groundwater extraction; and

F. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA now seeks to adopt Administrative Policy Number Three – Surface Water Prioritization and Groundwater Extraction Management (this “Policy”) to provide a framework for implementation of applicable regional PRPs and for prioritizing the use of reasonably available surface water supplies, as defined, in lieu of groundwater extraction; and

G. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA has the authority under the California Water Code, including but not limited to sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and the Joint Powers Agreement forming the CDMGSA, to adopt rules, regulations, and administrative policies, require registration of groundwater extraction facilities, regulate groundwater extractions, impose fees and penalties, and take any necessary and proper actions to implement SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP; and

H. **WHEREAS**, adoption of this Policy will provide guidance to Member Agencies and groundwater users and will support coordinated implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP and applicable regional PRPs; and

I. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors finds that adoption of this Policy is necessary and appropriate to support sustainable groundwater management and to avoid undesirable results within the Subbasin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency finds as follows:

1. The facts stated in the Recitals above are true and correct and the Board of Directors so finds, orders, and determines.

2. The Board of Directors hereby adopts Administrative Policy Number Three – Surface Water Prioritization and Groundwater Extraction Management (the “Policy”), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “1”** and incorporated herein by this reference.

3. The Policy establishes a framework to prioritize the use of reasonably available surface water supplies, as defined, prior to groundwater extraction and to support implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the applicable regional PRPs.

4. The CDMGSA staff, consultants, and legal counsel are authorized and directed to implement and administer the Policy, including coordinating with Member Agencies, developing procedures, and facilitating programs necessary to carry out the Policy.

5. Member Agencies are encouraged to implement the Policy within their respective jurisdictions through rules, regulations, ordinances, and water service programs consistent with applicable law and the D-M Subbasin GSP.

6. The CDMGSA may exercise any authority granted under SGMA and other applicable law to implement and enforce the Policy, including coordination with Member Agencies. Nothing in this Resolution or the Policy shall be construed as a final determination of water rights.

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7. If any provision of this Resolution or the Policy is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution or Policy, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Barcellos, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

**CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY**

I, [Name], do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, held on the 26th day of March, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Secretary  
Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency

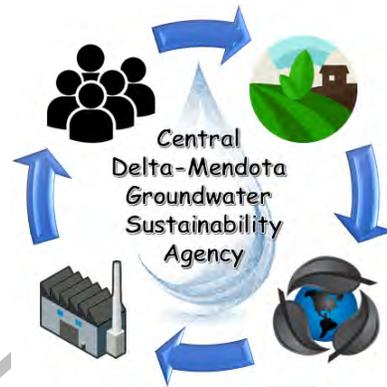
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**EXHIBIT “1”**

**Surface Water Prioritization and  
Groundwater Extraction Management Policy**

DRAFT

# CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY



Eagle Field WD ♦ Fresno County ♦ Fresno Slough WD ♦ Merced County ♦ Mercy Springs WD ♦ Oro Loma WD ♦ Pacheco WD  
♦ Panoche WD ♦ San Luis WD ♦ Santa Nella County WD ♦ Tranquillity I.D ♦ Wdren WD

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

### NUMBER THREE

## SURFACE WATER PRIORITIZATION AND GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted: March 26, 2026

### POLICY STATEMENT

In order for the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CDMGSA”) to effectively implement the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“D-M Subbasin GSP”), including the applicable regional Pumping Reduction Plans (“PRPs”), and to avoid undesirable results such as the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, it is necessary to reduce reliance on groundwater where feasible and prioritize the use of available surface water supplies.

Accordingly, it is the policy of the CDMGSA that landowners and groundwater extractors within the CDMGSA’s jurisdiction shall utilize available surface water supplies made available by the CDMGSA or its Member Agencies, where Reasonably Available (as defined below), prior to extracting groundwater, consistent with the provisions of this Policy and applicable law.

Nothing in this Policy prevents Member Agencies from implementing programs, rules, regulations, or ordinances consistent with this Policy and the D-M Subbasin GSP.

**AUTHORITY:**

This Policy is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the CDMGSA under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), including, but not limited to, Water Code sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and through the Joint Powers Agreement that formed the CDMGSA, as amended, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

This Policy is further supported by the legislative intent of SGMA to achieve sustainable groundwater management and avoid undesirable results (Wat. Code, § 10720.1), and by applicable authority of Member Agencies under the Water Code, including but not limited to sections 35400, 35401, 35423, and 35413.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a three-bill legislative package (AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319), collectively known as SGMA. SGMA required those subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) publication Bulletin 118 as being medium to high priority to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) by June 1, 2017, and then adopt and submit Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”) to DWR by January 31, 2020.

The CDMGSA is located within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin number 5-022.07), a high priority subbasin (the “Subbasin”). The CDMGSA is one of 21<sup>1</sup> separate GSAs in the Subbasin that initially developed and coordinated six independent GSPs to cover the entire Subbasin. In March 2023, DWR determined the revised GSPs to be inadequate, prompting the GSAs to develop a single, unified GSP for the Subbasin. The single D-M Subbasin GSP was fully adopted by all GSAs in the Subbasin in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior coordinated GSPs.

Originally formed by 10 member agencies, effective August 28, 2019, the CDMGSA has expanded its membership and now consists of 12 member agencies. The CDMGSA participates in Subbasin-wide coordination through the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”), but remains responsible for implementing SGMA within its jurisdiction.

The D-M Subbasin GSAs have adopted regional PRPs as part of the single D-M Subbasin GSP. The PRPs establish temporary and permanent reductions in groundwater extractions during periods and in locations where groundwater levels are projected to decline below sustainability thresholds, particularly in areas identified as at risk for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels (“CLGWL”). A Dashboard has been developed to track and view data for the Subbasin, which is divided into four zones,

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<sup>1</sup> All 12 members of the CDMGSA each individually elected to have the powers of a GSA. Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District each joined the CDMGSA in January and February 2026, respectively. So, you could also state that there are 32 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

including Zone 1 (Aliso, Farmers, Tranquillity, and Fresno GSA Group), Zone 2 (Grassland, and SJREC GSA Groups), Zone 3 (Northern DM GSA Group), and Zone 4 (Central DM GSA). The PRPs are designed to be implemented in coordination with the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and rely on well registration and extraction data to identify affected wells and ensure sustainable groundwater management.

Implementation of the PRPs requires accurate data, reduced groundwater pumping, and increased reliance on alternative water supplies. Surface water is a key component of that strategy. This Policy supports those objectives by prioritizing the use of surface water where available. A copy of the CDMGSA PRP adopted February 27, 2025, is incorporated by this reference and may be found on the CDMGSA website at [cdmgsa.com](http://cdmgsa.com).

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to support implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP and the PRPs. This Policy is also intended to reduce groundwater extraction where alternative surface water supplies are available. This Policy provides a consistent framework for Member Agencies. It also provides tools to avoid undesirable results, including overdraft and impacts to domestic wells.

## **POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

- 1. Surface Water Prioritization Requirement** – Landowners and groundwater extractors shall use surface water before extracting groundwater when surface water is Reasonably Available. Surface water is considered Reasonably Available when (i) delivery is physically possible and (ii) legally authorized. Availability may also depend on water quality, cost, and operational feasibility. This requirement applies to the extent feasible, and does not override existing contractual obligations or physical limitations.
- 2. Burden of Proof** – Where surface water is determined by the CDMGSA or the applicable Member Agency to be Reasonably Available, it shall be presumed that the landowner or groundwater extractor can utilize such surface water as the primary water supply. The burden shall rest on the landowner or groundwater extractor to demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of the CDMGSA Board or its designee, that the use of surface water is infeasible or otherwise excused due to physical, contractual, economic, or other relevant constraints.
- 3. Member Agency Implementation** – Member Agencies may implement this Policy through local rules, regulations, or ordinances. They may also incorporate this Policy into existing water delivery programs. Member Agencies may require landowners to use available surface water as a condition of groundwater extraction. They may also limit or allocate groundwater pumping. Member Agencies may adopt rules governing water delivery under their existing authority. This includes the ability to condition or withhold service in appropriate circumstances and charge a fee per acre-foot.

4. **Integration with Pumping Reduction Plan** – This Policy incorporates the CDMGSA Pumping Reduction Plan by reference. Implementation of this Policy must be consistent with an applicable PRP, including consistency with groundwater reduction targets, implementation phases, and monitoring requirements. Member Agencies may use this Policy as a tool to achieve PRP objectives and sustainability goals.

5. **Relationship to Other CDMGSA Policies** – This Policy is intended to supplement other CDMGSA policies, including Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration, and Administrative Policy Number Two – Well Metering and Reporting. These policies provide the data necessary to implement this Policy by allowing the CDMGSA and its Member Agencies to identify wells, measure groundwater use, and manage extraction.

6. **Compliance and Enforcement** – The CDMGSA and its Member Agencies may take all actions authorized by law to implement and enforce this Policy, particularly in areas where groundwater extraction reductions are required under the D-M Subbasin GSP, including a PRP, and related CDMGSA policies. To ensure compliance with the requirement to utilize Reasonably Available surface water prior to groundwater extraction, the CDMGSA and/or its Member Agencies may take the following actions:

a. Adopt and enforce rules, regulations, ordinances, or resolutions that condition, limit, or prohibit groundwater extraction where surface water is Reasonably Available, pursuant to SGMA, including but not limited to Water Code sections 10725.2 and 10726.4. Such measures may include requiring participation in surface water delivery programs as a condition of groundwater use.

b. Establish and enforce groundwater extraction allocations, pumping restrictions, or rotational pumping requirements consistent with the D-M Subbasin GSP and applicable PRP pursuant to SGMA, including but not limited to Water Code sections 10726.2 and 10726.4. Groundwater extractions may be reduced, suspended, or conditioned on the use of Reasonably Available surface water supplies.

c. Require or implement programs under which groundwater extractors must accept and use Reasonably Available surface water supplies in lieu of groundwater pumping, consistent with Water Code section 10726.2(d), including agreements to reduce or cease groundwater extraction.

d. Utilize data collected under Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration, and Administrative Policy Number Two – Well Metering and Reporting to verify compliance. The CDMGSA may require reporting, conduct audits, and perform inspections to confirm that surface water is being utilized prior to groundwater extraction, consistent with Water Code section 10725.4.

e. Impose fees, charges, and civil penalties for non-compliance, including for unauthorized groundwater extraction where surface water is Reasonably Available, pursuant to SGMA, including but not limited to Water Code sections 10730.6

and 10732. Penalties may include monetary assessments and ongoing daily penalties for continuing violations.

f. Initiate administrative or judicial enforcement actions, including actions for injunctive relief or civil penalties. The CDMGSA may also order the cessation of groundwater extraction following notice and hearing, as authorized by law.

g. Member Agencies, who all retain the powers of GSAs, may exercise their independent authorities to enforce this Policy, including adopting rules governing water service, conditioning or withholding delivery of water, and enforcing compliance through administrative or judicial remedies pursuant to applicable provisions of the Water Code.

h. The CDMGSA may coordinate with Member Agencies to issue notices of non-compliance and to facilitate local enforcement. Member Agencies are required to take timely enforcement action within their jurisdictions to ensure consistency with the D-M Subbasin GSP and the applicable PRP.

i. All enforcement actions taken pursuant to this Policy shall be consistent with SGMA, the D-M Subbasin GSP, and applicable law. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as a final determination of water rights.

7. **Agreements and Programs** – The CDMGSA and Member Agencies may enter into agreements to implement this Policy, including arrangements with landowners, water districts, or other entities; develop incentive programs to encourage the use of surface water in lieu of groundwater; and coordinate with other entities in and outside the Subbasin to implement this Policy.

8. **Local Control** – This Policy is intended to preserve local control. Member Agencies may tailor implementation based on local conditions, including infrastructure, water availability, and economic considerations. Pursuant to Water Code section 10725(b), a GSA has the power to provide the maximum degree of local control and flexibility consistent with the sustainability goals of SGMA.

9. **Amendment** – This Policy is subject to changes in the regular operation of the CDMGSA, as it may be revised from time to time by the Board of Directors.

10. **Policy Review** – This Policy shall be reviewed by the CDMGSA regularly, but in no event less than once every five (5) years or as necessary to ensure consistency with the D-M Subbasin GSP, SGMA, and applicable agreements, including the MOA.



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>

