



Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 1:00 PM

IN PERSON

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

The Public may also join this meeting at the zoom link below

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89828343360?pwd=F0abpojKbu7Ffl0agPA1hUmgKUq6yi.1>

Call In Number: 1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 898 2834 3360

Passcode: 751219

May 2, 2025

TO: Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Interested Parties

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

RE: MEETING OF THE NORTHERN DELTA-MENDOTA REGION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025, 1:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee has been called for **Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 1:00 PM**, on items listed on the attached agenda, which is incorporated by reference and made a part hereof.



Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 1:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Consent Calendar

4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Pierce
 - a. Minutes for the April 2, 2025 Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
 - b. Budget-to-Actual Report

Report Items

5. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee, Lucchesi/Petersen
6. Committee to Discuss Administrative Program and Fiscal Management Structure for GSP Implementation in the Northern Delta-Mendota Region in FY2027, Petersen/Layne
7. Committee to Discuss and Confirm Completions of Spring Groundwater Quality Sampling, Dumas
8. Committee to be Reminded to Upload all Data to DMS to Evaluate PRP Implementation, Dutton
9. Committee to Discuss Spring Water Level Data, Dumas
10. Committee to Discuss SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities, Dumas
11. Committee to Discuss Implementation of Pumping Reduction Plans, Dutton/Mani
12. Next Steps
13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

14. Future Meetings

a. Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

- i. Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 1:00 PM

b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

- i. Monday, May 19, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Monday, June 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Closed Session

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

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

Open Session

16. Report out of Closed Session

17. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office, 842 6th Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California 93635, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org or sandi.ginda@sldmwa.org. 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.

DRAFT Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 1:00 PM

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

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID) (arrived by 1:40 PM)
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County (arrived at 1:14 PM)
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson

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

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Others Present

Caleb Stearns – WSID

Others Present via Zoom

Robert Kostlivi – Stanislaus County
Joel Andrews – City of Patterson
Lea Emmons – City of Tracy
Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro
John Brodie – Water & Land Solutions
Meredith Durant – EKI Environment & Water (EKI)
Anona Dutton – EKI
Kait Palys – INTERA
Taylor Blakslee – Hallmark Group
Joshua Jendian – Wanger Jones & Helsley
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran (W&C)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Bobby Pierce/WSID called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

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

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

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

4. **Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Pierce**
 - a. **Minutes for the March 5, 2025 Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee**
 - b. **Budget-to-Actual Report**

Adam Scheuber/DPWD provided the motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Christy McKinnon/Stanislaus County seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. **Committee to Consider Ratifying the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Approval of the WY2024 Annual Report for the Subbasin, Petersen/Dumas**

Leslie Dumas/W&C reported that following approval from the Coordination Committee on March 31, 2025, the WY2024 Annual Report for the Subbasin was uploaded to the DWR portal on April 1, 2025.

Leslie Dumas stated that DWR has created a new module for reporting annual progress in implementation of projects and management actions. Use of this module was optional for WY2024, but it will be mandatory in the future. During the Coordination Committee meeting on March 31, 2025, there was a discussion regarding interpretation and associated actions of the Subbasin GSP. Scott Petersen/SLDMWA distributed a copy of the W&C Coordination Committee presentation materials to the Subbasin GSAs.

Scott Petersen commented that in the future, he expects the program management firm will drive the Subbasin discussions and decisions on this topic and others.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to ratify the Coordination Committee's approval of the WY2024 Annual Report and Christy McKinnon seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

6. **Committee to Consider Ratifying the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Authorization for Execution of a Task Order with EKI Environment & Water for Adjacent GSP Technical Review and Related Expenses, Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that the Coordination Committee requested that EKI prepare and submit a proposal to provide technical review of the GSPs submitted by adjacent subbasins. During its meeting on March 31, 2025, the Coordination Committee authorized SLDMWA to execute a task order with EKI.

Scott discussed the budget background applicable for Items 6 through 8 of the meeting agenda. There are several consulting services that were not included in the FY2026 budget preparation process. However, line items were included in the budget for services by SLDMWA that will now be performed by individual agencies and then reimbursed by DWR under the SGMA Round 1 implementation grant. Therefore, the SLDMWA direct costs will be less than those included in the budgets. Accordingly, SLDMWA proposes a line-item budget reallocation which will result in no significant change for entities that are not implementing grant funded activities.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to ratify the Coordination Committee's authorization to proceed with preparation of the Task Order for EKI and Maria Encinas/City of Patterson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present. Lacey McBride arrived at 1:14 p.m.

7. **Committee to Consider Ratifying the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Authorization for Execution of a Task Order with Woodard & Curran for FY2026 SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant Administration Services for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee and Related Expenses, Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that this is a necessary activity that was inadvertently overlooked during the SLDMWA staff transition in late 2024. The duration of grant administration services was extended with DWR's extension of the grant. The task order also includes services for project completion documentation.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to ratify the Coordination Committee's authorization to proceed with execution of a Task Order for Woodard & Curran and Maria Encinas seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

8. **Committee to Consider Ratifying the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Authorization for SLDMWA to Execute an Agreement and Task Order with Hallmark Group for Program Management Services and Related Expenses, Petersen**

Scott Petersen reported that the recent Coordination Committee meeting included a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. The Coordination Committee questioned the overall budget and the number of consultants assisting with the Subbasin's GSP implementation efforts and decided to establish an ad hoc committee to consider potential duplication of consultant efforts.

The Coordination Committee also discussed options for potential future roles: a single consultant performing both technical and program management activities; or one consultant performing the technical activities, with a different consultant providing program management services. The program management role is necessary, because none of the GSA representatives currently have the capacity to drive activities and decisions across the Subbasin.

Scott Petersen reported that the Hallmark Group proposal included several optional tasks, which may not be necessary, and therefore the actual expenditures may be less than proposed.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to ratify the Coordination Committee's authorization to proceed with the Program Management Task Order for Hallmark Group and Maria Encinas seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

9. **Committee to Consider Authorization of an Agreement and Task Order with Hallmark Group for Program Management Support Services and Related Expenses for the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, Petersen**

Scott Petersen explained that this role is both to replace John Brodie and to drive decisions by the 23 GSAs on GSP implementation and future governance. As discussed during the preceding overall budget discussion, there are potential implications for the previously adopted budgets. The meeting participants discussed concerns about costs, and potential duplication of consultant activities.

In response to a concern regarding the estimated costs, Taylor Blakslee/Hallmark Group noted that their proposal for program management services was prepared in response to the RFP, but through subsequent participation in Committee meetings, the team has realized not all of their proposed activities may be necessary, and therefore the actual expenditures may be less than proposed.

Leslie Dumas also noted that the W&C expenditures for preparation of the Annual Report typically are less than the budget.

The meeting participants agreed to postpone any increase of the budget, pending receipt of consultant invoices. Revision of specific line items (but not the overall amounts) may be necessary. The necessary level of effort is difficult to predict and will largely depend upon data that will be obtained during future monitoring.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to authorize preparation of an Agreement and Task Order with the Hallmark Group for the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, without revising the previously adopted total budget, and Vince Lucchesi/PID seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

10. Committee to Consider Ratifying the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Recommendation for the Subbasin GSAs to Enter Into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Valley Water Collaborative, Layne

Lauren Layne/BMJ referenced the MOU included in the meeting materials. The MOU pertains to nitrate in domestic water supply wells. Valley Water Cooperative (VWC) is already working with some domestic well owners regarding nitrate. Collaboration with VWC regarding water quality in domestic wells is also related to ongoing Subbasin discussions with State Water Board staff regarding implementation of the Well Mitigation Programs. The recommendation from the Coordination Committee to enter into the MOU was included in the WY2024 Annual Report.

Lauren Layne noted that each of the GSAs will need to enter into the MOU; that the MOU will need to be approved by the respective agency boards and duly signed. In the near-term, the commitment is for sharing of information, and there is no immediate financial commitment.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to ratify the Coordination Committee recommendation to enter into the MOU with VWC and Vince Lucchesi seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

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

Vince Lucchesi reported that the topics discussed in the recent Coordination Committee meeting were covered during discussion of the previous agenda items.

12. Committee to Discuss Administrative Program and Fiscal Management Structure for GSP Implementation in the Northern Delta-Mendota Region in FY2027, Petersen/Layne

Lauren Layne referenced a memorandum included in the meeting materials. SLDMWA is shifting away from the fiscal and administrative management of GSP implementation for the Subbasin. Three options for future fiscal and administrative management are presented in the memorandum. This topic of the future Subbasin governance structure will require ongoing discussion, while recognizing that the member Counties may require a lead time of several months for public notice and approval of a revised mutually-acceptable structure.

Vince Lucchesi inquired about options for the future governance structure for the Northern Delta-Mendota Region.

It would be preferable for SLDMWA, for the new governance structure to be in place by the beginning of the next fiscal year (i.e., March 1, 2026), but it was noted that a new governance entity may opt for a different fiscal calendar.

13. Committee to Discuss Implementation of Pumping Reduction Plans, Dutton

Anona Dutton/EKI stated that based upon the available data, there are no exceedances of minimum thresholds (MTs). However, there are some monitoring wells that require continued

attention. Anona Dutton noted that DPWD is considering installation of some replacement monitoring wells, and requested that the agencies continue to pay attention to the incoming water level data.

In response to a question, Scott Petersen reported that trigger levels are identified in the adopted Pumping Reduction Plan and that efforts are in progress to register wells, measure, and report groundwater pumping, and to reduce aggregate pumping by 9,000 acre-feet per year.

14. Committee to Discuss GSP Implementation, Dumas

a. Update on Subbasin Activities – SGMA Round 1 Grant Funding Program

Leslie Dumas reported that Reimbursement Request #10 has been submitted to DWR. During the next quarter W&C will transmit emails requesting documentation to support the next Reimbursement Request. To date, construction of only one ISW well is in progress, and all of the planned activities need to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year in order to be eligible for reimbursement through the grant and allow time for preparation of the completion reports.

15. Next Steps

- SLDMWA will prepare and execute the contracts and task orders in accordance with direction provided by the Committees.
- SLDMWA staff will monitor ongoing consultant expenses and report on the need (if any) for budget adjustment.
- Discussions regarding the future Subbasin governance structure for GSP implementation will continue over the next several meetings.

16. Future Meetings

a. Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

- i. Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 1:00 PM

b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

- i. Monday, April 14, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Monday, May 12, 2025 at 1:00 PM

17. Reports Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2(a)(3)

No reports were discussed under this item.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Bobby Pierce adjourned the meeting at 2:49 PM.

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT SERVICES AGREEMENT
ACTIVITY AGREEMENTS BUDGET TO ACTUAL
NORTHERN DELTA-MENDOTA REGION (FUND 64)

Report Period 3/1/25 - 03/31/25

EXPENDITURES	Annual Budget	Paid/ Expense	Amount Remaining	% of Amt Remaining	Expenses Through
<u>Legal:</u>					
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000	100%	
<u>Other Professional Services:</u>					
Contracts	\$ 363,028	\$ -	\$ 363,028	100%	
<u>Other:</u>					
Executive Director	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	100%	
General Counsel	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	100%	
Water Policy Director	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,177	\$ 17,823	89%	3/21/25
Water Resources Program Manager	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
In-House Staff	\$ 2,500	\$ 158	\$ 2,342	94%	3/21/25
Hydrotech 3	\$ 24,423	\$ -	\$ 24,423	100%	
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	100%	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	100%	
Group Meetings	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	100%	
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	100%	
Total Expenditures	\$ 451,451	\$ 2,335	\$ 449,116	100%	