

# Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, June 9, 2025  
SLDMWA Board Room 842 6<sup>th</sup> St., Los Banos, CA 93635

## Meeting Minutes

### **PRESENT:**

#### Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso WD (Chair)  
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region – *Remote at noticed location within jurisdictional boundaries (Patterson)*  
Ric Ortega, Grasslands WD – *Remote at noticed location (Sacramento)*  
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B  
Jim Stillwell, Farmers WD – *Remote at noticed location (Sacramento)*  
John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors

#### Absent

Steve Stadler, Central DM Region

#### Others Present

Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen  
Kait Palys, INTERA  
Scott Petersen, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority  
Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco WD  
Emily McCoy, Mercy Spring WD  
Patrick McGowan, Panoche WD

#### Others Present Via Zoom

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Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD  
Amir Mani, EKI  
Andrew Francis, LSCE  
Anona Dutton, EKI  
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto WD  
Chase Hurley, Land & Water Solutions  
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County  
Debbie Gavaghan  
Don Davis  
Ellen Wehr  
Ethan Andrews  
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors

Jason Dean  
John Brodie, Water & Land Solutions  
Juan Cadena, Mercy Springs WD  
Kiti Campbell, WWD  
Kristen Manzano, Hallmark Group  
Lacey McBride, Merced County  
Leslie Dumas, W&C  
Lisa Beutler, Stantec  
Manny Amorelli, James ID  
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard  
Steve  
Steve Fausone, Panoche Water District  
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group  
Will Halligan, LSCE

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

Chair Joe Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Hopkins lead the pledge of allegiance.

**3. 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.

**4. Opportunity for Public Comment**

Chair Hopkins opened the floor for public comment and there was none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**5. Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar**

**a. Minutes of the May 19, 2025 Meeting**

**b. Budget to Actual Report**

Committee Member Ramirez made a motion to approve the consent calendar.  
The motion was seconded by Committee Member Wiersma and passed  
unanimously via a roll call vote (with Stadler absent).

**ACTION ITEMS**

**6. Review and Consider Taking Action to Approve and Authorize Entering into a Proposal with EKI to Update the Model for Annual Report Preparation**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Committee's request for EKI to develop a cost proposal for extending the groundwater resources model for the purpose of updating the Annual Report and EKI's Anona Dutton summarized their proposal, which was based

on time and materials with a budget estimate of \$49,000. Chair Hopkins asked if the data to update the model was readily available and Ms. Dutton replied they, along with Woodard & Curran, would issue a request for information to the appropriate Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for the needed data. Upon motion by Committee Member Ortega and a second by Committee Member Wiersma and with a unanimous roll call vote (Stadler absent), the Committee approved entering into the proposal with EKI and the budget amendment.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **7. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

The Committee entered closed session at 1:13 p.m. and concluded at 2:20 p.m.

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **8. Report from Closed Session**

Legal counsel Lauren Layne stated there was no reportable action.

### **REPORT ITEMS**

#### **9. Update on June 9, 2025, Meeting with the SWRCB**

Jarrett Martin provided an update following a June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff. He reported that they focused on components of the proposed domestic well mitigation program and the existing pumping reduction plan. For the domestic well mitigation plan, he noted feedback from SWRCB focused on: 1) translating materials in Spanish, 2) confirming the appropriate quantity of water per person for the dry well mitigation program, 3) clarifying the response to well owners for noticing emergency water (24 hours) and installing a tank if necessary, and 4) collaboration with Valley Water Collaborative. He also noted that the basin representatives reminded the SWRCB that effective collaboration with adjacent subbasins and SWRCB staff will be required to reconcile differences in sustainable management criteria for groundwater levels. Overall, he reported the meetings and coordination with SWRCB staff have been going well and progress is being made on the changes needed to the domestic well mitigation program to work to avoid State probation.

#### **10. Update on Status of Meetings with Adjoining Subbasins Regarding Comment Letters on Periodic Evaluations**

Chair Hopkins reported that key contacts for each subbasin group have been identified and outreach consultant Lisa Beutler is working on setting these meetings up.

#### **11. Update on FSS Outreach Activities**

Outreach consultant Lisa Beutler reported that the meeting with the Tracy subbasin is being rescheduled to July 9<sup>th</sup> and notices will be distributed for this meeting. Ms. Beutler

provided an update on the upcoming newsletter and said it would be finalized and distributed shortly.

## **12. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant**

### **a. Update on Status of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Well Construction Project**

Chase Hurley reported that Merced County will present the required project documents to their Board this month and noted that Stanislaus County is working on the status of the easement required for this project. Both wells are expected to be installed by the end of December 2025. He reported that the grant amendment for the easement costs has been submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for approval.

### **b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project**

Jarrett Martin reported that due to financial constraints, the plan is to install brass caps with monuments and purchase calibration units to perform the routine surveys to measure potential subsidence. He noted staff is confirming this approach is consistent with the grant to ensure reimbursement. Grant manager Leslie Dumas said that since Merced County is the lead agency now, they may need to reissue the CEQA notice of exemption and environmental impact form.

### **c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects**

Chair Hopkins reported that a request was made to identify the grant money spent to date, and the expected money that will be spent this calendar year to ensure the basin does not leave money on the table. Grant Manager Leslie Dumas provided a table with costs and will provide an update at the July meeting.

## **13. Update on EKI Subsidence CVHM2 Model White Paper in Response to Nelson Subsidence Analysis**

EKI's Anona Dutton and Amir Mani provided an update on a white paper they developed in response to the Nelson subsidence analysis. She noted that the white paper was included in the packet for review and asked if there are questions to contact either herself or Mr. Mani. She said this information will be forwarded to Nelson for their reference.

## **14. GSP Implementation Updates**

### **a. Update on Status of Spring Water Level and Quality Monitoring and Second Quarter Water Level Monitoring and DMS Upload**

Woodard & Curran's Leslie Dumas reminded GSAs that second quarter data was supposed to be collected mid-May 2025, and all remaining data must be collected by the end of June 2025 for the quarter.

**b. Update on Pumping Reduction Plan and GSP Implementation Tracking and Exceedance Reporting**

Ms. Dutton presented a visual dashboard they developed for GSAs to track and report exceedances and compliance with the pumping reduction plan. She said the dashboard can automatically generate high-level water action reports and the interface would help coordinate reductions and provide information necessary for developing Annual Reports. She said the dashboard was intended for each GSA to log in to the system, upload their data, which will interface with the data management system (DMS) to trigger response timelines. She encouraged feedback from GSAs. The Committee agreed to perform a pilot test with a willing GSA and Panoche Water District General Manager Patrick McGowan volunteered for this.

**c. Update on Establishing SMCs for new RMWs**

Ms. Dutton reminded the Committee that data needs to be collected for monitoring wells and at some point, sustainable management criteria needs to be established for representative monitoring wells.

**d. Update on DMS and Potential Improvements**

Ms. Dumas reported that she had requested DMS access from Houston for several weeks and will continue to reach out to provide the necessary access for EKI to interface their dashboard with the DMS data.

**e. Review of Roles and Responsibilities for Exceedance Reporting**

Taylor Blakslee provided an overview of the adaptive management framework outlined in Exhibit C of the MOA which specifies the process and roles and responsibilities for exceedances.

**f. Report from GSAs with Exceedances**

Mr. Blakslee reported that several GSAs had groundwater level minimum thresholds (MT) exceedances and the affected GSA provided the following update:

- Aliso Water District (1) – Mr. Hopkins reported that the measurement resulting in an exceedance was likely an error, and follow up measurements have resulted in groundwater levels above the MT.
- Central Delta-Mendota, Panoche Water District (1) – Mr. McGowan reported that they retested the measurements, but the groundwater level measurement was correct and further investigation and reporting will occur, including monthly monitoring.
- Grasslands WD (1) – Mr. Ortega reported that subsequent groundwater level measurements resulted in groundwater levels rebounding.
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, City of Firebaugh and City of Gustine (2) – Mr. Martin reported that a translation error is the reason

for MT exceedance for these two wells and the correct measurements will be updated in the DMS, which do not result in an MT exceedance.

### **15. Next Steps**

Mr. Blakslee reported on the following action items:

- #6: Hallmark to work with SLDMWA to execute EKI model extension contract.
- Hallmark Grou to schedule a special joint closed session meeting for late June 2025.
- #10: EKI to draft consistent talking points for inter-basin meetings.
- #12b: W&C to confirm monuments/survey units are reimbursable under the current grant agreement.
- #12b: W&C to confirm if site 1 CEQA needs refiling (NOE + EIF) with DWR and Stanislaus and Merced County counsel.
- #13: Hallmark to send white paper to Nelson et al.
- #14b: EKI to test the PRP dashboard with Panoche WD.

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

There were no reports.

### **17. Next Meeting(s):**

- a. **Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: July 14, 2025**
- b. **JPA Workshop: Early July 2025**

### **18. Adjourn**

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 3:18pm