



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, July 14, 2025

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)

Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Committee Members:

Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
Buddy Mendes, Fresno County
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Christy McKinnon, Northern DM Region (Alt)
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin Exchange
Contractors
Jim Stillwell, Farmers WD
John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange
Contractors
Ric Ortega, Grassland WD
Steve Stadler, Central DM Region
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present:

Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco WD
Emily McCoy, Mercey Springs WD
Kait Palys, INTERA
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Patrick McGowen, Panoche WD
Scott Petersen, SLDMWA

Absent:

Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District

Present Via Zoom:

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
Aleta Allen, Madera County
Amir Mani, EKI
Andrew Francis, Luhdorff & Scalmanini (LSCE)
Anona Dutton, EKI
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto WD
Debbie Gavaghan
Don Davis
Ellen Wehr
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
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, Woodard & Curran (W&C)
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Manny Amorelli, James ID
Matt Garcia
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sarah Boogay
Steve Fausone, Panoche Water District
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group
Will Halligan, LSCE
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair Chase Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Member Augustine Ramirez led 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

Vice Chair Chase Hurley opened the floor for public comment. Brian Silva, district engineer at San Luis Water District announced that he will be succeeding Steve Stadler upon his retirement in early 2026.

Consent Calendar

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

a. Minutes of the June 9, 2025 Meeting

b. Budget to Actual Report

Committee Member Ric Ortega made a motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Committee Member John Wiersma and passed unanimously.

Closed Session

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

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)

The Committee did not convene for closed session.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

Legal Counsel, Lauren Layne, stated there was no reportable action.

Report Items

8. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Mr. Blakslee reported on the following action items:

- The draft Joint Powers Authority (JPA) document was circulated after a discussion was held at the recent JPA Workshop on July 1, 2025.
- The Tasking Matrix Ad Hoc convened on July 8, 2025. There will be an update provided at the August Coordination Committee meeting summarizing tasks and ownership to ensure there are no gaps in scope moving forward.
- Contract amendment for the model extension for EKI is being executed by Scott Petersen, SLDMWA and anticipates approval within the next month.

- Panoche Water District is testing the pilot dashboard in coordination with EKI.
- An update on the Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) will be provided under the agenda item.
- EKI to assist in developing material for inter-basin meetings.
- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) agreed that subsidence monuments and calibration units are reimbursable by the grant but are confirming this in the submitted grant amendment.
- The draft EKI Subsidence White Paper was distributed to the Nelson authors.

9. SWRCB Coordination: Subsidence Update

Leslie Dumas with W&C informed the Committee that discussions with DWR regarding additional benchmarks, equipment procurement for the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) stations, and modifications to Amendment #4 are ongoing. Work will commence once the amendment is executed.

Jarret Martin reported that the upcoming meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is scheduled for July 22, 2025.

Anona Dutton with EKI reported that they have begun work on developing a map of water fill stations that will be available on the website and referenced on notices as a resource. She further commented that it will be provided in advance to SWRCB staff.

10. Update on JPA Status

Legal Counsel, Lauren Layne, reported that the draft JPA document has been distributed and is included in the Board packet. She asked for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) legal counsels provide any comments or feedback to her by July 22, 2025. She reported that the goal is to have a draft JPA on August 11, 2025, that the Coordination Committee will recommend GSA's consider approving.

11. Update on Status of Meetings with Adjoining Subbasins Regarding Comment Letters on Periodic Evaluations

Anona Dutton of EKI reported that she attended the recent adjoining subbasin meeting with Tracy and that overall, the meeting was very productive. She noted installation of two new monitoring wells resulted in contours that more closely match those in Delta-Mendota reports.

Outreach Facilitation consultant Lisa Beutler highlighted that the meeting was productive and Tracy was very appreciative of the meeting and DWR was in attendance. She noted that a meeting with East San Joaquin was not originally planned, but a request to meet with the group arose during the Tracy meeting and she asked the Committee if they would like to add them to the list of subbasins to meet with. She said the next rounds of meeting are with Chowchilla, Merced and Madera and they will not be public meetings, but handled as internal meetings to focus on the Delta-Mendota letters.

12. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

Ms. Beutler reported that another newsletter is anticipated for release in September.

13. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant

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

Vice Chair Chase Hurley reported that Merced County (Interconnected Surface Water [ISW] 3) bids were distributed, and County is reviewing the bids.

Committee Member Christy McKinnon reported that due to the timing required for procuring an easement, Stanislaus County is looking to move the site to a public right-of-way and is concurrently working on selecting driller. Andrew Francis of LSCE noted a potential backup location in Aliso Water District near the boundary of Madera and Kings subbasin if a site cannot be determined.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Committee Member Jarrett Martin reported on subsidence equipment being funded by the grant and said if DWR approves the change in equipment, he will proceed purchasing that equipment. Ms. Dumas noted that she received verbal confirmation from DWR that the amendment should be completed in a few weeks and will report back as soon as it is approved. Chair Joe Hopkins noted he is working with the City of Firebaugh to potential coordinate on a subsidence network and will report back on this. The Committee directed Mr. Blakslee and Ms. Dumas to confirm the subsidence equipment eligibility and report out to the group.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Leslie Dumas provided an update on the status of grant funding. Committee Member Auggie Ramriez inquired about the amount of subsidence units and locations. Committee Member Jarrett Martin reported that he is planning to purchase 3-4 units at approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 per unit in the San Joaquin Exchange Contractors area which will require survey costs. Committee Member Auggie Ramirez noted he would coordinate with Joe Hopkins on subsidence monitoring locations.

Rick Iger reported that grant Component 7 is anticipated to be completed in Q1 of 2026.

14. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update Second Quarter Groundwater Level Monitoring and DMS Upload

Leslie Dumas of W&C reported that groundwater level measurements for 102 of 107 wells were collected and there was only one exceedance. She provided general groundwater monitoring reminders to GSAs.

The Committee requested the general monitoring reminders being included in

subsequent Board packets.

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

Anona Dutton of EKI reported that they are working on the PRP dashboard with Panoche Water District General Manager Patrick McGowan and are waiting to connect the dashboard with the Data Management System (DMS) and have a meeting with the DMS company (Houston Engineering) next week to fully integrate the dashboard. She said the dashboard will serve as both a PRP and GSP implementation tracking and reporting platform. Amir Mani of EKI reported that the front facing component of the dashboard is nearly complete and provided an overview of the dashboard component. Patrick McGowen noted that the interface was very helpful and simple to operate.

c. Update on Establishing SMCs for new RMWs

Anona Dutton of EKI reminded the Committee that all the new wells that have data will require a refresh of Sustainable Management Criteria (for 5 measurements) during the Annual Report development.

d. Update on DMS and Potential Improvements

Leslie Dumas reported that they had a call with Houston Engineering to address questions they had and are finalizing the revised cost estimate.

e. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Taylor Blakslee with the Hallmark Group reminded the Committee on the process for collecting data and the 60-day QA/QC period prior to having GSAs report on any potential minimum threshold (MT) exceedances.

Patrick McGowen of Panoche WD reported on work they performed to address previous MT exceedances. He said they have increased monitoring frequency, performed outreach to landowners within a 2-mile radius of the exceedance, and have implemented pumping reductions. He said the district is being aggressive in its approach to minimize impacts to their district and reported that meters are installed district-wide and are currently being calibrated.

15. Next Steps

Taylor Blakslee reported on the following action items:

- #9: EKI to provide water fill stations location interactive map to SWRCB ahead of July 22, 2025 meeting.
- #10: GSA's legal counsel to provide JPA comments/edits to Lauren Layne by July 22, 2025.
- #11: Lisa Beutler to schedule the Chowchilla, Merced, and Madera inter-basin meetings.
- #13a: Merced County to select contractor for ISW well installation.

- #13a: Stanislaus County to select a driller and determine well location.
- #13b: Leslie Dumas & Taylor Blakslee to confirm subsidence station reimbursement by the grant.
- #13b: Joe Hopkins to coordinate on potential subsidence network with Firebaugh.
- #13b: Augustine Ramirez to coordinate with Joe Hopkins on subsidence monitoring locations.
- #13c: Taylor Blakslee to follow up on projected 2026 Q1 completion of Component 7.
- #14a: Taylor Blakslee to add W&C general groundwater level monitoring reminders to packet.
- #14b: EKI to facilitate Data Management System (DMS) integration into dashboard.
- #14d: Leslie Dumas is refining the cost estimate with Houston for DMS improvements
- Leslie Beutler to provide Bobby Pierce grant project report template.
- Leslie Dumas to provide Taylor Blakslee details of the 8 unreported wells to coordinate with Chase Hurley and Joe Hopkins for follow-up.

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

Lauren Layne asked Jarrett Martin to provide an update on the subsidence presentation. Jarrett reminded the Committee on how they arrived at a 2-foot definition and said comments received on the single GSP pertain to subsidence and SWRCB is coordinating with him to understand the nature of those comment letters. He said the subsidence criteria has not raised any issues with DWR's review nor with the SWRCB staff. The Committee requested comment letters be included in the August meeting packet.

17. Next Meeting(s):

Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: August 11, 2025.

18. Adjournment

Vice Chair Chase Hurley adjourned meeting at 2:22pm.