



Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, August 11, 2025, 1:00 PM

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

The Public May Join the Meeting at the Zoom Link Below:

<https://zoom.us/j/93491446604>

Webinar ID: 934 9144 6604

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee has been called for **Monday, August 11, 2025 at 1:00 PM**, 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 Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the Water Authority Office, 842 6th Street, P.O. Box 2157 Los Banos, CA 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.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call ([Hopkins](#))
2. Pledge of Allegiance ([Hopkins](#))
3. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq. ([Hopkins](#))
4. Opportunity for Public Comment ([Hopkins](#))

Consent Calendar

5. Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar ([Hopkins](#))
 - a. Minutes of the June 4, 2025 Special Joint Meeting
 - b. Minutes of the July 1, 2025 JPA Workshop
 - c. Minutes of the July 14, 2025 Meeting
 - d. Budget to Actual Report

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)

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session ([Layne](#))

Action Items

8. Appointment of Secretary ([Blakslee](#))
9. Recommend GSAs Consider Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy ([Martin/Hurley/Dutton](#))
10. Direction to Submit a Letter to DWR Requesting Prop 4 Grant Funds are Awarded in Advance of Fiscal Year 2027-2028 ([Blakslee/Martin](#))

Report Items

11. Program Management Report ([Blakslee](#))
 - a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items
 - b. Budget Development
 - c. Schedule of Key Milestones
12. Update on DWR SGMA Subsidence Draft Best Management Practices ([Dutton/Mani](#))
13. Update on JPA Status ([Layne](#)) – *Verbal*
14. Update on Status of Meetings with Adjoining Subbasins Regarding Comment Letters on Periodic Evaluations ([Beutler](#))
15. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities ([Beutler](#)) – *Verbal*
16. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant
 - a. Update on Status of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Well Construction Project ([Blakslee](#))
 - b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project ([Blakslee](#))
 - c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects ([Dumas](#))

17. GSP Implementation Updates
 - a. Update Groundwater Level Monitoring and DMS Upload ([Dumas](#))
 - b. Update on Pumping Reduction Plan and GSP Implementation Tracking and Exceedance Reporting ([Dutton](#))
 - c. Update on DMS and Potential Improvements ([Dumas](#))
 - d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances ([Blakslee/GSAs](#))

18. Next Steps ([Blakslee](#))
19. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3) ([Layne](#))
20. Next Meeting(s): ([Hopkins](#))
 - a. Upcoming Meetings: Change of Venue
 - b. Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: September 8, 2025
21. Adjournment ([Hopkins](#))



2025 DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING DATES (*2nd Monday*)

September 8, 2025	1:00pm	<i>Grassland Water District Board Room</i>
October 13, 2025	1:00pm	SLDMWA Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635
November 10, 2025	1:00pm	SLDMWA Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635
December 8, 2025	1:00pm	<i>Grassland Water District Board Room</i>

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DMS	Data Management System
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FSS	Facilitation Support Services
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
ISW	Interconnected Surface Water
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Minimum Threshold
PRP	Pumping Reduction Plan
RMW	Representative Monitoring Wells
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority)
SMC	Sustainable Management Criteria
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 5

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Committee to 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 June 4, 2025 Special Joint Meeting (Attachment 1)
- b. Minutes of the July 1, 2025 JPA Workshop (Attachment 2)
- c. Minutes of the July 14, 2025 Meeting (Attachment 3)
- d. Budget to Actual Report (Attachment 4)



**Special Joint Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee,
Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, and the
Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee**

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 1:00pm

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

Teleconference Locations:

27480 S. Bennett Rd., Firebaugh, CA 93622

Widren Water District, 259 I Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

8211 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93720

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Coordination Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso WD (Chair)

Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors

Ric Ortega, Grasslands WD

Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B

Jim Stillwell, Farmers WD – *Remote*

John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors

Northern Committee Members

Adam Scheuber, DPWD

Anthea Hansen, DPWD / Oak Flat WD

Bobby Pierce, WSID

Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County

Greg Reichmuth, PID

Jeanne Zolezzi, WSID

Joel Andrews, City of Patterson

John Beltran, Oak Flat WD

Lacey McBride, Merced County

Maria Encinas, City of Patterson

Robert Kostlivy, Stanislaus County

Tiffany Ho, Merced County

Vince Lucchesi, PID

Central Committee Members

Hugh Bennett, Eagle Field WD
 Randall Miles, Eagle Field WD
 Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
 F C Supervisor 1 (Brian Pacheco), Fresno County
 Liz Reeves, Fresno County
 Danny Wade, Fresno Slough WD/TQID
 Lacey McBride, Merced County
 Tiffany Ho, Merced County
 Juan Cadena, Mercy Springs WD
 Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs WD
 Don Devine, Oro Loma WD
 Steve Sloan, Oro Loma WD
 Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco WD
 Chase Hurley, Pacheco WD
 John Bennett, Panoche WD
 Michael Linneman, Panoche WD
 Lon Martin, San Luis WD
 Mike Wood, San Luis WD
 Steve Stadler, San Luis WD
 Amy Montgomery, SNCWD
 Debra Matos, SNCWD
 Jerry Salvador, TQID
 Damian Aragona, Widren WD
 Jean Sagouspe, Widren WD

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

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
 Amir Mani, EKI
 Andrew Francis, LSCE
 Anona Dutton, EKI
 Anthea Hansen
 Chase Hurley, Land & Water Solutions
 Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
 Debbie Gavaghan
 Don Davis

Ellen Wehr
 Ethan Andrews
 JAFO
 Jason Dean
 John Brodie, Water & Land Solutions
 Juan Cadena
 Kiti Campbell
 Kristen Manzano, Hallmark Group
 Lacey McBride, Merced County
 Leslie Dumas, W&C
 Lisa Beutler, Stantec
 Manny, James ID
 Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
 Steve
 Steve Fausone
 Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Joe Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hopkins led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Closed Session

4. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee entered closed session at 1:10 p.m. and concluded at 2:50 p.m.

Open Session

5. Report from Closed Session

No reportable action.

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

There were no reports.

7. Adjourn

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Workshop for the
Coordination Committee, Northern Committee, and Central Committee

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Draft Meeting Minutes

Participants

Committee Members:

Aaron Barcellos, Pacheco WD
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Damian Aragona, Widren WD
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin Exchange
Contractors
Jim Stilwell, Farmers WD
Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange
Contractors
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Matt Garcia
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs WD
Roy Catania, Aliso WD
Steve Stadler, San Luis WD
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region
Wayne Western, Panoche WD

Others Present:

Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
(BMJ)
Anona Dutton, EKI
Sam Cunningham, Provost & Pritchard
(P&P)
Kaitlin Palys, Intera

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

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Others Present via Zoom:

Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District
Christy McKinnon, Northern DM Region
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Jacinta Cabral, Madera County
Stephanie Anagnoson, Madera County
Hugh Bennett, Eagle Field WD

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Joe Hopkins of Aliso Water District called the joint session to order at 9:01am

Closed Session

2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee Members met in closed session at 9:08am 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

3. Report from Closed Session

The committee came out of closed session at 9:38am with no reportable action.

4. Review and Consider Taking Action on Subbasin Well Mitigation Plan Components

Lauren announced that the draft documents are not ready for review at this time. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is still reviewing and making edits. She expects the revised draft documents to be available for the August formation committee meeting. The strike team will continue to meet with the SWRCB to ensure the process keeps moving forward in a positive manner.

JPA Workshop

5. Welcome & Overview of Workshop Items

Lauren welcomed all the attendees to the JPA Workshop and provided an overview of the topics open for discussion.

6. Subbasin Governance Options Memo

Lauren discussed the GSA current agreement with the Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“SLDMWA”) and fiscal responsibilities to date. Discussed ongoing administrative services such as preparation of meeting agendas and minutes and serving as the Plan Manager for the Subbasin and interacting with state agencies on behalf of the Subbasin. The GSAs’ options for a new financial administrative structure was discussed. The GSAs anticipate moving away from current structured agreements. They are currently considering responses to an RFP for administrative support services. Discussed options of the GSAs’ new financial administrative structure, including entering into service contracts. These options will involve the use of the Joint Exercise of Powers. Discussion held relating to feasible options that would be in the best interest for all parties.

7. Draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Lauren announced that a revised document will be sent out this week. She requested that all members take another look at the revised edits and have respective legal counsels review the revised draft. She requested status updates by July 15th at the latest. Executed JPA’s are due between an August – November timeframe. The Joint Exercise of Powers Act governs the formation and administration of joint powers agreements. Under the Act, public agencies may make agreements with other agencies to jointly exercise a power or powers they have in common. This may be done by an agreement to form a separate legal

entity (hereafter, a “joint powers agency” or a “JPA”) or by entering into an agreement to jointly exercise the common power(s). The Act does not grant new powers but merely sets up a new procedure for exercising existing powers by cooperative action.

8. Draft JPA Key Provisions Presentation

Lauren held discussions regarding the revised JPA document that was shared at the workshop. As the discussion unfolded, finances were among the biggest concerns of the members. A set administration of authorized finances needs to be in place before February 2026. It will be designated/stated in the JPA. Any member agencies interested in taking the financial designation role is to let Lauren know prior to the revised JPA going out for signature.

9. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

No public comment was provided.

10. Adjourn

Joe Hopkins of Aliso Water District adjourned the meeting at 10:30am



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

Draft 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, Lohdorff & 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 meter 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.

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
SGMA ACTIVITIES - COORDINATED COST-SHARE AGREEMENT
MARCH 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026
COORDINATED (FUND 63)
ACTIVITY AGREEMENTS BUDGET TO ACTUAL

Report Period 3/1/25 - 06/30/25

EXPENDITURES	Annual Budget	Paid/ Expense	Amount Remaining	% of Amt Remaining	Expenses Through
<u>Legal:</u>					
Baker Manock & Jensen	\$ 70,000	\$ 24,610	\$ 45,390	65%	6/3/25
<u>Other Professional Services:</u>					
GSP Implementation Contracts					
Coordinated Annual Report Activities (Common Chapter, Water Level Contouring)	\$ 149,675	\$ 157,918	\$ (8,243)	-6%	6/30/25
DMS Hosting, Augmentation and Support	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000	100%	
Staff Augmentation Support	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	100%	
DAC Outreach and Coordination	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	100%	
SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 SPA (A9)	\$ 175,015	\$ 16,235	\$ 158,780	91%	6/14/25
Inadequate Determination Response (EKI)	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 55,000	100%	
Interconnected Surface Water	\$ 504,455	\$ -	\$ 504,455	100%	
Domestic Well Mitigation Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	100%	
<u>Other:</u>					
Executive Director	\$ 750		\$ 750	100%	
General Counsel	\$ 1,000	\$ 78	\$ 922	92%	4/4/25
Water Policy Director	\$ 20,000	\$ 9,070	\$ 10,930	55%	6/27/25
In-House Staff	\$ 3,000	\$ 893	\$ 2,107	70%	6/27/25
Conferences & Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	100%	
Travel/Mileage	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	100%	
Group Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	100%	
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	100%	
Equipment and Tools	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	100%	
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,320,895	\$ 208,804	\$ 1,112,091	84%	



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 8

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Appointment of Secretary

Recommendation

Appoint Hallmark Group as Coordination Committee Secretary.

Discussion

The Coordination Committee and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority have been working to transition administrative management and facilitation activities to the Program Manager role. The Memorandum of Agreement Among the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (MOA) states, "SLDMWA agrees to perform the obligations of the Secretary described in this MOA, by delegation to one or more of its employees or to a consultant under contract to the SLDMWA."

It further details that, "The Secretary shall select an appointee (who may be SLDMWA staff or a consultant contracting with SLDMWA) to implement the Secretary's responsibilities under this MOA, for example, to coordinate meetings; prepare agendas; circulate notices and agendas; provide written notice to all Parties that the Coordination Committee has made a recommendation requiring approval by the Parties; prepare and maintain minutes of meetings of the Coordination Committee; receive notices on behalf of the Coordination Committee and call to the Coordination Committee's attention the need for responding; and provide such other assistance in coordination as may be appropriate. The Secretary shall assume primary responsibility for Ralph M. Brown Act compliance, including without limitation, the responsibility to prepare an agenda and notices, publicly post and distribute agendas to all Coordination Committee Representatives and Alternate Representatives, the Parties, and any other person who requests, in writing, such notices. The agenda shall be of adequate detail to inform the public and the Parties of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed and shall be posted in a public location and distributed to each of the Parties to this MOA in compliance with the noticing requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act."

With the onboarding of Hallmark Group as Program Manager, the team has the capability and funding allocated in their agreement to fill the duties of the role.



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 9

FROM: Taylor Blakslee / Jarrett Martin

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommend GSAs Consider Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy

Recommendation

Recommend GSAs Consider Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy.

Discussion

At the July 1, 2025, Special Coordination Committee Board meeting, legal counsel Lauren Layne and Jarrett Martin reported that the Delta-Mendota subbasin has been working with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff to develop a basin-wide domestic well mitigation policy and would be available for review in August. The draft policy is provided as Attachment 1 for the Coordination Committee to consider recommending Groundwater Sustainability Agencies adopt the domestic well mitigation policy.

Delta-Mendota Subbasin
Domestic Well Mitigation Policy

Adopted: _____, 2025

The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin) have historically worked with disadvantaged communities to improve drinking water access. For example, the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors have provided drinking water to the City of Dos Palos for nearly 100 years, because groundwater extracted in Dos Palos has historically been too salty for potable use. Nonetheless, the GSAs realize more must be done to ensure that domestic well users in the Subbasin do not face undesirable impacts from groundwater level depletion during implementation of the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

This Domestic Well Mitigation Policy (Policy) was developed by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee considering recommendations found in the following two public documents: *Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program* (Self Help Enterprises, *et al.*) and *Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts* (CA Dept. of Water Resources).

Policy Purpose

This Policy will consider impacts to domestic wells, as well as water systems that supply water for domestic or residential use to no more than fourteen (14) service connections, using groundwater wells. Individual GSAs within the Subbasin may consider including additional well uses within their jurisdictional boundaries.

The purpose of the Policy is to mitigate the effects that may be felt by domestic water users whose wells have gone dry or are in imminent threat of going dry due to groundwater levels dropping as a result of groundwater management in the Subbasin. Subject to specific conditions, this Policy also addresses mitigation for water quality for domestic well users.

Pursuant to the single Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), Minimum Thresholds (MTs) for lowering of groundwater levels across the Subbasin are set at 2015 seasonal low groundwater levels. This means GSAs in the Subbasin are already committed to maintaining groundwater levels above what was measured in 2015 (“The plan may, but is not required to, address undesirable results that occurred before, and have not been corrected by, January 1, 2015.” (CWC §10727.2(b)(4)). Since implementation of the Subbasin’s original GSPs began in 2020, GSAs in the Subbasin have successfully avoided undesirable results that would occur by water levels dropping below 2015 seasonal lows. This Policy is meant to serve as a last line of defense to protect domestic groundwater users in the unlikely event that the Subbasin GSAs’ efforts fail to maintain those groundwater levels above the MTs.

Data from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and county records indicates that since 2015, counties within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin have received a total of only 37 well replacement applications.¹ However, as DWR notes on its website, their data comes from self-reporting on DWR’s Dry Well Reporting System, and some GSA representatives receive reports of dry wells directly from users. In these cases, groundwater users were responding directly to GSA representatives, because some GSA members (e.g., water districts and/or irrigation districts) have been engaging in well mitigation activities without formal policies or programs in their individual service areas prior to SGMA’s enactment in 2015.

¹ California’s Groundwater Live: Well Infrastructure (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLive/#wells>).

Well replacement applications were identified on the Merced County Environmental Health Department's list of domestic well permits issued for "out of water" or "low water" wells and on Stanislaus County's voluntary well reporting system. The applicable counties reported that there were two well permits identified in the Subbasin portion of Fresno County and zero from the Subbasin portion of Madera County. As mentioned above, it is unknown whether this total number includes any dry wells not reported to DWR.

Merced County permits do not disclose whether or not those reported dry wells were "out of water" due to lowered groundwater levels, collapse or other mechanical failure, or some other reason. Of the 12 well permit applications submitted to the Stanislaus County system for the Subbasin since 2015, four were reported as dry wells, six were either undefined or outage reports, and two were other issues including well casing failure and/or sediment intrusion. Of the two replacement well permit applications for the Fresno County portion of the Subbasin, one was an agricultural production well, not a domestic supply well. There is no indication of the reason for the well replacement requests.

In summary, during the last 10 years, fewer than 40 wells across the nearly 1,200 square miles of the Subbasin have been reported dry or applied for replacement. Though it is known that not all of those were drinking water wells, the exact number of drinking water wells replaced since 2015 is unknown due to a lack of information collected on the replacement well permit applications.

Policy Eligibility

This Policy primarily applies to landowners using groundwater for domestic health and safety supply purposes as of November 19, 2024, the date the revised Subbasin GSP was adopted by all GSAs. Though owners of all types of wells are eligible to file for relief under the Policy, relief is not guaranteed and will be subject to analysis by the applicable GSA where a claim for relief is filed and pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-3-23. Well owners must participate or agree to participate in a GSA's Well Registration Policy/Program to be eligible for mitigation, if such a policy exists or is developed.

This Policy does not apply to wells installed after the date of GSP adoption, if the well(s) is/are installed at a screen interval depth shallower than minimum threshold levels or in areas with known degraded water quality conditions, as designated by the applicable GSA.

Public Outreach

Initial stakeholder outreach was conducted during the development of the Policy and the Subbasin single GSP. The Policy was discussed in open and public meetings of the various GSAs and at open and public meetings of the Coordination Committee. A draft of the Policy was posted to the Subbasin's SGMA website (www.deltamendota.org) as both a separate item and as a part of the draft single GSP. The public was able to submit written comments on the Policy and the single GSP through the website.

This Policy was discussed during public meetings designed to secure input on both the Policy and the single GSP. Both verbal and written comments were accepted at the meetings. The comments received were summarized and published on the Subbasin website. Finally, comments on the Policy, as well as responses from the Subbasin Coordination Committee, were addressed in the adopted single GSP, which contains the Policy.

Discussion of the Policy status and implementation will be placed on the Subbasin Coordination Committee meeting agendas no less than quarterly during GSP implementation. Similarly, the Policy may be placed on each of the Subbasin GSAs' governing bodies' agendas at least semi-annually during the first year of single GSP implementation. The Policy will be available on the Subbasin SGMA website with relevant information such as electronic instructions for filing an application and a form to submit the

application electronically via the website. GSAs may place the Policy on their own websites or have a link on their websites that directs interested persons to the Subbasin SGMA website.

As part of the GSP's Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP; see Chapter 16 of the GSP), the Subbasin Coordination Committee will review current or projected exceedances of the MT for groundwater levels and water quality reported by GSAs, at regularly scheduled Coordination Committee public meetings. In the event a groundwater level reading or a water quality sample for the GSP's constituents of concern (COC) at a representative monitoring well (RMW) exceeds its respective MTs as a result of GSA actions and projects, GSAs may contact well users/owners within an up to three (3)-mile radius of the RMW to alert them of the MT exceedance and provide them with information and resources in the event their well is impacted. Each GSA has developed criteria, a notification method, and protocols to address such situations within its jurisdictional boundaries. However, typical templates for such notices are provided as attachments to this Policy. An up to three (3)-mile radius was selected because it is consistent with the average radius of coverage of each RMW in the Subbasin.

If the RMW is near the jurisdictional boundary between two or more GSAs, the GSA where the well is physically located will notify the adjacent GSA(s) of the potential impact to well owners located in that adjacent GSA's jurisdictional area. The GSAs will cooperate according to the terms of the Adaptive Management Framework in the Subbasin Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on any costs associated with notification.

Any notification provided to well users/owners pursuant to the above will include information on this Policy and how and where to file a claim for mitigation. Other information that may be included and/or requested in the notification will be determined by the individual GSAs.

Plan Area

For a full description of the Subbasin Plan Area, please refer to GSP Chapter 5, which may also be found at www.deltamendota.org.

Well Completion Report (WCR) records compiled by DWR indicate an estimated 2,295 domestic wells, 81 public supply wells, and 514 other production wells are located in the Subbasin as of November 19, 2024. This DWR dataset is known to have limitations, but is accepted as a conservative estimate of the number of wells installed within the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) sections that fall within the Subbasin. Additionally, this Policy recognizes that it is likely that wells included in DWR's WCR data set:

- May not currently be in use;
- Are inaccurately located; and/or
- Have inaccurate well construction and/or destruction information.

Given these assumptions and limitations, for the purposes of this Policy, the Coordination Committee conservatively estimates that there are 2,890 wells in the Subbasin as of November 19, 2024. From 2015 to the end of 2024, there have been only 37 known applications for replacement wells in the Subbasin. The reasons for those well replacement applications (e.g., dewatering from over-pumping, mechanical failure, etc.) are unknown.

Monitoring Network

There are 110 wells in the representative monitoring network for water levels for the Subbasin, which the GSAs use to monitor groundwater levels. Of those, 60 wells are in the upper aquifer and 50 wells are in the lower aquifer. There are 85 wells in the representative monitoring network for water quality for the Subbasin, which the GSAs use to monitor groundwater quality. Of those, 46 wells are in the upper aquifer and 39 wells are in the lower aquifer. Most rural domestic drinking water wells are assumed to be

in the upper aquifer, while most municipal and small water system supply wells are assumed to be in the lower aquifer. Agricultural wells are known to be in both the upper and lower aquifers, with some being “composite” wells (with screen intervals in both the upper and lower aquifers).

The distribution of domestic supply wells across the Subbasin and distribution of the Subbasin’s monitoring network wells provide a suitable framework for evaluating the potential for domestic supply wells to become dewatered due to lowering of groundwater levels or impacted by water quality degradation caused by GSAs’ actions and projects. As previously noted in the “Public Outreach” section of this Policy, the Coordination Committee reviews possible MT exceedances or trends in the representative monitoring network following the requirements of the PRP. This will help GSAs avoid potential dewatering of domestic wells or degrading their water quality beyond MTs within their boundaries as a result of GSA actions and projects.

Using a stochastic predictive modeling process to assess potential well impacts and current MT (2015 water levels) exceedances at 25% of representative monitoring wells, the Subbasin could potentially experience 28 total “production” wells dewatered. That leads to an estimated average of three drinking water wells per year *across the Subbasin* during implementation of the GSP through 2040. This estimation supports the approximate current number of replacement well permit applications identified in records from the counties in the Subbasin.

Well Mitigation Process – Water Levels

GSAs will conduct public education and outreach to notify landowners as to how and where to file an application for assistance, and the information that the GSA will require to evaluate the mitigation application. Copies of the application form will be included with education and outreach materials.

Upon receiving a completed application, the receiving GSA, or its representative, will conduct a preliminary review of the application to determine completeness. The applicant will be notified within twenty-four (24) hours, and the GSA will subsequently document such notification, if the application is complete or if there is any further information needed to evaluate the application. If deemed complete and appearing to meet all the requirements to receive assistance, the receiving GSA will provide a short-term emergency water supply to domestic well users as soon as reasonably possible, and will make all reasonable efforts to do so within twenty-four (24) hours of submission of a complete application. Short-term emergency water supplies shall consist of the delivery of bottled water and, after a site investigation, the delivery and installation of water tanks on a case-by-case basis at the GSA’s discretion; all reasonable efforts made to provide tanked water within seventy-two (72) hours. The GSAs also commit to working with Self Help Enterprises, Valley Water Collaborative, or similar entities, to assist with the feasibility of providing water tanks.

The short-term emergency water supply will be provided by the GSA at the location of the de-watered well. The GSA in which the well is located will be responsible for providing the short-term emergency water supply and the costs for the investigation. However, if it is determined that over-pumping is the result of another GSA, the GSAs will follow the Adaptive Management Framework process regarding cost sharing (Delta-Mendota Subbasin MOA, Article VII, Article X, Article XIII, and/or Exhibit “C”).

The GSA(s) may develop a professional well assessment report including, but not limited to: age of the well; well construction information (including pump depth, screening intervals, and pipe type [material]) and thickness; well maintenance information; indication of past well performance and any recent performance changes; any recent changes in well use or related land use; and, other additional information as necessary to determine if the failure is caused by declining water levels and/or GSA projects or groundwater management actions.

The GSA's preliminary review of a well mitigation application will consist of all of the following:

- A review of well construction information,
- A review of well and pump maintenance records,
- A review of historic water level data for nearby representative monitoring network wells,
- A review of nearby known production well information,
- A review of nearby land use and any recent land use changes, and/or
- An analysis of nearby conjunctive use activity (if known).

If the nearest representative monitoring network well does not represent water level data that can be used as evidence for consideration of the applicant's claim, a GSA may review additional data from other wells in the monitoring network, or supplemental data from DWR and/or local agencies to support the preliminary review analysis.

If, after completion of the preliminary review, a GSA determines a well is eligible for mitigation, the GSA will measure water levels in the applicant's well and in representative monitoring wells in the area, and will perform a field investigation. To be eligible for mitigation assistance, the applicant must consent to the field investigation/inspection and execute an appropriate release with the GSA. Failure to consent to the field investigation/inspection and/or execute an appropriate release voids the application for mitigation. The field investigation may include, but is not limited to:

- Removing a pump to measure intake depth, well bottom, and static water level,
- Conducting a video log,
- Modifying the wellhead to measure static and pumping level,
- Investigating the site for consolidation feasibility, and/or
- Investigating nearby land and water use.

The field investigation may show the well as ineligible for mitigation. Such criteria indicating ineligibility include, but are not limited to:

- Pump failure,
- Clogged screens,
- Well pipe and/or casing failure or collapse which are unrelated to lowering groundwater levels or other potential GSA actions,
- Other maintenance-related well or pump issues which are unrelated to lowering of groundwater levels or other potential GSA actions, or
- Normal wear and tear based on the age of the well.

The GSA will notify the applicant if the well is ineligible for mitigation and subsequently document such notification. This finding will also be included in the Subbasin's Annual Report.

If the applicant desires to appeal the results of the GSA's investigation, the applicant may do so in writing to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee. The Coordination Committee shall create an ad hoc committee of no more than three members to review the GSA's written investigation, obtain additional data if necessary, and either (a) confirm the findings of the GSA, (b) provide guidance to the GSA and request further review by the GSA, or (c) propose to the Coordination Committee that it adopts its own findings. If the Coordination Committee chooses to adopt its own findings and recommendations, those shall be binding upon the GSA, to the extent allowed by the Memorandum of Agreement.

If, after the field investigation, a GSA determines a well is eligible for mitigation, the GSA will work with the well owner/landowner on a solution appropriate for the site (each, a "Mitigation Measure"). Such Mitigation Measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lowering the well pump or otherwise modifying pump equipment,
- Deepening the well if the existing well has an open bottom,
- Installing a new well,
- Assisting landowner with facilitating a connection to an existing municipal or community water system or other water supply, if feasible, or
- Other appropriate mitigation as may be agreed to by both parties.

If the applicant disagrees with the proposed Mitigation Measure(s), a technically qualified third party agreed to by the GSA and applicant may facilitate and recommend a mutually agreeable Mitigation Measure(s). The GSA has the right to identify which Mitigation Measure(s) is optimal on a case-by-case basis. The technically qualified third party's role is to provide a recommendation. The appropriate GSA Board and/or Manager shall approve the application before any well mitigation (other than provision of emergency drinking water) begins.

The applicant must sign a Mitigation and Indemnification (MI) Agreement prior to the GSA commencing the Mitigation Measure. Terms of the MI Agreement will depend on the nature of the Mitigation Measure provided. New wells will be required to meet state and county well drilling standards and comply with Executive Order N-3-23. In order to be eligible for mitigation from a GSA, the MI agreement may stipulate minimum criteria in addition to state and county requirements for new wells as they apply to GSA review and the opinion granted under EO N-3-23. Criteria may include well construction materials, minimum depth beyond 2015 seasonal low groundwater level measurements, and/or screening interval levels, among other potential criteria.

At its discretion and in the event a new well is installed as mitigation for a failed well, the GSA may choose to convert the abandoned well into a monitoring well. Such provision(s) may be included in the MI Agreement and agreed to by both parties. In such a case, the MI Agreement shall grant access by the property owner to the GSA for the monitoring well for SGMA data gathering and compliance activities, and ownership of the abandoned and converted monitoring well will revert to the GSA. Terms and conditions for access to the monitoring well may be negotiated between the GSA and the well's former owner.

If the well will be abandoned as part of a Mitigation Measure agreed to by the GSA and will not be converted to a monitoring well under SGMA, the cost for sealing/destroying the well shall be borne by the GSA as part of the Mitigation Measure.

Water Quality Mitigation

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin is known to have widespread degraded water quality due to naturally occurring conditions (i.e., geology). As such, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs have identified six COCs for consideration in the Basin's GSP development and implementation: Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Nitrate, Gross Alpha, Chromium VI, Arsenic, and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP).

The GSAs have identified the following conditions under which domestic well mitigation for water quality and related actions will occur.

- *Condition 1.* If groundwater levels remain above the MTs, which are set at 2015 levels, then additional water quality mitigation beyond what is currently committed to in the GSA's respective PRPs is not required, except pursuant to Condition 2.
- *Condition 2.* If a GSA's implementation of Projects or Management Actions (P/MAs) to achieve sustainability causes water quality degradation beyond the water quality MTs at a domestic well for Nitrate, Gross Alpha, Chromium VI, Arsenic, or 1,2,3-TCP (as determined based on the monitoring and management processes laid out in the applicable PRP and the Basin MOA), then

the GSAs will mitigate the impacted domestic well. Impacts from TDS will be addressed through the complementary CV-Salts program, as detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding with Valley Water Collaborative (VWC MOU).

- *Condition 3.* If groundwater levels decline below the MTs, which are set at 2015 levels, and this causes water quality degradation beyond the water quality MT at a domestic well for Gross Alpha, Chromium VI, Arsenic, or 1,2,3-TCP (as determined based on the monitoring and management processes laid out in the applicable PRP and Basin MOA), then the GSAs will mitigate the impacted domestic well. Impacts from Nitrate and TDS will be addressed through the complementary CV-Salts program, as detailed in the VWC MOU.
- *Condition 4.* If groundwater levels remain above MTs, which are set at 2015 levels, the GSAs will continue to implement the PRPs which include monitoring, management and mitigation commitments, including evaluation of water level and water quality trends to proactively address and avoid water quality impacts to domestic wells from GSA P/MAs.

The application, review, and field investigation process for water quality mitigation shall follow the same procedures established in the Well Mitigation Policy for water levels, including submission requirements, field access and consent, investigation protocols, eligibility criteria, and documentation of findings. GSAs retain the authority to conduct technical investigations consistent with their jurisdictional responsibilities and to determine eligibility for water quality mitigation in accordance with this Policy.

Any short-term or emergency water supply associated with a water quality impact will be provided in accordance with the timelines and procedures outlined in the Well Mitigation Policy for Water Levels. The right to appeal, the formation and function of an ad hoc committee by the Coordination Committee, and the process for binding decisions shall also apply to water quality mitigation determinations.

Pursuant to the PRPs and the Basin MOA, technical analysis regarding causality will be conducted on behalf of the GSA by a qualified technical professional using statistical and/or field verification and/or modeling approaches. Findings will be presented to the Coordination Committee (or designated sub-committee) for review and concurrence.

If the findings of the technical analysis determine that the water quality impacts in a domestic well were caused by GSA P/MAs, the applicable GSA will fund a total not to exceed cost of \$2,500 per impacted domestic well for the installation of a point-of-use reverse osmosis system and up to three (3) years of filter replacements, or other mutually agreed alternative including but not limited to providing bottled water or connection to another existing water system, pursuant to the MI Agreement described above. The applicant must sign a MI Agreement prior to the GSA commencing the Mitigation Measure. The current Well Mitigation Fund (which requires replenishment of any used funds) will also be used to support such water quality mitigation.

GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin desire to mitigate/compensate for legitimate impacts resulting from GSA management actions failing to maintain water levels at or above 2015 seasonal lows. As noted in the “Plan Area” section of this Policy, a total of only 37 replacement well applications were received by counties in the Subbasin since 2015. However, it is unknown how many of those wells, if any, were dewatered due to the groundwater levels falling below 2015 seasonal low levels, or how many of those are wells for domestic use.

Individual GSAs will fund the mitigation of wells within their boundaries upon determining whether Mitigation Measures pursuant to this Policy are appropriate and justified as detailed in the “Well Mitigation Process” section. In some cases, where historical wells are impacted, adjustments may be made for equipment depreciation. All costs to mitigate claimed impacts at a well site will be initially allocated to the applicable GSA where the well is located.

In the event of interbasin or intra-basin disagreements for determining responsibility for dewatering of a domestic well, Subbasin GSAs shall follow the Adaptive Management Framework processes as outlined in the executed MOA, including Article VII, Article X, Article XIII, and/or Exhibit C therein.

Though the stochastic predictive modeling indicates no more than three domestic wells in the Subbasin will be dewatered annually due to groundwater management activities, GSAs in the Subbasin will establish a common financial account sufficient to annually mitigate ten (10) domestic wells. A limit of ten (10) wells annually was selected because it reflects the undesirable result for lowering of groundwater levels in the GSP.

Not all GSAs in the Subbasin have domestic wells located within their jurisdictional areas. However, the seven GSA groups that are represented on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee agree to equally fund a common account to a total of \$300,000.² Costs to fund this reasonably prudent reserve will be split based on Coordination Committee costs identified in the MOA and will be funded over three (3) years (i.e. \$100,000 per year, until the fund reaches \$300,000). Funds from the common financial account may be used only for approved Mitigation Measure costs. GSAs receiving funds will be required to repay the total amount withdrawn.

Subject to the provisions in the previous section (Well Mitigation Process), individual GSAs will be responsible for all other costs for implementing this Policy, including but not limited to: preliminary review, a professional well assessment report, a field investigation, and/or emergency water supply expenses. Specific escrow instructions for use of the common account will be developed.

Other Resources

If an application requires immediate action, qualifies only for partial mitigation, or receives no mitigation by a GSA, there are other programs that may assist well owners, especially for rural domestic/*de minimus* wells.

- Self Help Enterprises has a water sustainability program that includes tank water access, domestic well repair or replacement, and water system connections. Their services are free, based on income eligibility and other qualifications. They may be contacted at 1-559-802-1865 or visit their website at <https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services/water-sustainability/>.
- California's Office of Emergency Services recommends residents contact their County Office of Emergency Services to begin the process of seeking assistance with drinking water wells that go dry.
- The State Water Resources Control Board manages the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. The SAFER Program provides assistance with interim drinking water supplies, emergency repairs, technical assistance, administrators, planning, operations and maintenance and construction projects via various funding sources.
- Additionally, the GSAs in the Subbasin will commit to working with the existing coalitions and drainage authorities who provide support to domestic well owners whose wells are negatively impacted by water quality degradation.

Summary

This Well Mitigation Policy formalizes a process that landowners and GSAs in the Subbasin have voluntarily subscribed to, in some cases for over 100 years. GSA members do not want the wells of their

² Recent (5/2/2024) cost estimates for domestic well replacement vary from a low of less than \$15,000/well up to \$30,000/well.

constituents, employees, neighbors, friends, and families to go dry or otherwise be impacted. That is why GSAs in the Subbasin are committed to keeping groundwater levels above 2015 historic low levels.

This Policy describes the process well owners can follow to apply for mitigation/assistance if their wells go dry or have water quality impacts due to projects or groundwater management actions of the GSAs under SGMA. It specifies the process GSAs across the Subbasin may follow if there are indications that a representative monitoring well is nearing MTs, and the process GSAs and well owners will follow in the event a drinking water well goes dry or has a water quality impact for specific COCs.

As previously noted, since 2015, only 37 replacement well applications were received across the Subbasin. County records do not indicate whether wells were replaced due to groundwater levels falling or for other reasons. GSAs in the Subbasin are committed to eliminating the need for this Policy by maintaining groundwater levels above 2015 thresholds and managing the Subbasin's groundwater sustainably.

Domestic well owners are encouraged to be aware of information on local groundwater conditions as provided by local GSAs and the State of California. In particular, DWR has a website dedicated to keeping domestic well owners informed about resources needed to maintain and protect domestic water supply. This includes information about well maintenance and other assistance via DWR's "Be Well Prepared" website, which can be found at the following link: [Be Well Prepared \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/be-well-prepared/).

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee shall review this Policy at least every five (5) years.

Additional Resources For Domestic and Small Community Well Users

The following programs are not administered by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies but support domestic and/or small community well users impacted by declining groundwater levels or degraded water quality in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

1. Report Dry Wells to DWR (<https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/>)

If you are experiencing issues with your well drying up, you can report them to DWR. Participating local agencies will also be notified.

2. Valley Water Collaborative (<https://valleywaterc.org/>)

Valley Water Collaborative (VWC) is a non-profit organization in the Central Valley that promotes access to clean drinking water. VWC offers free testing of private drinking water wells and provides free replacement water if the well has nitrates above the State drinking water limit (10 mg/L). Domestic well users who are low-income or in a disadvantaged community may also receive replacement water if the well has arsenic, 1,2,3-TCP, DBCP, EDB, perchlorate, chromium, or uranium over the State drinking water limit.

3. Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) Safe Drinking Water Program

(<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/community-development/safe-drinking-water/>)

SHE administers several programs, including well testing, bottled water provision, implementation of Point-of-use/Point-of-entry (POU/POE) treatment systems for income-qualifying households or small community systems not meeting drinking water standards, and long-term solutions such as well repairs or replacements or system connections.

4. Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) Urgent Drinking Water Needs Program

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/urgent_water_needs.html)

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) uses CAA funds to assist entities such as public agencies, tribal governments, not-for-profit organizations serving disadvantaged communities (DACs), and community water systems serving DACs, with addressing urgent drinking water needs. Projects eligible for funding include interim water supplies, emergency improvements or repairs to existing systems, and certain construction projects needed to provide domestic water.

5. Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program

(<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/>)

The SAFER Program provides assistance with interim drinking water supplies, emergency repairs, technical assistance, administrators, planning, operations and maintenance and construction projects via various funding sources. Information and data from the most recent Drinking Water Needs Assessment related to at-risk small water systems and domestic wells is also available.

6. Individual Well Program – Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

(<https://www.rcac.org/environmental/individual-well-program/>)

The RCAC supports private well owners and small water systems with education, funding assistance, and programs for improving well infrastructure and water management. The program includes training and workshops and assists entities with securing funding and repair assistance for their wells.



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 10

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group / Jarrett Martin

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Direction to Submit a Letter to DWR Requesting Prop 4 Grant Funds are Awarded In Advance of Fiscal Year 2027-2028

Recommendation

Committee direction requested.

Discussion

Proposition 4 passed on November 5, 2024 and authorizes \$10 billion in bonds to fund environmental projects, including approximately \$2 billion for drinking water protection, flood control, and water infrastructure improvements.

Recently, it has been communicated that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is considering delaying Proposition 4 funding awards until fiscal year 2027-2028. On July 15, 2025, the San Joaquin Valley – Kings Subbasin submitted a letter to DWR requesting that funding awards be expedited which is provided as Attachment 1.

Staff is requesting feedback from the Coordination Committee whether it would also like to submit a comment letter regarding expediting funding awards.

If the Committee directs staff to do this, the letter should identify specific projects or needs justifying accelerated funding and emphasize the region's vulnerability to climate impacts and the economic and social costs of delayed action.

Prop 4 Funding Categories:

- Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience: ~\$2 billion for projects enhancing drinking water access, flood control, and water infrastructure, including groundwater recharge, water treatment facilities, and stormwater capture.
- Wildfire and Forest Resilience: ~\$1.5 billion for wildfire prevention, forest restoration, and ecosystem management to reduce fire risks and improve forest health.
- Coastal Resilience: ~\$1.3 billion for projects protecting coastal communities from sea level rise, erosion, and flooding, including beach restoration and wetland preservation.

- Clean Energy and Air Quality: ~\$1.2 billion for clean energy projects, air quality improvements, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as renewable energy infrastructure and zero-emission vehicle programs.
- Habitat and Biodiversity Protection: ~\$1.2 billion for conserving wildlife habitats, protecting endangered species, and restoring ecosystems like rivers and wetlands.
- Sustainable Agriculture and Land Preservation: ~\$850 million to support climate-smart agriculture, farmland preservation, and soil health initiatives.
- Parks and Outdoor Access: ~\$1 billion for creating and maintaining state and local parks, improving recreational access, and supporting urban green spaces, with a focus on underserved communities.
- Extreme Heat Mitigation: ~\$450 million for urban cooling projects, such as tree planting, reflective surfaces, and community cooling centers.



July 15, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Karla Nemeth, Director
 Department of Water Resources
 Post Office Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Proposition 4 Funding for SGMA Implementation Projects

Dear Director Nemeth:

This letter is sent on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley - Kings Subbasin (Bulletin 118 # 5-022.08) ("Kings Subbasin") Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") regarding the \$386M designated under Proposition 4 for groundwater activities. Our understanding is that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) may not actually award the funding until fiscal year 2027-28 following a lengthy stakeholder input and solicitation process. The Kings Subbasin GSAs request DWR expedite the schedule to release this funding much sooner and allow additional projects to be completed.

We understand you are planning a public input process, which we encourage, but would ask that it be expedited in order to enable the funding to be committed and agreements in place no later than fiscal year 2026-27. The Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), including their projects and management action lists, have gone through a public outreach and comment process, helping the GSAs set their priorities and timelines for implementation. The GSAs throughout the State are implementing those projects and priorities, and the funding assistance that the voters approved will provide significant help with implementation. Within the Kings Basin alone, there are more than 300 acres of land planned for recharge basins that have already been purchased, CEQA documentation completed and ready for construction. Other programs within the State with funding from Proposition 4 are scheduling quicker solicitation and award processes. Moving quickly with the groundwater related funding is responsive to the voters, will help GSAs and project proponents throughout the State progress toward sustainability, and will have recharge and conjunctive use projects completed sooner and ready for the next wet year.

The ability to capture and recharge water during these wet years is critical to the successful implementation of SGMA and reaching sustainability. The Kings Subbasin has demonstrated an ability to get recharge projects completed within a short period of time, typically under 2 years, which allows for project benefits to be realized much quicker. The 300 acres that are ready for future recharge projects will add an anticipated average annual benefit of about 15,000 acre-feet in

Karla Nemeth
July 15, 2025
Page 2

wet years. From the time the grant is awarded, it is expected completion of these projects could be as soon as 1.5 to 2 years. The Kings Subbasin stands ready to work with DWR to put the Proposition 4 monies to work.

Thank you for your consideration.

CENTRAL KINGS GSA

By: Phillip M. Desautels
Name: Phil Desautels
Title: General Manager

JAMES GSA

By: Manny Amador
Name: Manny Amador
Title: Gen. Mgr.

KINGS RIVER EAST GSA

By: Chad Wegley
Name: Chad Wegley
Title: General Manager

MCMULLIN AREA GSA

By: Matthew H. Hurley
Name: MATTHEW H. HURLEY
Title: G.M.

NORTH FORK KINGS GSA

By: Justin Mendes
Name: Justin Mendes
Title: GM

NORTH KINGS GSA

By: Kassy D. Chauhan
Name: Kassy D. Chauhan
Title: Executive Officer

SOUTH KINGS GSA

By: Josh Rogers
Name: JOSH ROGERS
Title: GSA REPRESENTATIVE

cc via email: Paul Gosselin, Department of Water Resources
Keith Wallace, Department of Water Resources



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 11

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Program Management Report

Recommendation

None; information only.

Discussion

Provided as Attachment 1 is an update on the following items:

- a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items
- b. Budget Development
- c. Schedule of Key Milestones

11. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Taylor Blakslee

Accomplishments & Completed Actions

- ✓ EKI provided water fill stations location interactive map to SWRCB ahead of July 22, 2025 meeting.
- ✓ Draft JPA Agreement GSA comments received.
- ✓ Potential subsidence network coordinated with Fresno County.
- ✓ General groundwater level monitoring reminders included in packet.
- ✓ Local Project Sponsors provided project completion report template.
- ✓ Comment letters included in packet.
- ✓ Finalized Tasking Matrix with Ad Hoc Meeting to inform procurement needs for RFP development.

11. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Taylor Blakslee

Meeting	Task	Owner	Status
May	Coordinated w Houston on DMS improvement pricing.	L. Dumas	Pricing received, direction needed at 8/11 CC meeting.
July 14	Confirm subsidence station reimbursement by the grant.	L. Dumas	AM4 signed 7/14. Remaining funds to be discussed at 8/11 CC meeting.
July 14	A. Ramirez to coordinate with J. Hopkins on subsidence monitoring locations.	A. Ramirez	In progress.
July 14	Follow up on projected 2026 Q1 completion of Comp 7.	T. Blakslee	In progress.
July 14	EKI to facilitate Data Management System (DMS) integration into dashboard.	A. Dutton	Information connected, last stages for implementation are underway, anticipated to be finalized in August.
July 14	Follow-up on 8 unreported wells.	T. Blakslee	In progress.

11. Budget Development

Taylor Blakslee

October Draft budget to Delta-Mendota Subbasin committees for feedback.

November Committee budget recommendation to SLDMWA

December SLDMWA present all activity budgets to Water Resources Committee.

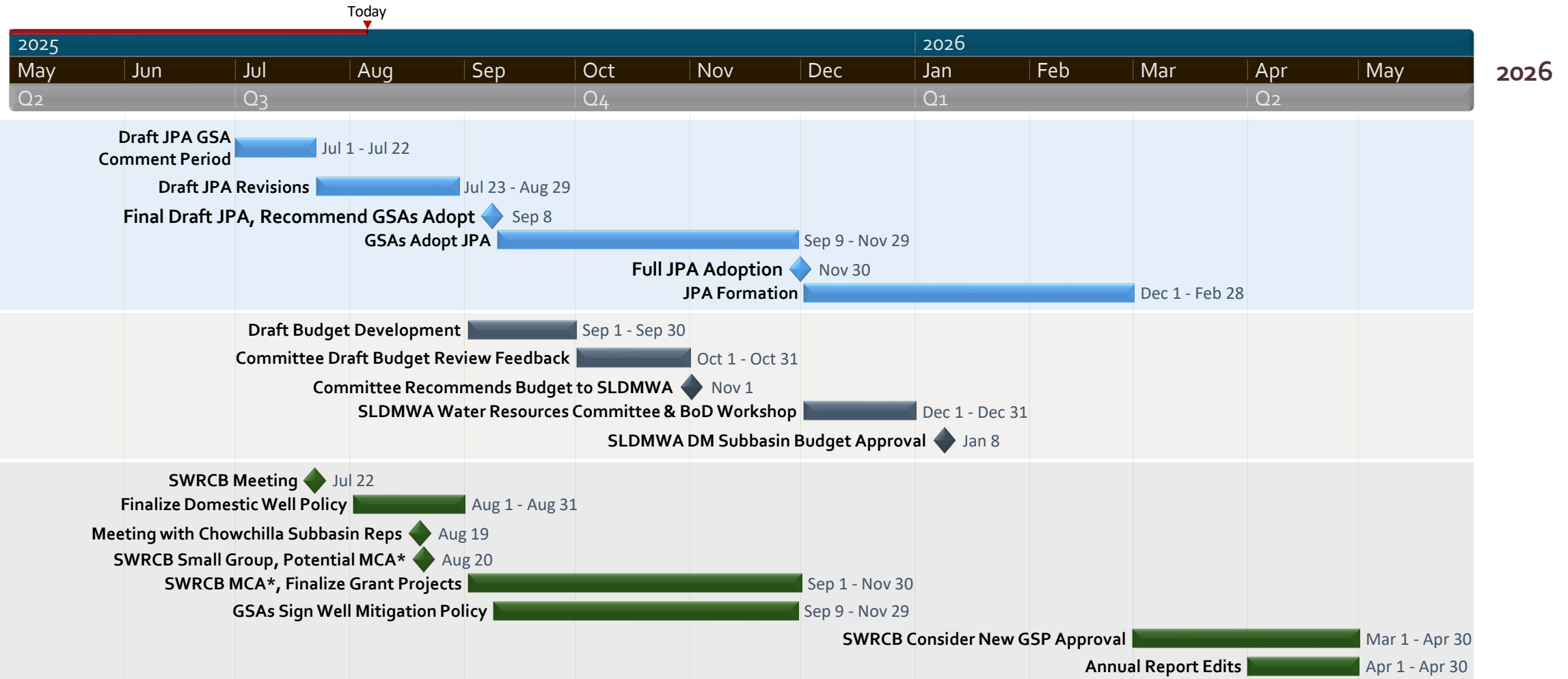
SLDMWA Board - Public Workshop.

January SLDMWA budget for approval at SLDMWA

Consider appointment of **FY 26 Budget Ad Hoc** to expedite budget development.

11. Delta-Mendota Coordination Committee of Schedule of Key Milestones³⁹

Taylor Blakslee



*Minor Corrective Action (MCA)



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 12

FROM: Anona Dutton / Amir Mani, EKI

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on DWR SGMA Subsidence Draft Best Management Practices

Recommendation

Committee direction requested.

Discussion

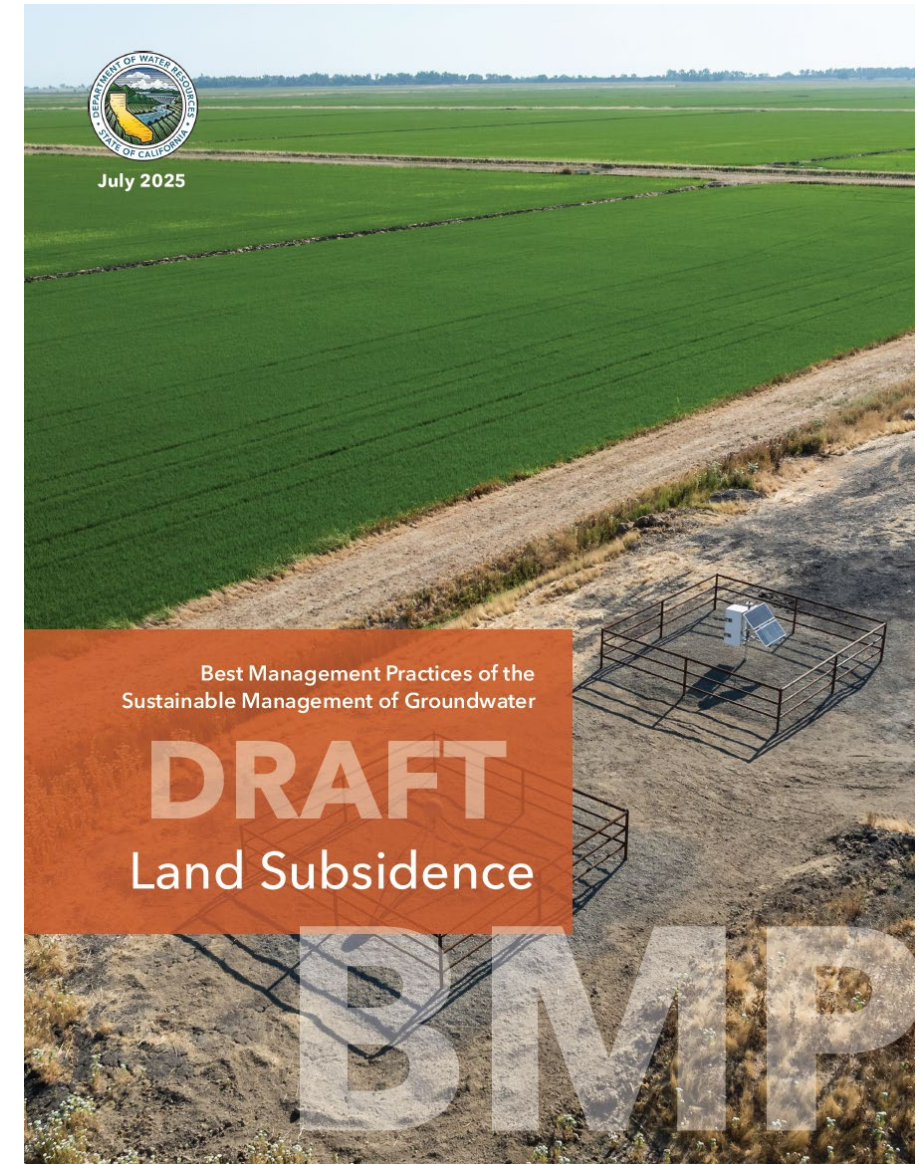
On July 24, 2025 the California Department of Water Resources released its [*Draft Best Management Practices on Managing Land Subsidence in California*](#) (BMP) for public comment, to help local water agencies address land subsidence, support groundwater reliant communities, and help meet objectives set by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to avoid or minimize current and future impacts of subsidence.

On overview of the draft BMPs and a recommendation to provide comments on the draft is provided as Attachment 1.

DRAFT SUBSIDENCE BMP

DWR DRAFT LAND SUBSIDENCE BMP

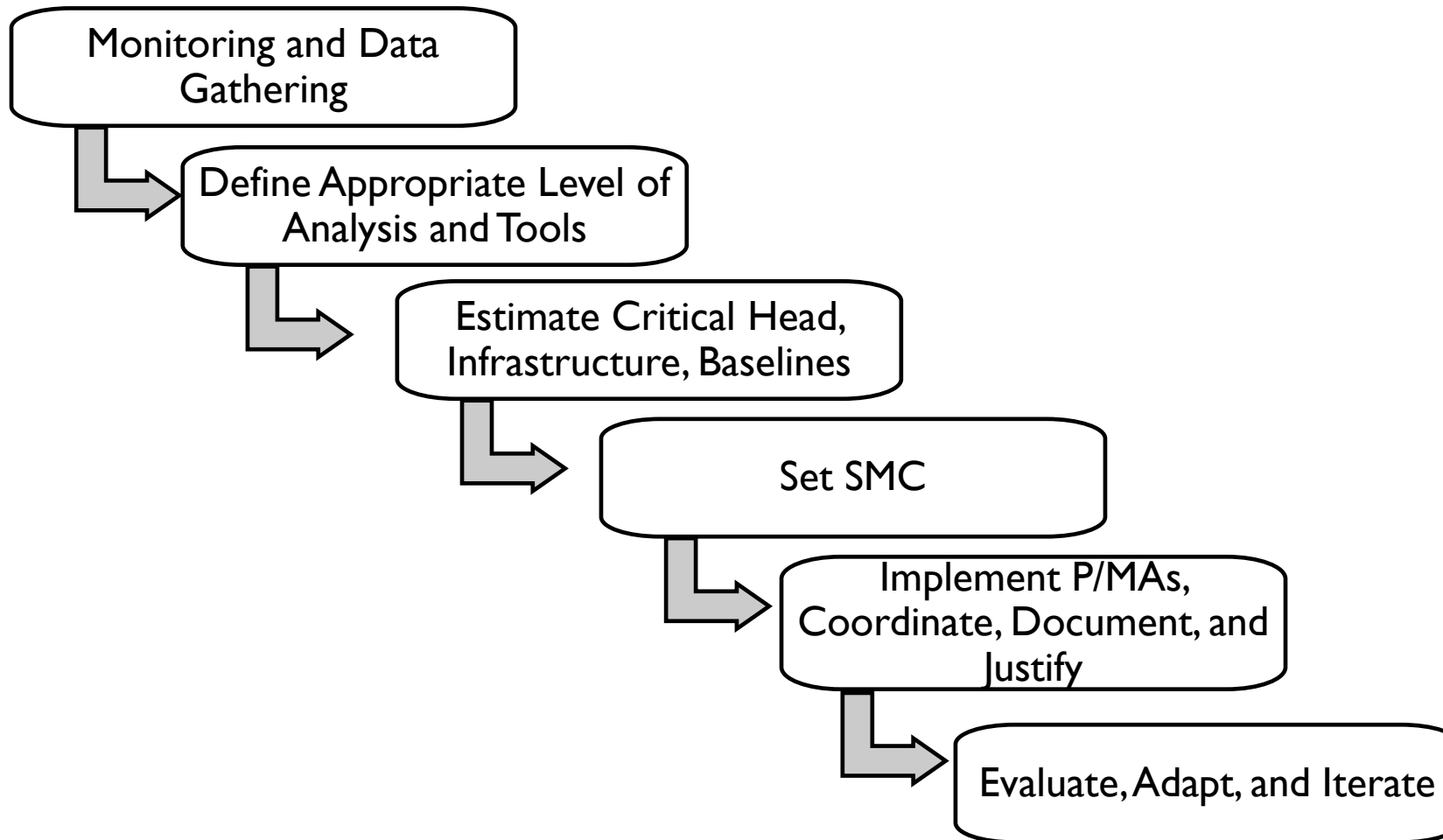
- Released 24 July 2025
- Public comment period ends 22 Sept. 2025
- Includes recommendations for monitoring, estimating critical head, and setting SMCs
- The BMP also sets expectations for how subsidence SMCs, infrastructure protection, and subsidence response will be evaluated by DWR in future plan reviews



KEY PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE BMP

- Monitoring is the backbone, but it is not just about subsidence measurements
 - *GWs and Pumping (metering) monitoring are emphasized*
- GSAs have broad authority under SGMA, and they should use it
 - *Well registration, metering, and permitting (with Counties)*
 - *Adopt rules and regulations managing pumping*
- Reference point is critical heads not lowest GWs
 - *Infrastructure coordination is mandatory*
 - *Modeling is not an optional analysis anymore if subsidence is a significant consideration*
- GSAs need to prevent substantial additional impact to land uses and infrastructure through revised SMC and update P/MAs; GSAs/pumpers may need to pay to mitigate otherwise
 - *Principle: “Raise GWs above critical head as high and as rapidly as possible.”*
 - *GSA Managers should “weigh the risk of future subsidence, and the potential revenue associated with that groundwater pumping, with the potential costs to repair infrastructure impacted by subsidence”*
 - *BMP cites a judgment indicating that entities may be held liable for damages caused by subsidence*

ENVISIONED SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS



Regional Subsidence Management

- BMP acknowledges regional impacts on subsidence and GWLs
- Notes obligation under SMGA to coordinate with neighboring subbasins
 - Encourages documentation such as memoranda of understanding, legal contracts, interbasin agreements, or other forms of cooperation
- Lacks detailed guideline on resolving significant differences and may be an area for Basin to comment and request additional guidance

IMPLICATIONS FOR DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN

- The GSP / GSAs are already complying with most of the outlined best practices (see checklist on slide 12)
 - *Key points of alignment are MTs at 2015, use of a model, and SMCs and monitoring across the entire Basin*
- Some of the key points of the BMP related to risks of allowing MTs to go below historical lows (or critical heads) helps our case with points we have made on adjacent basins' MTs (e.g., Chowchilla and Westlands)
- Potential remaining vulnerabilities remain related to:
 - *Coordination with entities responsible for managing critical infrastructure*
 - *Actually doing everything that was committed to in GSPs and PRPs; DWR will review GSP after SWRCB Exit and at 5-year evaluations*
 - *Being able to effectively demonstrate that some the observed subsidence is due to non-Basin causes*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase GWL monitoring frequency to monthly wherever possible, especially in subsidence-prone areas
- Build on and enhance the performed technical analysis
 - Extend and improve subsidence modeling, including analysis of zonal critical heads
 - Improve subsidence simulation and regional impacts on local GWLs and subsidence as committed in the GSP
- Continue engagement with neighboring basins and managers/operators of key infrastructure
- Provide comments on the BMP, specifically requesting additional guidance on regional subsidence and coordination of SMC → Public comments are due Sep 22, 2025

BMP Compliance Checklist			47
Proposed BMP	Approach used in GSP / Actions Taken	Alignment	
Monitor and use all available subsidence data/stations	GSP uses all subsidence data and SMC is based on both InSAR and station data		
High frequency GWL monitoring, well registration and well metering	GSP requires quarterly monitoring or more frequent, PRP may require monthly GWLs and requires registration and metering		
SMC are defined anywhere in the Basin	Subsidence SMC are defined at any point in the Basin		
Model subsidence, assess critical heads, and project subsidence on critical infrastructure	Integrated modeling including subsidence simulation using approved model (CVHM2); commitment to improve and apply		
Catalogue infrastructure vulnerable to subsidence	GSP focuses on DMC and CA Aqueduct		
SMC to be coordinated with infrastructure entities and incorporate specific tolerances	Engagement during GSP development and public comments periods; on-going coordination post-adoption		
SMC is not based on GWLs but maintains GWLs above historical levels	Subsidence SMC are not based on GWLs, GWL SMC are based on 2015 WLs		
Prevent onset of new subsidence and avoid additional subsidence	GWLs maintained above 2015 WLs, PRP intends to prevent GWL declines below 2015 levels and prevent significant additional subsidence		
P/MAs specific to subsidence mitigation are developed and implemented	Demand management and supply augmentation projects are defined and being implemented including PRP		
Coordinate with neighboring basins on regional subsidence	Ongoing, planned in the GSP, and comment letters provided to neighboring basins		

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- *“Although the BMP references and discusses provisions and concepts from SGMA and the GSP Regulations, it does not create new requirements or obligations for the GSAs or other interested parties and is not a substitute for compliance with SGMA and the GSP Regulations.”*
- *“While the dominant mechanism resulting in land subsidence is related to groundwater withdrawals, subsidence can also result from oil and gas operations (extraction of water and oil), tectonic and volcanic activity, hydrocompaction of historically dry sediment that becomes saturated, the elastic loading of the Earth’s crust due to mass changes, thawing of permafrost, and oxidation of organic matter such as peat soil.^{2,3} This Subsidence BMP focuses on the management of compaction due to declines in groundwater levels.”*

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- “Historical modeling studies and recent one-dimensional (1D) compaction models show that delayed compaction of clay layers, and consequent residual subsidence, can occur over decades to centuries.”
- “When identifying infrastructure, groundwater managers should assess specific impact criteria that may limit functionality or performance, including: Physical damage; Perturbation of designed operating conditions; Increased maintenance due to reduced operational flexibility; Reduced capacity to convey water or control flooding; Broader impacts to the basin or other basins reliant upon that infrastructure”
- “The reality is that many groundwater managers, who are required to manage a basin for various beneficial users and uses, may not be able to immediately manage to avoid or minimize subsidence. These managers should weigh the risk of future subsidence, and the potential revenue associated with that groundwater pumping, with the potential costs to repair infrastructure impacted by subsidence. As explained in this BMP, the actual cost-benefit analysis of achieving sustainability—when all factors are considered—is not simple and can reveal that it is in the long-term interests of a basin to achieve sustainable groundwater management, which includes addressing subsidence.”

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- “Groundwater managers have the ability to limit future subsidence based on how they choose to manage groundwater levels.”
- “Each time repairs are made to infrastructure, should land subsidence in that area continue, there is a risk that the repairs themselves will become stranded or ineffective, and even more additional costs must be expended on yet more repairs. The key to minimizing damage and costs associated with land subsidence is managing the basin to avoid or minimize land subsidence, not simply repairing the damage without addressing the root cause.”
- “Although general public funds and specific infrastructure owners and their ratepayers have in the past paid to repair damage caused by subsidence, under California law, groundwater pumpers may also be liable for damages caused by subsidence from their groundwater pumping. For example, in *Los Osos Valley Associates v. City of San Luis Obispo* (1994) 30 Cal.App.4th 1670, the owner of a shopping mall sued the city for structural damage caused by subsidence from the city’s increased groundwater pumping during a drought. The court announced: “The rule, as it pertains to subterranean water, is stated in the Restatement Second of Torts section 818: ‘One who is privileged to withdraw subterranean water, oil, minerals, or other substances from under the land of another is not for that reason privileged to cause a subsidence of the other’s land by the withdrawal.’” Accordingly, the court held that “the City may not ... avoid compensation for the physical destruction of [plaintiffs’] buildings due to its groundwater pumping operations,” and affirmed that the city was liable for physical damage to the buildings owned by plaintiff. The potential for liability should further incentivize efforts to avoid or minimize subsidence in basins where costly infrastructure damage or other risks could occur.”

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- *“GSAs must evaluate the amount of subsidence and groundwater level decline that has recently occurred in a basin and continuously evaluate whether the sustainable management criteria for groundwater levels will avoid causing undesirable results for land subsidence. If it is determined that management criteria for groundwater levels may lead to undesirable results for land subsidence, this indicates the Plan may not reach sustainability for the basin and the sustainable management criteria should be updated.”*
- *“Each GSP that has proposed to lower groundwater levels below recent low levels should establish undesirable results and provide clear qualitative and quantitative definitions.”*
- *“The best practices for establishing minimum thresholds for subsidence reflect the intent of SGMA to avoid or minimize subsidence.”*
- *If substantial interference has already occurred to land uses from subsidence, ... The GSA should then set the minimum threshold as the amount of additional subsidence that does not cause further substantial interference with land uses that the **GSA cannot pay to mitigate.**”*

QUESTIONS





TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 14

FROM: Lisa Beutler, Stantec

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on Status of Meetings with Adjoining Subbasins Regarding Comment Letters on
Periodic Evaluations

Recommendation

None; information only.

Discussion

An overview of the interbasin basin meetings being scheduled and status of those meetings is provided as Attachment 1.

As of August 7, 2025

Delta Mendota Subbasin Interbasin Coordination Meeting Scheduling

Subbasin	Delta Mendota Lead(s) & Other Delta Mendota Attendees	Subbasin Plan Manager, Other Key GSA Contacts	Subbasin Consultant Team(s)	Status
Tracy Subbasin	Vince Lucchessi (Lead) Adam Scheuber, Jarrett Martin, Joe Hopkins, John Wiersma, Chase Hurley	Ashley Couch (Lead), Venki Narasimhalu, Matt Garcia, Greg Gibson, Lea Emmons, Alex Chetley, Brandon Nakagawa,	Richard Schatz, GEI	Completed, July 9, 2025
Chowchilla	Jarrett Martin, John Weirsma, Rick Ortega, Joe Hopkins	Stephanie Anagnoson Doug Welch Sarah Woolf Larkin Harman	John Davids, Davids Engineering (Meeting point of contact) Pete Leffer, LSCE	Subbasins have requested to continue coordination through existing State Water Contractor discussions and elevate key issues to a subbasin meeting as needed
Madera		Stephanie Anagnoson TBD	John Davids, Davids Engineering	
Merced		Matt Beaman, Merced ID (Lead) mbeaman@mercedid.org Lacy McBride, Merced County	Woodard & Curran	Hicham Eltal is retiring – have reached out to Matt and Lacy to continue discussions
Modesto / Turlock	Vince Lucchessi (Lead) Adam Scheuber, Jarrett Martin	Sarah Woolf Eric Thorburn Michael Cooke Lacey McBride Christy Mckinnon	Todd Groundwater	Invitation and request for meeting availability sent.
Kings	Joe Hopkins, Jarrett Martin, Jim Stillwell, Auggie Ramirez	Will coordinate through Ronald Samuelian - Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Fall 2025
Westside	Chase Hurley, Steve Stadler, John Wiersma, Jarret Martin, Joe Hopkins	Will Coordinate through Kitty Campbell, Westland		Fall 2025
East San Joaquin	N/A	New Manager just hired		Informal discussions have occurred with Brandon and San Joaquin County. Will start outreach with new plan manager in near future



TO: Coordination Committee
Agenda Item No. 17

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: GSP Implementation Updates

Recommendation

None; information only.

Discussion

a. Update Groundwater Level Monitoring and DMS Upload

A reminder for the quarter 3 groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring is provided as Attachment 1 along with general groundwater level measurement guidelines.

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

An update on the Pumping Reduction Plan and GSP tracking dashboard is provided as Attachment 2.

c. Update on DMS and Potential Improvements

An update on Data Management System (DMS) enhancement options with updated pricing from Huston Engineering is provided as Attachment 3.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Verbal update.

Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Reminder:

Natalie Cochran / Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran

A reminder that the single 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 groundwater level monitoring are February, May, August, and November and groundwater quality will be monitored in February and August. GSA Group representatives are required to collect at least one measurement/sample during each target month at each representative monitoring site.

For groundwater quality, constituents to be analyzed for are arsenic; nitrate; 1,2,3-TCP; gross alpha radioactivity; TDS; and hexavalent chromium (lab analytical methods attached).

Please refer to Table MN-1 for your respective monitoring responsibilities and Section 14.3 for monitoring protocols in the single GSP: https://deltamendota.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/0729GSPDocs/14_Monitoring%20Network.pdf

Please upload your data to the DMS one month following the close of the monitoring/sampling event (i.e., September 30th for the August monitoring/sampling event).

Reminder: Please continue to monitor RMN wells and if wells cannot be monitored, please submit a no measurement code to the DMS. It is critical for newly monitored wells to conduct monitoring to build a historical record for eventual numeric SMC development.

PUMPING REDUCTION PLAN AND GSP IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING AND EXCEEDANCE REPORTING

PRP/GSP IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

- The PRP Implementation Dashboard has been developed for the Basin
 - The dashboard works offline using data downloaded from the DMS.
 - EKI is coordinating with Houston Engineering to establish a live data connection with DMS.
 - A coordination call was held on July 15.
 - Houston Engineering is currently working on finalizing access.
 - Dashboard will provide exceedance analysis and PRP trigger analysis based on GSP requirements
 - Specific triggers or policies set by each GSA in GSA/GSA-Group specific PRP will not be incorporated unless requested separately.
 - Dashboard collects, tracks, and notifies relative actions committed in the GSP and PRP for all GSAs.
- Next Steps:
 - GSAs to provide contact email addresses to EKI for dashboard access by August 22.
 - EKI will initiate rollout to the Zones and schedule meetings for initial data upload and

DMS Improvement Estimates

Item No.	Item	Cost
1	Identifier for proxy data collected with different symbology displayed on hydrograph or chemograph	\$2,154
2	DMS accounts for each GSA representative/agency responsible for monitoring wells with permission to upload data	\$909
3	Email reminders to specific well contacts to upload data by designated date (i.e., grace period of 1 week following end of month for groundwater levels)	\$909
4	Linear trend line on hydrographs calculated by 4-year rolling average of season low measurements for groundwater levels	\$1,482
5	Linear trend line on chemographs calculated by 3-year rolling average concentration for each constituent of concern for groundwater quality, or other methodology as defined in each Pumping Reduction Plan	\$1,077
6	Add a new input to the subsidence monitoring site data entry formed called: "Is this subsidence monitoring site within the SSMA (Southern Subsidence Management area) or within ½ mile of delta Mendota canal. This will be a Yes/No input.	\$336
7	Monthly exports of measurements exceeding the MTs by GSA	\$1,077
8	Data validation checks to identify potential questionable measurements not identified as such during monitoring activities (flag measurements as questionable that fall outside of the historical minimum and maximum for each well)	\$1,077
9	Perform QA/QC of "Export Data" tool from DMS to ensure any calculations and data categories are correct	\$741
10	Modify groundwater level data import sheet to require associated depth to groundwater measurement	\$336
11	Auto-import latest InSAR layer from DWR's SGMA Data Viewer to display on DMS Dashboard Map	\$1,077
TOTAL		\$11,175

Parking List Items

- ▶ Add “demand triggers” category to be displayed in tabular and graphical format per the demand management policy for groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and subsidence
 - Will take a lot of time and coordination with GSAs to define the demand triggers by well and data type.
 - Would have to be defined by each constituent for GWQ.
 - Subsidence demand triggers are challenging because they are rates over time.
- ▶ Establish automatic notification emails to be sent to the GSA/responsible monitoring agency for representative wells/sites that have reached the “demand trigger” and/or minimum threshold levels
 - This task is not possible without doing the task listed above this one. If we set this up, we are thinking it could be around 15 hours of work.
- ▶ DMS to pair particular stream gage with minimum of one well and maximum of four wells and calculate vertical gradient to plot on chart
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
 - Pending DWR guidance on ISWs.
- ▶ For wells in representative monitoring networks for both groundwater levels and interconnected surface water, display the different sustainable management criteria for each unique sustainability indicator
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
- ▶ Modify groundwater quality data import sheet to include entry for field blank samples
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
 - Can be done manually by the GSAs upon receiving the laboratory reports.
- ▶ Include sample collected and sample analyzed time to check if the samples were analyzed within prescribed holding times
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
 - Can be done manually by the GSAs after receiving the laboratory reports and prior to importing to the DMS.

Parking List Items

- ▶ Add Y/N response: Do the laboratory reports indicate all laboratory blank analyses were determined acceptable by the laboratory?
 - Determined lower priority
- ▶ Check for agreement in results in constituent detections between field blank and respective practical quantification limit
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
 - Can be done manually by the GSAs after receiving the laboratory reports and prior to importing to the DMS.
- ▶ Check that field duplicate results and primary sample results agree within 10% or have differences within their respective practical quantification limit. If concentrations vary by more than 25%, GSA to reach out to the laboratory to reanalyze the sample to confirm the result is reasonable
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
 - Can be done manually by the GSAs after receiving the laboratory reports and prior to importing to the DMS.
- ▶ Calculate anion-cation charge balance using mass-charge concentrations in milliequivalents per liter (meg/L), with the difference between the two sums reported as a percentage (a 5% or less difference is acceptable. If the anion/cation balance difference exceeds 15%, GSA to ask laboratory to reanalyze certain constituents or the entire sample to confirm the result is accurate)
 - Would be complex and expensive to implement.
- ▶ Link DMS to UNAVCO (land subsidence), CDEC (stream gages), Water Data Library (groundwater levels), etc. to automatically update the DMS, if possible.
 - Would take a lot of time to define which sites to pull and map the data inputs into the DMS database and there would be a cost to write the pulling code, testing and deciding when the code would get triggered and how.
 - Suggest starting with only one of these data sources and test to ensure it's worth the cost. I would estimate the first data source could take around 30 hours alone to implement.
- ▶ Automatic generation of DMS IDs based on GSA and if possible, cross check with DMS IDs generated as part of Well Census Project and use where applicable
 - Needs more discussion on how the well census project is creating ids and how the DMS would know what wells are in the census project versus DMS.