Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, August 11, 2025, 1:00 PM
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso WD
Buddy Mendes, Fresno County A&B
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Jim Stilwell, Farmers WD
John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present

Augustine Ramirez (alternate), Fresno County A&B
Jarrett Martin (alternate), San Joaquin Exchange Contractors
Kait Palys, INTERA
Patrick McGowan, Panoche WD
Steve Stalder, San Luis WD

Present Via Zoom/Phone:

Aleta Allen, Madera County
Alma Antuna
Amir Mani, EKI
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anona Dutton, EKI
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Jason Dean
John Brodie, Water & Land Solutions
Juan Cadena, Mercy Springs WD
Kait Palys, INTERA
Kevin Bursey
Kristen Manzano, Hallmark Group
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Manny Amorelli, James ID
Ric Ortega (as member of the public)
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sam Cunningham, Provost & Pritchard
Sarah Boogay, DWR
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
Joe Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Joe Hopkins 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**
Joe Hopkins opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments heard.

Consent Calendar

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

- **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

Committee Member Chase Hurley noted name changes to the June 4 meeting minutes. Taylor Blakslee concurred with the edits. Member Wiersma made a motion to correct and accept the name changes, and was seconded by Member Lucchesi. The motion passed unanimously by those present, with one person absent.

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 entered closed session at 1:10 pm.

Open Session

7. **Report from Closed Session**
The committee returned from closed session at 1:24pm. Legal Counsel, Lauren Layne, stated there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. **Appointment of Secretary**
Taylor Blakslee reminded the committee that the current secretary position, held by Scott Petereson of the Water Authority, would need to be transitioned moving forward. To move administrative components within the committee, it was recommended that a motion be made to appoint a new secretary. As stated in the MOA, the current language

is flexible to name an entity, not an individual, to the role of secretary. It was recommended to the committee that the Hallmark Group be named as the new secretary.

Committee Member Vince Lucchesi made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Committee member John Wiersma and passed unanimously by those present, with one absent.

9. Recommend GSAs Consider Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy

The draft well mitigation policy was presented to the committee by Jarrett Martin. It was reported that the strike team has been working with the SWRCB. An update of minor changes to the draft domestic well mitigation policy included the inclusion of state smalls and the flexibility for water quality mitigation. It was recommended for the GSA's to consider adopting the domestic well mitigation policy by the end of October 2025. A red line version of the current policy was requested by Lacy McBride.
Committee Member Chase Hurley made a motion to approve recommending that all GSAs adopt the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy. Committee Member Vince Lucchesi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by those present, with one absent.

10. Direction to Submit a Letter to DWR Requesting Prop 4 Grant Funds are Awarded in Advance of Fiscal Year 2027-2028

Jarrett Martin reported to the committee that there is a potential delay in awarding the $10B in Prop 4 funding previously passed on November 5, 2024, until fiscal year 27-28. On July 15th, 2025, the San Joaquin Valley- Kings Subbasin submitted a letter to DWR requesting that the funding awarded be expedited. Recommendation was for the CC to also submit a letter requesting that the funding be expedited. If the committee directs staff to take this action, the letter should identify specific projects and/or needs justifying the expediting of funds and should emphasize the region's vulnerability to climate impacts and the economic and social costs of delayed action.

Committee member Lucchesi made a motion to direct staff to draft such a letter. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Wiersma and passed unanimously by those present, with one absent.

Report Items

11. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Mr. Blakslee reported the following items to the committee:

Accomplishments and Completed Actions:

- EKI provided water fill stations location interactive map to the SWCRB ahead of the 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.

Mr. Blakslee reported the Remaining Open Action Items to the committee, which were included in the slides in the CC meeting packet.

b. Budget Development

Mr. Blakslee presented the budget development process and timeline for the committee and recommended the appointment of a FY 2026 Budget Ad Hoc to expedite budget development and to ensure the JPA is funded.

The chair appointed an ad hoc committee to review the budget, comprised of Augustine Ramirez, Chase Hurley and Joe Hopkins. The budgeting process will be separate from the WA. The goal is to have the JPA fully executed by November 2025 and up and working December 1, 2025.

Committee Member Chase Hurley requested that the Tasking Matrix be presented to the Coordination Committee at the September meeting so a budget can be determined. An RFP for technical and management experience for the JPA to be discussed further. That decision will be up to the new JPA board.

c. Schedule of Key Milestones

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the schedule of Key Milestones.

Chase Hurley and Jarrett to work on a budget template. Taylor Blakslee to provide a template for review and consideration. It was suggested that a separate meeting be set up for the Budget Ad Hoc and that Lauren Layne be included in those discussions and meetings. Taylor Blakslee to coordinate the Ad Hoc discussion.

12. Update on DWR SGMA Subsidence Draft Best Management Practices

EKI's Anona Dutton and Amir Mani provided an overview of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Draft Land Subsidence Best Management Practices (BMP) document, which was released July 24, 2025, and is currently open for public comments through September 22, 2025. Ms. Dutton noted the BMPs weigh into legal issues and recommended developing a comment letter to address those components. The Committee requested EKI prepare a draft comment letter with Jarrett Martin and Lauren Layne for review at the next Coordination Committee meeting agenda.

13. Update on JPA Status

Legal Counsel Lauren Layne reported that she received several comments from GSA attorneys and she has made revisions to the joint powers agreement incorporating those changes. She noted that we still need a MOA, regardless if there is a JPA in place, because it is part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). However, she anticipates the MOA will be amended once the JPA is in place. The cost sharing agreement will also need to be terminated and potentially a new agreement put in place once the joint powers authority is formed. A redline of the JPA will be sent out for review and requested edits be submitted to her prior to presenting a final JPA at the next Coordination Committee meeting. She noted the effective date of the joint powers agreement is December 1, 2025. Committee Member Jim Stilwell brought up the voting structure and it was decided that the issue of voting majority versus unanimous should be revised in the joint powers agreement to address unanimous voting of all JPA Board members, instead of those present and Ms. Layne said she would make that revision.

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

Lisa Beutler provided an update on meetings that are being planned to look at particular SGMA issues and letters sent to date and a status update of those meetings was provided in the meeting packet.

15. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

Ms. Beutler reminded the Coordination Committee they it will need to reapply for her continued services in the next few months.

16. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant

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

Merced County selected a driller. There has been an extension of the access agreement from fish and wildlife. Stanislaus ISW 1 selected a new location and discussed alternative options of an easement purchase about a ½ mile down the road of current site. Working on encroachment permit for that site.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Andrew to provide cost estimate of ISW wells to recalculate available funds for subsidence.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Reported after Q1 funding, very little progress has been made in terms of invoicing. Need projections for Q3 and Q4. May need to revise projects that will not be completed by the end of the year. Cost shares or amendments to allocations may need to occur.

Additional grant considerations were discussed and are available in the slides from the meeting packet.

Recommended to utilize an Ad Hoc to ensure GSA's can make their deadlines and report back to the Coordinated Committee in September.

17. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update Groundwater Level Monitoring and DMS Upload

Leslie Dumas discussed the upcoming August deadline and the review of numbers from last year. She reminded folks of the best practices outlined in the GSP regarding groundwater level monitoring frequency, water quality constituents, and other procedures, which are available in the slides in the meeting packet.

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

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 7/15/25. Houston Engineering is currently working on finalizing the process. The dashboard will provide exceedance analysis and PRP trigger analysis based on GSP requirements. Specific triggers or policies set by each GSA in GSA/GSA-Groups specific PRP will not be incorporated unless requested separately. The dashboard collects, tracks, and notifies, relative actions committed in the GSP and PRP for all GSA's. GSA's are to provide contact email addresses to EKI for dashboard access by August 22, 2025. EKI will initiate a rollout to the zones and schedule meetings for initials data upload and setup. The dashboard is substantially complete.

c. Update on DMS and Potential Improvements

Leslie Dumas reported the Houston Engineering improvement estimates. Committee discussed potentially having the Budget Ad Hoc assist in this endeavor moving forward. Taylor Blakslee to send out the slides Leslie shared post meeting to all committee members and meeting attendees. Further discussion to be held on how to decide who should have access to the dashboard to ensure no duplications. It was suggested to add this topic to the Coordination Committee September agenda to further discuss.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Taylor Blakslee reminded the Coordination Committee of the current 60-day reporting period. Any level exceeding MT will require notification of those GSA and in 30 days the GSA will need to have a plan to present to the CC.

18. Next Steps

- Correct the names noted as duplicates on the June 4th minutes.
- Distribute the Domestic well mitigation policy for GSAs to adopt by October.
- Draft and send a letter requesting to expedite Prop 4 funding.
- Task Matrix to be added to the September agenda.
- Budget Ad Hoc meeting to take place after the September 8, 2025 meeting.
- Distribute draft JPA to GSAs.
- Distribute WWD and Chowchilla Comment letters.

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

Nothing to report.

20. Next Meeting(s):

a. Upcoming Meetings: Change of Venue

b. Next Coordinated Committee meeting will be held at the Grassland Boardroom.

c. Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: September 8, 2025

21. Adjournment

Joe Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.