Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 1:00 PM
Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
Bobby Pierce, Member (Chair) – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)
Vince Lucchesi, Member (Vice Chair) – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson
Joel Andrews, Alternate – City of Patterson

Members Not Present
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County
John Beltran, Member - Oak Flat Water District (OFWD)

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Representative Present
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Others Present
Kait Palys- INTERA
Matt Garcia – DPWD
Larrisa Camarra - City of Patterson

Others Present via Zoom
Susan Xie - EKI
Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
Kait Palys – INTERA
Natalie Cochran – Woodard & Curran (W&C)
Karlee Liddy- Hallmark Group

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

   Member Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

   Member Pierce led attendees in 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**

   No public comment was provided.

OPEN SESSION

5. **Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar**
   a. Minutes of the August 6, 2025 Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Meeting

      Member Pierce asked about budget to actuals, why still only at 90%?
      Mr. Petersen responded that the Portion OF BUDGET has to do with some delay due to transition in admins and modifications with EKI contracts but all tasks proceeding now.

      Chair Pierce asked about standing up the financing side for the Northern DM group, including the projected time that may be spent processing RFPs and average annual spending. Mr. Petersen offered to pull this detailed average annual spending report together.

   b. Budget to Actual Report

   Motion
   Chair Pierce made the motion to approve the August 6, 2025 meeting minutes and the budget to actual report. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Lucchesi. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

Report Items

12b. Tasking Matrix Overview

Mr. Petersen provided context and background for developing the tasking matrix. He stated that staff wanted to coordinate on who was running point on various program management items, and that an ad hoc committee was formed to inform the development of the matrix and to ensure coordinating bodies were not performing duplicative tasks. Kait Palys stated that the tasking matrix will be emailed to NDM Regional Committee before the end of the day for committee review and feedback.

Member Pierce asked if there is a timeline for some of the matrix aspects, and if the matrix items are to be actionized by March 1 (the beginning of FY 2026).

Mr. Petersen replied that the goal is to get the JPA to stand up by the end of the calendar year to allow for some transition time and a clean start in the new fiscal year. In the event of delays past March, the Authority will be able to support activities until the JPA is ready to take them on.

Member Pierce asked if a gantt chart or some sort of schedule would be helpful for committee members to see and track the progress of the JPA.

Mr. Petersen responded that there would be new contracts and that the authority would continue program delivery through January and close its books in February and the JPA would execute those contracts accordingly.

Ms. Layne added that the JPA outlines the goal to be formalized by December 1, 2025. She stated this rolls into the JPA Status Agenda Item, and asked the Chair if she can proceed, and Chair Hopkins agreed.

10. JPA status / 12c. Schedule of Key Milestones
Ms. Layne stated that she received only one comment regarding unanimous voting and made those revisions to the JPA today. The final JPA will be sent out as soon as possible, but there are no substantive changes aside from the clarifications regarding unanimous voting provisions. She stated that the preference for all GSAs to adopt is mid-November, before the holidays.

Chair Pierce asked if there was any special hearing needed to adopt the JPA.

Ms. Layne responded that no special hearing was needed because the GSAs are already established and will adopt the agreement on their own account. After adoption, Ms. Layne will send to the Secretary of State and to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for awareness. She stated that the revised MOA will need to be reviewed and signed by GSAs at that time.

Member Scheuber iterated that staff will need to get a budget and timelines together for NDM.

Chair Pierce expressed concern about the timeline of getting these elements together including funding mechanism set up, software updates between the signing of the JPA and March 1.

Vice Chair Lucchesi stated that they understood the goal was to have the JPA fully adopted and functioning by March 1, 2026, but that progress toward that transition is what matters most.

Ms. Layne confirmed they will focus on the accounting piece primarily and if JPA transitioning issues arise, the consulting entities can enter an agreement (potentially month by month in March and April) with the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority to help the transition to the JPA.

Mr. Petersen added that there are mechanisms by which multiple items (administrative, accounting, otherwise) can be addressed simultaneously.

6. **Committee to discuss SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities**

   Ms. Cochran provided an overview of important grant dates and reminded folks to stick to scope and scale of projects for closeout. She reminded folks to send final requests to modify grant spending to her by end of the week.

   Vice Chair Lucchesi asked if Ms. Cochran needed information from the DM2 GSA and CCID regarding the changes to the subsidence portion of that grant.

   Ms. Cochran responded that she has already incorporated edits/ amendments to accommodate equipment purchases to the grant. She invited GSAs to send more edits if more changes have occurred and need to be incorporated.

7. **Outreach & Engagement**

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

      Ms. Palys gave a review of the table of inter-subbasin meetings and status of upcoming meetings, which is available in the slides.

      Vice Chair Lucchesi stated that Tracy and Chowchilla meetings have gone well, the Modesto / Turlock meetings are being planned, and the East San Joaquin meeting is being tabled for now.

   b. Well Mitigation Policy Implementation Outreach

      Ms. Palys provided background on the Communications Subcommittee meeting on the well mitigation outreach strategy and invited folks to approach Lisa Beutler with ideas aside from putting a piece in the newsletter. Vice Chair Lucchesi suggested sticking to the outreach strategy as outlined in the well mitigation policy to ensure notifications go out to interested parties. He asked staff to confirm that a rollout strategy is already included in the well mitigation policy itself.

Member McKinnon expressed that if the state approves the well mitigation policy, and there is a rollout included in it, then that is sufficient.

8. Review of DWR Draft Subsidence BMP

Ms. Palys highlighted that the Draft BMP Workshop will take place in person on Tuesday, September 9,2025 in Clovis, CA. She also highlighted that the EKI summary of the Draft BMP review is available in the Agenda Package.

Ms. Layne mentioned that Department of Water Resources and SWRCB representatives will be present at those workshops. She also highlighted that she and EKI are drafting a comment letter to be reviewed, after any additions that potentially come from the workshop are incorporated into the letter. She is working with ACWA and others on drafting their comment letters, as well.

Chair Pierce asked if anyone from the group is planning to attend as a representative of the NDM Regional Management Committee.

Ms. Layne stated that her associate will be attending, and she will send out a workshop summary to the committee.

9. SWRCB Updates

a. GSA Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy

Ms. Palys reminded folks that GSAs are to adopt the domestic well mitigation policy by November 29, 2025.

Ms. Layne iterated that GSAs need to simply send the date their Board adopted the policy so that Hallmark can keep track of GSA adoption, rather than needing an official signature. She also confirmed that Hallmark does not need to receive a copy of Board meeting minutes from the meeting in which the GSA adopts the policy, as long as the GSA confirms action was taken to approve the policy.

b. Valley Water Collaborative MOU

Ms. Palys provided an update on the status of the Valley Water Collaborative MOU signatures. She reminded folks to adopt the MOU by the end of November.

10. JPA Status – already covered above

11. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update Groundwater Level Monitoring and Groundwater Quality Sampling and Event

Ms. Cochran reminds folks to please send her their GWL and water quality sampling data by September 12, 2025. Please include sites that were not sampleable.

Alternate Scheuber stated that the TSS well for West Stanislaus was completed. DWR said they would work with Natalie to get that well into monitoring network within the month or two.
Natalie stated that she will keep an eye out for that correspondence. He also mentioned that construction on a lateral reservoir project will be started next week.

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

Ms. Palys mentioned that a Pumping Reduction Plan poll will be sent out to users from EKI.

Susan Xie presented slides on the PRP/ GSP implementation update and next steps, which are available on pages 6-11 in the meeting packet. She stated that EKI is working with Hallmark Group to hold a Walkthrough Session with all NDM Dashboard Users to explain features and application. The walkthrough is planned for mid-September.

Alternate Scheuber requested that data input only comes from the DM2 GSA for well 01-003, since data that is publicly available for 2025 is incorrect. It is on a watchlist, but he stated he wanted the group to be made aware and recommended the committee host a future conversation about data accuracy.

Alternate Scheuber stated that this well was a monitoring well since back in the 1990s, but at some point, the water authority started sampling a different well about 1/4 mile away from the original well site. He is unsure of when exactly that data became incorrect. He recommended taking GPS coordinates each time Groundwater Level and Groundwater Quality data is collected.

Ms. Xie covered wells on the MT exceedance watchlist and suggested increased monitoring and take proactive actions if needed.

Vice Chair Lucchesi asked why the entrance date for the exceedance trigger is mid-August, as he does not yet have that data available for Well 1004.

Ms. Xie stated that she can look into it and highlighted that the trigger date is defined as few days after the measurement is uploaded to DMS.

Vice Chair Lucchesi stated that they sampled PID and DM Western GSA and have not yet received data back for those yet. He iterated his confusion for the mid-August trigger date.

The committee discussed confirmation samples are still needed if a well historically exceeded the MTs before MTs were set.

Ms. Xie iterated the need to confirm through further sampling and suggested the GSA investigate if the exceedance continues due to GSA management (i.e. pumping). Mitigation strategies may need to be implemented to address the exceedance.

12. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Ms. Palys highlighted that there is another version (v3) of the Amendment (previously referred to as the Letter Agreement) and asked Legal Counsel Lauren Layne to provide an update.

Ms. Layne highlighted that version 2 simply changed the document from a Letter Agreement to an Amendment. For version 3, there was an incorrect reference to an exhibit. She confirmed there were no substantive changes in version 3, only the reference to the exhibit was corrected.

Ms. Palys stated she will send out a redline and clean version of the Amendment with clarifying differences.

b. Tasking Matrix Overview
This item was covered earlier in the meeting, as Mr. Petersen had limited time to present on the topic.

c. Schedule of Key Milestones
This item was covered earlier in the meeting, as conversation around the JPA Status transitioned well into this topic.

CLOSED SESSION

13. 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)

There was no need to go into closed session for this meeting.

OPEN SESSION

14. Report from Closed Session

Nothing to report.

15. Next Steps

1. NDM Committee provide Tasking Matrix feedback by Monday, September 8.
2. Continue to build out a Gant chart with milestones (PRP).
3. Adoption of the JPA by mid-November.
4. Last call for grant amendments. GSAs to send grant modification requests to W&C by next week.
5. Respond to W&C regarding DWR grant documentation.
6. Ms. Layne to send detailed notes from the DWR DMP workshop in Clovis.
7. GSAs to adopt the Well Mitigation Policy before the end of November.
8. Ms. Kalys to verify signature from Stanislaus county on the Valley Water Collaborative MOU.
9. GSAs send monitoring data to Ms. Cochran by September 12, 2025.
10. Ms. Xie to look into the historic data showing up in the PRP dashboard that may be inaccurate and would impact the DMS and the annual report.
11. Ms. Xie to verify the mid-August trigger date for the Groundwater Quality data.
12. All sign the Amendment (no longer the letter agreement) version 3 that Ms. Palys will send out.
13. The Authority (Mr. Petersen) to develop a list of responsibilities, tasks, and man hours/ costs for accounting.

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

No reports were discussed under this item.

17. Next Meeting

The next Northern Delta-Mendota Regional Management Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

18. Adjourn

Chair Pierce adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.