



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, September 8, 2025, 1:00 PM
Grassland Water District Boardroom
200 W. Willmott Avenue, Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso WD
Augustine Ramirez, Alternate, Fresno County A&B
Jim Stilwell, Farmers WD
John Wiersma, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Ric Ortega, Grassland WD (arrived at 1:14 p.m.)
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
Caleb Stearm, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Jarrett Martin, Alternate, San Joaquin Exchange Contractors
Kait Palys, INTERA
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Larissa C., City of Patterson
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto WD
Palmar McCoy, Mercy Springs
Patrick McGowan, Panoche WD
Scott Petersen, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Alma Antuna, Westlands Water District
Amir Mani, EKI
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anona Dutton, EKI
Antonio Solorio, Westlands Water District

Christy McKinnon, Alternate, Northern DM Region
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Prichard
Gary Ingram, City of Gustine
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Jacinta Cabral, Madera County
Jason Dean
Juan Cadena, Mercy Springs WD
Liam's iPhone
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Natalie Cochran, Woodard & Curran
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sam Cunningham, Provost & Pritchard
Will Halligan, LSCE

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Joe Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair 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 items.

4. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chair Hopkins opened the floor for public comment and no public comments were provided.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Minutes of the August 11, 2025 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Committee Member Hurley seconded the motion, and it 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: (2 cases)

The Committee entered closed session at 1:14 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 2:02 p.m. and legal counsel Lauren Layne stated there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Review and Take Action to Recommend GSAs Adopt the Joint Powers Agreement

Ms. Layne provided background and summary on the revisions made to the JPA and unanimous voting provisions outlined in the draft document, which was provided in the meeting packet.

MOTION

Committee Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the recommendation for GSAs to adopt the JPA. Committee Member Wiersma seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Ms. Layne and Mr. Blakslee will circulate a clean PDF version of the JPA to all the GSAs for adoption.

A Committee Member asked if the revised MOA can be adopted at the same time as the JPA and Ms. Layne replied that a revised MOA will be developed after the joint powers authority is officially formed (after all members sign the joint powers agreement).

9. Direction on Task Matrix and Basin Roles and Responsibilities

San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided background and summary on the purpose of the Task Matrix, which was provided in the CC meeting packet. He highlighted some of the questions outlined in the draft matrix for the Coordination Committee to consider and provide feedback by September 19, 2025. He stated that staff will incorporate that feedback and present common findings and any discrepancies back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Committee Member Hurley asked that a legend be added to the matrix before distribution.

10. Direction to Develop RFPs for Program Management and Technical Services

Mr. Petersen provided a brief update on the RFP development process for program management technical services. He reported he is pulling together example RFPs with similar needs of the Committee and will develop these RFPs to provide amounts for the budgeting process.

Committee Member Wiersma asked about the length of the potential contracts between the Authority and consultants and said if they are intended to be longer than one year, he would like to have more of a conversation and deliberation on the overall approach.

Mr. Petersen responded that he is assuming the contracts will be for initial one-year terms, followed by contract timelines consistent with direction from future JPA leadership. He highlighted the JPA will need accounting services, administrative, legal services and asked if the Committee would like to see multiple RFPs go out for different services, or one RFP to cover multiple tasks (i.e. general contractor or multiple subconsultants).

Chair Hopkins commented that he believes two RFPs are appropriate for Program Management and Technical Services.

11. Direction on GSA Requests to Modify the Grant Spending Plan

Natalie Cochran, with Woodard & Curran, provided background and summary on the requests received to modify grant spending plans, or amendments to allocations of grant monies. These included a request from Steve Stadler to move funds from Component 1 to Component 7 for San Luis Water District. Steve Chedester from San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority indicated he will need to modify the language of the scope to ensure they can use remaining grant funds for the Los Banos Creek Restoration Project. Last, she stated she received a request from Bobby Pierce to move grant funds from component 13 to component 4 to support construction. She reported component 4 has been closed out at this point so staff would need to check with DWR if component 4 can be reopened.

Committee Member Hurley requested a table with each update be provided in a subsequent meeting.

12. Update on Subbasin Comments on DWR SGMA Subsidence Draft Best Management Practices

Legal Counsel Lauren Layne and EKI's Anona Dutton provided an update the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) draft subsidence best management practices (BMPs) and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin comment letter. Ms. Layne noted that the letter will be finalized with an ad hoc, appointed by the Chair, (Jarrett Martin, Chase Hurley, Joe Hopkins, Will Halligan, and Rick Iger) and submitted following the DWR workshops in Clovis before the September 22nd deadline.

Report Items

13. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the status of the previous meeting's action item. Mr. Blakslee will confirm that the Chowchilla and Westlands Water District comment letters were distributed.

b. Schedule of Key Milestones

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the schedule of key milestones, which is available in the meeting packet.

Mr. Petersen highlighted that there will need to be a detailed budget drafted for committee review in November. He noted there may be a parallel timeline of budget development and the RFPs being sent out.

14. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

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

Stantec outreach facilitator Lisa Beutler gave an overview of the status of the interbasin meetings, which was made available in the meeting packet. She mentioned that the Chowchilla discussions included subsidence, demand management, interconnected surface waters, and opportunities for future collaboration.

The Committee requested Committee Member Hurley be replaced with Patrick McGowan as the point of contact for the Westside GSA meeting.

Ms. Beutler also provided an update on the development of the newsletter. Chair Hopkins asked about a timeline for the newsletter and Ms. Beutler responded that the goal will be to make the newsletter public by mid-to-late October.

15. SWRCB Updates

a. Update on SWRCB Coordination

Alternate Committee Member Jarrett Martin provided a summary of coordination efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board. He commented that once the MOU Valley Water Collaborative MOU is signed by all entities, it will be sent to GSA representatives and SWRCB staff.

b. Update on GSA Adoption of the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy

Mr. Blakslee reported that staff is tracking GSA Board adoption (via minute order) of the domestic well mitigation policy and will provide updates on the status of execution.

c. Update on GSA Adoption of the Valley Water Collaborative MOU

Mr. Blakslee reported that 20 of 23 GSAs have adopted the Valley Water Collaborative MOU and that staff is following up with the remaining three GSAs.

16. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant

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

Andrew Francis, with LSCE, provided updates on the status of the ISW well construction project, and his slides were provided in the meeting packet.

A Committee Member asked how the ISW grant-funded project will impact the subsidence project funding. Mr. Francis responded that he will provide an updated project cost estimate to Woodard & Curran which will inform the available funding for the subsidence project.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Jarrett Martin reported that once he receives an update on available funding for this project, the equipment will be purchased.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Ms. Cochran reminded GSA representatives to send her project deliverables once available and provided a reminder to begin the project component completion reports once projects are complete. She provided an update on grant expenditures, which was included in the packet.

17. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update on August Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring and DMS Upload

Ms. Cochran reminded GSA representatives to collect third quarter (July-September) groundwater level and groundwater quality samples and to upload the data to the DMS by the end of the month.

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

Ms. Dutton provided an update on the pumping reduction plan (PRP) dashboard, and the timeline for a walkthrough of the dashboard and tools for GSA representatives. She also provided updates on well trends of MT exceedance and voluntary actions taken to address those exceedances.

c. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the second quarter reporting period and noted we are still within the 60-day data review period.

John Wiersma left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

18. Next Steps

- Distribute the JPA to GSA representatives with an execution of November 21, 2025.
- Distribute the Task Matrix with the legend and request GSA feedback.

- Develop FY2026 Budget components and timeline for ad hoc review.
- Include table of any grant spending plan changes to next CC packet.
- Schedule an ad hoc meeting to review EKI's Subbasin Comments on DWR SGMA Subsidence Draft Best Management Practices.
- Ensure Chowchilla/WWD comment letters have been distributed to all GSAs.
- Replace Committee Member Hurley with Patrick McGowan as the point of contact for the Westside GSA meeting.
- Provide updated ISW costs to inform the development of the subsidence budget.
- Hallmark Group to coordinate with EKI to set up PRP walkthrough sessions
- Chair Hopkins to send Aliso policy to EKI and W&C.

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

Nothing to report.

20. Next Meeting(s):

- a. Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: October 13, 2025

21. Adjournment

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.



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

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