



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, October 13, 2025, 1:00 PM
SLDMWA Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Alternate, Fresno County A&B
Jim Stilwell, Farmers Water District
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Ken Swanson, Alternate, Grassland Water District (confirmed presence at 1:10 pm)
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present

Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Scott Petersen, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Kait Palys, INTERA
Jarrett Martin, Alternate, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Palmar McCoy, Mercy Springs
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rob Kotslivi, Stanislaus County
Roy Catania, Aliso Water District
Steve Silva, San Luis Water District
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Amir Mani, EKI
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anona Dutton, EKI
Christy McKinnon, Alternate, Northern DM Region
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Prichard
Jacinta Cabral, Madera County

Jason Dean
John Brodie
Juan Cadena, Panoche Water District
Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District
Lane Avilla, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Liam's iPhone
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Maria S. Razo, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sam Cunningham, Provost & Pritchard
Sarah Boogay, Department of Water Resources
Steve Haze, Tranquility Resource Conservation District
Susan Xie, EKI
Thomas Cleverdon
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Joe Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 September 8, 2025 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Committee Member Ken Swanson joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Chair Hopkins noted that Palmar McCoy (Mercy Springs) needs to be added to the attendee list on the September 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

Committee Member Hurley made a motion to approve the consent calendar, with the addition of Palmar McCoy to the September 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Committee Member Wiersma 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: (1 case)

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

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 1:38 p.m. and legal counsel Lauren Layne stated there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Direction on Draft Budget Components

Hallmark Group Project Manager Taylor Blakslee and San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Policy Director Scott Petersen presented the draft Fiscal Year 2026 budget components for Committee feedback.

Mr. Petersen iterated that the San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority is proceeding with the budgeting process on behalf of the Committees as a backstop option in the event that the JPA (agreement currently being signed by GSAs) formed is not able to execute the fiscal duties necessary prior to the March 1, 2026 fiscal year deadline.

He stated that there is still an outstanding conversation that should take place concerning the Northern or Central Regional Management groups. He added that standing committees could be formed under special agreements of the JPA, similar to how Funds 63 and 64 operate for the Authority, but the structure of the committees needs to be determined.

A discussion was held on the option for a basin-wide contract to perform monitoring, but Committee feedback was for GSAs to continue data collection in their respective boundaries.

During discussion of the draft budget components, Mr. Petersen noted the monitoring standard operation procedure should be developed in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Blakslee reported that staff will build out the budget components with cost estimates and bring it back to the Committee for approval and recommendation to the Authority.

Committee Member Hurley commented that he will confirm with the Central Committee if they want to be under the JPA or operate separately.

Committee Member Lucchesi stated the Northern Committee wanted to operate under the JPA via a special project agreement which would allow the Northern Committee to contract and implement projects. He stated a subset of the JPA GSA signatories would sign on to the special project agreement and convene as a committee which would not require appointments by the JPA Board. Mr. Petersen stated that the JPA would be able to execute a similar agreement with a subset of members, as defined in the agreement and approved by the JPA Board. Legal counsel Lauren Layne stated she is already working on a draft of those special project agreements.

Committee Member Stilwell expressed concerns about ensuring costs are being correctly billed to Committees and suggested making the JPA's financial reporting extremely clear to all participants in the future. Committee Member Lucchesi agreed with Committee Member Stilwell.

Mr. Petersen asked the Committee to provide any further feedback on the budget components to himself and Mr. Blakslee by the end of the week.

9. Direction on Domestic Well Mitigation Policy Outreach

Mr. Blakslee and Lisa Beutler (Outreach Facilitator, Stantec) provided background on the public outreach commitments of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) as outlined in the well mitigation policy.

Ms. Beutler provided baseline recommendations and options to carry out public outreach on the mitigation policy, including press releases, informational flyers, and a policy briefing workshop.

The Coordination Committee directed Ms. Beutler to carry out the first four recommended outreach items (press release, newsletter, posting informational flyers, and coordinating the translation of those fliers for online access). She will also provide an outline of the costs and potential structure of a policy briefing workshop to the Committee at the next meeting.

10. Update on DWR Subsidence Workshop and Subbasin Comment Letter

Mr. Blakslee provided a summary of the development and distribution of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's comment letter (and a letter from the Association of California Water Agencies) on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) draft subsidence best management practices document, which were included in the meeting packet.

Report Items

11. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the status of the previous meeting's action items.

b. Schedule of Key Milestones

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the schedule of key milestones, which was provided in the packet.

12. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

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

Ms. Beutler provided an overview of the status of the interbasin meetings, which was included in the meeting packet. She noted that the Modesto/Turlock meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2025, and that the Westside meeting invitation has been sent out for October 30, 2025.

Committee Member Hurley asked about the timeframe of Ms. Beutler's contract. She responded that it ends in December and that the plan manager typically makes the request to extend her contract.

Chair Hopkins requested that an action item be added at the next meeting to approve the application and scope of work for Ms. Beutler's (Stantec) facilitation services.

13. SWRCB Updates

a. Update on SWRCB Coordination

Alternate Committee Member Martin provided a summary of coordination efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board.

14. SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant

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

Andrew Francis (LSCE) provided updates on the status of the ISW well construction project, which was provided in the packet.

Chair Hopkins asked if all ISW well construction budgets are finalized. Mr. Francis confirmed that the estimates that he provided to Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) included additional funds for construction management and an estimated cost for the final well in Stanislaus County.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Alternate Committee Member Martin provided an update on the subsidence monitoring project.

Ms. Dumas asked GSA representatives to provide a map of the locations where brass caps would need to be installed, along with the property owners of those locations. She recommended notifying the Department of Water Resources that no access agreements or egress permits are needed, nor will ground be disturbed and therefore no CEQA would be required for this project.

Chair Hopkins suggested that the subsidence station consultant provide that information to Ms. Dumas.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Ms. Dumas provided an update on the grant projects and, as requested in the previous Coordination Committee meeting, presented a summary table of amendments to grant components.

Chair Hopkins asked if there is any concern regarding the completion of any projects and Ms. Dumas responded that with the grant amendments, all GSAs have expressed they anticipate full completion of projects.

15. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update on Q3 Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring and DMS Upload

Ms. Dumas provided an update on the third quarter (July-September) groundwater level and groundwater quality data collection.

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

Amir Mani (EKI) provided background and summary of the Request For Information (RFI) that was sent out to GSAs. He said the RFI will provide the necessary data to update the model to support the Annual Report development and the GSA data is due by October 24, 2025.

Chair Hopkins asked if the data should be on the individual well basis or on an aggregate basis and Mr. Mani stated preference for individual well data, if possible, but that the aggregate data is also helpful.

Mr. Mani iterated the importance that GSAs ensure that they record the source of the water that they receive when responding to the RFI.

Mr. Mani and Anona Dutton (EKI) provided an update on the pumping reduction plan (PRP) dashboard. Mr. Mani also provided recommendations for

measurement and reporting frequency, along with handling exceedance evaluations.

Andrew Francis (LSCE) asked if an average of the three-monthly measurements can be used for quarterly reporting, so long as they do not exceed the Minimum Threshold (MT). Mr. Mani responded that the average can be used to report quarterly compliance with MTs.

c. Update on Water Year 2025 Annual Report Development

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the annual report development, including a timeline for receiving data. Ms. Dumas clarified that groundwater use data should be submitted to the data management system (DMS) by the end of October 2025. She said if GSAs cannot meet that deadline, she should reach out to her.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the 2025 third quarter groundwater level and quality exceedances. He noted that some GSA representatives will be able to report on those exceedances at the next Coordination Committee meeting on November 10, 2025.

Patrick McGowan (Panoche WD) stated that they are increasing their frequency of groundwater level monitoring to monthly and will provide a thorough report of the Central Delta-Mendota exceedances at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

Alternate Committee Member Martin stated that the lower aquifer casing on one of the wells has failed and further investigation regarding the physicality of the well is needed. Ken Swanson (Grassland WD) iterated that the well has not been pumped in months and that there are holes in the columns that are likely contributing to low levels. He stated they need to remove that well and may need to find a new well, likely outside of the area.

Adam Scheuber (Del Puerto Water District) reported on the groundwater level and TDS (Nitrate) exceedances. He stated they will increase groundwater level monitoring frequency to monthly and will provide an update at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

16. Next Steps

- Committee to provide any further feedback on the budget components to Mr. Blakslee and Mr. Petersen by the end of the week (10/17).
- Staff will assist in the development of the monitoring SOP this year.

- Ms. Beutler will carry out the first four recommended outreach items (press release, newsletter, posting informational flyers, and coordinating the translation of those fliers for online access). She will also provide an outline of the costs and potential structure of a policy briefing workshop to the Committee at the next meeting.
- Staff will work with Ms. Beutler and the Facilitation Committee to draft the scope of work and apply to extend the Facilitation Support Services by November.
- Subsidence station consultant to assist in assessing the CEQA need for brass cap installation.
- Hallmark group will ensure that the RFI and additional PRP slides are sent out to all GSAs.
- Staff will follow up with GSAs regarding exceedance reports and action plans to the CC in upcoming meetings.

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

Nothing to report.

18. Next Meeting(s):

- a. Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: November 10, 2025

19. Adjournment

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.



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

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