NORTHERN
DELTA-MENDOTA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 1:00 PM
Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present
Bobby Pierce, Chair- West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County

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

Others Present
Edith Martinez, City of Patterson
Kait Palys, INTERA
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson
Margaret Califaris, TriHydro (Consultant for Stanislaus Co.)
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District

Others Present via Zoom
Amir Mani, EKI
Caleb Stearns, WSID
John Brodie, Water & Land Solutions
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
Liam's Iphone
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County
Natalie Cochran, Woodard & Curran
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Rob Kostlivy, Stanislaus County
Thomas Cleverdon

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chair 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

Consent Calendar

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

a. Minutes of the October 1, 2025 Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Meeting

Chair Pierce and Committee Member Scheuber made two notes to amend the October 1, 2025 minutes. First, they requested adding John Brodie to the list of attendees. They also requested changing under agenda item 6 (WSID Petition for Water Right Change), a portion of the City of Patterson is within the WSID, not within West Stanislaus. Staff will make those changes immediately before posting meeting minutes to the website.

b. Budget to Actual Report

Scott Petersen (San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority) stated that there will be a more updated budget report at next month's meeting, as the Authority has received more invoices from consultants.

Motion

Committee Member Vince Lucchesi provided the motion to approve the October 1, 2025 meeting minutes with amendments and the budget to actual report. Committee Member Adam Schreuber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

6. **Committee to Revisit Format to Express Support for WSID's Petition for Water Rights Change to the State Water Resources Control Board**

   Chair Pierce stated that there were no updates on this item and tabled it for a later date.

Report Items

7. **SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities**

   Natalie Cochran (Woodard & Curran) gave a summary of the key grant dates and status of deliverables. She stated that one final amendment will be prepared and submitted in December and that final submittals are due to DWR by November 28th. She reminded GSA representatives that Leslie and Ryan have templates for project monitoring plan and certificate of completion, and to reach out to them with questions on deliverables.

   Chair Pierce asked to clarify that the work product needs to be complete, but they do not yet need to be in the receipt for the final invoice and Ms. Cochran confirmed that is correct.

8. **Outreach & Engagement**

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

      Kait Palys (INTERA) stated that an interbasin meeting took place recently. Amir Mani (EKI) stated that there was a West Side basin meeting last week, with Jarrett Martin as Basin manager contact along with Steve Stadler, Chase Hurley, and Joe Hopkins present. During the meeting, the GSA representatives reviewed general comments and action items including sharing data across boundaries and furthering collaboration to address trends in water quality and subsidence in the region.

      Chair Pierce asked if a future meeting is scheduled and Committee Member Lucchesi stated that they are still working with the Modesto/Turlock Subbasin for a meeting. He noted that a primary topic of concern in those conversations is collecting accurate data to better understand and manage interconnected surface waters in the region.

   b. Well Mitigation Policy Outreach Direction from Coordination Committee

      Ms. Palys provided an overview of the direction provided by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee during the October 13, 2025 meeting regarding the well mitigation policy outreach including developing a press release, subbasin newsletter, flyers in English and Spanish, and GSAs posting user-friendly flyers and policy for all interested parties. She also stated that staff is exploring costs for a policy briefing workshop, which is being discussed at the communication subcommittee level and with the Coordination Committee.

0:14:10_informed the Committee that the Modesto Subbasin GSA website provides instruction to seek well mitigation technical assistance through Self Help Enterprises.

9. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Budget

Scott Petersen (San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority) provided an update on the timeline for developing the draft subbasin budget for FY2026. He stated he anticipates presenting preliminary budgets and will adjust those draft budget items based on the feedback from the RFPs that went out. He also stated he will work with staff to disseminate the draft budget for Northern Committee review and can incorporate feedback received offline before being presented to the SLDMWA water resources committee meeting.

Chair Pierce asked if the draft budget will cover the entirety of Fiscal Year 2027. Mr. Petersen stated that it would cover all fiscal administrative services for that period. He added that depending on the administrative functions of JPA, the budget would be approved through the Water Authority to ensure sufficient resources to support all necessary functions in the transition to the JPA.

Mr. Petersen closed in saying he anticipates the Northern Committee will see a draft budget this month and will then share the budget with feedback to the Water Authority in December.

10. JPA Status

a. Committee to discuss Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee transition following JPA adoption

21:25_ stated that the City of Patterson will approve JPA next week and Committee Member Lucchesi stated that his group was able to approve the JPA swiftly.

Legal Counsel Lauren Layne (Baker Manock & Jensen) presented an overview of the draft special project agreement to the NDM Committee, which was provided in the meeting packet.

Committee Member Lucchesi stated he will be sending the draft special project agreement to their attorney for review. Ms. Layne stated she could send a Word Document version of the draft agreement to be distributed to GSA representatives. Ms. Palys stated she will facilitate sending the draft agreement to the GSAs to be forwarded to their legal counsel teams for review.

23:50 Committee Member Scheuber asked if anyone attended the CC meeting where this was discussed. Committee Member Lucchesi mentioned that there were concerns from

CC regarding the separation of costs and the concept that additional groups may be "attached" to the JPA.

Ms. Layne clarified that there may have been confusion around the idea of a committee, whereas the Northern would be considered a standing committee and no functions would change with that structure. She stated that there is an MOU amongst the Northern Delta-Mendota GSAs and is not currently operating as a separate JPA. As such, all GSAs in the Northern Committee would each need separate agreements with a CPA to help administer finances, for example. Therefore, under the special projects agreement, the Northern GSAs would be member agencies of the JPA who could contract through the Authority by the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

Mr. Petersen stated that he anticipates the Central D-M Committee may move forward with a similar structure to the Northern D-M Committee as well and that the JPA Board would ultimately have to execute a special project agreement.

0:30:30- stated that there were concerns from the Coordination Committee because this option may make things less streamline.

Ms. Layne stated she can explain that there would be no major complications at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

31:47_Committee Member Christy McKinnon asked what the other option is, if not joining the JPA. Ms. Layne responded that the Northern D-M GSAs could join a different JPA, or would all have to have agreements with other action authorities.

b. JPA schedule and status update

Ms. Layne requested that Northern D-M Committee Members review the draft special project agreement and provide feedback to her before December. She stated she will incorporate feedback from the committee and can present a finalized draft of the agreement to the JPA Board in December or January. Last, she clarified that the agreement would need to be executed by March 1, 2026.

Committee Member Lucchesi stated he will be advocating the Northern D-M committee current structure just to get bridged over to the JPA.

11. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update on August Groundwater Level Monitoring and Groundwater Quality Sampling

Natalie Cochran (Woodard & Curran) provided an update and requested monitoring data from GSA representatives by December 12, 2025.

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

Amir Mani (EKI) gave an update on the wells in the GSA boundaries that are on the summer/fall water quality and groundwater level measurements watchlist, which was provided in the meeting packet. He also provided recommended actions for those wells. Lastly, he presented a water quality exceedance compliance decision tree, which was also provided in the meeting packet. The decision flow chart helps to ensure that there is Basin-wide compliance with exceedance reporting and actions to address them. He noted it is especially important to determine if there is a correlation between the water quality exceedance and water levels, which may trigger pumping reduction commitments.

_42:40 asked if the August data was part of analysis and asked what the next step would be if there was no statistical relationship with water levels. Mr. Mani responded that a written statement of the lack of correlation between the exceedance and water levels should be provided as justification for no further pumping reduction actions.

_44:20 then asked what the next steps would be if there is a TDS exceedance with statistical correlation between water quality and water level, but there are not 6 samples to affirm the correlation. Mr. Mani recommended increasing the monitoring to quarterly in this case and stated that the exceedance would still trigger PRP actions.

Committee Member McKinnon asked if "increasing trend of water levels" means recovery, and Mr. Mani confirmed that is the meaning.

Mr. Mani reminded GSA representatives of component 1-4 deadlines, which were included in the meeting packet.

12. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Ms. Palys reminded GSA representatives to have their boards sign or adopt the following: Well Mitigation Policy Adoption, JPA Adoption, and the NDM Region Management Committee Cost Share Agreement.

Committee Member McKinnon asked if they need to wait until the JPA is signed before signing the letter agreement. She also stated that her Board will adopt the JPA during their November 18th meeting. Ms. Layne confirmed that the letter agreement (cost share agreement) should be signed as soon as possible.

Committee Member McBride asked if there will be major policy changes to the draft special project agreement and if she should hold off before sharing it with her legal counsel. Mr. Petersen advised that she wait until they receive feedback on the draft special project agreement from the Northern Committee in December.

b. Schedule of Key Milestones
Ms. Palys asked if there were any questions regarding the schedule of milestones. There were no comments or questions.

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: (0 cases)

No closed session.

OPEN SESSION

14. Report from Closed Session

Nothing to report.

15. Next Steps

Ms. Palys to send out an email outlining next steps.

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

No reports were discussed under this item.

17. Next Meeting

Ms. Palys stated that the December 10, 2025 Northern Committee Meeting will take place at the Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA, but in room 229 rather than in the Council Chambers board room.

18. Adjourn

Committee Chair Pierce adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.