



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, November 10, 2025, 1:00 PM
SLDMWA Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members

Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Christy McKinnon, Northern DM Region
Roy Catania, Aliso Water District

Absent:

Jim Stillwell, Farmers GSA

Others Present

Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Scott Petersen, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Kait Palys, INTERA
Damian Aragona, Widren Water District
Juan Cadena, Panoche Water District
Lacey McBride, Merced County
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
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Jacinta Cabral, Madera County
John Brodie
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Liam's iPhone

Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Member Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Member Hurley 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

Committee Member Hurley 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 October 13, 2025 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve the consent calendar, including the October 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes and Budget to Actual Report. Committee Member Ramirez 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 1:08 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 1:34 p.m. and legal counsel Lauren Layne stated there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Review and Take Action to Submit the Application with DWR for Facilitation Support Services

Hallmark Group Project Manager Taylor Blakslee and Stantec Outreach Facilitator Lisa Beutler presented the scope of work and application to the California Department of Water Resources for facilitation support services. Staff sought Committee feedback and approval to submit the application form.

Committee Member Christy McKinnon asked if the focus of the facilitation support services work is to facilitate outreach at the Subbasin level or regional level. Ms. Beutler specified the application is for the Subbasin.

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve and submit the application to the California Department of Water Resources for facilitation support services. Committee Member Ramirez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Report Items

9. Update on Draft Budget Development

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), and Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the development and distribution of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's draft budget. Mr. Blakslee stated that the draft budget would be routed through the committees before being presented to the SLDMWA Board, beginning with the Central committee on November 20, 2025. He outlined that the draft budget will be proposed to the JPA Board, once established, but that the SLDMWA will carry out administrative tasks if the JPA is not stood up by March 1, 2026. Lastly, he stated that the draft budget would be informed by consultant responses to the Request for Proposals for Joint Powers Authority/ Program Administration Support and Technical Support for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation.

Mr. Petersen added that he anticipates sending additional information to GSA representatives regarding the draft budget by the end of the week, based on feedback he receives by then.

10. 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.

Committee Member Hurley asked for an update on action item 8, regarding the number of GSAs that have adopted the JPA. Karlee Liddy (Project Coordinator, Hallmark Group) stated that 21 of the 23 GSAs have adopted and signed the JPA

or have committed to sign by the November 21, 2025 deadline. Mr. Blakeslee added that staff is following up on the remaining two GSAs.

b. Schedule of Key Milestones

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the schedule of key milestones, which was provided in the packet. Committee Member Hurley urged GSA representatives to work with Mr. Petersen regarding any budget-related questions to ensure the draft budget can be approved through the committees before the SLDWMA Board meeting on January 8, 2026.

11. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update on Q3 and Q4 Groundwater Levels and Groundwater Quality and DMS Upload

Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran (W&C), provided an update on the third and fourth quarter (July-November) groundwater level and groundwater quality data collection. She reminded GSA representatives to submit water use data to W&C by the end of the month for the annual report, and to upload any other data (e.g. subsidence data) to the data management system (DMS) by the end of December 2025. Regarding the annual report, Ms. Dumas stated that W&C is working with Provost & Pritchard on updating groundwater contouring maps and told GSA representatives to expect a supplemental data request from Natalie Cochran by the end of the week.

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

EKI's Anona Dutton and Amir Mani provided background and summary of the fall groundwater level exceedances and well watchlist reminders. Ms. Dutton asked that GSA representatives continue to confirm measurements are accurate and that data is QA/QC'd before entering it into the PRP dashboard.

Ms. Dutton reviewed the water quality exceedance compliance decision tree to help GSA representatives navigate PRP and GSP implementation and to avoid undesirable results.

Committee Member McKinnon asked if staff could walk through an example scenario where there is a nitrate exceedance in an area where there is no historical data for nitrate.

Ms. Dutton stated since nitrate is a primary MCL (maximum contaminant level), the first step would be to take a confirmation sample to confirm there is an exceedance. Then, GSA staff would need to send a notification to domestic well users within a two to three-mile radius of the nitrate exceedance.

Committee Member McKinnon then asked if it would be the same process for TDS, and Ms. Dutton confirmed that it would be the same process. Mr. Mani added that the exceedance notification to domestic well users and the investigation of the exceedance in the PRP can happen simultaneously. Ms. Dutton stated that staff can send out a flow chart example with nitrate and other COCs that are primary MCLs.

Public Comment:

Steve Stadler from San Luis Water District expressed appreciation to the Committee Members and consultants for developing a plan that is protective of water quality and well users in the subbasin.

Ms. Dutton provided a reminder of future deadlines for PRP monitoring and reporting and was included in the meeting packet. She urged GSA representatives to help respond to the EKI request for water use data for the annual report.

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 and submitting the report to DWR.

Committee Member Hurley flagged that the GSAs committed to the State Water Resources Control Board that the 2025 PRPs would be integrated into the annual report starting this year.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the 2025 third and fourth quarter groundwater level and quality exceedances. He noted that EKI will develop notification capabilities in the PRP dashboard, but in the interim, staff developed an initial exceedance reporting template for GSA's to ensure consistency.

He shared a summary of exceedances and noted that GSA representatives will be able to report on action plans to address the exceedances at the next Coordination Committee meeting on December 8, 2025.

Committee Member Hurley asked if any GSA representatives had questions or wanted to elaborate on their initial exceedance reports that were provided in the meeting packet. There was no additional discussion on the initial exceedance reports.

The exceedance action plan for Aliso Water District was presented by Member Roy Catania and the action plan for the DM-II GSA was presented by Adam Scheuber. He noted the GSA will increase their monitoring frequency to quarterly to determine if there is a correlation between water level and water

quality. The action plan for the Panoche Water District wells was included in the meeting packet but there was no oral report provided during the meeting.

12. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

a. Direction on Domestic Well Mitigation Policy Outreach

Mr. Blakslee and Ms. Beutler provided an update on the facilitation support services outreach activities for the domestic well mitigation policy. He stated that during the October 13 meeting, 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) and asked that she prepare an outline of the costs and potential structure of a policy briefing workshop.

Ms. Beutler outlined the format of the public briefing, which is available in the meeting packet. Committee Member Hurley recommended that Ms. Beutler develop and execute the well mitigation policy briefing in the Spring of 2026, as was discussed during the communication subcommittee meeting.

b. 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 and Kings meetings will be pushed to early next year. She also provided a summary of the Westside meeting, including attendees and discussion topics, which were included in the meeting packet.

Committee Member Hurley added that Westside expressed their willingness to work together and share data on boundary conditions and water quality.

13. SWRCB Updates

a. Update on SWRCB Coordination

Committee Member Hurley 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. He stated that Living Water Well Drilling was awarded the contract to carry out the well construction and that he will be submitting a

budget increase request to Mr. Petersen regarding the well construction management by the end of the week.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Mr. Blakslee reminded the Committee that at the October 13 meeting, there was a question regarding the need for CEQA documentation for this project, and it was determined that the consultant on this project would be responsible for understanding those requirements.

Adam Scheuber (Del Puerto WD) stated that they are working with the Water Authority to identify priority sites that may be exempt from CEQA requirements or already have documents filed.

Mr. Blakslee stated that Del Puerto WD would purchase the equipment and that the installation of the monitoring wells would be assisted by Provost and Prichard. Committee Member Hurley asked how many sites would potentially be included as priorities, and Mr. Scheuber responded that depending on costs, ten to fifteen sites would be included.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Ms. Dumas provided an update on the grant projects, stating that Amendment 5 was approved by DWR, and that one last amendment will be submitted in December. She added that component completion reports will be written and submitted in January 2026 and that reimbursement requests are due in February 2026.

Mr. Francis asked what would happen if the last ISW well was not installed by December 31, 2025. Ms. Dumas responded that the absolute deadline would technically be the end of January, given the timeline to submit reimbursement requests.

15. Next Steps

- Submit the facilitation support services application to DWR.
- EKI develop a decision tree on nitrate and other COCs.
- Staff will work with the Central D-M GSAs to provide EKI RFI responses as soon as possible.
- Plan and execute a well mitigation policy briefing for Spring 2026.
- Staff will continue to monitor the ISW completion deadline and will provide anticipated overages at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

17. Next Meeting(s):

- a. Regular Coordination Committee Meeting: December 8, 2025, with changed location to the Grassland Water District Board Room.

Mr. Blakslee stated that the Northern D-M meeting will be on December 10, 2025, and staff will coordinate with Northern Committee Members regarding reviewing the draft budget.

Committee Member Hurley asked how the December meeting dates to review the draft budget would be impacted by consultant responses to the RFP. Mr. Blakslee stated that proposals are due November 21, 2025, and he will follow up with Mr. Petersen for details.

18. Adjournment

Committee Member Hurley adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.



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

December 8, 2025	1:00pm	<i>Grassland Water District Board Room</i>
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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