



Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, December 8, 2025, 1:00 PM

Grassland Water District Board Room, 200 W Willmott Ave. Los Banos, CA

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members

Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Chase Hurley, Central DM Region
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region – at the noticed Patterson location
Jim Stilwell, Farmers GSA
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors

Others Present

Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Kait Palys, INTERA
Juan Cadena, Panoche 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, Stanislaus County
Ellen Wehr, General Counsel, Grassland Water District
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Holly Stanitsas, Stantec
Jason Dean
Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District

Natalie Cochran, Woodard & Curran
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sam Cunningham, Provost & Pritchard
Sarah Boogay, CA Department of Water Resources

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Committee 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 comments, and no public comments were provided.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Minutes of the November 10, 2025 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Committee Member Ortega made a motion to approve the consent calendar, including the November 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes and Budget to Actual Report. Committee Member Hurley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously via roll call vote.

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 1:06 p.m.

Juan Cadena arrived at 1:23 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 1:56 p.m. and legal counsel Lauren Layne stated there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Committee to Review and Consider Recommendation that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee and Board of Directors Approve the Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the Coordinated Delta-Mendota Management Region Activity Agreement (Fund 63)

On behalf of Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the development and distribution of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's draft budget. Mr. Blakslee stated that there have been one-time costs versus longer-term costs. He stated that the Central Regional Committee has reviewed and recommended to move it forward, and Northern will review during their December 10, 2025 meeting.

Amir Mani (EKI) provided background on the key elements of the model calibration and explained the need to expand the model to answer critical questions regarding basin conditions.

Chair Hopkins asked if the level of quality needed to calibrate the model would be well-by-well metered readings. Mr. Mani responded that well-by-well data would be ideal, but the model could be improved by using high-quality data from the smaller GSAs. Chair Hopkins asked how refined the model grid can get. Mr. Mani stated that it depends on the data quality and amount received from the basin and neighboring basins. He noted that the current 1-mile by 1-mile grid is not refined enough. Chair Hopkins asked if there is good neighboring basin data for the model. Mr. Mani responded that there is overall a higher quality of data compared to when the model was developed but there still needs to be coordination regarding surface water data, groundwater level data and pumping data.

Kait Palys (INTERA) emphasized that the by-well data level allows for by-aquifer separation and refinement down the road.

Chair Hopkins asked what the implications are if the model calibration is not performed this year, and if updates would need to occur each year. Anona Dutton (EKI) responded that the model would need to be extended each year to account for changes in storage and other conditions for the annual report, but the calibration effort would be on a 5-year update basis.

Member Ramirez asked if it is worth waiting to get a year's worth of concrete, metered data to improve the model. Member Hurley stated that the model needs to provide usable data that could be used to inform real-time management actions in the GSAs to get buy-in from member agencies. Member Ramirez suggested that the technical ad hoc committee review

the approach to the model calibration and provide a recommendation to the Coordination Committee in subsequent meetings.

Member Stilwell voiced that subsidence is a major concern from his member agencies, and that, given the amount of money proposed to be spent on the model calibration, there should be high confidence in the quality of data feeding the model. Steve Stadler (San Luis Water District) highlighted the subsidence piece is critical for DWR and SWRCB and that coordination will be needed down the road but expressed concern on the timing of the calibration.

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the remaining items in the draft budget and stated that estimates in the responses to the RFPs for Program Administration and Technical Support Services came in under budget, with technical proposals for the model being about \$25,000 under the draft budget estimate and GSP implementation proposals were about \$30,000 over the draft budget estimate. Therefore, if the model calibration is performed, it would be a near net zero difference.

Member Ramirez asked if there is any carry-over from this year's revenue that would be used for costs for next year (referring to the statement that operations were under budget this year) and Mr. Blakslee stated that he will need to get back to the Committee regarding any carry-over.

Member Ramirez iterated that the ad hoc technical committee should take a closer look at the model calibration options and Member Hurley agreed.

Ms. Layne mentioned perhaps the model calibration element in the budget can be revisited at a meeting once the annual report is complete, and iterated that the calibration process takes close to a year.

Committee Member Stilwell stated that for cash flow reasons, more specifics regarding the transfer of funding from the Water Authority to the JPA is needed. Mr. Blakslee stated that staff will work with Mr. Petersen to present some of those options in a subsequent meeting.

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve the budget with caveat that the Committee reconvenes before money is spent on the model calibration and that the model calibration approach and budget come back to the Committee with a recommendation from the technical committee. Committee Member Hurley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- 9. Committee to Consider Authorizing Water Authority Staff to Execute First Amendment to Task Order 011-F26-AA63-TO001 with Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Consulting Engineers**

Mr. Blakslee presented the budget variance amounts from the consultants, highlighting that LSCE requested an increase in task order 011-F26-AA63-TO001. However, he noted that the LSCE amendment does not impact the overall budget.

MOTION

Committee Member Hurley made a motion to authorize the Water Authority to execute the LSCE task order amendment. Committee Member Stilwell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

10. Committee to Review and Provide Direction on the Development of Revised Standard Operating Procedures for Groundwater Monitoring

Ms. Palys provided background on the purpose of the SOP to help support more consistent measurements and data input into the PRP. She stated the development of the SOP should fall within the existing technical consultant budget. She added that the SOP would serve as a guidance document to review data before entry into the PRP and would also help identify a reasonable proxy well, when a Representative Monitoring Site needs to be replaced.

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve staff development of the SOP. Committee Member Hurley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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. There were no questions from the Committee regarding these items or milestones.

b. Schedule of Key Milestones

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

12. GSP Implementation Updates

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

Natalie Cochran, Woodard & Curran (W&C), asked that GSA representatives upload fourth quarter groundwater levels by December 31, 2025.

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

Anona Dutton and Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the fall groundwater level exceedances and wells on the watchlist. Ms. Dutton reminded GSA representatives that metering will begin in January of 2026. She also summarized the water quality exceedance compliance requirements from the PRP, MOA, and Well Mitigation Policy. The summary slide was provided in the meeting packet.

Chair Hopkins asked if the wells in exceedance and on the watchlist are only wells that have been reported, and Ms. Dutton responded that the lists only include wells that have been reported.

Member Hurley iterated the question posed by EKI on slide 27, “how does the Coordination Committee intend to receive, report, and track this item(overdraft reduction)?”

Member Stilwell expressed he would like the committee to give EKI direction on extending PRP access, with Tranquility being part of his group. He said that the GSA representatives should be able to see data beyond their zone in the PRP dashboard.

Staff will send out an email to all GSAs stating the CC is considering sharing PRP dashboard data with all GSAs, rather than just by Zone. The CC will potentially take action to direct EKI to expand that access in the PRP dashboard during the January meeting.

Mr. Blakslee asked how the Committee would like to approach ensuring that all wells are metered, iterating the January 2026 timeline. Chair Hopkins suggested that staff send a reminder of the metering requirement to GSAs, and that GSAs should provide a report certifying that meters are installed.

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. He highlighted the urgency with which GSA representatives should respond to data and information requests to ensure a timely submittal.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the 2025 fourth quarter groundwater level exceedances, and action plans were included in the meeting packet. Steve Stadler (SLWD) stated he will provide an action plan to staff.

13. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

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

Holly Stanitsas (Stantec) presented on behalf of Lisa Beutler, stating there will be no interbasin meetings for remainder of the year due to the holidays. Based on conversations with Chair Hopkins and the Communications Subcommittee, there will be a change in format for future meetings. The changes in the approach to interbasin meetings will be shared by Ms. Beutler in subsequent meetings. Ms. Stanitsas also stated that the application for Facilitation Support Services has been submitted and seems to be on track for DWR approval. Lastly, she stated that Self Help Enterprises is hosting a Stakeholder Leadership Training on Water Policy on February 28, 2026 at the Provost & Pritchard building in Clovis. This event may offer a great outreach opportunity for the Subbasin.

14. SWRCB Updates

a. Update on SWRCB Coordination

Member Martin provided a summary of coordination efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board. He anticipates receipt of a draft staff report in the first quarter of 2026.

15. 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 contract should be finalized today, with likely construction starting in early January.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Adam Scheuber (Del Puerto WD) stated that subsidence monitoring site locations will be finalized, and equipment orders have been placed.

Rick Iger (Provost & Pritchard) stated that they received notification from the Bureau of Reclamation that they will not be performing the subsidence monitoring for December due to federal budget challenges. He noted that this will make monitoring challenging in time for the annual report.

Chair Hopkins stated that they are attempting to replicate data from previous Bureau of Reclamation surveys to inform reporting.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Ms. Cochran stated that GSA representatives need to send information regarding the final amendments to the grant agreement to Leslie by this Friday. She also reminded GSA representatives that all project work needs to be completed by December 31, 2025 and all deliverables need to be sent to staff by January 31, 2025.

Chair Hopkins stated that there are some projects that may run into quarter one of 2026, and Ms. Cochran stated that representatives should coordinate with Leslie regarding those projects.

16. Next Steps

- Coordination committee to reconvene before any money is spent on the model calibration and Technical ad hoc committee to review the approach to the model calibration and the groundwater monitoring data SOP.
- Staff to develop the groundwater monitoring data SOP.
- Hallmark to email GSAs regarding CC consideration to direct EKI to expand GSA access to PRP data beyond the Zones.
- EKI to develop a cost estimate to expand GSA access to PRP data beyond the Zones.
- Staff to discuss any carryover from the FY2026 budget with Mr. Petersen and present to the CC in subsequent meetings.

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

Nothing to report.

18. Next Meeting(s):

Since the CC made a motion to approve the budget, the Committee gave direction to cancel the December 19th special meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2026.

19. Adjournment

Committee Member Hurley adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.



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

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