



**Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 1:00 PM
Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA**

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Lacey McBride – Merced County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto WD

Absent

Bobby Pierce, Chair – West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director, San Luis- Delta Mendota Water Authority

Others Present

Kait Palys, INTERA
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District

Others Present via Zoom

Amir Mani, EKI
Anona Dutton, EKI
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Liam's Iphone
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Margaret Califaris, TriHydro (Consultant for Stanislaus Co.)
Michael
Ryo Takanashi
Thomas Cleverdon

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Member Lucchesi called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Lucchesi 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 December 10, 2025 Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report for Period Ending November 30, 2025

Motion

Committee Member Encinas provided the motion to approve the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes with amendments and the budget to actual report. Committee Member Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

6. Committee Consideration to Proceed with the Special Projects Agreement, Contingent Upon JPA Board Approval of the Formation (Functional Continuation) of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Lauren Layne (Baker Manock & Jensen) provided background on the Northern D-M GSAs Special Project Agreement, including comments from Merced County. She stated that all GSAs will be member agencies of the new Joint Powers Authority, which may appoint a committee (potentially a standing committee of the Northern Region, for example). Ms. Layne highlighted section F of the recitals which, under the new JPA, would terminate the Activity Agreement that is currently in place for the Northern Region.

Member McBride asked if the standing or ad hoc committee of the Northern Region would need to be compliant with the Brown Act, and Ms. Layne responded that it would depend on the type of committee established. An ad hoc would not be held to the Brown Act.

Ms. Layne also stated that a unanimous decision by the Board would need to be made to add any additional member agencies to the JPA.

Member McBride asked if section 10.1 includes Northern regional costs and costs for the Northern Committee to have a seat on the JPA/ Coordinated Committee. Ms. Layne stated that is correct, and that she can add language to more clearly denote those costs, in addition to special, one-off costs.

Member McBride asked if unanimous groundwater sustainability agency approval would be needed or if just the Northern Committee could approve a budget each year. Ms. Layne clarified that the New JPA would have ultimate budget approval authority, with language in 10.1 to have approval by participating members, which could mean the Northern Committee (as a standing committee of the JPA).

Ms. Layne stated that she would include a standard interest rate for late payments under section 10.2. Member Lucchesi suggested that an interest rate should remain the same as the interest rate that already exists with the SLDWMA. Ms. Layne stated that the final clean draft will be distributed and that GSAs of the Northern Committee should sign by February 28, 2026.

Ms. Layne stated that all Northern GSAs will have one week to provide final edits or feedback from their home Boards and legal counsel.

Motion

Committee Member McBride provided the motion to have Northern Committee representatives recommend their GSA Boards approve entering into the Special Projects Agreement in its substantive form, subject to any substantive edits made by Merced County legal counsel or others within one week. Committee Member Hansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Report Items

7. SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities

Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) gave a summary of the key grant dates and status of deliverables. She stated that all invoices and deliverables are due to W&C for reimbursement by January 23, 2026 and suggested GSAs begin drafting their component completion reports. Last, she stated that Amendment 6 is in review at the California Department of Water Resources.

Member McKinnon stated they are unable to complete construction by the end of January and may conclude work closer to the end of February, with the contractor estimating 20 days from start to completion.

8. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Budget

This item was covered by Kait Palys (INTERA) on behalf of Taylor Blakslee and there were no questions from the Committee.

9. JPA Status

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

Ms. Layne covered this topic under action item 6.

- b. JPA schedule and status update

Ms. Layne stated that Madera County took action to approve the JPA on January 6, 2026, and that Oro Loma GSA is pending signature.

10. GSP Implementation Updates

- a. Update on Monitoring

Ms. Dumas (Woodard & Curran) stated that all November monitoring data was received and uploaded into the Data Management System, with no exceedances in the region. She stated there are several new Representative Monitoring Wells in the area that need to be evaluated for setting appropriate Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC).

- b. Update on Annual Report Development

Ms. Dumas stated that Provost & Pritchard are incorporating edits into the water surface elevation point maps and is developing contouring maps which will be distributed for GSA review before the draft annual report is distributed. She stated that the goal is to have the draft annual report to GSAs by February 20, 2026.

Additionally, Ms. Dumas stated that EKI is working to provide interconnected surface water (ISW) SMC analysis and change in storage calculations by the end of January.

Member Hansen confirmed that W&C will receive the non-PRP information from Del Puerto by Monday, January 12, 2026.

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

Anona Dutton (EKI) confirmed that they are actively extending the ISW model, and iterated that they are looking to expand PRP access to all GSAs, which will be considered for action at the Coordination Committee.

11. Program Management Report

- a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Ms. Palys reminded GSA representatives to submit requested information to Woodard & Curran as soon as possible to help move the draft of the annual report forward.

- 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

12. 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)

The Northern Committee did not enter closed session.

OPEN SESSION

13. Report from Closed Session

The Northern Committee did not enter closed session.

14. Next Steps

Ms. Palys iterated that GSA representatives should respond to W&C requests for information and should provide a timeline by which they can reasonably respond to the request. She stated she will email the group with additional action items, including sending out the Special Projects Agreement for a final round of feedback and comments.

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

Member Hansen stated that the meeting minutes from the December meeting stated that the Committee would consider approval of the Special Projects Agreement. No changes to the minutes are required.

16. Next Meeting

Member Lucchesi announced the next meeting will take place on February 4, 2026.

17. Adjourn

Member Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.