



Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, January 12, 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, Fresno County A&B
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Lacey McBride, Central DM Region
Jim Stilwell, Farmers GSA
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District – Call in from noticed San Luis Obispo location
Christy McKinnon, Northern DM Region – Call in from noticed Modesto Location

Others Present

Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Kait Palys, INTERA
Juan Cadena, Panoche Water District
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs Water District
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Amir Mani, EKI
Anona Dutton, EKI
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Jacinta Cabral, Madera County
Jason Dean
John Brodie
Liam's iPhone
Lisa Beutler Stantec
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard

Ryo Takanashi, Water One
Sarah Boogay, California Department of Water Resources
Thomas Cleverdon
Will Halligan, LSCE

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 December 8, 2025 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to approve the consent calendar, including the December 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes and Budget to Actual Report. Committee Member Ramirez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by 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: (0 cases)

The Committee did not meet in closed session.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session - None

Action Items

8. Committee to Ratify the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the Coordinated Delta-Mendota Management Region Activity Agreement (Fund 63) and Authorize Staff to Execute Relevant Consultant Contracts

Taylor Blakslee (Hallmark Group) provided a summary of staff actions to incorporate previous feedback from the Committee on the FY27 Budget. He also provided background information regarding the execution of consultant contracts on behalf of Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director for the San Luis- Delta Mendota Water Authority.

Members Stilwell and Ramirez expressed concern from the budget and contracts ad hoc committee regarding their limited engagement beyond reviewing and ranking the proposals received under the SLDWMA Request for Proposals in November. Chair Hopkins directed staff to work with the Authority to draft and distribute a staff report outlining the proposals received to the Committee before the February 9, 2026 meeting.

Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) brought to the attention of the Committee that their contract ends on February 28, 2026, but that the Annual Report they are working to draft is due to Department of Water Resources (DWR) on April 1, 2026. Therefore, she suggested a potential amendment to the contract may need to be drafted and Chair Hopkins directed staff to work with the Water Authority to discuss the potential amendment.

MOTION

Committee Member Wiersma made a motion to ratify the budget with the condition that the technical ad hoc review model calibration approach and that the Coordination Committee reconvenes before any funds are spent on the model calibration. He added that the Committee will need to revisit the relevant consultant contracts before authorizing staff to execute relevant consultant contracts. Committee Member Stilwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. Committee to Consider Authorizing EKI to Expand PRP Dashboard Data to All GSAs, Beyond Current Zone Restrictions

Committee Member McBride noted that the Central DM Committee did not take action to approve this item during their last meeting and stated she would therefore abstain from voting on this item.

Member Stilwell directed staff to include Tranquillity Irrigation District in Zone 1 and 4 maps and to have them represented in the Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Dashboard. He clarified that GSA representatives should have the ability to view all GSA data, but not to the edit data of other GSAs.

The Committee directed staff to table this action item for the February meeting, and to share relevant materials with the Central DM Committee to take action to approve the expansion of the PRP data access during their January 22, 2026 meeting.

10. Update on status of Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority

Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen provided an update on the status of GSA adoption of the JPA, noting that Oro Loma Water District GSA committed to sign. She also stated that Widren Water District GSA has officially signed on to become a part of the Central DM GSA, and that Oro Loma Water District GSA has also expressed interest in joining the Central DM GSA. Lastly, she stated that once all signatures of the JPA are received, staff will work to set up a Special Joint Meeting of the Coordination Committee and the Initial JPA Board.

Chair Hopkins asked if there is a checklist of priority items for the Committee and the Water Authority to successfully transition to the JPA. Ms. Layne confirmed that she is working through a list of items to be discussed at the Special Joint Meeting of the Coordination Committee and the Initial JPA Board.

Report Items

11. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of action items, highlighting that Kait Palys (INTERA) will draft the first iteration of the Groundwater Monitoring Data SOP/guidance document, which will receive technical feedback from EKI.

Chair Hopkins opened the floor for public comment.

Steve Stadler (San Luis Water District) suggested that staff review the SOP language that exists in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and to consider referencing the new guidance in the GSP for the purpose of maintaining record of new best practices in a defensible policy platform.

Rick Iger (Provost and Pritchard) iterated the importance of standardizing the way in which data is QA/QC'd, as all GSAs have different technical staff that collect the groundwater data.

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

Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran (W&C), gave an update on the groundwater level data received from GSAs, noting that some data was still missing. Chair Hopkins asked if there is a timeline for receiving the missing data, and Member

Stilwell stated that Farmers and Fresno GSAs uploaded the data that morning. Member Wiersma stated that he will track this and get back to the group.

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

Anona Dutton and Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the wells with groundwater level exceedances.

Member Ortega stated concern to reconcile pumping to support wildlife habitat and simultaneously avoiding pumping exceedances. He stated that historically, the wells rebound, and that Grassland GSA is looking to establish TSS monitoring well in the summer which may help with tracking the standing water levels.

Ms. Dutton iterated the urgency of receiving GWL data to be uploaded to the DMS and asked GSA representatives to complete PRP trigger investigations as soon as possible.

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.

Ms. Dumas provided an update regarding the contouring maps being developed, and Will Halligan (LSCE) stated that they received lower aquifer GWL data and will get contouring information to W&C later this week.

d. Report from GSAs with Exceedances

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of any exceedances, noting that staff is in the process of QA/QCing the data from two wells.

13. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

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

Lisa Beutler (Stantec) stated that the approach for the 2026 meetings will be to focus on topic areas like interconnected surface waters.

14. SWRCB Updates

a. Update on SWRCB Coordination

Ms. Dutton and Member Wiersma stated Jarrett Martin has a meeting with SWRCB staff on January 27, 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 drilling began today and that all construction should be completed by January 23, 2026 to get invoices submitted to W&C by January 30, 2026.

b. Update on Status of Subsidence Monitoring Project

Chair Hopkins stated that subsidence monitoring sites have been identified, the survey equipment has been purchased, and that they are drafting a Notice of Exemption on the remaining benchmark points.

c. Update on Status of All Grant Projects

Ms. Dumas stated that GSAs should submit final invoices, deliverables, and component completion reports to W&C as soon as possible. Chair Hopkins asked if any templates need to be shared, and Ms. Dumas stated templates have been distributed to GSAs, with examples available from Components 4 and 10.

Ms. Dumas added that any GSAs conducting construction projects will need to submit a project monitoring plan to demonstrate benefits of the project to DWR. Last, she reminded GSAs that for any construction project, monthly data collection and annual reporting to DWR will be required for the next three years.

Chair Hopkins asked if there is any risk of money not being spent. Ms. Dumas responded that GSAs have expressed the money can be spent, and to let her know as soon as possible if that is not the case.

16. Next Steps

- Staff to work with Mr. Petersen to draft and distribute a staff report regarding consultant contracts, including proposals received and rankings from the ad hoc.
- Staff to share materials regarding the expansion of PRP Dashboard data access with the Central DM Committee to consider at their January 22, 2026 meeting.
 - Staff to agendize this action for the February 9, 2026 Coordination meeting.
 - EKI to include Tranquility GSA in Zone 1 and 4 maps in the PRP.
- Staff to schedule a Special Joint Meeting of the JPA Board and Coordination Committee.
- GSAs to upload Fall well measurements to the DMS.
- GSAs to provide responses to W&C and EKI/ Hallmark regarding PMAs and Subsidence avoidance plans.
- INTERA to draft the Groundwater Monitoring Data SOP and receive technical feedback from EKI.

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

Nothing to report.

18. Next Meeting(s):

- a. February 9, 2026, 1 – 4 p.m. PST, SLDMWA Board Room 842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

19. Adjournment

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 1:56 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