Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 1:00 PM
Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA 95363

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees:
Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Amir Mani, EKI
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group

Online Attendees:
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto WD
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Anona Dutton, EKI
Susan Xie, EKI

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
   Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm PST.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Pierce led the Committee in the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**
   No corrections or additions were made.

4. **Election of Committee Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

   Motion:

Member Lucchesi made a motion to maintain the current Chair and Vice Chair (Members Pierce and Lucchesi, respectively), and to appoint Hallmark Group as the Northern DM Committee Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Member Scheuber and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

5. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public at this time.

Consent Calendar

6. Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar

a. Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Meeting
b. Budget to Actual Report

Motion:

Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Member Encinas and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Member Encinas asked if others were still receiving invoices from the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority for groundwater management activities and legal counsel Lauren Layne suggested she reach out to Scott Petersen (Water Policy Director) regarding those invoices.

Closed Session

7. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee did not enter closed session.

Open Session

8. Report from Closed Session

The Committee did not enter closed session.

Action Items

9. Ratify the Northern DM GSA Group Representative and Alternate to the DM Authority Board of Directors

Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen, provided background regarding the need for the Northern DM to ratify their representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board.

Motion

Member Scheuber made the motion to ratify the Northern DM GSA Group representative and alternate to the DM Authority Board of Directors - Member Lucchesi and Member McKinnon, respectively. Member McBride seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

10. Consider Approval of Northern DM Committee Consultant Contracts and Recommend JPA Board Approval

Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group, provided background regarding the need for the Northern DM Committee to approve the consultant contracts. On February 9, 2026, the DM Subbasin JPA Board approved the Northern DM Region Management Committee Budget for Fiscal Year 2027. However, the Northern DM Committee and DM Authority Board need to authorize the consultant contracts, which were included in the meeting packet for consideration of approval.

She noted that the contract amounts match those outlined in the approved Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the Northern DM Committee.

Motion
Member Lucchesi made a motion to authorize and recommend that the DM Subbasin JPA Board approve and execute consultant contracts for services to the Northern DM Region Management Committee, pursuant to Special Project Agreement. Member Encinas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

11. Consider Approval of the Termination of the Activity Agreement with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Authorize the Chairman to Sign the Notice of Termination of Activity Agreement Letter

Lauren Layne stated that a letter signed by all entities of the Northern DM Region Management Committee terminating the activities agreement was requested by the SLDMWA Board of directors. She explained that since all of the Northern DM entities have signed the special project agreement with the DM Subbasin JPA, that already served as authorization to sign the termination agreement. Members Scheuber and Lucchesi directed staff to submit the signed termination agreement to the SLDMWA Board (with signature from Merced County pending).

12. Review and Consider Approval of the 2026 Meeting Calendar for the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Karlee Liddy presented the proposed meeting calendar for 2026 and stated that the Northern DM Committee could maintain the monthly meeting cadence (first Wednesday of the month) and would simply need to notice cancellations if directed by the Committee. Member Scheuber stated that the group should continue meeting monthly to continue providing recommendations to the Northern DM representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board, which meets monthly.

Motion
Member Lucchesi made a motion to maintain the monthly meeting schedule for its regular meetings and to notice canceled meetings as needed. Member Scheuber seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Report Items

13. Status of Northern Delta-Mendota Special Project Agreement

Lauren Layne and Karlee Liddy provided an update on the special project agreement with the DM Subbasin JPA, noting that Merced County approved the agreement on March 3, 2026 and was awaiting signatures. All other GSAs of the Northern DM Committee signed at this time.

14. SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities

Though not included as a memo in the meeting packet, there was a discussion regarding the potential extension of the SGMA Grant through DWR. Karlee Liddy introduced three options for approaching the potential extension.

Member Scheuber stated that Del Puerto Water District is working with Aliso GSA and SJREC and would be in favor of the extension to help maximize subsidence benchmark locations. Chair Pierce asked what the scope of work was for component 8, and Member Scheuber responded that it would identify and establish more precise benchmarks for the Northern DM area, including the installation of rods, brass caps and would account for any ground disturbance or NOE needed for CEQA compliance.

The Committee directed Member Lucchesi to vote in favor of option 3 to extend the existing grant funds through April 2027, and to authorize that Woodard & Curran initiate one more invoicing package with DWR.

15. GSP Implementation Updates

a. Update on Pumping Reduction Plan and GSP Implementation Tracking and Exceedance Reporting
b. Update on the Draft DM Subbasin Annual Report to DWR

Susan Xie and Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the key takeaways from the technical ad hoc committee meeting on February 26, 2026, where the timing of proceeding with the model calibration was discussed. She stated that deferring the calibration to next year will still require firm commitment from all GSAs to provide complete high-quality data (including well registration and metering data).

Member Lucchesi stated that he envisions the initial calibration as a framework for the model, which will be fed with improved data and improved over time, and will not continue to be as expensive moving forward. Chair Pierce stated that the irrigation districts may have more tools to enforce well registration and metering than the county GSAs and listed three methods for doing so: 1. restrict surface water deliveries 2. pursue litigation 3. put meters on wells and monitor meter data.

Mr. Mani stated that improved surface water use data is also needed, and that the magnitude in the increase in surface water use from WY22-23 does not reflect the large drop in groundwater pumping by the model. Member Lucchesi suggested performing an internal QA/QC exercise well before the annual report is drafted next year, and staff agreed.

Member Encinas stated that the Floragold well is a proxy well for the Keystone well (02-009) and that groundwater quality data has been collected but the City is waiting for sample results from the lab. She also stated that Floragold well is in the upper aquifer, not lower.

Ms. Layne reminded the Committee that since the decision is ultimately a budget decision, that it will require a unanimous vote at the DM Subbasin JPA Board level.

16. Program Management Report

a. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items
b. Schedule of Key Milestones

Ms. Liddy gave a brief summary of action items completed since the last meeting (held in January), and there were no questions from the Committee.

17. Next Steps

- Send SLDMWA termination of activity agreement letter for the Board meeting on March 5, 2026.
- Maintain monthly meeting frequency and notice cancelations as needed.

- Direction to the Northern DM representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board to support the DWR grant extension.
- Direction to the Northern DM representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board to support the authorization to perform the model calibration in the current fiscal year.
- All GSAs provide comments/ feedback back to Woodard & Curran by March 13, 2026 and anticipate a special meeting of DM Subbasin JPA for week of March 23,2026.

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

Nothing to report.

19. Next Meeting(s):

The next meeting of the Northern DM Region Management Committee is scheduled for April 1, 2026 at 1 p.m. PST at Patterson City Council.

20. Adjournment

Member Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.