



**Joint Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority
Board of Directors and Coordination Committee**

Monday, April 13, 2026, 1:00 PM

Grassland Water District Board Room
200 W Willmott Ave, Los Banos, CA 93635

Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Directors

Chase Hurley, Central DM GSA
Jim Stilwell, Farmers GSA
Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Ken Swanson, Grassland Water District – *Call in from noticed location*
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region – *Call in from noticed location*

Others Present

Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs Water District
Lacey McBride, Merced County

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Alma Antua, Westlands Water District
Amir Mani, EKI
Amisha Thapar, Baker Manock & Jensen
Anona Dutton, EKI
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District
Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI

Jason Dean, Anatidae Consulting
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Kait Palys, INTERA
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto WD
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Ryo Takanashi, Water One
Sarah Boogay, Department of Water Resources
Susan Xie, EKI
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman
Will Halligan, LSCE

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Board members Swanson and Lucchesi confirmed that there was no one else over 18 years old in the rooms with them.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chair 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

Chair Hurley opened the floor for public comments, and no public comments were provided.

5. Report on the April 7th SWRCB Board Meeting

Director Hurley provided an update on the SWRCB meeting and the approval by the SWRCB of returning the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to the jurisdiction of DWR.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Minutes of the March 9, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Mr. Blakslee highlighted that with the timing of the Board meetings, the budget to actual reports from Hallmark Group moving forward will be two months in arrears.

MOTION

Director Wiersma made a motion to approve the consent calendar, including the meeting minutes and budget to actual report. Director Hopkins seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Closed Session

7. 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 cases)

The DM Subbasin JPA Board did not enter closed session.

Open Session

8. Report from Closed Session

The DM Subbasin JPA Board did not enter closed session.

Action Items

9. Rescind the Special Project Agreement Between the Central DM GSA and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority

Legal counsel Lauren Layne introduced this item and stated that in setting up bank accounts, it became evident that providing administrative and financial support services would be much more efficient if the Central DM GSA contracted directly with consultants rather than through a special project agreement (SPA) with the DM JPA. As such, the request is that both the Central DM GSA and the DM JPA rescind their action to enter into a SPA.

MOTION

Director Hopkins made a motion to rescind the special project agreement. The motion was seconded by Director Stilwell and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

10. Consider Authorizing EKI to Perform the Model Calibration in Fiscal Year 2027

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that based on conversations with interested parties, staff requested that EKI present a phased approach to the model calibration. Anona Dutton (EKI) presented the phased approach to the Board. She stated that it may cost more money to execute the phased approach but cited benefits as well.

Director Ramirez asked if the Board would like a recommendation from the technical ad hoc committee regarding the phased approach and Chair Hurley stated that the cost allocation piece needs to be discussed.

Blakslee and Layne iterated that the current cost share is at 1/7th but that the prior SPA for the single GSP contemplated budget allocation via diverse methods including

proportional pumping. Director Hurley and Director Lucchesi stated that they received feedback from Central and Northern to proceed under the 1/7th split.

Director Stilwell expressed concern regarding the 1/7th split for technical support services moving forward. Director Ramirez agreed and stated he would like to see prioritization of a proportional cost share allocation. Director Stilwell iterated that the cost share allocation for technical efforts in the Subbasin should be applied to all future technical efforts, so that conversations regarding cost share are not needed each time a technical item is presented to the Board for approval.

Director Ramirez suggested staff work with the budget ad hoc committee on a new cost-share approach for future technical efforts. Director Stilwell stated he has authority to vote on a phased approach under the condition that a new cost-share approach for future technical efforts is developed and approved.

Director Wiersma asked Stilwell what other types of technical efforts would be split in a different approach. Layne stated that technical and administrative items like the annual report would be difficult to categorize or define as strictly technical. Director Ramirez suggested that each GSA Group be represented by one attendee of the technical ad hoc and budget ad hoc meetings.

The Board directed staff to convene the technical ad hoc to review EKI's phased approach to the model calibration and review the Groundwater Monitoring Guidance Document. Further, the Board directed staff to convene a budget ad hoc meeting to develop cost share options for future technical efforts in the DM Subbasin, including the model calibration, with one representative from each GSA group present at both meetings. Last, the Board directed staff to bring both items back to the Board at its May meeting.

Report Items

- 11. Review and provide feedback on the Groundwater Monitoring Guidance Document**
Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that Kait Palys (INTERA) drafted the document with input from EKI, and that it is intended to be used by field staff and GSA staff responsible for collecting and inputting data. Ms. Palys stated that the technical ad hoc should review and provide feedback by April 30, 2026. Chair Hurley directed staff to add this as an agenda item for the technical meeting and that it be brought back to the Board thereafter.
- 12. Review and Provide Feedback on the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy Briefing**
Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the briefing will take place on May 13, 2026, and will be recorded and posted online for public access. He gave an overview of the policy requirements, which were outlined in the Board packet.

Director Hopkins and the Board directed staff to receive all applications and to coordinate with the appropriate GSA. Director Stilwell asked if the reserve account for domestic well mitigation is on the financial statement or in a separate account? Blakslee and Layne stated that the reserve is in a separate, interest-baring account.

13. Program Management Report and Update on Action Items

There were no questions or comments from the Board. Liddy stated that she has received signatures or commitments to sign the revised MOA from all but one GSA.

14. Update on PRP Implementation and Exceedance Reporting

Susan Xie introduced Hailey Rowbatham (EKI) as she will be assisting the DM Subbasin efforts with EKI. She stated that they recommend data collection January, April, July, October for quarterly measurements to allow for seasonal high and low. July and January 1 biannual upload to DWR required. She added that EKI plans to set the start time for investigation on the first day of those quarterly deadlines. She walked through an example of the exceedance investigation timeline from April 1, stating that the deadline for a GSA to complete their investigation would be June 1.

Director Martin asked about April being representative of the seasonal high, as the pumping season may influence those values and Ms. Xie stated that the timelines stated will allow DMS upload and GSA time to investigate.

Anthea Hansen (Del Puerto Water District) agreed that April would not be the best representation for seasonal high and that February would better represent seasonal high conditions. Ms. Dutton stated that the timeline proposed is to provide a common timeline for GSAs to conduct PRP investigations. The Board directed staff to stick to the February timeframe for seasonal high measurements.

Ms. Xie reminded GSA representatives that the well registration and well metering deadline was January 2026 and requested that if GSAs have additional wells to register and meter, to submit that information to the PRP Dashboard. Ms. Xie then provided a review of GWL and GWQ monitoring watchlist wells from Fall 2025.

15. Update on SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant

Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) introduced this item and stated that Amendment 6 is currently being processed by DWR. She provided a breakdown of the remaining funds and anticipated uses for funds for invoice 15, as outlined in the packet. Invoicing package 16 for components 8 and 11 needs to be complete by end of June 2026 for timely submission to DWR. Aliso GSA will need to finalize a component completion report for component 11.

Mr. Blakslee stated that at the March 9 meeting, the Board directed staff to facilitate the execution of the contract with W&C to submit one additional invoicing package to DWR. The Board also directed staff to work with Aliso, Del Puerto Water District, and EKI

to map existing or planned subsidence benchmark sites and to recommend up to six additional benchmark sites to fill data gaps. Ms. Xie provided context for the analysis and recommendation for the 6 additional benchmark sites along critical infrastructure.

Will Halligan (LSCE) asked if staff could provide a tabulated version of the recommended locations to better coordinate with the consultants in the GSAs where they are recommended. Ms. Dumas stated that she provided time out to March 2027, but timing for invoicing package is firmly June. The Board directed staff to move forward with the additional suggested sites and to coordinate with appropriate GSAs.

16. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

a. Update on the Merced Joint Meeting Regarding Comment Letters on Periodic Evaluations

Lisa Beutler (Stantec) introduced this item and stated that data adequacy, technical coordination opportunities on interconnected surface water and leveraging grant opportunities were key items discussed during the Merced Subbasin meeting.

17. Next Steps

Blakslee listed the following next steps:

- Distribute budget to actual report template to the Board.
- Convene technical and budget ad hoc to discuss phased approach and cost share allocations, respectively. Ensure one representative from each GSA group is present at both meetings.
- Coordinate with remaining GSA signatories on the revised MOA.
- Work with GSA representatives on the status of compliance with registration and metering requirements.
- Work with appropriate GSAs and consultants to determine feasibility of establishing the recommended subsidence benchmark sites.
- Staff work with the communications ad hoc committee to finalize the well mitigation policy workshop materials. Host workshop on May 13, 2026.

18. Member Reports

Director Martin stated that he would be attending the State Water Resources Control Board ribbon cutting ceremony on April 14, 2026.

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

Nothing to report.

20. Next Meeting(s):

- a. May 18, 2026, 1 p.m. PST, Grassland Water District Board Room

21. Adjournment

Chair Hurley adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.



2026 DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN GSAs JPA BOARD MEETING DATES (*2nd Monday, unless otherwise listed*) - Grassland Water District Board Room

May 18, 2026
June 8, 2026
July 13, 2026
August 10, 2026
September 21, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 16, 2026
December 14, 2026

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