



Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 1:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA 95363

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees (Members):

Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto WD
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County

Other Attendees:

Amir Mani, EKI
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson

Online Attendees:

Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District, *No Noticed Location*
Lacey McBride, Merced County, *No Noticed Location*
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Anona Dutton, EKI
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Caleb Stearns, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Debbie Gavaghan
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County
Michael Miller
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
Member Lucchesi called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm PST.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
Member Lucchesi 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. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

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

Consent Calendar

5. **Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar**

- a. Minutes of the May 4, 2026 Special Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Motion:

Member McKinnon made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Member Encinas and passed unanimously.

Closed Session

6. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

The Committee entered closed session at 1:04 pm.

Open Session

7. **Report from Closed Session**

The Committee entered back into open session at 1:25 pm with no reportable action.

Action Items

8. **Direction on the Proposed Subbasin Model Calibration Cost Share**

Member Lucchesi provided background on this item, noting some of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin JPA Board members' concerns regarding the cost share allocation for the model calibration and other technical costs for the Subbasin.

Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group, stated that at the May 19, 2026 meeting of the DM JPA Board, the Board noted the costs for the consolidation of the GSP also included a basin-wide model and potential calibration, which was deferred due to timing and costs. He stated that staff seeks direction to the Northern DM GSA Group representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board regarding agreement to cost sharing the model calibration through the current 1/7th cost share (option 1 in the Northern DM packet) or through the cost share percentages outlined in Exhibit B of the SPA for the development of the single GSP.

Member Lucchesi provided further detail of the May 19, 2026 meeting, summarizing the opinions of the cost share allocation for the model calibration from each of the seven GSA Group representatives on the Board. He then asked each member of the Northern DM GSA Committee to speak to their opinions on the options presented in the meeting packet.

Member McKinnon expressed agreement with sticking to the 1/7th cost share as outlined in the JPA Agreement, and noted that the single GSP that all GSAs agreed to includes language to calibrate the model. She also asked what authority the group has to avoid further discussion on technical costs each time they come up and Lauren Layne stated that a special project agreement could be written to include specific technical items.

Member Encinas stated strong preference for the 1/7th cost share as outlined in the JPA Agreement, and stated she does not see benefits of agreeing to option 2 (Exhibit B).

Member Hansen asked staff to provide more background on the phased approach to better understand the additional costs that the GSAs have agreed to associated with a phased approach to the model calibration. She stated she prefers the current 1/7th cost share, but proposed that if the DM JPA votes for option 2 (Exhibit B), that Member Lucchesi should recommend the model calibration be performed in one single phase to potentially save costs.

Member Pierce, though not able to vote on this item, stated that there will be additional costs associated with grant administration, if the Subbasin is awarded the WaterSMART fund. He stated that although he was speaking as a member of the public at this meeting, he recommends the Subbasin stick with the current 1/7th split or reconsider the voting structure at the DM JPA Board level.

Member Lucchesi iterated the direction he received from the group, stating the bookends were the preference of a 1/7th (14.3%) cost share or use Exhibit B to the special project agreement from formation of the single GSP (16.7%), but with the understanding that the DM JPA Board will not continue to revisit cost share allocation discussions for Subbasin-wide items and that they strive to perform the model calibration in an expedited process to avoid additional costs.

Member Lucchesi asked EKI to develop a modified scope of work and cost estimate for performing the model calibration under a non-phased approach, broken down by cost share percentages laid out in Exhibit B of the SPA for the single GSP.

Report Items

9. Update on GSP Implementation

- a. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation and Exceedance Reporting
- b. Q1 Water Level and Quality Monitoring Event and DMS Upload

Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the PRP implementation and exceedance reporting requirements and stated that the Q1 and Q2 water level and quality data should be uploaded to the DMS as soon as possible, as biannual reports to DWR are due at the end of the month. He stated that there are no new exceedances of TDS for Q1 water quality data. Member Encinas stated that Well 06 replaced well 02-002, which is no longer accessible for monitoring. Staff will work with GSAs to confirm the representative monitoring wells for the Subbasin. Lastly, Mani highlighted the watchlist wells in the Northern DM region, and identified wells triggered for nitrate which need to be investigated by the respective Northern DM entities.

10. Program Management Report

Blakslee provided a summary of the action items completed since the last Northern DM Region Management Committee meeting, and there were no additional questions from the Committee.

11. Next Steps

Blakslee and Liddy outlined the following next steps to the Committee:

- EKI submit a scope of work for a non-phased approach to the model calibration for DM JPA Board consideration of approval.
- Staff send the DM JPA Board meeting invitation to all Northern DM Committee members.
- Staff continue working with GSA representatives to upload Q2 data to the DMS and follow up on any exceedances.

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

Nothing to report.

13. Next Meeting(s):

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

14. Adjournment

Member Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.